

Assurant, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction)	39-1126612 (I.R.S. Employer
of Incorporation or Organization) One Chase Manhattan Plaza, 41st Floor	Identification No.)
New York, New York (Address of Principal Executive Offices)	10005 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(212) 859-7000

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

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value	New York Stock Exchange

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

None

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

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

Note Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from their obligations under those Sections.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

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

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

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

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

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

The aggregate market value of the Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$5,692 million at June 30, 2007 based on the closing sale price of \$58.92 per share for the common stock on such date as traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

The number of shares of the registrant's Common Stock outstanding at February 15, 2008 was 118,103,358.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Certain information contained in the definitive proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on May 15, 2008 (2008 Proxy Statement) is incorporated by reference into Part III hereof.

Table of Contents

ASSURANT, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item Number		Page Number
<u>PART I</u>		
1.	<u>Business</u>	1
1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	14
1B.	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	36
2.	<u>Properties</u>	36
3.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	36
4.	<u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	37
<u>PART II</u>		
5.	<u>Market of Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchase of Equity Securities</u>	38
6.	<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	42
7.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	43
7A.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	78
8.	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	83
9.	<u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	83
9A.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	83
9B.	<u>Other Information</u>	84
<u>PART III</u>		
10.	<u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	85
11.	<u>Executive Compensation</u>	85
12.	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	85
13.	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	85
14.	<u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	85
<u>PART IV</u>		
15.	<u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	86
<u>Signatures</u>		91
EX-23.1: CONSENT OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP		
EX-31.1: CERTIFICATION		
EX-31.2: CERTIFICATION		
EX-32.1: CERTIFICATION		
EX-32.2: CERTIFICATION		

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements under Business, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and elsewhere in this report may contain forward-looking statements which reflect our current views with respect to, among other things, future events and financial performance. You can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking words such as outlook, believes, expects, potential, continues, may, will, should, seeks, approximately, predicts, intends, plans, estimates, anticipates those words or other comparable words. Any forward-looking statements contained in this report are based upon our historical performance and on current plans, estimates and expectations. The inclusion of this forward-looking information should not be regarded as a representation by us or any other person that the future plans, estimates or expectations contemplated by us will be achieved. Such forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated in this report. We believe that these factors include but are not limited to those described under the subsection entitled Risk Factors in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. These factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included in this report. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or review any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may vary materially from what we projected. Any forward-looking statements you read in this report reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, results of operations, financial condition, growth strategy and liquidity.

Table of Contents

PART I

Item 1. *Business*

Legal Organization

Assurant, Inc. (Assurant or the Company) is a Delaware corporation, formed in connection with the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of its common stock, which began trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on February 5, 2004. Prior to the IPO, Fortis, Inc., a Nevada corporation, had formed Assurant and merged into it on February 4, 2004. The merger was executed in order to redomesticate Fortis, Inc. from Nevada to Delaware and to change its name. As a result of the merger, Assurant is the successor to the business operations and obligations of Fortis, Inc.

Prior to the IPO, 100% of the outstanding common stock of Fortis, Inc. was owned indirectly by Fortis N.V., a public company with limited liability incorporated as naamloze vennootschap under Dutch law, and Fortis SA/ NV, a public company with limited liability incorporated as société anonyme/naamloze vennootschap under Belgian law.

On January 21, 2005, Fortis owned approximately 36% (50,199,130 shares) of the Company based on the number of shares outstanding on that day and sold 27,200,000 of those shares in a secondary offering to the public. The Company did not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of common stock by Fortis. Fortis concurrently sold exchangeable bonds, due January 26, 2008, that were mandatorily exchangeable for up to 22,999,116 of the shares of Assurant that continued to be held by Fortis.

On January 28, 2008, Fortis distributed 18,851,690 shares of Assurant common stock to the holders of the mandatorily exchangeable bonds. The shares of the Company's common stock distributed to such holders were not registered at the time Fortis sold the exchangeable bonds but became freely transferable by such holders upon distribution. Following this transaction, Fortis owned 4,147,440, or 3.5% of Assurant's shares outstanding.

In this report, references to the Company, Assurant, we, us or our refer to (1) Fortis, Inc. and its subsidiaries, and (2) Assurant, Inc. and its subsidiaries after the consummation of the merger described above. References to Fortis refer collectively to Fortis N.V. and Fortis SA/ NV. References to our separation from Fortis refer to the fact that Fortis reduced its ownership of our common stock in connection with the secondary offering.

Amounts are presented in United States of America (U.S.) dollars and all amounts are in thousands, except number of shares, per share amounts, registered holders, number of employees and beneficial owners.

Business Organization

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Assurant's mission is to be the premier provider of specialized insurance products and related services in North America and selected international markets. To achieve this mission, we focus on the following areas:

Building and maintaining a portfolio of diverse, specialty insurance businesses

Leveraging a set of core capabilities *managing risk; managing relationships with large distribution partners; and integrating complex administrative systems* for competitive advantage

Managing targeted growth initiatives

Identifying and adapting to evolving market needs

Centralizing certain key functions in the Corporate segment to achieve economies of scale

Table of Contents

Building and maintaining a portfolio of diverse, specialty insurance businesses We currently are made up of four operating segments, Assurant Solutions, Assurant Specialty Property, Assurant Health and Assurant Employee Benefits, each focused on serving specific segments of the insurance market. We believe that the uncorrelated nature of the risks in our businesses allows us to maintain a greater level of financial stability since our businesses will likely not be affected in the same way by the same economic and operating trends.

Leveraging a set of core capabilities for competitive advantage We pursue a differentiated strategy of building leading positions in specialized market segments for insurance products and related services in North America and selected international markets. These markets are generally complex, have a relatively limited number of competitors and, we believe, offer attractive long-term profitable growth opportunities. In these markets, we leverage the experience of our management team and apply our core capabilities for competitive advantage *managing risk; managing relationships with large distribution partners; and integrating complex administrative systems*. These core capabilities represent areas of expertise which are evident within each of our businesses. We seek to generate insurance industry top-quartile returns by building on specialized market knowledge, well-established distribution relationships and economies of scale. As a result of our strategy, we are a leader in many of our chosen markets and products.

Managing targeted growth initiatives Our approach to mergers, acquisitions and other growth opportunities reflects our prudent and disciplined approach to managing our business. We make decisions based on strict guidelines ensuring that any new business will support our business model. We have established performance goals related to short-term incentive compensation for senior management based on those and other initiatives.

Identifying and adapting to evolving market needs Assurant's businesses adapt quickly to changing market conditions by tailoring product and service offerings to specific client and customer needs. This flexibility was developed, in part, as a result of our entrepreneurial culture and the encouragement of management autonomy at each operating segment. By understanding the dynamics of our core markets, we design innovative products and services and seek to sustain long-term profitable growth and market leading positions.

Centralizing certain key functions in the Corporate segment to achieve economies of scale At the Corporate level, Assurant, Inc. provides strategic management and key resources for its operating segments, including asset management, employee benefits, finance, treasury, tax, accounting, legal, organizational and leadership development, mergers and acquisitions and communications. We also provide support services in such areas as information technology, financial and human resources systems management, enabling the operating segments to focus on their target markets and distribution relationships while enjoying the economies of scale realized by operating these businesses together and benefiting from being part of a larger, diversified specialty insurance company. Our overall strategy and financial objectives are set and continuously monitored at the corporate level to ensure that our capital resources are being properly allocated.

Competition

Assurant's businesses focus on niche segments within broader insurance markets. While we face competition in each of our businesses, we believe that no single competitor competes against us in all of our business lines and the business lines in which we operate are generally characterized by a limited number of competitors. Competition in our operating segments is based on a number of factors, including: quality of service, product features, price, scope of distribution, financial strength ratings and name recognition. The relative importance of these factors depends on the particular product and market. We compete for customers and distributors with insurance companies and other financial services companies in our various businesses.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property segments face competition in their product lines, but we believe that no other company participates in all of the same lines or offers comparable comprehensive capabilities as do these two segments. Competitors include insurance companies, financial institutions and, in the

Table of Contents

case of preneed life insurance regional insurers. Assurant Health's main competitors are other health insurance companies, Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) and the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans in states where we write business. Assurant Employee Benefits' competitors include other benefit and life insurance companies, dental managed care entities and not-for-profit dental plans.

Segments

On April 1, 2006, the Company separated its Assurant Solutions segment into two segments: Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property. In addition, concurrent with the creation of the new Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property segments, the Company realigned the Preneed segment under the new Assurant Solutions segment.

Assurant Solutions

	For the Years Ended	
	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Gross Written Premium for selected product groupings (1):		
Domestic credit	\$ 656,975	\$ 714,791
International credit	\$ 833,894	\$ 680,097
Domestic extended service contracts (2)	\$ 1,828,048	\$ 1,600,588
International extended service contracts (2)	\$ 422,669	\$ 341,886
Preneed (face sales)	\$ 395,790	\$ 433,510
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 2,530,445	\$ 2,371,605
Segment net income	\$ 143,921	\$ 198,893
Equity (3)	\$ 1,595,083	\$ 1,564,795

- (1) Gross written premium does not necessarily translate to an equal amount of subsequent net earned premiums since Assurant Solutions reinsures a portion of its premiums to third parties and to insurance subsidiaries of its clients.
- (2) Extended service contracts include warranty contracts for products such as personal computers, consumer electronics and appliances.
- (3) Equity excludes accumulated other comprehensive income.

Products and Services

Assurant Solutions targets growth in three key product areas: domestic extended service contracts (ESC) and warranties; preneed life insurance sales; and international credit insurance and ESC. In addition, we offer debt protection debt deferment services through financial institutions.

ESC and Warranties: Through partnerships with leading retailers, we underwrite and provide administrative services for extended service contracts and warranties. These contracts provide consumers with coverage on appliances, consumer electronics, personal computers, cellular phones, automobiles and recreational vehicles, protecting them from certain covered losses. We pay the cost of repairing or replacing customers property in the event of damages due to mechanical breakdown, accidental damage, and casualty losses such as theft, fire, and water damage. Our strategy is to seamlessly provide a total solution to our clients that addresses all aspects of the warranty or extended service contract, including program design and marketing strategy. We provide technologically advanced administration, claims handling and customer service. We believe that we maintain a differentiated position in the marketplace as a provider of both the required administrative infrastructure and insurance underwriting capabilities.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Preneed Life Insurance: Preneed life insurance allows individuals to prepay for a funeral in a single payment or in multiple payments over a fixed number of years. The insurance policy proceeds are used to address

Table of Contents

funeral costs at death. These products are generally structured as whole life insurance policies in the U.S. and as annuity products in Canada.

Credit Insurance: Our credit insurance programs provide our clients customers with products that offer protection from life events and uncertainties that arise in purchasing and borrowing transactions thereby providing the consumer peace of mind. Credit insurance programs generally offer consumers a convenient option to protect a credit card balance or installment loan in the event of death, involuntary unemployment or disability and are generally available to all consumers without the underwriting restrictions that apply to term life insurance.

Debt Protection/Debt Deferment: The debt protection/debt deferment is a coverage offered by the lender with respect to credit card accounts, installment loans and lines of credit. It waives or defers all or a portion of the monthly payments, monthly interest, or the actual debt for the account holder for a covered event such as death, disability, unemployment and family leave. It is similar to credit life, disability and involuntary unemployment insurance except it is not necessary to have an insurance company underwrite the program and can include a variety of coverages.

This product is offered by our clients to their customers and is typically underwritten by the credit issuer or funds the loan. Due to regulatory changes and the resulting shift to debt deferment products by financial institutions, we have seen a reduction in domestic written premium generated in the credit insurance market. Consequently, the largest credit card issuing institutions and lenders have migrated from credit insurance towards debt protection programs. We have worked with our clients to offer alternative products such as debt deferment and protection services. Our debt protection programs generate fee income.

Marketing and Distribution

Assurant Solutions focuses on establishing strong, long-term distribution relationships with market leaders. We partner with five of the top ten largest credit card companies to market our credit insurance and debt protection programs and five of the ten largest consumer electronics and appliance retailers (based on combined product sales) to market our warranties and extended service contracts.

Several of our distribution agreements are exclusive. Typically these agreements have terms of one to five years and allow us to integrate our administrative systems with those of our clients. This integration enables us to exchange information in an almost real-time environment.

In addition to our domestic market, we operate in Canada, the United Kingdom (U.K.), Denmark, Chile, Germany, Spain, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Puerto Rico. In these markets, we primarily sell extended service contracts and credit insurance products through agreements with financial institutions, retailers and cellular phone companies. Although there has been shrinkage in the domestic credit insurance market, the international markets are experiencing growth in the credit insurance business. Expertise gained in the domestic credit insurance market has enabled us to extend our administrative infrastructure internationally. Systems, training, computer hardware and the overall market development approach are customized to fit the particular needs of each targeted international market.

Our preneed life insurance policies are marketed in the U.S. and Canada. In November 9, 2005 we sold our U.S. independent distribution business to Forethought Life Insurance Company (Forethought) to allow us to focus on our exclusive distribution partnership with Service Corporation International (SCI) and continue to develop our other growth area; independent business in Canada. We are the sole provider through September 30, 2013 of preneed life insurance for SCI, the largest funeral provider in the U.S. based on total revenue. In Canada, we market our preneed programs through independent and corporate funeral homes and selected third-party general agencies. On July 1, 2007, we

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of Mayflower National Life Insurance Company (Mayflower) from SCI. We subsequently merged Mayflower, a leading provider of preneed insurance products and services, into one of our existing preneed life insurers, American Memorial Life Insurance Company.

Table of Contents

On July 12, 2007 we acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of Swansure Group (Swansure), a privately held company in the U.K. Swansure owns D&D Homecare Limited and Adminicle Limited. D&D Homecare Limited designs and distributes general insurance products, including mortgage payment protection and buildings and contents insurance. Adminicle Limited provides a range of insurance administration and outsourcing services.

In addition, on October 1, 2007 we acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of Centrepoint Insurance Services Limited (Centrepoint), a privately held company in the U.K. Centrepoint is a leading insurance broker of building and contents and mortgage payment protection insurance.

These acquisitions place Assurant Solutions as a leader in the U.K. intermediary market.

Underwriting and Risk Management

We write a significant portion of our contracts on a retrospective commission basis. This allows us to adjust commissions based on claims experience. Under this commission arrangement, as permitted by law, compensation to the financial institutions and other clients is predicated upon the actual losses incurred compared to premiums earned after a specific net allowance to us. We believe that this aligns our clients' interests with ours and helps us to better manage risk exposure. A distinct characteristic of our credit insurance program is that the majority of these products have relatively low exposures per incident. This is because policy size is equal to the size of the installment loan or credit card balance. Thus, catastrophic loss severity for most of this business is low relative to insurance companies writing more traditional lines of property insurance.

Our claims processing is automated and combines the efficiency of centralized claims handling, customer service centers and the flexibility of field representatives. This flexibility adds savings and efficiencies to the claims-handling process. Our claims department also provides continuous automated feedback to the underwriting team to help with risk assessment and pricing.

We have extensive knowledge-based experience and risk management expertise in the extended service contract and warranty areas and utilize an integrated model to address the complexities of pricing, marketing, training, risk retention and client service.

Profitability generated through our preneed life insurance programs is generally earned from interest rate spreads – the difference between the death benefit growth rates on underlying policies and the investment returns generated on the assets we hold related to those policies. To manage those spreads, we monitor the movement in new money yields and evaluate monthly our actual net new achievable yields among other techniques.

Assurant Specialty Property

	For the Years Ended	
	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
<i>Net Earned Premiums and Other Considerations by Major Product Grouping:</i>		

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Homeowners (creditor placed and voluntary)	\$ 1,188,090	\$ 753,169
Manufactured housing (creditor placed and voluntary)	209,104	214,461
Other (1)	285,072	240,681
Total	\$ 1,682,266	\$ 1,208,311
Segment net income	\$ 379,240	\$ 241,121
Loss ratio (2)	32.6%	33.8%
Expense ratio (3)	40.5%	44.0%
Combined ratio (4)	72.2%	76.5%
Equity (5)	\$ 1,158,074	\$ 752,913

Table of Contents

- (1) This primarily includes flood, agricultural, specialty auto, and renters insurance products.
- (2) The loss ratio is equal to policyholder benefits divided by net earned premiums and other considerations.
- (3) The expense ratio is equal to selling, underwriting and general expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (4) The combined ratio is equal to total benefits, losses and expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (5) Equity excludes accumulated other comprehensive income.

Products and Services

Assurant Specialty Property is pursuing long-term profitable growth in creditor-placed homeowners insurance and seeks to extend this model into other emerging markets, such as creditor-placed automobile and renters insurance and also writes other specialty products.

Creditor-placed and voluntary homeowners insurance: The largest product line within Assurant Specialty Property is homeowners insurance consisting principally of fire and dwelling hazard insurance offered primarily through our creditor-placed programs. The creditor-placed program provides collateral protection to our mortgage lender clients in the event that a homeowner does not purchase or renew its homeowners insurance on a mortgaged dwelling.

We use a proprietary insurance tracking administration system to continuously monitor a client's mortgage portfolio to verify the existence of insurance on each mortgaged property. In the event that a mortgagee is not maintaining adequate insurance coverage, they will be notified and, if the situation continues, we will issue an insurance policy on the property on behalf of the creditor. This process works through the integration of our proprietary loan tracking systems with the back offices and systems of our clients.

The creditor-placed programs are administered separately for homeowner mortgages and manufactured housing loans. Our hazard products can also be purchased on a voluntary basis. In addition, we provide fee-based administration services for some of the largest mortgage lenders and servicers, manufactured housing lenders, dealers and vertically integrated builders and equipment leasing institutions in the U.S. Manufactured housing retailers use our proprietary premium rating technology which allows them to sell property coverages at the point of sale.

We believe this proven business model will allow us to continue our growth due to seamless integration with our clients and the inherent efficiencies of this integration. Additionally, we are optimistic about the opportunities before us to expand this business model with the addition of new clients, new products for existing clients, adjacent products and services and the potential acquisition of new businesses. We calculated our market share of first mortgage loans tracked to be in excess of 65%.

Creditor-placed auto and renters insurance: We have developed products using our creditor-placed business model to meet similar needs in adjacent and emerging markets, such as the creditor-placed automobile and mandatory insurance rental markets. Both of these markets have been expanding in recent years. The creditor-placed automobile market has benefited from improvements made in technology and product offerings thus making this a more attractive market. The mandatory insurance rental market continues to expand as more property management companies mandate tenant liability coverage.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

As a result of our efficiency in handling certain back-office functions, the vast majority of our mortgage lender and servicing clients outsource their insurance processing to us. We also act as an administrator for the Federal Government under the voluntary National Flood Insurance Program for which we earn an expense reimbursement for collecting premiums and processing claims. This is a public flood insurance program and is

Table of Contents

restricted as to rates, underwriting, coverages and claims management procedures. We do not assume any underwriting risk with respect to this program; however, we underwrite a smaller separate creditor-placed flood insurance program.

Marketing and Distribution

Our marketing strategy is to establish relationships with institutions that are leaders in their chosen markets. Our creditor-placed homeowners program is marketed through financial institutions and other mortgage lenders. Our clients in this program consist of a majority of the top 25 mortgage servicers.

We offer our manufactured housing insurance programs primarily through three channels: manufactured housing lenders, manufactured housing retailers and independent specialty agents. The independent specialty agents distribute our products to individuals subsequent to new home purchases.

Underwriting and Risk Management

We maintain a disciplined approach to the management of our product lines. Our creditor-placed homeowners insurance program is unique in that it is not underwritten on an individual property basis. Contracts with our clients require us to automatically issue these policies, after notice, when a homeowners policy lapses or is terminated. These products are priced after factoring in this inherent underwriting risk.

As part of our overall risk management focus, we continually monitor pricing adequacy on a product by region, state, risk and producer. We proactively seek to make timely commission, premium and coverage modifications, subject to regulatory considerations, where we determine them to be appropriate. In addition, we maintain a diligent risk management practice that concentrates on catastrophic exposure management, the adequacy and pricing of reinsurance coverage and continuous analytical review of risk retention and subsequent profitability in the property lines. For the lines where there is exposure to catastrophes (e.g. homeowners policies), we monitor and manage our aggregate risk exposure by geographic area and, when appropriate, enter into reinsurance contracts to manage our exposure to catastrophic events. Additionally, in the event of a catastrophic loss, we have the mechanism in place to reinstate, as needed, reinsurance coverages for protection from potential subsequent catastrophic events within the policy year.

Assurant Health

	For the Years Ended	
	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
<i>Net Earned Premiums and Other Considerations:</i>		
Individual markets:		
Individual medical	\$ 1,283,321	\$ 1,213,677
Short-term medical	96,837	101,454
Subtotal	1,380,158	1,315,131
Small employer group	670,122	768,826

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total	\$ 2,050,280	\$ 2,083,957
Segment net income	\$ 151,743	\$ 167,919
Loss ratio (1)	63.2%	62.4%
Expense ratio (2)	30.0%	30.2%
Combined ratio (3)	92.0%	91.4%
Equity (4)	\$ 410,897	\$ 416,765

Table of Contents

- (1) The loss ratio is equal to policyholder benefits divided by net earned premiums and other considerations.
- (2) The expense ratio is equal to selling, underwriting and general expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (3) The combined ratio is equal to total benefits, losses and expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (4) Equity excludes accumulated other comprehensive income.

Product and Services

In business since 1892, Assurant Health is focused on pursuing long-term profitable growth opportunities in the individual medical market by offering traditional medical insurance, short-term medical insurance and student medical plans to individuals and families. Products are offered with different plan options to meet a broad range of customer needs. Assurant Health also offers traditional medical insurance to small employer groups.

Individual Medical: Our medical insurance products are sold to individuals, primarily between the ages of 18 and 64 years, and their families who do not have employer-sponsored coverage. We emphasize the sale of individual products through associations and trusts that act as the master policyholder for such products. Products marketed and sold through associations and trusts offer flexibility in pricing and product design which increase our ability to respond to market changes.

Substantially all of the individual health insurance products we sell are Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans, which offer members the ability to select from a wide range of health care providers. Coverage is typically available with a variety of co-payment, deductible and coinsurance options, with the total benefit for covered services limited by certain policy maximums. Members can also add a Health Savings Account (HSA) option with their high deductible health plan. We offer extensive HSA training to our independent agents and offer internet-based HSA tools making it easier for our customers to integrate their HSA into the plan of their choice and better manage their health care spending. These products are individually underwritten, taking into account the member's medical history and other factors. The remaining products we sell are indemnity, or fee-for-service plans. Indemnity plans offer a member the ability to select any health care provider for covered services.

Short-term Medical Insurance and Student Health Insurance: The short-term medical insurance product is designed for individuals who are between jobs or seeking interim coverage before their major medical coverage becomes effective. Short-term medical insurance products are generally sold to individuals in order to fill gaps in coverage of twelve months or less. Student health coverage plans are medical insurance plans sold to full-time college students who are not covered by their parents' health insurance, are no longer eligible for dependant coverage, or are seeking a more comprehensive alternative to a college-sponsored plan.

Small Group Medical: Our group medical insurance sold to small employers focuses primarily on companies with two to fifty employees, although larger employer coverage is available. As of December 31, 2007, our average group size was approximately five employees. In the case of our small employer group health insurance, we underwrite the entire group and examine the medical risk factors of the individual groups for pricing purposes only. Substantially all of the small employer health insurance products that we sold in 2007 and 2006 were PPO products. We also offer HSA and Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) options and a variety of ancillary products to meet the demands of small employers for life insurance, short-term disability insurance and dental insurance.

Marketing and Distribution

Breadth and depth of distribution is a key competitive advantage for Assurant Health. Our health insurance products are principally marketed through an extensive network of independent agents by our distributors. We

also market our products to individuals through a variety of exclusive and non-exclusive national account

Table of Contents

relationships and direct distribution channels. In addition, we market our products through NorthStar Marketing, a wholly owned affiliate that proactively seeks business directly from independent agents. Since 2000, we have had an exclusive national marketing agreement with a major mutual insurance company, pursuant to which their captive agents market our individual health products. Captive agents are representatives of a single insurer or group of insurers who are obligated to submit business only to that insurer, or at a minimum, give that insurer first refusal rights on a sale. The term of this agreement will expire in June 2008, but may be extended if agreed to by both parties. We also have a solid relationship with a well-known association. Through our agreement with this well-known association's administrator, we provide many of our individual health insurance products. The term of the agreement with this administrator will expire in September 2008, but will be automatically extended for an additional two-year term unless prior notice of a party's intent to terminate is given to the other party. We also have a long-term relationship with a national marketing organization with more than 50 offices. We, and our direct writing agents, also sell short-term medical insurance plans through the internet.

In 2006, we launched Advantage Agent, an array of new products, tools and capabilities designed to make it easy for agents to do business with Assurant Health. These capabilities resulted in an easier policy application process and shortened approval periods, while maintaining the integrity of our disciplined risk management requirements. In 2007, we enhanced this platform so that we are able to issue coverage to up to 20% of individual applicants immediately while they are still in the agent's office, complete with medical identification card. Our state of the art application and underwriting technology allows us to fully underwrite healthy applicants instantly, and to date we have serviced approximately 20% of our individual applicants with this instant issuance capability.

Underwriting and Risk Management

Our underwriting and risk management capabilities include pricing discipline, policy underwriting and renewal optimization, development and retention of provider networks, product development and claims processing. In establishing premium rates for our health care plans, we use underwriting criteria based upon our accumulated actuarial data, with adjustments for factors such as claims experience and member demographics to evaluate anticipated health care costs. Our pricing considers the expected frequency and severity of claims and the costs of providing the necessary coverage, including the cost of administering policy benefits, sales and other administrative costs.

We also utilize a broad range of focused traditional cost containment and care management processes across our various product lines to manage risk and to lower costs. These include case management, disease management and pharmacy benefits management programs. We retain provider networks through a variety of relationships. These relationships generally include leased networks, such as Private Health Care Systems, Inc. (PHCS), which contract directly with individual health care providers. Assurant Health was a co-founder of PHCS. Although we sold our equity interest in PHCS during 2006, we continue to have access to the PHCS network. Pharmacy benefits management is provided by Medco Health Solutions (Medco). Medco has established itself as a leader in its industry with almost 60,000 participating retail pharmacies nationwide and its extensive mail-order service. Through Medco's advanced technology platforms, Assurant Health is able to access information about customer utilization patterns on a timelier basis to improve its risk management capabilities. In addition to the technology-based advantages, Medco allows us to purchase our pharmacy benefits at competitive prices. Our agreement with Medco expires June 30, 2010, but will be automatically extended for additional one-year terms unless prior notice of a party's intent to terminate is given to the other party. We also utilize co-payments and deductibles to reduce prescription drug costs.

Table of Contents**Assurant Employee Benefits**

	For the Years Ended	
	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
<i>Net Earned Premiums and Other Considerations:</i>		
Group dental	\$ 412,810	\$ 428,218
Group disability single premiums for closed blocks (1)	49,456	46,313
All other group disability	467,490	480,924
Group life	214,983	224,447
Total	\$ 1,144,739	\$ 1,179,902
Segment net income	\$ 87,021	\$ 83,603
Loss ratio (2)	69.1%	70.1%
Expense ratio (3)	35.2%	34.0%
Equity (4)	\$ 605,358	\$ 615,612

- (1) This represents single premium on closed blocks of group disability business.
- (2) The loss ratio is equal to policyholder benefits divided by net earned premiums and other considerations.
- (3) The expense ratio is equal to selling, underwriting and general expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (4) Equity excludes accumulated other comprehensive income.

Products and Services

We focus our group business around the needs of the small employer, which we define as businesses with fewer than 500 employees. We believe that our core capabilities around small group risk selection, administrative systems that can efficiently handle thousands of cases, and our strong relationships with brokers who work primarily with small businesses give us a competitive advantage over other companies.

We offer a full range of group disability, dental, life and voluntary products as well as individual dental products. The group products are offered with funding options ranging from fully employer paid to fully employee paid (voluntary).

Group Disability: Group disability insurance provides partial replacement of lost earnings for insured employees who become disabled as defined by their plan provisions. Our group disability products include both short-and long-term disability coverage options. We also reinsure disability policies written by other carriers managed through our subsidiary, Disability Reinsurance Management Services, Inc. (DRMS).

Group long-term disability insurance provides income protection for extended work absences due to sickness or injury. Most policies commence benefits following 90- or 180-day waiting periods, with benefits limited to specified maximums as a percentage of income. Group short-term disability insures temporary loss of income due to sickness or injury, and often provides benefits immediately for disabilities caused by accidents or after one week for disabilities caused by sickness. The insured receives a weekly benefit while disabled for a period of up to 26 weeks depending on the plan.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Group Dental: Dental benefit plans provide funding for necessary or elective dental care. Customers may select a traditional indemnity arrangement, a PPO arrangement, or a prepaid or managed care arrangement. Coverage is subject to deductibles, coinsurance and annual or lifetime maximums. In a prepaid plan, members must use participating dentists in order to receive benefits.

In addition to fully insured and managed care dental benefits, we offer Administrative Services Only (ASO) for self-funded dental plans. Under the ASO arrangement, an employer or plan sponsor pays us a fee to provide administrative services.

Table of Contents

Success in the group dental business requires strong provider network development and management, a focus on expense management and a claim system capable of efficiently and accurately adjudicating high volumes of transactions. These success factors are the cornerstone of our dental business.

In 2006, we entered a joint network leasing agreement with Aetna which strengthened our Dental PPO network position beginning in 2007. Aetna added to its PPO offerings the dentists contracted with Dental Health Alliance, L.L.C.[®], the dental PPO operated by Assurant Employee Benefits. Assurant Employee Benefits began marketing a network comprised of the Dental Health Alliance[®] and the Aetna Dental Access[®] networks in 2007. This agreement opened up over 30 dental PPO markets and, we believe, enhances the attractiveness of our dental offerings to the small employers.

Group Life: Group term life insurance provided through the workplace provides financial coverage in the event of premature death. Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance, as well as coverage for spouses, children or domestic partners is also available. Insurance consists primarily of renewable term life insurance with the amount of coverage either a flat amount, a multiple of the employee's earnings, or a combination of the two.

Marketing and Distribution

Our insurance products and services are distributed through a group sales force strategically positioned in 35 U.S. offices located near major metropolitan areas. These company employees distribute our products and services through independent employee benefits advisors, including brokers and other intermediaries, and are compensated through a salary and incentive package. Daily account management is provided through the local sales office, further supported by one of four regional sales service centers and a home office customer relations department. Compensation to brokers is generally provided monthly, and in some cases includes an annual performance incentive, based on volume and retention of business.

Marketing efforts concentrate on the identification of our target customers' benefit needs, the development and communication of products and services tailored to meet those needs, alignment of our Company with select high-potential brokers and other intermediaries who value our approach to the market, and the promotion of the Assurant Employee Benefits brand.

DRMS, our wholly owned subsidiary, assists customers by providing reinsurance for carriers that want to supplement their core product offerings with a turnkey group disability insurance solution. Services are provided for a fee and may include product development, state insurance regulatory filings, underwriting, claims management or any of the other functions typically performed by an insurer's back office. The risks written by DRMS' various clients are reinsured into a pool, with the clients generally retaining shares ranging from 20% to 60% of the risk. Because DRMS' clients operate in niches not often reached through our traditional distribution, our participation in the pools enables us to reach new customers.

Underwriting and Risk Management

The pricing of our products is based on the expected cost of benefits, calculated using assumptions for mortality, morbidity, interest, expenses and persistency, depending upon the specific product features. Group underwriting takes into account demographic factors such as age, gender and occupation of members of the group as well as the geographic location and concentration of the group. Some policies limit the payment of

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

benefits for certain defined or pre-existing conditions, or in other ways seek to limit the risk from adverse selection. Our block of business is highly diversified by industry and geographic location, which serves to limit some of the risks associated with changing economic conditions.

Disability claims management focuses on facilitating a positive return-to-work program through a supportive network of services that may include physical therapy, vocational rehabilitation, and workplace accommodation.

Table of Contents

In addition to claims specialists, we also employ or contract with a staff of doctors, nurses and vocational rehabilitation specialists, and use a broad range of additional outside medical and vocational experts for independent evaluations and local vocational services.

Our dental business uses a highly automated claims system focused on rapid handling of claims.

Ratings

Rating organizations continually review the financial strength of insurers, including our insurance subsidiaries. Insurance companies are assigned financial strength ratings by independent rating agencies based upon factors relevant to policyholders. Ratings provide both industry participants and insurance consumers meaningful information on specific insurance companies and are an important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies. Most of our active domestic operating insurance subsidiaries are rated by A.M. Best. A.M. Best maintains a letter scale rating system ranging from A++ (Superior) to S (Suspended). Six of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries are also rated by Moody's Investor Services (Moody's). In addition, seven of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries are rated by Standard & Poors Inc, a division of McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc (S&P).

All of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries rated by A.M. Best have financial strength ratings of A (Excellent), which is the second highest of ten ratings categories and the highest within the category based on modifiers (i.e., A and A- are Excellent), or A- (Excellent), which is the second highest of ten ratings categories and the lowest within the category based on modifiers.

The Moody's financial strength rating for six of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries is A2 (Good), which is the third highest of nine ratings categories and mid-range within the category based on modifiers (i.e., A1, A2 and A3 are Good).

The S&P financial strength rating for four of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries is A (Strong), which is the third highest of nine ratings categories and mid-range within the category based on modifiers (i.e., A+, A and A- are Strong), and for three of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries is A- (Strong), which is the third highest of nine ratings categories and the lowest within the category based on modifiers.

As a result of their concerns related to the ongoing Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigation (see Item 3. Legal Proceedings for more information), both A.M. Best and S&P have placed a negative outlook on our ratings. Currently Moody's has our ratings under review for possible downgrade. If there is a negative event, outcome or action as a result of the SEC investigation, our ratings may be downgraded. We do not expect this negative outlook by A.M. Best and S&P and the review for possible downgrade from Moody's to significantly affect our borrowing capacity; however, a significant downgrade in ratings may increase the cost of borrowing for the Company or limit the Company's access to capital.

The objective of A.M. Best's, Moody's and S&P's ratings systems is to assist policyholders and to provide an opinion of an insurer's financial strength, operating performance, strategic position and ability to meet ongoing obligations to its policyholders. These ratings reflect the opinions of A.M. Best, Moody's and S&P of our ability to pay policyholder claims, are not applicable to our common stock or debt securities and are not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any security, including our common stock or debt securities. These ratings are subject to periodic review by and may be revised upward, downward or revoked at the sole discretion of A.M. Best, Moody's and S&P.

Employees

We had approximately 14,000 employees as of February 15, 2008. Assurant Solutions has employees in Argentina, Brazil, Italy and Mexico that are represented by labor unions and trade organizations.

Table of Contents

Available Information

Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, the Statements of Beneficial Ownership of Securities on Forms 3, 4 and 5 for our Directors and Officers and all amendments to such reports, filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, are available free of charge at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) website at www.sec.gov. These documents are also available free of charge through our website at www.assurant.com.

Table of Contents

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Risks Related to Our Company

Our income and profitability may decline if we are unable to maintain our relationships with significant clients, distributors and other parties important to the success of our business.

Our relationships and contractual arrangements with significant clients, distributors and other parties with whom we do business are important to the success of our segments. Many of these arrangements are exclusive. For example, in Assurant Solutions, we have exclusive relationships with retailers and financial and other institutions through which we distribute our products, including an exclusive distribution relationship with SCI relating to the distribution of our preneed insurance policies. In Assurant Specialty Property, we have exclusive relationships with mortgage lenders and manufactured housing. In Assurant Health, we have exclusive distribution relationships for our individual health insurance products with a major mutual insurance company as well as a relationship with a well-known association through which we provide many of our individual health insurance products. We also maintain contractual relationships with several separate networks of health and dental care providers, each referred to as a PPO, through which we obtain discounts. Typically, these relationships and contractual arrangements have terms ranging from one to five years.

Although we believe we have generally been successful in maintaining our client, distribution and associated relationships, if these parties decline to renew or seek to terminate these arrangements or seek to renew these contracts on terms less favorable to us, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. For example, a loss of one or more of the discount arrangements with PPOs could lead to higher medical or dental costs and/or a loss of members to other medical or dental plans. In addition, we are subject to the risk that these parties may face financial difficulties, reputational issues or problems with respect to their own products and services, which may lead to decreased sales of our products and services. Moreover, if one or more of our clients or distributors consolidate or align themselves with other companies, we may lose business or suffer decreased revenues.

Sales of our products and services may be reduced if we are unable to attract and retain sales representatives or develop and maintain distribution sources.

We distribute our insurance products and services through a variety of distribution channels, including independent employee benefits specialists, brokers, managing general agents, life agents, financial institutions, mortgage lenders and servicers, retailers, funeral homes, association groups and other third-party marketing organizations.

Our relationships with these various distributors are significant both for our revenues and profits. We generally do not distribute our insurance products and services through captive or affiliated agents. In Assurant Health, we depend in large part on the services of independent agents and brokers and on associations in the marketing of our products. In Assurant Employee Benefits, independent agents and brokers who act as advisors to our customers market and distribute our products. Strong competition exists among insurers to form relationships with agents and brokers of demonstrated ability. We compete with other insurers for relationships with agents, brokers, and other intermediaries primarily on the basis of our financial position, support services, product features, and more generally through our ability to meet the needs of their clients, our customers. Independent agents and brokers are typically not exclusively dedicated to us, but instead usually also market the products of our competitors and therefore we face continued competition from our competitors' products. Moreover, our ability to market our products and services depends on our ability to tailor our channels of distribution to comply with changes in the regulatory environment in which we and such agents and brokers operate. For example, in the past, both the marketing of health insurance through association groups and broker

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

compensation arrangements have come under increased scrutiny. An interruption in, or changes to, our relationships with various third-party distributors or our inability to respond to regulatory changes that threaten to disrupt our distribution processes could impair our ability to compete and market our insurance products and services that could cause a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

We have our own sales representatives whose distribution process varies by segment. We depend in large part on our sales representatives to develop and maintain client relationships. Our inability to attract and retain effective sales representatives could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

General economic, financial market and political conditions may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

General economic, financial market and political conditions may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. These conditions include economic cycles such as insurance industry cycles, levels of employment, levels of consumer lending, levels of consumer spending, levels of inflation and movements of the financial markets.

Fluctuations in interest rates, mortgage rates, monetary policy, demographics, and legislative and competitive factors also influence our performance. Our expansion into foreign countries may result in similar risks, including currency fluctuations, unstable political climates, and governmental and competitive factors. During periods of economic downturn:

individuals and businesses (i) may choose not to purchase our insurance products and other related products and services, (ii) may terminate existing policies or contracts or permit them to lapse, (iii) may choose to reduce the amount of coverage purchased or, (iv) in the case of business customers of Assurant Health or Assurant Employee Benefits, may have fewer employees requiring insurance coverage due to reductions in their staffing levels;

disability insurance claims and claims on other specialized insurance products tend to rise;

there is a higher loss ratio on credit card and installment loan insurance due to rising unemployment and disability levels;

insureds tend to increase their utilization of health and dental benefits if they anticipate becoming unemployed or losing benefits; and

substantial decreases in loan availability and origination could have a long-term effect on premium writings.

In addition, general inflationary pressures may affect the costs of medical and dental care, as well as repair and replacement costs on our real and personal property lines, increasing the costs of paying claims. Inflationary pressures may also affect the costs associated with our preneed insurance policies, particularly those that are guaranteed to grow with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Our actual claims losses may exceed our reserves for claims, which may require us to establish additional reserves that may materially reduce our earnings, profitability and capital.

We maintain reserves to cover our estimated ultimate exposure for claims and claim adjustment expenses with respect to reported claims and incurred but not reported claims (IBNR) as of the end of each accounting period. Reserves, whether calculated, in the U.S., under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP), Statutory Accounting Principles (SAP) or accounting principles required in foreign jurisdictions, do not represent an exact calculation of exposure, but instead represent our best estimates, generally involving actuarial projections

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

at a given time, of what we expect the ultimate settlement and administration of a claim or group of claims will cost based on our assessment of facts and circumstances then known. The adequacy of reserves will be impacted by future trends in claims severity, frequency, judicial theories of liability and other factors. These variables are affected by both external and internal events, such as changes in the economic cycle, changes in the social perception of the value of work, emerging medical perceptions regarding physiological or psychological causes of disability, emerging health issues and new methods of treatment or accommodation, inflation, judicial trends, legislative changes and claims handling procedures. Many of these items are not

Table of Contents

directly quantifiable, particularly on a prospective basis. Reserve estimates are refined as experience develops. Adjustments to reserves, both positive and negative, are reflected in the statement of operations of the period in which such estimates are updated. Because establishment of reserves is an inherently uncertain process involving estimates of future losses, there can be no certainty that ultimate losses will not exceed existing claims reserves. In addition, future loss development could require reserves to be increased, which could have a material adverse effect on our earnings in the periods in which such increases are made.

We may be unable to accurately predict benefits, claims and other costs or to manage such costs through our loss mitigation methods, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our profitability could vary depending on our ability to predict benefits, claims and other costs, including medical and dental costs, and predictions regarding the frequency and magnitude of claims on our disability and property coverages. It also depends on our ability to manage future benefit and other costs through product design, underwriting criteria, utilization review or claims management and, in health and dental insurance, negotiation of favorable provider contracts. Utilization review is a process designed to control and limit medical expenses, which includes, among other things, requiring certification for admission to a health care facility and cost-effective ways of handling patients with catastrophic illnesses. Claims management entails the use of a variety of means to mitigate the extent of losses incurred by insureds and the corresponding benefit cost, which includes efforts to improve the quality of medical care provided to insureds and to assist them with vocational services. Our ability to predict and manage costs and claims, as well as our business, results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected by changes in health and dental care practices, inflation, new technologies, the cost of prescription drugs, clusters of high cost cases, changes in the regulatory environment, economic factors, the occurrence of catastrophes and increased construction and repair related costs.

The judicial and regulatory environments, changes in the composition of the kinds of work available in the economy, market conditions and numerous other factors may also materially adversely affect our ability to manage claim costs. The aging of the population, other demographic characteristics and advances in medical technology continue to contribute to rising health care costs. As a result of one or more of these factors or other factors, claims could substantially exceed our expectations, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

As industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other environmental conditions change, unexpected and unintended issues relating to claims and coverage may emerge. These issues could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition by either extending coverage beyond our underwriting intent or by increasing the number or size of claims or both. We may be limited in our ability to respond to such changes, by insurance regulations, existing contract terms, contract filing requirements, market conditions or other factors.

Our investment portfolio is subject to several risks that may diminish the value of our invested assets and affect our profitability.

Our investment portfolio may suffer reduced returns or losses that could reduce our profitability.

Investment returns are an important part of our overall profitability and significant fluctuations in the fixed maturity market could impair our profitability, financial condition and/or cash flows. Our investments are subject to market-wide risks and fluctuations, as well as to risks inherent in particular securities. In particular, volatility of claims may force us to liquidate securities prior to maturity, which may cause us to incur capital losses. If we do not structure our investment portfolio so that it is appropriately matched with our insurance liabilities, we may be forced to liquidate investments prior to maturity at a significant loss to cover such liabilities. Our net investment income and net realized (losses)/gains on investments collectively accounted for approximately 9% of our total revenues during the year ending December 31, 2007 and 11% of our

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

total revenues during the year ending December 31, 2006. See Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and

Table of Contents

Results of Operations Investments and Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk for additional information on our investment portfolio and related risks.

The U.S. secondary mortgage market has experienced unprecedented disruptions resulting from credit quality deterioration in a significant portion of loans originated, primarily to non-prime and sub-prime borrowers. This has led to reduced investor demand for mortgage loans and mortgage-backed securities and increased investor yield requirements for those loans and securities. Recently, the industry problem with subprime mortgages has created a volatile secondary market for other high-risk products, especially alternative documentation loans (typically offered to qualified borrowers who have relatively high credit scores but are not required to provide full documentation to support personal income and assets owned). These conditions may continue or worsen in the future. Although at December 31, 2007, only a small portion of our mortgage-backed securities were secured by sub-prime mortgage collateral, if the market disruption continues and/or expands beyond the U.S. sub-prime residential mortgage markets, these events could ultimately impact our fixed maturity and commercial mortgage loan portfolio and may have a material adverse effect on the value of our investment portfolio, our results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

The performance of our investment portfolio is subject to fluctuations due to changes in interest rates and market conditions.

Changes in interest rates can negatively affect the performance of some of our investments. Interest rate volatility can increase or reduce unrealized gains or unrealized losses in our portfolios. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including governmental monetary policies, domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. Fixed maturity and short-term investments represented 77% of the fair value of our total investments as of December 31, 2007 and 76% of the fair value of our total investments as of December 31, 2006. See Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Investments and Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk for additional information on the effect of fluctuations in interest rates.

The fair market value of the fixed maturity securities in our portfolio and the investment income from these securities fluctuate depending on general economic and market conditions. Because all of our fixed maturity securities are classified as available for sale, changes in the market value of these securities are reflected in our balance sheet. The fair market value generally increases or decreases in an inverse relationship with fluctuations in interest rates, while net investment income realized by us from future investments in fixed maturity securities will generally increase or decrease with interest rates. In addition, actual net investment income and/or cash flows from investments that carry prepayment risk, such as mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, may differ from those anticipated at the time of investment as a result of interest rate fluctuations. In periods of declining interest rates, mortgage prepayments generally increase and mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage obligations and bonds in our investment portfolio are more likely to be prepaid or redeemed as borrowers seek to borrow at lower interest rates, and we may be required to reinvest those funds in lower interest-bearing investments. As of December 31, 2007, mortgage-backed securities represented \$1,020,614, or 7%, of the fair value of our total investments.

We employ asset/liability management strategies to reduce the adverse effects of interest rate volatility and to ensure that cash flows are available to pay claims as they become due. Our asset/liability management strategies include asset/liability duration management, structuring our bond and commercial mortgage loan portfolios to limit the effects of prepayments and consistent monitoring of, and appropriate changes to, the pricing of our products.

Asset/liability management strategies may fail to eliminate or reduce the adverse effects of interest rate volatility, and no assurances can be given that significant fluctuations in the level of interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

In addition, our preneed insurance policies are generally whole life insurance policies with increasing death benefits. In extended periods of declining interest rates or high inflation, there may be compression in the spread between the death benefit growth rates on these policies and the investment earnings that we can earn, resulting in a negative spread. As a result, declining interest rates or high inflation rates may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and our overall financial condition. See Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk Inflation Risk for additional information.

Assurant Employee Benefits calculates reserves for long-term disability and life waiver of premium claims using net present value calculations based on current interest rates at the time claims are funded and expectations regarding future interest rates. Waiver of premium refers to a provision in a life insurance policy pursuant to which an insured with a disability that lasts for a specified period no longer has to pay premiums for the duration of the disability or for a stated period, during which time the life insurance coverage provides continued coverage. If interest rates decline, reserves for open and/or new claims in Assurant Employee Benefits would need to be calculated using lower discount rates thereby increasing the net present value of those claims and the required reserves. Depending on the magnitude of the decline, this could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. In addition, investment income may be lower than that assumed in setting premium rates.

Our investment portfolio is subject to credit risk.

We are subject to credit risk in our investment portfolio, primarily from our investments in corporate bonds and preferred stocks. Defaults by third parties in the payment or performance of their obligations could reduce our investment income and realized investment gains or result in investment losses. Further, the value of any particular fixed maturity security is subject to impairment based on the creditworthiness of a given issuer. As of December 31, 2007, fixed maturity securities represented 73% of the fair value of our total invested assets. Our fixed maturity portfolio also includes below investment grade securities (rated BB or lower by nationally recognized securities rating organizations). These investments comprise approximately 6% of the fair value of our total investments as of December 31, 2007 and generally provide higher expected returns, but present greater risk and can be less liquid than investment grade securities. A significant increase in defaults and impairments on our fixed maturity investment portfolio could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. See

Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk Credit Risk for additional information on the composition of our fixed maturity investment portfolio.

We currently invest in a small amount of equity securities (approximately 5% of the fair value of our total investments as of December 31, 2007). However, we have had higher percentages in the past and may make more such investments in the future. Investments in equity securities generally provide higher expected total returns, but present greater risk to preservation of principal than our fixed maturity investments.

In addition, while we currently do not utilize derivative instruments to hedge or manage our interest rate or equity risk, we may do so in the future. Derivative instruments generally present greater risk than fixed maturity investments or equity investments because of their greater sensitivity to market fluctuations. Since August 1, 2003, we have been utilizing derivative instruments to manage the exposure to inflation risk created by our preneed insurance policies that are tied to the CPI. However, we would not be fully protected by the derivative instruments if there were a sharp increase in inflation on a sustained long-term basis which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our commercial mortgage loans and real estate investments subject us to liquidity risk.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Our commercial mortgage loans on real estate investments (which represented approximately 10% of the fair value of our total investments as of December 31, 2007) are relatively illiquid, thus increasing our liquidity risk. In addition, if we require extremely large amounts of cash on short notice, we may have difficulty selling these investments at attractive prices, in a timely manner, or both.

Table of Contents

The risk parameters of our investment portfolio may not target an appropriate level of risk, thereby reducing our profitability and diminishing our ability to compete and grow.

We seek to earn returns on our investments to enhance our ability to offer competitive rates and prices to our customers. Accordingly, our investment decisions and objectives are a function of the underlying risks and product profiles of each of our operating segments. However, if we do not succeed in targeting an appropriate overall risk level for our investment portfolio, the return on our investments may be insufficient to meet our profit targets over the long term, thereby reducing our profitability. If, in response, we choose to increase our product prices to maintain profitability, we may diminish our ability to compete and grow.

Environmental liability exposure may result from our commercial mortgage loan portfolio and real estate investments.

Liability under environmental protection laws resulting from our commercial mortgage loan portfolio and real estate investments may harm our financial strength and reduce our profitability. Under the laws of several states, contamination of a property may give rise to a lien on the property to secure recovery of the costs of the cleanup. In some states, this kind of lien has priority over the lien of an existing mortgage against the property, which would impair our ability to foreclose on that property should the related loan be in default. In addition, under the laws of some states and under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, under certain circumstances, we may be liable for costs of addressing releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that require remedy at a property securing a mortgage loan held by us. We also may face this liability after foreclosing on a property securing a mortgage loan held by us after a loan default.

Catastrophe losses, including man-made catastrophe losses, could materially reduce our profitability and have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our insurance operations expose us to claims arising out of catastrophes, particularly in our homeowners, life and other personal lines of business. We have experienced, and expect in the future to experience, catastrophe losses that may materially reduce our profitability or have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Catastrophes can be caused by various natural events, including, but not limited to, hurricanes, windstorms, earthquakes, hailstorms, severe winter weather, fires and epidemics, or can be man-made catastrophes, including terrorist attacks or accidents such as airplane crashes. The frequency and severity of catastrophes are inherently unpredictable. Catastrophe losses can vary widely and could significantly exceed our recent historic results. It is possible that both the frequency and severity of man-made catastrophes will increase and that we will not be able to implement exclusions from coverage in our policies or obtain reinsurance for such catastrophes.

The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. Most of our catastrophe claims in the past have related to homeowners and other personal lines coverages, which, for the year ended December 31, 2007, represented approximately 87% of our net earned premiums in our Assurant Specialty Property segment. In addition, as of December 31, 2007, approximately 39% of the insurance in force in our homeowners and other personal lines related to properties located in California, Florida and Texas. As a result of our creditor-placed homeowners and creditor-placed manufactured housing insurance products, which automatically provide coverage against an insured's property being destroyed or damaged by various perils, our concentration in these areas may increase in the future. If other insurers withdraw coverage in these or other states, this may lead to adverse selection and increased utilization of our creditor-placed homeowners or creditor-placed manufactured housing insurance in these areas and may negatively impact loss experience. Adverse selection refers to the process by which an applicant who believes him or herself to be uninsurable, or at greater than average risk, seeks to obtain an insurance policy at a standard premium rate. Claims resulting from natural or man-made catastrophes could cause substantial volatility in our financial results for any fiscal quarter or year and could materially reduce our

Table of Contents

profitability or harm our financial condition. Our ability to write new business also could be affected. Increases in the value and geographic concentration of insured property and the effects of inflation could increase the severity of claims from catastrophes in the future.

Pre-tax catastrophe losses in excess of \$5,000 (before the benefits of reinsurance) that we have experienced in recent years include (total losses do not include amounts paid in connection with the National Flood Insurance Program as we are either an administrator or are reinsured by the federal government and have no underwriting risk under the Program):

total losses of approximately \$38,300 incurred from the original date of loss through December 31, 2007, in connection with the California wildfires. Total reinsurance recoveries related to these events since inception through 2007 were approximately \$4,200; and

total losses of approximately \$372,000 incurred from the original date of loss through December 31, 2007, in connection with the 2005 Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma. Total reinsurance recoveries related to these events since inception through 2007 were approximately \$329,000.

No liquidation in investments was required in connection with these catastrophes as the claims were paid from current cash flow, cash on hand or short-term investments.

In addition, our group life and health insurance operations could be materially impacted by catastrophes such as a terrorist attack, a natural disaster, a pandemic or an epidemic that causes a widespread increase in mortality or disability rates or that causes an increase in the need for medical care. If the severity of such an event were sufficiently high, it could exceed our reinsurance coverage limits and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. In addition, with respect to our preneed insurance policies, the average age of policyholders is in excess of 73 years. This group is more susceptible to certain epidemics than the overall population, and an epidemic resulting in a higher incidence of mortality could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Some of our segments may also face the loss of premium income due to a large-scale business interruption caused by a catastrophe combined with legislative or regulatory reactions to the event. For example, following hurricanes in 2005, several states suspended premium payment or precluded insurers from canceling coverage in defined areas. While the premiums uncollected were immaterial, a more serious catastrophe combined with a similar legislative or regulatory response could materially impact our ability to collect premiums in connection with our liabilities and thereby have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our ability to manage these risks depends in part on our successful utilization of catastrophic property and life reinsurance to limit the size of property and life losses from a single event or multiple events, and life and disability reinsurance to limit the size of life or disability insurance exposure on an individual insured life. It also depends in part on state regulation that may prohibit us from excluding such risks or from withdrawing from or increasing premium rates in catastrophe-prone areas. As discussed further below, catastrophe reinsurance for our group insurance lines is not currently widely available. This means that the occurrence of a significant catastrophe could materially reduce our profitability and have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Reinsurance may not be available or adequate to protect us against losses, and we are subject to the credit risk of reinsurers.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

As part of our overall risk and capacity management strategy, we purchase reinsurance for certain risks underwritten by our various operating segments. Market conditions beyond our control determine the availability and cost of the reinsurance protection we purchase. Reinsurance for certain types of catastrophes generally could

Table of Contents

become unavailable for some of our businesses and has become more expensive. Due to these changes in the reinsurance market, our exposure to the risk of significant losses from natural or man-made catastrophes may hinder our ability to write future business.

As part of our business, we have reinsured certain life, property and casualty and health risks to reinsurers. Although the reinsurer is liable to us to the extent of the ceded reinsurance, we remain liable to the insured as the direct insurer on all risks reinsured. As a result, ceded reinsurance arrangements do not eliminate our obligation to pay claims. We are subject to credit risk with respect to our ability to recover amounts due from reinsurers. Due to insolvency, adverse underwriting results or inadequate investment returns, our reinsurers may not pay the reinsurance recoverables that they owe to us or they may not pay such recoverables on a timely basis.

Our reinsurance facilities are generally subject to annual renewal. We may not be able to maintain our current reinsurance facilities and, even where highly desirable or necessary, we may not be able to obtain other reinsurance facilities in adequate amounts and at favorable rates. If we are unable to renew our expiring facilities or to obtain new reinsurance facilities, either our net exposures would increase or, if we are unwilling to bear an increase in net exposures, we may have to reduce the level of our underwriting commitments. Either of these potential developments could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We have sold businesses through reinsurance that could again become our direct financial and administrative responsibility if the purchasing companies were to become insolvent.

In the past, we have sold, and in the future we may sell, businesses through reinsurance ceded to third parties. For example, in 2001 we sold the insurance operations of our Fortis Financial Group (FFG) division to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (The Hartford) and in 2000 we sold our Long Term Care (LTC) division to John Hancock Life Insurance Company (John Hancock), now a subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation. Most of the general account assets backing reserves coinsured under these sales are held in trusts that could aid in protecting us financially if the purchaser were to fail. However, such trusts have varying provisions regarding how fully funded they are required to be and how often they must be restored to such funded status. Therefore, protection from the trusts is only existent to the extent the coinsurance trusts are funded at the time of reinsurer default. Aside from the coinsurance, a portion of the assets backing FFG general account reserves and all of the FFG separate accounts remain on our balance sheet pursuant to modified coinsurance arrangements. In addition to the financial risk, we have the additional risk of becoming responsible for administering these businesses in the event of a default by either reinsurer. We do not have the administrative systems and capabilities to process this business today. Accordingly, we would need to obtain those capabilities in the event of an insolvency of one or more of the reinsurers of these businesses. We might be forced to obtain such capabilities on unfavorable terms with a resulting material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Due to the structure of our commission program, we are exposed to the credit risk of some of our agents and our clients in Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property.

We are subject to the credit risk of the clients and/or agents with which we contract in Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property. We advance agents' commissions as part of our preneed insurance product offerings. These advances are a percentage of the total face amount of coverage as opposed to a percentage of the first-year premium paid, the formula that is more common in other life insurance markets. There is a one-year payback provision against the agency if death or lapse occurs within the first policy year. If SCI, who receives the largest shares of such agent commissions, were unable to fulfill its payback obligations, this could have an adverse effect on our operations and financial condition.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

In addition, some of our clients and agents collect premiums on our behalf. If these parties fail to remit payments owed to us or fail to pass on payments they collect on our behalf, it could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Table of Contents

A further decline in the manufactured housing market may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

The manufactured housing industry has experienced a significant decline in both shipments and retail sales in the last eight years. The downturn in the manufactured housing industry is a result of several factors, including the impact of repossessions, the lack of retail financing, reduced resale values, and the consolidations of manufacturers and lenders of manufactured housing. In the year ended December 31, 2007, our sales of homeowners' policies in the manufactured housing sector comprised 12.5% of Assurant Specialty Property's net written premiums. If these downward trends continue, without diversification and growth in other manufactured housing product lines, our results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

A.M. Best, Moody's, and S&P rate the financial strength of our insurance company subsidiaries, and a decline in these ratings could affect our standing in the insurance industry and cause our sales and earnings to decrease.

Ratings have become an increasingly important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies. A.M. Best rates most of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries. Moody's rates six of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries and S&P rates seven of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries. The ratings reflect A.M. Best's, Moody's, and S&P's opinions of our subsidiaries' financial strength, operating performance, strategic position and ability to meet their obligations to policyholders. The ratings are not evaluations directed to investors and are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold our securities. These ratings are subject to periodic review by A.M. Best, Moody's, and S&P, and we cannot assure you that we will be able to retain these ratings. As a result of their concerns related to the ongoing SEC investigation (see Item 3. Legal Proceedings for more information) A.M. Best and S&P have placed a negative outlook on our ratings. Moody's has our ratings under review for possible downgrade. For more information on the specific A.M. Best, Moody's, and S&P ratings of our domestic operating insurance subsidiaries, see Item 1 Business Ratings.

If our ratings are reduced from their current levels by A.M. Best, Moody's, or S&P, our competitive position in the respective insurance industry segments could suffer and it could be more difficult for us to market our products. Rating agencies may take action to lower our ratings in the future due to, among other things the competitive environment in the insurance industry, which may adversely affect our revenues, the inherent uncertainty in determining reserves for future claims, which may cause us to increase our reserves for claims, the outcome of pending litigation and regulatory investigations, which may adversely affect our financial position and reputation and possible changes in the methodology or criteria applied by the rating agencies. In addition, rating agencies have come under recent scrutiny over their ratings on various mortgage-backed products. As a result, they may become more conservative in their methodology and criteria, which could adversely affect our ratings.

As customers and their advisors place importance on our financial strength ratings, we may lose customers and compete less successfully if we are downgraded. In addition, ratings impact our ability to attract investment capital on favorable terms. If our financial strength ratings are reduced from their current levels by A.M. Best, Moody's, or S&P, our cost of borrowing would likely increase, our sales and earnings could decrease and our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

Contracts representing approximately 32% of Assurant Solutions' and 12% of Assurant Specialty Property's net earned premiums and fee income for the year ended December 31, 2007 contain provisions requiring the applicable subsidiaries to maintain minimum A.M. Best financial strength ratings ranging from A or better to B or better, depending on the contract. Our clients may terminate these contracts or not renew contracts if the subsidiaries' ratings fall below these minimum or other acceptable levels. Under our marketing agreement with SCI, American Memorial Life Insurance Company (AMLIC), one of our subsidiaries, is required to maintain an A.M. Best financial strength rating of B or better throughout the term of the agreement. If AMLIC fails to maintain this rating for a period of 180 days, SCI may terminate the agreement.

Table of Contents

The failure to effectively maintain and modernize our information systems could adversely affect our business.

Our business is dependent upon the ability to keep up to date with technological advances. This is particularly important where our systems, including our ability to keep our systems integrated with those of our clients, are critical to the operation of our business and financial reporting. If we do not update our systems to reflect technological advancements or protect our systems, our relationships and ability to do business with our clients may be adversely affected.

Our business depends significantly on effective information systems, and we have many different information systems for our various businesses. We must commit significant resources to maintain and enhance our existing information systems and develop new information systems in order to keep pace with continuing changes in information processing technology, evolving industry, regulatory and legal standards and changing customer preferences. A failure to maintain effective and efficient information systems, or a failure to efficiently and effectively consolidate our information systems to eliminate redundant or obsolete applications, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition or our ability to do business in a particular jurisdiction. If we do not effectively maintain adequate systems we could experience adverse consequences, including inadequate information on which to base pricing, underwriting and reserving decisions, the loss of existing customers, difficulty attracting new customers, customer, provider and agent disputes, regulatory problems, such as failure to meet prompt payment obligations, litigation exposure, or increases in administrative expenses.

Our management information, internal control and financial reporting systems may need further enhancements and development to satisfy continuing financial and other reporting requirements of our insurers and of us.

Failure to protect our clients' confidential information and privacy could result in the loss of reputation and customers, reduction to our profitability and/or subject us to fines, litigation and penalties.

A number of our businesses are subject to privacy regulations and to confidentiality obligations. For example, the collection and use of patient data in our Assurant Health and Assurant Employee Benefits segments is the subject of national and state legislation, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and certain activities conducted by our segments are subject to the privacy regulations of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. We also have contractual obligations to protect certain confidential information we obtain from our existing vendors, servicing companies, and clients. These obligations generally include protecting such confidential information to the same extent as we protect our own confidential information in accordance with laws that govern our clients or us, or in compliance with client requirements. The actions we take to protect such confidential information vary by operating segment and may include, among other things, training and educating our employees regarding our obligations relating to confidential information, actively monitoring our record retention plans and any changes in privacy and compliance requirements of the jurisdictions in which our regulated subsidiaries do business, drafting appropriate contractual provisions into any contract that raises proprietary and confidentiality issues, maintaining and utilizing appropriately secure storage facilities for tangible records, and limiting access, as appropriate, to both tangible records and to electronic information.

In addition, we maintain a comprehensive written information security program with appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to protect such confidential information. If we do not properly comply with privacy and security laws and regulations that require us to protect confidential information, we could experience adverse consequences, including loss of customers and related revenue, regulatory problems (including fines and penalties), loss of reputation and civil litigation.

See Risks Related to Our Industry Costs of compliance with privacy and security laws could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Table of Contents

Our ability to achieve our desired market positions may be significantly impaired if we do not find suitable acquisition candidates or new insurance ventures, and even if we do, we may not successfully integrate any such acquired companies or successfully promote such ventures, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

From time to time, we evaluate possible acquisition transactions and the start-up of complementary businesses, and at any given time, we may be engaged in discussions with respect to possible acquisitions and new ventures. While our business model is not dependent upon acquisitions or new insurance ventures, the time frame for achieving or further improving upon our desired market positions can be significantly shortened through opportune acquisitions or new insurance ventures. Historically, acquisitions and new insurance ventures have played a significant role in achieving desired market positions in some, but not all, of our businesses. No assurance can be given that we will be able to identify suitable acquisition transactions or insurance ventures, that such transactions will be financed and completed on acceptable terms or that our future acquisitions or ventures will be successful. Any deficiencies in the process of integrating any companies we do acquire or investing in and promoting new ventures could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, implementation of an acquisition strategy entails a number of risks, including among other things inaccurate assessment of undisclosed liabilities; difficulties in realizing projected efficiencies, synergies and cost savings; failure to achieve anticipated revenues, earnings or cash flow; an increase in our indebtedness; and a limitation in our ability to access additional capital when needed. For example, we recognized a goodwill impairment of \$1,260,939 in 2002 related to an earlier acquisition. Our failure to adequately address these acquisition risks could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

The inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to us in sufficient amounts could harm our ability to meet our obligations and pay future stockholder dividends.

As a holding company whose principal assets are the capital stock of our subsidiaries, we rely primarily on dividends and other statutorily permissible payments from our subsidiaries to meet our obligations for payment of interest and principal on outstanding debt obligations, dividends to stockholders (including any dividends on our common stock) and corporate expenses. The ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends and to make such other payments in the future will depend on their statutory surplus, future statutory earnings and regulatory restrictions. Except to the extent that we are a creditor with recognized claims against our subsidiaries, claims of the subsidiaries' creditors, including policyholders, have priority with respect to the assets and earnings of the subsidiaries over the claims of our creditors. If any of our subsidiaries should become insolvent, liquidate or otherwise reorganize, our creditors and stockholders will have no right to proceed against the assets of that subsidiary or to cause the liquidation, bankruptcy or winding-up of the subsidiary under applicable liquidation, bankruptcy or winding-up laws. The applicable insurance laws of the jurisdiction where each of our insurance subsidiaries is domiciled would govern any proceedings relating to that subsidiary. The insurance authority of that jurisdiction would act as a liquidator or rehabilitator for the subsidiary. Both creditors and policyholders of the subsidiary would be entitled to payment in full from the subsidiary's assets before we, as a stockholder, would be entitled to receive any distribution from the subsidiary.

The payment of dividends to us by any of our regulated operating subsidiaries in excess of a certain amount (i.e., extraordinary dividends) must be approved by the subsidiary's domiciliary state department of insurance. Ordinary dividends, for which no regulatory approval is generally required, are limited to amounts determined by a formula, which varies by state. The formula for the majority of the states in which our subsidiaries are domiciled is based on the prior year's statutory net income or 10% of the statutory surplus as of the end of the prior year. Some states limit ordinary dividends to the greater of these two amounts, others limit them to the lesser of these two amounts and some states exclude prior year realized capital gains from prior year net income in determining ordinary dividend capacity. Some states have an additional stipulation that dividends may only be paid out of earned surplus. If insurance regulators determine that payment of an ordinary dividend or any other payments by our insurance subsidiaries to us (such as payments under a tax sharing agreement or payments for

Table of Contents

employee or other services) would be adverse to policyholders or creditors, the regulators may block such payments that would otherwise be permitted without prior approval. No assurance can be given that there will not be further regulatory actions restricting the ability of our insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends. We may seek approval of regulators to pay dividends in excess of any amounts that would be permitted without such approval. If the ability of insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends or make other payments to us is materially restricted by regulatory requirements, it could adversely affect our ability to pay any dividends on our common stock and/or service our debt and pay our other corporate expenses. For more information on the maximum amount our subsidiaries could pay us in 2008 without regulatory approval, see Item 5 Market For Registrants Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities Dividend Policy.

Our credit facilities also contain limitations on our ability to pay dividends to our stockholders if we are in default or such dividend payments would cause us to be in default of the credit facilities.

The success of our business strategy depends on the continuing service of the members of our senior management team, and any failure to adequately provide for the succession of senior management and other key executives could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Our business and results of operations could be adversely affected if we fail to adequately plan for the succession of our senior management and other key executives. While we have succession plans in place and change in control severance agreements with senior management and certain key executives, these do not guarantee that the services of qualified senior executives will continue to be available to us. In addition, if we fail to effectively retain senior management and other key executives, such failure may have an adverse effect on the retention of employees and others in management.

Risks Related to Our Industry

Our business is subject to risks related to litigation and regulatory actions.

In addition to the occasional employment-related litigation to which businesses are subject, we are a defendant in actions arising out of, and are involved in, various regulatory investigations and examinations relating to our insurance and other related business operations. We are subject to comprehensive regulation and oversight by insurance departments in jurisdictions in which we do business. These insurance departments have broad administrative powers with respect to all aspects of the insurance business and, in particular, monitor the manner in which an insurance company offers, sells and administers its products. Therefore, we may from time to time be subject to a variety of legal and regulatory actions relating to our current and past business operations, including, but not limited to:

disputes over coverage or claims adjudication including, but not limited to, pre-existing conditions in individual medical contracts;

disputes regarding sales practices, disclosures, premium refunds, licensing, regulatory compliance and compensation arrangements;

disputes with our agents, producers or network providers over compensation and termination of contracts and related claims;

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

disputes concerning historical premiums charged by companies acquired by us for coverage that may have been based on factors such as race;

disputes relating to customers regarding the ratio of premiums to benefits in our various operating segments;

disputes alleging packaging of credit insurance products with other products provided by financial institutions;

disputes relating to certain excess of loss programs in the London markets;

disputes with taxation and insurance authorities regarding our tax liabilities;

disputes relating to certain businesses we have acquired or disposed of;

Table of Contents

periodic examinations of compliance with applicable federal securities laws;

disputes relating to customers' claims that the customer was not aware of the full cost of insurance or that insurance was in fact being purchased; and

industry-wide investigations regarding business practices including, but not limited to, the marketing and refunding of insurance policies or certificates of insurance.

The prevalence and outcomes of any such actions cannot be predicted, and no assurances can be given that such actions or any litigation would not materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. In addition, if we were to experience difficulties with our relationship with a regulatory body in a given jurisdiction, it could have a material adverse effect on our ability to do business in that jurisdiction.

In addition, plaintiffs continue to bring new types of legal claims against insurance and related companies. Current and future court decisions and legislative activity may increase our exposure to these types of claims. Multiparty or class action claims may present additional exposure to substantial economic, non-economic or punitive damage awards. The loss of even one of these claims, if it resulted in a significant damage award or a judicial ruling that was otherwise detrimental, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. This risk of potential liability may make reasonable settlements of claims more difficult to obtain. We cannot determine with any certainty what new theories of recovery may evolve or what their impact may be on our businesses.

In 2007, we became the subject of a certain amount of negative publicity that criticized our coverage denial practices. Subsequently, we have experienced an increase in regulatory scrutiny of our coverage denial practices. In particular, Assurant Health has faced enhanced regulatory examination in the state of Connecticut, focused specifically on our practices relating to exclusion of coverage on the basis of a pre-existing condition. These regulatory examinations and investigations could result in, among other things, changes in our business practices and claims handling practices, increases in policy liabilities, reopening of closed or denied claims, changes in governance or other oversight procedures, fines and other actions by the regulatory agencies. Such results, singly or in combination, could harm our reputation, cause negative publicity, adversely affect our ratings, or impair our ability to sell or retain insurance policies, thereby adversely affecting our business.

Another focus of regulators has been the accounting treatment for finite reinsurance or other non-traditional or loss mitigation insurance products. Some state regulators have made routine inquiries to some of our insurers regarding finite reinsurance. Additionally, as part of an ongoing, industry-wide investigation, the Company and certain of its officers and former employees have received subpoenas and requests from the SEC in connection with an investigation by the SEC Staff into certain finite reinsurance contracts entered into by the Company. We are cooperating fully and are complying with the requests.

We have conducted an evaluation of the transactions that could potentially fall within the scope of the subpoenas, as defined by the authorities, and the Company has provided information as requested. Based on our investigation to date, we have concluded that there was a verbal side agreement with respect to one of our reinsurers under our catastrophic reinsurance program. The contract to which this verbal side agreement applied was accounted for using reinsurance accounting as opposed to deposit accounting. While management believes that the difference resulting from the appropriate alternative accounting treatment would be immaterial to our financial position or results of operations, regulators may reach a different conclusion. In 2004 and 2003, premiums ceded to this reinsurer were \$2,600 and \$1,500, respectively, and losses ceded were \$10,000 and zero, respectively. This contract expired in December 2004 and was not renewed.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

In July 2007, we learned that each of the following five individuals, Robert B. Pollock, President and Chief Executive Officer, Philip Bruce Camacho, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Adam Lamnin, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property, Michael Steinman, Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property and Dan Folse, Vice President-Risk Management of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property, received Wells notices from the SEC in connection with its ongoing investigation. A Wells notice is an indication that the

Table of Contents

staff of the SEC is considering recommending that the SEC bring a civil enforcement action against the recipient for violating various provisions of the federal securities laws. Under SEC procedures, the recipients have the opportunity to respond to the SEC Staff before a formal recommendation is finalized.

On July 17, 2007, we announced that the Board of Directors (the Board) had placed all five employees on administrative leave, pending further review of this matter. On July 18, the Board appointed J. Kerry Clayton as interim President and Chief Executive Officer and Michael J. Peninger as interim Chief Financial Officer of the Company. The Board's actions were based on the recommendations of its Special Committee of non-management directors which thereafter conducted a thorough investigation of the events that had resulted in the receipt of the Wells notices. The Special Committee reviewed the relevant documents, conducted interviews and worked with outside counsel in order to investigate these matters and to recommend appropriate actions to the Board with respect to the SEC investigation. On August 9, 2007, Messrs. Steinman and Folse's employment with the Company was terminated.

We have completed a comprehensive review, and based on that review, and the work of the Special Committee, the Board unanimously voted to reinstate Mr. Pollock as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective January 28, 2008. Mr. Clayton transitioned with Mr. Pollock and remained in an emeritus status through the end of February 2008.

The Board's decision to reinstate Mr. Pollock implies no conclusion concerning the outcome of the SEC Staff's ongoing investigation, and the SEC Staff's Wells notice to him remains in effect. Our decision reflects solely the Board's judgment, based on the Special Committee's comprehensive review, that it was in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders to return Mr. Pollock to his positions at that time, rather than await the conclusion of the SEC's investigation, because of concerns over long term leadership by employees, shareholders and customers. The SEC Staff's inquiry continues, and we are cooperating fully. We cannot predict the duration or outcome of the investigation.

In the course of its response to SEC Staff inquiries, we identified certain problems related to our document production process. The Company continues to work diligently to ensure that all responsive documents in our possession have been provided to the SEC Staff and the Special Committee has considered those documents in performing its review. These production issues have delayed resolution of this matter. Messrs. Camacho and Lamnin remain on administrative leave.

In relation to the SEC investigation discussed above, the SEC may charge the Company and/or the individuals with violations of the federal securities laws, including alleging violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), and/or 13(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and/or Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, and may seek civil monetary penalties, injunctive relief and other remedies against the Company and individuals, including potentially seeking a bar preventing one or more of the individuals from serving as an officer or director of a public company. The SEC may also take the position that the Company should restate its consolidated financial statements to address the accounting treatment referred to above. No settlement of any kind can be reached without approval by the SEC and we have not accrued for any civil monetary penalties since we cannot reasonably estimate the amount of such civil monetary penalties at this time.

Depending upon the outcome of the SEC investigation, we may become subject to derivative civil claims made on our behalf against certain of our current and former officers and directors. The amount of time that may be necessary to resolve these claims is unpredictable, and in defending them, our management's attention may be diverted from the day-to-day operations of our business, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, an unfavorable outcome in any such litigation could require us to incur significant legal expenses and substantial judgments or settlements pursuant to any indemnification obligations that we may have with our current or former officers and directors, which could also have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

We cannot predict at this time the effect that current litigation, investigations and regulatory activity will have on the insurance industry or our business. Given our prominent position in the insurance industry, it is

Table of Contents

possible that we will become subject to further investigations and have lawsuits filed against us. Our involvement in any investigations and lawsuits would cause us to incur legal costs and, if we were found to have violated any laws, we could be required to pay fines and damages, perhaps in material amounts. In addition, we could be adversely affected by the negative publicity for the insurance industry related to any such proceedings, and by any new industry-wide regulations or practices that may result from any such proceedings.

We face significant competitive pressures in our businesses, which may reduce premium rates and prevent us from pricing our products at rates that will allow us to be profitable.

In each of our lines of business, we compete with other insurance companies or service providers, depending on the line and products, although we have no single competitor who competes against us in all of the business lines in which we operate. Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property have numerous competitors in their product lines, but we believe no other company participates in all of the same lines or offers comparable comprehensive capabilities. Competitors for both operating segments include national and regional insurance companies, managing and general agencies, and financial institutions.

While we are among the largest competitors in terms of market share in many of our business lines, in some cases there are one or more major market players in a particular line of business. In Assurant Health, we believe the market is characterized by many competitors, and our main competitors include health insurance companies, HMOs and the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans in the states in which we write business. In Assurant Employee Benefits, competitors include benefits and life insurance companies, dental managed care entities and not-for-profit dental plans.

Competition in our businesses is based on many factors, including quality of service, product features, price, scope of distribution, scale, financial strength ratings and name recognition. We compete, and will continue to compete, for customers and distributors with many insurance companies and other financial services companies. We compete not only for business and individual customers, employer and other group customers, but also for agents and distribution relationships. Some of our competitors may offer a broader array of products than our specific subsidiaries with which they compete in particular markets, may have a greater diversity of distribution resources, may have better brand recognition, may from time to time have more competitive pricing, may have lower cost structures or, with respect to insurers, may have higher financial strength or claims paying ratings. Some may also have greater financial resources with which to compete. For example, many of our insurance products, particularly our group benefits and health insurance policies, are underwritten annually and, accordingly, there is a risk that group purchasers may be able to obtain more favorable terms from competitors rather than renewing coverage with us. The effect of competition may, as a result, adversely affect the persistency of these and other products, as well as our ability to sell products in the future. In Assurant Solutions, as a result of state and federal regulatory developments and changes in prior years, certain financial institutions are now able to offer a product called debt protection which is similar to credit insurance and financial institutions are able to affiliate with other insurance companies to offer services similar to our own. This has resulted in new competitors with significant financial resources entering some of our markets. Assurant Solutions currently provides debt protection administration and as financial institutions gain experience with debt protection administration, their reliance on third party administrators may diminish.

Moreover, some of our competitors may have a lower target for returns on capital allocated to their business than we do, which may lead them to price their products and services lower than we do. In addition, from time to time, companies enter and exit the markets in which we operate, thereby increasing competition at times when there are new entrants. For example, several large insurance companies have recently entered the market for individual health insurance products. We may lose business to competitors offering competitive products at lower prices, or for other reasons, which could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

In certain markets, we compete with organizations that have a substantial market share. In addition, with regard to Assurant Health, organizations with sizable market share or provider-owned plans may be able to obtain favorable financial arrangements from health care providers that are not available to us. Without our own similar arrangements, we may not be able to compete effectively in such markets.

New competition could also cause the supply of insurance to change, which could affect our ability to price our products at attractive rates and thereby adversely affect our underwriting results. Although there are some impediments facing potential competitors who wish to enter the markets we serve, the entry of new competitors into our markets can occur, affording our customers significant flexibility in moving to other insurance providers.

The insurance industry is cyclical, which may impact our results.

The insurance industry is cyclical. Although no two cycles are the same, insurance industry cycles have typically lasted for periods ranging from two to ten years. The segments of the insurance markets in which we operate tend not to be correlated to each other, with each segment having its own cyclicity. Periods of intense price competition due to excessive underwriting capacity, periods when shortages of underwriting capacity permit more favorable rate levels, consequent fluctuations in underwriting results and the occurrence of other losses characterize the conditions in these markets. Historically, insurers have experienced significant fluctuations in operating results due to volatile and sometimes unpredictable developments, many of which are beyond the direct control of the insurer, including competition, frequency of occurrence or severity of catastrophic events, levels of capacity, general economic conditions and other factors. This may cause a decline in revenue at times in the cycle if we choose not to reduce our product prices in order to maintain our market position, because of the adverse effect on profitability of such a price reduction. We can be expected, therefore, to experience the effects of such cyclicity and changes in customer expectations of appropriate premium levels, the frequency or severity of claims or other loss events or other factors affecting the insurance industry that generally could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

The insurance and related businesses in which we operate may be subject to periodic negative publicity, which may negatively impact our financial results.

We communicate with and distribute our products and services ultimately to individual consumers. There may be a perception that some of these purchasers may be unsophisticated and in need of consumer protection. Accordingly, from time to time, consumer advocate groups or the media may focus attention on our products and services, thereby subjecting our industries to the possibility of periodic negative publicity.

We may also be negatively impacted if another company in one of our industries or in a related industry engages in practices resulting in increased public attention to our businesses. Negative publicity may also occur as a result of judicial inquiries and regulatory or governmental action with respect to our products, services and industry commercial practices. Negative publicity may result in increased regulation and legislative scrutiny of industry practices as well as increased litigation or enforcement action by civil and criminal authorities. Additionally, negative publicity may increase our costs of doing business and adversely affect our profitability by impeding our ability to market our products and services, requiring us to change our products or services or increasing the regulatory burdens under which we operate.

Ongoing focus by the government and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) on certain industry practices, including but not limited to, broker contingent commissions and finite or financial reinsurance, has created negative publicity for some insurers and the reinsurance industry, including those seeking reinsurance covers.

Table of Contents

We are subject to extensive governmental laws and regulations, which increase our costs and could restrict the conduct of our business.

Our operating subsidiaries are subject to extensive regulation and supervision in the jurisdictions in which they do business. Such regulation is generally designed to protect the interests of policyholders, as opposed to stockholders and other investors. To that end, the laws of the various states and other jurisdictions establish insurance departments with broad powers with respect to such things as:

licensing and authorizing companies and agents to transact business;

regulating capital and surplus and dividend requirements;

regulating underwriting limitations;

regulating companies' ability to enter and exit markets;

imposing statutory accounting requirements and annual statement disclosures;

approving policy forms and mandating certain insurance benefits;

restricting companies' ability to provide, terminate or cancel certain coverages;

regulating premium rates, including the ability to increase or maintain premium rates;

regulating trade and claims practices;

regulating certain transactions between affiliates;

regulating the content of disclosures to consumers;

regulating the type, amounts and valuation of investments;

mandating assessments or other surcharges for guaranty funds and the ability to recover such assessments in the future through premium increases; and

regulating market conduct and sales practices of insurers and agents.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Our non-insurance operations and certain aspects of our insurance operations are subject to various federal and state regulation including state and federal consumer protection and other laws. Similarly, our foreign subsidiaries are subject to legislation in the countries in which they are domiciled. We face the challenge of conducting business in a multi-national setting with varying regulations.

Assurant Health is also required by some jurisdictions to provide coverage to persons who would not otherwise be considered eligible by insurers. Each of these jurisdictions dictates the types of insurance and the level of coverage that must be provided to such involuntary risks. Our share of these involuntary risks is mandatory and generally a function of our respective share of the voluntary market by line of insurance in each jurisdiction. Assurant Health is exposed to some risk of losses in connection with mandated participation in such programs in those jurisdictions in which they are still effective. HIPAA requires certain guaranteed issuance and renewability of health insurance coverage for individuals and small groups (generally 50 or fewer employees) and limits exclusions based on pre-existing conditions. See also [Risks Related to Our Industry](#) Costs of compliance with privacy and security laws could adversely affect our business and results of operations. If regulatory requirements impede our ability to raise premium rates, utilize new policy forms or terminate, deny or cancel coverage in any of our businesses, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

The capacity for an insurance company's growth in premiums is in part a function of its statutory surplus. Maintaining appropriate levels of statutory surplus, as measured by SAP and procedures, is considered important by insurance regulatory authorities and the private agencies that rate insurers' claims-paying abilities and financial strength. Failure to maintain certain levels of statutory surplus could result in increased regulatory scrutiny and enforcement, action by regulatory authorities or a downgrade by rating agencies.

Table of Contents

We may be unable to maintain all required licenses and approvals and our business may not fully comply with the wide variety of applicable laws and regulations or the relevant authority's interpretation of the laws and regulations. Also, some regulatory authorities have relatively broad discretion to grant, renew or revoke licenses and approvals or to limit or restrain operations in their jurisdiction. If we do not have the requisite licenses and approvals or do not comply with applicable regulatory requirements, the insurance regulatory authorities could preclude or temporarily suspend us from carrying on or limit some or all of our activities or monetarily penalize us. That type of action could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Changes in regulation may reduce our profitability and limit our growth.

Legislation or other regulatory reform that increases the regulatory requirements imposed on us or that changes the way we are able to do business may significantly harm our business or results of operations in the future. For example, some states have imposed new time limits for the payment of uncontested covered claims and require health care and dental service plans to pay interest on uncontested claims not paid promptly within the required time period. Some states have also granted their insurance regulatory agencies additional authority to impose monetary penalties and other sanctions on health and dental plans engaging in certain unfair payment practices. If we were to be unable for any reason to comply with these requirements, it could result in substantial costs to us and may materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Legislative or regulatory changes that could significantly harm our subsidiaries and us include, but are not limited to:

legislation that holds insurance companies or managed care companies liable for adverse consequences of medical or dental decisions;

limitations or imposed reductions on premium levels or the ability to raise premiums on existing policies;

increases in minimum capital, reserves and other financial viability requirements;

impositions of fines, taxes or other penalties for improper licensing, the failure to promptly pay claims, however defined, or other regulatory violations;

increased licensing requirements;

prohibitions or limitations on provider financial incentives and provider risk-sharing arrangements;

imposition of more stringent standards of review of our coverage determinations;

new benefit mandates;

increased regulation relating to the use of associations and trusts in the sale of individual health insurance;

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

limitations on our ability to build appropriate provider networks and, as a result, manage health care and utilization due to any willing provider legislation, which requires us to take any provider willing to accept our reimbursement;

limitations on the ability to manage health care and utilization due to direct access laws that allow insureds to seek services directly from specialty medical providers without referral by a primary care provider; and

restriction of solicitation of insurance consumers by funeral board laws for prefunded funeral insurance coverage.

In recent years, the state insurance regulatory framework has come under increased federal scrutiny and some state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that may alter or increase state authority to regulate insurance companies and insurance holding companies. Further, the NAIC and state insurance regulators are

Table of Contents

re-examining existing laws and regulations, specifically focusing on modifications to holding company regulations, interpretations of existing laws and the development of new laws. Although the U.S. federal government does not directly regulate the insurance business, changes in federal legislation and administrative policies in several areas could significantly impact the insurance industry and us. The federal Antitrust Modernization Commission has recently recommended that the U.S. Congress consider the repeal of the McCarran-Ferguson Act, one of the bases for the current system of state regulation of the insurance industry, while the American Council of Life Insurers and others are promoting the introduction of an optional federal charter for certain insurers. Moreover, federal legislation and administrative policies in areas such as employee benefit plan regulation, financial services regulation and federal taxation can reduce our profitability. Additionally, there have been attempts by the NAIC and several states to limit the use of discretionary clauses in policy forms. The elimination of discretionary clauses could increase our costs under our life, health and disability insurance policies. New interpretations of existing laws and the passage of new legislation may harm our ability to sell new policies and increase our claims exposure on policies we issued previously.

A number of legislative proposals have been made at the federal level over the past several years that could impose added burdens on Assurant Health. These proposals would, among other things, mandate benefits with respect to certain diseases or medical procedures, require plans to offer an independent external review of certain coverage decisions, establish association health plans for small businesses, and establish a national health insurance program. Any of these proposals, if implemented, could adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition. Federal changes in Medicare and Medicaid that reduce provider reimbursements could have negative implications for the private sector due to cost shifting. State small employer group and individual health insurance market reforms to increase access and affordability could also reduce profitability by precluding us from appropriately pricing for risk in our individual and small employer group health insurance policies.

With respect to Assurant Specialty Property, federal legislative proposals regarding National Catastrophe Insurance, if adopted, could reduce the business need for some of the property and casualty related products provided by Assurant Specialty Property.

The NAIC has adopted the Annual Financial Reporting Model Act (which prior to revision was known as the Model Audit Rule), that, when adopted by states, will impose internal controls similar to those mandated by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (which we refer to as SOX 404), with some differences for insurance companies. The latest date of adoption by any state, as prescribed by the NAIC, is 2010. These SOX 404 type controls will add an additional layer of internal review for insurer financial statements and subject insurers to varying levels of review by state insurance regulators. This could result in potential exposure for fines and penalties for non-compliance. In addition, the NAIC has adopted changes to statutory accounting principles, which may negatively impact insurer financial reporting requirements and the profitability of insurance operations on a statutory basis.

Additionally, the Attorney General of Mississippi has initiated legal actions against a number of large insurers to invalidate or interpret the flood exclusion in various insurance policies of hurricane-affected claimants, so as to require coverage for losses from hurricane floods and tidal waves. The named insurers are contesting such action. Although none of the Assurant companies has been specifically named as defendants, the lawsuit names as unknown defendants, any business entity qualified to do business in the State of Mississippi who offered insurance, similar to the named insurers, to the detriment of the citizens of the State. As a result, if any of our companies are determined to be a defendant and the Mississippi Attorney General prevails, this could result in negative publicity or have a materially adverse effect on our current financial results as well as future pricing and profitability.

We cannot predict with certainty the effect any proposed or future legislation, regulations or NAIC initiatives may have on the conduct of our business. The insurance laws or regulations adopted or amended from time to time may be more restrictive or may result in materially higher costs than current requirements.

Table of Contents

It is difficult to predict the effect of the current investigations in connection with insurance industry practices. See the preceding section entitled "Our business is subject to risks related to litigation and regulatory actions."

Costs of compliance with privacy and security laws could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

State privacy laws, particularly those with "opt-in" clauses, or provisions that enable an individual to elect information sharing instead of being automatically included, can affect all our businesses. These laws make it harder for our affiliated businesses to share information for marketing purposes, such as generating new sales leads and participating in joint marketing arrangements.

Similarly, the federal and various state "do not solicit" lists could pose a litigation risk to Assurant Solutions. Even an inadvertent failure to comply with consumers' requests to be added to the "do not solicit" list could result in litigation.

Furthermore, foreign privacy regulations could limit the efficiency of our foreign operations and reduce profitability. For example, insurers domiciled in the European Union may not send data that may contain customer information to the U.S., where established systems and operational procedures exist.

HIPAA and the implementing regulations that have been adopted impose obligations for issuers of health and dental insurance coverage and health and dental benefit plan sponsors. HIPAA also establishes requirements for maintaining the confidentiality and security of individually identifiable health information and standards for electronic health care transactions. The Department of Health and Human Services promulgated final HIPAA regulations in 2002. The privacy regulations required compliance by April 2003, the electronic transactions regulations by October 2003 and the security regulations by April 2005. There are new provisions relating to the National Provider Identification Number that our health and dental businesses are in compliance with. As have other entities in the health care industry, we have incurred and will continue to incur substantial costs in complying with the requirements of the HIPAA regulations.

HIPAA is far-reaching and complex and proper interpretation and practice under the law continue to evolve. Consequently, our efforts to measure, monitor and adjust our business practices to comply with HIPAA are ongoing. Failure to comply with HIPAA could result in regulatory fines and civil lawsuits. Knowing and intentional violations of these rules may also result in federal criminal penalties.

Beginning in early 2005, several large organizations became subjects of intense public scrutiny due to high-profile data security breaches involving sensitive financial and health information. These events focused national attention on identity theft and the duty of organizations to notify impacted consumers in the event of a data security breach. Several federal bills are pending in Congress and currently 36 states have passed legislation requiring customer notification in the event of a data security breach. Most state laws take their lead from recently enacted California Civil Code Section 1798.82, which requires businesses that conduct business in California to disclose any breach of security to any resident whose unencrypted data is believed to have been disclosed. Several significant legal, operational and reputational risks exist with regard to data breach and customer notification. Federal pre-emption relating to this issue may reduce our compliance costs. Nonetheless, a breach of data security requiring public notification can result in regulatory fines, penalties or sanctions, civil lawsuits, loss of reputation, loss of customers and reduction of our profitability.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

Applicable laws and our certificate of incorporation and by-laws may discourage takeovers and business combinations that our stockholders might consider in their best interests.

State laws and our certificate of incorporation and by-laws may delay, defer, prevent or render more difficult a takeover attempt that our stockholders might consider in their best interests. For instance, they may prevent our stockholders from receiving the benefit from any premium to the market price of our common stock offered by a bidder in a takeover context. Even in the absence of a takeover attempt, the existence of these provisions may adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock if they are viewed as discouraging takeover attempts in the future.

State laws and our certificate of incorporation and by-laws may also make it difficult for stockholders to replace or remove our directors. These provisions may facilitate director entrenchment, which may delay, defer or prevent a change in our control, which may not be in the best interests of our stockholders.

The following provisions in our certificate of incorporation and by-laws have anti-takeover effects and may delay, defer or prevent a takeover attempt that our stockholders might consider in their best interests. In particular, our certificate of incorporation and by-laws:

permit our Board of Directors to issue one or more series of preferred stock;

divide our Board of Directors into three classes;

limit the ability of stockholders to remove directors;

prohibit stockholders from filling vacancies on our Board of Directors;

prohibit stockholders from calling special meetings of stockholders and from taking action by written consent;

impose advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and nominations of directors to be considered at stockholder meetings;

subject to limited exceptions, requires the approval of at least two-thirds of the voting power of our outstanding capital stock entitled to vote on the matter to approve mergers and consolidations or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets; and

require the approval by the holders of at least two-thirds of the voting power of our outstanding capital stock entitled to vote on the matter for the stockholders to amend the provisions of our by-laws and certificate of incorporation described in the second through seventh bullet points above and this supermajority provision.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

In addition, Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware may limit the ability of an interested stockholder to engage in business combinations with us. An interested stockholder is defined to include persons owning 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock.

Applicable insurance laws may make it difficult to effect a change of control of our Company.

Before a person can acquire control of an insurance company in the U.S. and certain other countries, prior written approval must be obtained from the insurance commissioner of the jurisdiction where the insurer is domiciled. For example, generally, state statutes provide that control over a domestic insurer is presumed to exist if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing, 10% or more of the voting securities of the domestic insurer. However, the State of Florida, in which certain of our insurance subsidiaries are domiciled, defines control as 5% or more. Because a person acquiring 5% or more of our common stock would indirectly control the same percentage of the stock of our Florida subsidiaries, the insurance change of control laws of Florida would apply to such transaction and at 10%, the laws of many other

Table of Contents

states would likely apply to such a transaction. Prior to granting approval of an application to acquire control of a domestic insurer, a state insurance commissioner will typically consider such factors as the financial strength of the applicant, the integrity of the applicant's board of directors and executive officers, the applicant's plans for the future operations of the domestic insurer and any anti-competitive results that may arise from the consummation of the acquisition of control.

Our stock and the stocks of other companies in the insurance industry are subject to stock price and trading volume volatility.

From time to time, the stock price and the number of shares traded of companies in the insurance industry experience periods of significant volatility. Company-specific issues and developments generally in the insurance industry and in the regulatory environment may cause this volatility. Our stock price may fluctuate in response to a number of events and factors, including:

quarterly variations in operating results;

natural disasters, terrorist attacks and epidemics;

changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts;

operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable;

press releases or negative publicity relating to our competitors or us or relating to trends in our markets;

regulatory changes and adverse outcomes from litigation and government or regulatory investigations;

sales of stock by insiders;

changes in our financial strength ratings;

limitations on premium levels or the ability to raise premiums on existing policies;

increases in minimum capital, reserves and other financial viability requirements; and

limitations on our ability to repurchase Company stock.

In addition, broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance.

Table of Contents

Item 1B. *Unresolved Staff Comments*

None.

Item 2. *Properties*

We own seven properties, including five buildings that serve as headquarters locations for our operating segments and two buildings that serve as operation centers for Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property. Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property share headquarters buildings located in Miami, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia and Assurant Specialty Property has operation centers located in Florence, South Carolina and Springfield, Ohio. Assurant Solutions preneed business also has a headquarters building in Rapid City, South Dakota. Assurant Employee Benefits has a headquarters building in Kansas City, Missouri. Assurant Health has a headquarters building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We lease office space for various offices and service centers located throughout the U.S. and internationally, including our New York corporate office and our data center in Woodbury, Minnesota. Our leases have terms ranging from month-to-month to twenty-five years. We believe that our owned and leased properties are adequate for our current business operations.

Item 3. *Legal Proceedings*

We are regularly involved in litigation in the ordinary course of business, both as a defendant and as a plaintiff. We may from time to time be subject to a variety of legal and regulatory actions relating to our current and past business operations. While we cannot predict the outcome of any pending or future litigation, examination or investigation and although no assurances can be given, we do not believe that any pending matter will have a material adverse effect individually or in the aggregate on our financial position or results of operations.

As previously disclosed, the Company and certain of its officers and former employees have received subpoenas and requests from the SEC in connection with an investigation by the SEC Staff into certain finite reinsurance contracts entered into by the Company. We are cooperating fully and are complying with the requests.

We have conducted an evaluation of the transactions that could potentially fall within the scope of the subpoenas, as defined by the authorities, and the Company has provided information as requested. Based on our investigation to date, we have concluded that there was a verbal side agreement with respect to one of our reinsurers under our catastrophic reinsurance program. The contract to which this verbal side agreement applied was accounted for using reinsurance accounting as opposed to deposit accounting. While management believes that the difference resulting from the appropriate alternative accounting treatment would be immaterial to our financial position or results of operations, regulators may reach a different conclusion. In 2004 and 2003, premiums ceded to this reinsurer were \$2,600 and \$1,500, respectively, and losses ceded were \$10,000 and zero, respectively. This contract expired in December 2004 and was not renewed.

In July 2007, we learned that each of the following five individuals, Robert B. Pollock, President and Chief Executive Officer, Philip Bruce Camacho, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Adam Lamnin, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property, Michael Steinman, Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property and Dan Folse, Vice President-Risk Management of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property, received Wells notices from the SEC in connection with its ongoing investigation. A Wells notice is an indication that the Staff of the SEC is considering recommending that the SEC bring a civil enforcement action against the recipient for violating various provisions of the federal securities laws.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Under SEC procedures, the recipients have the opportunity to respond to the SEC Staff before a formal recommendation is finalized.

On July 17, 2007, we announced that the Board of Directors (the Board) had placed all five employees on administrative leave, pending further review of this matter. On July 18, the Board appointed J. Kerry Clayton as

Table of Contents

interim President and Chief Executive Officer and Michael J. Peninger as interim Chief Financial Officer of the Company. The Board's actions were based on the recommendations of its Special Committee of non-management directors which thereafter conducted a thorough investigation of the events that had resulted in the receipt of the Wells notices. The Special Committee reviewed the relevant documents, conducted interviews and worked with outside counsel in order to investigate these matters and to recommend appropriate actions to the Board with respect to the SEC investigation. On August 9, 2007, Messrs. Steinman and Folsie's employment with the Company was terminated.

We have completed a comprehensive review, and based on that review, and the work of the Special Committee, the Board unanimously voted to reinstate Mr. Pollock as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective January 28, 2008. Mr. Clayton transitioned with Mr. Pollock and remained in an emeritus status through the end of February 2008.

The Board's decision to reinstate Mr. Pollock implies no conclusion concerning the outcome of the SEC Staff's ongoing investigation, and the SEC Staff's Wells notice to him remains in effect. Our decision reflects solely the Board's judgment, based on the Special Committee's comprehensive review, that it was in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders to return Mr. Pollock to his positions at that time, rather than await the conclusion of the SEC's investigation, because of concerns over long term leadership by employees, shareholders and customers. The SEC Staff's inquiry continues, and we are cooperating fully. We cannot predict the duration or outcome of the investigation.

In the course of its response to SEC Staff inquiries, we identified certain problems related to our document production process. The Company continues to work diligently to ensure that all responsive documents in our possession have been provided to the SEC Staff and the Special Committee has considered those documents in performing its review. These production issues have delayed resolution of this matter. Messrs. Camacho and Lamnin remain on administrative leave.

In relation to the SEC investigation discussed above, the SEC may charge the Company and/or the individuals with violations of the federal securities laws, including alleging violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), and/or 13(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and/or Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, and may seek civil monetary penalties, injunctive relief and other remedies against the Company and individuals, including potentially seeking a bar preventing one or more of the individuals from serving as an officer or director of a public company. The SEC may also take the position that the Company should restate its consolidated financial statements to address the accounting treatment referred to above. No settlement of any kind can be reached without approval by the SEC and we have not accrued for any civil monetary penalties since we cannot reasonably estimate the amount of such civil monetary penalties at this time.

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

No matter was submitted to a vote of the stockholders of Assurant, Inc. during the fourth quarter of 2007.

Table of Contents

PART II

Item 5. *Market of Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities*

Stock Performance Graph

The following chart compares the total stockholder returns (stock price increase plus dividends) on our common stock from February 4, 2004 (the date of the initial public offering of our common stock) through December 31, 2007 with the total stockholder returns for the S&P 400 Midcap Index, as the broad equity market index, and the S&P 400 Multi-Line Insurance Index and the S&P 500 Multi-Line Insurance Index, as the published industry index. The graph assumes that the value of the investment in the common stock and each index was \$100 on February 4, 2004 and that all dividends were reinvested.

Table of Contents**Total Return To Shareholders**

(Includes reinvestment of dividends)

Company / Index	Base	INDEXED RETURNS			
	Period	Years Ending			
	2/4/04	12/31/04	12/31/05	12/31/06	12/31/07
Assurant, Inc.	100	139.96	200.90	257.17	313.90
S&P 400 MidCap index	100	115.27	129.75	143.14	154.56
S&P 500 Multi-line Insurance Index	100	97.20	105.73	113.74	99.08
S&P 400 Multi-line Insurance Index	100	107.80	128.89	156.92	141.75
		ANNUAL RETURN PERCENTAGE			
		Years Ending			
		12/31/04	12/31/05	12/31/06	12/31/07
Assurant, Inc.		39.96	43.54	28.01	22.06
S&P 400 MidCap index		15.27	12.56	10.32	7.98
S&P 500 Multi-line Insurance Index		-2.80	8.78	7.58	-12.89
S&P 400 Multi-line Insurance Index		7.80	19.56	21.75	-9.67

Common Stock Price

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol AIZ. The following table sets forth the high and low intraday sales prices per share of our common stock as reported by the NYSE for the periods indicated.

Year Ended December 31, 2007	High	Low	Dividends
First Quarter	\$ 57.64	\$ 51.93	\$ 0.10
Second Quarter	\$ 62.13	\$ 49.20	\$ 0.12
Third Quarter	\$ 60.00	\$ 45.27	\$ 0.12
Fourth Quarter	\$ 69.77	\$ 53.43	\$ 0.12
Year Ended December 31, 2006	High	Low	Dividends
First Quarter	\$ 49.80	\$ 42.80	\$ 0.08
Second Quarter	\$ 51.68	\$ 45.12	\$ 0.10
Third Quarter	\$ 54.10	\$ 46.73	\$ 0.10
Fourth Quarter	\$ 56.76	\$ 52.20	\$ 0.10

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table shows aggregate information, as of December 31, 2007, with respect to compensation plans under which equity securities of Assurant are authorized for issuance.

Plan Category	(a) Number of Securities to be Issued Upon	(b) Weighted-Average Exercise Price of	(c) Number of Securities Remaining Available
---------------	--	--	--

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

	Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a))
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	2,216,594	\$ 39.99	6,894,460
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			
Total	2,216,594	\$ 39.99	6,894,460

Table of Contents**Holders**

On February 15, 2008, there were approximately 546 registered holders of record of our common stock. The closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on February 15, 2008 was \$62.41.

Shares Repurchased

Period in 2007	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that may yet be Purchased under the Plans or Programs (1)
January 1 - January 31	360,000	\$ 56.12	360,000	9,955,951
February 1 - February 28	370,000	\$ 54.70	370,000	9,974,021
March 1 - March 31	691,833	\$ 53.50	691,833	9,250,329
Total first quarter	1,421,833	\$ 54.48	1,421,833	
April 1 - April 30	623,000	\$ 57.01	623,000	8,005,907
May 1 - May 31	647,700	\$ 59.78	647,700	7,096,088
June 1 - June 30	713,700	\$ 58.82	713,700	6,447,372
Total second quarter	1,984,400	\$ 58.56	1,984,400	
July 1 - July 31	971,200	\$ 54.98	971,200	6,436,972
August 1 - August 31	1,311,900	\$ 49.92	1,311,900	5,063,870
September 1 - September 30		\$		5,063,870
Total third quarter	2,283,100	\$ 52.07	2,283,100	
October 1 - October 31		\$		5,063,870
November 1 - November 30		\$		5,063,870
December 1 - December 31		\$		5,063,870
Total fourth quarter		\$		
Total through December 31	5,689,333	\$ 54.94	5,689,333	5,063,870

- (1) On November 10, 2006, the Company's Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program under which the Company may repurchase up to \$600,000 of its outstanding common stock. On September 4, 2007, the Company announced that it had suspended the November 10, 2006 stock buyback program, which has \$260,992 remaining under the current authorization. In the future, the Company will evaluate the potential for reinstating the buyback program.

Dividend Policy

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

On January 25, 2008, we announced that our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.12 per common share payable on March 10, 2008 to stockholders of record as of February 25, 2008. We paid dividends of \$0.10 per common share on March 12, 2007 and \$0.12 per common share on June 12, 2007, September 11, 2007 and December 10, 2007. Any determination to pay future dividends will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will be dependent upon: our subsidiaries' payment of dividends and/or other statutorily permissible payments to us; our results of operations and cash flows; our financial position and capital requirements; general business conditions; any legal, tax, regulatory and contractual restrictions on the payment of dividends; and any other factors our Board of Directors deems relevant.

Table of Contents

We are a holding company and, therefore, our ability to pay dividends, service our debt and meet our other obligations depends primarily on the ability of our regulated U.S. domiciled insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends and make other statutorily permissible payments to us. Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to significant regulatory and contractual restrictions limiting their ability to declare and pay dividends. See Item 1A Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Company The inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to us in sufficient amounts could harm our ability to meet our obligations and pay future stockholder dividends. For the calendar year 2008, the maximum amount of dividends that our regulated U.S. domiciled insurance subsidiaries could pay to us under applicable laws and regulations without prior regulatory approval is approximately \$445,654. Dividends were paid by our subsidiaries totaling \$436,900 during 2007.

We may seek approval of regulators to pay dividends in excess of any amounts that would be permitted without such approval. However, there can be no assurance that we would obtain such approval if sought.

In addition, payments of dividends on the shares of common stock are subject to the preferential rights of preferred stock that our Board of Directors may create from time to time. For more information regarding restrictions on the payment of dividends by us and our insurance subsidiaries, including pursuant to the terms of our revolving credit facilities, see Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources.

In addition, our \$500,000 senior revolving credit facility restricts payments of dividends if an event of default under the facility has occurred or a proposed dividend payment would cause an event of default under the facility.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Selected Financial Data****Assurant, Inc.****Five-Year Summary of Selected Financial Data**

	2007	As of and for the years ended December 31,			2003
		2006	2005	2004	
	(in thousands, except number of shares and per share amounts)				
Consolidated Statement of Operations Data:					
Revenues					
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 7,407,730	\$ 6,843,775	\$ 6,520,796	\$ 6,482,871	\$ 6,156,772
Net investment income	799,073	736,686	687,257	634,749	607,313
Net realized (losses) gains on investments	(62,220)	111,865	8,235	24,308	1,868
Amortization of deferred gain on disposal of businesses	33,139	37,300	42,508	57,632	68,277
(Loss) on disposal of businesses				(9,232)	
Fees and other income	275,793	340,958	238,879	220,386	241,988
Total revenues	8,453,515	8,070,584	7,497,675	7,410,714	7,076,218
Benefits, losses and expenses					
Policyholder benefits	3,712,711	3,535,521	3,705,904	3,839,057	3,657,373
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs and value of businesses acquired	1,429,735	1,186,710	926,608	820,456	834,662
Underwriting, general and administrative expenses	2,238,851	2,191,368	2,148,297	2,156,692	2,004,871
Interest expense	61,178	61,243	61,258	56,418	1,175
Distributions on mandatorily redeemable preferred securities				2,163	112,958
Interest premium on redemption of preferred securities					205,822
Total benefits, losses and expenses	7,442,475	6,974,842	6,842,067	6,874,786	6,816,861
Income before provision for income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	1,011,040	1,095,742	655,608	535,928	259,357
Provision for income taxes	357,294	379,871	176,253	185,368	73,705
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	653,746	715,871	479,355	350,560	185,652
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle (1)		1,547			
Net income	\$ 653,746	\$ 717,418	\$ 479,355	\$ 350,560	\$ 185,652
Earnings per share:					
Basic					
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 5.46	\$ 5.65	\$ 3.53	\$ 2.53	\$ 1.70
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		0.01			
Net income	\$ 5.46	\$ 5.66	\$ 3.53	\$ 2.53	\$ 1.70
Diluted					
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 5.38	\$ 5.56	\$ 3.50	\$ 2.53	\$ 1.70
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle (1)		0.01			

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Net income	\$	5.38	\$	5.57	\$	3.50	\$	2.53	\$	1.70
Dividends per share	\$	0.46	\$	0.38	\$	0.31	\$	0.21	\$	1.66
Share Data:										
Weighted average shares outstanding used in per share calculations		119,737,556		126,846,990		135,773,551		138,358,767		109,222,276
Plus: Dilutive securities		1,699,137		1,965,823		1,171,759		108,797		
Weighted average shares used in diluted per share calculations		121,436,693		128,812,813		136,945,310		138,467,564		109,222,276

Table of Contents

	As of and for the years ended December 31,				
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
(in thousands, except share amounts and per share data)					
Selected Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents and investments	\$ 14,552,115	\$ 13,416,817	\$ 13,371,392	\$ 12,955,128	\$ 12,302,585
Total assets	\$ 26,750,316	\$ 25,165,148	\$ 25,365,453	\$ 24,548,106	\$ 24,093,444
Policy liabilities (2)	\$ 15,903,289	\$ 14,513,106	\$ 14,300,713	\$ 13,378,708	\$ 12,836,517
Debt	\$ 971,863	\$ 971,774	\$ 971,690	\$ 971,611	\$ 1,750,000
Mandatorily redeemable preferred securities	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 196,224
Mandatorily redeemable preferred stock	\$ 21,160	\$ 22,160	\$ 24,160	\$ 24,160	\$ 24,160
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 4,088,903	\$ 3,832,597	\$ 3,699,559	\$ 3,635,431	\$ 2,632,103
Per share data:					
Total book value per share (3)	\$ 34.71	\$ 31.26	\$ 28.33	\$ 26.01	\$ 24.10

- (1) On January 1, 2006, we adopted FAS 123R. As a result, we recognized a cumulative adjustment of \$1,547.
- (2) Policy liabilities include future policy benefits and expenses, unearned premiums and claims and benefits payable.
- (3) Total stockholders' equity divided by the basic shares of common stock outstanding. At December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 there were 117,808,007, 122,618,317, and 130,591,834 shares, respectively, of common stock outstanding. At December 31, 2004 and 2003 there were 139,766,177 and 109,222,276 shares of common stock outstanding.

Item 7. 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 consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes which appear elsewhere in this report. It contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Please see [Forward-Looking Statements](#) for more information. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those discussed below and elsewhere in this report, particularly under the headings [Item 1A Risk Factors](#) and [Forward-Looking Statements](#).

General

On April 1, 2006, the Company separated its Assurant Solutions segment into two segments: Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property. In addition, concurrent with the creation of the new Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property segments, the Company realigned the Preneed segment under the new Assurant Solutions segment. Segment income statement for the year ended December 31, 2005 has been recast to reflect the new segment reporting structure.

We report our results through five segments: Assurant Solutions, Assurant Specialty Property, Assurant Health, Assurant Employee Benefits, and Corporate and Other. The Corporate and Other segment includes activities of the holding company, financing expenses, net realized gains (losses) on investments, interest income earned from short-term investments held, interest income from excess surplus of insurance subsidiaries not allocated to other segments, run-off Asbestos business, and additional costs associated with excess of loss reinsurance and ceded to certain subsidiaries in the London market between 1995 and 1997. The Corporate and Other segment also includes the amortization of deferred gains associated with the portions of the sales of FFG and LTC. FFG and LTC were sold through reinsurance agreements as described below.

Critical Factors Affecting Results

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Our results depend on the adequacy of our product pricing, underwriting and the accuracy of our methodology for the establishment of reserves for future policyholder benefits and claims, returns on invested assets and our ability to manage our expenses. Therefore, factors affecting these items may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Table of Contents

Revenues

We generate our revenues primarily from the sale of our insurance policies and, to a lesser extent, fee income by providing administrative services to certain clients. Sales of insurance policies are recognized in revenue as earned premiums while sales of administrative services are recognized as fee income. In late 2000, the majority of Assurant Solutions' domestic credit insurance clients began a transition from the purchase of our credit insurance products, from which we earned premium revenue, to debt protection administration programs, from which we earn fee income. Debt protection administration programs include services for non-insurance products that cancel or defer the required monthly payment on outstanding loans when covered events occur.

Our premium and fee income is supplemented by income earned from our investment portfolio. We recognize revenue from interest payments, dividends and sales of investments. Currently, our investment portfolio is primarily invested in fixed maturity securities. Both investment income and realized capital gains on these investments can be significantly impacted by changes in interest rates.

Interest rate volatility can increase or reduce unrealized gains or unrealized losses in our portfolios. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including governmental monetary policies, domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. Fluctuations in interest rates affect our returns on, and the market value of, fixed maturity and short-term investments.

The fair market value of the fixed maturity securities in our portfolio and the investment income from these securities fluctuate depending on general economic and market conditions. The fair market value generally increases or decreases in an inverse relationship with fluctuations in interest rates, while net investment income realized by us from future investments in fixed maturity securities will generally increase or decrease with interest rates. We also have investments that carry pre-payment risk, such as mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. Actual net investment income and/or cash flows from investments that carry prepayment risk may differ from estimates at the time of investment as a result of interest rate fluctuations. In periods of declining interest rates, mortgage prepayments generally increase and mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage obligations and bonds are more likely to be prepaid or redeemed as borrowers seek to borrow at lower interest rates. Therefore, we may be required to reinvest those funds in lower interest-bearing investments.

Expenses

Our expenses are primarily policyholder benefits, selling, underwriting and general expenses and interest expense.

Our profitability depends in large part on accurately predicting policyholder benefits, claims and other costs. It also depends on our ability to manage future policyholder benefits and other costs through product design, underwriting criteria, utilization review or claims management catastrophe reinsurance coverage and, in health and dental insurance, negotiation of favorable provider contracts. Changes in the composition of the kinds of work available in the economy, market conditions and numerous other factors may also materially adversely affect our ability to manage claim costs. As a result of one or more of these factors or other factors, claims could substantially exceed our expectations, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Selling, underwriting and general expenses consist primarily of commissions, premium taxes, licenses, fees, amortization of deferred acquisition costs (DAC), value of businesses acquired (VOBA) and general operating expenses. For a description of DAC and VOBA, see Notes 2, 9 and 11 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this report.

We incur expenses related to our debt and mandatorily redeemable preferred stock.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Estimates

There are certain accounting policies that we consider to be critical due to the amount of judgment and uncertainty inherent in the application of those policies. In calculating financial statement estimates, the use of different assumptions could produce materially different estimates. In addition, if factors such as those described above or in Item 1A. Risk Factors cause actual events to differ from the assumptions used in applying the accounting policies and calculating financial estimates, there could be a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.

We believe the following critical accounting policies require significant estimates. The actual amounts realized could ultimately be materially different from the amounts currently provided for in our consolidated financial statements.

Reserves

Reserves are established according to GAAP using generally accepted actuarial methods and are based on a number of factors. These factors include experience derived from historical claim payments and actuarial assumptions to arrive at loss development factors. Such assumptions and other factors include trends, the incidence of incurred claims, the extent to which all claims have been reported and internal claims processing charges. The process used in computing reserves cannot be exact, particularly for liability coverages, since actual claim costs are dependent upon such complex factors as inflation, changes in doctrines of legal liabilities and damage awards. The methods of making such estimates and establishing the related liabilities are periodically reviewed and updated.

Reserves do not represent an exact calculation of exposure, but instead represent our best estimates, generally involving actuarial projections at a given time, of what we expect the ultimate settlement and administration of a claim or group of claims will cost based on our assessment of facts and circumstances then known. The adequacy of reserves will be impacted by future trends in claims severity, frequency, judicial theories of liability and other factors. These variables are affected by both external and internal events, such as: changes in the economic cycle, changes in the social perception of the value of work, emerging medical perceptions regarding physiological or psychological causes of disability, emerging health issues and new methods of treatment or accommodation, inflation, judicial trends, legislative changes and claims handling procedures.

Many of these items are not directly quantifiable, particularly on a prospective basis. Reserve estimates are refined as experience develops. Adjustments to reserves, both positive and negative, are reflected in the statement of operations of the period in which such estimates are updated. Because the establishment of reserves is an inherently uncertain process involving estimates of future losses, there can be no certainty that ultimate losses will not exceed existing claims reserves. Future loss development could require reserves to be increased, which could have a material adverse effect on our earnings in the periods in which such increases are made.

Table of Contents

The following table provides reserve information by our major lines of business for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006:

	December 31, 2007				December 31, 2006			
	Future Policy Benefits and Expenses	Unearned Premiums	Case Reserves	Incurred But Not Reported Reserves	Future Policy Benefits and Expenses	Unearned Premiums	Case Reserves	Incurred But Not Reported Reserves
Long Duration Contracts:								
Pre-funded funeral life insurance policies and investment-type annuity contracts	\$ 3,479,115	\$ 3,877	\$ 11,559	\$ 3,991	\$ 3,031,487	\$ 3,339	\$ 10,599	\$ 3,094
Life insurance no longer offered	511,093	765	1,414	509	502,406	784	1,356	467
Universal life and other products no longer offered	307,930	1,689	267	8,211	331,257	1,537	263	8,289
FFG, LTC and other disposed businesses	2,756,059	44,414	270,085	35,406	2,731,285	45,129	262,960	34,743
Medical	130,005	18,564	14,712	30,998	152,954	23,827	34,454	43,602
All other	5,294	316	14,174	6,248	5,085	504	11,532	7,213
Short Duration Contracts:								
Group term life		6,659	231,534	49,509		6,787	243,753	53,221
Group disability		2,806	1,363,098	161,733		2,195	1,362,594	156,296
Medical		109,755	115,198	201,601		95,651	123,736	192,394
Dental		5,035	3,479	17,419		3,796	4,746	19,873
Property and Warranty		1,816,436	192,307	312,091		1,488,253	195,306	296,336
Credit Life and Disability		494,118	102,151	87,373		494,113	125,909	93,261
Extended Service Contract		2,768,048	4,606	40,736		2,179,345	3,075	32,462
All other		138,227	9,678	12,997		84,633	3,251	3,954
Total	\$ 7,189,496	\$ 5,410,709	\$ 2,334,262	\$ 968,822	\$ 6,754,474	\$ 4,429,893	\$ 2,383,534	\$ 945,205

For a description of our reserving methodology, see Note 12 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this report.

The following discusses the reserving process for our major long duration product line.

Long Duration Contracts

Reserves for future policy benefits are recorded as the present value of future benefits to policyholders and related expenses less the present value of future net premiums. Reserve assumptions are selected using best estimates for expected investment yield, inflation, mortality and withdrawal rates. These assumptions reflect current trends, are based on our experience and include a provision for possible unfavorable deviation. We also record an unearned revenue reserve which represents the balance of the excess of gross premiums over net premiums that is still to be recognized in future years' income in a constant relationship to insurance in force.

Risks related to the reserves recorded for contracts from FFG and LTC disposed businesses have been 100% ceded via reinsurance. While the Company has not been released from the contractual obligation to the policyholders, changes in and deviations from economic and mortality assumptions used in the calculation of these reserves will not directly affect us unless there is a default by the assuming reinsurer.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Premium deficiency testing is performed annually and reviewed quarterly. Such testing involves the use of best estimate assumptions to determine if the net liability position (all liabilities less DAC) exceeds the minimum liability needed. Any premium deficiency would first be addressed by removing the provision for adverse deviation. To the extent a premium deficiency still remains, it would be recognized immediately by a charge to the statement of operations and a corresponding reduction in DAC. Any additional deficiency would be recognized as a premium deficiency reserve.

Table of Contents

Historically, premium deficiency testing has not resulted in a material adjustment to DAC or reserves. Such adjustments would occur only if economic or mortality conditions significantly deteriorated.

Short Duration Contracts

For short duration contracts, claims and benefits payable reserves are reported when insured events occur. The liability is based on the expected ultimate cost of settling the claims. The claims and benefits payable reserves include (1) case reserves for known but unpaid claims as of the balance sheet date; (2) IBNR reserves for claims where the insured event has occurred but has not been reported to us as of the balance sheet date; and (3) loss adjustment expense reserves for the expected handling costs of settling the claims. Periodically, we review emerging experience and make adjustments to our case reserves and assumptions where necessary. Below are further discussions on the reserving process for our major short duration products.

Group Disability and Group Term Life

Case or claim reserves are set for active individual claims on group long term disability policies and for disability waiver of premium benefits on group term life policies. Assumptions considered in setting such reserves include disabled life mortality and claim recovery rates, claim management practices, awards for social security and other benefit offsets and yield rates earned on assets supporting the reserves. Group long term disability and group term life waiver of premium reserves are discounted because the payment pattern and ultimate cost are fixed and determinable on an individual claim basis.

Factors considered when setting IBNR reserves include patterns in elapsed time from claim incidence to claim reporting, and elapsed time from claim reporting to claim payment.

Key sensitivities at December 31, 2007 for group long-term disability claim reserves include the discount rate and claim termination rates.

	Claims and Benefits Payable		Claims and Benefits Payable
Group disability, discount rate decreased by 10%	\$ 1,602,813	Group disability, claim termination rate 10% lower	\$ 1,569,283
Group disability, as reported	\$ 1,524,831	Group disability, as reported	\$ 1,524,831
Group disability, discount rate increased by 10%	\$ 1,454,695	Group disability, claim termination rate 10% higher	\$ 1,484,353

The discount rate is also a key sensitivity for group term life waiver of premium reserves.

	Claims and Benefits Payable
Group term life, discount rate decreased by 10%	\$ 291,975

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Group term life, as reported	\$	281,043
Group life, discount rate increased by 10%	\$	271,156

Medical

IBNR reserves represent the largest component of reserves estimated for claims and benefits payable in our Medical line of business, and the primary methods we use in their estimation are the loss development method and the projected claim method for recent claim periods. Under the loss development method, we estimate ultimate losses for each incident period by multiplying the current cumulative losses by the appropriate loss development factor. Under the projected claim method, we use ultimate loss ratios when development methods do not provide enough data to reliably estimate reserves. In addition, we use variations on each method as well as a blend of the two. The primary variation is the use of projected claims using differing experience periods. We primarily use these two methods in our Medical line of business because of the limitations of relying exclusively on a single method.

Table of Contents

We develop the best estimate of expected outstanding liabilities for medical IBNR reserves using generally accepted actuarial principles. The various product lines are evaluated using experience data of sufficient detail to allow for the compilation of historical loss patterns including but not limited to claim lag factors, projected claims per member and restated development factors. If sufficient experience data is not available, experience data from other similar blocks may be used. Industry data as well as data from consulting actuaries provide additional benchmarks when historical experience is too limited. This information is used to provide a range in which the expected outstanding liabilities may fall. The selection of the ultimate loss estimate varies by product line as the credibility of certain methods differs depending upon the in-force volume, the product's claim volatility and the method itself. The selection is also influenced by other available information that may indicate that historical experience data may not be appropriate to use for current liability estimates. Examples of such information include but are not limited to changes in claims inventory levels, changes in provider negotiated rates or cost savings initiatives, increasing or decreasing medical cost trends, product changes and demographic changes in the underlying insured population.

The development of prior period estimates is also reviewed to assist in establishing the current period's loss reserves. The short claim lag time inherent in many of our Medical products allows for emerging trends to be identified quickly.

We evaluate all pertinent information and indicated ranges using experience and actuarial judgment to establish our best estimate for the associated liabilities.

Key sensitivities as of December 31, 2007 for medical reserves include claims processing levels, claims under case management, medical inflation, seasonal effects, medical provider discounts and product mix.

	Claims and Benefits Payable	
Medical, loss development factors 1% lower	\$	341,799*
Medical, as reported	\$	316,799
Medical, loss development factors 1% higher	\$	295,799

* This refers to loss development factors for the most recent four months. Our historical claims experience indicates that approximately 84% of medical claims are paid within four months of the incurred date.

None of the changes in incurred claims from prior years in our Medical line of business were attributable to any change in our reserve methods or assumptions.

Property and Warranty

We develop the best estimate of loss reserves for our Property and Warranty line of business on a product line basis using generally accepted actuarial principles. Our Property and Warranty line of business includes creditor-placed homeowners, manufactured housing homeowners, credit property, credit unemployment and warranty insurance and some longer-tail coverages (e.g., asbestos, environmental, other general liability and personal accident). Our Property and Warranty loss reserves consist of case, IBNR and development on case reserves. The method we most often use in setting our Property and Warranty reserves is the loss development method. Under this method, we estimate ultimate losses for each accident period by multiplying the current cumulative losses by the appropriate loss development factor. We then calculate the reserve as the difference between the estimate of ultimate losses and the current case-incurred losses (paid losses plus case reserves). We select loss development factors based on a review of historical averages, and we consider recent trends and business specific matters such as current claims payment practices.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The loss development method involves aggregating loss data (paid losses and case-incurred losses) by accident quarter (or accident year) and accident age in quarters (or years) for each product or product grouping. As the data ages, we compile loss development factors that measure emerging claim development patterns

Table of Contents

between reporting periods. By selecting the most appropriate loss development factors, we project the known losses to an ultimate incurred basis for each accident period.

The data is analyzed at a minimum using four different loss development methods by product or product grouping: a) annual paid losses, b) annual case-incurred losses, c) quarterly paid losses and d) quarterly case-incurred losses. Also, in addition to the above, some product groupings are analyzed using the expected loss ratio and Bornhuetter-Ferguson loss development methods.

Each of these reserve methodologies produces an indication of the loss reserves for the product or product grouping. The process to select the best estimate differs across lines of business. The single best estimate is determined based on many factors, including but not limited to:

the nature and extent of the underlying assumptions,

the quality and applicability of historical data whether it be internal or industry data,

current and future market conditions the economic environment will often impact the development of loss triangles,

the extent of data segmentation data should be homogenous yet credible enough for loss development methods to apply, and

the past variability of loss estimates the loss estimates on some product lines will vary from actual loss experience more than others.

We review operational and claims activity to gather additional pertinent information. After reviewing all additional pertinent information, a final IBNR amount for each product grouping is selected. We may use other methods depending on data credibility and product line. We use the estimates generated by the various methods to establish a range of reasonable estimates. The best estimate of Property and Warranty reserves is generally selected from the middle to upper end of the third quartile of the range of reasonable estimates.

Most of our credit insurance business is written on a retrospective commission basis, which permits management to adjust commissions based on claims experience. Thus, any adjustment to prior years incurred claims in this line of business is largely offset by a change in contingent commissions which is included in the selling, underwriting and general expenses line in our results of operations.

While management has used its best judgment in establishing its estimate of required reserves, different assumptions and variables could lead to significantly different reserve estimates. Two key measures of loss activity are loss frequency, which is a measure of the number of claims per unit of insured exposure, and loss severity, which is a measure of the average size of claims. Factors affecting loss frequency include the effectiveness of loss controls and safety programs and changes in economic activity or weather patterns. Factors affecting loss severity include changes in policy limits, retentions, rate of inflation and judicial interpretations.

If the actual level of loss frequency and severity is higher or lower than expected, the ultimate reserves will be different than management's estimate. The effect of higher and lower levels of loss frequency and severity levels on our ultimate costs for claims occurring in 2007 would be as follows:

Change in both loss frequency and

severity for all Property and Warranty	Ultimate cost of claims occurring in 2007	Change in cost of claims occurring in 2007
3% higher	\$ 535,117	\$ 30,718
2% higher	\$ 524,777	\$ 20,378
1% higher	\$ 514,537	\$ 10,138
Base scenario	\$ 504,398	\$
1% lower	\$ 494,261	\$ (10,138)
2% lower	\$ 484,021	\$ (20,378)
3% lower	\$ 473,681	\$ (30,718)

Table of Contents

Reserving for Asbestos and Other Claims

We have exposure to asbestos, environmental and other general liability claims arising from our participation in various reinsurance pools from 1971 through 1985. This exposure arose from a short duration contract that we discontinued writing many years ago. We carried case reserves for these liabilities as recommended by the various pool managers and IBNR reserves of \$39,400 (before reinsurance) and \$32,000 (net of reinsurance) at December 31, 2007. We believe the balance of case and IBNR reserves for these liabilities are adequate. However, any estimation of these liabilities is subject to greater than normal variation and uncertainty due to the general lack of sufficiently detailed data, reporting delays and absence of a generally accepted actuarial methodology for those exposures. There are significant unresolved industry legal issues, including such items as whether coverage exists and what constitutes an occurrence. In addition, the determination of ultimate damages and the final allocation of losses to financially responsible parties are highly uncertain. However, based on information currently available, and after consideration of the reserves reflected in the consolidated financial statements, we believe that any changes in reserve estimates for these claims are not reasonably likely to be material.

One of our subsidiaries, American Reliable Insurance Company (ARIC), participated in certain excess of loss reinsurance programs in the London market and, as a result, reinsured certain personal accident, ransom and kidnap insurance risks from 1995 to 1997. ARIC and a foreign affiliate ceded a portion of these risks to retrocessionaires. ARIC ceased reinsuring such business in 1997. However, certain risks continued beyond 1997 due to the nature of the reinsurance contracts written. ARIC and some of the other reinsurers involved in the programs are seeking to avoid certain treaties on various grounds, including material misrepresentation and non-disclosure by the ceding companies and intermediaries involved in the programs. Similarly, some of the retrocessionaires are seeking avoidance of certain treaties with ARIC and the other reinsurers and some reinsureds are seeking collection of disputed balances under some of the treaties. The disputes generally involve multiple layers of reinsurance, and allegations that the reinsurance programs involved interrelated claims spirals devised to disproportionately pass claims losses to higher-level reinsurance layers. Many of the companies involved in these programs, including ARIC, are currently involved in negotiations, arbitrations and/or litigation between multiple layers of retrocessionaires, reinsurers, ceding companies and intermediaries, including brokers, in an effort to resolve these disputes.

Many of the disputes involving ARIC and an affiliate, Bankers Insurance Company Limited (BICL), relating to the 1995 and 1997 program years, have been resolved by settlement or arbitration. As a result of the settlements and an arbitration (in which ARIC did not prevail) additional information became available in 2005, and, based on management's best estimate, we increased our reserves and recorded a total pre-tax charge of \$61,943 for the year ended December 31, 2005. On February 28, 2006, many of the disputes relating to losses in the 1996 program were settled. In 2007, there were two settlements relating to parts of the 1997 program. Loss accruals previously established relating to the 1996 program were adequate. Negotiations, arbitrations and litigation are still ongoing or will be scheduled for the remaining disputes. We believe, based on information currently available, that the amounts accrued for all outstanding disputes are adequate. However, the inherent uncertainty of arbitrations and lawsuits, including the uncertainty of estimating whether any settlements we may enter into in the future would be on favorable terms, makes it difficult to predict the outcomes with certainty.

DAC

The costs of acquiring new business that vary with and are primarily related to the production of new business have been deferred to the extent that such costs are deemed recoverable from future premiums or gross profits. Acquisition costs primarily consist of commissions, policy issuance expenses, premium tax and certain direct marketing expenses.

Premium deficiency testing is performed annually and reviewed quarterly. Such testing involves the use of best estimate assumptions, including the anticipation of interest income to determine if anticipated future policy premiums are adequate to recover all DAC and related claims, benefits and expenses. To the extent a premium

Table of Contents

deficiency exists, it is recognized immediately by a charge to the statement of operations and a corresponding reduction in DAC. If the premium deficiency is greater than unamortized DAC, a liability will be accrued for the excess deficiency.

Long Duration Contracts

Acquisition costs for preneed life insurance policies and life insurance policies no longer offered are deferred and amortized in proportion to anticipated premiums over the premium-paying period. These acquisition costs consist primarily of first year commissions paid to agents and sales and policy issue costs.

For preneed investment-type annuities, universal life insurance policies and investment-type annuity contracts that are no longer offered, DAC is amortized in proportion to the present value of estimated gross margins or profits from investment, mortality, expense margins and surrender charges over the estimated life of the policy or contract. The assumptions used for the estimates are consistent with those used in computing the policy or contract liabilities.

Acquisition costs relating to worksite group disability which typically has high front-end costs and are expected to remain in force for an extended period of time consist primarily of first year commissions to brokers and one time policy transfer fees and costs of issuing new certificates. These acquisition costs are front-end loaded, thus they are deferred and amortized over the estimated terms of the underlying contracts.

Acquisition costs relating to a majority of individual medical contracts issued prior to 2003, a limited number of individual medical contracts issued from 2003 through 2006 in certain jurisdictions, and individual voluntary limited benefit health policies issued in 2007 and later, are deferred and amortized over the estimated average terms of the underlying contracts. These acquisition costs relate to commissions and policy issuance expenses. Commissions represent the majority of deferred costs and result from commission schedules that pay significantly higher rates in the first year. The majority of deferred policy issuance expenses are the costs of separately underwriting each individual medical contract.

Short Duration Contracts

Acquisition costs relating to property contracts, warranty and extended service contracts and single premium credit insurance contracts are amortized over the term of the contracts in relation to premiums earned.

Acquisition costs relating to monthly pay credit insurance business consist mainly of direct marketing costs and are deferred and amortized over the estimated average terms and balances of the underlying contracts.

Acquisition costs relating to group term life, group disability and group dental consist primarily of compensation to sales representatives. These acquisition costs are front-end loaded; thus, they are deferred and amortized over the estimated terms of the underlying contracts.

Acquisition costs on the majority of individual medical contracts issued from 2003 through 2006, all individual medical contracts issued after 2006 and all small group medical contracts consist primarily of commissions to agents and brokers and compensation to representatives. These contracts are considered short duration because the terms of the contract are not fixed at issue and they are not guaranteed renewable. As a result, these costs are not deferred, but rather are recorded in the statement of operations in the period in which they are incurred.

Investments

We regularly monitor our investment portfolio to ensure that investments that may be other-than-temporarily impaired are identified in a timely fashion and properly valued and that any impairments are charged against earnings in the proper period. Our methodology to identify potential impairments requires professional judgment.

Securities whose market price is equal to 85% or less of their original purchase price are added to the impairment watchlist, which is discussed at quarterly meetings attended by members of our investment, accounting and finance departments. Any security whose price decrease is deemed other-than-temporary is

Table of Contents

written down to its then current market level with the amount of the writedown reported as a realized loss in that period. Assessment factors include, but are not limited to, the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been less than cost, the financial condition and rating of the issuer, whether any collateral is held and the intent and ability of the Company to retain the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery.

Inherently, there are risks and uncertainties involved in making these judgments. Changes in circumstances and critical assumptions such as a continued weak economy, a more pronounced economic downturn or unforeseen events which affect one or more companies, industry sectors or countries could result in additional writedowns in future periods for impairments that are deemed to be other-than-temporary. See also

Investments in Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this report and Item 1A Risk Factors Our investment portfolio is subject to several risks that may diminish the value of our invested assets and affect our profitability and Investments contained later in this item.

Realized gains and losses on sales of investments are recognized on the specific identification basis.

Reinsurance

Reinsurance recoverables include amounts related to paid benefits and estimated amounts related to unpaid policy and contract claims, future policyholder benefits and policyholder contract deposits. The cost of reinsurance is accounted for over the terms of the underlying reinsured policies using assumptions consistent with those used to account for the policies. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with claim and claim adjustment expense reserves or future policy benefits reserves and are reported in our consolidated balance sheets. The ceding of insurance does not discharge our primary liability to our insureds. An estimated allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded on the basis of periodic evaluations of balances due from reinsurers, reinsurer solvency, management's experience and current economic conditions.

The following table sets forth our reinsurance recoverables as of the dates indicated:

	As of December 31, 2007	As of December 31, 2006
	(in thousands)	
Reinsurance recoverables	\$ 3,904,348	\$ 3,914,972

We have used reinsurance to exit certain businesses, such as the dispositions of FFG and LTC. The reinsurance recoverables relating to these dispositions amounted to \$2,779,030 and \$2,728,216 at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

In the ordinary course of business, we are involved in both the assumption and cession of reinsurance with non-affiliated companies. The following table provides details of the reinsurance recoverables balance for the years ended December 31:

2007	2006
(in thousands)	

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Ceded future policyholder benefits and expense	\$ 2,662,654	\$ 2,635,445
Ceded unearned premium	643,792	637,447
Ceded claims and benefits payable	540,615	577,052
Ceded paid losses	57,287	65,028
Total	\$ 3,904,348	\$ 3,914,972

We utilize reinsurance for loss protection and capital management, business dispositions and, in Assurant Solutions, client risk and profit sharing. See also Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk Credit Risk.

Table of Contents

Retirement and Other Employee Benefits

We sponsor a pension and a retirement health benefit plan covering our employees who meet specified eligibility requirements. The reported expense and liability associated with these plans requires an extensive use of assumptions which include the discount rate, expected return on plan assets and rate of future compensation increases. We determine these assumptions based upon currently available market and industry data, historical performance of the plan and its assets, and consultation with an independent consulting actuarial firm to aid us in selecting appropriate assumptions and valuing our related liabilities. The actuarial assumptions used in the calculation of our aggregate projected benefit obligation may vary and include an expectation of long-term market appreciation in equity markets which is not changed by minor short-term market fluctuations, but does change when large interim deviations occur. The assumptions we use may differ materially from actual results due to changing market and economic conditions, higher or lower withdrawal rates or longer or shorter life spans of the participants.

Contingencies

We follow the requirements of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (FAS) No. 5, *Accounting for Contingencies* (FAS 5). This requires management to evaluate each contingent matter separately. A loss is reported if reasonably estimable and probable. We establish reserves for these contingencies at the best estimate, or, if no one estimated number within the range of possible losses is more probable than any other, we report an estimated reserve at the low end of the estimated range. Contingencies affecting the Company include litigation matters which are inherently difficult to evaluate and are subject to significant changes.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements Adopted

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted Statement of Position No. 05-1, *Accounting by Insurance Enterprises for Deferred Acquisition Costs in Connection with Modifications or Exchanges of Insurance Contracts* (SOP 05-1). SOP 05-1 provides guidance on internal replacements of insurance and investment contracts. An internal replacement is a modification in product benefits, features, rights or coverages that occurs by the exchange of a contract for a new contract or by amendment, endorsement, or rider to a contract, or by the election of a feature or coverage within a contract. Modifications that result in a new contract that is substantially different from the replaced contract are accounted for as an extinguishment of the replaced contract, and the associated unamortized DAC, unearned revenue liabilities and deferred sales inducements from the replaced contract must be reported as an expense immediately. Modifications resulting in a new contract that is substantially the same as the replaced contract are accounted for as a continuation of the replaced contract. Prior to the adoption of the SOP 05-1, certain internal replacements that did meet new criteria were accounted for as continuations of the replaced contract. Therefore, the accounting policy for certain internal replacements has changed as a result of the adoption of SOP 05-1. At adoption, the Company recognized a \$6,560 decrease to deferred acquisition costs and a corresponding decrease of \$4,264 (after-tax) to retained earnings.

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted FAS No. 155, *Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments an amendment of FASB Statements No. 133 and 140* (FAS 155). FAS 155 resolves issues addressed in FAS 133 Implementation Issue No. D1, *Application of Statement 133 to Beneficial Interest in Securitized Financial Assets*. FAS 155 (a) permits fair value remeasurement for any hybrid financial instrument that contains an embedded derivative that otherwise would require bifurcation; (b) clarifies which interest-only strips and principal-only strips are not subject to the requirements of FAS 133; (c) establishes a requirement to evaluate beneficial interests in securitized financial assets to identify interests that are freestanding derivatives or that are hybrid financial instruments that contain an embedded derivative requiring bifurcation; (d) clarifies that concentrations of credit risk in the form of subordination are not embedded derivatives; and (e) eliminates restrictions on a qualifying special-purpose entity's ability to hold passive derivative financial instruments that pertain to beneficial interests that are or contain a derivative financial instrument. FAS 155 also requires presentation within the consolidated financial statements that identifies those hybrid financial instruments for which the fair value election has been applied and information on the statement of operations impact of the

Table of Contents

changes in fair value of those instruments. The adoption of FAS 155 did not have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes - an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109* (FIN 48). As a result of the adoption, the Company recognized a \$1,508 increase to the liability for unrecognized tax benefits, and a corresponding reduction to the January 1, 2007 balance of retained earnings. See Note 8 for further information regarding the adoption of FIN 48.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted

In September 2006, the FASB issued FAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (FAS 157). FAS 157 defines fair value, addresses how companies should measure fair value when they are required to use a fair value measure for recognition or disclosure purposes under GAAP, and expands disclosures about 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. The Company is required to adopt FAS 157 on January 1, 2008. FAS 157 will be applied prospectively as of January 1, 2008 except for certain financial instruments that were measured at fair value using a transaction price. For these financial instruments, FAS 157 requires limited retrospective adoption and thus the difference between carrying amounts and the fair values of the relevant financial instruments will be shown as a cumulative-effect adjustment to January 1, 2008 retained earnings. The adoption of FAS 157, including the limited retrospective adoption, will not have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In February 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (FAS 159). FAS 159 provides a choice to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value on specified election dates and requires disclosures about the election of the fair value option. Unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected are reported in earnings. FAS 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is required to adopt FAS 159 on January 1, 2008. The Company has chosen not to elect the fair value option for any financial or non-financial instruments as of the adoption date, thus the adoption of FAS 159 will not have an impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In March 2007, the FASB ratified the consensus reached by the Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) in Issue No. 06-10, *Accounting for Deferred Compensation and Postretirement Benefit Aspects of Collateral Assignment Split-Dollar Life Insurance Arrangements* (EITF 06-10). EITF 06-10 provides guidance regarding the employer's recognition of the liability and the related compensation costs for collateral assignment split-dollar life insurance arrangements that provide a benefit to an employee that extends into postretirement periods. This consensus concludes that for a collateral assignment split-dollar life insurance arrangement, an employer should recognize a liability for future benefits in accordance with FASB Statement No. 106, *Employers' Accounting For Postretirement Benefits Other-Than-Pensions*, (if, in substance, a postretirement benefit plan exists) or Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 12, *Deferred Compensation Contracts*, (APB 12) (if the arrangement is, in substance, an individual deferred compensation contract) based on the substantive agreement with the employee. EITF 06-10 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2007 and therefore the Company is required to adopt EITF 06-10 on January 1, 2008. The Company has been recording the liability for future benefits in accordance with APB 12 and thus the adoption of EITF 06-10 will not have an impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 141R, *Business Combinations* (FAS 141R). FAS 141R replaces FASB Statement No. 141, *Business Combinations* (FAS 141). FAS 141R retains the fundamental requirements in FAS 141 that the purchase method of accounting be used for all business combinations, that an acquirer be identified for each business combination and for goodwill to be recognized and measured as a residual. FAS 141R expands the definition of transactions and events that qualify as business combinations to all transactions and other events in which one entity obtains control over one or more other businesses. FAS 141R broadens the fair value measurement and recognition of assets acquired, liabilities assumed, and interests

Table of Contents

transferred as a result of business combinations. FAS 141R also increases the disclosure requirements for business combinations in the financial statements. FAS 141R is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2008. Therefore, the Company is required to adopt FAS 141R on January 1, 2009. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of FAS 141R and the potential impact on the Company's financial position and results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 160, *Non-controlling Interest in Consolidated Financial Statements - an amendment of ARB No. 51* (FAS 160). FAS 160 requires that a non-controlling interest in a subsidiary be separately reported within equity and the amount of consolidated net income attributable to the non-controlling interest be presented in the statement of operations. FAS 160 also calls for consistency in reporting changes in the parent's ownership interest in a subsidiary and necessitates fair value measurement of any non-controlling equity investment retained in a deconsolidation. FAS 160 is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2008. Therefore, the Company is required to adopt FAS 160 on January 1, 2009. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of FAS 160 and the potential impact on the Company's financial position and results of operations.

In February 2008, the FASB issued Financial Statement of Position FAS 157-2 (FSP FAS 157-2). FSP FAS 157-2 defers the effective date of FAS 157 for all non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured on a non-recurring basis to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Therefore, the Company is required to adopt the FAS 157 requirements for its non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured on a non-recurring basis on January 1, 2009. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of FAS 157 for its non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured on a non-recurring basis and the potential impact on the Company's financial position and results of operations.

Results of Operations*Assurant Consolidated**Overview*

The table below presents information regarding our consolidated results of operations:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(in thousands)		
Revenues:			
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 7,407,730	\$ 6,843,775	\$ 6,520,796
Net investment income	799,073	736,686	687,257
Net realized (losses) gains on investments	(62,220)	111,865	8,235
Amortization of deferred gains on disposal of businesses	33,139	37,300	42,508
Fees and other income	275,793	340,958	238,879
Total revenues	8,453,515	8,070,584	7,497,675

Benefits, losses and expenses:

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Policyholder benefits	3,712,711	3,535,521	3,705,904
Selling, underwriting and general expenses (1)	3,668,586	3,378,078	3,074,905
Interest expense	61,178	61,243	61,258
Total benefits, losses and expenses	7,442,475	6,974,842	6,842,067
Income before provision for income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	1,011,040	1,095,742	655,608
Provision for income taxes	357,294	379,871	176,253
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	653,746	715,871	479,355
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		1,547	
Net income	\$ 653,746	\$ 717,418	\$ 479,355

(1) Includes amortization of DAC and VOBA and underwriting, general and administrative expenses.

Table of Contents

The following discussion provides a high level analysis of how the consolidated results were affected by our four operating segments and our Corporate and Other segment. Please see the discussion that follows, for each of these segments, for a more detailed analysis of the fluctuations.

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Net income decreased \$63,672, or 9%, to \$653,746 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$717,418 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. The decrease was primarily due to our Corporate and Other segment, which had \$62,220 of net realized losses on investments in 2007, compared with \$111,865 of net realized gains on investments in 2006. The net realized losses in 2007 include \$31,320 (after-tax) of realized losses from the write-down of other-than-temporary declines in our investment portfolio, while the net realized gains in 2006 includes a \$63,900 (after-tax) gain from the sale of our investment in PHCS. Also in 2006 our Assurant Solutions segment had a favorable legal settlement of \$40,500 (after-tax) and one-time fee income recognized from a closed block of extended service contract business. Offsetting these items was the continued strong performance of our Assurant Specialty Property segment, which continued to experience strong premium growth and excellent combined ratios in its creditor-placed homeowners insurance business, mainly due to exceptionally mild weather and our ability to leverage the benefits of scale.

Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2005

Net income increased \$238,063, or 50%, to \$717,418 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$479,355 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. The increase was primarily driven by an increase in Assurant Specialty Property's creditor-placed homeowners business net earned premiums, fee income, improved loss experience and the lack of significant catastrophes in 2006. Assurant Solutions also contributed to the increase in net income primarily due to higher fee income from a \$40,500 (after tax) legal settlement, growth in the extended service contract business and one-time fee income recognized from a closed block of extended service contract business. Corporate and Other also contributed to the increase in net income primarily due to higher net realized due on investments gains to \$63,900 (after tax) from the sale of our investment in PHCS. The \$1,547 cumulative effect of change in accounting principle is a result of adopting FAS 123R and reflects the difference between compensation expense that would have been recognized using actual forfeitures and compensation expense that would have been recognized using expected forfeitures.

Table of Contents*Assurant Solutions**Overview*

The table below presents information regarding Assurant Solutions' segment results of operations:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Revenues:			
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 2,530,445	\$ 2,371,605	\$ 2,220,145
Net investment income	427,331	392,510	371,565
Fees and other income	159,211	221,751	132,730
Total revenues	3,116,987	2,985,866	2,724,440
Benefits, losses and expenses:			
Policyholder benefits	1,073,858	998,770	1,046,900
Selling, underwriting and general expenses	1,830,709	1,689,776	1,477,505
Total benefits, losses and expenses	2,904,567	2,688,546	2,524,405
Segment income before provision for income taxes	212,420	297,320	200,035
Provision for income taxes	68,499	98,427	66,888
Segment net income	\$ 143,921	\$ 198,893	\$ 133,147
Net earned premiums and other considerations:			
<i>Domestic:</i>			
Credit	\$ 303,231	\$ 368,712	\$ 351,339
Service contracts	1,156,991	1,040,770	835,825
Other (1)	62,709	81,283	154,493
Total Domestic	1,522,931	1,490,765	1,341,657
<i>International:</i>			
Credit	376,709	394,482	339,227
Service contracts	249,803	99,494	41,006
Other (1)	39,144	66,729	32,276
Total International	665,656	560,705	412,509
Preneed	341,858	320,135	465,979
Total	\$ 2,530,445	\$ 2,371,605	\$ 2,220,145
Fees and other income:			
<i>Domestic:</i>			
Debt protection	\$ 31,093	\$ 54,053	\$ 51,420
Service contracts	70,709	66,427	46,523
Other (1)	25,039	80,072	18,993

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total Domestic	126,841	200,552	116,936
International	22,168	16,943	12,302
Preneed	10,202	4,256	3,492
Total	\$ 159,211	\$ 221,751	\$ 132,730
Gross written premiums (2):			
<i>Domestic:</i>			
Credit	\$ 656,975	\$ 714,791	\$ 767,466
Service contracts	1,828,048	1,600,588	1,414,529
Other (1)	85,005	108,569	192,856
Total Domestic	2,570,028	2,423,948	2,374,851
<i>International:</i>			
Credit	833,894	680,097	647,467
Service contracts	422,669	341,886	247,506
Other (1)	46,590	44,655	105,962
Total International	1,303,153	1,066,638	1,000,935
Total	\$ 3,873,181	\$ 3,490,586	\$ 3,375,786
Preneed (face sales)	\$ 395,790	\$ 433,510	\$ 542,515
Combined ratio (3):			
Domestic	101.1%	99.4%	99.9%
International	105.1%	99.2%	99.7%

Table of Contents

- (1) This includes emerging products and run-off products lines.
- (2) Gross written premiums does not necessarily translate to an equal amount of subsequent net earned premiums since Assurant Solutions reinsures a portion of its premiums to insurance subsidiaries of its clients.
- (3) The combined ratio is equal to total benefits, losses and expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income excluding the preneed business.

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2006***Net Income***

Segment net income decreased \$54,972, or 28%, to \$143,921 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$198,893 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. The decrease is primarily due to a legal settlement of \$40,500 (after-tax) and fee income of \$5,041 (after tax), from a closed block of extended service contract business, both recognized in the prior year. Absent these items, net income declined \$9,431 in 2007 compared with 2006 primarily as a result of continued investments made to support the segment's strategic international expansion as well as a client-related settlement expense of \$3,431 (after-tax). The results also include \$6,560 (after-tax) of unfavorable loss experience due to a claims backlog reported by a client and a resulting DAC write-off in a credit life product in Brazil, which has since been re-priced for some clients and discontinued for other clients. These declines were partially offset by an increase of \$8,817 (after-tax) in net investment income from real estate partnerships, the receipt of \$3,510 (after-tax) of contract settlement fees related to the sale of marketing rights for the independent U.S. preneed business, and \$9,144 (after-tax) of income stemming from our completed clients commission reconciliation project.

Total Revenues

Total revenues increased \$131,121, or 4%, to \$3,116,987 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$2,985,866 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. This increase is due to an increase in net earned premiums and other considerations of \$158,840, primarily attributable to growth in our domestic and international extended service contract business as well as growth in our preneed business, mainly due to the acquisition of Mayflower National Life Insurance Company (Mayflower) during 2007. These increases are partially offset by the decrease in net earned premiums from the continued runoff of our domestic credit insurance business. The increase in revenues was also due to an increase in net investment income of \$34,821, or 9%, primarily due to an increase in investment income from real estate joint venture partnerships of \$13,000 and higher average invested assets. Fees and other income decreased \$62,541, or 28%, primarily attributable to one-time amounts totaling \$70,056 due to a legal settlement and income from a closed block of extended service contract business, both recognized in the prior year. Absent these transactions, Assurant Solutions' fee income increased \$7,515, or 5%, primarily driven by continued growth of our extended service contract business due to acquisitions and \$5,400 from the sale of the marketing rights of the Independent U.S. preneed business. These increases were partially offset by the loss of a debt deferment client.

We experienced gross written premium growth in most of our product lines, with the exception of our domestic credit insurance and preneed businesses. Gross written premiums from our international credit business increased \$153,797 primarily as a result of growth in Canada from existing clients. This growth is primarily due to increased marketing efforts and strong performance from clients which lead to greater outstanding credit card balances. Gross written premiums in our international service contract business increased \$80,783, mainly due to increased premiums from existing clients, and greater international penetration, which is consistent with our strategic international expansion plan. Gross written premiums in our domestic service contract business increased \$227,460 due to the addition of new clients and growth generated from existing clients. Gross written premiums from our domestic credit insurance business decreased \$57,816 due to the continued runoff of this product line and the loss of a client. We experienced a decrease of \$37,720 in our preneed business due to the sale of the U.S. Independent distribution channel, however, this was partially offset by growth in the business from the Mayflower acquisition.

Table of Contents

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses increased \$216,021, or 8%, to \$2,904,567 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$2,688,546 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. This increase was primarily due to an increase in selling, underwriting and general expenses of \$140,933. Commissions, taxes, licenses and fees, of which amortization of DAC is a component, increased \$123,846 primarily due to the overall commission rate increases caused by the change in the mix of business as evidenced by our growing service contract business, which has higher commission rates compared to the lower commission rates on the decreasing domestic credit business. Additionally, we had unfavorable loss experience due to a claims backlog reported by a client and a resulting DAC write-off in a credit life product in Brazil, which has since been repriced for some clients and discontinued for other clients. Partially offsetting these increases was income stemming from our completed clients commission reconciliation project. General expenses increased \$17,087 due to the continued investment in international expansion as well as costs associated with growth of the domestic service contract business. Policyholder benefits increased \$75,088 primarily driven by growth in our international and domestic service contract businesses. This was partially offset by decreased policyholder benefits resulting from the runoff of domestic credit insurance and the terminated accidental death business.

Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2005

Net Income

Segment net income increased \$65,746, or 49%, to \$198,893 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$133,147 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. The increase in segment net income was primarily due to a legal settlement resulting in \$40,500 (after tax) of other income and \$5,041 (after tax) of one-time fee income recognized from a closed block of extended service contract business. This was partially offset by \$3,363 (after tax) of lower investment income from real estate partnerships. Absent these events the Solutions segment net income increased \$23,568, or 18%, which is primarily attributable to higher fee income resulting from growth in our extended service contract business and an increase in net investment income primarily due to an increase in average invested assets.

Total Revenues

Total revenues increase \$261,426, or 10%, to \$2,985,866 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$2,724,440 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. This increase is primarily due to an increase in net earned premiums and other considerations of \$151,460, primarily in our extended service contract and international businesses. These increases are partially offset by the decrease in the net earned premium in our Preneed business due to the sale of the Independent-U.S. distribution channel as well as decreases in other runoff businesses. The increase in revenues was also due to an increase in fees and other income of \$89,021, primarily driven by a legal settlement of \$62,300 and continued growth from our extended service contract business, including \$7,756 of one-time fee income from a closed block of extended service contract business. The legal settlement is with a former customer and was first disclosed as a pending legal judgment in our 2004 10-K. Net investment income increased \$20,945, or 6%, primarily due to higher average invested assets from growth in our extended service contract businesses both domestically and abroad.

We experienced sales growth in most of our product lines, with the exception of our domestic credit and Preneed businesses. Gross written premiums in our domestic credit business decreased \$52,675 due to the continued decline of this product line. Gross written premiums from our international credit business increased \$32,630 due to growth in our expansion countries. Gross written premiums in our domestic extended service contract business increased \$138,065 due to the addition of new clients and growth generated from existing clients. Gross written premiums in our international extended service contract business increased \$94,380, mainly due to the continued growth of a client signed in late

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

2004. We also experienced a decrease in our preneed businesses due to the sale of the U.S. Independent distribution channel in November 2005.

Table of Contents*Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses*

Total benefits, losses and expenses increased \$164,141, or 7%, to \$2,688,546 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$2,524,405 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. This increase was primarily due to an increase in selling, underwriting and general expenses of \$212,271. Commissions, taxes, licenses and fees, of which amortization of DAC is a component, increased \$187,036 primarily due to the associated increase in revenues and the change in the mix of business. Commissions increased due to higher commission rates on our increasing extended service contract business versus lower commission rates on the decreasing U.S. Independent Preeed business. General expenses increased \$25,235 due to higher expenses directly related to the growth of the business. Policyholder benefits decreased \$48,130 primarily as a result of the sale via reinsurance of the U.S. Independent Preeed channel and lower policyholder benefits attributable to the termination of a block of accidental death business. This was offset by an increase in extended service contract policyholder benefits, mostly from growth in the business.

*Assurant Specialty Property**Overview*

The table below presents information regarding Assurant Specialty Property's segment results of operations:

	2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands)	2005
Revenues:			
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 1,682,266	\$ 1,208,311	\$ 858,848
Net investment income	100,210	74,501	61,953
Fees and other income	51,256	49,424	38,159
Total revenues	1,833,732	1,332,236	958,960
Benefits, losses and expenses:			
Policyholder benefits	548,873	408,721	317,507
Selling, underwriting and general expenses	701,958	553,452	422,999
Total benefits, losses and expenses	1,250,831	962,173	740,506
Segment income before provision for income tax	582,901	370,063	218,454
Provision for income taxes	203,661	128,942	75,227
Segment net income	\$ 379,240	\$ 241,121	\$ 143,227
Net earned premiums and other considerations by major product groupings:			
Homeowners (Creditor Placed and Voluntary)	\$ 1,188,090	\$ 753,169	\$ 443,526
Manufacturing Housing (Creditor Placed and Voluntary)	209,104	214,461	217,424
Other (1)	285,072	240,681	197,898

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total	\$ 1,682,266	\$ 1,208,311	\$ 858,848
Ratios:			
Loss ratio (2)	32.6%	33.8%	37.0%
Expense ratio (3)	40.5%	44.0%	47.2%
Combined ratio (4)	72.2%	76.5%	82.6%

- (1) This primarily includes flood, agricultural, specialty auto, and renters insurance products.
(2) The loss ratio is equal to policyholder benefits divided by net earned premiums and other considerations.

Table of Contents

- (3) The expense ratio is equal to selling, underwriting and general expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (4) The combined ratio is equal to total benefits, losses and expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Net Income

Segment net income increased \$138,119, or 57%, to \$379,240 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$241,121 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. This increase in net income is primarily due to higher net earned premiums from continued growth in our creditor placed homeowners insurance and continued excellent combined ratios driven by mild weather and our ability to leverage the benefits of scale. Net income also improved due to an increase of \$16,711 (after-tax) in net investment income as a result of higher average invested assets resulting from the continued growth of the business. These increases were partially offset by an increase in net catastrophe losses of \$17,770 (after-tax).

Total Revenues

Total revenues increased \$501,496, or 38%, to \$1,833,732 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$1,332,236 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. The increase in revenues is mainly due to increased net earned premiums of \$473,955, or 39%. The increase is attributable to the growth of the creditor placed homeowners insurance, through both organic growth and acquisitions. The organic growth was primarily driven by the rise in average insured value for property and increased policy placement rates. The increase in net earned premiums was partially offset by increased catastrophe reinsurance premiums of \$54,000. Also, net investment income increased \$25,709 or 35%, due to higher average invested assets.

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses increased \$288,658, or 30%, to \$1,250,831 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$962,173 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. This increase was due to an increase in policyholder benefits of \$140,152 and higher selling, underwriting, and general expenses of \$148,506. The combined ratio improved to 72.2% from 76.5%, primarily due to the benefits of scale and favorable loss experience. The increase in policyholder benefits is primarily attributable to the corresponding growth in creditor placed homeowners insurance, as well as \$27,300 of higher net catastrophe losses from the California wildfires. The increase is also the result of \$10,500 of lower National Flood Insurance Program reimbursements in 2007, compared with 2006, which are recorded against policyholder benefits and an \$8,500 favorable settlement with two former clients in 2006. These policyholder benefit increases were partially offset by favorable loss experience, absent catastrophe losses. Commissions, taxes, licenses and fees, of which amortization of DAC is a component, increased \$89,445, primarily due to the associated increase in net earned premiums. General expenses increased \$59,061 due primarily to increases in employment related expenses consistent with business growth and additional operating expenses associated with the SFIS acquisition.

Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to December 31, 2005

Net Income

Segment net income increased \$97,894, or 68%, to \$241,121 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$143,227 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. The increase in segment net income is primarily due to increased net earned premiums, fee income and improved loss experience in our creditor placed homeowners business, the lack of significant catastrophes in 2006, the acquisition of SFIS and favorable settlements with two former clients of \$5,500 (after tax). The increase in net income was partially offset by a reduction in loss adjustment expense reimbursements from the National Flood Insurance Program and one-time favorable settlements with clients in 2005.

Table of Contents

Total Revenues

Total revenues increased \$373,276 or 39%, to \$1,332,236 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$958,960 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. The increase is primarily due to an increase in net earned premiums and other considerations of \$349,463, or 41%. This increase was primarily attributable to the growth in our creditor placed and voluntary homeowners product lines, due to continued organic growth of these businesses combined with \$123,818 of net earned premiums resulting from the acquisition of SFIS. The increase in revenues was also driven by an increase in fee income of \$11,265, or 30%, primarily from growth in creditor-placed homeowners loan tracking services. Also contributing to the increase in revenues was higher net investment income of \$12,548, or 20%, due to higher invested assets combined with higher investment yields.

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses increased \$221,667 or 30%, to \$962,173 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$740,506 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. This increase was primarily due to an increase in policyholder benefits of \$91,214 and an increase in selling, underwriting and general expenses of \$130,453. The combined ratio decreased to 76.5% from 82.6% to primarily due to lower catastrophe losses and proactive risk management. The increase in policyholder benefits is primarily attributable to the growth in our creditor-placed homeowners business and approximately \$8,000 in lower reimbursements from the National Flood Insurance Program for the adjudication of expenses related to the 2005 catastrophe flood losses (to \$10,500 in 2006 from \$18,500 in 2005). This increase is partially offset by lower net catastrophe losses of \$42,000 and a favorable settlement with two former clients of \$8,500. Commissions, taxes, licenses and fees, of which amortization of DAC is a component, increased \$69,939, primarily due to the associated increase in revenues combined with approximately \$11,400 of one time income recognized in 2005, related to favorable settlements with two clients which resulted in a release of certain accrued commissions. General expenses increased \$60,514 due to increases in employment related expenses, consistent with business growth and additional operating expenses associated with the SFIS acquisition.

Table of Contents**Assurant Health***Overview*

The table below presents information regarding Assurant Health's segment results of operations:

	2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands)	2005
Revenues:			
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 2,050,280	\$ 2,083,957	\$ 2,163,965
Net investment income	66,634	75,215	69,056
Fees and other income	40,583	41,560	40,344
Total revenues	2,157,497	2,200,732	2,273,365
Benefits, losses and expenses:			
Policyholder benefits	1,295,441	1,300,817	1,344,624
Selling, underwriting and general expenses	627,348	641,328	657,899
Total benefits, losses and expenses	1,922,789	1,942,145	2,002,523
Segment income before provision for income tax	234,708	258,587	270,842
Provision for income taxes	82,965	90,668	92,787
Segment net income	\$ 151,743	\$ 167,919	\$ 178,055
Net earned premiums and other considerations:			
<i>Individual Markets</i>			
Individual medical	\$ 1,283,321	\$ 1,213,677	\$ 1,164,498
Short term medical	96,837	101,454	110,912
Subtotal	1,380,158	1,315,131	1,275,410
<i>Small employer group:</i>			
	670,122	768,826	888,555
Total	\$ 2,050,280	\$ 2,083,957	\$ 2,163,965
Membership by product line:			
<i>Individual Markets</i>			
Individual medical	619	641	644
Short term medical	87	87	102
Subtotal	706	728	746
<i>Small employer group:</i>			
	165	207	255
Total	871	935	1,001
Ratios:			

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Loss ratio (1)	63.2%	62.4%	62.1%
Expense ratio (2)	30.0%	30.2%	29.8%
Combined ratio (3)	92.0%	91.4%	90.8%

- (1) The loss ratio is equal to policyholder benefits divided by net earned premiums and other considerations.
- (2) The expense ratio is equal to selling, underwriting and general expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (3) The combined ratio is equal to total benefits, losses and expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.

Table of Contents

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Net Income

Segment net income decreased \$16,176, or 10%, to \$151,743 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$167,919 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. The decrease in segment net income was primarily attributable to our small employer group business which experienced continuing declines in net earned premiums and higher claim experience. Also contributing to the decline was lower net investment income, due to lower investment income from real estate joint venture partnerships and lower average invested assets.

Total Revenues

Total revenues decreased \$43,235, or 2%, to \$2,157,497 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$2,200,732 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. Net earned premiums and other considerations from our individual medical business, our targeted growth area, increased \$69,644, or 6%, due to new member sales and higher premiums per member. However, this market has become increasingly competitive as established players and new regional entrants are more aggressively targeting this growing segment of the health insurance market. Net earned premiums and other considerations from our small employer group business decreased \$98,705, or 13%, due to a decline in members, partially offset by premium rate increases. The decline in small employer group members is due to increased competition and our adherence to strict underwriting guidelines. Also, net investment income decreased \$8,581 due to lower investment income from real estate joint venture partnerships and lower average invested assets.

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses decreased \$19,356, or 1%, to \$1,922,789 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$1,942,145 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. Policyholder benefits decreased \$5,376, or less than 1%. This decrease is consistent with the decrease in net earned premiums. Our small employer group business had less favorable loss experience in 2007 compared with 2006. This was offset by our individual medical business which had favorable loss experience. Selling, underwriting and general expenses decreased \$13,980, or 2%, primarily due to lower staffing costs and externally contracted services.

Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2005

Net Income

Segment net income decreased \$10,136, or 6%, to \$167,919 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$178,055 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. The decrease in segment income was primarily attributable to an overall decline in membership due to continued increased competition and our strict adherence to underwriting guidelines. The decrease in net income was partially offset by an increase in investment income from real estate partnerships of \$4,900 (after tax).

Total Revenues

Total revenues decreased \$72,633, or 3%, to \$2,200,732 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$2,273,365 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. Net earned premiums and other considerations from our individual markets business increased \$39,721, or 3%, primarily due to premium rate increases. Net earned premiums and other considerations from our small employer group business decreased \$119,729, or 13%, due to a decline in members, partially offset by premium rate increases. The small employer group business continues to experience decreases in new business due to increased competition and our strict adherence to underwriting guidelines. The decrease was partially offset by an increase in investment income of \$6,159, or 9%, primarily due to an increase in real estate partnership investment income of approximately \$7,500.

Table of Contents*Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses*

Total benefits, losses and expenses decreased \$60,378, or 3%, to \$1,942,145 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$2,002,523 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. Policyholder benefits decreased \$43,807, or 3%. The benefit loss ratio increased to 62.4% from 62.1%. The decrease in policyholder benefits was primarily due to the decline in net earned premiums, partially offset by higher claims experience primarily on individual medical business. Selling, underwriting and general expenses decreased \$16,571, or 3%. The decrease in expenses was primarily due to decreased commission expense resulting from the decline in small employer group business.

*Assurant Employee Benefits**Overview*

The table below presents information regarding Assurant Employee Benefits segment results of operations:

	2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands)	2005
Revenues:			
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 1,144,739	\$ 1,179,902	\$ 1,277,838
Net investment income	166,955	158,525	156,889
Fees and other income	23,997	27,541	26,214
Total revenues	1,335,691	1,365,968	1,460,941
Benefits, losses and expenses:			
Policyholder benefits	790,570	827,208	934,930
Selling, underwriting and general expenses	411,868	410,446	420,447
Total benefits, losses and expenses	1,202,438	1,237,654	1,355,377
Segment income before provision for income tax	133,253	128,314	105,564
Provision for income taxes	46,232	44,711	37,198
Segment net income	\$ 87,021	\$ 83,603	\$ 68,366
Ratios:			
Loss ratio (1)	69.1%	70.1%	73.2%
Expense ratio (2)	35.2%	34.0%	32.2%
Net earned premiums and other considerations:			
<i>By major product groupings:</i>			
Group dental	\$ 412,810	\$ 428,218	\$ 502,789
Group disability single premiums for closed blocks (3)	49,456	46,313	26,700
All other group disability	467,490	480,924	489,840
Group life	214,983	224,447	258,509

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total	\$ 1,144,739	\$ 1,179,902	\$ 1,277,838
-------	--------------	--------------	--------------

- (1) The loss ratio is equal to policyholder benefits divided by net earned premiums and other considerations.
- (2) The expense ratio is equal to selling, underwriting and general expenses divided by net earned premiums and other considerations and fees and other income.
- (3) This represents single premium on closed blocks of group disability business.

Table of Contents

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Net Income

Segment net income increased \$3,418 or 4% to \$87,021 for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$83,603 for the year ended December 31, 2006. The increase in net income was primarily driven by additional net investment income of \$5,479 (after-tax) in 2007 compared with 2006 and continued favorable loss experience, in our group disability business. Partially offsetting these increases were slightly less favorable results in our group life and group dental business.

Total Revenues

Total revenues decreased \$30,277 or 2% to \$1,335,691 for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$1,365,968 for the year ended December 31, 2006. The decrease is primarily a result of lower persistency of large cases over the past several quarters, as the business continues to implement its small case strategy. The decrease in net earned premiums was partially offset by an increase in net investment income of \$8,429, or 5%, primarily due to an increase in net investment income from real estate joint venture partnerships.

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses decreased \$35,217 or 3% to \$1,202,438 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$1,237,654 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. The loss ratio decreased to 69.1% in 2007 from 70.1% in 2006. Our group disability business benefited from favorable loss experience in the current year, driven by continued good incidence and favorable disability recovery rates, which includes claimants who return to work. Group life and group dental experienced slightly less favorable results in 2007 than 2006. The expense ratio increased to 35.2% in 2007 from 34.0% in 2006, due to a decline in net earned premiums as the total amount of expenses remained relatively flat year over year.

Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2005

Net Income

Segment net income increased \$15,237, or 22%, to \$83,603 for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$68,366 for the year ended December 31, 2005. The increase in segment income was primarily driven by continued favorable group disability experience and improved group dental experience. Disability recovery rates, which include claimants who return to work, and experience in our DRMS channel, were improved. The improvement in loss ratios is partially offset by the decrease in revenues.

Total Revenues

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total revenues decreased \$94,973, or 7%, to \$1,365,968 for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$1,460,941 for the year ended December 31, 2005. Excluding group disability single premium for closed blocks, net earned premiums and other considerations decreased \$117,549 or 9%, from the prior year primarily due to increased lapses and decreased sales. Lapse experience and sales trends reflect the transition to the business small case strategy along with disciplined pricing in a competitive marketplace.

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses decreased \$117,723, or 9%, to \$1,237,654 for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$1,355,377 for the year ended December 31, 2005. The loss ratio decreased to 70.1% from 73.2%, primarily due to continued favorable group disability experience. Group disability recovery rates, which include claimants who return to work, and deaths were higher compared to the prior year. Experience in our DRMS channel also improved. Group dental experience has improved primarily due to disciplined pricing

Table of Contents

actions. The expense ratio increased to 34.0% from 32.2%. The increase in the expense ratio is primarily driven by the decrease in revenues that was proportionally larger than the decrease in general expenses. Selling, underwriting and general expenses have decreased \$10,001, or 2%, year over year. In the prior year, we had a non-recurring reduction in short-term incentive compensation expenses. Excluding the prior year non-recurring reduction, selling, general and underwriting expenses have decreased primarily due to expense management consistent with revenue trends.

Corporate and Other

The table below presents information regarding the Corporate and Other segment's results of operations:

	2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands)	2005
Revenues:			
Net investment income	\$ 37,943	\$ 35,935	\$ 27,794
Net realized (losses) gains on investments	(62,220)	111,865	8,235
Amortization of deferred gains on disposal of businesses	33,139	37,300	42,508
Fees and other income	746	682	1,432
Total revenues	9,608	185,782	79,969
Benefits, losses and expenses:			
Policyholder benefits	3,969	5	61,943
Selling, underwriting and general expenses	96,703	83,076	96,055
Interest expense	61,178	61,243	61,258
Total benefits, losses and expenses	161,850	144,324	219,256
Segment (loss) income before provision for income taxes	(152,242)	41,458	(139,287)
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(44,063)	17,123	(95,847)
Segment net (loss) income	\$ (108,179)	\$ 24,335	\$ (43,440)

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2006***Net (Loss) Income***

Segment results decreased \$132,514 to a net loss of \$108,179 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from net income of \$24,335 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. This deterioration is mainly due to net realized losses on investments of \$62,220, which includes \$31,320 (after-tax) of write-downs of other-than-temporary declines in our investment portfolio in 2007 compared with 2006 which had net realized gains on investments of \$111,865 including a gain of \$63,900 (after-tax) from the sale of our investment in PHCS. Also, results were negatively impacted by a \$3,969 reserve increase related to discontinued products, costs related to an ongoing SEC investigation regarding

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

certain loss mitigation products, additional externally contracted services and tax expense related to the change in certain tax liabilities. In addition, there was a continued decline in the amortization of deferred gains on disposal of businesses due to continued runoff of the businesses sold and a reduction in net investment income due to lower investment income from real estate joint ventures in 2006.

Total Revenues

Total revenues decreased \$176,174, or 95%, to \$9,608 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$185,782 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. The decline was mainly due to the net realized losses on investments in 2007 compared with net realized gains on investments in 2006, discussed above. In

Table of Contents

addition, amortization of deferred gains on disposal of businesses declined \$4,161, in connection with the runoff of the businesses sold and net investment income decreased due to \$4,856 of investment income in 2006 from a real estate joint venture.

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses increased \$17,526, or 12%, to \$161,850 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 from \$144,324 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006. This decline was primarily due to \$11,503 of expenses related to an ongoing SEC investigation regarding certain loss mitigation products, an additional \$8,730 of externally contracted services for various ongoing projects and a \$3,969 reserve increase related to discontinued products. These negative variances were partially offset by a \$3,343 reduction in compensation expenses.

Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2005

Net Income

Segment net income improved \$67,775, or over 100%, to \$24,335 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from a net loss of \$43,440 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. This improvement is mainly due to a realized gain of \$63,900 (after tax) from the sale of our investment in PHCS, a realized gain from the reduction of our mortgage loan loss reserve, strengthening of reserve accruals on certain excess of loss programs in 2005 that did not recur in 2006 and a reduction in stock appreciation rights expense upon adopting FAS 123R. This improvement was partially offset by the 2005 release of \$39,400 of previously provided tax accruals which were no longer considered necessary due to the resolution of IRS audits and \$5,500 of tax benefit related to the technical correction of tax legislation under the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (Jobs Act) that did not recur in 2006.

Total Revenues

Total revenues increased \$105,813, or over 100%, to \$185,782 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$79,969 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. Revenues increased mainly due to a \$103,630 increase in realized gains on investments primarily due to the sale of our investment in PHCS, resulting in a pre-tax gain of \$98,300 and a reduction of our mortgage loan loss reserve of \$15,168 due to a refinement of management's best estimate of this reserve.

Total Benefits, Losses and Expenses

Total benefits, losses and expenses decreased \$74,932, or 34%, to \$144,324 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 from \$219,256 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2005. This decrease is primarily due to \$61,943 of costs incurred in 2005 on excess of loss reinsurance programs, related to personal accident, ransom and kidnap insurance risks, reinsured and ceded by certain subsidiaries in the London market between 1995 and 1997. In addition, stock appreciation rights expense declined, due to the adoption of FAS 123R on January 1, 2006. These expense declines were partially offset by a \$5,000 contribution to the Assurant Charitable Foundation.

Table of Contents**Investments**

The following table shows the carrying value of our investments by type of security as of the dates indicated:

	As of December 31, 2007		As of December 31, 2006	
	(in thousands)			
Fixed maturity securities	\$ 10,126,415	73%	\$ 9,118,049	73%
Equity securities	636,001	5%	741,639	6%
Commercial mortgage loans on real estate	1,433,626	10%	1,266,158	10%
Policy loans	57,107	1%	58,733	1%
Short-term investments	410,878	3%	314,114	3%
Collateral held under securities lending	541,650	4%	365,958	3%
Other investments	541,474	4%	564,494	4%
Total investments	\$ 13,747,151	100%	\$ 12,429,145	100%

Of our fixed maturity securities shown above, 69% and 67% (based on total fair value) were invested in securities rated A or better as of December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively. As interest rates increase, the market value of fixed maturity securities decreases.

The following table provides the cumulative net unrealized gains (losses), pre-tax, on fixed maturity securities and equity securities as of the dates indicated:

	As of December 31, 2007	As of December 31, 2006
Fixed maturity securities:		
Amortized cost	\$ 10,026,355	\$ 8,934,017
Net unrealized gains	100,060	184,032
Fair value	\$ 10,126,415	\$ 9,118,049
Equities:		
Cost	\$ 702,698	\$ 735,566
Net unrealized (losses) gains	(66,697)	6,073
Fair value	\$ 636,001	\$ 741,639

Net unrealized gains on fixed maturity securities decreased \$83,972 from December 31, 2006 to December 31, 2007. The decrease in net unrealized gains on fixed maturity securities was primarily due to widening credit spreads during third and fourth quarter of 2007, partially offset by decreases in treasury yields. Ten year A-rated corporate spreads, which started the year at 80 basis points over treasury securities, increased to 160 basis points over treasury securities in the fourth quarter of 2007. The yield on 10-year treasury securities decreased 61 basis points between December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2007. Net unrealized gains on equity securities decreased \$72,770 from December 31, 2006 to December 31, 2007. The decrease was primarily due to credit spreads widening in the preferred stock sector. The Merrill Lynch Preferred Stock Hybrid Index decreased 18.6% between December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Net investment income increased \$62,387, or 8%, to \$799,073 at December 31, 2007 from \$736,686 at December 31, 2006. The increase is primarily the result of an increase in average invested assets and \$37,173 of investment income from real estate joint venture partnerships in 2007 compared to \$18,578 in 2006. The yield on average invested assets and cash and cash equivalents, which excludes investment income from real estate joint venture partnerships, was 5.69% in 2007 compared to 5.67% in 2006.

Table of Contents

Net investment income increased \$49,429, or 7%, to \$736,686 at December 31, 2006 from \$687,257 at December 31, 2005. The increase is primarily the result of an increase in yields and average invested assets. Net investment income includes \$18,578 of investment income from real estate partnerships in 2006 compared to \$12,565 in 2005. The yield on average invested assets and cash and cash equivalents, which excludes investment income from real estate joint venture partnerships, was 5.67% in 2006 compared to 5.54% in 2005.

We recorded \$48,184, \$810 and \$765 of pre-tax realized losses in 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively, associated with other-than-temporary declines in value of available for sale securities.

Over the last six months of 2007 the fixed maturity security and equity security markets have experienced significant volatility. This volatility has primarily been due to declines in the housing market, credit availability, as well as a general economic slowdown. As a result, certain securities directly exposed to these factors have had market value declines.

In connection with this volatility, we recorded \$6,699 and \$41,485 of pre-tax other-than-temporary impairments during the three months ended September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2007, respectively. Included in these amounts are \$31,908, \$6,721, \$2,201 and \$1,309 related to banks and financial institutions, real estate investment trusts, paper/forestry companies and home builders, respectively.

The investment category and duration of our gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities and equity securities at December 31, 2007 were as follows:

	Less than 12 months		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed maturity securities:						
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 1,108	\$ (1)	\$ 10,189	\$ (21)	\$ 11,297	\$ (22)
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	98,544	(525)	6,031	(53)	104,575	(578)
Foreign governments	99,985	(2,966)	47,285	(1,700)	147,270	(4,666)
Public utilities	317,542	(6,436)	114,001	(4,105)	431,543	(10,541)
Mortgage-backed securities	102,488	(3,277)	224,233	(2,790)	326,721	(6,067)
All other corporate	2,125,337	(89,862)	699,116	(32,289)	2,824,453	(122,151)
Total fixed maturity securities	\$ 2,745,004	\$ (103,067)	\$ 1,100,855	\$ (40,958)	\$ 3,845,859	\$ (144,025)
Equity securities:						
Non-sinking fund preferred stocks	\$ 399,160	\$ (58,427)	\$ 106,487	\$ (13,383)	\$ 505,647	\$ (71,810)

Table of Contents

The investment category and duration of our gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities and equity securities at December 31, 2006 were as follows:

	Less than 12 months(1)		12 Months or More(1)		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed maturity securities:						
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 133,225	\$ (263)	\$ 79,848	\$ (1,855)	\$ 213,073	\$ (2,118)
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	15,201	(133)	15,620	(239)	30,821	(372)
Foreign governments	121,920	(913)	138,270	(2,236)	260,190	(3,149)
Public utilities	228,829	(3,360)	163,367	(5,438)	392,196	(8,798)
Mortgage-backed securities	298,664	(1,788)	514,961	(10,392)	813,625	(12,180)
All other corporate	1,353,284	(18,148)	1,033,966	(27,090)	2,387,250	(45,238)
Total fixed maturity securities	\$ 2,151,123	\$ (24,605)	\$ 1,946,032	\$ (47,250)	\$ 4,097,155	\$ (71,855)
Equity securities:						
Banks, trusts and insurance companies	\$ 124	\$ (1)	\$ 16	\$ (29)	\$ 140	\$ (30)
Industrial, miscellaneous and all other	102	(2)			102	(2)
Non-sinking fund preferred stocks	187,516	(3,768)	127,657	(4,574)	315,173	(8,342)
Total equity securities	\$ 187,742	\$ (3,771)	\$ 127,673	\$ (4,603)	\$ 315,415	\$ (8,374)

- (1) Certain unrealized losses, which were previously classified in less than 12 months, have been appropriately classified as 12 months or more in 2007 with conforming changes in 2006.

The total unrealized losses represent less than 5% and 2% of the aggregate fair value of the related securities at December 31, 2007 and 2006. Approximately 75% and 35% of these unrealized losses have been in a continuous loss position for less than twelve months in 2007 and 2006, respectively. As discussed previously, the financial markets have experienced considerable volatility over the last six months of 2007. Due to this fact, securities in an unrealized loss position for less than 12 months, has increased significantly in 2007, compared with 2006. The total unrealized losses are comprised of 1,282 and 1,394 individual securities with 77% and 94% of the individual securities having an unrealized loss of less than \$200 in 2007 and 2006, respectively. The total unrealized losses on securities that were in a continuous unrealized loss position for greater than six months but less than 12 months were approximately \$115,926 and \$12,327 in 2007 and 2006, respectively. There were no securities with an unrealized loss of greater than \$200 having a market value below 67% and 88% of book value at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. At December 31, 2007, 27% of the unrealized losses for fixed maturity securities and equity securities were concentrated in the banking industry with no exposure to any single issuer in the banking industry in excess of 3% of total unrealized losses.

The amortized cost and fair value of available for sale fixed maturity securities in an unrealized loss position at December 31, 2007, by contractual maturity, is shown below:

	Cost or Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 178,960	\$ 177,630
Due after one year through five years	541,439	529,038
Due after five years through ten years	1,151,566	1,115,669
Due after ten years	1,785,131	1,696,801

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total	3,657,096	3,519,138
Mortgage-backed securities	332,788	326,721
Total	\$ 3,989,884	\$ 3,845,859

Table of Contents

As part of our ongoing monitoring process, we regularly review our investment portfolio to ensure that investments that may be other-than-temporarily impaired are identified on a timely basis and that any impairment is charged against earnings in the proper period. We have reviewed these securities and recorded \$48,184, \$810 and \$765 of additional other-than-temporary impairments as of December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Due to issuers' continued satisfaction of the securities' obligations in accordance with their contractual terms and their continued expectations to do so, as well as our evaluation of the fundamentals of the issuers' financial condition, we believe that the prices of the securities in an unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2007 in the sectors discussed above were temporarily depressed primarily as a result of the prevailing level of interest rates at the time the securities were purchased. We have the ability and intent to hold these assets until the date of recovery. Therefore, the decision to sell any security in an unrealized loss position reflects the judgment of management that the security sold is unlikely to provide, on a relative value basis, as attractive a return in the future as alternative securities entailing comparable risks.

The following table represents our exposure to sub-prime and related mortgages within our fixed maturity portfolio as well as the current net unrealized (loss) position at December 31, 2007.

	Market Value	Percentage of Portfolio (in thousands)	Net Unrealized (Loss) Gain
Fixed maturity portfolio:			
Sub-prime first lien mortgages	\$ 52,918	0.52%	\$ (2,405)
Second lien mortgages (including sub-prime second lien mortgages)	24,644	0.25%	91
Total exposure to sub-prime collateral	\$ 77,562	0.77%	\$ (2,314)

The following table represents our exposure to sub-prime and related mortgages within our fixed maturity portfolio as well as the current net unrealized gain position at December 31, 2006.

	Market Value	Percentage of Portfolio (in thousands)	Net Unrealized Gain (Loss)
Fixed maturity portfolio:			
Sub-prime first lien mortgages	\$ 110,475	1.21%	\$ 116
Second lien mortgages (including sub-prime second lien mortgages)	37,930	0.42%	(21)
Alt-A mortgages	3,447	0.04%	
Total exposure to sub-prime collateral	\$ 151,852	1.67%	\$ 95

Approximately 7.6% and 12.6% of the mortgage-backed securities had exposure to sub-prime mortgage collateral at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. This represents 0.8% and 1.7% of the total fixed maturity portfolio and 1.6% and 0.1% of the total unrealized loss position at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Of the securities with sub-prime exposure, all are investment grade rated. We have no sub-prime exposure to collateralized debt obligations as of December 31, 2007 and 2006. All mortgage-backed securities, including those with sub-prime exposure, are reviewed as part of the ongoing other-than-temporary impairment monitoring process.

Loss Protection and Capital Management

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

As part of our overall risk and capital management strategy, we purchase reinsurance for certain risks underwritten by our various operating segments, including significant individual or catastrophic claims, and to free up capital to enable us to write additional business.

Table of Contents

For those product lines where there is exposure to catastrophes, we closely monitor and manage the aggregate risk exposure by geographic area. We have entered into reinsurance treaties to manage exposure to these types of events.

Under indemnity reinsurance transactions in which we are the ceding insurer, we remain liable for policy claims if the assuming company fails to meet its obligations. To limit this risk, we have control procedures to evaluate the financial condition of reinsurers and to monitor the concentration of credit risk to minimize this exposure. The selection of reinsurance companies is based on criteria related to solvency and reliability and, to a lesser degree, diversification as well as developing strong relationships with our reinsurers for the sharing of risks.

Business Dispositions

To exit certain businesses, we have used reinsurance to facilitate transactions because the businesses share legal entities with operating segments we retain. Assets supporting liabilities ceded relating to these businesses are held in trusts and the separate accounts relating to divested business are still reflected in our balance sheet.

Segments Client Risk and Profit Sharing

The Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property segments write business produced by clients, such as mortgage lenders and servicers and financial institutions, and reinsures all or a portion of such business to insurance subsidiaries of the clients. Such arrangements allow significant flexibility in structuring the sharing of risks and profits on the underlying business.

A substantial portion of Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property reinsurance activities are related to agreements to reinsure premiums and risk related to business generated by certain clients to the clients' captive insurance companies or to reinsurance subsidiaries in which the clients have an ownership interest. Through these arrangements, our insurance subsidiaries share some of the premiums and risk related to client-generated business with these clients. When the reinsurance companies are not authorized to do business in our insurance subsidiary's domiciliary state, our insurance subsidiary generally obtains collateral, such as a trust or a letter of credit, from the reinsurance company or its affiliate in an amount equal to the outstanding reserves to obtain full statutory financial credit in the domiciliary state for the reinsurance. Our reinsurance agreements do not relieve us from our direct obligation to our insured. Thus, a credit exposure exists to the extent that any reinsurer is unable to meet the obligations assumed in the reinsurance agreements. To minimize our exposure to reinsurance insolvencies, we evaluate the financial condition of our reinsurers and hold substantial collateral (in the form of funds, trusts and letters of credit) as security under the reinsurance agreements. See Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk Credit Risk.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Regulatory Requirements

Assurant, Inc. is a holding company, and as such, has limited direct operations of its own. Our holding company assets consist primarily of the capital stock of our subsidiaries. Accordingly, our future cash flows depend upon the availability of dividends and other statutorily permissible

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

payments from our subsidiaries, such as payments under our tax allocation agreement and under management agreements with our subsidiaries. The ability to pay such dividends and to make such other payments will be limited by applicable laws and regulations of the states in which our subsidiaries are domiciled, which subject our subsidiaries to significant regulatory restrictions. The dividend requirements and regulations vary from state to state and by type of insurance provided by the applicable subsidiary. These laws and regulations require, among other things, our insurance subsidiaries to maintain minimum solvency requirements and limit the amount of dividends these subsidiaries can pay to the holding company. Solvency regulations, capital requirements and rating agencies are some of the factors used in

Table of Contents

determining the amount of capital used for dividends. For 2008, the maximum amount of distributions our subsidiaries could pay, under applicable laws and regulations without prior regulatory approval for our statutory subsidiaries, is approximately \$445,154.

Liquidity

Dividends paid by our subsidiaries totaled \$436,900, \$554,270 and \$530,094 for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively. We used these cash inflows primarily to pay expenses, to make interest payments on indebtedness, to make dividend payments to our stockholders, and to repurchase our outstanding shares.

The primary sources of funds for our subsidiaries consist of premiums and fees collected, the proceeds from the sales and maturity of investments and investment income. Cash is primarily used to pay insurance claims, agent commissions, operating expenses and taxes. We generally invest our subsidiaries' excess funds in order to generate income.

We conduct periodic asset liability studies to measure the duration of our insurance liabilities, to develop optimal asset portfolio maturity structures for our significant lines of business and ultimately to assess that cash flows are sufficient to meet the timing of cash needs. These studies are conducted in accordance with formal Company-wide Asset Liability Management (ALM) guidelines.

To complete a study for a particular line of business, models are developed to project asset and liability cash flows and balance sheet items under a large, varied set of plausible economic scenarios. These models consider many factors including the current investment portfolio, the required capital for the related assets and liabilities, our tax position and projected cash flows from both existing and projected new business.

Alternative asset portfolio structures are analyzed for significant lines of business. An investment portfolio maturity structure is then selected from these profiles given our return hurdle and risk preference. Sensitivity testing of significant liability assumptions and new business projections is also performed.

Given our ALM asset allocation processes and the nature of the products we offer, we have minimal exposure to disintermediation risk. Our liabilities have limited policyholder optionality which results in policyholder behavior that is mainly insensitive to the interest rate environment. In addition, our investment portfolio is largely comprised of highly liquid fixed maturity securities with a sufficient component of such securities invested that are near maturity which may be sold with minimal risk of loss to meet cash needs.

Generally, our subsidiaries' premiums, fees and investment income, along with planned asset sales and maturities, provide sufficient cash to pay claims and expenses. However, there are instances where unexpected cash needs arise in excess of that available from usual operating sources. In such instances, we have several options to raise needed funds including selling assets from the subsidiaries' investment portfolios, using holding company cash (if available), issuing commercial paper and drawing funds from our revolving credit facility. We consider the permanence of the cash need as well as the cost of each source of funds in determining which option to utilize.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

On January 25, 2008, we announced that our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.12 per common share payable on March 10, 2008 to stockholders of record as of February 25, 2008. We paid dividends of \$0.10 per common share on March 12, 2007 and \$0.12 per common share on June 12, 2007, September 11, 2007 and December 10, 2007. Any determination to pay future dividends will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will be dependent upon: our subsidiaries payment of dividends and/or other statutorily permissible

Table of Contents

payments to us; our results of operations and cash flows; our financial position and capital requirements; general business conditions; any legal, tax, regulatory and contractual restrictions on the payment of dividends; and any other factors our Board of Directors deems relevant.

Retirement and Other Employee Benefits

We sponsor a pension and a retirement health benefit plan covering our employees who meet specified eligibility requirements. The reported expense and liability associated with these plans requires an extensive use of assumptions which include the discount rate, expected return on plan assets and rate of future compensation increases. We determine these assumptions based upon currently available market and industry data, historical performance of the plan and its assets, and consultation with an independent consulting actuarial firm to aid us in selecting appropriate assumptions and valuing our related liabilities. The actuarial assumptions used in the calculation of our aggregate projected benefit obligation may vary and include an expectation of long-term market appreciation in equity markets which is not changed by minor short-term market fluctuations, but does change when large interim deviations occur. The assumptions we use may differ materially from actual results due to changing market and economic conditions, higher or lower withdrawal rates or longer or shorter life spans of the participants.

Our qualified pension plan was over funded by \$30,283 at December 31, 2007. We established a funding policy for our qualified pension plan in which service cost plus 15% of plan deficit will be contributed annually, if needed. We made \$46,117 of discretionary pension plan contributions in 2007. See Note 21 of Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this report for the components of the net periodic benefit cost.

Commercial Paper Program

We maintain a \$500,000 commercial paper program, which is available for working capital and other general corporate purposes. Our commercial paper program is rated AMB-2 by A.M. Best, P-2 by Moody's and A2 by S&P. Our subsidiaries do not maintain commercial paper or other borrowing facilities at their level. This program is backed up by a \$500,000 senior revolving credit facility with a syndicate of banks arranged by J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. (successor by merger to Banc One Capital Markets, Inc.) and Citigroup Global Market, Inc., which was established on January 30, 2004. In April 2005, we amended and restated our \$500,000 senior revolving credit facility with a syndicate of banks arranged by Citibank and JP Morgan Chase Bank. The amended and restated credit facility is unsecured and is available until April 2010, so long as we are in compliance with all the covenants. This facility is also available for general corporate purposes, but to the extent used thereto, would be unavailable to back up the commercial paper program. There were no amounts relating to the commercial paper program outstanding at December 31, 2007. We did not use the revolving credit facility during 2007 and no amounts are outstanding.

The revolving credit facility contains restrictive covenants. The terms of the revolving credit facility also require that we maintain certain specified minimum ratios or thresholds. We are in compliance with all covenants and we maintain all specified minimum ratios and thresholds.

Senior Notes

On February 18, 2004, we issued two series of senior notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$975,000. The first series is \$500,000 in principal amount, bears interest at 5.625% per year and is payable in a single installment due February 15, 2014. The second series is \$475,000 in principal amount, bears interest at 6.750% per year and is payable in a single installment due February 15, 2034. Our senior notes are rated bbb by A.M. Best, Baa1 by Moody's and BBB+ by S&P.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Interest on our senior notes is payable semi-annually on February 15 and August 15 of each year. The senior notes are unsecured obligations and rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured indebtedness. The senior notes are not redeemable prior to maturity.

Table of Contents

In management's opinion, our subsidiaries' cash flow from operations together with our income and gains from our investment portfolio will provide sufficient liquidity to meet our needs in the ordinary course of business.

Cash Flows

We monitor cash flows at the consolidated, holding company and subsidiary levels. Cash flow forecasts at the consolidated and subsidiary levels are provided on a monthly basis, and we use trend and variance analyses to project future cash needs making adjustments to the forecasts when needed.

The table below shows our recent net cash flows:

	2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands)	2005
Net cash provided by (used in):			
Operating activities (1)	\$ 1,212,454	\$ 931,424	\$ 902,947
Investing activities	(1,208,585)	(84,511)	(548,688)
Financing activities	(186,577)	(714,810)	(305,772)
Net change in cash	\$ (182,708)	\$ 132,103	\$ 48,487

(1) Includes effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents.

Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005.

Operating activities:

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$1,212,454 and \$931,424 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The \$281,030 increase in net cash provided by operating activities is primarily due to the increase in gross written premiums from our extended service contracts and creditor placed homeowners businesses and lower claim payments related to hurricane losses.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$931,424 and \$902,947 for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The \$28,477 increase in net cash provided by operating activities in 2006 over the comparable period in 2005 is primarily due to cash provided by reinsurance recoverables relating to settlements for 2005 hurricane losses offset by a decrease in accounts payable.

Investing Activities:

Net cash used in investing activities was \$1,208,585 and \$84,511 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The \$1,124,074 increase in net cash used in investing activities is mainly due to net purchases of fixed maturity securities. In addition, the increase is also attributable to changes in collateral held under securities lending and short term investments, as well as the impact on cash used for the acquisitions of Centrepoint, Swansure and Mayflower.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$84,511 and \$548,688 for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The \$464,177 decrease in net cash used in investing activities in 2006 over the comparable period in 2005 is primarily attributable to significant net cash received from the sale of short-term investments in 2006 compared to cash used to purchase short-term investments for the comparable period in 2005. Also, the net cash received from the SFIS acquisition, a decrease in cash outflows for investments in commercial mortgage loans on real estate and the cash received from the sale of PHCS, partially offset by an increase in cash used to purchase fixed maturities, contributed to the overall decrease in cash used in investing activities.

Table of Contents*Financing Activities:*

Net cash used in financing activities was \$186,577 and \$714,810 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The \$528,233 decrease in cash used in financing activities is primarily due to changes in collateral held under securities lending.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$714,810 and \$305,772 for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The \$409,039 increase in net cash used in financing activities in 2006 over the comparable period in 2005 is primarily attributable to an increase in net cash used to purchase treasury stock and a change in collateral held under securities lending.

The table below shows our cash outflows for distributions and dividends for the periods indicated:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(in thousands)		
Security			
Interest paid on mandatory redeemable preferred stock and debt	\$ 61,089	\$ 61,159	\$ 61,179
Common stock dividends	55,038	48,157	42,050
Total	\$ 116,127	\$ 109,316	\$ 103,229

Commitments and Contingencies

We have obligations and commitments to third parties as a result of our operations. These obligations and commitments, as of December 31, 2007, are detailed in the table below by maturity date as of the dates indicated:

	As of December 31,				
	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 Years	Total
	(in thousands)				
<i>Contractual obligations :</i>					
Insurance liabilities (1)	\$ 1,788,407	\$ 1,606,331	\$ 1,410,157	\$ 12,033,510	\$ 16,838,405
Debt and related interest	60,188	120,375	120,375	1,616,251	1,917,189
Mandatory redeemable preferred stock				21,160	21,160
Operating leases	37,792	54,455	22,403	24,401	139,051
Pension obligations and postretirement benefit	31,926	68,293	73,828	260,164	434,211
<i>Commitments:</i>					
<i>Investment purchases outstanding:</i>					
Unsettled trades	10,733				10,733
Commercial mortgage loans on real estate	30,910				30,910
Other investments	25,000				25,000
FIN 48 liability	2,151		15,901		18,052

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total obligations and commitments	\$ 1,987,107	\$ 1,849,454	\$ 1,642,664	\$ 13,955,486	\$ 19,434,711
-----------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	---------------

- (1) Insurance liabilities, reflected in the commitments and contingencies table above, include products for which we are currently making periodic payments and products for which we are not making periodic payments, but for which we believe the amount and timing of future payments is essentially fixed and determinable. Amounts included in insurance liabilities reflect estimated cash payments to be made to policyholders.

Table of Contents

Liabilities for future policy benefits and expenses of \$7,189,496 and claims and benefits payable of \$3,303,084 have been included in the commitments and contingencies table. Significant uncertainties relating to these liabilities include mortality, morbidity, expenses, persistency, investment returns, inflation, contract terms and the timing of payments.

Letters of Credit

In the normal course of business, letters of credit are issued primarily to support reinsurance arrangements. These letters of credit are supported by commitments with financial institutions. We had approximately \$31,813 and \$33,219 of letters of credit outstanding as of December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company does not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that are reasonably likely to have a material effect on the financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, or capital resources of the Company.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

As a provider of insurance products, effective risk management is fundamental to our ability to protect both our customers and stockholders interests. We are exposed to potential loss from various market risks, in particular interest rate risk and credit risk. Additionally, we are exposed to inflation risk and to a small extent to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk is the possibility the fair value of liabilities will change more or less than the market value of investments in response to changes in interest rates, including changes in the slope or shape of the yield curve and changes in spreads due to credit risks and other factors.

Credit risk is the possibility that counterparties may not be able to meet payment obligations when they become due. We assume counterparty credit risk in many forms. A counterparty is any person or entity from which cash or other forms of consideration are expected to extinguish a liability or obligation to us. Primarily, our credit risk exposure is concentrated in our fixed maturity investment portfolio and, to a lesser extent, in our reinsurance recoverables.

Inflation risk is the possibility that a change in domestic price levels produces an adverse effect on earnings. This typically happens when only one of invested assets or liabilities is indexed to inflation.

Foreign exchange risk is the possibility that changes in exchange rates produce an adverse effect on earnings and equity when measured in domestic currency. This risk is largest when assets backing liabilities payable in one currency are invested in financial instruments of another currency. Our general principle is to invest in assets that match the currency in which we expect the liabilities to be paid.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk arises as we invest substantial funds in interest-sensitive fixed income assets, such as fixed maturity investments, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage loans, primarily in the United States and Canada. There are two forms of interest rate risk price risk and reinvestment risk. Price risk occurs when fluctuations in interest rates have a direct impact on the market valuation of these investments. As interest rates rise, the market value of these investments falls, and conversely, as interest rates fall, the market value of these investments rises. Reinvestment risk occurs when fluctuations in interest rates have a direct impact on expected cash flows from mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. As interest rates fall, an increase in prepayments on these assets results in earlier than expected receipt of cash flows forcing us to reinvest the proceeds in an unfavorable lower interest rate environment, and conversely as interest rates rise, a decrease in

Table of Contents

prepayments on these assets results in later than expected receipt of cash flows forcing us to forgo reinvesting in a favorable higher interest rate environment.

We expect to manage interest rate risk by selecting investments with characteristics such as duration, yield, currency and liquidity tailored to the anticipated cash outflow characteristics of our insurance and reinsurance liabilities.

Our group long term disability reserves are also sensitive to interest rates. Group long-term disability and group term life waiver of premium reserves are discounted to the valuation date at the valuation interest rate. The valuation interest rate is determined by taking into consideration actual and expected earned rates on our asset portfolio.

The interest rate sensitivity relating to price risk of our fixed maturity security assets is assessed using hypothetical scenarios that assume several positive and negative parallel shifts of the yield curves. We have assumed that the United States and Canadian yield curve shifts are of equal direction and magnitude. The individual securities are repriced under each scenario using a valuation model. For investments such as callable bonds and mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, a prepayment model was used in conjunction with a valuation model. Our actual experience may differ from the results noted below particularly due to assumptions utilized or if events occur that were not included in the methodology. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis for bonds and mortgage-backed securities held in our investment portfolio:

Interest Rate Movement Analysis

of Market Value of Fixed Maturity Securities Investment Portfolio

As of December 31, 2007

	-100	-50	0	50	100
	(in thousands)				
Total market value	\$ 10,853,555	\$ 10,481,322	\$ 10,126,415	\$ 9,789,717	\$ 9,470,183
% Change in market value from base case	7.18%	3.50%	%	-3.32%	-6.48%
\$ Change in market value from base case	\$ 727,140	\$ 354,907	\$	\$ (336,698)	\$ (656,232)

The interest rate sensitivity relating to reinvestment risk of our fixed maturity security assets is assessed using hypothetical scenarios that assume purchases in the primary market and considers the effects of interest rates on sales. The effects of embedded options including call or put features are not considered. Our actual results may differ from the results noted below particularly due to assumptions utilized or if events occur that were not included in the methodology.

The following table summarizes the results of this analysis on our reported portfolio yield:

Interest Rate Movement Analysis

Of Portfolio Yield of Fixed Maturity Securities Investment Portfolio

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

As of December 31, 2007

	-100	-50	0	50	100
Portfolio Yield	5.85%	5.92%	5.99%	6.06%	6.13%
Basis Point Change in Portfolio Yield	(0.14)%	(0.07)%	%	0.07%	0.14%

Table of Contents**Credit Risk**

We have exposure to credit risk primarily as a holder of fixed maturity securities and by entering into reinsurance cessions.

Our risk management strategy and investment policy is to invest in debt instruments of high credit quality issuers and to limit the amount of credit exposure with respect to any one issuer. We attempt to limit our credit exposure by imposing fixed maturity portfolio limits on individual issuers based upon credit quality. Currently our portfolio limits are 1.5% for issuers rated AA-and above, 1% for issuers rated A- to A+, 0.75% for issuers rated BBB- to BBB+ and 0.38% for issuers rated BB- to BB+. These portfolio limits are further reduced for certain issuers with whom we have credit exposure on reinsurance agreements. We use the lower of Moody's or S&P's ratings to determine an issuer's rating.

The following table presents our fixed maturity investment portfolio by ratings of the nationally recognized securities rating organizations as of December 31, 2007:

Rating	Fair Value (in thousands)	Percentage of Total
Aaa/Aa/A	\$ 6,917,249	69%
Baa	2,570,640	25%
Ba	492,822	5%
B and lower	145,704	1%
Total	\$ 10,126,415	100%

We are also exposed to the credit risk of our reinsurers. When we reinsure, we are still liable to our insureds regardless of whether we get reimbursed by our reinsurer. As part of our overall risk and capacity management strategy, we purchase reinsurance for certain risks underwritten by our various operating segments as described above under Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Reinsurance.

For at least 50% of our \$3,904,348 of reinsurance recoverables at December 31, 2007, we are protected from the credit risk by using various types of risk mitigation mechanisms such as trusts, letters of credit or by withholding the assets in a modified coinsurance or co-funds-withheld arrangement. For example, reserves of \$1,305,718 and \$1,473,312 as of December 31, 2007 relating to two large coinsurance arrangements with The Hartford and John Hancock, respectively, related to sales of businesses. If the value of the assets in these trusts falls below the value of the associated liabilities, The Hartford and John Hancock, as the case may be, will be required to put more assets in the trusts. We may be dependent on the financial condition of The Hartford and John Hancock, whose A.M. Best ratings are currently A+ and A++, respectively. For recoverables that are not protected by these mechanisms, we are dependent solely on the credit of the reinsurer. Occasionally, the credit worthiness of the reinsurer becomes questionable. See Item 1A Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Company Reinsurance may not be available or adequate to protect us against losses, and we are subject to the credit risk of reinsurers. We believe that a majority of our remaining reinsurance exposure has been ceded to companies rated A- or better by A.M. Best.

Inflation Risk

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Inflation risk arises as we invest substantial funds in nominal assets, which are not indexed to the level of inflation, whereas the underlying liabilities are indexed to the level of inflation. Approximately 10% of Assurant's insurance policies with reserves of approximately \$381,863 as of December 31, 2007 have death benefits that are guaranteed to grow with the CPI. In times of rapidly rising inflation, the credited death benefit growth on these liabilities increases relative to the investment income earned on the nominal assets resulting in

Table of Contents

an adverse impact on earnings. We have partially mitigated this risk by purchasing contracts with payments tied to the CPI. See Derivatives.

In addition, we have inflation risk in our individual and small employer group health insurance businesses to the extent that medical costs increase with inflation, and we have not been able to increase premiums to keep pace with inflation.

Foreign Exchange Risk

We are exposed to some foreign exchange risk arising from our international operations mainly in Canada. We also have limited foreign exchange risk exposure to currencies other-than-the Canadian dollar, primarily the British pound and Danish krone. However, total invested assets denominated in these other currencies were less than 2% of our total invested assets at December 31, 2007.

Foreign exchange risk is mitigated by matching our liabilities under insurance policies that are payable in foreign currencies with investments that are denominated in such currency. We have not established any hedge to our foreign currency exchange rate exposure.

The foreign exchange risk sensitivity of our fixed maturity security assets denominated in Canadian dollars on our entire fixed maturity portfolio is summarized in the following table:

Foreign Exchange Movement Analysis
Of Market Value of Fixed Maturity Securities Assets
As of December 31, 2007

Foreign exchange spot rate at**December 31, 2007, US Dollar to Canadian Dollar**

	-10%	-5%	0	5%	10%
Total market value	\$ 10,028,240	\$ 10,077,327	\$ 10,126,415	\$ 10,175,503	\$ 10,224,590
% change of market value from base case	(0.97)%	(0.48)%	%	0.48%	0.97%
\$ change of market value from base case	\$ (98,175)	\$ (49,088)	\$	\$ 49,088	\$ 98,175

The foreign exchange risk sensitivity of our consolidated net income is assessed using hypothetical test scenarios that assume earnings in Canadian dollars are recognized evenly throughout a period. Our actual results may differ from the results noted below particularly due to assumptions utilized or if events occur that were not included in the methodology. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis on our reported net income:

Foreign Exchange Movement Analysis

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Of Net Income

As of December 31, 2007

Foreign exchange daily average rate for the year ended
2007, US Dollar to Canadian Dollar

	-10%	-5%	0	5%	10%
Net income	\$ 650,540	\$ 652,143	\$ 653,746	\$ 655,349	\$ 656,952
% change of net income from base case	(0.49)%	(0.25)%	%	0.25%	0.49%
\$ change of net income from base case	\$ (3,206)	\$ (1,603)	\$	\$ 1,603	\$ 3,206

Table of Contents

Derivatives

Derivatives are financial instruments whose values are derived from interest rates, foreign exchange rates, financial indices or the prices of securities or commodities. Derivative financial instruments may be exchange-traded or contracted in the over-the-counter market and include swaps, futures, options and forward contracts.

Under insurance statutes, our insurance companies may use derivative financial instruments to hedge actual or anticipated changes in their assets or liabilities, to replicate cash market instruments or for certain income-generating activities. These statutes generally prohibit the use of derivatives for speculative purposes. We generally do not use derivative financial instruments.

We have purchased contracts to cap the inflation risk exposure inherent in some of our preneed insurance policies.

In 2003, we determined that the modified coinsurance agreement with The Hartford contained an embedded derivative. In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Derivatives Implementation Group Statement 133 Implementation Issue No. 36, *Embedded Derivatives: Modified Coinsurance Arrangements and Debt Instruments That Incorporate Credit Risk Exposures That Are Unrelated or Only Partially Related to the Creditworthiness of the Obligor under Those Instruments* (DIG B36), we bifurcated the contract into its debt host and embedded derivative (total return swap) and recorded the embedded derivative at fair value on the balance sheet. Contemporaneous with adoption of DIG B36, we reclassified the invested assets related to this modified coinsurance agreement from fixed maturities available for sale to trading securities, included in other investments. The combination of the two aforementioned transactions has no net impact in the consolidated statements of operations for all periods presented.

Table of Contents

Item 8. *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.*

The consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules in Part IV, Item 15(a) 1 and 2 of this report are incorporated by reference into this Item 8.

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

There have been no disagreements with accountants on accounting and financial disclosure.

Item 9A. *Controls and Procedures.*

Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

The management of Assurant is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective disclosure controls and procedures, as defined under Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. As of December 31, 2007, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the chief executive officer and interim chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of Assurant's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, management concluded that Assurant's disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2007, were effective.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting for the Company as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Company's management assessed its internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007 using criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

Management, including the Company's chief executive officer and its interim chief financial officer, based on their evaluation of the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f)), have concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2007.

The effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which appears herein.

Table of Contents

There have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's fourth fiscal quarter in 2007 that have materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. *Other Information.*

None.

Table of Contents

PART III

Item 10. *Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance*

The information regarding executive officers in the 2008 Proxy Statement dated April 10, 2008 (2008 Proxy Statement) under the caption Executive Officers is incorporated herein by reference. The information regarding directors in the 2008 Proxy Statement, under the captions Directors and Election of Directors in Proposal One is incorporated herein by reference. The information regarding compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act in the 2008 Proxy Statement, under the caption Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance is incorporated herein by reference. The information regarding the Nominating Committee and the Audit Committee in the 2008 Proxy Statement under the captions Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Audit Committee in Corporate Governance is incorporated herein by reference.

Code of Ethics

We have adopted The Assurant Guidelines on Business Conduct Our Code of Ethics that applies to all directors, officers and employees of Assurant. Our Code of Ethics and our Corporate Governance Guidelines are posted on the Corporate Governance subsection of the Investor Relations section of our website at www.assurant.com. We intend to post any amendments to or waivers from Our Code of Ethics that apply to our executive officers or directors at this location on our website. We may elect to also disclose the amendment or waiver in a report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC.

Item 11. *Executive Compensation*

The information in the 2008 Proxy Statement under the captions Compensation Discussion and Analysis , Compensation of Named Executive Officers and Compensation of Directors is incorporated herein by reference. The information in the 2008 Proxy Statement regarding the Compensation Committee under the captions Compensation Committee in Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee Report is incorporated herein by reference.

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

The information in the 2008 Proxy Statement under the captions Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Security Ownership of Management is incorporated herein by reference.

Securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

This information is furnished under Item 5 Market of Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities .

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

The information in the 2008 Proxy Statement under the captions Transactions with Related Persons and Director Independence in Corporate Governance is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. *Principal Accounting Fees and Services*

The information in the 2008 Proxy Statement under the caption Fees of Principal Accountants in Audit Committee Matters is incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a)1. *Consolidated Financial Statements*

The following consolidated financial statements of Assurant, Inc., incorporated by reference into Item 8, are attached hereto:

	Page(s)
<u>Consolidated Financial Statements of Assurant, Inc.</u>	
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-1
<u>Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2007, and 2006</u>	F-3
<u>Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statements of Operations Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005</u>	F-4
<u>Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005</u>	F-5
<u>Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005</u>	F-6
<u>Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005</u>	F-8

(a)2. *Consolidated Financial Statement Schedules*

The following consolidated financial statement schedules of Assurant, Inc. are attached hereto:

- Schedule I Summary of Investments other-than-Investments in Related Parties
- Schedule II Parent Only Condensed Financial Statements
- Schedule III Supplementary Insurance Information
- Schedule IV Reinsurance
- Schedule V Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

* All other schedules are omitted because they are not applicable, not required, or the information is included in the consolidated financial statements or the notes thereto.

Table of Contents

(a)3. Exhibits

The following exhibits either (a) are filed with this report or (b) have previously been filed with the SEC and are incorporated herein by reference to those prior filings. Exhibits are available upon request at the investor relations section of our website, located at www.assurant.com.

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description
3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on January 13, 2004).
3.2	Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Registrant (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K originally filed on January 25, 2008).
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on January 13, 2004).
4.2	Senior Debt Indenture dated as of February 18, 2004 between Assurant, Inc. and SunTrust Bank, as Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.27 to Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 30, 2004).
10.1	Assurant, Inc. 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on January 13, 2004).*
10.2	Amendment No. 1 To The Assurant, Inc. 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, originally filed on November 14, 2005).*
10.3	Amendment No. 2 To the Assurant, Inc. 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan, effective December 7, 2006 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 1, 2007).*
10.4	Amended Form of CEO/Director Delegated Authority Restricted Stock Agreement under the Assurant, Inc. 2004 Long Term Incentive Plan, effective January 11, 2007 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 1, 2007).*
10.5	Amended and Restated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, effective January 1, 2008.*
10.6	Executive Pension and 401(k) Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on October 24, 2003).*
10.7	Amendment No. 1 To the Executive Pension and 401K Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Form 10-Q, originally filed on November 12, 2004).*
10.8	Amendment No. 2 To the Executive Pension and 401K Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Form 10-Q, originally filed on November 14, 2005).*
10.9	Amendment No. 3 To the Executive Pension and 401K Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 10, 2006).
10.10	Change in Control Severance Agreement with Robert B. Pollock (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.9 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-121820) and amendments thereto, originally filed on January 3, 2005).*
10.11	Amendment No. 1 To The Change in Control Severance Agreement with Robert B. Pollock (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.13 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 10, 2006).*
10.12	Letter of Extension of Change in Control Severance Agreement with Robert B. Pollock.*

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description
10.13	Change in Control Severance Agreement with Michael J. Peninger.*
10.14	Amendment No. 1 To The Change in Control Severance Agreement with Michael J. Peninger.*
10.15	Letter of Extension of Change in Control Severance Agreement with Michael J. Peninger.*
10.16	Change in Control Severance Agreement with Philip Bruce Camacho (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.15 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 10, 2006).*
10.17	Letter of Extension of Change in Control Severance Agreement with Phillip Bruce Camacho.*
10.18	Change in Control Severance Agreement with Lesley Silvester (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-121820) and amendments thereto, originally filed on January 3, 2005).*
10.19	Amendment No. 1 To The Change in Control Severance Agreement with Lesley Silvester (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.17 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 10, 2006).*
10.20	Letter of Extension of Change in Control Severance Agreement with Lesley Silvester.*
10.21	Change in Control Severance Agreement with S. Craig Lemasters.*
10.22	Letter of Extension of Change in Control Severance Agreement with S. Craig Lemasters.*
10.23	Change in Control Severance Agreement with Jerome A. Atkinson.*
10.24	Letter of Extension of Change in Control Severance Agreement with Jerome A. Atkinson.*
10.25	Letter Agreement, dated October 17, 1997, between American Bankers Insurance Group and Philip Bruce Camacho (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/ A (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on December 10, 2003).*
10.26	Assurant, Inc. Amended and Restated Directors Compensation Plan, effective November 9, 2007.*
10.27	Form of Directors Stock Agreement under Directors Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.23 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 10, 2006).*
10.28	Form of Directors Stock Appreciation Rights Agreement under the Directors Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.24 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 10, 2006).*
10.29	Assurant Executive Management Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.16 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on October 24, 2003).*
10.30	Amended and Restated Assurant Long Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.29 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 1, 2007).*
10.31	Amended Form of Restricted Stock Agreement under the Assurant Long Term Incentive Plan, effective January 11, 2007 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.31 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 1, 2007).*
10.32	Amended Form of Stock Appreciation Rights Agreement under the Assurant Long Term Incentive Plan, effective January 11, 2007 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.33 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 1, 2007).*
10.33	Amended and Restated Assurant Deferred Compensation Plan, effective January 1, 2008.*
10.34	American Security Insurance Company Investment Plan Document, effective March 2003.

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description
10.35	Consulting, Non-Compete and Payments Agreement, dated July 19, 1999, among Fortis, Inc., Allen R. Freedman and Fortis Insurance N.V. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.19 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on October 24, 2003).*
10.36	Retirement Agreement, dated July 19, 1999, among Fortis, Inc., Allen R. Freedman and Fortis Insurance N.V., as amended (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.20 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on October 24, 2003).*
10.37	Agreement, dated September 1, 2003, between Fortis Insurance Company and its affiliates Fortis Benefits Insurance Company and John Alden Life Insurance Company and National Administration Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.25 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on December 10, 2003).
10.38	Amendment to the Agreement, effective May 1, 2005 between Fortis Insurance Company and its affiliates Fortis Benefits Insurance Company and John Alden Life Insurance Company and National Administration Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.33 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 10, 2006).
10.39	Three Year Credit Agreement, dated as of January 30, 2004, by and among Assurant, Inc., as the borrower, certain banks and financial institutions, as the lenders, Bank One, NA, as administrative agent for the lenders, Citigroup North America Inc., as syndication agent, and Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc. and JP Morgan Chase Bank, as co-documentation agents (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (File No. 333-109984) and amendments thereto, originally filed on February 3, 2004).
10.40	First Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of April 29, 2005 among Assurant, Inc., as the borrower, and certain banks and financial institutions as the lenders, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, originally filed on May 16, 2005).
10.41	Amendment No. 1 To The Amended and Restated Credit Agreement Dated as of April 29, 2005 among Assurant, Inc., as the borrower and certain banks and financial institutions as the lenders, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, originally filed on November 14, 2005).
10.42	Amendment No. 2 To The Amended and Restated Credit Agreement among Assurant, Inc., as the borrower and certain banks and financial institutions as the lenders, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Administrative Agent, effective April 2006 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.42 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 1, 2007).
10.43	Amendment No. 3 To The Amended and Restated Credit Agreement among Assurant, Inc., as the borrower and certain banks and financial institutions as the lenders, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Administrative Agent, effective February 2, 2007 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.43 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, originally filed on March 1, 2007).
17.1	Letter of Resignation from Michele Coleman Mayes Dated November 9, 2007.
17.2	Letter of Resignation from Michel Baise Dated January 25, 2008.
21.1	Subsidiaries of the Registrant.
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description
24.1	Power of Attorney.
31.1	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Principal Executive Officer.
31.2	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Principal Financial Officer.
31.3	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Principal Executive Officer.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer of Assurant, Inc. pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer of Assurant, Inc. pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.3	Certification of Chief Executive Officer Emeritus of Assurant, Inc. pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Management contract or compensatory plan.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized on March 3, 2008.

ASSURANT, INC.

By: /s/ ROBERT B. POLLOCK
Name: Robert B. Pollock
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ J. KERRY CLAYTON
Name: J. Kerry Clayton
Title: Interim President and Chief Executive Officer Emeritus

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant in the capacities indicated on March 3, 2008.

Signature	Title
/s/ ROBERT B. POLLOCK Robert B. Pollock	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ J. KERRY CLAYTON J. Kerry Clayton	Interim President and Chief Executive Officer Emeritus (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ MICHAEL J. PENINGER Michael J. Peninger	Interim Chief Financial Officer
*	Senior Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)
John A. Sondej *	Director
John Michael Palms *	Director
Robert J. Blendon *	Director
Beth L. Bronner *	Director
Howard L. Carver	

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

* Director

Juan N. Cento

* Director

Allen R. Freedman

* Director

David B. Kelso

* Director

H. Carroll Mackin

By: /s/ MICHAEL J. PENINGER
Name: **Michael J. Peninger**
Attorney-in-Fact

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Assurant, Inc.:

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements listed in the index appearing under Item 15(a)1 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Assurant, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Company) at December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2007 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedules listed in the index appearing under Item 15(a)2 present fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements and financial statement schedules, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, appearing under Items 9A. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements, on the financial statement schedules, and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our integrated audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements include examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

As described in Note 2 of the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed its method of accounting for uncertainty in income taxes and for deferred acquisition costs in connection with modifications or exchanges of insurance contracts on January 1, 2007, for stock-base compensation on January 1, 2006 and for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans on December 31, 2006.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable

Table of Contents

assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

New York, New York

March 3, 2008

F-2

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Balance Sheets****At December 31, 2007 and 2006**

	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
	(in thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)	
Assets		
Investments:		
Fixed maturity securities available for sale, at fair value (amortized cost \$ 10,026,355 in 2007 and \$8,934,017 in 2006)	\$ 10,126,415	\$ 9,118,049
Equity securities available for sale, at fair value (cost \$702,698 in 2007 and \$735,566 in 2006)	636,001	741,639
Commercial mortgage loans on real estate, at amortized cost	1,433,626	1,266,158
Policy loans	57,107	58,733
Short-term investments	410,878	314,114
Collateral held under securities lending	541,650	365,958
Other investments	541,474	564,494
Total investments	13,747,151	12,429,145
Cash and cash equivalents	804,964	987,672
Premiums and accounts receivable, net	580,379	612,011
Reinsurance recoverables	3,904,348	3,914,972
Accrued investment income	149,165	137,803
Tax receivable	26,012	
Deferred acquisition costs	2,895,345	2,397,906
Property and equipment, at cost less accumulated depreciation	275,779	275,201
Goodwill	832,656	790,519
Value of business acquired	125,612	134,437
Other assets	265,617	186,939
Assets held in separate accounts	3,143,288	3,298,543
Total assets	\$ 26,750,316	\$ 25,165,148
Liabilities		
Future policy benefits and expenses	\$ 7,189,496	\$ 6,754,474
Unearned premiums	5,410,709	4,429,893
Claims and benefits payable	3,303,084	3,328,739
Commissions payable	267,886	304,640
Reinsurance balances payable	104,105	84,891
Funds held under reinsurance	50,147	49,980
Deferred gain on disposal of businesses	216,772	249,911
Obligation under securities lending	541,650	365,958
Accounts payable and other liabilities	1,332,824	1,378,199
Deferred income taxes, net	108,429	57,157
Income taxes payable		36,232
Debt	971,863	971,774
Mandatorily redeemable preferred stock	21,160	22,160
Liabilities related to separate accounts	3,143,288	3,298,543
Total liabilities	22,661,413	21,332,551
Commitments and contingencies (Note 26)		
Stockholders equity		
	1,438	1,430

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 800,000,000 shares authorized, 144,009,979 and 143,080,961 shares issued, 117,808,007 and 122,618,317 shares outstanding at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively			
Additional paid-in capital	2,904,970	2,894,892	
Retained earnings	2,269,107	1,676,171	
Accumulated other comprehensive income	53,911	88,064	
Treasury stock, at cost; 25,997,943 and 20,308,610 shares at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively	(1,140,523)	(827,960)	
Total stockholders' equity	4,088,903	3,832,597	
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 26,750,316	\$ 25,165,148	

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

F-3

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Operations**

Years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(in thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)		
Revenues			
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 7,407,730	\$ 6,843,775	\$ 6,520,796
Net investment income	799,073	736,686	687,257
Net realized (losses) gains on investments	(62,220)	111,865	8,235
Amortization of deferred gain on disposal of businesses	33,139	37,300	42,508
Fees and other income	275,793	340,958	238,879
Total revenues	8,453,515	8,070,584	7,497,675
Benefits, losses and expenses			
Policyholder benefits	3,712,711	3,535,521	3,705,904
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs and value of business acquired	1,429,735	1,186,710	926,608
Underwriting, general and administrative expenses	2,238,851	2,191,368	2,148,297
Interest expense	61,178	61,243	61,258
Total benefits, losses and expenses	7,442,475	6,974,842	6,842,067
Income before provision for income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	1,011,040	1,095,742	655,608
Provision for income taxes	357,294	379,871	176,253
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	653,746	715,871	479,355
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		1,547	
Net income	\$ 653,746	\$ 717,418	\$ 479,355
Earnings per common share:			
<i>Basic</i>			
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 5.46	\$ 5.65	\$ 3.53
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		0.01	
Net income	\$ 5.46	\$ 5.66	\$ 3.53
<i>Diluted</i>			
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 5.38	\$ 5.56	\$ 3.50
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		0.01	
Net income	\$ 5.38	\$ 5.57	\$ 3.50
Dividends per share	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.31

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Share Data:

Weighted average shares outstanding used in basic per share calculations	119,737,556	126,846,990	135,773,551
Plus: Dilutive securities	1,699,137	1,965,823	1,171,759
Weighted average shares used in diluted per share calculations	121,436,693	128,812,813	136,945,310

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

F-4

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders Equity**

Years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Unamortized Restricted Stock Compensation (in thousands except number of shares)	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Treasury Stock	Total	Shares of Common Stock Issued
Balance, January 1, 2005	\$ 1,423	\$ 2,790,476	\$ 569,605	\$ (608)	\$ 338,163	\$ (63,628)	\$ 3,635,431	142,263,299
Stock plan exercises	3	7,198		(3,430)			3,771	300,530
Stock plan compensation expense		38,880		1,209			40,089	
Modification of stock compensation plan (1)		43,775					43,775	
Dividends			(42,050)				(42,050)	
Acquisition of treasury shares						(342,148)	(342,148)	
Comprehensive income:								
Net income			479,355				479,355	
Other comprehensive income:								
Net change in unrealized gains on securities, net of taxes					(141,642)		(141,642)	
Foreign currency translation, net of taxes					(4,574)		(4,574)	
Pension under-funding, net of taxes					27,552		27,552	
Total other comprehensive income							(118,664)	
Total comprehensive income:							360,691	
Balance, December 31, 2005	\$ 1,426	\$ 2,880,329	\$ 1,006,910	\$ (2,829)	\$ 219,499	\$ (405,776)	\$ 3,699,559	142,563,829
Stock plan exercises	4	(5,567)		2,829			(2,734)	517,132
Stock plan compensation expense		17,569					17,569	
Tax benefit of exercise of stock options		2,561					2,561	
Dividends			(48,157)				(48,157)	
Acquisition of treasury shares						(422,184)	(422,184)	
Comprehensive income:								
Net income			717,418				717,418	
Other comprehensive income:								
Net change in unrealized gains on securities, net of taxes					(67,627)		(67,627)	
Foreign currency translation, net of taxes					6,373		6,373	
Pension under-funding, net of taxes					1,331		1,331	
Total other comprehensive income							(59,923)	
Total comprehensive income:							657,495	
Adoption of FAS 158, net of taxes					(71,512)		(71,512)	
Balance, December 31, 2006	\$ 1,430	\$ 2,894,892	\$ 1,676,171	\$	\$ 88,064	\$ (827,960)	\$ 3,832,597	143,080,961
Stock plan exercises	8	(18,829)					(18,821)	929,018
Stock plan compensation expense		19,526					19,526	
Tax benefit of exercise of stock options		9,381					9,381	
Dividends			(55,038)				(55,038)	
Acquisition of treasury shares						(312,563)	(312,563)	
			(5,772)				(5,772)	

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Cumulative effect of change in accounting principles (Note 2)										
Comprehensive income:										
Net income										653,746
Other comprehensive income:										
Net change in unrealized gains on securities, net of taxes										(102,245)
Net change in foreign currency translation, net of taxes										41,800
Amortization of pension and postretirement unrecognized net periodic benefit cost and change in funded status, net of taxes										26,292
Total other comprehensive loss										(34,153)
Total comprehensive income:										619,593
Balance, December 31, 2007	\$ 1,438	\$ 2,904,970	\$ 2,269,107	\$	\$	53,911	\$ (1,140,523)	\$ 4,088,903		144,009,979

- (1) The conversion on existing SARs under the previous plan (which paid appreciation to participants in the form of cash) to the amended plan (which pays appreciation to participants in the form of common stock) resulted in a \$43,775 reclass of a liability to additional paid-in-capital at June 30, 2005.

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005**

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006 (in thousands)	2005
Operating activities			
Net income	\$ 653,746	\$ 717,418	\$ 479,355
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Change in reinsurance recoverable	19,596	533,938	(249,727)
Change in premiums and accounts receivables	(8,969)	(104,090)	(39,641)
Change in deferred acquisition costs and value of businesses acquired	(408,769)	(339,898)	(367,200)
Change in accrued investment income	(5,717)	(9,468)	(631)
Change in insurance policy reserves and expenses	887,180	100,586	928,553
Change in accounts payable and other liabilities	(16,754)	(13,552)	106,768
Change in commissions payable	(47,781)	(983)	6,243
Change in reinsurance balances payable	15,727	(44,962)	(27,930)
Change in funds held under reinsurance	(2,147)	(28,640)	(18,201)
Change in trading portfolio	7,254	13,376	5,660
Change in income taxes	16,897	121,142	32,914
Amortization of deferred gain on disposal of businesses	(33,139)	(37,301)	(42,508)
Depreciation and amortization	94,307	93,305	83,169
Net realized losses (gains) on investments	62,220	(111,865)	(8,235)
Stock based compensation expense	19,526	17,569	40,089
Excess tax benefit from share-base payment arrangements	(9,381)	(2,561)	
Other	(40,235)	16,249	(22,369)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,203,561	\$ 920,263	\$ 906,309
Investing activities			
Sales of:			
Fixed maturities available for sale	\$ 2,077,216	\$ 1,854,030	\$ 1,689,974
Equity securities available for sale	295,062	302,757	117,307
Property and equipment and other (1)	1,385	171,413	14,226
Maturities, prepayments, and scheduled redemption of:			
Fixed maturities available for sale	626,741	640,070	831,598
Purchase of:			
Fixed maturities available for sale	(3,311,076)	(3,001,808)	(2,569,754)
Equity securities available for sale	(267,308)	(313,758)	(193,325)
Property and equipment	(58,676)	(74,706)	(56,059)
Subsidiary, net of cash received (2)	(161,985)	47,514	
Change in commercial mortgage loans on real estate	(164,015)	(38,461)	(157,241)
Change in short term investments	(86,364)	113,408	(134,114)
Change in other invested assets	14,160	(31,989)	(19,854)
Change in policy loans	1,967	2,315	3,885
Change in collateral held under securities lending	(175,692)	244,704	(75,331)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	\$ (1,208,585)	\$ (84,511)	\$ (548,688)

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

F-6

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Continued)****Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005**

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(in thousands)		
Financing activities			
Redemption of mandatorily redeemable preferred stock	\$ (1,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$
Excess tax benefits from stock-based payment arrangements	9,381	2,561	
Acquisition of treasury stock	(315,570)	(422,451)	(338,874)
Dividends paid	(55,038)	(48,157)	(42,050)
Change in obligation under securities lending	175,692	(244,704)	75,331
Commercial paper issued	39,958	59,941	134,821
Commercial paper repaid	(40,000)	(60,000)	(135,000)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	\$ (186,577)	\$ (714,810)	\$ (305,772)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,893	\$ 11,161	\$ (3,362)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(182,708)	132,103	48,487
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	987,672	855,569	807,082
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 804,964	\$ 987,672	\$ 855,569
Supplemental information:			
Income taxes paid, net of refunds	\$ 334,382	\$ 257,317	\$ 122,406
Interest on mandatorily redeemable preferred stock and debt	\$ 61,089	\$ 61,159	\$ 61,179

- (1) This includes \$146,368 from the sale of our equity interest in Private Healthcare Systems Inc. (PHCS), in November 2006.
- (2) This relates to Safeco Financial Institution Solutions, Inc, acquired on May 1, 2006, Mayflower National Life Insurance Company, acquired on July 1, 2007, Swansure Group Limited, acquired on July 12, 2007 and Centrepoint Insurances Services, Ltd, acquired on October 1, 2007.

See the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

1. Nature of Operations

Assurant, Inc. (formerly, Fortis, Inc.) (the Company) is a holding company whose subsidiaries provide specialized insurance products and related services in North America and selected international markets. Prior to the Initial Public Offering (the IPO), Fortis, Inc. was incorporated in Nevada and was indirectly wholly owned by Fortis N.V. of the Netherlands and Fortis SA/NV of Belgium (collectively, Fortis) through their affiliates, including their wholly owned subsidiary, Fortis Insurance N.V.

In connection with the IPO, Fortis, Inc. was merged into Assurant, Inc., a Delaware corporation, which was formed solely for the purpose of the redomestication of Fortis, Inc. After the merger, Assurant, Inc. became the successor to the business, operations and obligations of Fortis, Inc. Assurant, Inc. is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AIZ.

On January 21, 2005, Fortis owned approximately 36% (50,199,130 shares) of the Company based on the number of shares outstanding that day and sold 27,200,000 of those shares in a secondary offering to the public. The Company did not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of common stock by Fortis. Fortis concurrently sold exchangeable bonds, due January 26, 2008, that were mandatorily exchangeable for up to 22,999,116 of the shares of Assurant that continued to be held by Fortis. (See Note 25 Subsequent Events)

Through its operating subsidiaries, the Company provides creditor-placed homeowners insurance, manufactured housing homeowners insurance, debt protection administration, credit insurance, warranties and extended service contracts, individual health and small employer group health insurance, group dental insurance, group disability insurance, group life insurance and pre-funded funeral insurance.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Amounts are presented in United States of America (U.S.) dollars and all amounts are in thousands, except for number of shares and per share amounts.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and all of its wholly owned subsidiaries. All significant inter-company transactions and balances are eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities. The most significant items on the Company's balance sheet affected by the use of estimates are investments, reinsurance recoverables, deferred acquisition costs (DAC), deferred income taxes, goodwill, valuation of business acquired (VOBA), future policy benefits and expenses, unearned premiums, claims and benefits payable, deferred gain on disposal of businesses, and commitments and contingencies. The estimates are sensitive to market conditions, investment yields, mortality, morbidity, commissions and other acquisition expenses, policyholder behavior and other factors. Actual results could differ from the estimates reported. The Company believes the amounts reported are reasonable and adequate.

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts that can be converted into common stock were exercised as of the end of the period.

Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income is comprised of net income, unrealized gains and losses on foreign currency translation, unrealized gains and losses on securities classified as available for sale and expenses for pension and post-retirement plans, less deferred income taxes.

Reclassifications

Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2007 presentation.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenue when realized or realizable and earned. Revenue generally is realized or realizable and earned when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred or services have been rendered, the price is fixed or determinable, and collectibility is reasonably assured.

Foreign Currency Translation

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

For those foreign affiliates where the foreign currency is the functional currency, unrealized foreign currency translation gains and losses net of deferred income taxes have been reflected in accumulated other comprehensive income. Other-than-for wholly owned Canadian subsidiaries, deferred taxes have not been provided for unrealized currency translation gains and losses since the Company intends to indefinitely reinvest the earnings in these other jurisdictions.

Investments

Fixed maturity and equity securities are classified as available-for-sale and reported at fair value. If the fair value is higher than the amortized cost for fixed maturity securities or the purchase cost for equity securities, the excess is an unrealized gain; and, if lower than cost, the difference is an unrealized loss. The net unrealized gains and losses, less deferred income taxes, are included in accumulated other comprehensive income.

Commercial mortgage loans on real estate are reported at unpaid balances, adjusted for amortization of premium or discount, less allowance for losses. The allowance is based on management's analysis of factors including actual loan loss experience, specific events based on geographical, political or economic conditions, industry experience and individually impaired loan loss analysis. A loan is considered individually impaired when it becomes probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due, including principal and interest. Changes in the allowance for loan losses are recorded in net realized gains and losses on investments.

Policy loans are reported at unpaid principal balances, which do not exceed the cash surrender value of the underlying policies.

Short-term investments include all investment cash and short maturity investments. These amounts are reported at cost, which approximates fair value.

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Collateral held under securities lending and the obligation under securities lending are reported at cost, which approximates fair value.

Other investments consist primarily of investments in joint ventures, partnerships, invested assets associated with a modified coinsurance arrangement and invested assets associated with the Assurant Investment Plan (AIP). The joint ventures and partnerships are valued according to the equity method of accounting. The invested assets related to the modified coinsurance arrangement and the AIP are classified as trading securities and are reported at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses recorded in earnings.

The Company monitors its investment portfolio to identify investments that may be other-than-temporarily impaired. In addition, securities whose market price is equal to 85% or less of their original purchase price are added to the impairment watch-list, which is discussed at quarterly meetings attended by members of the Company's investment, accounting and finance departments. Any security whose price decrease is deemed other-than-temporary is written down to its then current market level with the amount of the write-down reported as a realized loss in that period. Assessment factors include, but are not limited to, the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been less than cost, the financial condition and rating of the issuer, whether any collateral is held and the intent and ability of the Company to retain the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery. Realized gains and losses on sales of investments are recognized on the specific identification basis.

Investment income is recorded as earned net of investment expenses. The Company uses the interest method to recognize interest income on its commercial mortgage loans.

The Company anticipates prepayments of principal in the calculation of the effective yield for mortgage-backed securities and structured securities. The majority of the Company's mortgage-backed securities and structured securities are of high credit quality. The retrospective method is used to adjust the effective yield.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers cash on hand, all operating cash and working capital cash to be cash equivalents. These amounts are carried at cost, which approximates fair value. Cash balances are reviewed at the end of each reporting period to determine if negative cash balances exist. If negative cash balances do exist, the cash accounts are netted with other positive cash accounts of the same bank provided the right of offset exists between the accounts. If the right of offset does not exist, the negative cash balances are reclassified to accounts payable.

Receivables

The Company records a receivable when revenue has been recognized but the cash has not been collected. The Company maintains allowances for doubtful accounts for probable losses resulting from the inability to collect payments.

Reinsurance

Reinsurance recoverables include amounts related to paid benefits and estimated amounts related to unpaid policy and contract claims, future policyholder benefits and policyholder contract deposits. The cost of reinsurance is recognized over the terms of the underlying reinsured policies using assumptions consistent with those used to account for the policies. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

with claim and claim adjustment expense reserves or future policy benefits reserves and are reported in the consolidated balance sheets. The cost of reinsurance related to long-duration contracts is recognized over the life of the underlying reinsured policies. The ceding of insurance does not discharge the Company's primary liability to insureds. An allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded on the basis of periodic evaluations of balances due from reinsurers, reinsurer solvency, management's experience, and current economic conditions. The allowance for doubtful accounts was zero and \$987 at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Reinsurance balances payable include amounts related to ceded premiums and estimated amounts related to assumed paid or incurred losses, which are reported based upon ceding entities' estimations.

Funds held under reinsurance represent amounts contractually held from assuming companies in accordance with reinsurance agreements.

Reinsurance premiums assumed are calculated based upon payments received from ceding companies together with accrual estimates, which are based on both payments received and in force policy information received from ceding companies. Any subsequent differences arising on such estimates are recorded in the period in which they are determined.

Income Taxes

Current federal income taxes are recognized based upon amounts estimated to be payable or recoverable as a result of taxable operations for the current year. Deferred income taxes are recorded for temporary differences between the financial reporting basis and income tax basis of assets and liabilities, based on enacted tax laws and statutory tax rates applicable to the periods in which the Company expects the temporary differences to reverse. A valuation allowance is established for deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not that an amount will not be realized.

The Company classifies net interest expense and any applicable penalties as a component of income tax expense.

Deferred Acquisition Costs

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The costs of acquiring new business that vary with and are primarily related to the production of new business are deferred to the extent that such costs are deemed recoverable from future premiums or gross profits. Acquisition costs primarily consist of commissions, policy issuance expenses, and certain direct marketing expenses.

Premium deficiency testing is performed annually and reviewed quarterly. Such testing involves the use of best estimate assumptions including the anticipation of interest income to determine if anticipated future policy premiums are adequate to recover all DAC and related claims, benefits and expenses. To the extent a premium deficiency exists, it is recognized immediately by a charge to the statement of operations and a corresponding reduction in DAC. If the premium deficiency is greater than unamortized DAC, a liability will be accrued for the excess deficiency.

Long Duration Contracts

Acquisition costs for pre-funded funeral (preneed) life insurance policies and life insurance policies no longer offered are deferred and amortized in proportion to anticipated premiums over the premium-paying period. These acquisition costs consist primarily of first year commissions paid to agents and sales and policy issue costs.

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Acquisition costs relating to worksite group life and disability consist primarily of first year commissions to brokers and one time policy transfer fees and costs of issuing new certificates. These acquisition costs are front-end loaded, thus they are deferred and amortized over the estimated terms of the underlying contracts.

For preneed investment type annuities and universal life and investment-type annuities no longer offered, DAC is amortized in proportion to the present value of estimated gross margins or profits from investment, mortality, expense margins and surrender charges over the estimated life of the policy or contract. The assumptions used for the estimates are consistent with those used in computing the policy or contract liabilities.

Acquisition costs relating to a majority of individual medical contracts issued prior to 2003, a limited number of individual medical contracts issued from 2003 through 2006 in certain jurisdictions and individual voluntary limited benefit health policies issued in 2007 and later are deferred and amortized over the estimated average terms of the underlying contracts. These acquisition costs relate to commissions and policy issuance expenses. Commissions represent the majority of deferred costs and result from commission schedules that pay significantly higher rates in the first year. The majority of deferred policy issuance expenses are the costs of separately underwriting each individual medical contract.

Short Duration Contracts

Acquisition costs relating to property contracts, warranty and extended service contracts and single premium credit insurance contracts are amortized over the term of the contracts in relation to premiums earned.

Acquisition costs relating to monthly pay credit insurance business consist mainly of direct marketing costs and are deferred and amortized over the estimated average terms and balances of the underlying contracts.

Acquisition costs relating to group term life, group disability and group dental consist primarily of compensation to sales representatives. These acquisition costs are front-end loaded; thus, they are deferred and amortized over the estimated terms of the underlying contracts.

Acquisition costs on the majority of individual medical contracts issued from 2003 through 2006, all individual medical contracts issued after 2006 and all small group medical contracts consist primarily of commissions to agents and brokers and compensation to representatives. These contracts are considered short duration because the terms of the contract are not fixed at issue and they are not guaranteed renewable. As a result,

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

these costs are not deferred, but rather they are recorded in the consolidated statement of operations in the period in which they are incurred.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are reported at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over estimated useful lives with a maximum of 39.5 years for buildings, a maximum of 7 years for furniture and a maximum of 5 years for equipment. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged to income as incurred. Expenditures for improvements are capitalized and depreciated over the remaining useful life of the asset.

Property and equipment also includes capitalized software costs, which represent costs directly related to obtaining, developing or upgrading internal use software. Such costs are capitalized and amortized using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

F-12

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of acquisition costs over the net fair values of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination. Goodwill is deemed to have an indefinite life and is not amortized, but rather tested at least annually for impairment. The goodwill impairment test has two steps. The first identifies potential impairments by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit with its book value, including goodwill. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds the carrying amount, goodwill is not impaired and the second step is not required. If the carrying value exceeds the fair value, the second step calculates the possible impairment loss by comparing the implied fair value of goodwill with the carrying amount. If the implied fair value of goodwill is less than the carrying amount, a write down is recorded. The fair value is based on an evaluation of ranges of future discounted earnings, public company trading multiples and acquisitions of similar companies. Certain key assumptions considered include forecasted trends in revenues, operating expenses and effective tax rates.

The Company's 2007 and 2006 impairment tests concluded that goodwill was not impaired.

Value of Businesses Acquired

VOBA is the identifiable intangible asset representing the value of the insurance businesses acquired. The amount is determined using best estimates for mortality, lapse, maintenance expenses and investment returns at date of purchase. The amount determined represents the purchase price paid to the seller for producing the business. Similar to the amortization of DAC, the amortization of VOBA is over the premium payment period for traditional life insurance policies and a small block of limited payment policies. For the remaining limited payment policies, preneed life insurance policies, all universal life policies and annuities, the amortization of VOBA is over the expected lifetime of the policies.

VOBA is tested for recoverability annually. If it is determined that future policy premiums and investment income or gross profits are not adequate to cover related losses or loss expenses, then an expense is recorded in current earnings.

Other Assets

Other assets include prepaid items and intangible assets. Intangible assets that have finite lives, including customer relationships, customer contracts and other intangible assets, are amortized over their estimated useful lives. Intangible assets deemed to have indefinite useful lives, primarily certain state licenses, are not amortized and are subject to annual impairment tests. An impairment exists if the carrying amount of the

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

indefinite-lived intangible asset exceeds its fair value. For other intangible assets subject to amortization, an impairment is recognized if the carrying amount is not recoverable and exceeds the fair value of the intangible asset.

Separate Accounts

Assets and liabilities associated with separate accounts relate to premium and annuity considerations for variable life and annuity products for which the contract-holder, rather than the Company, bears the investment risk. Separate account assets (with matching liabilities) are reported at fair value. Revenues and expenses related to the separate account assets and liabilities, to the extent of benefits paid or provided to the separate account policyholders, are excluded from the amounts reported in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations because the accounts are administered by the reinsurers.

F-13

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Reserves

Reserves are established according to GAAP, using generally accepted actuarial methods and are based on a number of factors. These factors include experience derived from historical claim payments and actuarial assumptions. Such assumptions and other factors include trends, the incidence of incurred claims, the extent to which all claims have been reported, and internal claims processing charges. The process used in computing reserves cannot be exact, particularly for liability coverages, since actual claim costs are dependent upon such complex factors as inflation, changes in doctrines of legal liabilities and damage awards. The methods of making such estimates and establishing the related liabilities are periodically reviewed and updated.

Reserves do not represent an exact calculation of exposure, but instead represent our best estimates, generally involving actuarial projections at a given time, of what we expect the ultimate settlement and administration of a claim or group of claims will cost based on our assessment of facts and circumstances then known. The adequacy of reserves will be impacted by future trends in claims severity, frequency, judicial theories of liability and other factors. These variables are affected by both external and internal events, such as: changes in the economic cycle, changes in the social perception of the value of work, emerging medical perceptions regarding physiological or psychological causes of disability, emerging health issues and new methods of treatment or accommodation, inflation, judicial trends, legislative changes and claims handling procedures.

Many of these items are not directly quantifiable, particularly on a prospective basis. Reserve estimates are refined as experience develops. Adjustments to reserves, both positive and negative, are reflected in the statement of operations in the period in which such estimates are updated. Because establishment of reserves is an inherently uncertain process involving estimates of future losses, there can be no certainty that ultimate losses will not exceed existing claims reserves. Future loss development could require reserves to be increased, which could have a material adverse effect on our earnings in the periods in which such increases are made. However, based on information currently available, we believe our reserve estimates are adequate.

Long Duration Contracts

The Company's long duration contracts include preneed life insurance policies and annuity contracts, traditional life insurance policies no longer offered, universal life and annuities no longer offered, Fortis Financial Group (FFG) and Long Term Care (LTC) contracts disposed and medical policies. Future policy benefits and expense reserves on LTC life insurance policies and annuity contracts that are no longer offered, a majority of individual medical policies issued prior to 2003, a limited number of individual medical contracts issued from 2003 through 2006 in certain jurisdictions, individual voluntary limited benefit health policies issued in 2007 and later and the traditional life insurance contracts within FFG are reported at the present value of future benefits to be paid to policyholders and related expenses less the present value of the future net premiums. These amounts are estimated and include assumptions as to the expected investment yield, inflation, mortality, morbidity and withdrawal rates as well as other assumptions that are based on the Company's experience. These assumptions reflect anticipated trends and include provisions for possible unfavorable deviations.

Future policy benefits and expense reserves for preneed funeral investment-type annuities, universal life insurance policies and investment-type annuity contracts no longer offered, and the variable life insurance and investment-type annuity contracts in FFG consist of policy account balances before applicable surrender charges and certain deferred policy initiation fees that are being recognized in income over the terms of the policies. Policy benefits charged to expense during the period include amounts paid in excess of policy account balances and interest credited to policy account balances.

F-14

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Future policy benefits and expense reserves for preneed life insurance contracts are reported at the present value of future benefits to policyholders and related expenses less the present value of future net premiums. Reserve assumptions are selected using best estimates for expected investment yield, inflation, mortality and withdrawal rates. These assumptions reflect current trends, are based on Company experience and include provision for possible unfavorable deviation. An unearned revenue reserve is also recorded for these contracts which represents the balance of the excess of gross premiums over net premiums that is still to be recognized in future years' income in a constant relationship to insurance in force.

For worksite group disability, which typically has high front-end costs and are expected to remain in-force for an extended period of time, the case reserves and incurred but not reported (IBNR) reserves are recorded at an amount equal to the net present value of the expected future claims payments. Worksite group disability reserves are discounted to the valuation date at the valuation interest rate. The valuation interest rate is reviewed quarterly by taking into consideration actual and expected earned rates on our asset portfolio.

Changes in the estimated liabilities are reported as a charge or credit to policyholder benefits as the estimates are revised.

Short Duration Contracts

The Company's short duration contracts include group term life contracts, group disability contracts, medical contracts, dental contracts, property and warranty contracts, credit life and disability contracts, extended service contracts, and all other. For short duration contracts, claims and benefits payable reserves are recorded when insured events occur. The liability is based on the expected ultimate cost of settling the claims. The claims and benefits payable reserves include (1) case reserves for known but unpaid claims as of the balance sheet date; (2) IBNR reserves for claims where the insured event has occurred but has not been reported to the Company as of the balance sheet date; and (3) loss adjustment expense reserves for the expected handling costs of settling the claims.

For group disability, the case and IBNR reserves are recorded at an amount equal to the net present value of the expected future claims payments. Group long-term disability and group term life waiver of premiums reserves are discounted to the valuation date at the valuation interest rate. The valuation interest rate is reviewed quarterly by taking into consideration actual and expected earned rates on our asset portfolio. Group long term disability and group term life reserve adequacy studies are performed annually, and morbidity and mortality assumptions are adjusted where appropriate.

The Company has exposure to asbestos, environmental and other general liability claims arising from its participation in various reinsurance pools from 1971 through 1985. This exposure arose from a short duration contract that the company discontinued writing many years ago. The

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Company carries case reserves for these liabilities as recommended by the various pool managers and IBNR reserves. Any estimation of these liabilities is subject to greater than normal variation and uncertainty due to the general lack of sufficient detailed data, reporting delays, and absence of generally accepted actuarial methodology for determining the exposures. There are significant unresolved industry legal issues, including such items as whether coverage exists and what constitutes an occurrence. In addition, the determination of ultimate damages and the final allocation of losses to financially responsible parties are highly uncertain.

Changes in the estimated liabilities are recorded as a charge or credit to policyholder benefits as estimates are revised. Amounts reimbursed by the National Flood Insurance Program for processing and adjudication services are reported as a reduction of policyholder benefits.

F-15

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Deferred Gain on Disposal of Businesses

The Company recorded a deferred gain on disposal of businesses utilizing reinsurance. On March 1, 2000, the Company sold its LTC business using a coinsurance contract. On April 2, 2001, the Company sold its FFG business using a modified coinsurance contract. Since the form of sale did not discharge the Company's primary liability to the insureds, the gain on these disposals was deferred and reported as a liability. The liability is decreased and recognized as revenue over the estimated life of the contracts' terms. The Company reviews and evaluates the estimates affecting the deferred gain on disposal of businesses annually or when significant information affecting the estimates becomes known to the Company.

Debt

The Company reports debt net of unamortized discount or premium. Interest expense related to debt is expensed as incurred.

The Company reports mandatorily redeemable preferred stock equal to its redemption value.

Premiums

Long Duration Contracts

Currently, the Company's long duration contracts being sold are preneed life insurance, worksite group disability and life insurance. The preneed life insurance policies include provisions for death benefit growth that is either pegged to the changes in the Consumer Price Index or determined periodically at the discretion of management. For preneed life insurance policies, revenues are recognized when due from policyholders. For preneed investment-type annuity contracts, revenues consist of charges assessed against policy balances. Revenues are recognized when earned on the worksite group disability and life insurance.

For a majority of individual medical contracts issued prior to 2003, a limited number of individual medical contracts currently issued from 2003 through 2006 in certain jurisdictions, individual voluntary limited benefit health policies issued in 2007 and later and traditional life insurance

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

contracts previously sold by the preneed business but no longer offered, revenue is recognized when due from policyholders.

For universal life insurance and investment-type annuity contracts previously sold by the Solutions segment but no longer offered, revenues consist of charges assessed against policy balances.

Premiums for LTC insurance and traditional life insurance contracts within FFG are recognized as revenue when due from the policyholder. For universal life insurance and investment-type annuity contracts within FFG, revenues consist of charges assessed against policy balances. For the FFG and LTC businesses previously sold, all revenue is ceded.

Short Duration Contracts

The Company's short duration contracts are those on which the Company recognizes revenue on a pro-rata basis over the contract term. The Company's short duration contracts primarily include group term life, group disability, medical, dental, property and warranty, credit life and disability, and extended service contracts and individual medical contracts issued from 2003 through 2006 in most jurisdictions and 2007 and in all jurisdictions after 2006.

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Reinstatement premiums for reinsurance are netted against net earned premiums and other considerations in the statement of operations.

Fees and Other Income

The Company derives fee income primarily from providing administrative services. Fee income is recognized when services are performed.

Dealer obligor service contracts are sales in which the retailer/dealer is designated as the obligor (administrative service-only plans). For these contract sales, the Company recognizes administrative fee revenue on a straight-line pro-rata basis over the terms of the service contract.

Administrator obligor service contracts are sales in which the Company is designated as the obligor. The Company recognizes and reports administration fees related to these contracts as earned on the same basis as the premium is recognized or on a straight-line pro-rata basis. Administration fees related to the unexpired portion of the contract term are deferred. Acquisition costs related to these contracts are also deferred. Both the deferred administration fees and acquisition costs are amortized over the term of the contracts.

A legal settlement, relating to a contract dispute, was awarded to Assurant Solutions in the fourth quarter of 2006 in the amount of \$62,278, which is included in fees and other income.

Underwriting, General and Administrative Expenses

Underwriting, general and administrative expenses consist primarily of commissions, premium taxes, licenses, fees, amortization of DAC and VOBA, salaries and personnel benefits and other general operating expenses. These expenses are recorded as incurred.

Leases

The Company records expenses for operating leases on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Contingencies

The Company follows SFAS No. 5, *Accounting for Contingencies* (FAS 5), which requires the Company to evaluate each contingent matter separately. A loss contingency is recorded if reasonably estimable and probable. The Company establishes reserves for these contingencies at the best estimate, or if no one estimated number within the range of possible losses is more probable than any other, the Company records an estimated reserve at the low end of the estimated range. Contingencies affecting the Company primarily relate to litigation matters which are inherently difficult to evaluate and are subject to significant changes. The Company believes the contingent amounts recorded are adequate and reasonable.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements Adopted

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted Statement of Position No. 05-1, *Accounting by Insurance Enterprises for Deferred Acquisition Costs in Connection with Modifications or Exchanges of Insurance Contracts* (SOP 05-1). SOP 05-1 provides guidance on internal replacements of insurance and investment

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

contracts. An internal replacement is a modification in product benefits, features, rights or coverages that occurs by the exchange of a contract for a new contract or by amendment, endorsement, or rider to a contract, or by the election of a feature or coverage within a contract. Modifications that result in a new contract that is substantially different from the replaced contract are accounted for as an extinguishment of the replaced contract, and the associated unamortized DAC, unearned revenue liabilities and deferred sales inducements from the replaced contract must be reported as an expense immediately. Modifications resulting in a new contract that is substantially the same as the replaced contract are accounted for as a continuation of the replaced contract. Prior to the adoption of the SOP 05-1, certain internal replacements that did meet new criteria were accounted for as continuations of the replaced contract. Therefore, the accounting policy for certain internal replacements has changed as a result of the adoption of SOP 05-1. At adoption, the Company recognized a \$6,560 decrease to deferred acquisition costs and a corresponding decrease of \$4,264 (after-tax) to retained earnings.

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (FAS) No. 155, *Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments* an amendment of FASB Statements No. 133 and 140 (FAS 155). FAS 155 resolves issues addressed in FAS 133 Implementation Issue No. D1, *Application of Statement 133 to Beneficial Interest in Securitized Financial Assets*. FAS 155 (a) permits fair value remeasurement for any hybrid financial instrument that contains an embedded derivative that otherwise would require bifurcation; (b) clarifies which interest-only strips and principal-only strips are not subject to the requirements of FAS 133; (c) establishes a requirement to evaluate beneficial interests in securitized financial assets to identify interests that are freestanding derivatives or that are hybrid financial instruments that contain an embedded derivative requiring bifurcation; (d) clarifies that concentrations of credit risk in the form of subordination are not embedded derivatives; and (e) eliminates restrictions on a qualifying special-purpose entity's ability to hold passive derivative financial instruments that pertain to beneficial interests that are or contain a derivative financial instrument. FAS 155 also requires presentation within the consolidated financial statements that identifies those hybrid financial instruments for which the fair value election has been applied and information on the statement of operations impact of the changes in fair value of those instruments. The adoption of FAS 155 did not have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 (FIN 48). As a result of the adoption, the Company recognized a \$1,508 increase to the liability for unrecognized tax benefits, and a corresponding reduction to the January 1, 2007 balance of retained earnings. See Note 8 for further information regarding the adoption of FIN 48.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted

In September 2006, the FASB issued FAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (FAS 157). FAS 157 defines fair value, addresses how companies should measure fair value when they are required to use a fair value measure for recognition or disclosure purposes under GAAP, and expands disclosures about 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. The Company is required to adopt FAS 157 on January 1, 2008. FAS 157 will be applied prospectively as of January 1, 2008 except for certain financial instruments that were measured at fair value using a transaction price. For these financial instruments, FAS 157 requires limited retrospective adoption and thus the difference between carrying amounts and the fair values of

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

the relevant financial instruments will be shown as a cumulative-effect adjustment to January 1, 2008 retained earnings. The adoption of FAS 157, including the limited retrospective adoption, will not have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

F-18

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

In February 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (FAS 159). FAS 159 provides a choice to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value on specified election dates and requires disclosures about the election of the fair value option. Unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected are reported in earnings. FAS 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is required to adopt FAS 159 on January 1, 2008. The Company has chosen not to elect the fair value option for any financial or non-financial instruments as of the adoption date, thus the adoption of FAS 159 will not have an impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In March 2007, the FASB ratified the consensus reached by the Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) in Issue No. 06-10, *Accounting for Deferred Compensation and Postretirement Benefit Aspects of Collateral Assignment Split-Dollar Life Insurance Arrangements* (EITF 06-10). EITF 06-10 provides guidance regarding the employer's recognition of the liability and the related compensation costs for collateral assignment split-dollar life insurance arrangements that provide a benefit to an employee that extends into postretirement periods. This consensus concludes that for a collateral assignment split-dollar life insurance arrangement, an employer should recognize a liability for future benefits in accordance with FASB Statement No. 106, *Employers' Accounting For Postretirement Benefits Other-Than-Pensions*, (if, in substance, a postretirement benefit plan exists) or Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 12, *Deferred Compensation Contracts*, (APB 12) (if the arrangement is, in substance, an individual deferred compensation contract) based on the substantive agreement with the employee. EITF 06-10 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2007 and therefore the Company is required to adopt EITF 06-10 on January 1, 2008. The Company has been recording the liability for future benefits in accordance with APB 12 and thus the adoption of EITF 06-10 will not have an impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 141R, *Business Combinations* (FAS 141R). FAS 141R replaces FASB Statement No. 141, *Business Combinations* (FAS 141). FAS 141R retains the fundamental requirements in FAS 141 that the purchase method of accounting be used for all business combinations, that an acquirer be identified for each business combination and for goodwill to be recognized and measured as a residual. FAS 141R expands the definition of transactions and events that qualify as business combinations to all transactions and other events in which one entity obtains control over one or more other businesses. FAS 141R broadens the fair value measurement and recognition of assets acquired, liabilities assumed, and interests transferred as a result of business combinations. FAS 141R also increases the disclosure requirements for business combinations in the financial statements. FAS 141R is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2008. Therefore, the Company is required to adopt FAS 141R on January 1, 2009. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of FAS 141R and the potential impact on the Company's financial position and results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 160, *Non-controlling Interest in Consolidated Financial Statements - an amendment of ARB No. 51* (FAS 160). FAS 160 requires that a non-controlling interest in a subsidiary be separately reported within equity and the amount of consolidated net income attributable to the non-controlling interest be presented in the statement of operations. FAS 160 also calls for consistency in reporting changes in the parent's ownership interest in a subsidiary and necessitates fair value measurement of any non-controlling equity investment retained in a deconsolidation. FAS 160 is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2008. Therefore, the Company is required to adopt FAS 160 on January 1, 2009. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of FAS 160 and the potential impact on the Company's financial position and results of operations.

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

In February 2008, the FASB issued Financial Statement of Position FAS 157-2 (FSP FAS 157-2). FSP FAS 157-2 defers the effective date of FAS 157 for all non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured on a non-recurring basis to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Therefore, the Company is required to adopt the FAS 157 requirements for its non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured on a non-recurring basis on January 1, 2009. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of FAS 157 for its non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured on a non-recurring basis and the potential impact on the Company's financial position and results of operations.

3. Business Acquisitions

During 2007 and 2006, the Company made several acquisitions with available cash. The major transactions are:

On October 1, 2007, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of Centrepoint Insurance Services Limited (Centrepoint), a privately held company in the United Kingdom (U.K.). In connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded approximately \$36,000 of other intangible assets, all of which are amortizable and approximately \$37,000 of goodwill. Centrepoint is a leading insurance broker of buildings and contents and mortgage payment protection insurance to financial intermediaries in the U.K., through its 4,200 mortgage-broker network.

On July 12, 2007, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of Swansure Group (Swansure), a privately held company in the U.K. In connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded approximately \$28,000 of other intangible assets, all of which are amortizable and approximately \$4,000 of goodwill. Swansure owns D&D Homecare Limited and Adminicle Limited. D&D Homecare is an insurance broker that designs and distributes general insurance products, including mortgage payment protection and buildings and contents insurance. Adminicle Limited provides a range of insurance administration and outsourcing services.

On July 1, 2007, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of Mayflower National Life Insurance Company (Mayflower). Mayflower is a leading provider of preneed insurance products and services. There was no goodwill or intangible assets associated with this acquisition.

On May 1, 2006, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding common stock of Safeco Financial Institution Solutions, Inc. (SFIS) from Safeco Corporation. Additionally, during 2007, the Company made certain payments to SFIS, based on contingencies reached, that were negotiated as part of the acquisition. In connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded approximately \$29,000 in total of other intangible assets, all of which are amortizable. SFIS was the largest provider of creditor-placed homeowners insurance and direct tracking services for mortgage lenders and servicers nationwide. The Company also entered into a reinsurance agreement with certain Safeco Insurance

Companies.

4. Business Disposition

The Company's results of operations were affected by the following disposition:

On November 9, 2005, the Company signed an agreement with Forethought Life Insurance Company (Forethought) to sell through reinsurance new preneed insurance policies written as of October 1, 2005 in the U.S. via independent funeral homes and funeral home chains other-than-those owned and operated by Service Corporation International (SCI). In June 2007, the Company received a contract settlement fee of \$5,300 from Forethought which is recorded in fees and other income in the statement of operations. This agreement does not impact preneed's Independent Canada operation or SCI distribution channels.

F-20

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)****5. Investments**

The cost or amortized cost, gross unrealized gains and losses and fair value of fixed maturity and equity securities at December 31, 2007 are as follows:

	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Fixed maturity securities:				
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 287,064	\$ 10,236	\$ (22)	\$ 297,278
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	630,196	16,931	(578)	646,549
Foreign governments	680,097	28,815	(4,666)	704,246
Public utilities	1,152,023	32,265	(10,541)	1,173,747
Mortgage-backed securities	1,014,009	12,672	(6,067)	1,020,614
All other corporate	6,262,966	143,166	(122,151)	6,283,981
Total fixed maturity securities	\$ 10,026,355	\$ 244,085	\$ (144,025)	\$ 10,126,415
Equity securities:				
Industrial, miscellaneous and all other	\$ 21,193	\$ 1,283	\$	\$ 22,476
Non-sinking fund preferred stocks	681,505	3,830	(71,810)	613,525
Total equity securities	\$ 702,698	\$ 5,113	\$ (71,810)	\$ 636,001

The cost or amortized cost, gross unrealized gains and losses and fair value of fixed maturity and equity securities at December 31, 2006 are as follows:

	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Fixed maturity securities:				
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 324,745	\$ 4,836	\$ (2,118)	\$ 327,463
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	221,078	15,723	(372)	236,429
Foreign governments	631,740	24,071	(3,149)	652,662
Public utilities	1,074,962	38,003	(8,798)	1,104,167
Mortgage-backed securities	1,213,934	4,843	(12,180)	1,206,597

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

All other corporate	5,467,558	168,411	(45,238)	5,590,731
Total fixed maturity securities	\$ 8,934,017	\$ 255,887	\$ (71,855)	\$ 9,118,049
Equity securities:				
Banks, trusts and insurance companies	\$ 186	\$	\$ (30)	\$ 156
Industrial, miscellaneous and all other	505	377	(2)	880
Non-sinking fund preferred stocks	734,875	14,070	(8,342)	740,603
Total equity securities	\$ 735,566	\$ 14,447	\$ (8,374)	\$ 741,639

F-21

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The cost or amortized cost and fair value of fixed maturity securities at December 31, 2007 by contractual maturity are shown below. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because issuers of the securities may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

	Cost or Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 401,325	\$ 401,274
Due after one year through five years	2,122,363	2,154,051
Due after five years through ten years	2,496,531	2,496,331
Due after ten years	3,992,127	4,054,145
Total	9,012,346	9,105,801
Mortgage-backed securities	1,014,009	1,020,614
Total	\$ 10,026,355	\$ 10,126,415

Major categories of net investment income are as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Fixed maturity securities	\$ 564,369	\$ 517,744	\$ 499,950
Equity securities	47,264	49,779	45,621
Commercial mortgage loans on real estate	91,702	90,000	85,942
Policy loans	3,967	3,669	3,699
Short-term investments	17,327	11,575	7,774
Other investments	59,998	57,836	52,295
Cash and cash equivalents	40,026	30,836	16,542
Total investment income	824,653	761,439	711,823
Investment expenses	(25,580)	(24,753)	(24,566)
Net investment income	\$ 799,073	\$ 736,686	\$ 687,257

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

No material investments of the Company were non-income producing for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005.

The net realized (losses) gains recorded in the statement of operations for 2007, 2006 and 2005 are summarized as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Fixed maturity securities	\$ (45,588)	\$ (147)	\$ (8,627)
Equity securities	(27,248)	(3,742)	(2,929)
Total marketable securities	(72,836)	(3,889)	(11,556)
Real estate		(232)	
Other	10,616	115,986(1)	19,791
Total	\$ (62,220)	\$ 111,865	\$ 8,235

(1) Includes a \$98,342 realized gain relating to the sale of PHCS.

F-22

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Proceeds from sales of available for sale securities were \$2,317,094, \$2,201,923 and \$1,817,288 during 2007, 2006 and 2005 respectively. Gross gains of \$29,874, \$33,511 and \$31,789 and gross losses of \$54,526, \$36,590 and \$42,580 were realized on dispositions in 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively. For securities sold at a loss during 2007, the average period of time these securities were trading continuously below book value was approximately 14 months.

We recorded \$48,184, \$810 and \$765 of pre-tax realized losses in 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively, associated with other-than-temporary declines in value of available for sale securities.

Over the last six months of 2007 the fixed maturity security and equity security markets have experienced significant volatility. This volatility has primarily been due to declines in the housing market, credit availability, as well as a general economic slowdown. As a result, certain securities directly exposed to these factors have had market value declines.

In connection with this volatility, we recorded \$6,699 and \$41,485 of pre-tax other-than-temporary impairments during the three months ended September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2007, respectively. Included in these amounts are \$31,908, \$6,721, \$2,201 and \$1,309 related to banks and financial institutions, real estate investment trusts, paper/forestry companies and home builders, respectively.

The investment category and duration of the Company's gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities and equity securities at December 31, 2007 are as follows:

	Less than 12 months		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed maturity securities:						
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 1,108	\$ (1)	\$ 10,189	\$ (21)	\$ 11,297	\$ (22)
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	98,544	(525)	6,031	(53)	104,575	(578)
Foreign governments	99,985	(2,966)	47,285	(1,700)	147,270	(4,666)
Public utilities	317,542	(6,436)	114,001	(4,105)	431,543	(10,541)
Mortgage-backed securities	102,488	(3,277)	224,233	(2,790)	326,721	(6,067)
All other corporate	2,125,337	(89,862)	699,116	(32,289)	2,824,453	(122,151)
Total fixed maturity securities	\$ 2,745,004	\$ (103,067)	\$ 1,100,855	\$ (40,958)	\$ 3,845,859	\$ (144,025)

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Equity securities:

Non-sinking fund preferred stocks	\$ 399,160	\$ (58,427)	\$ 106,487	\$ (13,383)	\$ 505,647	\$ (71,810)
-----------------------------------	------------	-------------	------------	-------------	------------	-------------

F-23

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The investment category and duration of the Company's gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities and equity securities at December 31, 2006 were as follows:

	Less than 12 months(1)		12 Months or More(1)		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed maturity securities:						
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 133,225	\$ (263)	\$ 79,848	\$ (1,855)	\$ 213,073	\$ (2,118)
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	15,201	(133)	15,620	(239)	30,821	(372)
Foreign governments	121,920	(913)	138,270	(2,236)	260,190	(3,149)
Public utilities	228,829	(3,360)	163,367	(5,438)	392,196	(8,798)
Mortgage-backed securities	298,664	(1,788)	514,961	(10,392)	813,625	(12,180)
All other corporate	1,353,284	(18,148)	1,033,966	(27,090)	2,387,250	(45,238)
Total fixed maturity securities	\$ 2,151,123	\$ (24,605)	\$ 1,946,032	\$ (47,250)	\$ 4,097,155	\$ (71,855)
Equity securities:						
Banks, trusts and insurance companies	\$ 124	\$ (1)	\$ 16	\$ (29)	\$ 140	\$ (30)
Industrial, miscellaneous and all other	102	(2)			102	(2)
Non-sinking fund preferred stocks	187,516	(3,768)	127,657	(4,574)	315,173	(8,342)
Total equity securities	\$ 187,742	\$ (3,771)	\$ 127,673	\$ (4,603)	\$ 315,415	\$ (8,374)

- (1) Certain unrealized losses, which were previously classified in less than 12 months, have been appropriately classified as 12 months or more in 2007 with conforming changes in 2006.

The total unrealized losses represent less than 5% and 2% of the aggregate fair value of the related securities at December 31, 2007 and 2006. Approximately 75% and 35% of our total unrealized losses have been in a continuous loss position for less than twelve months in 2007 and 2006, respectively. As discussed previously, the financial markets have experienced considerable volatility over the last six months of 2007. Due to this fact, securities in an unrealized loss position for less than 12 months, has increased significantly in 2007, compared with 2006. The total unrealized losses are comprised of 1,282 and 1,394 individual securities with 77% and 94% of the individual securities having an unrealized loss of less than \$200 in 2007 and 2006, respectively. The total unrealized losses on securities that were in a continuous unrealized loss position for greater than six months but less than 12 months were approximately \$115,926 and \$12,377 in 2007 and 2006, respectively. At December 31, 2007, 27% of the unrealized losses for fixed maturity and equity securities were concentrated in the banking industry with no exposure to any single issuer in the banking industry in excess of 3% of total unrealized losses.

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The cost or amortized cost and fair value of available for sale fixed maturity securities in an unrealized loss position at December 31, 2007, by contractual maturity, is shown below:

	Cost or Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 178,960	\$ 177,630
Due after one year through five years	541,439	529,038
Due after five years through ten years	1,151,566	1,115,669
Due after ten years	1,785,131	1,696,801
Total	3,657,096	3,519,138
Mortgage-backed securities	332,788	326,721
Total	\$ 3,989,884	\$ 3,845,859

As part of the Company's ongoing monitoring process, the Company regularly reviews its investment portfolio to ensure that investments that may be other-than-temporarily impaired are identified on a timely basis and that any other-than-temporary impairment is charged against earnings in the proper period. The Company has reviewed these securities and recorded \$48,184, \$810 and \$765 of other than temporary impairments as of December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Due to issuers' continued satisfaction of the securities' obligations in accordance with their contractual terms and their continued expectations to do so, as well as the Company's evaluation of the fundamentals of the issuers' financial condition, the Company believes that the prices of the securities in an unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2007 in the sectors discussed above were temporarily depressed primarily as a result of the prevailing level of interest rates at the time the securities were purchased. The Company has the ability and intent to hold these assets until the date of recovery.

The following table represents our exposure to sub-prime and related mortgages within our fixed maturity portfolio as well as the current net unrealized (loss) position at December 31, 2007.

	Market Value	Percentage of Portfolio (in thousands)	Net Unrealized (Loss) Gain
Fixed maturity portfolio:			
Sub-prime first lien mortgages	\$ 52,918	0.52%	\$ (2,405)
Second lien mortgages (including sub-prime second lien mortgages)	24,644	0.25%	91

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Total exposure to sub-prime collateral	\$ 77,562	0.77%	\$ (2,314)
--	-----------	-------	------------

F-25

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The following table represents our exposure to sub-prime and related mortgages within our fixed maturity portfolio as well as the current net unrealized gain position at December 31, 2006.

	Market Value	Percentage of Portfolio (in thousands)	Net Unrealized Gain (Loss)
Fixed maturity portfolio:			
Sub-prime first lien mortgages	\$ 110,475	1.21%	\$ 116
Second lien mortgages (including sub-prime second lien mortgages)	37,930	0.42%	(21)
Alt-A mortgages	3,447	0.04%	
Total exposure to sub-prime collateral	\$ 151,852	1.67%	\$ 95

Approximately 7.6 % and 12.6% of the mortgage-backed securities had exposure to sub-prime mortgage collateral at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. This represents 0.8% and 1.7% of the total fixed maturity portfolio and 1.6% and zero of the total unrealized loss position of the fixed maturity portfolio at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Of the securities with sub-prime exposure, all are investment grade rated. We have no sub-prime exposure to collateralized debt obligations as of December 31, 2007. All mortgage-backed securities, including those with sub-prime exposure, are reviewed as part of the ongoing other-than-temporary impairment monitoring process.

The Company has made commercial mortgage loans, collateralized by the underlying real estate, on properties located throughout the U.S. and Canada. At December 31, 2007, approximately 38.4% of the outstanding principal balance of commercial mortgage loans was concentrated in the states of California, New York, and Washington. Although the Company has a diversified loan portfolio, an economic downturn could have an adverse impact on the ability of its debtors to repay their loans. The outstanding balance of commercial mortgage loans range in size from \$10 to \$18,627 at December 31, 2007 and from \$23 to \$17,768 at December 31, 2006. The mortgage loan valuation allowance for losses was \$5,290 and \$4,753 at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

At December 31, 2007, loan commitments outstanding totaled approximately \$30,910. Furthermore, at December 31, 2007, the Company is committed to fund additional capital contributions of \$25,000 to joint ventures and to certain investments in limited partnerships.

The Company has short term investments and fixed maturity securities of \$514,885 and \$392,397 at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, on deposit with various governmental authorities as required by law.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Company utilizes derivative instruments in managing the Solutions segment pre-arranged funeral business exposure to inflation risk. The derivative instruments, Consumer Price Index Caps (the "CPI CAPs"), limits the inflation risk on certain policies. The CPI CAPs do not qualify under GAAP as effective hedges; therefore, they are marked-to-market on a quarterly basis and the accumulated gain or loss is recognized in the statement of operations in fees and other income. As of December 31, 2007 and 2006, the CPI CAPs included in other assets amounted to \$7,560 and \$7,400, respectively. The gain/(loss) recorded in the results of operations totaled \$160, (\$2,580) and (\$1,795) for the periods ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

F-26

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Securities Lending

The Company engages in transactions in which fixed maturity securities, especially bonds issued by the United States Government, Government Agencies and Authorities, and U.S. Corporations, are loaned to selected broker/dealers. Collateral, greater than or equal to 102% of the fair value of the securities lent plus accrued interest, is received in the form of cash and cash equivalents held by a custodian bank for the benefit of the Company. The Company monitors the fair value of securities loaned and the collateral received, with additional collateral obtained as necessary. The Company is subject to the risk of loss to the extent there is a loss in the investment of cash collateral. At December 31, 2007 and 2006, securities with a fair value of \$529,461 and \$356,839, respectively, were on loan to select broker/dealers and are included in the Company's available for sale investments. At December 31, 2007 and 2006, collateral with a loan value, which approximates fair value of \$541,650 and \$365,958, respectively, is included in the Company's assets with offsetting liabilities.

6. Fair Value Disclosures

FAS No. 107, *Disclosures About Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, (FAS 107) requires disclosure of fair value information about financial instruments, as defined therein, for which it is practicable to estimate such fair value. These financial instruments may or may not be recognized in the consolidated balance sheets. These derived fair value estimates are significantly affected by the assumptions used. Additionally, FAS 107 excludes certain financial instruments including those related to insurance contracts from being disclosed.

Fair values for fixed maturity securities, equity securities, collateral held and obligations under securities lending, separate account assets (with matching liabilities) and invested assets related to a modified coinsurance arrangement and the AIP are obtained from an independent pricing service which uses observable market information. In the measurement of the fair value of certain financial instruments, other valuation techniques were utilized if quoted market prices were not available.

In estimating the fair value of the financial instruments presented, the Company used the following methods and assumptions:

Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments: the carrying amount reported approximates fair value because of the short maturity of the instruments.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Fixed maturity securities: the fair value for fixed maturity securities, which include both public and 144A securities, is primarily based on matrix pricing models or, in the case of private placements, excluding 144A securities, is estimated by discounting expected future cash flows using a current market rate applicable to the yield, credit quality, and maturity of the investments.

Equity securities: the fair value of mutual funds is based upon quoted market prices. The fair value of preferred stocks is primarily based on matrix pricing models.

Commercial mortgage loans and policy loans: the fair values of mortgage loans are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based on interest rates currently being offered for similar loans to borrowers with similar credit ratings. Mortgage loans with similar characteristics are aggregated for purposes of the calculations. The carrying amounts of policy loans reported in the balance sheets approximate fair value.

Other investments: the fair values of joint ventures are based on financial statements provided by partnerships or members. The invested assets related to a modified coinsurance arrangement are classified as

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

trading securities and are reported at fair value, which are primarily based on matrix pricing models. The invested assets related to the AIP are classified as trading securities and are reported at fair value, which are based on quoted market prices. The carrying amounts of the remaining other investments approximate fair value.

Collateral and obligations under securities lending: the carrying amount reported approximates fair value because of the short duration of the investments.

Policy reserves under investment products: the fair values for the Company's policy reserves under the investment products are determined using cash surrender value.

Separate account assets and liabilities: separate account assets are reported at their estimated fair values (with the matching liabilities), which are primarily based on quoted market prices.

Funds held under reinsurance: the carrying amount reported approximates fair value due to the short maturity of the instruments.

Debt: the fair value of debt is based upon quoted market prices.

Mandatorily redeemable preferred stock: the fair value of mandatorily redeemable preferred stock equals the carrying value for all series of mandatorily redeemable preferred stock.

	December 31, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 804,964	\$ 804,964	\$ 987,672	\$ 987,672
Fixed maturity securities	10,126,415	10,126,415	9,118,049	9,118,049
Equity securities	636,001	636,001	741,639	741,639
Commercial mortgage loans on real estate	1,433,626	1,480,146	1,266,158	1,302,448
Policy loans	57,107	57,107	58,733	58,733
Short-term investments	410,878	410,878	314,114	314,114

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Other investments	541,474	541,474	564,494	564,494
Assets held in separate accounts	3,143,288	3,143,288	3,298,543	3,298,543
Collateral held under securities lending	541,650	541,650	365,958	365,958
Financial liabilities				
Policy reserves under investment products				
(Individual and group annuities, subject to discretionary withdrawal)	\$ 868,775	\$ 765,572	\$ 730,862	\$ 723,669
Funds held under reinsurance	50,147	50,147	49,980	49,980
Debt	971,863	942,043	971,774	1,018,966
Mandatorily redeemable preferred stocks	21,160	21,160	22,160	22,160
Liabilities related to separate accounts	3,143,288	3,143,288	3,298,543	3,298,543
Obligations under securities lending	541,650	541,650	365,958	365,958

The fair value of the Company's liabilities for insurance contracts other-than-investment-type contracts are not required to be disclosed. However, the fair values of liabilities under all insurance contracts are taken into consideration in the Company's overall management of interest rate risk, such that the Company's exposure to changing interest rates is minimized through the matching of investment maturities with amounts due under insurance contracts.

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)****7. Premiums and Accounts Receivable**

Receivables are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible amounts. A summary of such receivables is as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2007	2006
Insurance premiums receivable	\$ 348,160	\$ 368,552
Other receivables	249,039	267,046
Allowance for uncollectible amounts	(16,820)	(23,587)
Total	\$ 580,379	\$ 612,011

8. Income Taxes

The Company and the majority of its subsidiaries are subject to U.S. tax and file a U.S. consolidated federal income tax return. Information about current and deferred tax expense follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Current expense:			
Federal & State	\$ 277,993	\$ 283,762	\$ 44,235
Foreign	13,991	11,691	9,228
Total current expense	291,984	295,453	53,463
Deferred expense (benefit)			
Federal & State	82,551	89,459	126,076
Foreign	(17,241)	(5,041)	(3,286)
Total deferred expense	65,310	84,418	122,790
Total income tax expense	\$ 357,294	\$ 379,871	\$ 176,253

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The provision for foreign taxes includes amounts attributable to income from U.S. possessions that are considered foreign under U.S. tax laws. International operations of the Company are subject to income taxes imposed by the jurisdiction in which they operate.

F-29

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

A reconciliation of the federal income tax rate to the Company's effective income tax rate follows:

	December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Federal income tax rate:	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
Reconciling items:			
Tax exempt interest	(0.5)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Dividends received deduction	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.6)
Permanent nondeductible expenses	0.2	0.1	0.3
Change in liability for prior year taxes	0.9	0.3	(4.8)
Tax on Jobs Act repatriation			(1.2)
Foreign earnings	0.8	0.1	1.3
Foreign tax credit	(0.8)	(0.5)	(1.6)
Low-income housing credit	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.4)
Low-income housing adjustments		0.1	0.3
Valuation allowance	(0.5)	0.2	
Other	0.7	0.3	(1.2)
Effective income tax rate:	35.3%	34.7%	26.9%

Pursuant to the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (The Jobs Act), in December 2004 the Company repatriated \$110,066 from its Puerto Rico subsidiaries and incurred \$18,887 of tax expense. Due to a technical correction to The Jobs Act and the resolution of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Company recaptured \$8,054 of this tax as a tax benefit in 2005. There was no tax impact to the consolidated financial statements in 2006 or 2007 due to The Jobs Act.

The Company adopted the provisions of FIN 48 on January 1, 2007. As a result of the adoption of FIN 48 the Company recognized a \$1,508 increase in the liability for unrecognized tax benefits, which, as required, was accounted for as a reduction to the January 1, 2007, balance of retained earnings. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, not including interest, is as follows:

Balance at January 1, 2007	\$ (28,511)
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	(4,632)
Additions for tax positions of prior years	(13,686)
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	21,360
Lapses	514
Balance at December 31, 2007	\$ (24,955)

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Of the total unrecognized tax benefit, \$19,561, which includes interest, if recognized, would impact the Company's consolidated effective tax rate.

The Company's continuing practice is to recognize interest expense related to income tax matters in income tax expense. During the year ended December 31, 2007, the Company recognized approximately \$3,000 of interest expense related to income tax matters. The Company had approximately \$9,000 for the payment of interest accrued on December 31, 2007.

F-30

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The Company, or one of its subsidiaries, files income tax returns in the U.S. and various state and foreign jurisdictions. The Company has substantially concluded all U.S. federal income tax matters for years through 2004. Substantially all state, local and non-U.S. income tax matters have been concluded for the years through 1999.

During 2005 the Company adjusted tax liabilities for previously provided tax accruals which were no longer considered necessary due to the resolution of IRS audits. As a result of these adjustments, the Company realized tax benefits of \$32,629 for December 31, 2005 and adjusted purchase accounting goodwill by \$18,096 for December 31, 2005.

The tax effects of temporary differences that result in significant deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2007	2006
Deferred Tax Assets		
Policyholder and separate account reserves	\$ 558,616	\$ 420,319
Accrued liabilities	78,469	105,389
Investments, net	20,077	22,072
Loss carryforwards	27,775	20,832
Deferred gain on disposal of businesses	76,386	87,469
Compensation related	31,218	33,695
Employee and post-retirement benefits	43,154	59,990
Total deferred tax asset	835,695	749,766
Less valuation allowance	(4,258)	(8,782)
Net deferred tax asset	\$ 831,437	\$ 740,984
Deferred Tax Liabilities		
Deferred acquisition costs	\$ (834,297)	\$ (661,278)
Net unrealized appreciation on securities	(9,978)	(64,475)
Other	(95,591)	(72,388)
Total deferred tax liability	\$ (939,866)	\$ (798,141)
Net deferred tax liability	\$ (108,429)	\$ (57,157)

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

During 2007, the Company recognized an income tax benefit of \$5,100 primarily due to the reversal of the valuation allowance relating to international subsidiaries. The reversal was the result of management's assessment that the deferred tax asset is considered more likely than not to be realized in future periods. At December 31, 2006 our consolidated financial statements reflected a full valuation allowance against deferred tax assets attributable to certain international subsidiaries.

Other-than-for wholly owned Canadian subsidiaries, deferred taxes have not been provided on the undistributed earnings of wholly owned foreign subsidiaries since the Company intends to indefinitely reinvest the earnings in these other jurisdictions. The cumulative amount of undistributed earnings for which the Company has not provided deferred taxes is approximately \$97,816. Upon distribution of such earnings in a

F-31

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

taxable event, the Company would incur additional U.S. income taxes of approximately \$23,377 net of anticipated foreign tax credits.

At December 31, 2007, the Company and its subsidiaries had net operating loss carry forwards for U.S. federal and foreign income tax purposes. Net operating loss carryforwards total \$83,685 and will expire if unused as follows:

Expiration Year	Amount
2009	\$ 28
2010	558
2012	188
2014	212
2015	269
2016	666
2017	7,693
2018	569
2021	12,933
2022	5,975
2023	6,688
unlimited	47,906
	\$ 83,685

9. Deferred Acquisition Costs

Information about deferred acquisition costs follows:

	December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Beginning balance	\$ 2,397,906	\$ 2,022,308	\$ 1,647,654
Costs deferred and other (1)	1,915,070	1,544,736	1,282,027
Amortization	(1,411,071)	(1,169,138)	(907,373)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle for SOP 05-01	(6,560)		
Ending balance	\$ 2,895,345	\$ 2,397,906	\$ 2,022,308

(1) Includes foreign currency translation

10. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2007	2006
Land	\$ 14,359	\$ 14,359
Buildings and improvements	197,419	190,056
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	375,632	339,401
Total	587,410	543,816
Less accumulated depreciation	(311,631)	(268,615)
Total	\$ 275,779	\$ 275,201

F-32

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Depreciation expense for 2007, 2006 and 2005 amounted to \$55,126, \$48,629 and \$49,901, respectively. Depreciation expense is included in underwriting, general and administrative expenses in the consolidated statements of operations.

11. Goodwill, VOBA and Intangibles

Information about goodwill, VOBA and intangibles is as follows:

	Goodwill for the Years Ended			VOBA for the Years Ended			Intangibles for the Years Ended		
	December 31,			December 31,			December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Beginning Balance	\$ 790,519	\$ 804,864	\$ 823,054	\$ 134,437	\$ 151,512	\$ 170,663	\$ 122,637	\$ 126,382	\$ 58,893
Additions/ (Deletions)	40,702	(14,183)	(340)	9,397	481		73,836	33,774	93,474
Amortization, net of interest accrued				(18,664)	(17,572)	(19,235)	(35,740)	(37,519)	(25,985)
Foreign currency translation and other	1,435	31	246	442	16	84			
Tax adjustments		(193)	(18,096)						
Ending Balance	\$ 832,656	\$ 790,519	\$ 804,864	\$ 125,612	\$ 134,437	\$ 151,512	\$ 160,733	\$ 122,637	\$ 126,382

As prescribed under FAS 142, the Company has assigned goodwill to its reportable operating segments. The Corporate and other segment is not assigned goodwill. Below is a rollforward of goodwill by reportable segment. This assignment of goodwill is performed only for FAS 142 impairment testing purposes.

	Solutions	Specialty Property	Health	Employee Benefits	Consolidated
Balance at December 31, 2005	\$ 159,817	\$ 239,726	\$ 220,243	\$ 185,078	\$ 804,864
Acquisitions/(Dispositions)	1,757		(15,940)		(14,183)
Foreign currency translation and other	(162)				(162)
Balance at December 31, 2006	\$ 161,412	\$ 239,726	\$ 204,303	\$ 185,078	\$ 790,519

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Acquisitions	40,702	40,702
Foreign currency translation and other	1,435	1,435
Balance at December 31, 2007	\$ 203,549	\$ 832,656

As of December 31, 2007, the majority of the outstanding balance of VOBA is from the Company's preneed business which is part of the Solutions segment. VOBA in the preneed business assumes interest rates ranging from 5.4% to 7.5%.

At December 31, 2007 the estimated amortization of VOBA for the next five years and thereafter is as follows:

Year	Amount
2008	\$ 16,572
2009	13,973
2010	12,589
2011	11,190
2012	8,983
Thereafter	62,305
Total	\$ 125,612

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Intangible assets that have finite lives, including customer relationships, customer contracts and other intangible assets, are amortized over their estimated useful lives. At December 31, 2007 the estimated amortization of intangibles with finite lives for the next five years is as follows:

Year	Amount
2008	\$ 26,706
2009	21,962
2010	18,749
2011	16,370
2012	12,209

12. Reserves

The following table provides reserve information by the Company's major lines of business at the dates shown:

	December 31, 2007				December 31, 2006			
	Future Policy Benefits and Expenses	Unearned Premiums	Case Reserve	Incurred But Not Reported Reserves	Future Policy Benefits and Expenses	Unearned Premiums	Case Reserve	Incurred But Not Reported Reserves
Long Duration Contracts:								
Prereed funeral life insurance policies and investment-type annuity contracts	\$ 3,479,115	\$ 3,877	\$ 11,559	\$ 3,991	\$ 3,031,487	\$ 3,339	\$ 10,599	\$ 3,094
Life insurance no longer offered	511,093	765	1,414	509	502,406	784	1,356	467
Universal life and other products no longer offered	307,930	1,689	267	8,211	331,257	1,537	263	8,289
FFG, LTC and other disposed businesses	2,756,059	44,414	270,085	35,406	2,731,285	45,129	262,960	34,743
Medical	130,005	18,564	14,712	30,998	152,954	23,827	34,454	43,602
All other	5,294	316	14,174	6,248	5,085	504	11,532	7,213
Short Duration Contracts:								
Group term life		6,659	231,534	49,509		6,787	243,753	53,221
Group disability		2,806	1,363,098	161,733		2,195	1,362,594	156,296
Medical		109,755	115,198	201,601		95,651	123,736	192,394
Dental		5,035	3,479	17,419		3,796	4,746	19,873
Property and Warranty		1,816,436	192,307	312,091		1,488,253	195,306	296,336
Credit life and disability		494,118	102,151	87,373		494,113	125,909	93,261
Extended service contract		2,768,048	4,606	40,736		2,179,345	3,075	32,462

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

All other		138,227	9,678	12,997		84,633	3,251	3,954
Total	\$ 7,189,496	\$ 5,410,709	\$ 2,334,262	\$ 968,822	\$ 6,754,474	\$ 4,429,893	\$ 2,383,534	\$ 945,205

F-34

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The following table provides a roll forward of the Company's product lines with the most significant short duration claims and benefits payable balances; group term life, group disability, medical and property and warranty lines of business. Claims and benefits payable is comprised of case and IBNR reserves.

	Group Term Life	Group Disability	Short Duration Medical(4)	Long Duration Medical(4)	Property and Warranty(3)
Balance as of December 31, 2004, gross of reinsurance (5)	\$ 320,523	\$ 1,436,369	\$ 353,538	\$ 122,707	\$ 686,494
Less: Reinsurance ceded and other (1)	(36)	(16,633)	(70,547)	(18,327)	(303,572)
Balance as of January 1, 2005, net of reinsurance (5)	320,487	1,419,736	282,991	104,380	382,922
Incurred losses related to:					
Current year	209,667	382,172	1,114,229	335,788	583,837
Prior year's interest	10,635	64,474			
Prior year (s)	(57,401)	(38,018)	(53,192)	(17,632)	19,627(2)
Total incurred losses	162,901	408,628	1,061,037	318,156	603,464
Paid losses related to:					
Current year	127,289	71,780	872,899	259,863	363,547
Prior year (s)	42,686	274,726	207,137	79,817	230,233
Total paid losses	169,975	346,506	1,080,036	339,680	593,780
Balance as of December 31, 2005, net of reinsurance (5)	313,413	1,481,858	263,992	82,856	392,606
Plus: Reinsurance ceded and other (1)	663	17,058	60,114	13,936	554,412
Balance as of December 31, 2005, gross of reinsurance (5)	\$ 314,076	\$ 1,498,916	\$ 324,106	\$ 96,792	\$ 947,018
Less: Reinsurance ceded and other (1)	(663)	(17,058)	(60,114)	(13,936)	(554,412)
Balance as of January 1, 2006, net of reinsurance	313,413	1,481,858	263,992	82,856	392,606
Incurred losses related to:					
Current year	196,388	393,849	1,110,600	280,538	713,943
Prior year's interest	10,217	65,124			
Prior year (s)	(59,882)	(83,206)	(45,629)	(11,668)	(40,597)
Total incurred losses	146,723	375,767	1,064,971	268,870	673,346
Paid losses related to:					
Current year	123,439	69,819	868,805	218,388	508,931
Prior year (s)	40,536	281,807	194,370	63,694	206,556
Total paid losses	163,975	351,626	1,063,175	282,082	715,487
Balance as of December 31, 2006, net of reinsurance (5)	296,161	1,505,999	265,788	69,644	350,465
Plus: Reinsurance ceded and other (1)	813	12,891	50,342	8,412	141,177
Balance as of December 31, 2006, gross of reinsurance (5)	\$ 296,974	\$ 1,518,890	\$ 316,130	\$ 78,056	\$ 491,642

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Less: Reinsurance ceded and other (1)	(813)	(12,891)	(50,342)	(8,412)	(141,177)
Balance as of January 1, 2007, net of reinsurance	296,161	1,505,999	265,788	69,644	350,465
Incurred losses related to:					
Current year	177,561	385,929	1,181,341	199,748	839,672
Prior year s interest	9,738	65,239			
Prior year (s)	(54,683)	(91,216)	(37,902)	(14,564)	(43,923)
Total incurred losses	132,616	359,952	1,143,439	185,184	795,749
Paid losses related to:					
Current year	111,417	75,185	926,074	163,560	598,066
Prior year (s)	37,667	302,334	207,765	49,604	162,844
Total paid losses	149,084	377,519	1,133,839	213,164	760,910
Balance as of December 31, 2007, net of reinsurance (5)	279,693	1,488,432	275,388	41,664	385,304
Plus: Reinsurance ceded and other (1)	1,350	36,399	41,411	4,046	119,094
Balance as of December 31, 2007, gross of reinsurance (5)	\$ 281,043	\$ 1,524,831	\$ 316,799	\$ 45,710	\$ 504,398

F-35

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

- (1) Reinsurance ceded and other includes claims and benefits payable balances that have either been (a) reinsured to third parties, (b) established for claims related expenses whose subsequent payment is not recorded as a paid claim, or (c) reserves established for obligations that would persist even if contracts were cancelled (such as extension of benefits), which cannot be analyzed appropriately under a roll-forward approach.
- (2) The \$19,627 Property and Warranty 2005 reserve deficiency is net of \$61,943 of additional claims and benefits payable in 2005 attributable to certain excess of loss reinsurance programs written from 1995 to 1997 (see Note 26, Commitments and Contingencies for further discussion).
- (3) Certain 2006 amounts which were previously classified in incurred losses related to prior year(s) have been appropriately classified in incurred losses related to current year.
- (4) Short duration and long duration medical methodologies used for settling claims and benefits payable are similar.
- (5) The majority of the Company's credit life and disability claims and benefits payable are ceded to reinsurers. The Company's net retained credit life and disability claims and benefits payable were \$84,139, \$95,529 and \$115,873 at December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

Short Duration Contracts

The Company's short duration contracts are comprised of group term life, group disability, medical, dental, property and warranty, credit life and disability, extended service contracts and all other. The principal products and services included in these categories are described in the summary of significant accounting policies (see Note 2).

Case and IBNR reserves are developed using actuarial principles and assumptions that consider, among other things, contractual requirements, historical utilization trends and payment patterns, benefit changes, medical inflation, seasonality, membership, product mix, legislative and regulatory environment, economic factors, disabled life mortality and claim termination rates and other relevant factors. The Company consistently applies the principles and assumptions listed above from year to year, while also giving due consideration to the potential variability of these factors.

Since case and IBNR reserves include estimates developed from various actuarial methods, the Company's actual losses incurred may be more or less than the Company's previously developed estimates. As shown in the table above, if the amounts listed on the line labeled "Incurred losses related to: Prior years" are negative (redundant) this means that the Company's actual losses incurred related to prior years for these lines were less than the estimates previously made by the Company. If the line labeled "Incurred losses related to: Prior years" are positive (deficient) this means that the Company's actual losses incurred related to prior years for these lines were greater than the estimates previously made by the Company.

Medical reserves established for obligations that would persist even if contracts were cancelled (such as extension of benefits) have been excluded from the incurred loss roll-forwards because they cannot be analyzed appropriately under a roll-forward approach.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Group Term Life case and IBNR reserve redundancies in all years are due to actual mortality rates running below those assumed in prior year reserves, and actual recovery rates running higher than those assumed in prior year reserves.

Group Disability case and IBNR reserves show redundancies in all years due to actual claim recovery rates exceeding those assumed in prior year reserves. During the three year period, recoveries and terminations due to death were the most favorable in 2007 and 2006 leading to a higher reserve redundancy in those years.

The redundancies in our Medical lines case and IBNR reserves were caused by the Company's claims and other case reserves developing more favorably than expected. The Company's actual claims experience reflected lower medical provider utilization and lower medical inflation than assumed in the Company's prior-year pricing and reserving processes.

F-36

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

In 2007, the Company's Property and Warranty case and IBNR reserves show redundancies from the Company's creditor-placed homeowners, due to lower than anticipated loss ratios. In 2006 and 2005, the core Property and Warranty lines had similar experience to 2007, but in 2005 the redundancy was more than offset by \$61,943 of additional claims and benefits payable amounts related to certain excess of loss reinsurance programs written from 1995 to 1997. (See Note 26, Commitments and Contingencies, for further discussion on the excess of loss reinsurance programs.) For the longer-tail Property and Warranty coverages (e.g. asbestos, environmental, and other general liability), for all years presented, there were no material changes in estimated amounts for incurred claims in prior years. Property and Warranty case and IBNR reserves were at their highest level at December 31, 2005 due to outstanding 2005 hurricane claims, which were paid in 2006.

The Company's group disability products are short duration contracts that include short and long term disability coverage. Case and IBNR reserves for long-term disability have been discounted at 5.25% in 2007 and 2006. The December 31, 2007 and 2006 liabilities net of reinsurance include \$1,456,808 and \$1,478,368 respectively, of such reserves. The amount of discounts deducted from outstanding reserves as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 are \$512,245 and \$466,170, respectively.

Long Duration Contracts

The Company's long duration contracts are primarily comprised of preneed life insurance policies and annuity contracts, traditional life insurance policies no longer offered, universal life and annuities no longer offered, FFG and LTC disposed businesses and medical policies. The principal products and services included in these categories are described in the summary of significant accounting policies (see Note 2).

The Assurant Solutions segment, through its preneed business, manages preneed insurance products through two separate divisions, the independent division and the American Memorial Life Insurance Company (AMLIC) division. The Company signed an agreement with Forethought on November 9, 2005 whereby the Company discontinued writing new preneed insurance policies in the U.S. via Independent Funeral Homes (see Note 4). The reserves for future policy benefits and expenses for pre-funded funeral life and annuity contracts and traditional life insurance no longer offered by the preneed business differ by division and are established based upon the following assumptions.

Preneed Business Independent Division

Interest and discount rates for preneed life insurance are level, vary by year of issuance and product, and ranged from 4.7% to 7.3% in 2007 and 2006 before provisions for adverse deviation, which ranged from 0.2% to 0.5% in 2007 and 2006.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Interest and discount rates for traditional life insurance no longer offered vary by year of issuance and products and were 7.5% grading to 5.3% over 20 years in 2007 and 2006 with the exception of a block of pre-1980 business which had a level 8.8% discount rate in 2007 and 2006.

Mortality assumptions are based upon pricing assumptions and modified to allow provisions for adverse deviation. Surrender rates vary by product and are based upon pricing assumptions.

Future policy benefit increases on preneed life insurance policies ranged from 1.0% to 7.0% in 2007 and 2006. Some policies have future policy benefit increases, which are guaranteed or tied to equal some measure of inflation. The inflation assumption for most of these inflation-linked benefits was 3.0% in both 2007 and 2006, with the exception of most policies issued in 2005 and later where the assumption was 2.3%.

F-37

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

The reserves for annuities issued by the independent division are based on assumed interest rates credited on deferred annuities, which vary by year of issue, and ranged from 1.5% to 5.5% in 2007 and 2006. Withdrawal charges, if any, generally range from 7.0% to 0.0% and grade to zero over a period of seven years for business issued in the U.S. Canadian annuity products have a surrender charge that varies by product series and premium paying period, typically grading to zero after all premiums have been paid.

Preneed Business AMLIC Division

Interest and discount rates for preneed life insurance policies issued or acquired in October 2000 and beyond vary by issue year and are based on pricing assumptions and can be modified to allow for provisions for adverse deviation. Discount rates for 2007 and 2006 policy issues ranged from 5.3% to 6.0%. Preneed life insurance policies issued prior to October 2000 and all traditional life policies issued by the AMLIC division use discount rates, which vary by issue year and product. These policy issues ranged from 2.5% to 7.5% in 2007 and 2006.

Mortality assumptions for preneed life insurance products issued or acquired in October 2000 and beyond are based upon pricing assumptions, which approximate actual experience, and modified to allow for provisions for adverse deviation. Surrender rates for preneed life insurance products issued or acquired in October 2000 and beyond vary by product and are based upon pricing assumptions, which approximate actual experience. Mortality assumptions for all preneed life insurance and traditional life insurance acquired by the AMLIC division prior to October 2000 are based on statutory valuation requirements, which approximate GAAP, with no explicit provision for lapses.

Future policy benefit increases are based upon pricing assumptions. First-year guaranteed benefit increases were 0.0% in 2007 and ranged from 0.0% to 6.0% in 2006. Renewal guaranteed benefit increases ranged from 0.0% to 3.0% in 2007 and 2006. For contracts with minimum benefit increases associated with an inflation index, assumed benefit increases equaled the discount rate less 3.0% in 2007 and 2006.

The reserves for annuities issued by the AMLIC division are based on assumed interest rates credited on deferred annuities. These rates ranged from 1.0% to 6.5% in 2007 and 2006. Withdrawal charges ranged from 0.0% to 8.0% grading to zero over eight years for business issued in the U.S. Canadian annuity products have a flat 35% surrender charge. Nearly all the deferred annuities contracts have a 3.0% guaranteed interest rate.

Universal Life and Annuities No Longer Offered

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The reserves for universal life and annuity products no longer offered in the Assurant Solutions segment have been established based on the following assumptions: Interest rates credited on annuities, which vary by product and time when funds were received, ranged from 3.5% to 4.0% with guaranteed credited rates that ranged from 3.5% to 4.0% in 2007 and 2006, except for limited policies with credited rates that ranged from 4.5% to 6.0% with guaranteed credited rate of 4.5%. Annuities are also subject to surrender charges, which vary by contract year and grade to zero over a period no longer than seven years. Surrender values on annuities will never be less than the amount of paid-in premiums (net of prior withdrawals) regardless of the surrender charge. Credited interest rates on universal life funds vary by product and time when funds were received and ranged from 4.0% to 5.1% in 2007 and 2006. Guaranteed crediting rates where present ranged from 4.0% to 4.5%. Additionally, universal life funds are subject to surrender charges that vary by product, age, sex, year of issue, risk class, face amount and grade to zero over a period not longer than 20 years.

FFG and LTC

The reserves for FFG and LTC are included in the Company's reserves in accordance with FAS 113, *Accounting and Reporting for Reinsurance of Short-Duration and Long-Duration Contracts*. The Company maintains an offsetting reinsurance recoverable related to these reserves (see Note 13).

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)****13. Reinsurance**

In the ordinary course of business, the Company is involved in both the assumption and cession of reinsurance with non-affiliated companies. The following table provides details of the reinsurance recoverables balance for the years ended December 31:

	2007	2006
Ceded future policyholder benefits and expense	\$ 2,662,654	\$ 2,635,445
Ceded unearned premium	643,792	637,447
Ceded claims and benefits payable	540,615	577,052
Ceded paid losses	57,287	65,028
Total	\$ 3,904,348	\$ 3,914,972

The effect of reinsurance on premiums earned and benefits incurred was as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,								
	Long Duration	2007 Short Duration	Total	Long Duration	2006 Short Duration	Total	Long Duration	2005 Short Duration	Total
Direct earned									
Premiums and other considerations	\$ 1,050,202	\$ 7,790,573	\$ 8,840,775	\$ 1,207,705	\$ 7,152,654	\$ 8,360,359	\$ 1,391,120	\$ 6,902,914	\$ 8,294,034
Premiums assumed	687	568,265	568,952	1,578	482,718	484,296	59,706	308,432	368,138
Premiums ceded	(402,442)	(1,599,555)	(2,001,997)	(497,315)	(1,503,565)	(2,000,880)	(530,500)	(1,610,876)	(2,141,376)
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 648,447	\$ 6,759,283	\$ 7,407,730	\$ 711,968	\$ 6,131,807	\$ 6,843,775	\$ 920,326	\$ 5,600,470	\$ 6,520,796
Direct policyholder benefits									
benefits assumed	\$ 1,502,722	\$ 3,244,144	\$ 4,746,866	\$ 1,657,362	\$ 3,050,635	\$ 4,707,997	\$ 1,797,670	\$ 4,392,112	\$ 6,189,782
benefits ceded	4,887	290,526	295,413	6,134	291,320	297,454	32,494	219,665	252,159
	(918,934)	(410,634)	(1,329,568)	(1,037,690)	(432,240)	(1,469,930)	(1,050,329)	(1,685,708)	(2,736,037)
Net policyholder benefits	\$ 588,675	\$ 3,124,036	\$ 3,712,711	\$ 625,806	\$ 2,909,715	\$ 3,535,521	\$ 779,835	\$ 2,926,069	\$ 3,705,904

The Company had \$499,656 and \$372,678, respectively, of invested assets held in trusts or by custodians as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, for the benefit of others related to certain reinsurance arrangements.

The Company utilizes ceded reinsurance for loss protection and capital management, business dispositions, and in the Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property segments, for client risk and profit sharing.

Loss Protection and Capital Management

As part of the Company's overall risk and capacity management strategy, the Company purchases reinsurance for certain risks underwritten by the Company's various segments, including significant individual or catastrophic claims, and to free up capital which enables the Company to write additional business.

For those product lines where there is exposure to losses from catastrophic events, the Company closely monitors and manages the aggregate risk exposure by geographic area. The Company has entered into reinsurance treaties to manage exposure to these types of events.

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Under indemnity reinsurance transactions in which the Company is the ceding insurer, the Company remains liable for policy claims if the assuming company fails to meet its obligations. To mitigate this risk, the Company has control procedures to evaluate the financial condition of reinsurers and to monitor the concentration of credit risk. The selection of reinsurance companies is based on criteria related to solvency and reliability and, to a lesser degree, diversification as well as developing strong relationships with the Company's reinsurers for the sharing of risks. A.M. Best ratings for The Hartford and John Hancock, the reinsurers we have the most exposure to, are A+ and A++, respectively. The majority of our remaining reinsurance exposure has been ceded to companies rated A or better by A.M. Best.

Business Divestitures

The Company has used reinsurance to exit certain businesses, such as the disposals of FFG and LTC. Reinsurance was used in these cases to facilitate the transactions because the businesses shared legal entities with operating segments that the Company retained. Assets supporting liabilities ceded related to these businesses are held in trusts and the separate accounts relating to FFG are still reflected in the Company's balance sheet.

The reinsurance recoverable from The Hartford was \$1,305,718 and \$1,366,601 as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The reinsurance recoverable from John Hancock was \$1,473,312 and \$1,361,615 as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The Company would be responsible for administering this business in the event of a default by reinsurers. In addition, under the reinsurance agreement, The Hartford is obligated to contribute funds to increase the value of the separate account assets relating to Modified Guaranteed Annuity business sold if such value declines below the value of the associated liabilities. If The Hartford fails to fulfill these obligations, the Company will be obligated to make these payments. As of December 31, 2007 there have been no default events by The Hartford or John Hancock and the Company has not been obligated to fulfill any of the reinsurers' obligations.

Segment Client Risk and Profit Sharing

The Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property segments write business produced by their clients, such as mortgage lenders and servicers, financial institutions and reinsures all or a portion of such business to insurance subsidiaries of the clients. Such arrangements allow significant flexibility in structuring the sharing of risks and profits on the underlying business.

A substantial portion of Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property's reinsurance activities are related to agreements to reinsure premiums and risks related to business generated by certain clients to the clients' own captive insurance companies or to reinsurance subsidiaries in which the clients have an ownership interest. Through these arrangements, our insurance subsidiaries share some of the premiums and risk

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

related to client-generated business with these clients. When the reinsurance companies are not authorized to do business in our insurance subsidiary's domiciliary state, the Company's insurance subsidiary generally obtains collateral, such as a trust or a letter of credit, from the reinsurance company or its affiliate in an amount equal to the outstanding reserves to obtain full statutory financial credit in the domiciliary state for the reinsurance.

The Company's reinsurance agreements do not relieve the Company from its direct obligation to its insureds. Thus, a credit exposure exists to the extent that any reinsurer is unable to meet the obligations assumed in the reinsurance agreements. To mitigate its exposure to reinsurance insolvencies, the Company evaluates the financial condition of its reinsurers and holds substantial collateral (in the form of funds, trusts, and letters of credit) as security under the reinsurance agreements.

F-40

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

14. Debt

In February 2004, the Company issued two series of senior notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$975,000. The Company received net proceeds of \$971,537 from this transaction, which represents the principal amount less the discount. The discount of \$3,463 is being amortized over the life of the notes and is included as part of interest expense on the statement of operations. The first series is \$500,000 in principal amount, bears interest at 5.63% per year and is payable in a single installment due February 15, 2014 and was issued at a 0.11% discount. The second series is \$475,000 in principal amount, bears interest at 6.75% per year and is payable in a single installment due February 15, 2034 and was issued at a 0.61% discount. Interest on the senior notes is payable semi-annually on February 15 and August 15 of each year. The senior notes are unsecured obligations and rank equally with all of the Company's other senior unsecured indebtedness. The senior notes are not redeemable prior to maturity. The senior notes were registered under the Securities Act in 2004 and all of the holders exchanged their notes for the new, registered notes.

The interest expense incurred for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 related to the senior notes was \$60,188. There was \$22,570 of accrued interest at December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The Company made interest payments of \$30,094 on February 15, 2007 and August 15, 2007, respectively.

The Company maintains a \$500,000 commercial paper program, which is available for working capital and other general corporate purposes. The Company's subsidiaries do not maintain commercial paper or other borrowing facilities at their level. This program is backed up by a \$500,000 senior revolving credit facility with a syndicate of banks arranged by J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. (successor by merger to Banc One Capital Markets, Inc.) and Citigroup Global Markets, Inc., which was established on January 30, 2004. In April 2005, the Company amended and restated its \$500,000 senior revolving credit facility with a syndicate of banks arranged by Citibank and JP Morgan Chase Bank. The amended and restated credit facility is unsecured and is available until April 2010, so long as the Company is in compliance with all the covenants. This facility is also available for general corporate purposes, but to the extent used thereto, would be unavailable to back the commercial paper program. On January 9, 2007 and April 18, 2007 the Company used \$20,000 from the commercial paper program for general corporate purposes, which was repaid on January 16, 2007 and April 25, 2007, respectively. There were no amounts relating to the commercial paper program outstanding at December 31, 2007 and 2006. The Company did not use the revolving credit facility during the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 and no amounts are currently outstanding.

The revolving credit facility contains restrictive covenants. The terms of the revolving credit facility also require that the Company maintain certain specified minimum ratios and thresholds. The Company is in compliance with all covenants and maintains all specified minimum ratios and thresholds.

15. Mandatorily Redeemable Preferred Stocks

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Company's Board of Directors has the authority to issue up to 200,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, in one or more series and to fix the powers, preferences, rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, which may include dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any series or the designations of the series. The carrying value equals the redemption value for all classes of preferred stock.

F-41

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Information about the preferred stock is as follows:

	December 31,	
	2007	2006
Preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share:		
Series B: 19,160 shares designated, 16,160 and 17,160 shares issued and outstanding in 2007 and 2006 respectively	\$ 16,160	\$ 17,160
Series C: 5,000 shares designated, issued and outstanding	5,000	5,000
Total	\$ 21,160	\$ 22,160

There was no change in the outstanding shares of Series C for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005. Changes in the number of Series B shares outstanding are as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Shares outstanding, beginning	17,160	19,160	19,160
Shares redeemed	(1,000)	(2,000)	
Shares outstanding, ending	16,160	17,160	19,160

All shares have a liquidation price of \$1,000 per share and rank senior to common stock with respect to rights to receive dividends and to receive distributions upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company.

Holders of the Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cumulative dividends at the rate of 4.0% per share per annum, multiplied by the \$1,000 per share liquidation price, and holders of the Series C Preferred Stock are entitled to receive dividends at the rate of 4.5% per share per annum multiplied by the \$1,000 per share liquidation price. All dividends are payable in arrears on a quarterly basis. Any dividend that is not paid on a specified dividend payment date with respect to a share of such Preferred Stock shall be deemed added to the liquidation price of such share for purposes of computing the future dividends on such share, until such delinquent dividend has been paid.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Holders of the Series B Preferred Stock may elect to have any or all of their shares redeemed by the Company at any time since April 1, 2002, and the Company must redeem all shares of the Series B no later than July 1, 2017. Holders of the Series C Preferred Stocks may elect to have any or all of their shares redeemed by the Company any time after April 1, 2022, and the Company must redeem all shares of the Series C Preferred Stock no later than July 1, 2027. The Company also has the right and the obligation to redeem the Series B and Series C Preferred Stocks upon the occurrence of certain specified events. The redemption price in all cases shall equal the \$1,000 per share liquidation price plus all accumulated and unpaid dividends. The Company is not required to establish any sinking fund or similar funds with respect to such redemptions. None of the shares of Series B or Series C Preferred Stocks are convertible into common stock or any other equity security of the Company. However, holders of the Series B and Series C Preferred Stocks are entitled to one vote per share owned of record on all matters voted upon by the Company stockholders, voting with the holders of common stock as a single class, and not as a separate class or classes. The shares of Series B and Series C Preferred Stocks are subject to certain restrictions on transferability, and the Company has the right of first refusal to acquire the shares if any holder thereof desires to make a transfer not otherwise permitted by the terms thereof.

F-42

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)****16. Common Stock**

Changes in the number of common stock shares outstanding are as follows:

	2007	December 31, 2006	2005
Shares outstanding, beginning	122,618,317	130,591,834	139,766,177
Vested restricted shares, net (a)	35,969	50,900	24,546
Issuance to Board of Directors	10,396	11,555	14,207
Issuance related to ESPP	156,517	152,567	148,877
Issuance related to SARS exercise	676,141	275,677	37,295
Shares repurchased as part of buy-back program	(5,689,333)	(8,464,216)	(9,391,968)
Net shares repurchased as part of Executive 401k plan			(7,300)
Shares outstanding, ending	117,808,007	122,618,317	130,591,834

(a) Vested Restricted Shares shown net of shares retired to cover participant tax liability

The Company is authorized to issue 800,000,000 shares of common stock. In addition, 150,001 shares of Class B and 400,001 shares of Class C common stock, per the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Assurant, Inc., are still authorized but have not been retired and it is management's intent not to reissue these shares.

17. Incentive Plans**Stock Based Incentive Plans**

Prior to January 1, 2006, the Company accounted for stock based compensation plans in accordance with the provisions of Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees* (APB 25), which required compensation expense for compensatory plans to be recognized based on the intrinsic value of the award. Effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted the recognition provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment* (FAS 123R) using the modified prospective

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

transition method and, therefore, has not restated results for prior periods. Under this transition method, stock-based compensation costs are recognized based on the grant date fair value, in accordance with FAS 123R, for new awards granted after January 1, 2006 as well as any unvested portion of awards granted prior to January 1, 2006. The Company also applied the long form method to calculate its beginning pool of windfall tax benefit related to employee stock based compensation awards as of the adoption date of FAS 123R. For the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, the Company recognized compensation costs net of a 5% per year forfeiture rate on a pro-rated basis over the remaining vesting period.

FAS 123R required that a one time cumulative adjustment be made at the adoption date to record an estimate of future forfeitures on outstanding awards. This adjustment is the amount of compensation cost recorded prior to the adoption of FAS 123R related to outstanding awards that were not expected to vest, based on an estimate of forfeitures as of the FAS 123R adoption date. The cumulative adjustment, net of taxes, had a positive impact of \$1,547 on the consolidated results of operations of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Also in connection with the adoption of FAS 123R, the Company reclassified \$2,829 of Unamortized Restricted Stock Compensation (contra-equity account) outstanding at December 31, 2005 to additional paid in capital. Under FAS 123R, an equity instrument is not recorded to stockholders' equity until the related compensation expense is recorded over the requisite vesting period of the award. Prior to the adoption of

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

FAS 123R, and in accordance with APB 25, the Company recorded the full fair value of all issued but unvested Restricted Stock to additional paid in capital with an offsetting amount to Unamortized Restricted Stock Compensation (contra-equity account) which represented the amount of compensation costs not yet recognized for Restricted Stock.

Directors Compensation Plan

The Company's Directors Compensation Plan permits the issuance of up to 500,000 new shares of the Company's common stock to non-employee Directors. Under this plan, each non-employee Director shall receive annual compensation in the form of both common stock and Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs) equal to \$60 each. Awards to a non-employee Director vest immediately and must be held for 5 years subsequent to the date of grant or settlement, or one year post-resignation. The compensation expense recorded related to shares issued under the Directors Plan was \$625, \$565 and \$505 for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

Long-Term Incentive Plan

The 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) authorizes the granting of up to 10,000,000 new shares of the Company's common stock to employees and officers under the Assurant Long Term Incentive Plan (ALTIP), Business Value Rights Program (BVR) and CEO Equity Grants Program.

Under the ALTIP, the Company is authorized to grant restricted stock and SARs, subject to approval by the Compensation Committee, which is made up of members of the Board of Directors. Restricted stock grants under the ALTIP are made annually and vest pro-ratably over a three year period. Unearned compensation, representing the market value of the shares at the date of issuance, is charged to earnings over the vesting period. SARs grants under the ALTIP are also made annually. SARs awards granted prior to 2007, vest as of December 31 of the second calendar year following the year in which the award was granted, and have a five year contractual life. SAR awards granted in 2007 and in future years, will vest on the third anniversary from the date the award was granted and will have a five year contractual life. SARs not exercised prior to the end of the contractual life are automatically exercised on that date.

Under the BVR Program, the Company grants SARs, subject to the approval of the Compensation Committee or a Board of Directors designee. SARs grants under this plan are made annually and have a three year cliff vesting period and a three year contractual life, at the end of which the rights are automatically exercised.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Company's CEO is authorized by the Board of Directors to grant common stock and restricted stock to employees other-than-the executive officers of the Company (as defined in Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)) limited to 100,000 new shares per year. Restricted stock grants under this program have different vesting schedules.

Under the LTIP, restricted stock vest and SARs are exercised, net of taxes at the option of the participants.

F-44

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)*****Restricted Stock***

A summary of the Company's outstanding Restricted Stock is presented below:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value
Shares outstanding at December 31, 2006	154,033	\$ 45.55
Grants	124,312	\$ 55.18
Vests	(59,321)	\$ 44.80
Forfeitures	(14,996)	\$ 48.67
Shares outstanding at December 31, 2007	204,028	\$ 51.41

The compensation expense recorded related to restricted stock was \$5,009, \$3,366, and \$1,616 for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The related total income tax benefit recognized was \$1,753, \$1,178 and zero for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 respectively. The weighted average grant date fair value for restricted stock granted in 2006 and 2005 was \$49.65 and \$36.98, respectively.

As of December 31, 2007, there was \$4,590 of unrecognized compensation cost related to outstanding restricted stock. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.2 years. The total fair value of shares vested during the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 was \$3,365, \$2,862 and \$979, respectively.

Stock Appreciation Rights

On April 7, 2005, the Company approved an amendment to the LTIP. The amendment, which was effective June 30, 2005, amended SARs from rights that paid appreciation to participants in the form of cash to rights that pay appreciation to participants in the form of shares of the Company's common stock.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

A summary of the Company's SARs is presented below:

	Rights	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
SARs outstanding, December 31, 2006	6,212,180	\$ 32.35		
Grants	1,541,505	\$ 53.52		
Exercises	(1,897,678)	\$ 24.72		
Forfeitures and adjustments	(345,176)	\$ 46.86		
SARs outstanding, December 31, 2007	5,510,831	\$ 39.99	3.54	\$ 148,223
SARs exercisable at December 31, 2007	2,618,965	\$ 28.95	4.12	\$ 99,394

There were 1,541,505 and 1,400,377 SARs granted during the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The compensation expense recorded related to SARs was \$12,545 and \$14,779 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The related income tax benefit recognized was \$4,352 and \$5,142 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. Total compensation expense for 2007 includes \$111 for SARs granted to the Board of Directors, which vest immediately. The weighted average grant date fair value for SARs granted in 2007 and 2006 were \$11.44 and \$11.37, respectively.

F-45

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The total intrinsic value of SARs exercised during the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 was \$64,872 and \$22,790, respectively. As of December 31, 2007, there was approximately \$16,262 of unrecognized compensation cost related to outstanding SARs. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.56 years.

The fair value of each SAR outstanding was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Expected volatilities for awards issued during the year ended December 31, 2007 were based on the median historical stock price volatility of insurance guideline companies and implied volatilities from traded options on the Company's stock. The expected term for grants issued during the year ended December 31, 2007 was assumed to equal the average of the vesting period of the SARs and the full contractual term of the SARs. The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the option was based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant. The dividend yield is based on the current expected annual dividend and share price on the grant date.

	For awards granted during the years ended December 31,	
	2007	2006
Expected volatility	19.99 - 20.57%	20.25 - 22.85%
Expected term (years)	3.0 - 4.0	3.00 - 3.88
Risk free interest rates	4.41 - 4.43%	4.77 - 4.89%
Dividend yield	0.75%	0.65%

Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP), the Company is authorized to issue up to 5,000,000 new shares to employees who are participants in the ESPP. The ESPP allows eligible employees to contribute, through payroll deductions, up to 15% of their after-tax compensation in each offering period toward the purchase of shares of the Company's common stock. There are two offering periods during the year (January 1 through June 30 and July 1 through December 31) and shares are purchased at the end of each offering period at 90% of the lower of the closing price of the common stock on the first or last day of the offering period. Prior to January 1, 2006, participants' contributions were limited to a maximum of \$6 per offering period. The ESPP was amended in November 2005 to increase the maximum contribution to \$7.5 per offering period, or \$15 per year.

The ESPP is offered to individuals who are scheduled to work at least 20 hours per week and at least five months per year, have been continuously employed for at least six months by the start of the offering period, are not temporary employees (employed less than 12 months), and have not been on a leave of absence for more than 90 days immediately preceding the offering period. Participants must be employed on the last trading day of the offering period in order to purchase Company shares under the ESPP. The maximum number of shares that can be purchased each offering period is 5,000 shares per employee.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

In January 2008, the Company issued 70,646 shares to employees at a price of \$53.45 for the offering period of July 1 through December 31, 2007. In January 2007, the Company issued 80,282 shares to employees at a price of \$43.52 for the offering period of July 1 through December 31, 2006. In January 2006, the Company issued 73,992 shares at a price of \$32.59 for the offering period of July 1 through December 31, 2005.

In July 2007, the Company issued 76,235 shares to employees at a price of \$50.26 for the offering period of January 1 through June 30, 2007. In July 2006, the Company issued 78,575 shares to employees at a price of \$39.66 for the offering period of January 1 through June 30, 2006.

F-46

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The compensation expense recorded related to the ESPP was \$1,346 and \$1,239 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The related income tax benefit for disqualified disposition was \$131 and \$52 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Prior to the adoption of FAS 123R, the Company accounted for ESPP in accordance with APB 25 as a non-compensatory plan, and accordingly did not record any compensation expense.

The fair value of each award under ESPP was estimated at the beginning of each offering period using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and the assumptions in the following table. Expected volatilities are based on implied volatilities from traded options on the Company's stock and the historical volatility of the Company's stock. The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant.

	For awards issued during the years ended December 31,	
	2007	2006
Expected volatility	17.15 - 22.43%	21.06 - 21.09%
Risk free interest rates	5.03 - 5.24%	3.35 - 4.35%
Dividend yield	0.71 - 0.82%	0.72 - 0.88%
Expected term (years)	0.5	0.5

Pro-Forma Disclosure

The following pro-forma information of net income and net income per share amounts were determined as if the Company had accounted for SARs and the ESPP under the fair value method of FAS 123 for the year ended December 31, 2005. This disclosure is not equivalent to the impact of FAS 123R.

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2005
Net income as reported	\$ 479,355
Add: Stock-based employee compensation expense included in reported net income, net of related tax effects	46,530
Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects	(40,690)
Pro forma net income	\$ 485,195

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Earnings per share as reported:		
Basic	\$	3.53
Diluted	\$	3.50
Pro forma earnings per share:		
Basic	\$	3.57
Diluted	\$	3.54

F-47

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)****Non-Stock Based Incentive Plans****Deferred Compensation**

The Deferred Compensation Programs consist of three plans: the Assurant Investment Plan (AIP), the American Security Insurance Company Plan (ASIC) and the Assurant Deferred Compensation Plan (ADC). The AIP and ASIC Plans provided key employees the ability to exchange a portion of their compensation for options to purchase certain third-party mutual funds. Both Plans were frozen in December 2004 and no additional contributions can be made to the Plans. Effective March 1, 2005, the ADC Plan was established as an amendment and restatement of the AIP and ASIC plans in order to comply with The Jobs Act. The ADC Plan provides key employees the ability to defer a portion of their eligible compensation to be invested in a variety of mutual funds. Deferrals and withdrawals under the ADC plan are fully compliant with The Jobs Act definition of eligible compensation and distribution requirements. The amounts included in other investments and other liabilities related to the Deferred Compensation program were \$102,747 and \$105,328 at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Executive 401(k) Plan

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company purchased 12,900 treasury shares for \$438 via a Rabbi Trust which was allocated to the Assurant Stock Fund. Effective December 2005, the Assurant Stock Fund was dissolved and the Company's stock will no longer be offered to participants of the Executive 401(k) Plan.

18. Stock Repurchase

The following table shows the shares repurchased during the periods indicated:

Period	Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Programs
in 2007			
January	360,000	\$ 56.12	360,000
February	370,000	54.70	370,000

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

March	691,833	53.50	691,833
April	623,000	57.01	623,000
May	647,700	59.78	647,700
June	713,700	58.82	713,700
July	971,200	54.98	971,200
August	1,311,900	49.92	1,311,900
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total	5,689,333	\$ 54.94	5,689,333

On November 10, 2006, the Company's Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program under which the Company may repurchase up to \$600,000 of its outstanding common stock. Shares repurchased under this authorization were 5,689,333 shares at a cost of \$312,563 for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

On September 4, 2007, the Company announced that it had suspended the November 10, 2006 stock repurchase program, which has \$260,992 remaining under the current authorization. In the future, the Company will evaluate the potential for reinstating the repurchase program.

19. Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The components of other comprehensive income (loss) net of tax at December 31 are as follows:

	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Securities	Pension Under- funding	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income
Balance at December 31, 2004	\$ 40,836	\$ 334,898	\$ (37,571)	\$ 338,163
Activity in 2005	(4,574)	(141,642)	27,552	(118,664)
Balance at December 31, 2005	36,262	193,256	(10,019)	219,499
Activity in 2006	6,373	(67,627)	1,331	(59,923)
Adoption of FAS 158			(71,512)	(71,512)
Balance at December 31, 2006	42,635	125,629	(80,200)	88,064
Activity in 2007	41,800	(102,245)	26,292	(34,153)
Balance at December 31, 2007	\$ 84,435	\$ 23,384	\$ (53,908)	\$ 53,911

The unrealized (gains) losses on securities is net of reclassification adjustments of \$(44,389), \$(8,886), and \$(5,017), net of tax, in 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively, for net realized gains (losses) on sales of securities included in net income.

20. Statutory Information

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Company's insurance subsidiaries prepare financial statements on the basis of statutory accounting practices (SAP) prescribed or permitted by the insurance departments of their states of domicile. Prescribed SAP includes the Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) as well as state laws, regulations and administrative rules.

The principal differences between SAP and GAAP are: 1) policy acquisition costs are expensed as incurred under SAP, but are deferred and amortized under GAAP; 2) the value of business acquired is not capitalized under SAP but is under GAAP; 3) amounts collected from holders of universal life-type and annuity products are recognized as premiums when collected under SAP, but are initially recorded as contract deposits under GAAP, with cost of insurance recognized as revenue when assessed and other contract charges recognized over the periods for which services are provided; 4) the classification and carrying amounts of investments in certain securities are different under SAP than under GAAP; 5) the criteria for providing asset valuation allowances, and the methodologies used to determine the amounts thereof, are different under SAP than under GAAP; 6) the timing of establishing certain reserves, and the methodologies used to determine the amounts thereof, are different under SAP than under GAAP; 7) certain assets are not admitted for purposes of determining surplus under SAP; 8) methodologies used to determine the amounts of deferred taxes and goodwill are different under SAP than under GAAP; and 9) the criteria for obtaining reinsurance accounting treatment is different under SAP than under GAAP.

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The combined statutory net income, excluding intercompany dividends and surplus note interest, and capital and surplus of the Company's US domiciled statutory insurance subsidiaries follow:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Statutory net income (loss)			
P&C companies	\$ 310,666	\$ 242,848	\$ (14,357)(1)
Life companies	346,930	474,966(2)	384,755
Total statutory net income	\$ 657,596	\$ 717,814	\$ 370,398

- (1) The \$(14,357) P&C Companies statutory net loss in 2005 includes an after-tax charge of approximately \$101,100 relating to American Reliable Insurance Company (ARIC) a wholly owned subsidiary that participated in certain excess of loss reinsurance programs. See Note 26 Commitments and Contingencies
- (2) The \$ 474,966 Life Companies statutory net income in 2006 includes a gain of approximately \$31,700 (after-tax) resulting from the April 2006 sale of the Canadian insurance operations of Union Security Insurance Company (USIC) to an affiliated entity not subject to SAP. The Life Companies 2006 statutory net income also includes approximately \$40,500 (after-tax) of other income resulting from a legal settlement.

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2007	2006
Statutory capital and surplus		
P&C companies	\$ 1,271,891	\$ 933,416
Life companies	1,094,320	1,213,593
Total statutory capital and surplus	\$ 2,366,211	\$ 2,147,009

The Company also has non-insurance subsidiaries and foreign insurance subsidiaries that are not subject to SAP. The statutory net income and statutory capital and surplus presented above do not include foreign insurance subsidiaries in accordance with SAP.

Insurance enterprises are required by state insurance departments to adhere to minimum risk-based capital (RBC) requirements developed by the NAIC. All of the Company's insurance subsidiaries exceed minimum RBC requirements.

The payment of dividends to the Company by any of the Company's regulated U.S domiciled insurance subsidiaries in excess of a certain amount (i.e., extraordinary dividends) must be approved by the subsidiary's domiciliary state department of insurance. Ordinary dividends, for which no regulatory approval is generally required, are limited to amounts determined by a formula, which varies by state. The formula for the majority of the states in which the Company's subsidiaries are domiciled is based on the prior year's statutory net income or 10% of the statutory surplus as of

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

the end of the prior year. Some states limit ordinary dividends to the greater of these two amounts, others limit them to the lesser of these two amounts and some states exclude prior year realized capital gains from prior year net income in determining ordinary dividend capacity. Some states have an additional stipulation that dividends may only be paid out of earned surplus. If insurance regulators determine that payment of an ordinary dividend or any other payments by the Company's insurance subsidiaries to the

F-50

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

Company (such as payments under a tax sharing agreement or payments for employee or other services) would be adverse to policyholders or creditors, the regulators may block such payments that would otherwise be permitted without prior approval. Based on the dividend restrictions under applicable laws and regulations, the maximum amount of dividends that the Company's U.S. domiciled insurance subsidiaries could pay to the Company in 2008 without regulatory approval is approximately \$445,654. No assurance can be given that there will not be further regulatory actions restricting the ability of the Company's insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends.

21. Retirement and Other Employee Benefits

The Company and its subsidiaries participate in a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of our employees. Benefits are based on certain years of service and the employee's compensation during certain such years of service. The Company's funding policy is to contribute amounts to the plan sufficient to meet the minimum funding requirements set forth in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, plus such additional amounts as the Company may determine to be appropriate from time to time up to the maximum permitted. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date, but also for those expected to be earned in the future. The Company also has a noncontributory, nonqualified supplemental program covering certain employees. The qualified and nonqualified plans are referred to as "Pension Benefits" unless otherwise noted. The Company has the right to modify or terminate these benefits; however, the Company will not be relieved of its obligation to plan participants for their vested benefits.

In addition, the Company provides certain life and healthcare benefits ("Retirement Health Benefits") for retired employees and their dependents. Substantially all employees of the Company may become eligible for these benefits depending on age and years of service. The Company has the right to modify or terminate these benefits.

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Summarized information on the Company's Pension Benefits and Retirement Health Benefit plans for the years ended December 31 is as follows:

	Pension Benefits			Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Change in projected benefit obligation						
Projected benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ (517,263)	\$ (487,670)	\$ (444,913)	\$ (60,547)	\$ (60,698)	\$ (54,215)
Service cost	(22,605)	(21,705)	(20,111)	(2,935)	(2,791)	(2,516)
Interest cost	(30,299)	(27,098)	(25,297)	(3,465)	(3,087)	(3,125)
Amendments	(3,976)		(850)		(389)	
Actuarial gain (loss)	27,851	(5,481)	(17,666)	6,333	5,165	(1,303)
Benefits paid	26,670	24,691	21,167	1,546	1,253	461
Projected benefit obligation at end of year	\$ (519,622)	\$ (517,263)	\$ (487,670)	\$ (59,068)	\$ (60,547)	\$ (60,698)
Change in plan assets						
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	\$ 404,237	\$ 353,154	\$ 302,312	\$ 15,436	\$ 13,734	\$ 12,628
Actual return on plan assets	30,160	49,001	21,504	482	1,895	820
Employer contributions	46,117	27,350	51,101	7,479	1,060	761
Benefits paid (including administrative expenses)	(27,791)	(25,268)	(21,763)	(1,546)	(1,253)	(476)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	\$ 452,723	\$ 404,237	\$ 353,154	\$ 21,851	\$ 15,436	\$ 13,733
Funded status at end of year	\$ (66,899)	\$ (113,026)	\$ (134,516)	\$ (37,217)	\$ (45,111)	\$ (46,965)

The table below shows the incremental effect of applying FASB Statement No. 158 on individual line items in the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2006.

	Before Application of Statement 158	Adjustments	After Application of Statement 158
Other assets	\$ 190,347	\$ (3,408)	\$ 186,939
Total assets	25,168,556	(3,408)	25,165,148
Accounts payable and other liabilities	1,271,599	106,600	1,378,199

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Deferred income taxes, net	95,653	(38,496)	57,157
Total liabilities	21,264,447	68,104	21,332,551
Accumulated other comprehensive income	159,576	(71,512)	88,064
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 3,904,109	\$ (71,512)	\$ 3,832,597

F-52

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

For the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, accumulated benefit obligations exceeded plan assets as follows:

	Pension Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 519,622	\$ 517,263	\$ 487,670
Accumulated benefit obligation	\$ 453,092	\$ 449,209	\$ 421,562
Fair value of plan assets	\$ 452,723	\$ 404,237	\$ 353,154

Amounts recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets consist of:

	Pension Benefits			Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Non-current asset	\$ 30,283	\$	N/A	\$	\$	N/A
Current liabilities	\$ (5,220)	\$ (10,651)	N/A	\$	\$ (862)	N/A
Non-current liabilities	\$ (91,963)	\$ (102,375)	N/A	\$ (37,217)	\$ (44,249)	N/A

Amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income consist of:

	Pension Benefits			Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Net (loss) gain	\$ (73,808)	\$ (107,260)	N/A	\$ 9,112	\$ 3,553	N/A
Prior service cost	(9,926)	(10,025)	N/A	(8,231)	(9,573)	N/A
	\$ (83,734)	\$ (117,285)	N/A	\$ 881	\$ (6,020)	N/A

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Components of net periodic benefit cost and other amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

	Pension Benefits			Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Net periodic benefit cost						
Service cost	\$ 22,605	\$ 21,705	\$ 20,111	\$ 2,935	\$ 2,791	\$ 2,516
Interest cost	30,299	27,098	25,297	3,465	3,087	3,125
Expected return on plan assets	(32,565)	(28,541)	(26,262)	(1,256)	(1,133)	(1,066)
Amortization of prior service cost	4,075	3,714	3,752	1,342	1,331	1,307
Amortization of net loss	9,012	11,600	11,036			
Settlement loss	115	609				
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 33,541	\$ 36,185	\$ 33,934	\$ 6,486	\$ 6,076	\$ 5,882
Other changes in plan assets and benefit obligations recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income						
Net (loss) gain	\$ (24,325)	\$ (107,260)	N/A	\$ (5,559)	\$ 3,553	N/A
Amortization of prior service cost	(4,075)		N/A	(1,342)		N/A
Amortization of net loss	(9,127)		N/A			N/A
Prior service credit (cost)	3,976	(10,025)	N/A		(9,573)	N/A
Total recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income	\$ (33,551)	\$ (117,285)	N/A	\$ (6,901)	\$ (6,020)	N/A
Total recognized in net periodic benefit cost and accumulated other comprehensive income	\$ (10)	\$ (81,100)	N/A	\$ (415)	\$ 56	N/A

The estimated net loss and prior service cost for the defined benefit pension plans that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$2,815 and \$3,708, respectively. The estimated net gain and prior service cost for the other defined benefit postretirement plans that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income into net periodic cost over the next fiscal year is \$232 and \$1,342, respectively.

Determination of the projected benefit obligation was based on the following weighted-average assumptions for the year ended December 31:

Pension Benefits

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

	2007	2006	2005	Nonqualified Pension Benefits			Retirement Health Benefits		
				2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Discount rate	6.49%	5.89%	5.66%	6.28%	5.89%	5.66%	6.55%	5.92%	5.66%

F-54

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Determination of the net periodic benefit cost was based on the following weighted-average assumptions for the year ended December 31:

	Pension Benefits			Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Discount rate	5.89%	5.66%	5.80%	5.92%	5.66%	5.80%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	8.25%	8.25%	8.25%	8.25%	8.25%	8.25%

The selection of our discount rate assumption reflects the rate at which the pension and postretirement plan obligations could be effectively settled at December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005. The methodology for selecting the discount rate was to match each plan's cash flows to that of a yield curve that provides the equivalent yields on zero-coupon corporate bonds for each maturity. The discount rate, for each plan, is the single rate that produces the same present value of cash flows.

To develop the expected long-term rate of return on assets assumption, the Company considered the current level of expected returns on risk free investments (primarily, government bonds), the historical level of the risk premium associated with the other asset classes in which the portfolio is invested and the expectations for future returns of each asset class. The expected return for each asset class was then weighted based on the targeted asset allocation to develop the expected long-term rate of return on asset assumptions for the portfolio. This resulted in the selection of the 8.25% assumption for the fiscal year 2007, 2006 and 2005.

	Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005
Health care cost trend rate assumed for next year:			
Pre-65 Non-reimbursement Plan	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%
Post-65 Non-reimbursement Plan	11.0%	11.0%	13.0%
Pre-65 Reimbursement Plan	9.0%	9.0%	6.0%
Post-65 Reimbursement Plan	11.0%	11.0%	6.0%
Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (the ultimate trend rate)	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate			
Pre-65 Non-reimbursement Plan	2012	2011	2010
Post-65 Non-reimbursement Plan	2014	2013	2013
Pre-65 Reimbursement Plan	2012	2011	2007
Post-65 Reimbursement Plan	2014	2013	2007

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plans. A one-percentage point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects:

	Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005
One percentage point increase in health care cost trend rate			
Effect on total of service and interest cost components	\$ 19	\$ 65	\$ 67
Effect on projected postretirement benefit obligation	303	1,151	1,154
One percentage point decrease in health care cost trend rate			
Effect on total of service and interest cost components	(19)	(66)	(69)
Effect on projected postretirement benefit obligation	(308)	(1,143)	(1,145)

F-55

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The Company's qualified pension plans and other post retirement benefit plans weighted-average asset allocation at December 31, by asset category, are as follows:

Assets Category	Pension Benefits			Retirement Health Benefits		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Equity securities	73.7%	76.9%	77.0%	73.7%	76.9%	77.0%
Debt securities	23.5%	22.2%	21.5%	23.5%	22.2%	21.5%
Other	2.8%	0.9%	1.5%	2.8%	0.9%	1.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The goal of our asset strategy is to determine if the growth in the value of the fund over the long-term, both in real and nominal terms, manage (control) risk exposure. Risk is managed by investing in a broad range of asset classes, and within those asset classes, a broad range of individual securities.

The Investment Committee that oversees the investment of the plan assets conducted a review of the Investment Strategies and Policies of the Plan. This included a review of the strategic asset allocation, including the relationship of the Plan liabilities and portfolio structure. As a result of this review, the Investment Committee has adopted a target asset allocation and modified the ranges:

	Low	Target	High
Debt securities	20%	25%	30%
Equity securities	65%	75%	85%

The equity securities category includes both domestic and foreign equity securities. The target asset equity security allocation of U.S. and foreign securities is 60% and 15%, respectively.

The Company expects to contribute \$20,000 to its qualified pension plan and \$7,200 to its retirement health benefits plan in 2008.

The following pension benefits, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

	Pension Benefits	Retirement Health benefits
2008	\$ 30,515	\$ 1,411
2009	34,018	1,633
2010	30,758	1,884
2011	33,051	2,173
2012	36,139	2,465
Year 2013-2017	242,021	18,143
Total	\$ 406,502	\$ 27,709

The Company and its subsidiaries have a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees which provides benefits payable to participants on retirement or disability and to beneficiaries of participants in the event of the participant's death. The amounts expended by the Company related to this plan were \$30,628, \$29,260, and \$25,381 in 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

F-56

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

22. Segment Information

On April 1, 2006, the Company separated the Assurant Solutions segment into two segments: Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property. In addition, concurrent with the creation of the new Assurant Solutions and Assurant Specialty Property segments, the Company realigned the preneed segment under the new Assurant Solutions segment.

In connection with the segment changes described above, the Company transferred the run-off Asbestos business, previously in the Assurant Solutions segment, to the Corporate & Other segment. The transfer of this business is consistent with the Company's policy of managing run-off business in the Corporate & Other segment.

The Company has five reportable segments, which are defined based on the nature of the products and services offered: Assurant Solutions, Assurant Specialty Property, Assurant Health, Assurant Employee Benefits, and Corporate & Other. Assurant Solutions provides credit insurance, including life, disability and unemployment, debt protection administration services, warranties and extended service contracts, life insurance policies and annuity products that provide benefits to fund pre-arranged funerals. Assurant Specialty Property provides creditor-placed homeowners insurance and manufactured housing homeowners insurance. Assurant Health provides individual, short-term and small group health insurance. Assurant Employee Benefits provides employee and employer paid dental, disability, and life insurance products and related services. Corporate & Other includes activities of the holding company, financing and interest expenses, net realized gains (losses) on investments, interest income earned from short-term investments held and additional costs associated with excess of loss reinsurance programs reinsured and ceded to certain subsidiaries in the London market between 1995 and 1997. Corporate & Other also includes the amortization of deferred gains associated with the sales of FFG and LTC through reinsurance agreements.

The Company evaluates performance of the operating segments based on segment income after-tax excluding realized gains (losses) on investments. The Company determines reportable segments in a manner consistent with the way the Company organizes for purposes of making operating decisions and assessing performance. The accounting policies of the reportable segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies. (See Note 2)

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

The following tables summarize selected financial information by segment for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005:

	Year Ended December 31, 2007					Consolidated
	Solutions	Specialty Property	Health	Employee Benefits	Corporate & Other	
Revenues						
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 2,530,445	\$ 1,682,266	\$ 2,050,280	\$ 1,144,739	\$	\$ 7,407,730
Net investment income	427,331	100,210	66,634	166,955	37,943	799,073
Net realized losses on investments					(62,220)	(62,220)
Amortization of deferred gain on disposal of businesses					33,139	33,139
Fees and other income	159,211	51,256	40,583	23,997	746	275,793
Total revenues	3,116,987	1,833,732	2,157,497	1,335,691	9,608	8,453,515
Benefits, losses and expenses						
Policyholder benefits	1,073,858	548,873	1,295,441	790,570	3,969	3,712,711
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs and value of business acquired	1,104,614	274,399	19,769	30,953		1,429,735
Underwriting, general and administrative expenses	726,095	427,559	607,579	380,915	96,703	2,238,851
Interest expense					61,178	61,178
Total benefits, losses and expenses	2,904,567	1,250,831	1,922,789	1,202,438	161,850	7,442,475
Segment income (loss) before provision for income taxes						
	212,420	582,901	234,708	133,253	(152,242)	1,011,040
Provision for income taxes	68,499	203,661	82,965	46,232	(44,063)	357,294
Segment income (loss) after tax	\$ 143,921	\$ 379,240	\$ 151,743	\$ 87,021	\$ (108,179)	
Net income						\$ 653,746
Segment Assets:						
Segments assets, excluding goodwill	\$ 11,936,776	\$ 2,956,414	\$ 1,236,591	\$ 2,807,698	\$ 6,980,181	\$ 25,917,660
Goodwill						832,656
Total assets						\$ 26,750,316

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

	Year Ended December 31, 2006					Consolidated
	Solutions	Specialty Property	Health	Employee Benefits	Corporate & Other	
Revenues						
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 2,371,605	\$ 1,208,311	\$ 2,083,957	\$ 1,179,902	\$	\$ 6,843,775
Net investment income	392,510	74,501	75,215	158,525	35,935	736,686
Net realized gains on investments					111,865	111,865
Amortization of deferred gain on disposal of businesses					37,300	37,300
Fees and other income	221,751	49,424	41,560	27,541	682	340,958
Total revenues	2,985,866	1,332,236	2,200,732	1,365,968	185,782	8,070,584
Benefits, losses and expenses						
Policyholder benefits	998,770	408,721	1,300,817	827,208	5	3,535,521
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs and value of business acquired	902,403	232,780	24,756	26,771		1,186,710
Underwriting, general and administrative expenses	787,373	320,672	616,572	383,675	83,076	2,191,368
Interest expense					61,243	61,243
Total benefits, losses and expenses	2,688,546	962,173	1,942,145	1,237,654	144,324	6,974,842
Segment income before provision for income taxes	297,320	370,063	258,587	128,314	41,458	1,095,742
Provision for income taxes	98,427	128,942	90,668	44,711	17,123	379,871
Segment income after tax	\$ 198,893	\$ 241,121	\$ 167,919	\$ 83,603	\$ 24,335	\$ 715,871
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle						1,547
Net income						\$ 717,418
Segment Assets:						
Segments assets, excluding goodwill	\$ 10,637,152	\$ 2,189,673	\$ 1,278,108	\$ 2,806,337	\$ 7,463,359	\$ 24,374,629
Goodwill						790,519
Total assets						\$ 25,165,148

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

	Year Ended December 31, 2005					Consolidated
	Solutions	Specialty Property	Health	Employee Benefits	Corporate & Other	
Revenues						
Net earned premiums and other considerations	\$ 2,220,145	\$ 858,848	\$ 2,163,965	\$ 1,277,838	\$	\$ 6,520,796
Net investment income	371,565	61,953	69,056	156,889	27,794	687,257
Net realized gains on investments					8,235	8,235
Amortization of deferred gain on disposal of businesses					42,508	42,508
Fees and other income	132,730	38,159	40,344	26,214	1,432	238,879
Total revenues	2,724,440	958,960	2,273,365	1,460,941	79,969	7,497,675
Benefits, losses and expenses						
Policyholder benefits	1,046,900	317,507	1,344,624	934,930	61,943	3,705,904
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs and value of business acquired	679,368	195,963	30,094	21,183		926,608
Underwriting, general and administrative expenses	798,137	227,036	627,805	399,264	96,055	2,148,297
Interest expense					61,258	61,258
Total benefits, losses and expenses	2,524,405	740,506	2,002,523	1,355,377	219,256	6,842,067
Segment income (loss) before provision for income taxes						
	200,035	218,454	270,842	105,564	(139,287)	655,608
Provision for income taxes	66,888	75,227	92,787	37,198	(95,847)	176,253
Segment income (loss) after tax	\$ 133,147	\$ 143,227	\$ 178,055	\$ 68,366	\$ (43,440)	\$ 479,355
Net income						\$ 479,355

The Company operates primarily in the United States and Canada. The following table summarizes selected financial information by geographic location for the years ended or as of December 31:

Location	Revenues	Property & Equipment
2007		
United States	\$ 7,740,702	\$ 264,550
Foreign countries	712,813	11,229
Total	\$ 8,453,515	\$ 275,779

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

2006		
United States	\$ 7,482,045	\$ 267,870
Foreign countries	588,539	7,331
Total	\$ 8,070,584	\$ 275,201
2005		
United States	\$ 7,057,187	\$ 260,792
Foreign countries	440,488	6,928
Total	\$ 7,497,675	\$ 267,720

F-60

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

Revenue is based in the country where the product was sold and long-lived assets are based on the physical location of those assets. The Company has no reportable major customers.

23. Earnings per common share

The following table presents the weighted average common shares used in calculating basic earnings per common share and those used in calculating diluted earnings per common share for each income category presented below.

	2007	Year Ended December 31, 2006	2005
Numerator			
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 653,746	\$ 715,871	\$ 479,355
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle (Note 17)		1,547	
Net income	\$ 653,746	\$ 717,418	\$ 479,355
Denominator			
Weighted average shares outstanding used in basic per share calculations	119,737,556	126,846,990	135,773,551
Incremental common shares from assumed:			
SARs	1,554,047	1,853,972	1,075,458
Restricted stock	74,443	31,572	22,309
ESPP	70,647	80,279	73,992
Weighted average shares used in diluted per share calculations	121,436,693	128,812,813	136,945,310
Earnings Per Common Share Basic			
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 5.46	\$ 5.65	\$ 3.53
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		0.01	
Net income	\$ 5.46	\$ 5.66	\$ 3.53
Earnings Per Common Share Diluted			
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 5.38	\$ 5.56	\$ 3.50
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		0.01	
Net income	\$ 5.38	\$ 5.57	\$ 3.50

Average restricted shares totaling 18,412, 68,753 and 40,637 for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively, were outstanding but were anti-dilutive and thus not included in the computation of diluted EPS under the treasury stock method. Average SARs totaling 1,217,500, zero and 44,247 for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively, were also outstanding but were anti-dilutive and thus not included in the computation of diluted EPS under the treasury method.

F-61

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)****24. Quarterly results of Operations**

The Company's quarterly results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 are summarized in the tables below:

	Three Month Periods Ended			December 31
	March 31	June 30	September 30	
2007				
Total revenues	\$ 2,057,263	\$ 2,064,727	\$ 2,148,192	\$ 2,183,333
Income before provision for income taxes	277,519	252,474	284,145	196,902
Net income	179,457	166,280	187,191	120,818
Basic per share data:				
Income before provision for income taxes	\$ 2.27	\$ 2.09	\$ 2.40	\$ 1.67
Net income	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.38	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.03
Diluted per share data:				
Income before provision for income taxes	\$ 2.24	\$ 2.06	\$ 2.37	\$ 1.65
Net income	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.01
	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31
2006				
Total revenues	\$ 1,929,782	\$ 1,949,090	\$ 1,984,079	\$ 2,207,633
Income before provision for income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	242,356	232,163	231,041	390,182
Net income before cumulative effect of accounting principle	160,925	151,136	151,303	252,507
Net income	162,472	151,136	151,303	252,507
Basic per share data:				
Income before provision for income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 1.86	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.84	\$ 3.17
Net income before cumulative effect of accounting principle	\$ 1.24	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.05
Net income	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.05
Diluted per share data:				
Income before provision for income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$ 1.84	\$ 1.78	\$ 1.81	\$ 3.11
Net income before cumulative effect of accounting principle	\$ 1.22	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.18	\$ 2.01
Net income	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.18	\$ 2.01

During the fourth quarter of 2007, the Company recorded realized losses for other-than-temporary impairments in its investment portfolio. As a result, the Company recorded a pre-tax charge of \$41,485. See Note 5- Investments.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

The Assurant Solutions segment was successful in a contract dispute with Progeny Marketing Innovations, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cendant Corporation. A legal settlement was awarded to Assurant Solutions in the fourth quarter of 2006 in the amount of \$62,278.

F-62

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005****(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)**

During the fourth quarter of 2006, the Company also completed the sale of its equity interest in PHCS. As a result, the Company recorded a pre-tax investment gain of \$98,342 in its fourth quarter results. See Note 22 Segment Information.

25. Subsequent Events (Unaudited)

On January 28, 2008, Fortis distributed 18,851,690 shares of the Company's common stock to the holders of mandatorily exchangeable bonds that were issued in connection with the IPO. The shares of the Company's common stock distributed to such holders were not registered at the time Fortis sold the exchangeable bonds but became freely transferable by such holders upon distribution. Immediately following this transaction, Fortis owned 4,147,440, or 3.5%, of the outstanding shares of the Company.

On January 25, 2008, the Company announced that the Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.12 per common share. The dividend will be payable on March 10, 2008 to the Company's shareholders as of February 25, 2008.

26. Commitments and Contingencies

The Company and its subsidiaries lease office space and equipment under operating lease arrangements. Certain facility leases contain escalation clauses based on increases in the lessors' operating expenses. At December 31, 2007, the aggregate future minimum lease payment under operating lease agreements that have initial or non-cancelable terms in excess of one year are:

2008	\$ 37,792
2009	31,550
2010	22,905
2011	13,235
2012	9,168
Thereafter	24,401
Total minimum future lease payments	\$ 139,051

Rent expense was \$38,237, \$40,112 and \$34,921 for 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

In the normal course of business, letters of credit are issued primarily to support reinsurance arrangements. These letters of credit are supported by commitments with financial institutions. The Company had \$31,813 and \$33,219 of letters of credit outstanding as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

The Company is involved in litigation in the ordinary course of business, both as a defendant and as a plaintiff. The Company may from time to time be subject to a variety of legal and regulatory actions relating to the Company's current and past business operations. While the Company cannot predict the outcome of any pending or future litigation, examination or investigation and although no assurances can be given, the Company does not believe that any pending matter will have a material adverse effect individually or in the aggregate, on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

One of the Company's subsidiaries, American Reliable Insurance Company (ARIC), participated in certain excess of loss reinsurance programs in the London market and, as a result, reinsured certain personal

F-63

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

accident, ransom and kidnap insurance risks from 1995 to 1997. ARIC and a foreign affiliate ceded a portion of these risks to retrocessionaires. ARIC ceased reinsuring such business in 1997. However, certain risks continued beyond 1997 due to the nature of the reinsurance contracts written. ARIC and some of the other reinsurers involved in the programs are seeking to avoid certain treaties on various grounds, including material misrepresentation and non-disclosure by the ceding companies and intermediaries involved in the programs. Similarly, some of the retrocessionaires are seeking avoidance of certain treaties with ARIC and the other reinsurers and some reinsureds are seeking collection of disputed balances under some of the treaties. The disputes generally involve multiple layers of reinsurance, and allegations that the reinsurance programs involved interrelated claims spirals devised to disproportionately pass claims losses to higher-level reinsurance layers.

Many of the companies involved in these programs, including ARIC, are currently involved in negotiations, arbitrations and/or litigation between multiple layers of retrocessionaires, reinsurers, ceding companies and intermediaries, including brokers, in an effort to resolve these disputes. Many of the disputes involving ARIC and an affiliate, Bankers Insurance Company Limited (BICL), relating to the 1995 and 1997 program years, were resolved by settlement or arbitration in 2005. As a result of the settlements and an arbitration (in which ARIC did not prevail) additional information became available in 2005, and based on management's best estimate, the Company increased its reserves and recorded a total pre-tax charge of \$61,943 for the year ended December 31, 2005. Negotiations, arbitrations and litigation are still ongoing or will be scheduled for the remaining disputes. On February 28, 2006 there was a settlement relating to the 1996 program. In 2007, there were two settlements relating to parts of the 1997 program. Loss accruals previously established relating to the 1996 and 1997 programs were adequate. The Company believes, based on information currently available, that the amounts accrued for all outstanding disputes are adequate. However, the inherent uncertainty of arbitrations and lawsuits, including the uncertainty of estimating whether any settlements the Company may enter into in the future would be on favorable terms, makes it difficult to predict the outcomes with certainty.

As previously disclosed, the Company and certain of its officers and former employees have received subpoenas and requests from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in connection with an investigation by the SEC Staff into certain finite reinsurance contracts entered into by the Company. The Company is cooperating fully and is complying with the requests.

The Company conducted an evaluation of the transactions that could potentially fall within the scope of the subpoenas, as defined by the authorities, and the Company has provided information as requested. Based on the Company's investigation to date, the Company has concluded that there was a verbal side agreement with respect to one of our reinsurers under our catastrophic reinsurance program. The contract to which this verbal side agreement applied was accounted for using reinsurance accounting as opposed to deposit accounting. While management believes that the difference resulting from the appropriate alternative accounting treatment would be immaterial to our financial position or results of operations, regulators may reach a different conclusion. In 2004 and 2003, premiums ceded to this reinsurer were \$2,600 and \$1,500, respectively, and losses ceded were \$10,000 and zero, respectively. This contract expired in December 2004 and was not renewed.

In July 2007, the Company learned that each of the following five individuals, Robert B. Pollock, President and Chief Executive Officer, Philip Bruce Camacho, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Adam Lamnin, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property, Michael Steinman, Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property and Dan Folse, Vice President-Risk Management of Assurant Solutions/Assurant Specialty Property, received Wells notices

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

from the SEC in connection with its ongoing investigation. A Wells notice is an indication

F-64

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

(In thousands except number of shares and per share amounts)

that the Staff of the SEC is considering recommending that the SEC bring a civil enforcement action against the recipient for violating various provisions of the federal securities laws. Under SEC procedures, the recipients have the opportunity to respond to the SEC staff before a formal recommendation is finalized.

On July 17, 2007, the Company announced that the Board of Directors (the Board) had placed all five employees on administrative leave, pending further review of this matter. On July 18, the Board appointed J. Kerry Clayton as interim President and Chief Executive Officer and Michael J. Peninger as interim Chief Financial Officer of the Company. The Board's actions were based on the recommendations of its Special Committee of non-management directors which thereafter conducted a thorough investigation of the events that had resulted in the receipt of the Wells notices. The Special Committee reviewed the relevant documents, conducted interviews and worked with outside counsel in order to investigate these matters and to recommend appropriate actions to the Board with respect to the SEC investigation. On August 9, 2007, Messrs. Steinman and Folse's employment with the Company was terminated.

The Company has completed a comprehensive review, and based on that review, and the work of the Special Committee, the Board unanimously voted to reinstate Mr. Pollock as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective January 28, 2008. Mr. Clayton transitioned with Mr. Pollock and remained in an emeritus status through the end of February 2008.

The Board's decision to reinstate Mr. Pollock implies no conclusion concerning the outcome of the SEC Staff's ongoing investigation, and the SEC Staff's Wells notice to him remains in effect. The Company's decision reflects solely the Board's judgment, based on the Special Committee's comprehensive review, that it was in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders to return Mr. Pollock to his positions at that time, rather than await the conclusion of the SEC's investigation, because of concerns over long term leadership by employees, shareholders and customers. The SEC Staff's inquiry continues, and we are cooperating fully. The Company cannot predict the duration or outcome of the investigation.

In the course of its response to SEC Staff inquiries, the Company identified certain problems related to its document production process. The Company continues to work diligently to ensure that all responsive documents in the Company's possession have been provided to the SEC Staff and the Special Committee has considered those documents in performing its review. These production issues have delayed resolution of this matter. Messrs. Camacho and Lamnin remain on administrative leave.

In relation to the SEC investigation discussed above, the SEC may charge the Company and/or the individuals with violations of the federal securities laws, including alleging violations of Sections 10(b), 13(a), and/or 13(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and/or Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, and may seek civil monetary penalties, injunctive relief and other remedies against the Company and individuals, including potentially seeking a bar preventing one or more of the individuals from serving as an officer or director of a public company. The SEC may also take the position that the Company should restate its consolidated financial statements to address the accounting treatment referred to above. No settlement of any kind can be reached without approval by the SEC and the Company has not accrued for any civil

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

monetary penalties since it cannot reasonably estimate the amount of such civil monetary penalties at this time.

F-65

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

at December 31, 2007

Schedule I Summary of Investments Other-Than-Investments in Related Parties

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value (in thousands)	Amount at which shown in balance sheet
Fixed maturity securities:			
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 287,064	\$ 297,278	\$ 297,278
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	630,196	646,549	646,549
Foreign governments	680,097	704,246	704,246
Public utilities	1,152,023	1,173,747	1,173,747
Mortgage-backed securities	1,014,009	1,020,614	1,020,614
All other corporate	6,262,966	6,283,981	6,283,981
Total fixed maturity securities	10,026,355	10,126,415	10,126,415
Equity securities:			
Industrial, miscellaneous and all other	21,193	22,476	22,476
Non sinking fund preferred stocks	681,505	613,525	613,525
Total equity securities	702,698	636,001	636,001
Commercial mortgage loans on real estate, at amortized cost	1,433,626	1,480,146	1,433,626
Policy loans	57,107	57,107	57,107
Short-term investments	410,878	410,878	410,878
Collateral held under securities lending	541,650	541,650	541,650
Other investments	541,474	541,474	541,474
Total investments	\$ 13,713,788	\$ 13,793,671	\$ 13,747,151

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Schedule II Condensed Balance Sheets (Parent Only)**

	December 31,	
	2007	2006
	(in thousands except number of shares)	
Assets		
Investments:		
Equity investment in subsidiaries	\$ 4,500,567	\$ 4,044,635
Fixed maturity securities (amortized cost \$110,022 in 2007 and \$126,842 in 2006)	109,655	126,906
Short-term investments	3,166	8,211
Other investments	122,276	123,521
Total investments	4,735,664	4,303,273
Cash and cash equivalents	277,958	493,744
Receivable from subsidiaries, net	9,796	19,574
Income tax receivable	41,838	11,901
Accrued investment income	1,761	1,523
Property and equipment, at cost less accumulated depreciation	147,034	155,144
Deferred income taxes, net	91,029	116,615
Goodwill	43,832	43,832
Other assets	40,336	37,560
Total assets	\$ 5,389,248	\$ 5,183,166
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 307,322	\$ 356,635
Debt	971,863	971,774
Mandatorily redeemable preferred stock	21,160	22,160
Total liabilities	1,300,345	1,350,569
Commitments and Contingencies		
Stockholders equity		
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 800,000,000 shares authorized, 144,009,979 and 143,080,961 shares issued, 117,808,007 and 122,618,317 shares outstanding at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively	1,438	1,430
Additional paid-in capital	2,904,970	2,894,892
Retained earnings	2,269,107	1,676,171
Accumulated other comprehensive income	53,911	88,064
Treasury stock, at cost; 25,997,943 and 20,308,610 shares at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively	(1,140,523)	(827,960)
Total stockholders equity	4,088,903	3,832,597
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	\$ 5,389,248	\$ 5,183,166

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Schedule II Condensed Statements of Operations (Parent Only)**

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
	(in thousands)		
Revenues			
Net investment income	\$ 22,265	\$ 19,643	\$ 14,115
Net realized gains on investments	687	98,151	5,763
Fees and other income	58,551	60,760	61,598
Equity in undistributed and distributed net income of subsidiaries	750,058	686,928	520,346
Total revenues	831,561	865,482	601,822
Expenses			
General and administrative expenses	137,888	121,226	138,240
Interest expense	61,178	61,243	61,258
Total expenses	199,066	182,469	199,498
Income before provision for income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	632,495	683,013	402,324
Provision for income taxes	21,251	32,858	77,031
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	653,746	715,871	479,355
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		1,547	
Net income	\$ 653,746	\$ 717,418	\$ 479,355

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Schedule II Condensed Statement of Cash Flows (Parent Only)**

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006 (in thousands)	2005
Operating Activities			
Net income	\$ 653,746	\$ 717,418	\$ 479,355
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Equity in undistributed net (income) loss on consolidated subsidiaries	(316,057)	(68,982)	8,904
Change in receivables	9,540	8,024	(25,075)
Change in income taxes	31,475	3,162	(16,518)
Change in accounts payable and other liabilities	(46,116)	4,041	(14,825)
Change in trading portfolio	1,240	236	(8,138)
Depreciation and amortization	33,589	30,114	26,554
Net realized (gains) on investments	(687)	(98,151)	(5,763)
Excess tax benefit from share-based payment arrangements	(9,381)	(2,561)	
Stock based compensation expense	19,526	17,569	40,089
Other	(18,012)	(11,751)	29,157
Net cash provided by operating activities	358,863	599,119	513,740
Investing Activities			
Sales of:			
Fixed maturities available for sale	41,454	7,422	43,213
Property and equipment and other (1)	1,233	169,541	12,238
Maturities, prepayments, and scheduled redemption of:			
Fixed maturities available for sale	13,509	37,567	32,713
Purchase of:			
Fixed maturities available for sale	(38,297)	(71,584)	(100,000)
Property and equipment and other	(29,516)	(49,440)	(42,288)
Capital contributed to subsidiaries	(182,381)	(76,143)	(29,236)
Purchase of subsidiaries	(23,432)	(11,000)	
Change in short term investments	5,045	3,856	(5,556)
Change in other invested assets	5	(6,976)	(153)
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(212,380)	3,243	(89,069)
Financing Activities			
Redemption of mandatorily redeemable preferred stock	(1,000)	(2,000)	
Excess tax benefits from stock-based payment arrangements	9,381	2,561	
Purchase of treasury stock	(315,570)	(422,451)	(338,874)
Dividends paid	(55,038)	(48,157)	(42,050)
Commercial paper issued	39,958	59,941	134,821
Commercial paper repaid	(40,000)	(60,000)	(135,000)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	(362,269)	(470,106)	(381,103)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(215,786)	132,256	43,568
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	493,744	361,488	317,920

Edgar Filing: ASSURANT INC - Form 10-K

Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 277,958	\$ 493,744	\$ 361,488
--	------------	------------	------------

(1) This includes \$146,368 from the sale of our equity interest in Private Healthcare System, Inc., in November 2006.

F-69

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 & 2005

Schedule III Supplementary Insurance Information

Segment	Deferred Acquisition	Future policy benefits and Cost expenses	Unearned premiums	Claims and benefits payable	Premium revenue	Net investment income	Benefits claim losses and settlement expenses	Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	Other operating expenses	Property and Casualty Premiums Written
(in thousands)										
2007										
Solutions	\$ 2,658,208	\$ 4,298,202	\$ 4,171,002	\$ 378,215	\$ 2,530,445	\$ 427,331	\$ 1,073,858	\$ 1,087,388	\$ 743,321	\$ 740,875
Specialty Property	178,398	4,472	1,052,326	309,590	1,682,266	100,210	548,873	272,961	428,997	1,872,476
Employee Benefits	24,565	759	14,259	1,842,102	1,144,739	166,955	790,570	30,953	380,915	
Health	34,174	132,166	128,756	367,959	2,050,280	66,634	1,295,441	19,769	607,579	
Corporate and Other		2,753,897	44,366	405,218		37,943	3,969		96,703	
Total Segments	\$ 2,895,345	\$ 7,189,496	\$ 5,410,709	\$ 3,303,084	\$ 7,407,730	\$ 799,073	\$ 3,712,711	\$ 1,411,071	\$ 2,257,515	\$ 2,613,351
2006										
Solutions	\$ 2,168,708	\$ 3,865,514	\$ 3,431,658	\$ 387,691	\$ 2,371,605	\$ 392,510	\$ 998,770	\$ 884,831	\$ 804,945	\$ 823,783
Specialty Property	148,635	4,171	820,533	274,493	1,208,311	74,501	408,721	232,780	320,672	1,313,146
Employee Benefits	27,504	550	12,694	1,852,684	1,179,902	158,525	827,208	26,771	383,675	
Health	53,059	155,175	119,934	401,551	2,083,957	75,215	1,300,817	24,756	616,572	
Corporate and Other		2,729,064	45,074	412,320		35,935	5		83,077	
Total Segments	\$ 2,397,906	\$ 6,754,474	\$ 4,429,893	\$ 3,328,739	\$ 6,843,775	\$ 736,686	\$ 3,535,521	\$ 1,169,138	\$ 2,208,941	\$ 2,136,929
2005										
Solutions	\$ 1,784,366	\$ 3,764,405	\$ 2,970,104	\$ 476,832	\$ 2,220,145	\$ 371,565	\$ 1,046,900	\$ 660,133	\$ 817,375	\$ 711,745
Specialty Property	132,456	3,845	700,184	667,154	858,848	61,953	317,507	195,963	227,036	920,439
Employee Benefits	28,894	191	12,480	1,850,287	1,277,838	156,889	934,929	21,183	399,264	
Health	76,592	175,338	121,959	428,468	2,163,965	69,056	1,344,624	30,094	627,805	
Corporate and Other		2,706,617	46,887	375,961		27,794	61,943		96,054	
Total Segments	\$ 2,022,308	\$ 6,650,396	\$ 3,851,614	\$ 3,798,702	\$ 6,520,796	\$ 687,257	\$ 3,705,903	\$ 907,373	\$ 2,167,534	\$ 1,632,184

Table of Contents

Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries
for the years ended December 31, 2007

Schedule IV Reinsurance

	Direct amount	Ceded to other Companies	Assumed from other Companies (in thousands)	Net amount	Percentage of amount assumed to net
Life Insurance in Force	\$ 135,494,023	\$ 42,443,183	\$ 1,035,817	\$ 94,086,657	1.1%
Premiums:					
Life insurance	1,177,622	434,088	35,445	778,979	4.6%
Accident and health insurance	3,796,161	712,309	197,611	3,281,463	6.0%
Property and liability insurance	3,866,992	855,600	335,896	3,347,288	10.0%
Total earned premiums	\$ 8,840,775	\$ 2,001,997	\$ 568,952	\$ 7,407,730	7.7%
Benefits:					
Life insurance	\$ 1,321,162	\$ 751,431	\$ 20,075	\$ 589,806	3.4%
Accident and health insurance	2,111,216	307,163	180,881	1,984,934	9.1%
Property and liability insurance	1,314,488	270,974	94,457	1,137,971	8.3%
Total policyholder benefits	\$ 4,746,866	\$ 1,329,568	\$ 295,413	\$ 3,712,711	8.0%

F-71

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

for the years ended December 31, 2006

Schedule IV Reinsurance

	Direct amount	Ceded to other Companies	Assumed from other Companies (in thousands)	Net amount	Percentage of amount assumed to net
Life Insurance in Force	\$ 136,511,963	\$ 37,861,720	\$ 994,736	\$ 99,644,979	1.0%
Premiums:					
Life insurance	877,535	443,055	42,476	476,956	8.9%
Accident and health insurance	4,224,731	711,240	212,060	3,725,551	5.7%
Property and liability insurance	3,258,093	846,585	229,760	2,641,268	8.7%
Total earned premiums	\$ 8,360,359	\$ 2,000,880	\$ 484,296	\$ 6,843,775	7.1%
Benefits:					
Life insurance	\$ 968,284	\$ 768,285	\$ 16,986	\$ 216,985	7.8%
Accident and health insurance	2,609,700	411,757	197,788	2,395,731	8.3%
Property and liability insurance	1,130,013	289,888	82,680	922,805	9.0%
Total policyholder benefits	\$ 4,707,997	\$ 1,469,930	\$ 297,454	\$ 3,535,521	8.4%

F-72

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

for the year ended December 31, 2005

Schedule IV Reinsurance

	Direct amount	Ceded to other Companies	Assumed from other Companies (in thousands)	Net amount	Percentage of amount assumed to net
Life Insurance in Force	\$ 155,936,027	\$ 46,017,284	\$ 1,267,402	\$ 111,186,145	1.1%
Premiums:					
Life insurance	1,418,297	547,653	96,584	967,228	10.0%
Accident and health insurance	4,191,619	738,933	175,067	3,627,753	4.8%
Property and liability insurance	2,684,118	854,790	96,487	1,925,815	5.0%
Total earned premiums	\$ 8,294,034	\$ 2,141,376	\$ 368,138	\$ 6,520,796	5.6%
Benefits:					
Life insurance	\$ 1,626,376	\$ 924,522	\$ 47,282	\$ 749,136	6.3%
Accident and health insurance	2,323,819	311,910	164,861	2,176,770	7.6%
Property and liability insurance	2,239,587	1,499,605	40,016	779,998	5.1%
Total policyholder benefits	\$ 6,189,782	\$ 2,736,037	\$ 252,159	\$ 3,705,904	6.8%

F-73

Table of Contents**Assurant, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

as of December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005

Schedule V Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

	Balance at Beginning of Year	Additions Charged to Costs and Expenses	Charged to Other Accounts (in thousands)	Deductions	Balance at End of Year
2007:					
Valuation allowance for foreign NOL deferred tax carryforward	\$ 8,782	\$ (5,547)	\$	\$	\$ 3,235
Valuation allowance for deferred tax assets		1,023			1,023
Valuation allowance for mortgage loans on real estate	4,753	537			5,290
Valuation allowance for uncollectible agents balances	16,711	(2,938)	189	1,910	12,052
Valuation allowance for uncollectible accounts	6,876	3,799	(19)	5,888	4,768
Total	\$ 37,122	\$ (3,126)	\$ 170	\$ 7,798	\$ 26,368
2006:					
Valuation allowance for foreign NOL deferred tax carryforward	\$	\$ 8,782	\$	\$	\$ 8,782
Valuation allowance for mortgage loans on real estate	19,921	(15,168)			4,753
Valuation allowance for uncollectible agents balances	17,784	857	(82)	1,848	16,711
Valuation allowance for uncollectible accounts	7,550	(128)	84	630	6,876
Total	\$ 45,255	\$ (5,657)	\$ 2	\$ 2,478	\$ 37,122
2005:					
Valuation allowance for mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 17,955	\$ 2,586	\$	\$ 620	\$ 19,921
Valuation allowance for uncollectible agents balances	21,945	(2,063)	1,032	3,130	17,784
Valuation allowance for uncollectible accounts	2,873	6,781	(918)	1,186	7,550
Total	\$ 42,773	\$ 7,304	\$ 114	\$ 4,936	\$ 45,255