

METLIFE INC
Form 424B5
October 08, 2008

Table of Contents

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities, and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-147180

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 8, 2008

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement
(To Prospectus dated November 6, 2007)

75,000,000 Shares

Common Stock

MetLife, Inc. is offering 75,000,000 shares of its common stock, par value \$.01 per share (the common stock).

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET . On October 7, 2008, the last reported sales price of the common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$36.87 per share.

See Risk Factors beginning on page S- of this prospectus supplement to read about important factors you should consider before buying shares of the common stock.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

| | Per Share | Total |
|---|-----------|-------|
| Public offering price | \$ | \$ |
| Underwriting discounts and commissions | \$ | \$ |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to MetLife, Inc. | \$ | \$ |

To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 75,000,000 shares of common stock, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 11,250,000 shares from MetLife, Inc. at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount.

Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, on behalf of the underwriters, expects to deliver the shares of common stock against payment therefore in New York, New York on October , 2008.

Sole Bookrunning Manager

Credit Suisse

Joint Lead Managers

Merrill Lynch & Co.

UBS Investment Bank

Prospectus Supplement dated October , 2008.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Prospectus Supplement | |
| <u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u> | S-2 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | S-2 |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | S-3 |
| <u>Summary</u> | S-5 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | S-10 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | S-36 |
| <u>Capitalization</u> | S-37 |
| <u>Common Stock Price Range and Dividends</u> | S-39 |
| <u>Material United States Federal Income and Estate Tax Considerations for Non-United States Holders</u> | S-40 |
| <u>Underwriting</u> | S-43 |
| <u>Legal Opinions</u> | S-47 |
| <u>Experts</u> | S-47 |
| Prospectus | |
| About This Prospectus | 1 |
| Risk Factors | 1 |
| Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements | 1 |
| Where You Can Find More Information | 2 |
| MetLife, Inc. | 3 |
| The Trusts | 4 |
| Use of Proceeds | 5 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 5 |
| Description of Securities | 5 |
| Description of Debt Securities | 5 |
| Description of Capital Stock | 14 |
| Description of Depositary Shares | 20 |
| Description of Warrants | 22 |
| Description of Purchase Contracts | 24 |
| Description of Units | 25 |
| Description of Trust Preferred Securities | 25 |
| Description of Guarantees | 27 |
| Plan of Distribution | 30 |
| Legal Opinions | 31 |
| Experts | 32 |

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provided you with additional or different information, you

should not rely on it. Neither we nor the underwriters are making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference, is accurate only as of their respective dates. MetLife's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

S-1

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You should read this prospectus supplement along with the accompanying prospectus carefully before you invest. Both documents contain important information you should consider before making your investment decision. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain the terms of this offering of common stock. The accompanying prospectus contains information about our securities generally, some of which does not apply to the common stock covered by this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus. If the information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with any information in the accompanying prospectus, the information in this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede the inconsistent information in the accompanying prospectus.

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to MetLife, we, our, or us refer to MetLife, Inc., together with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MLIC), and their respective direct and indirect subsidiaries, while references to MetLife, Inc. refer only to the holding company.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

MetLife, Inc. files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These reports, proxy statements and other information can be read and copied at the SEC 's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. The SEC maintains an internet site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies that file electronically with the SEC, including MetLife, Inc. MetLife, Inc. 's common stock is listed and trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET . These reports, proxy statements and other information can also be read at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 11 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows incorporation by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus of information that MetLife, Inc. files with the SEC. This permits MetLife, Inc. to disclose important information to you by referencing these filed documents. Any information referenced this way is considered part of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, and any information filed with the SEC subsequent to the date of this prospectus will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. Information furnished under Item 2.02 and Item 7.01 of MetLife, Inc. 's Current Reports on Form 8-K is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the following documents which have been filed with the SEC:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (the 2007 Form 10-K);

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008 and June 30, 2008; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 16, 2008, February 19, 2008, March 5, 2008, April 8, 2008, April 22, 2008, April 28, 2008, May 15, 2008, June 2, 2008, July 15, 2008, July 25, 2008, August 11, 2008, August 15, 2008, September 12, 2008, September 17, 2008 October 2, 2008 and October 7, 2008.

MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the documents listed above and any future filings made with the SEC in accordance with Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), until MetLife, Inc. files a post-effective amendment which indicates the termination of the offering of the

securities made by this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the date that the offering of securities by means of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus.

MetLife, Inc. will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, MetLife, Inc., 1 MetLife Plaza, Long Island City, New York

S-2

Table of Contents

11101, by electronic mail (metir@metlife.com), or by telephone (212-578-2211). You may also obtain some of the documents incorporated by reference into this document at MetLife's website, www.metlife.com. All other information contained on MetLife's website is not a part of this document.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may contain or incorporate by reference information that includes or is based upon forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements give expectations or forecasts of future events. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as anticipate, estimate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with a discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, prospective services or products, future performance or results of current and anticipated services or products, sales efforts, expenses, the outcome of contingencies such as legal proceedings, trends in operations and financial results.

Any or all forward-looking statements may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Many such factors will be important in determining MetLife's actual future results. These statements are based on current expectations and the current economic environment. They involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. These statements are not guarantees of future performance, and there are no guarantees about the performance of any securities offered by this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Risks, uncertainties and other factors that might cause such differences include the risk, uncertainties and other factors identified in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information," including those identified under "Risk Factors" below. These factors include:

difficult and adverse conditions in the global and domestic capital and credit markets;

continued volatility and further deterioration of the capital and credit markets;

uncertainty about the effectiveness of the U.S. government's plan to purchase large amounts of illiquid, mortgage-backed and other securities from financial institutions;

the impairment of other financial institutions;

potential liquidity and other risks resulting from our participation in a securities lending program and other transactions;

exposure to financial and capital market risk;

changes in general economic conditions, including the performance of financial markets and interest rates, which may affect our ability to raise capital and generate fee income and market-related revenue;

defaults on our mortgage and consumer loans;

investment losses and defaults, and changes to investment valuations;

market value impairments to illiquid assets;

unanticipated changes in industry trends;

heightened competition, including with respect to pricing, entry of new competitors, the development of new products by new and existing competitors and for personnel;

discrepancies between actual claims experience and assumptions used in setting prices for our products and establishing the liabilities for our obligations for future policy benefits and claims;

discrepancies between actual experience and assumptions used in establishing liabilities related to other contingencies or obligations;

S-3

Table of Contents

ineffectiveness of risk management policies and procedures;

catastrophe losses;

changes in assumptions related to deferred policy acquisition costs (DAC), value of business acquired (VOBA) or goodwill;

downgrades in our and our affiliates' claims paying ability, financial strength or credit ratings;

economic, political, currency and other risks relating to our international operations;

regulatory, legislative or tax changes that may affect the cost of, or demand for, our products or services;

changes in accounting standards, practices and/or policies;

adverse results or other consequences from litigation, arbitration or regulatory investigations;

deterioration in the experience of the closed block established in connection with the reorganization of MLIC;

the effects of business disruption or economic contraction due to terrorism or other hostilities;

MetLife's ability to identify and consummate on successful terms any future acquisitions, and to successfully integrate acquired businesses with minimal disruption;

fluctuations in our share price;

further sales or other dilution of our equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock;

MetLife, Inc.'s primary reliance, as a holding company, on dividends from its subsidiaries to meet debt payment obligations and the applicable regulatory restrictions on the ability of the subsidiaries to pay such dividends; and

other risks and uncertainties described from time to time in MetLife, Inc.'s filings with the SEC.

MetLife, Inc. does not undertake any obligation to publicly correct or update any forward-looking statement if MetLife, Inc. later becomes aware that such statement is not likely to be achieved. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures MetLife, Inc. makes on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary contains basic information about us and this offering. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the common stock. You should read this entire prospectus supplement carefully, including the section entitled Risk Factors, our financial statements and the notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. Except as otherwise noted, all information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares of common stock.

MetLife

We are a leading provider of insurance and other financial services with operations throughout the United States and the regions of Latin America, Europe, and Asia Pacific. Through our domestic and international subsidiaries and affiliates, we offer life insurance, annuities, automobile and homeowners insurance, retail banking and other financial services to individuals, as well as group insurance and retirement & savings products and services to corporations and other institutions.

We are one of the largest insurance and financial services companies in the United States. Our franchises and brand names uniquely position us to be the preeminent provider of protection and savings and investment products in the United States. In addition, our international operations are focused on markets where the demand for insurance and savings and investment products is expected to grow rapidly in the future.

The Offering

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuer | MetLife, Inc. |
| Securities offered | 75,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of MetLife, Inc. To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 75,000,000 shares of common stock, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 11,250,000 shares of common stock. |
| Common stock outstanding at September 30, 2008, as adjusted for this offering | 782,312,251 shares of common stock (793,562,251 shares of common stock upon the exercise of the over-allotment option in full). |
| Use of proceeds | We estimate that the net proceeds of this offering will be approximately \$ billion (or \$ billion upon the exercise of the over-allotment option in full). We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock for general corporate purposes and potential strategic initiatives. |
| NYSE symbol | MET |

Recent Developments

Pre-Announcement of MetLife, Inc.'s Expected Third Quarter 2008 Results

On October 7, 2008, MetLife preannounced its expected results for the third quarter of 2008. Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders for the third quarter of 2008 is expected to be between \$1,005 million and \$1,150 million, or \$1.38 to \$1.58 per diluted common share. Operating earnings available to common shareholders for the third quarter of 2008 are expected to be between \$600 million and \$675 million, or

S-5

Table of Contents

\$0.83 to \$0.93 per diluted common share. Premiums, fees and other revenues for the third quarter of 2008 were approximately \$8.6 billion, up 16% over the third quarter of 2007 and up 12% over the first nine months of 2007.

MetLife's range of operating earnings for the third quarter of 2008 primarily reflects:

A decline in variable investment income, which is expected to be below plan by approximately \$117 million, net of income tax, or \$0.16 per diluted common share. This decline was mostly driven by negative hedge fund and private equity returns;

The impact of poor equity markets on fee revenue in MetLife's variable annuity business and a related adjustment to deferred acquisition costs. The almost 9% decline in the S&P 500 in the quarter is expected to impact results by approximately \$105 million, net of income tax, or \$0.14 per diluted common share;

An accrual of approximately \$48 million, net of income tax, or \$0.07 per diluted common share, related to the first phase of MetLife's previously-announced Operational Excellence initiative. The third quarter accrual relates to severance and is expected to result in future annualized savings of approximately \$130 million before income tax. MetLife's Operational Excellence plans are anticipated to extend through 2010 and, while we expect to incur additional expenses, we anticipate these costs will result in targeted future cost savings, before income tax, of at least \$400 million a year, as well as revenue enhancements; and

The previously-announced decision to commute three excess insurance policies for asbestos-related claims, which amounts to a reduction in operating earnings available to common shareholders of approximately \$23 million, net of income tax, or \$0.03 per diluted common share.

Realized and Unrealized Investment Gains/Losses

Relative to the size of MetLife's \$324 billion general account portfolio, MetLife's level of realized investment losses has remained modest. For the third quarter of 2008, MetLife expects net realized investment gains, net of income tax, to be between \$400 million and \$475 million. Included in these gains are approximately \$490 million, net, in credit-related losses, including impairments. Approximately \$375 million, net, or 77%, of the credit-related impairments were related to major financial services credits such as Lehman Brothers, Washington Mutual Inc. and AIG. These credit-related losses are offset by derivative gains of approximately \$735 million, net of income tax, which arose primarily from the increase in value of the U.S. dollar in the third quarter, as well as the increase in credit default swap spreads.

MetLife's gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities at September 30, 2008 are expected to be \$17 billion pre-tax, compared with \$10 billion at June 30, 2008. MetLife's corresponding gross unrealized gains are estimated at \$5 billion pre-tax, compared with \$6 billion at June 30, 2008. The increase in gross unrealized losses resulted from widening credit spreads in the quarter. The component of gross unrealized losses for securities trading down 20% or more for six months has increased to approximately \$1.7 billion pre-tax, from \$400 million at June 30, 2008. MetLife analyzes every security in an unrealized loss position. Impairments on any security that MetLife does not have the ability or intent to hold until recovery, or which MetLife believes is expected to not recover, have already been included in the impairment number above.

Capital

MetLife estimates its excess capital position to be more than \$4 billion. This excess consists of: \$2 billion of capital in MetLife's insurance subsidiaries in excess of what MetLife believes would support a risk-based capital ratio of 350%; \$1 billion of excess capital at the holding company; and another \$1 billion which will be received in February 2009

upon the mandatory conversion of MetLife's common equity units.

Liquidity

MetLife's sources of liquidity include cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$21 billion as of September 30, 2008, up from \$14 billion as of June 30, 2008.

As of September 30, 2008, MetLife's liquid assets at the holding company totaled approximately \$1.75 billion. Liquidity is not expected to be impacted in the near term because none of the holding company's long-term debt is

Table of Contents

due before 2011 and the holding company's commercial paper program, which is not used for general corporate funding purposes, had only approximately \$300 million outstanding as of September 30, 2008.

Liquidity in MetLife's insurance business is determined by a number of factors:

In MetLife's retail business, which includes individual life and annuity products, the policies lapse or are surrendered in the normal course of business, and lapse rates have been decreasing recently.

In Institutional's retirement and savings business, as of September 30, 2008, approximately \$92 billion of the total policyholder liabilities of \$96 billion were comprised of pension and other fixed annuity liabilities without surrender or withdrawal options, or guaranteed investment contracts with stated maturities.

MetLife's retirement and savings business has liabilities of approximately \$4 billion under funding agreements pursuant to which customers can, on notice, require early payment. Of these, approximately \$1 billion could be required to be paid on 90 days notice, while the remainder requires 6 to 13 months notice.

In addition, less than \$1 billion of retirement and savings liabilities are subject to mandatory collateralization as a result of ratings downgrades. Hypothetically, if there were a two notch downgrade in MetLife's insurer financial strength rating, MetLife would currently be required to post less than \$200 million in collateral.

Securities Lending

In connection with MetLife's securities lending activities, MetLife lends various types of fixed income securities in return for cash collateral which is invested in high quality assets. At the end of the second quarter, MetLife's securities lending book was \$45 billion. At September 30, 2008, it had declined to \$41 billion. Of this \$41 billion, approximately \$15 billion is on open, which means that the securities MetLife has loaned can be returned to MetLife overnight in return for cash, while the balance has varying maturities ranging from two weeks to several months. Of the \$15 billion of securities on open, \$10 billion are U.S. Treasury and agency securities which MetLife believes if put to MetLife, can immediately be sold to satisfy MetLife's obligation to return cash collateral securing its loans. Should MetLife's liquidity needs under MetLife's securities lending program accelerate, MetLife has a pool of \$9 billion in cash at the end of the third quarter dedicated to meet those needs and, in addition, MetLife has the liquidity resources of most of MetLife's general account assets to draw on.

Book Value

As of September 30, 2008, preliminary stockholders' equity, excluding accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI), was approximately \$35 billion. AOCI reflects estimated unrealized losses of approximately \$7 billion, net of income tax and deferred acquisition costs. Consequently, book value per share including AOCI was \$36 per diluted common share and excluding AOCI was \$46 per diluted common share.

Termination of Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policies

On September 29, 2008, MLIC entered into an endorsement and a Termination Agreement and Release (collectively, the Termination Agreements) with respect to each of (i) Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between Stockwood Reinsurance Company, Ltd., an affiliate of Swiss Re, and MLIC (the Stockwood Policy), (ii) Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between European Reinsurance Corporation of America, an affiliate of Swiss Re, and MLIC (the ERC Policy), and (iii) Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between Granite State Insurance Company, an affiliate of American International Group, Inc., and MLIC (the

Granite State Policy, and, collectively, the Policies). The Termination Agreements were effective as of September 30, 2008.

In connection with the commutation, MLIC received securities with a market value of approximately \$115 million on September 26, 2008. MLIC will receive the remainder of the approximately \$600 million recoverable in cash on or before January 30, 2009. MLIC will recognize a loss of \$22.9 million, net of income tax, during the three months ended September 30, 2008.

S-7

Table of Contents

The Policies provided for recovery of losses for asbestos-related claims of up to \$1.5 billion in excess of a \$400 million self-insured retention. The Policies were also subject to annual and per claim sublimits. Amounts were recoverable under the Policies annually with respect to claims paid during the preceding calendar year. Each Policy contained an experience fund and a reference fund that provided for payments to MLIC at the commutation date if the reference fund was greater than zero at commutation or pro rata reductions from time to time in the loss reimbursements to MLIC if the cumulative return on the reference fund was less than the return specified in the experience fund. The return in the reference fund was tied to performance of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index and the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index.

RGA Transaction

During the third quarter, MetLife completed its split-off of substantially all of MetLife's interest in Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated (RGA). The split-off transaction results in a GAAP loss of \$460 million, a statutory gain in excess of \$1 billion, and a decrease in MetLife's share count of approximately 23 million shares. MetLife's share of the operating earnings of RGA in the third quarter (approximately \$24 million, or \$0.03 per diluted common share) is now reflected in discontinued operations. All previous periods will be reclassified in discontinued operations when MetLife formally reports its third quarter 2008 results. See Note 2(b) of Capitalization.

Remarketing of Securities Underlying Common Equity Units

On August 15, 2008, MetLife concluded the remarketing, on behalf of holders of its Common Equity Units (the Units), of debt securities constituting part of MetLife, Inc.'s Units. In the remarketing, \$1,029,805,000 aggregate principal amount of such debt securities were remarketed, and the debt securities were denominated 6.817% Senior Debt Securities, Series A, Due 2018 (the Series A Debentures). The Series A Debentures were issued pursuant to an Indenture and First Supplemental Indenture dated as of June 21, 2005 between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (as successor in interest to J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association), as Trustee (the Trustee), as supplemented by the Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 7, 2008, between us and the Trustee, and have terms described in our Prospectus Supplement relating to the remarketing dated August 12, 2008, filed with the SEC on August 14, 2008 pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).

See Note 2(a) of Capitalization.

Non-GAAP and Other Financial Disclosures

Net income available to common shareholders and net income available to common shareholders per diluted common share are defined as GAAP net income and GAAP net income per diluted common share less preferred stock dividends, respectively.

Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders is a GAAP measure and is defined as GAAP net income less discontinued operations, net of income tax, less preferred stock dividends.

MetLife also analyzes its performance using so-called non-GAAP measures, including operating earnings available to common shareholders and operating earnings available to common shareholders per diluted common share. Operating earnings available to common shareholders is defined as GAAP net income, excluding net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, adjustments related to net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, and discontinued operations other than discontinued real estate, net of income tax, less preferred stock dividends. Scheduled periodic settlement payments on derivative instruments not qualifying for hedge accounting treatment are included in operating earnings available to common shareholders.

Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders can be reconciled to operating earnings available to common shareholders by excluding net investment gains and losses, net of income tax; adjustments related to net investment gains and losses, net of income tax; and discontinued operations related to real estate. Discontinued operations other than discontinued operations related to real estate and preferred stock dividends are

S-8

Table of Contents

excluded from both income from continuing operations available to common shareholders and operating earnings available to common shareholders.

MetLife believes these measures enhance the understanding and comparability of its performance by excluding net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, and adjustments related to net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, both of which can fluctuate significantly from period to period, and discontinued operations other than discontinued real estate, net of income tax, thereby highlighting the results from operations and the underlying profitability drivers of the business. Operating earnings available to common shareholders and operating earnings available to common shareholders per diluted common share should not be viewed as substitutes for GAAP net income available to common shareholders and GAAP net income available to common shareholders per diluted common share, respectively.

Operating earnings available to common shareholders per diluted common share is calculated by dividing operating earnings available to common shareholders by the number of weighted average diluted common shares outstanding for the period indicated. Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders per diluted common share is calculated by dividing Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders by the number of weighted average diluted common shares outstanding for the period indicated.

MetLife provides guidance on its future earnings per diluted common share on both a GAAP (income from continuing operations) and a non-GAAP (operating earnings) basis. A reconciliation of the non-GAAP measure to the most directly comparable GAAP measure is not accessible on a forward-looking basis because MetLife believes it is not possible to provide other than a range of net investment gains and losses, which can fluctuate significantly within or without the range and from period to period and may have a significant impact on GAAP net income.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

In considering whether to purchase common stock, you should carefully consider all the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus. In particular, you should carefully consider the following risk factors.

Risks Relating to Our Business

Adverse Capital and Credit Market Conditions May Significantly Affect Our Ability to Meet Liquidity Needs, Access to Capital and Cost of Capital

The capital and credit markets have been experiencing extreme volatility and disruption for more than twelve months. In recent weeks, the volatility and disruption have reached unprecedented levels. In some cases, the markets have exerted downward pressure on availability of liquidity and credit capacity for certain issuers.

We need liquidity to pay our operating expenses, interest on our debt and dividends on our capital stock, maintain our securities lending activities and replace certain maturing liabilities. Without sufficient liquidity, we will be forced to curtail our operations, and our business will suffer. The principal sources of our liquidity are insurance premiums, annuity considerations, deposit funds, cash flow from our investment portfolio and assets, consisting mainly of cash or assets that are readily convertible into cash. Sources of liquidity in normal markets also include a variety of short- and long-term instruments, including repurchase agreements, commercial paper, medium- and long-term debt, junior subordinated debt securities, capital securities and stockholders' equity.

In the event current resources do not satisfy our needs, we may have to seek additional financing. The availability of additional financing will depend on a variety of factors such as market conditions, the general availability of credit, the volume of trading activities, the overall availability of credit to the financial services industry, our credit ratings and credit capacity, as well as the possibility that customers or lenders could develop a negative perception of our long- or short-term financial prospects if we incur large investment losses or if the level of our business activity decreased due to a market downturn. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities or rating agencies take negative actions against us. Our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient, and in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms, or at all.

Our liquidity requirements may change. For instance, we have funding agreements which can be put to us after a period of notice. The notice requirements vary; however, the shortest period is 90 days, applicable to approximately \$1 billion of such liabilities as of September 30, 2008.

Disruptions, uncertainty or volatility in the capital and credit markets may also limit our access to capital required to operate our business, most significantly our insurance operations. Such market conditions may limit our ability to replace, in a timely manner, maturing liabilities; satisfy statutory capital requirements; generate fee income and market-related revenue to meet liquidity needs; and access the capital necessary to grow our business. As such, we may be forced to delay raising capital, issue shorter tenor securities than we prefer, or bear an unattractive cost of capital which could decrease our profitability and significantly reduce our financial flexibility. Recently our credit spreads have widened considerably. Our results of operations, financial condition, cash flows and statutory capital position could be materially adversely affected by disruptions in the financial markets.

Difficult Conditions in the Global Capital Markets and the Economy Generally May Materially Adversely Affect Our Business and Results of Operations and We Do Not Expect These Conditions to Improve in the Near Future

Our results of operations are materially affected by conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally, both in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world. The stress experienced by global capital markets that began in the second half of 2007 continued and substantially increased during the third quarter of 2008. Recently, concerns over inflation, energy costs, geopolitical issues, the availability and cost of credit, the U.S. mortgage market and a declining real estate market in the U.S. have contributed to increased volatility and diminished expectations for the economy and the markets going forward. These factors, combined with volatile oil prices, declining business and consumer confidence and increased unemployment, have precipitated an economic

S-10

Table of Contents

slowdown and fears of a possible recession. In addition, the fixed-income markets are experiencing a period of extreme volatility which has negatively impacted market liquidity conditions. Initially, the concerns on the part of market participants were focused on the subprime segment of the mortgage-backed securities market. However, these concerns have since expanded to include a broad range of mortgage-and asset-backed and other fixed income securities, including those rated investment grade, the U.S. and international credit and interbank money markets generally, and a wide range of financial institutions and markets, asset classes and sectors. As a result, the market for fixed income instruments has experienced decreased liquidity, increased price volatility, credit downgrade events, and increased probability of default. Securities that are less liquid are more difficult to value and may be hard to dispose of. Domestic and international equity markets have also been experiencing heightened volatility and turmoil, with issuers (such as our company) that have exposure to the real estate, mortgage and credit markets particularly affected. These events and the continuing market upheavals may have an adverse effect on us, in part because we have a large investment portfolio and are also dependent upon customer behavior. Our revenues are likely to decline in such circumstances and our profit margins could erode. In addition, in the event of extreme prolonged market events, such as the global credit crisis, we could incur significant losses. Even in the absence of a market downturn, we are exposed to substantial risk of loss due to market volatility.

We are a significant writer of variable annuity products. The account values of these products will be affected by the downturn in capital markets. Any decrease in account values will decrease the fees generated by our variable annuity products.

Factors such as consumer spending, business investment, government spending, the volatility and strength of the capital markets, and inflation all affect the business and economic environment and, ultimately, the amount and profitability of our business. In an economic downturn characterized by higher unemployment, lower family income, lower corporate earnings, lower business investment and lower consumer spending, the demand for our financial and insurance products could be adversely affected. In addition, we may experience an elevated incidence of claims and lapses or surrenders of policies. Our policyholders may choose to defer paying insurance premiums or stop paying insurance premiums altogether. Adverse changes in the economy could affect earnings negatively and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. The current mortgage crisis has also raised the possibility of future legislative and regulatory actions in addition to the recent enactment of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA) that could further impact our business. We cannot predict whether or when such actions may occur, or what impact, if any, such actions could have on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

There Can be No Assurance that Actions of the U.S. Government, Federal Reserve and Other Governmental and Regulatory Bodies For the Purpose of Stabilizing the Financial Markets Will Achieve the Intended Effect

In response to the financial crises affecting the banking system and financial markets and going concern threats to investment banks and other financial institutions, on October 3, 2008, President Bush signed the EESA into law. Pursuant to the EESA, the U.S. Treasury has the authority to, among other things, purchase up to \$700 billion of mortgage-backed and other securities from financial institutions for the purpose of stabilizing the financial markets. The Federal Government, Federal Reserve and other governmental and regulatory bodies have taken or are considering taking other actions to address the financial crisis. There can be no assurance as to what impact such actions will have on the financial markets, including the extreme levels of volatility currently being experienced. Such continued volatility could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, or the trading price of our common stock.

The Impairment of Other Financial Institutions Could Adversely Affect Us

We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, hedge funds and other investment funds and other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty. In addition, with respect to secured transactions, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized upon or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure due to it. We also have exposure to these financial

S-11

Table of Contents

institutions in the form of unsecured debt instruments, derivative transactions and equity investments. There can be no assurance that any such losses or impairments to the carrying value of these assets would not materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our Participation in a Securities Lending Program Subjects Us to Potential Liquidity and Other Risks

We participate in a securities lending program for our general account whereby fixed income securities are loaned by us to third parties, primarily major brokerage firms and commercial banks. The borrowers of our securities provide us with collateral, typically in cash, which we separately maintain. We invest such cash collateral in other securities, primarily U.S. Treasuries, U.S. government agency securities, mortgage-backed securities and corporate fixed income securities. Securities with a cost or amortized cost of \$40.4 billion and \$41.1 billion and an estimated fair value of \$39.7 billion and \$42.1 billion were on loan under the program at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively. Securities loaned under such transactions may be sold or repledged by the transferee. We were liable for cash collateral under our control of \$41.2 billion and \$43.3 billion at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively.

As of September 30, 2008, approximately \$15.0 billion of the \$40.4 billion in securities on loan under the program could be returned to us by the borrowers at any time, with the remainder having varying maturities ranging from two weeks to several months. Returns of loaned securities would require us to return the cash collateral associated with such loaned securities. In addition, in some cases, the maturity of the securities held as invested collateral (i.e., securities that we have purchased with cash received from the third parties) may exceed the term of the related securities loan and the market value may fall below the amount of cash received as collateral and invested. If we are required to return significant amounts of cash collateral on short notice and we are forced to sell securities to meet the return obligation, we may have difficulty selling such collateral that is invested in securities in a timely manner, be forced to sell securities in a volatile or illiquid market for less than we otherwise would have been able to realize under normal market conditions, or both. In addition, under stressful capital market and economic conditions, such as those conditions we have experienced recently, liquidity broadly deteriorates, which may further restrict our ability to sell securities.

If we decrease the amount of our securities lending activities over time, the amount of income generated by these activities will also likely decline.

We are Exposed to Significant Financial and Capital Markets Risk which May Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations, Financial Condition and Liquidity, and our Net Investment Income can Vary From Period to Period

We are exposed to significant financial and capital markets risk, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, real estate values, foreign currency exchange rates, market volatility, the performance of the economy in general, the performance of the specific obligors included in our portfolio and other factors outside our control. Our exposure to interest rate risk relates primarily to the market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in interest rates. A rise in interest rates will increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio and, if long-term interest rates rise dramatically within a six to twelve month time period, certain of our life insurance businesses may be exposed to disintermediation risk. Disintermediation risk refers to the risk that our policyholders may surrender their contracts in a rising interest rate environment, requiring us to liquidate assets in an unrealized loss position. Due to the long-term nature of the liabilities associated with certain of our life insurance businesses, and guaranteed benefits on variable annuities, and structured settlements, sustained declines in long-term interest rates may subject us to reinvestment risks and increased hedging costs. In other situations, declines in interest rates may result in increasing the duration of certain life insurance liabilities, creating asset liability duration mismatches. Our investment portfolio also contains interest rate sensitive instruments, such as fixed income securities, which may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates from governmental monetary policies, domestic and international

economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. A rise in interest rates would increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, offset by our ability to earn higher rates of return on funds reinvested. Conversely, a decline in interest rates would decrease the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, offset by lower rates of return on funds reinvested. Our mitigation efforts with respect to interest rate risk are primarily focused towards maintaining an investment

S-12

Table of Contents

portfolio with diversified maturities that has a weighted average duration that is approximately equal to the duration of our estimated liability cash flow profile. However, our estimate of the liability cash flow profile may be inaccurate and we may be forced to liquidate investments prior to maturity at a loss in order to cover the liability. Although we take measures to manage the economic risks of investing in a changing interest rate environment, we may not be able to mitigate the interest rate risk of our assets relative to our liabilities. See also **Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability.**

Our exposure to credit spreads primarily relates to market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in credit spreads. A widening of credit spreads will increase the net unrealized loss position of the investment portfolio, will increase losses associated with credit based non-qualifying derivatives where we assume credit exposure, and, if issuer credit spreads increase significantly or for an extended period of time, would likely result in higher other-than-temporary impairments. Credit spread tightening will reduce net investment income associated with new purchases of fixed maturities. In addition, market volatility can make it difficult to value certain of our securities if trading becomes less frequent. As such, valuations may include assumptions or estimates that may have significant period to period changes which could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition. Recent credit spreads on both corporate and structured securities have widened, resulting in continuing depressed pricing. Continuing challenges include continued weakness in the U.S. real estate market and increased mortgage delinquencies, investor anxiety over the U.S. economy, rating agency downgrades of various structured products and financial issuers, unresolved issues with structured investment vehicles and monolines, deleveraging of financial institutions and hedge funds and a serious dislocation in the inter-bank market. If significant, continued volatility, changes in interest rates, changes in credit spreads and defaults, a lack of pricing transparency, market liquidity, declines in equity prices, and the strengthening or weakening of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar, individually or in tandem, could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations, financial condition or cash flows through realized losses, impairments, and changes in unrealized positions.

Our primary exposure to equity risk relates to the potential for lower earnings associated with certain of our insurance businesses, such as variable annuities, where fee income is earned based upon the fair value of the assets under management. In addition, certain of our annuity products offer guaranteed benefits which increase our potential benefit exposure should equity markets decline. We are also exposed to interest rate and equity risk based upon the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return assumptions associated with our pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations. Sustained declines in long-term interest rates or equity returns likely would have a negative effect on the funded status of these plans.

Our primary foreign currency exchange risks are described under **Fluctuations in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates and Foreign Securities Markets Could Negatively Affect our Profitability.** Significant declines in equity prices, changes in U.S. interest rates, changes in credit spreads, and changes foreign currency could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations, financial condition or liquidity. Changes in these factors, which are significant risks to us, can affect our net investment income in any period, and such changes can be substantial.

We invest a portion of our invested assets in investment funds, many of which make private equity investments. The amount and timing of income from such investment funds tends to be uneven as a result of the performance of the underlying investments, including private equity investments. The timing of distributions from the funds, which depends on particular events relating to the underlying investments, as well as the funds' schedules for making distributions and their needs for cash, can be difficult to predict. As a result, the amount of income that we record from these investments can vary substantially from quarter to quarter. Recent equity and credit market volatility may reduce investment income for these type of investments.

Our Requirements To Post Collateral or Make Payments Related to Declines in Market Value of Specified Assets May Adversely Affect Our Liquidity and Expose Us to Counterparty Credit Risk

Many of our transactions with financial and other institutions specify the circumstances under which the parties are required to post collateral. The amount of collateral we may be required to post under these agreements may increase under certain circumstances, which could adversely affect our liquidity. In addition, under the terms of

S-13

Table of Contents

some of our transactions we may be required to make payment to our counterparties related to any decline in the market value of the specified assets. In December 2007, we entered into an agreement with an unaffiliated financial institution that referenced \$2.5 billion of 35-year surplus notes issued by MetLife Reinsurance Company of Charleston (MRC). Based on the decline of the market value of MRC 's surplus notes, we made a payment to the unaffiliated financial institution in the third quarter of 2008, and may in the future be required to make additional payments based on any further declines in the market value of MRC 's surplus notes. Such payments reduce the notional amount of our agreement with our counterparty, but do not reduce the principal amount of the surplus notes. Such payments could have an adverse effect on our liquidity. Furthermore, with respect to any such payments, we will have unsecured risk to the counterparty as these amounts are not required to be segregated from the counterparty 's funds, are not held in a third-party custodial account, and are not required to be paid to us by the counterparty until the termination of the transaction. Finally, certain of our transactions involve additional liquidity risks because in the event of an early termination of the transaction, we would have to purchase the referenced security to recover the amount we have paid in reduction of the notional amount of the transaction.

Our Statutory Reserve Financings May be Subject to Cost Increases and New Financings May be Subject to Limited Market Capacity

To support its level premium term life and universal life with secondary guarantees businesses and MLIC 's closed block, we currently utilize capital markets solutions for financing a portion of its statutory reserve requirements. While we have financing facilities in place for its previously written business and has remaining capacity in existing facilities to support writings through the end of 2008, certain of these facilities are subject to cost increases upon the occurrence of specified ratings downgrades of the company or are subject to periodic repricing. Any resulting cost increases could negatively impact our financial results.

Further, the capacity for these reserve funding structures available in the current marketplace is limited. If capacity continues to be limited for a prolonged period of times, MetLife 's ability to obtain new funding for these structures may be hindered, and as a result its ability to write additional business in a cost effective manner may be impacted.

Defaults on Our Mortgage and Consumer Loans and Volatility in Performance May Adversely Affect Our Profitability

Our mortgage and consumer loans face default risk and are principally collateralized by commercial, agricultural and residential properties, as well as automobiles. Mortgage and consumer loans are stated on our balance sheet at unpaid principal balance, adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, and are net of valuation allowances. We establish valuation allowances for estimated impairments as of the balance sheet date. Such valuation allowances are based on the excess carrying value of the loan over the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan 's original effective interest rate, the value of the loan 's collateral if the loan is in the process of foreclosure or otherwise collateral dependent, or the loan 's market value if the loan is being sold. We also establish allowances for loan losses when a loss contingency exists for pools of loans with similar characteristics, such as mortgage loans based on similar property types or loan to value risk factors. At June 30, 2008, loans that were either delinquent or in the process of foreclosure totaled less than 1% of our mortgage and consumer loan investments. The performance of our mortgage and consumer loan investments, however, may fluctuate in the future. In addition, substantially all of our mortgage loan investments have balloon payment maturities. An increase in the default rate of our mortgage and consumer loan investments could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. See Management 's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Mortgage and Consumer Loans in MetLife, Inc. 's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008.

Further, any geographic or sector concentration of our mortgage or consumer loans may have adverse effects on our investment portfolios and consequently on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition. While we seek to mitigate this risk by having a broadly diversified portfolio, events or developments that have a negative effect on any particular geographic region or sector may have a greater adverse effect on the investment portfolios to the extent that the portfolios are concentrated. Moreover, our ability to sell assets relating to such particular groups of related assets may be limited if other market participants are seeking to sell at the same time.

S-14

Table of Contents

Our Investments are Reflected Within the Consolidated Financial Statements Utilizing Different Accounting Basis and Accordingly We May Not Have Recognized Differences, Which May Be Significant, Between Cost and Fair Value in our Consolidated Financial Statements

Our principal investments are in fixed maturity and equity securities, trading securities, short-term investments, mortgage and consumer loans, policy loans, real estate, real estate joint ventures and other limited partnerships and other invested assets. The carrying value of such investments is as follows:

Fixed maturity and equity securities are classified as available-for-sale, except for trading securities, and are reported at their estimated fair value. Unrealized investment gains and losses on these securities are recorded as a separate component of other comprehensive income or loss, net of policyholder related amounts and deferred income taxes.

Trading securities are recorded at fair value with subsequent changes in fair value recognized in net investment income.

Short-term investments include investments with remaining maturities of one year or less, but greater than three months, at the time of acquisition and are stated at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Mortgage and consumer loans are stated at unpaid principal balance, adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, net of valuation allowances.

Policy loans are stated at unpaid principal balances.

Real estate joint ventures and other limited partnership interests in which we have more than a minor equity interest or more than a minor influence over the joint ventures or partnership's operations, but where we do not have a controlling interest and are not the primary beneficiary, are carried using the equity method of accounting. We use the cost method of accounting for investments in real estate joint ventures and other limited partnership interests in which it has a minor equity investment and virtually no influence over the joint ventures or the partnership's operations.

Other invested assets consist principally of leveraged leases and derivatives with positive fair values. Leveraged leases are recorded net of non-recourse debt. Derivatives are carried at fair value with changes in fair value reflected in income from non-qualifying derivatives and derivatives in fair value hedging relationships. Derivatives in cash flow hedging relationships are reflected as a separate component of other comprehensive income or loss.

Investments not carried at fair value in our consolidated financial statements—principally, mortgage and consumer loans, policy loans, real estate, real estate joint ventures, other limited partnerships and leveraged leases—may have fair values which are substantially higher or lower than the carrying value reflected in our consolidated financial statements. Each of such asset classes is regularly evaluated for impairment under the accounting guidance appropriate to the respective asset class.

Our Valuation of Fixed Maturity, Equity and Trading Securities May Include Methodologies, Estimations and Assumptions Which Are Subject to Differing Interpretations and Could Result in Changes to Investment Valuations That May Materially Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations or Financial Condition

Fixed maturity, equity, trading securities and short-term investments which are reported at fair value on the consolidated balance sheet represented the majority of our total cash and invested assets. The Company has

categorized these securities into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of the inputs to the respective valuation technique. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). An asset or liability's classification within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of significant input to its valuation. SFAS 157 defines the input levels as follows:

Level 1 Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 Quoted prices in markets that are not active or inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly.
Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities other than quoted prices in

S-15

Table of Contents

Level 1; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. Unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose values are determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation.

At June 30, 2008, approximately 5%, 85%, and 10% of these securities represented Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, respectively. The Level 1 securities primarily consist of certain U.S. Treasury and agency fixed maturity securities; exchange-traded common stock, and financial futures. The Level 2 assets include fixed maturity securities priced principally through independent pricing services including most U.S. Treasury and agency securities as well as the majority of U.S. and foreign corporate securities, residential mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, state and political subdivision securities, foreign government securities, and asset-backed securities as well as equity securities, including non-redeemable preferred stock, priced by independent pricing services. Management reviews the valuation methodologies used by the pricing services on an ongoing basis and ensures that any valuation methodologies are justified. Level 3 assets include fixed maturity securities priced principally through independent broker quotes or market standard valuation methodologies. This level consists of less liquid fixed maturity securities with very limited trading activity or where less price transparency exists around the inputs to the valuation methodologies including: U.S. and foreign corporate securities including below investment grade private placements; residential mortgage-backed securities; asset backed securities including all of those supported by sub-prime mortgage loans; and other fixed maturity securities such as structured securities. Equity securities classified as Level 3 securities consist principally of common stock of privately held companies and non-redeemable preferred stock where there has been very limited trading activity or where less price transparency exists around the inputs to the valuation.

Prices provided by independent pricing services and independent broker quotes can vary widely even for the same security.

The determination of fair values in the absence of quoted market prices is based on: (i) valuation methodologies; (ii) securities we deem to be comparable; and (iii) assumptions deemed appropriate given the circumstances. The fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on available market information and judgments about financial instruments, including estimates of the timing and amounts of expected future cash flows and the credit standing of the issuer or counterparty. Factors considered in estimating fair value include: coupon rate, maturity, estimated duration, call provisions, sinking fund requirements, credit rating, industry sector of the issuer, and quoted market prices of comparable securities. The use of different methodologies and assumptions may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

During periods of market disruption including periods of significantly rising or high interest rates, rapidly widening credit spreads or illiquidity, it may be difficult to value certain of our securities, for example Alt-A and subprime mortgage backed securities, if trading becomes less frequent and/or market data becomes less observable. There may be certain asset classes that were in active markets with significant observable data that become illiquid due to the current financial environment. In such cases, more securities may fall to Level 3 and thus require more subjectivity and management judgment. As such, valuations may include inputs and assumptions that are less observable or require greater estimation as well as valuation methods which are more sophisticated or require greater estimation thereby resulting in values which may be less than the value at which the investments may be ultimately sold. Further,

rapidly changing and unprecedented credit and equity market conditions could materially impact the valuation of securities as reported within our consolidated financial statements and the period-to-period changes in value could vary significantly. Decreases in value may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

S-16

Table of Contents

Some of Our Investments Are Relatively Illiquid and Are In Asset Classes that Have Been Experiencing Significant Market Valuation Fluctuations

We hold certain investments that may lack liquidity, such as privately placed fixed maturity securities; mortgage and consumer loans; policy loans and leveraged leases; and equity real estate, including real estate joint venture; and other limited partnership interests. These asset classes represented 32.3% of the carrying value of our total cash and invested assets as of June 30, 2008. Even some of our very high quality assets have been more illiquid as a result of the recent challenging market conditions.

If we require significant amounts of cash on short notice in excess of normal cash requirements or are required to post or return collateral in connection with our investment portfolio, derivatives transactions or securities lending activities, we may have difficulty selling these investments in a timely manner, be forced to sell them for less than we otherwise would have been able to realize, or both.

The reported value of our relatively illiquid types of investments, our investments in the asset classes described in the paragraph above and, at times, our high quality, generally liquid asset classes, do not necessarily reflect the lowest current market price for the asset. If we were forced to sell certain of our assets in the current market, there can be no assurance that we will be able to sell them for the prices at which we have recorded them and we may be forced to sell them at significantly lower prices.

The Determination of the Amount of Allowances and Impairments Taken on Our Investments is Highly Subjective and Could Materially Impact Our Results of Operations or Financial Position.

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments vary by investment type and is based upon our periodic evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available. Management updates its evaluations regularly and reflects changes in allowances and impairments in operations as such evaluations are revised. There can be no assurance that our management has accurately assessed the level of impairments taken and allowances reflected in our financial statements. Furthermore, additional impairments may need to be taken or allowances provided for in the future. Historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments or allowances.

For example, the cost of our fixed maturity and equity securities is adjusted for impairments in value deemed to be other-than-temporary in the period in which the determination is made. The assessment of whether impairments have occurred is based on management's case-by-case evaluation of the underlying reasons for the decline in fair value. The review of our fixed maturity and equity securities for impairments includes an analysis of the total gross unrealized losses by three categories of securities: (i) securities where the estimated fair value had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by less than 20%; (ii) securities where the estimated fair value had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by 20% or more for less than six months; and (iii) securities where the estimated fair value had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by 20% or more for six months or greater.

Additionally, our management considers a wide range of factors about the security issuer and uses their best judgment in evaluating the cause of the decline in the estimated fair value of the security and in assessing the prospects for near-term recovery. Inherent in management's evaluation of the security are assumptions and estimates about the operations of the issuer and its future earnings potential. Considerations in the impairment evaluation process include, but are not limited to: (i) the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been below cost or amortized cost; (ii) the potential for impairments of securities when the issuer is experiencing significant financial difficulties; (iii) the potential for impairments in an entire industry sector or sub-sector; (iv) the potential for impairments in certain economically depressed geographic locations; (v) the potential for impairments of securities where the issuer, series of issuers or industry has suffered a catastrophic type of loss or has exhausted natural resources; (vi) our ability

and intent to hold the security for a period of time sufficient to allow for the recovery of its value to an amount equal to or greater than cost or amortized cost; (vii) unfavorable changes in forecasted cash flows on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities; and (viii) other subjective factors, including concentrations and information obtained from regulators and rating agencies.

S-17

Table of Contents

Gross Unrealized Losses May be Realized or Result in Future Impairments.

Our gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities at September 30, 2008 are expected to be \$17 billion pre-tax and the component of gross unrealized losses for securities trading down 20% or more for six months is approximately \$1.7 billion pre-tax. Realized losses or impairments may have a material adverse impact on our results of operation and financial position.

Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability

Some of our products, principally traditional whole life insurance, fixed annuities and guaranteed investment contracts (GICs), expose us to the risk that changes in interest rates will reduce our spread, or the difference between the amounts that we are required to pay under the contracts in our general account and the rate of return we are able to earn on general account investments intended to support obligations under the contracts. Our spread is a key component of our net income.

As interest rates decrease or remain at low levels, we may be forced to reinvest proceeds from investments that have matured or have been prepaid or sold at lower yields, reducing our investment margin. Moreover, borrowers may prepay or redeem the fixed-income securities, commercial mortgages and mortgage-backed securities in our investment portfolio with greater frequency in order to borrow at lower market rates, which exacerbates this risk. Lowering interest crediting rates can help offset decreases in investment margins on some products. However, our ability to lower these rates could be limited by competition or contractually guaranteed minimum rates and may not match the timing or magnitude of changes in asset yields. As a result, our spread could decrease or potentially become negative. Our expectation for future spreads is an important component in the amortization of DAC and VOBA and significantly lower spreads may cause us to accelerate amortization, thereby reducing net income in the affected reporting period. In addition, during periods of declining interest rates, life insurance and annuity products may be relatively more attractive investments to consumers, resulting in increased premium payments on products with flexible premium features, repayment of policy loans and increased persistency, or a higher percentage of insurance policies remaining in force from year to year, during a period when our new investments carry lower returns. A decline in market interest rates could also reduce our return on investments that do not support particular policy obligations. Accordingly, declining interest rates may materially adversely affect our results of operations, financial position and cash flows and significantly reduce our profitability.

Our results in Taiwan are highly sensitive to interest rates and other related assumptions because of the sustained low interest rate environment in Taiwan coupled with long-term interest rate guarantees of approximately 6% embedded in the life and health contracts sold prior to 2003 and the lack of availability of long-duration assets in the Taiwanese capital markets to match such long-duration liabilities. During the fourth quarter of 2006, our Taiwanese operation recorded a loss recognition adjustment (in the form of accelerated DAC amortization) of \$50 million, net of income tax, due, principally, to the continued low interest rate environment. The loss recognition testing that resulted in the charge during the fourth quarter of 2006 used a current best estimate of Taiwanese interest rates of 2.1% rising to 3.5% over the next ten years and a corresponding increase in related lapse rates. If interest rates and related lapse assumptions do not improve, notwithstanding other actions we may take to reduce the impact, current estimates of future loss recognition of as much as \$100 million, net of income tax, could be recognized in our results of operations in one or more future periods and additional capital may be required to be contributed to the Taiwanese operation. The results of loss recognition testing for Taiwan are inherently uncertain given the use of various assumptions and the long-term nature of the liability, and therefore, can only be reliably estimated within broad ranges which may vary significantly in future periods.

Increases in market interest rates could also negatively affect our profitability. In periods of rapidly increasing interest rates, we may not be able to replace, in a timely manner, the assets in MetLife's general account with higher yielding

assets needed to fund the higher crediting rates necessary to keep interest sensitive products competitive. We, therefore, may have to accept a lower spread and, thus, lower profitability or face a decline in sales and greater loss of existing contracts and related assets. In addition, policy loans, surrenders and withdrawals may tend to increase as policyholders seek investments with higher perceived returns as interest rates rise. This process may result in cash outflows requiring that we sell invested assets at a time when the prices of those assets are adversely affected by the increase in market interest rates, which may result in realized investment losses. Unanticipated

Table of Contents

withdrawals and terminations may cause us to accelerate the amortization of DAC and VOBA, which would increase our current expenses and reduce net income. An increase in market interest rates could also have a material adverse effect on the value of our investment portfolio, for example, by decreasing the fair values of the fixed income securities that comprise a substantial portion of our investment portfolio.

Industry Trends Could Adversely Affect the Profitability of Our Businesses

Our business segments continue to be influenced by a variety of trends that affect the insurance industry. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Results of Operations—Industry Trends in MetLife, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008.

The life insurance industry remains highly competitive. The product development and product life-cycles have shortened in many product segments, leading to more intense competition with respect to product features. Larger companies have the ability to invest in brand equity, product development, technology and risk management, which are among the fundamentals for sustained profitable growth in the life insurance industry. In addition, several of the industry's products can be quite homogeneous and subject to intense price competition. Sufficient scale, financial strength and financial flexibility are becoming prerequisites for sustainable growth in the life insurance industry. Larger market participants tend to have the capacity to invest in additional distribution capability and the information technology needed to offer the superior customer service demanded by an increasingly sophisticated industry client base. See Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability and Business Competition in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Regulatory Changes. The life insurance industry is regulated at the state level, with some products and services also subject to federal regulation. As life insurers introduce new and often more complex products, regulators refine capital requirements and introduce new reserving standards for the life insurance industry. Regulations recently adopted or currently under review can potentially impact the reserve and capital requirements of the industry. In addition, regulators have undertaken market and sales practices reviews of several markets or products, including equity-indexed annuities, variable annuities and group products. See Our Insurance Businesses Are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth and Business Regulation—Insurance Regulation in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Pension Plans. On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (the PPA) into law. The PPA is a comprehensive reform of defined benefit and defined contribution plan rules. While the impact of the PPA is generally expected to be positive over time, these changes may have adverse short-term effects on our business as plan sponsors may react to these changes in a variety of ways as the new rules and related regulations begin to take effect.

A Decline in Equity Markets or an Increase in Volatility in Equity Markets May Adversely Affect Sales of Our Investment Products and Our Profitability

Significant downturns and volatility in equity markets could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations in three principal ways.

First, market downturns and volatility may discourage purchases of separate account products, such as variable annuities, variable life insurance and mutual funds that have returns linked to the performance of the equity markets and may cause some of our existing customers to withdraw cash values or reduce investments in those products.

Second, downturns and volatility in equity markets can have a material adverse effect on the revenues and returns from our savings and investment products and services. Because these products and services depend on fees related

primarily to the value of assets under management, a decline in the equity markets could reduce our revenues by reducing the value of the investment assets we manage. The retail annuity business in particular is highly sensitive to equity markets, and a sustained weakness in the markets will decrease revenues and earnings in variable annuity products.

Third, we provide certain guarantees within some of our products that protect policyholders against significant downturns in the equity markets. For example, we offer variable annuity products with guaranteed features, such as minimum death, minimum withdrawal, minimum accumulation and minimum income benefits. In volatile or

S-19

Table of Contents

declining equity market conditions, we may need to increase liabilities for future policy benefits and policyholder account balances, negatively affecting net income.

If Our Business Does Not Perform Well, We May Be Required to Recognize an Impairment of Our Goodwill or Other Long-Lived Assets or to Establish a Valuation Allowance Against the Deferred Income Tax Asset, Which Could Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations or Financial Condition

Goodwill represents the excess of the amounts we paid to acquire subsidiaries and other businesses over the fair value of their net assets at the date of acquisition. We test goodwill at least annually for impairment. Impairment testing is performed based upon estimates of the fair value of the reporting unit to which the goodwill relates. The reporting unit is the operating segment or a business one level below that operating segment if discrete financial information is prepared and regularly reviewed by management at that level. The fair value of the reporting unit is impacted by the performance of the business. If it is determined that the goodwill has been impaired, MetLife must write down the goodwill by the amount of the impairment, with a corresponding charge to net income. Such write downs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position.

Long-lived assets, including assets such as real estate, also require impairment testing to determine whether changes in circumstances indicate that MetLife will be unable to recover the carrying amount of the asset group through future operations of that asset group or market conditions that will impact the value of those assets. Such write downs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position.

Deferred income tax represents the tax effect of the differences between the book and tax basis of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets are assessed periodically by management to determine if they are realizable. Factors in management's determination include the performance of the business including the ability to generate capital gains. If based on available information, it is more likely than not that the deferred income tax asset will not be realized then a valuation allowance must be established with a corresponding charge to net income. Such charges could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position.

Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability

Our business segments are subject to intense competition. We believe that this competition is based on a number of factors, including service, product features, scale, price, financial strength, claims-paying ratings, credit ratings, e-business capabilities and name recognition. We compete with a large number of other insurers, as well as non-insurance financial services companies, such as banks, broker-dealers and asset managers, for individual consumers, employers and other group customers and agents and other distributors of insurance and investment products. Some of these companies offer a broader array of products, have more competitive pricing or, with respect to other insurers, have higher claims paying ability ratings. Some may also have greater financial resources with which to compete. National banks, which may sell annuity products of life insurers in some circumstances, also have pre-existing customer bases for financial services products.

Many of our insurance products, particularly those offered by our Institutional segment, 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 addition, the investment management and securities brokerage businesses have relatively few barriers to entry and continually attract new entrants. Many of our competitors in these businesses offer a broader array of investment products and services and are better known than us as sellers of annuities and other investment products. See Business Competition in the 2007 Form 10-K.

We May be Unable to Attract and Retain Sales Representatives for Our Products

We must attract and retain productive sales representatives to sell our insurance, annuities and investment products. Strong competition exists among insurers for sales representatives with demonstrated ability. We compete with other insurers for sales representatives primarily on the basis of our financial position, support services and compensation and product features. We continue to undertake several initiatives to grow our career agency force

S-20

Table of Contents

while continuing to enhance the efficiency and production of our existing sales force. We cannot provide assurance that these initiatives will succeed in attracting and retaining new agents. Sales of individual insurance, annuities and investment products and our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected if we are unsuccessful in attracting and retaining agents. See **Business Competition** in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Differences Between Actual Claims Experience and Underwriting and Reserving Assumptions May Adversely Affect Our Financial Results

Our earnings significantly depend upon the extent to which our actual claims experience is consistent with the assumptions we use in setting prices for our products and establishing liabilities for future policy benefits and claims. Our liabilities for future policy benefits and claims are established based on estimates by actuaries of how much we will need to pay for future benefits and claims. For life insurance and annuity products, we calculate these liabilities based on many assumptions and estimates, including estimated premiums to be received over the assumed life of the policy, the timing of the event covered by the insurance policy, the amount of benefits or claims to be paid and the investment returns on the assets we purchase with the premiums we receive. We establish liabilities for property and casualty claims and benefits based on assumptions and estimates of damages and liabilities incurred. To the extent that actual claims experience is less favorable than the underlying assumptions we used in establishing such liabilities, we could be required to increase our liabilities.

Due to the nature of the underlying risks and the high degree of uncertainty associated with the determination of liabilities for future policy benefits and claims, we cannot determine precisely the amounts which we will ultimately pay to settle our liabilities. Such amounts may vary from the estimated amounts, particularly when those payments may not occur until well into the future. We evaluate our liabilities periodically based on changes in the assumptions used to establish the liabilities, as well as our actual experience. We charge or credit changes in our liabilities to expenses in the period the liabilities are established or re-estimated. If the liabilities originally established for future benefit payments prove inadequate, we must increase them. Such increases could affect earnings negatively and have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our Risk Management Policies and Procedures May Leave Us Exposed to Unidentified or Unanticipated Risk, Which Could Negatively Affect Our Business

Management of risk requires, among other things, policies and procedures to record properly and verify a large number of transactions and events. We have devoted significant resources to develop our risk management policies and procedures and expect to continue to do so in the future. Nonetheless, our policies and procedures may not be comprehensive. Many of our methods for managing risk and exposures are based upon the use of observed historical market behavior or statistics based on historical models. As a result, these methods may not fully predict future exposures, which can be significantly greater than our historical measures indicate. Other risk management methods depend upon the evaluation of information regarding markets, clients, catastrophe occurrence or other matters that is publicly available or otherwise accessible to us. This information may not always be accurate, complete, up-to-date or properly evaluated. See **Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk** in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Catastrophes May Adversely Impact Liabilities for Policyholder Claims and Reinsurance Availability

Our life insurance operations are exposed to the risk of catastrophic mortality, such as a pandemic or other event that causes a large number of deaths. Significant influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, but neither the likelihood, timing, nor the severity of a future pandemic can be predicted. The effectiveness of external parties, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, in combating the spread and severity of such a pandemic could have a material impact on the losses experienced by us. In our group insurance operations, a localized event that affects the workplace of one or more of our group insurance customers could cause a significant loss due to

mortality or morbidity claims. These events could cause a material adverse effect on our results of operations in any period and, depending on their severity, could also materially and adversely affect our financial condition.

S-21

Table of Contents

Our Auto & Home business has experienced, and will likely in the future experience, catastrophe losses that may have a material adverse impact on the business, results of operations and financial condition of the Auto & Home segment. Although Auto & Home makes every effort to manage our exposure to catastrophic risks through volatility management and reinsurance programs, these efforts do not eliminate all risk. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including pandemics, hurricanes, windstorms, earthquakes, hail, tornadoes, explosions, severe winter weather (including snow, freezing water, ice storms and blizzards), fires and man-made events such as terrorist attacks. Historically, substantially all of our catastrophe-related claims have related to homeowners coverages. However, catastrophes may also affect other Auto & Home coverages. Due to their nature, we cannot predict the incidence, timing and severity of catastrophes. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Impact of Hurricanes and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Hurricanes and earthquakes are of particular note for our homeowners coverages. Areas of major hurricane exposure include coastal sections of the northeastern United States (including lower New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts), the Gulf Coast (including Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas) and Florida. We also have some earthquake exposure, primarily along the New Madrid fault line in the central United States and in the Pacific Northwest.

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 catastrophes are restricted to small geographic areas; however, pandemics, hurricanes, earthquakes and man-made catastrophes may produce significant damage in larger areas, especially those that are heavily populated. Claims resulting from natural or man-made catastrophic events could cause substantial volatility in our financial results for any fiscal quarter or year and could materially reduce our profitability or harm our financial condition. Also, catastrophic events could harm the financial condition of our reinsurers and thereby increase the probability of default on reinsurance recoveries. Our ability to write new business could also be affected. It is possible that increases in the value, caused by the effects of inflation or other factors, and geographic concentration of insured property, could increase the severity of claims from catastrophic events in the future.

Consistent with industry practice and accounting standards, we establish liabilities for claims arising from a catastrophe only after assessing the probable losses arising from the event. We cannot be certain that the liabilities we have established will be adequate to cover actual claim liabilities. From time to time, states have passed legislation that has the effect of limiting the ability of insurers to manage risk, such as legislation restricting an insurer's ability to withdraw from catastrophe-prone areas. While we attempt to limit our exposure to acceptable levels, subject to restrictions imposed by insurance regulatory authorities, a catastrophic event or multiple catastrophic events could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our ability to manage this risk and the profitability of our property and casualty and life insurance businesses depends in part on our ability to obtain catastrophe reinsurance, which may not be available at commercially acceptable rates in the future. See Reinsurance May Not Be Available, Affordable or Adequate to Protect Us Against Losses in the 2007 Form 10-K.

A Downgrade or a Potential Downgrade in Our Financial Strength or Credit Ratings Could Result in a Loss of Business and Materially Adversely Affect Our Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Financial strength ratings, which various Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs) publish as indicators of an insurance company's ability to meet contractholder and policyholder obligations, are important to maintaining public confidence in our products, our ability to market our products and our competitive position. See Business Company Ratings Insurer Financial Strength Ratings in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Downgrades in our financial strength ratings could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations in many ways, including:

reducing new sales of insurance products, annuities and other investment products;

S-22

Table of Contents

adversely affecting our relationships with our sales force and independent sales intermediaries;

materially increasing the number or amount of policy surrenders and withdrawals by contractholders and policyholders;

requiring us to reduce prices for many of our products and services to remain competitive; and

adversely affecting our ability to obtain reinsurance at reasonable prices or at all.

In addition to the financial strength ratings of our insurance subsidiaries, various NRSROs also publish credit ratings for MetLife, Inc. and several of its subsidiaries. Credit ratings are indicators of a debt issuer's ability to meet the terms of debt obligations in a timely manner and are important factors in our overall funding profile and ability to access certain types of liquidity. See "Business Company Ratings Credit Ratings" in the 2007 Form 10-K. Downgrades in our credit ratings could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations in many ways, including adversely limiting our access to capital markets, potentially increasing the cost of debt, and requiring us to post collateral. A two-notch decrease in the financial strength ratings of our insurance company subsidiaries would have required us to post less than \$200 million of collateral in connection with derivative collateral arrangements, to which we are a party and would have allowed holders of approximately \$500 million aggregate account value of our funding agreements to terminate such funding agreements on 90 days' notice.

On September 18, September 29 and October 2, 2008, A.M. Best Company, Inc., Fitch Ratings Ltd. and Moody's Investors Service (Moody's), respectively, each revised its outlook for the U.S. life insurance sector to negative from stable, citing, among other things, the significant deterioration and volatility in the credit and equity markets, economic and political uncertainty, and the expected impact of realized and unrealized investment losses on life insurers' capital levels and profitability.

In view of the difficulties experienced recently by many financial institutions, including our competitors in the insurance industry, we believe it is possible that the NRSROs will heighten the level of scrutiny that they apply to such institutions, will increase the frequency and scope of their credit reviews, will request additional information from the companies that they rate, and may adjust upward the capital and other requirements employed in the NRSRO models for maintenance of certain ratings levels, such as the AA (Standard & Poor's) and Aa2 (Moody's Investors Service) insurer financial strength ratings currently held by our life insurance subsidiaries. We have been informed by one of the major NRSROs that they plan to review our ratings during the fourth quarter of 2008. It is possible that the outcome of this review will have adverse ratings consequences, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operation and financial condition.

We cannot predict what actions rating agencies may take, or what actions we may take in response to the actions of rating agencies, which could adversely affect our business. As with other companies in the financial services industry, our ratings could be downgraded at any time and without any notices by any NRSRO.

Guarantees Within Certain of Our Products that Protect Policyholders Against Significant Downturns in Equity Markets May Decrease Our Earnings, Increase the Volatility of Our Results If Hedging or Risk Management Strategies Prove Ineffective, Result in Higher Hedging Costs, Expose Us to Increased Counterparty Risk and Result in Own Credit Exposure

Certain of our variable annuity products include guaranteed minimum benefit riders. These include guaranteed minimum death benefit, guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit, guaranteed minimum accumulation benefit, and guaranteed minimum income benefit riders. Periods of significant and sustained downturns in equity markets,

increased equity volatility, or reduced interest rates could result in an increase in the valuation of the future policy benefit or policyholder account balance liabilities associated with such products, resulting in a reduction to net income. We use reinsurance in combination with derivative instruments to mitigate the liability exposure and the volatility of net income associated with these liabilities, and while we believe that these and other actions have mitigated the risks related to these benefits, we remain liable for the guaranteed benefits in the event that reinsurers or derivative counterparties are unable or unwilling to pay. In addition, we are subject to the risk that hedging and other management procedures prove ineffective or that unanticipated policyholder behavior or mortality, combined with adverse market events, produces economic losses beyond the scope of the risk management techniques

S-23

Table of Contents

employed. These, individually or collectively, may have a material adverse effect on net income, financial condition or liquidity. We are also subject to the risk that the cost of hedging these guaranteed minimum benefits increases, resulting in a reduction to net income. We also must consider the Company's own credit standing, which is not hedged, in the valuation of certain of these liabilities. A decrease in the Company's own credit spread could cause the value of these liabilities to increase, resulting in a reduction to net income.

If Our Business Does Not Perform Well or if Actual Experience Versus Estimates Used in Valuing and Amortizing DAC and VOBA Vary Significantly, We May Be Required to Accelerate the Amortization and/or Impair the DAC and VOBA Which Could Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations or Financial Condition

We incur significant costs in connection with acquiring new and renewal business. Those costs that vary with and are primarily related to the production of new and renewal business are deferred and referred to as DAC. The recovery of DAC is dependent upon the future profitability of the related business. The amount of future profit or margin is dependent principally on investment returns in excess of the amounts credited to policyholders, mortality, morbidity, persistency, interest crediting rates, dividends paid to policyholders, expenses to administer the business, creditworthiness of reinsurance counterparties and certain economic variables, such as inflation. Of these factors, we anticipate that investment returns are most likely to impact the rate of amortization of such costs. The aforementioned factors enter into management's estimates of gross profits or margins, which generally are used to amortize such costs. If the estimates of gross profits or margins were overstated, then the amortization of such costs would be accelerated in the period the actual experience is known and would result in a charge to income. Significant or sustained equity market declines could result in an acceleration of amortization of the DAC related to variable annuity and variable universal life contracts, resulting in a charge to income. Such adjustments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

VOBA reflects the estimated fair value of in-force contracts in a life insurance company acquisition and represents the portion of the purchase price that is allocated to the value of the right to receive future cash flows from the insurance and annuity contracts in-force at the acquisition date. VOBA is based on actuarially determined projections. Actual experience may vary from the projections. Revisions to estimates result in changes to the amounts expensed in the reporting period in which the revisions are made and could result in an impairment and a charge to income. Also, as VOBA is amortized similarly to DAC, an acceleration of the amortization of VOBA would occur if the estimates of gross profits or margins were overstated. Accordingly, the amortization of such costs would be accelerated in the period in which the actual experience is known and would result in a charge to net income. Significant or sustained equity market declines could result in an acceleration of amortization of the VOBA related to variable annuity and variable universal life contracts, resulting in a charge to income. Such adjustments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Defaults, Downgrades or Other Events Impairing the Value of Our Fixed Maturity Securities Portfolio May Reduce Our Earnings

We are subject to the risk that the issuers, or guarantors, of fixed maturity securities we own may default on principal and interest payments they owe us. At June 30, 2008, the fixed maturity securities of \$241.2 billion in our investment portfolio represented 68.8% of our total cash and invested assets. The occurrence of a major economic downturn (such as the current downturn in the economy), acts of corporate malfeasance, widening risk spreads, or other events that adversely affect the issuers or guarantors of these securities could cause the value of our fixed maturity securities portfolio and our net income to decline and the default rate of the fixed maturity securities in our investment portfolio to increase. A ratings downgrade affecting issuers or guarantors of particular securities, or similar trends that could worsen the credit quality of issuers, such as the corporate issuers of securities in our investment portfolio, could also have a similar effect. With economic uncertainty, credit quality of issuers or guarantors could be adversely affected. Any event reducing the value of these securities other than on a temporary basis could have a material adverse effect

on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Levels of write down or impairment are impacted by our assessment of the intent and ability to hold securities which have declined in value until recovery. If we determine to reposition or realign portions of the portfolio where we determine not to hold certain securities in an unrealized loss position to recovery, then we will incur an other than temporary impairment charge.

S-24

Table of Contents

Fluctuations in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates and Foreign Securities Markets Could Negatively Affect Our Profitability

We are exposed to risks associated with fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates against the U.S. dollar resulting from our holdings of non-U.S. dollar denominated investments, investments in foreign subsidiaries and net income from foreign operations. These risks relate to potential decreases in value and income resulting from a strengthening or weakening in foreign exchange rates versus the U.S. dollar. In general, the weakening of foreign currencies versus the U.S. dollar will adversely affect the value of our non-U.S. dollar denominated investments and our investments in foreign subsidiaries. Although we use foreign currency swaps and forward contracts to mitigate foreign currency exchange rate risk, we cannot provide assurance that these methods will be effective or that our counterparties will perform their obligations. See *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk* in the 2007 Form 10-K.

From time to time, various emerging market countries have experienced severe economic and financial disruptions, including significant devaluations of their currencies. Our exposure to foreign exchange rate risk is exacerbated by our investments in emerging markets.

We have matched substantially all of our foreign currency liabilities in our foreign subsidiaries with assets denominated in their respective foreign currency, which limits the effect of currency exchange rate fluctuation on local operating results; however, fluctuations in such rates affect the translation of these results into our consolidated financial statements. Although we take certain actions to address this risk, foreign currency exchange rate fluctuation could materially adversely affect our reported results due to unhedged positions or the failure of hedges to effectively offset the impact of the foreign currency exchange rate fluctuation. See *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk* in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Our International Operations Face Political, Legal, Operational and Other Risks That Could Negatively Affect Those Operations or Our Profitability

Our international operations face political, legal, operational and other risks that we do not face in our domestic operations. We face the risk of discriminatory regulation, nationalization or expropriation of assets, price controls and exchange controls or other restrictions that prevent us from transferring funds from these operations out of the countries in which they operate or converting local currencies we hold into U.S. dollars or other currencies. Some of our foreign insurance operations are, and are likely to continue to be, in emerging markets where these risks are heightened. See *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk* in the 2007 Form 10-K. In addition, we rely on local sales forces in these countries and may encounter labor problems resulting from workers' associations and trade unions in some countries. If our business model is not successful in a particular country, we may lose all or most of our investment in building and training the sales force in that country.

We are currently planning to expand our international operations in markets where we operate and in selected new markets. This may require considerable management time, as well as start-up expenses for market development before any significant revenues and earnings are generated. Operations in new foreign markets may achieve low margins or may be unprofitable, and expansion in existing markets may be affected by local economic and market conditions. Therefore, as we expand internationally, we may not achieve expected operating margins and our results of operations may be negatively impacted.

The business we acquired from Travelers includes operations in several foreign countries, including Australia, Brazil, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Poland, Japan and Hong Kong. See *Business International* in the 2007 Form 10-K. Those operations, and operations in other new markets, are subject to the risks described above, as well as our unfamiliarity with the business, legal and regulatory environment in any of those countries.

In recent years, the operating environment in Argentina has been challenging. In Argentina, we are principally engaged in the pension business. This business has incurred significant losses in recent years as a result of actions taken by the Argentinean government in response to a sovereign debt crisis in December 2001. Further governmental or legal actions related to pension reform could impact our obligations to our customers and could result in future losses in our Argentinean operations.

See also [Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability](#) in this Prospectus Supplement regarding the impact of low interest rates on our Taiwanese operations.

S-25

Table of Contents

Reinsurance May Not Be Available, Affordable or Adequate to Protect Us Against Losses

As part of our overall risk management strategy, we purchase reinsurance for certain risks underwritten by our various business segments. See **Business Reinsurance Activity** in the 2007 Form 10-K. While reinsurance agreements generally bind the reinsurer for the life of the business reinsured at generally fixed pricing, market conditions beyond our control determine the availability and cost of the reinsurance protection for new business. In certain circumstances, the price of reinsurance for business already reinsured may also increase. Any decrease in the amount of reinsurance will increase our risk of loss and any increase in the cost of reinsurance will, absent a decrease in the amount of reinsurance, reduce our earnings. Accordingly, we may be forced to incur additional expenses for reinsurance or may not be able to obtain sufficient reinsurance on acceptable terms, which could adversely affect our ability to write future business or result in the assumption of more risk with respect to those policies we issue.

If the Counterparties to Our Reinsurance or Indemnification Arrangements or to the Derivative Instruments We Use to Hedge Our Business Risks Default or Fail to Perform, We May Be Exposed to Risks We Had Sought to Mitigate, Which Could Materially Adversely Affect Our Financial Condition and Results of Operations

We use reinsurance, indemnification and derivative instruments to mitigate our risks in various circumstances. In general, reinsurance does not relieve us of our direct liability to our policyholders, even when the reinsurer is liable to us. Accordingly, we bear credit risk with respect to our reinsurers and indemnitors. We cannot provide assurance that our reinsurers will pay the reinsurance recoverables owed to us or that indemnitors will honor their obligations now or in the future or that they will pay these recoverables on a timely basis. A reinsurer's or indemnitor's insolvency, inability or unwillingness to make payments under the terms of reinsurance agreements or indemnity agreements with us could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, we use derivative instruments to hedge various business risks. We enter into a variety of derivative instruments, including options, forwards, interest rate, credit default and currency swaps with a number of counterparties. See **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Investments** in the 2007 Form 10-K. If our counterparties fail or refuse to honor their obligations under these derivative instruments, our hedges of the related risk will be ineffective. This is a more pronounced risk to us in view of the recent stresses suffered by financial institutions. Such failure could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our Insurance Businesses Are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth

Our insurance operations are subject to a wide variety of insurance and other laws and regulations. State insurance laws regulate most aspects of our U.S. insurance businesses, and our insurance subsidiaries are regulated by the insurance departments of the states in which they are domiciled and the states in which they are licensed. Our non-U.S. insurance operations are principally regulated by insurance regulatory authorities in the jurisdictions in which they are domiciled and operate. See **Business Regulation Insurance Regulation** in the 2007 Form 10-K.

State laws in the United States grant insurance regulatory authorities broad administrative powers with respect to, among other things:

- licensing companies and agents to transact business;
- calculating the value of assets to determine compliance with statutory requirements;
- mandating certain insurance benefits;

regulating certain premium rates;

reviewing and approving policy forms;

S-26

Table of Contents

regulating unfair trade and claims practices, including through the imposition of restrictions on marketing and sales practices, distribution arrangements and payment of inducements;

regulating advertising;

protecting privacy;

establishing statutory capital and reserve requirements and solvency standards;

fixing maximum interest rates on insurance policy loans and minimum rates for guaranteed crediting rates on life insurance policies and annuity contracts;

approving changes in control of insurance companies;

restricting the payment of dividends and other transactions between affiliates; and

regulating the types, amounts and valuation of investments.

State insurance guaranty associations have the right to assess insurance companies doing business in their state for funds to help pay the obligations of insolvent insurance companies to policyholders and claimants. Because the amount and timing of an assessment is beyond our control, the liabilities that we have currently established for these potential liabilities may not be adequate. See Business Regulation Insurance Regulation Guaranty Associations and Similar Arrangements in the 2007 Form 10-K.

State insurance regulators and the NAIC regularly re-examine existing laws and regulations applicable to insurance companies and their products. Changes in these laws and regulations, or in interpretations thereof, are often made for the benefit of the consumer at the expense of the insurer and, thus, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

The NAIC and several states' legislatures have considered the need for regulations and/or laws to address agent or broker practices that have been the focus of investigations of broker compensation in the State of New York and in other jurisdictions. The NAIC adopted a Compensation Disclosure Amendment to its Producers Licensing Model Act which, if adopted by the states, would require disclosure by agents or brokers to customers that insurers will compensate such agents or brokers for the placement of insurance and documented acknowledgement of this arrangement in cases where the customer also compensates the agent or broker. Several states have enacted laws similar to the NAIC amendment. We cannot predict how many states may promulgate the NAIC amendment or alternative regulations or the extent to which these regulations may have a material adverse impact on our business.

Currently, the U.S. federal government does not directly regulate the business of insurance. However, federal legislation and administrative policies in several areas can significantly and adversely affect insurance companies. These areas include financial services regulation, securities regulation, pension regulation, privacy, tort reform legislation and taxation. In addition, various forms of direct federal regulation of insurance have been proposed. These proposals include the National Insurance Act of 2007, which would permit an optional federal charter for insurers. In view of recent events involving certain financial institutions, it is possible that the U.S. federal government will heighten its oversight of insurers such as us, including possibly through a federal system of insurance regulation. We cannot predict whether this or other proposals will be adopted, or what impact, if any, such proposals or, if enacted, such laws, could have on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our international operations are subject to regulation in the jurisdictions in which they operate, which in many ways is similar to that of the state regulation outlined above. Many of our customers and independent sales intermediaries also operate in regulated environments. Changes in the regulations that affect their operations also may affect our business relationships with them and their ability to purchase or distribute our products. Accordingly, these changes could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations is time consuming and personnel-intensive, and changes in these laws and regulations may materially increase our direct and indirect compliance and other expenses of doing business, thus having a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

From time to time, regulators raise issues during examinations or audits of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries that could, if determined adversely, have a material impact on us. We cannot predict whether or when regulatory actions

S-27

Table of Contents

may be taken that could adversely affect our operations. In addition, the interpretations of regulations by regulators may change and statutes may be enacted with retroactive impact, particularly in areas such as accounting or statutory reserve requirements.

We are also subject to other regulations, including banking regulations, and may in the future become subject to additional regulations, including thrift regulations. See *Business Regulation* in the 2007 Form 10-K. We have filed applications to convert MetLife, Inc. from a bank holding company to a thrift holding company.

Litigation and Regulatory Investigations Are Increasingly Common in Our Businesses and May Result in Significant Financial Losses and Harm to Our Reputation

We face a significant risk of litigation and regulatory investigations and actions in the ordinary course of operating our businesses, including the risk of class action lawsuits. Our pending legal and regulatory actions include proceedings specific to us and others generally applicable to business practices in the industries in which we operate. In connection with our insurance operations, plaintiffs' lawyers may bring or are bringing class actions and individual suits alleging, among other things, issues relating to sales or underwriting practices, claims payments and procedures, product design, disclosure, administration, denial or delay of benefits and breaches of fiduciary or other duties to customers. Plaintiffs in class action and other lawsuits against us may seek very large or indeterminate amounts, including punitive and treble damages, and the damages claimed and the amount of any probable and estimable liability, if any, may remain unknown for substantial periods of time. See *Legal Proceedings* and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Due to the vagaries of litigation, the outcome of a litigation matter and the amount or range of potential loss at particular points in time may be inherently impossible to ascertain with any degree of certainty. Inherent uncertainties can include how fact finders will view individually and in their totality documentary evidence, the credibility and effectiveness of witnesses' testimony, and how trial and appellate courts will apply the law in the context of the pleadings or evidence presented, whether by motion practice, or at trial or on appeal. Disposition valuations are also subject to the uncertainty of how opposing parties and their counsel will themselves view the relevant evidence and applicable law.

On a quarterly and annual basis, we review relevant information with respect to liabilities for litigation, regulatory investigations and litigation-related contingencies to be reflected in our consolidated financial statements. The review includes senior legal and financial personnel. Unless stated elsewhere herein, estimates of possible losses or ranges of loss for particular matters cannot in the ordinary course be made with a reasonable degree of certainty. See *Legal Proceedings* and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K. Liabilities are established when it is probable that a loss has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Liabilities have been established for a number of matters noted in *Legal Proceedings* and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K. It is possible that some of the matters could require us to pay damages or make other expenditures or establish accruals in amounts that could not be estimated as of December 31, 2007.

MLIC and MetLife, Inc. have been named as defendants in several lawsuits brought in connection with MLIC's demutualization in 2000. Although most of these lawsuits have been dismissed, two have been certified as nationwide class action lawsuits. MLIC and its affiliates also are currently defendants in numerous lawsuits including class action lawsuits, alleging improper marketing or sales of individual life insurance policies, annuities, mutual funds or other products.

In addition, MLIC is a defendant in thousands of lawsuits seeking compensatory and punitive damages for personal injuries allegedly caused by exposure to asbestos or asbestos-containing products. These lawsuits principally have

been based upon allegations relating to certain research, publication and other activities of one or more of MLIC's employees during the period from the 1920's through approximately the 1950's and have alleged that MLIC learned or should have learned of certain health risks posed by asbestos and, among other things, improperly publicized or failed to disclose those health risks. Additional litigation relating to these matters may be commenced in the future. The ability of MLIC to estimate its ultimate asbestos exposure is subject to considerable uncertainty due to numerous factors. The availability of data is limited and it is difficult to predict with any certainty numerous variables that can affect liability estimates, including the number of future claims, the cost to resolve

Table of Contents

claims, the disease mix and severity of disease, the jurisdiction of claims filed, tort reform efforts and the impact of any possible future adverse verdicts and their amounts. The number of asbestos cases that may be brought or the aggregate amount of any liability that MLIC may ultimately incur is uncertain. Accordingly, it is reasonably possible that our total exposure to asbestos claims may be greater than the liability recorded by us in our consolidated financial statements and that future charges to income may be necessary. The potential future charges could be material in particular quarterly or annual periods in which they are recorded.

We are also subject to various regulatory inquiries, such as information requests, subpoenas and books and record examinations, from state and federal regulators and other authorities. A substantial legal liability or a significant regulatory action against us could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, even if we ultimately prevail in the litigation, regulatory action or investigation, we could suffer significant reputational harm, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations, including our ability to attract new customers, retain our current customers and recruit and retain employees. Regulatory inquiries and litigation may cause volatility in the price of stocks of companies in our industry.

We cannot give assurance that current claims, litigation, unasserted claims probable of assertion, investigations and other proceedings against us will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. It is also possible that related or unrelated claims, litigation, unasserted claims probable of assertion, investigations and proceedings may be commenced in the future, and we could become subject to further investigations and have lawsuits filed or enforcement actions initiated against us. In addition, increased regulatory scrutiny and any resulting investigations or proceedings could result in new legal actions and precedents and industry-wide regulations that could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Changes in Accounting Standards Issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or Other Standard-Setting Bodies May Adversely Affect Our Financial Statements

Our financial statements are subject to the application of GAAP, which is periodically revised and/or expanded. Accordingly, from time to time we are required to adopt new or revised accounting standards issued by recognized authoritative bodies, including the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Market conditions have prompted accounting standard setters to expose new guidance which further interprets or seeks to revise accounting pronouncements related to financial instruments, structures or transactions as well as to issue new standards expanding disclosures. The impact of accounting pronouncements that have been issued but not yet implemented is disclosed in our annual and quarterly reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q. An assessment of proposed standards is not provided as such proposals are subject to change through the exposure process and, therefore, the effects on our financial statements cannot be meaningfully assessed. It is possible that future accounting standards we are required to adopt could change the current accounting treatment that we apply to our consolidated financial statements and that such changes could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Further, the federal government, under the EESA, will conduct an investigation of fair value accounting during the fourth quarter of 2008 and has granted the SEC the authority to suspend fair value accounting for any registrant or group of registrants at its discretion. The impact of such actions on registrants who apply fair value accounting cannot be readily determined at this time; however, actions taken by the federal government could have a material adverse effect on the financial condition and results of operations of companies, including ours, that apply fair value accounting.

Changes in U.S. Federal and State Securities Laws and Regulations May Affect Our Operations and Our Profitability

Federal and state securities laws and regulations apply to insurance products that are also securities, including variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. As a result, some of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries and their activities in offering and selling variable insurance contracts and policies are subject to extensive regulation under these securities laws. These subsidiaries issue variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies through separate accounts that are registered with the SEC as investment companies under the Investment Company Act. Each registered separate account is generally divided into sub-accounts, each of which

Table of Contents

invests in an underlying mutual fund which is itself a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act. In addition, the variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies issued by the separate accounts are registered with the SEC under the Securities Act. Other subsidiaries are registered with the SEC as broker-dealers under the Exchange Act, and are members of, and subject to, regulation by FINRA. Further, some of our subsidiaries are registered as investment advisers with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and are also registered as investment advisers in various states, as applicable.

Federal and state securities laws and regulations are primarily intended to ensure the integrity of the financial markets and to protect investors in the securities markets, as well as protect investment advisory or brokerage clients. These laws and regulations generally grant regulatory agencies broad rulemaking and enforcement powers, including the power to limit or restrict the conduct of business for failure to comply with the securities laws and regulations. Changes to these laws or regulations that restrict the conduct of our business could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In particular, changes in the regulations governing the registration and distribution of variable insurance products, such as changes in the regulatory standards for suitability of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies, could have such a material adverse effect.

Changes in Tax Laws Could Make Some of Our Products Less Attractive to Consumers; Changes in Tax Laws, Tax Regulations, or Interpretations of Such Laws or Regulations Could Increase Our Corporate Taxes

Changes in tax laws could make some of our products less attractive to consumers. For example, reductions in the federal income tax that investors are required to pay on long-term capital gains and dividends paid on stock may provide an incentive for some of our customers and potential customers to shift assets away from some insurance company products, including life insurance and annuities, designed to defer taxes payable on investment returns. Because the income taxes payable on long-term capital gains and some dividends paid on stock has been reduced, investors may decide that the tax-deferral benefits of annuity contracts are less advantageous than the potential after-tax income benefits of mutual funds or other investment products that provide dividends and long-term capital gains. A shift away from life insurance and annuity contracts and other tax-deferred products would reduce our income from sales of these products, as well as the assets upon which we earn investment income.

We cannot predict whether any tax legislation impacting insurance products will be enacted, what the specific terms of any such legislation will be or whether, if at all, any legislation would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, changes in tax laws, tax regulations, or interpretations of such laws or regulations could increase our corporate taxes.

We May Need to Fund Deficiencies in Our Closed Block; Assets Allocated to the Closed Block Benefit Only the Holders of Closed Block Policies

MLIC's plan of reorganization, as amended (the Plan), required that we establish and operate an accounting mechanism, known as a closed block, to ensure that the reasonable dividend expectations of policyholders who own certain individual insurance policies of MLIC are met. See Note 9 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K. We allocated assets to the closed block in an amount that will produce cash flows which, together with anticipated revenue from the policies included in the closed block, are reasonably expected to be sufficient to support obligations and liabilities relating to these policies, including, but not limited to, provisions for the payment of claims and certain expenses and tax, and to provide for the continuation of the policyholder dividend scales in effect for 1999, if the experience underlying such scales continues, and for appropriate adjustments in such scales if the experience changes. We cannot provide assurance that the closed block assets, the cash flows generated by the closed block assets and the anticipated revenue from the policies included in the closed block will be sufficient to provide for the benefits guaranteed under these policies. If they are not sufficient, we must fund the shortfall. Even

if they are sufficient, we may choose, for competitive reasons, to support policyholder dividend payments with our general account funds.

The closed block assets, the cash flows generated by the closed block assets and the anticipated revenue from the policies in the closed block will benefit only the holders of those policies. In addition, to the extent that these

S-30

Table of Contents

amounts are greater than the amounts estimated at the time the closed block was funded, dividends payable in respect of the policies included in the closed block may be greater than they would be in the absence of a closed block. Any excess earnings will be available for distribution over time only to closed block policyholders.

The Continued Threat of Terrorism and Ongoing Military Actions May Adversely Affect the Level of Claim Losses We Incur and the Value of Our Investment Portfolio

The continued threat of terrorism, both within the United States and abroad, ongoing military and other actions and heightened security measures in response to these types of threats may cause significant volatility in global financial markets and result in loss of life, property damage, additional disruptions to commerce and reduced economic activity. Some of the assets in our investment portfolio may be adversely affected by declines in the equity markets and reduced economic activity caused by the continued threat of terrorism. We cannot predict whether, and the extent to which, companies in which we maintain investments may suffer losses as a result of financial, commercial or economic disruptions, or how any such disruptions might affect the ability of those companies to pay interest or principal on their securities. The continued threat of terrorism also could result in increased reinsurance prices and reduced insurance coverage and potentially cause us to retain more risk than we otherwise would retain if we were able to obtain reinsurance at lower prices. Terrorist actions also could disrupt our operations centers in the United States or abroad. In addition, the occurrence of terrorist actions could result in higher claims under our insurance policies than anticipated.

The Occurrence of Events Unanticipated In Our Disaster Recovery Systems and Management Continuity Planning Could Impair Our Ability to Conduct Business Effectively

In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, an epidemic, an industrial accident, a blackout, a computer virus, a terrorist attack or war, unanticipated problems with our disaster recovery systems could have a material adverse impact on our ability to conduct business and on our results of operations and financial position, particularly if those problems affect our computer-based data processing, transmission, storage and retrieval systems and destroy valuable data. We depend heavily upon computer systems to provide reliable service. Despite our implementation of a variety of security measures, our servers could be subject to physical and electronic break-ins, and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems. In addition, in the event that a significant number of our managers were unavailable in the event of a disaster, our ability to effectively conduct business could be severely compromised. These interruptions also may interfere with our suppliers' ability to provide goods and services and our employees ability to perform their job responsibilities.

We Face Unforeseen Liabilities or Asset Impairments Arising from Possible Acquisitions and Dispositions of Businesses

We have engaged in dispositions and acquisitions of businesses in the past, and expect to continue to do so in the future. There could be unforeseen liabilities or asset impairments, including goodwill impairments, that arise in connection with the businesses that we may sell or the businesses that we may acquire in the future. In addition, there may be liabilities or asset impairments that we fail, or are unable, to discover in the course of performing due diligence investigations on each business that we have acquired or may acquire.

Risks Relating to Our Common Stock

Our Share Price Will Fluctuate

Stock markets in general, and stock prices of financial services companies in particular, including us, have experienced significant price and volume volatility over the past year. The market price and volume of our common

stock may continue to be subject to significant fluctuations due not only to general stock market conditions but also to a change in sentiment in the market regarding our operations, business prospects, future funding or this offering. In addition to the risk factors discussed above, the price and volume volatility of our common stock may be affected by:

developments in our business or in the financial sector generally, including the effect of direct governmental action in the financial markets generally and with respect to financial institutions in particular;

S-31

Table of Contents

regulatory changes affecting our operations;

the success or failure of our operating strategies and our perceived prospects;

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our financial condition or operating results;

our operating results, for the third quarter of 2008 or for other periods, that vary from the expectations of securities analysts and investors;

the financial performance of the major industries which we serve;

the operating performance and securities price performance of companies that investors consider to be comparable to us;

announcement of strategic developments, acquisitions and other material events by us or our competitors; and

changes in global financial markets and global economies and general market conditions, such as interest or foreign exchange rates, commodity and equity prices and the value of financial assets.

When the SEC's Emergency Order Banning the Effecting of Short Sales in Our Common Stock is Lifted, Our Stock Price Could Be Negatively Affected

On September 18, 2008, in response to the effects of recent sudden price declines in the prices of securities of financial firms, the SEC issued an emergency order imposing a ban on short sales in the publicly traded securities of certain financial firms, subject to certain limited exceptions. The New York Stock Exchange added MetLife to the list of financial firms covered by the ban on September 22, 2008. The ban is scheduled to expire at 11:59 pm ET on October 8, 2008, unless extended at the discretion of the SEC. If and when the ban is lifted, there may be a surge in short selling of our common stock, which could negatively impact our stock price.

As a Holding Company, MetLife, Inc. Depends on the Ability of Its Subsidiaries to Transfer Funds to It to Meet Its Obligations and Pay Dividends

MetLife, Inc. is a holding company for its insurance and financial subsidiaries and does not have any significant operations of its own. Dividends from its subsidiaries and permitted payments to it under its tax sharing arrangements with its subsidiaries are its principal sources of cash to meet its obligations and to pay preferred and common dividends. If the cash MetLife, Inc. receives from its subsidiaries is insufficient for it to fund its debt service and other holding company obligations, MetLife, Inc. may be required to raise cash through the incurrence of debt, the issuance of additional equity or the sale of assets.

The payment of dividends and other distributions to MetLife, Inc. by its insurance subsidiaries is regulated by insurance laws and regulations. In general, dividends in excess of prescribed limits require insurance regulatory approval. In addition, insurance regulators may prohibit the payment of dividends or other payments by its insurance subsidiaries to MetLife, Inc. if they determine that the payment could be adverse to our policyholders or contractholders. In connection with the RGA split-off transaction MLIC used substantially all of its ordinary capacity to pay dividends in 2008 without seeking the approval of the New York State Insurance Department. See Business Regulation Insurance Regulation, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources The Holding Company and Note 18 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Any payment of interest, dividends, distributions, loans or advances by our foreign subsidiaries to MetLife, Inc. could be subject to taxation or other restrictions on dividends or repatriation of earnings under applicable law, monetary transfer restrictions and foreign currency exchange regulations in the jurisdiction in which such foreign subsidiaries operate. See Our International Operations Face Political, Legal, Operational and Other Risks That Could Negatively Affect Those Operations or Our Profitability.

S-32

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors May Control the Outcome of Stockholder Votes on Many Matters Due to the Voting Provisions of the MetLife Policyholder Trust

Under the Plan, we established the MetLife Policyholder Trust (the "Trust") to hold the shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock allocated to eligible policyholders not receiving cash or policy credits under the plan. As of October 3, 2008, 246,540,649 shares, or 34.7%, of the outstanding shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock, are held in the Trust. Because of the number of shares held in the Trust and the voting provisions of the Trust, the Trust may affect the outcome of matters brought to a stockholder vote.

Except on votes regarding certain fundamental corporate actions described below, the trustee will vote all of the shares of common stock held in the Trust in accordance with the recommendations given by MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors to its stockholders or, if the board gives no such recommendations, as directed by the board. As a result of the voting provisions of the Trust, the Board of Directors may be able to control votes on matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, excluding those fundamental corporate actions, so long as the Trust holds a substantial number of shares of common stock.

If the vote relates to fundamental corporate actions specified in the Trust, the trustee will solicit instructions from the Trust beneficiaries and vote all shares held in the Trust in proportion to the instructions it receives. These actions include:

an election or removal of directors in which a stockholder has properly nominated one or more candidates in opposition to a nominee or nominees of MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors or a vote on a stockholder's proposal to oppose a board nominee for director, remove a director for cause or fill a vacancy caused by the removal of a director by stockholders, subject to certain conditions;

a merger or consolidation, a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the assets, or a recapitalization or dissolution, of MetLife, Inc., in each case requiring a vote of stockholders under applicable Delaware law;

any transaction that would result in an exchange or conversion of shares of common stock held by the Trust for cash, securities or other property; and

any proposal requiring MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors to amend or redeem the rights under the stockholder rights plan, other than a proposal with respect to which we have received advice of nationally-recognized legal counsel to the effect that the proposal is not a proper subject for stockholder action under Delaware law.

If a vote concerns any of these fundamental corporate actions, the trustee will vote all of the shares of common stock held by the Trust in proportion to the instructions it received, which will give disproportionate weight to the instructions actually given by trust beneficiaries.

State Laws, Federal Laws, Our Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws and Our Stockholder Rights Plan May Delay, Deter or Prevent Takeovers and Business Combinations that Stockholders Might Consider in Their Best Interests

State laws and our certificate of incorporation and by-laws may delay, deter or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders might consider in their best interests. For instance, they may prevent stockholders from receiving the benefit from any premium over the market price of MetLife, Inc.'s 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 MetLife, Inc.'s common stock if they are viewed as discouraging takeover attempts in the future.

Any person seeking to acquire a controlling interest in us would face various regulatory obstacles which may delay, deter or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders of MetLife, Inc. might consider in their best interests. First, the insurance laws and regulations of the various states in which MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries are organized may delay or impede a business combination involving us. State insurance laws prohibit an entity from acquiring control of an insurance company without the prior approval of the domestic insurance regulator. Under most states' statutes, an entity is presumed to have control of an insurance company if it owns, directly or indirectly,

S-33

Table of Contents

10% or more of the voting stock of that insurance company or its parent company. This would be applicable, for example, with respect to the acquisition of the common stock offered hereby. We are also subject to banking regulations, and may in the future become subject to additional regulations, including thrift regulations. In addition, the Investment Company Act would require approval by the contract owners of our variable contracts in order to effectuate a change of control of any affiliated investment adviser to a mutual fund underlying our variable contracts. Finally, FINRA approval would be necessary for a change of control of any FINRA registered broker-dealer that is a direct or indirect subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.

In addition, Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law may affect the ability of an interested stockholder to engage in certain business combinations, including mergers, consolidations or acquisitions of additional shares, for a period of three years following the time that the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is defined to include persons owning, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of a corporation.

MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws also contain provisions that may delay, deter or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders might consider in their best interests. These provisions may adversely affect prevailing market prices for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock and include: classification of MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors into three classes; a prohibition on the calling of special meetings by stockholders; advance notice procedures for the nomination of candidates to the Board of Directors and stockholder proposals to be considered at stockholder meetings; and supermajority voting requirements for the amendment of certain provisions of the certificate of incorporation and by-laws.

The stockholder rights plan adopted by MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors may also have anti-takeover effects. The stockholder rights plan is designed to protect MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders in the event of unsolicited offers to acquire us and other coercive takeover tactics which, in the opinion of MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors, could impair its ability to represent stockholder interests. The provisions of the stockholder rights plan may render an unsolicited takeover more difficult or less likely to occur or might prevent such a takeover, even though such takeover may offer MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders the opportunity to sell their stock at a price above the prevailing market price and may be favored by a majority of MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders.

There May be Future Sales or Other Dilution of Our Equity, Which May Adversely Affect the Market Price of Our Common Stock.

Except as may be required by the underwriters for the offering of our common stock, we are not restricted from issuing additional common stock or preferred stock, including any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock including the issuance of common stock relating to the settlement of stock purchase contracts, such as in connection with the settlement and remarketing of the 6.375% Common Equity Units. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Remarketing of Securities and Settlement of Stock Purchase Contracts Underlying Common Equity Units, in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales of a large number of shares of our common stock or preferred stock or similar securities in the market after this offering, or the perception that such sales could occur. The issuance of additional common stock will dilute the ownership interest of our existing common stockholders.

The Common Stock is Equity and is Subordinate to Our Existing and Future Indebtedness and Preferred Stock

Shares of the common stock are equity interests in MetLife and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of the common stock will rank junior to all indebtedness and other non-equity claims on MetLife with respect to assets available to satisfy claims on MetLife, including in a liquidation of MetLife. Additionally, holders of our common

stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of any holders of our preferred stock then outstanding.

Dividends on the common stock are payable only if declared by our board of directors and are subject to restrictions on payment of dividends out of lawfully available funds. Also, as a holding company for its insurance and financial subsidiaries, the payment of dividends and other distributions to MetLife, Inc. by its insurance

S-34

Table of Contents

subsidiaries is regulated by insurance laws and regulations. See As a Holding Company, MetLife, Inc. Depends on the Ability of Its Subsidiaries to Transfer Funds to It to Meet Its Obligations and Pay Dividends. We have issued and outstanding indebtedness and preferred stock under which we may defer interest or dividend payments from time to time (although we have no present intention to, and believe the likelihood is remote that we will elect to defer interest payments on these instruments), but in that case, we would not be permitted to declare or pay dividends on, make any distribution with respect to, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any shares of our common stock, during the deferral period.

S-35

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock will be approximately \$ billion (or \$ billion upon the exercise of the over-allotment option in full), after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated offering expenses payable by us. We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock for general corporate purposes and potential strategic initiatives.

S-36

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization as of June 30, 2008, on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to the offering of the common stock:

| | At June 30, 2008 | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | Actual | As Adjusted |
| | (In millions) | |
| Short-term debt | \$ 623 | |
| Long-term debt | 9,694 | |
| Collateral financing arrangements | 5,847 | |
| Junior subordinated debt securities | 5,224 | |
| Shares subject to mandatory redemption | 159 | |
| Total debt | 21,547 | |
| Stockholders' Equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, at par value | 1 | |
| Common stock, at par value | 8 | |
| Additional paid-in capital | 17,647 | |
| Retained earnings | 21,441 | |
| Treasury stock, at cost | (4,047) | |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (2,509) | |
| Total stockholders' equity | 32,541 | |
| Total capitalization | \$ 54,088 | |

- (1) Reflects the issuance of 75,000,000 shares at a price per share of \$ _____ for total consideration of \$ _____ million less transaction costs of _____ million for net proceeds from the offering of \$ _____ million. For purposes of the capitalization table above, it was assumed that 75,000,000 shares with net proceeds from the offering of \$ _____ million were issued out of treasury stock. The weighted average share price of the shares held in treasury at June 30, 2008 was \$ _____ per share. Accordingly, treasury stock was decreased by \$ _____ million and additional paid-in capital was _____ by \$ _____ million. For the newly issued shares, common stock was increased by \$ _____ million and additional paid-in capital was increased by \$ _____ million.
- (2) The capitalization table above does not reflect two significant capital related transactions which occurred during the third quarter of 2008. The impact of such transactions on MetLife's capitalization is as follows:
- (a) *Remarketing of Securities and Settlement of Stock Purchase Contracts Underlying Common Equity Units* - During August 2008, MetLife remarketed certain of the junior subordinated debentures underlying the common equity units and settled certain of the stock purchase contracts underlying the common equity units. The net effect of such transactions was an increase in total capitalization of \$1,003 million which is not

reflected in the capitalization table above. As a result of the debt remarketing, junior subordinated debt securities decreased by \$1,067 million and long-term debt increased by \$1,035 million. In connection with the settlement of the stock purchase contracts, MetLife issued 20,244,600 treasury shares, with a cost basis of \$1,064 million, for \$1,035 million.

(b) *Share Exchange Associated with Disposition of Investment in Reinsurance Group of America, Inc. (RGA)*

On September 12, 2008, MetLife completed a split-off transaction whereby stockholders of MetLife exchanged 23,093,689 of MetLife's common stock with an aggregate fair value of \$1,317 million for 29,243,539 shares of RGA's common stock held by MetLife. MetLife recorded the \$1,317 million in shares received as an increase in treasury stock, reduction of stockholder's equity. MetLife recognized a net loss of \$458 million as of September 12, 2008 on the transaction. If the transaction had occurred on June 30, 2008, assuming the same fair value of consideration received, the net loss on sale would have been \$376 million. In addition to the reduction in stockholders' equity resulting from the decrease in retained

Table of Contents

earnings from the net loss on sale, stockholders' equity would have also been reduced by the elimination of gains included within accumulated other comprehensive income of \$135 million and a decrease in additional paid-in capital of \$20 million, respectively. Finally, the disposition of RGA also reduces long-term debt, collateral financing arrangements, junior subordinated debentures and shares subject to mandatory redemption by \$527 million, \$850 million, \$399 million and \$159 million, respectively, for an aggregate reduction in total debt of \$1,935 million as of June 30, 2008.

S-38

Table of Contents**COMMON STOCK PRICE RANGE AND DIVIDENDS**

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE. Trading, as reported on the NYSE, and dividend information follows:

| | Price Range | | Cash |
|--|--------------------|------------|------------------|
| | High | Low | Dividend |
| | | | Per Share |
| 2008 | | | |
| Fourth Quarter (through October 7, 2008) | \$ 54.22 | \$ 36.96 | |
| Third Quarter | 63.00 | 43.75 | |
| Second Quarter | 62.88 | 52.77 | |
| First Quarter | 61.52 | 54.62 | |
| 2007 | | | |
| Fourth Quarter | 70.87 | 60.46 | \$ 0.74 |
| Third Quarter | 69.92 | 59.62 | |
| Second Quarter | 69.04 | 63.15 | |
| First Quarter | 65.92 | 59.10 | |
| 2006 | | | |
| Fourth Quarter | 59.83 | 56.23 | 0.59 |
| Third Quarter | 57.23 | 49.65 | |
| Second Quarter | 53.19 | 48.37 | |
| First Quarter | 51.98 | 48.14 | |

The reported last sale price for our common stock on the NYSE on October 7, 2008 was \$36.87 per share. As of September 30, 2008, there were 707,312,251 shares of common stock outstanding. As of September 30, 2008, our outstanding shares of common stock were held by 87,681 stockholders of record.

Table of Contents

**CERTAIN MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME AND ESTATE TAX
CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-UNITED STATES HOLDERS**

The following is a general discussion of certain material United States federal income and estate tax consequences resulting from the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder (as defined below) that acquires our common stock pursuant to this offering. The following discussion is based on provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), applicable United States Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and administrative and judicial interpretations, all as in effect on the date of this prospectus supplement, and all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. This discussion is limited to non-U.S. holders (as defined below) who hold our common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code. This discussion is only addressed to non-U.S. holders (as defined below) and does not consider and does not address tax considerations applicable to a holder's particular circumstances or to holders that may be subject to special tax rules, including, without limitation, financial institutions (including banks), insurance companies, retirement plans, mutual funds, hybrid entities, certain former citizens or former long-term residents of the United States, dealers in securities or currencies, holders who acquire their common stock pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options or as compensation, persons subject to the mark-to-market rules of the Code, persons that will hold our stock as a part of a hedging transaction, synthetic security, straddle, conversion transaction, or other integrated transaction for United States federal income tax purposes, entities treated as partnerships for United States federal income tax purposes, and tax-exempt organizations. This discussion does not consider any United States federal gift tax consequences, or United States state or local or non-U.S. tax consequences resulting from the acquisition, ownership or sale of our common stock.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) is a holder of our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Holders that are partnerships, and partners in such partnerships, should consult their tax advisors about the tax consequences resulting from the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common stock.

As used in this discussion, the term non-U.S. holder means a holder that is a beneficial owner of our common stock that is not, for United States federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (including any entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state of the United States or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is includible in gross income for United States federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or

a trust (1) if a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (2) that has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

Prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the United States federal, state, local, and non-U.S. income and other tax considerations with respect to acquiring, owning and disposing of shares of our common stock.

Distributions on Our Common Stock

Distributions paid on our common stock will constitute dividends for United States federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles.

With respect to distributions that are treated as dividends for United States federal income tax purposes, we will have to withhold United States federal income tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate under an applicable

S-40

Table of Contents

income tax treaty), from the gross amount of the dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder, unless such dividends are effectively connected with a non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States). Under applicable United States Treasury regulations, for purposes of determining the applicability of a tax treaty rate, non-U.S. holders are required to satisfy certain certification and other requirements (e.g., as set forth on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-8 BEN (or suitable substitute form)) in order to claim a reduced rate of withholding pursuant to an applicable tax treaty on dividend payments. A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of withholding of United States federal income tax under an income tax treaty may obtain a refund or credit of any excess amounts withheld by filing a timely claim for a refund together with the required information with the IRS. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding their entitlement to benefits under a relevant income tax treaty.

Dividends that are effectively connected with a non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States) are taxed on a net income basis at the regular graduated United States federal income tax rates in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a resident of the United States. In such cases, we will not have to withhold United States federal income tax if the non-U.S. holder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements. In addition, a branch profits tax may be imposed at a 30% rate, or a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty, on a foreign corporation that has earnings and profits (attributable to dividends or otherwise) that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

To the extent distributions exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, such distributions will constitute a return of capital to non-U.S. holders of our common stock, and shall first reduce the non-U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in such stock, but not below zero. The amounts of any such distribution in excess of such adjusted tax basis will be treated as gain from the sale of stock which should generally not be subject to United States federal income tax (except as described below). See discussion below under **Gain on Disposition of Common Stock** for a more detailed discussion regarding the United States federal income tax consequences to a non-U.S. holder with respect to gain on the sale of our common stock.

Gain on Disposition of Common Stock

A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax or any withholding thereof with respect to a gain realized on a sale or other disposition of our common stock (including, as a result of receiving distributions that are not treated as dividends on such stock in excess of such holder's adjusted tax basis in such stock) unless one of the following applies:

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States); in which case, the non-U.S. holder will generally be taxed on its net gain derived from the disposition at the regular graduated rates and in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a resident of the United States and, if the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, the branch profits tax described above may also apply;

the non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and meets certain other requirements; in which case, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to a 30% tax on the gain derived from the disposition; or

our common stock constitutes a United States real property interest (USRPI) by reason of our status as a United States real property holding corporation, or a USRPHC, for United States federal income tax purposes at any time during the shorter of the 5-year period ending on the date you dispose of our common stock or the period

you held our common stock.

We believe that we are not currently and do not anticipate becoming a USRPHC. Moreover, even if we are, or become a USRPHC, non-U.S. holders would not be subject to United States federal income tax (including withholding thereof) if our stock is regularly traded on an established securities market within the meaning of Section 897(c)(3) of the Code, unless such holder owned (directly and indirectly) more than 5% of our common stock during the shorter of the 5-year period ending on the date such holder disposes of our common stock or the

S-41

Table of Contents

period such holder held our common stock and we were a USRPHC during such period (in which case, such holder would be subject to United States federal income tax with respect to the net gain recognized on the sale of our common stock at regular graduated rates and related reporting and filing requirements). We believe that our common stock should be treated as regularly traded on an established securities market. If our common stock does not meet this requirement and we are, or become, a USRPHC, non-U.S. holders (regardless of the percentage of our common stock owned) would be subject to United States federal income tax (including withholding thereof at the rate of 10% on the gross proceeds paid to such holder) and related reporting and filing requirements with respect to the sale of our common stock.

Federal Estate Tax

Common stock owned or treated as owned by an individual who is a non-U.S. holder at the time of death will be included in the individual's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax or other treaty provides otherwise and, therefore, may be subject to United States federal estate tax.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Tax

We must report annually to the IRS and to each non-U.S. holder the amount of dividends paid to such holder and the tax withheld from those dividends. These reporting requirements apply regardless of whether withholding was reduced or eliminated by an applicable income tax treaty. Copies of the information returns reporting those dividends and withholding may also be made available under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty or agreement to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder is a resident.

Under some circumstances, United States Treasury regulations require backup withholding and additional information reporting on reportable payments on common stock. The gross amount of dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder that fails to certify its non-U.S. holder status in accordance with applicable United States Treasury regulations generally will be reduced by backup withholding at the applicable rate (currently 28%), unless the 30% rate of withholding described above applies.

The payment of the proceeds of the sale or other disposition of common stock by a non-U.S. holder to or through the United States office of any broker, generally will be reported to the IRS and reduced by backup withholding, unless the non-U.S. holder either certifies its status as a non-U.S. holder under penalties of perjury or otherwise establishes an exemption. The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of common stock by a non-U.S. holder to or through a non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker will not be reduced by backup withholding or reported to the IRS, unless the non-U.S. broker has certain enumerated connections with the United States. In general, the payment of proceeds from the disposition of common stock by or through a non-U.S. office of a broker that is a United States person or has certain enumerated connections with the United States will be reported to the IRS and may be reduced by backup withholding unless the broker receives a statement from the non-U.S. holder that certifies its status as a non-U.S. holder under penalties of perjury or the broker has documentary evidence in its files that the holder is a non-U.S. holder.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a non-U.S. holder can be refunded or credited against the non-U.S. holder's United States federal income tax liability, if any, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner. These backup withholding and information reporting rules are complex and non-U.S. holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of these rules to them.

The foregoing discussion of United States federal income and estate tax considerations is general information only and is not tax or legal advice. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor as to the particular

tax consequences to you of purchasing, holding or disposing of our common stock, including the applicability and effect of any federal, state, local or non-United States tax laws, and of any changes or proposed changes in applicable law.

S-42

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated October 1, 2008 we have agreed to sell to the underwriters named below, for whom Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC is acting as the representative, the following respective numbers of shares of common stock:

| Underwriter | Number of Shares |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated | |
| UBS Securities LLC | |
| Total | 75,000,000 |

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters are obligated to purchase all the shares of common stock in the offering if any are purchased, other than those shares covered by the over-allotment option described below. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the offering may be terminated.

We have granted to the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase on a pro rata basis up to 11,250,000 additional shares at the initial public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions. The option may be exercised only to cover any over-allotments of common stock.

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock initially at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to selling group members at that price less a selling concession of \$ 0.10 per share. After the initial public offering the underwriters may change the public offering price and concession.

The following table summarizes the compensation and estimated expenses we will pay:

| | Per Share | | Total | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Without Over-allotment | With Over-allotment | Without Over-allotment | With Over-allotment |
| Underwriting Discounts and Commissions paid by us | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Expenses payable by us | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |

We have agreed that we will not offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock, or publicly disclose the intention to make any offer, sale, pledge, disposition or filing, without the prior written consent of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, for a period of 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, except for (i) grants of

employee stock options, any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock, in each case pursuant to the terms of an employee benefit plan in effect on the date hereof and (ii) the issuance of shares of our common stock pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options outstanding on the date hereof.

Our executive officers and directors have agreed that they will not offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock, enter into a transaction that would have the same effect, or enter into any swap, hedge or other arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of our common stock, whether any of these transactions are to be settled by delivery of our common stock or other securities, in cash or otherwise, or publicly disclose the intention to make any offer, sale, pledge or disposition, or to enter into any transaction, swap, hedge or other arrangement, without, in each case, the prior written consent of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, for a period of 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, subject to certain exceptions.

S-43

Table of Contents

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make in that respect.

Our common stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET .

Affiliates of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and UBS Securities LLC are lenders under our credit facilities.

Because we engage in securities lending, derivatives trading, life insurance financing, annuity hedging and other capital market transactions with financial institutions, including the underwriters of this offering and/or their affiliates, and own preferred equity and debt securities issued by the underwriters and/or their affiliates, we have significant credit exposure to the underwriters. For example, as of September 30, 2008, the three underwriters hold securities on loan from us representing approximately 35% of our \$41 billion securities lending program. In addition, as of September 30, 2008, we owned approximately \$515 million, \$640 million and \$310 million of fixed maturity securities issued by Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and/or its affiliates, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and/or its affiliates and UBS Securities LLC and/or its affiliates, respectively. The underwriters and their affiliates may also have significant credit exposure to us through the various financial transactions in which we engage with them and their ownership of equity and debt securities issued by us and our affiliates.

In addition, the underwriters and their affiliates maintain various group and other insurance policies and employee benefit plans provided by certain of our insurance subsidiaries.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, over-allotment transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Over-allotment involves sales by the underwriters of shares in excess of the number of shares the underwriters are obligated to purchase, which creates a syndicate short position. The short position may be either a covered short position or a naked short position. In a covered short position, the number of shares over-allotted by the underwriters is not greater than the number of shares that they may purchase in the over-allotment option. In a naked short position, the number of shares involved is greater than the number of shares in the over-allotment option. The underwriters may close out any covered short position by either exercising their over-allotment option and/or purchasing shares in the open market.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. In determining the source of shares to close out the short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. If the underwriters sell more shares than could be covered by the over-allotment option, a naked short position, the position can only be closed out by buying shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Penalty bids permit the representative to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the common stock originally sold by the syndicate member is purchased in a stabilizing or syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions.

These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on The New York Stock Exchange market or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

S-44

Table of Contents

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the web sites maintained by one or more of the underwriters, or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering and one or more of the underwriters participating in this offering may distribute prospectuses electronically. The representative may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriters and selling group members that will make internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

An invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "FSMA")) has only been communicated or caused to be communicated and will only be communicated or caused to be communicated) in connection with the issue or sale of the shares in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us. All applicable provisions of the FSMA have been complied with and will be complied with, with respect to anything done in relation to the shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom. This document is only being distributed to and is only directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) to investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the "Order") or (iii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). The shares are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such shares will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State"), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State an offer of the shares to the public may not be made in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the shares which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any shares may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive if they have been implemented in the Relevant Member State:

to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity which has two or more of: (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000; and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3 (2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of shares shall result in a requirement for the publication by MetLife or any underwriter of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer of shares to the public" in relation to any shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the shares, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Table of Contents

NOTICE TO CANADIAN RESIDENTS

Resale Restrictions

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in Canada is being made only on a private placement basis exempt from the requirement that we prepare and file a prospectus with the securities regulatory authorities in each province where trades of the shares are made. Any resale of the shares in Canada must be made under applicable securities laws which will vary depending on the relevant jurisdiction, and which may require resales to be made under available statutory exemptions or under a discretionary exemption granted by the applicable Canadian securities regulatory authority. Purchasers are advised to seek legal advice prior to any resale of the shares.

Representations of Purchasers

By purchasing the shares in Canada and accepting a purchase confirmation, a purchaser is representing to us and the dealer from whom the purchase confirmation is received that:

the purchaser is entitled under applicable provincial securities laws to purchase the shares without the benefit of a prospectus qualified under those securities laws,

where required by law, that the purchaser is purchasing as principal and not as agent,

the purchaser has reviewed the text above under Resale Restrictions, and

the purchaser acknowledges and consents to the provision of specified information concerning its purchase of the shares to the regulatory authority that by law is entitled to collect the information.

Further details concerning the legal authority for this information is available upon request.

Rights of Action Ontario Purchasers Only

Under Ontario securities legislation, certain purchasers who purchase a security offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus during the period of distribution will have a statutory right of action for damages, or while still the owner of the shares, for rescission against us in the event that this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus contains a misrepresentation without regard to whether the purchaser relied on the misrepresentation. The right of action for damages is exercisable not later than the earlier of 180 days from the date the purchaser first had knowledge of the facts giving rise to the cause of action and three years from the date on which payment is made for the shares. The right of action for rescission is exercisable not later than 180 days from the date on which payment is made for the shares. If a purchaser elects to exercise the right of action for rescission, the purchaser will have no right of action for damages against us. In no case will the amount recoverable in any action exceed the price at which the shares were offered to the purchaser and if the purchaser is shown to have purchased the securities with knowledge of the misrepresentation, we will have no liability. In the case of an action for damages, we will not be liable for all or any portion of the damages that are proven to not represent the depreciation in value of the shares as a result of the misrepresentation relied upon. These rights are in addition to, and without derogation from, any other rights or remedies available at law to an Ontario purchaser. The foregoing is a summary of the rights available to an Ontario purchaser. Ontario purchasers should refer to the complete text of the relevant statutory provisions.

Enforcement of Legal Rights

All of our directors and officers as well as the experts named herein may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible for Canadian purchasers to effect service of process within Canada upon us or those persons. All or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of those persons may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible to satisfy a judgment against us or those persons in Canada or to enforce a judgment obtained in Canadian courts against us or those persons outside of Canada.

S-46

Table of Contents

Taxation and Eligibility for Investment

Canadian purchasers of the shares should consult their own legal and tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of an investment in the shares in their particular circumstances and about the eligibility of the shares for investment by the purchaser under relevant Canadian legislation.

LEGAL OPINIONS

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for MetLife, Inc. by Richard S. Collins, Senior Chief Counsel – General Corporate of MLIC, an affiliate of MetLife, Inc. The validity of the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for MetLife, Inc. by Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, New York, New York, which has also acted as special tax counsel for MetLife, Inc. Mr. Collins is paid a salary by an affiliate of MetLife, Inc., is a participant in various employee benefit plans offered by MetLife, Inc. and its affiliates to employees generally, is paid equity-based compensation in accordance with MetLife’s compensation programs and owns MetLife, Inc. common stock. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York, will pass upon certain legal matters for the underwriters. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has, from time to time, represented, currently represents, and may continue to represent, MetLife, Inc. and its affiliates in connection with various legal matters. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP maintains a group life insurance policy and short- and long-term disability insurance policies with MLIC. Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP maintains various group and other insurance policies with MLIC.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from MetLife’s 2007 Form 10-K, and the effectiveness of MetLife’s internal control over financial reporting for the year ended December 31, 2007, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules and include an explanatory paragraph regarding changes in MetLife’s method of accounting for deferred acquisition costs and for income taxes as required by accounting guidance adopted on January 1, 2007, and its method of accounting for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans as required by accounting guidance adopted on December 31, 2006, and (2) express an unqualified opinion on MetLife’s effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

METLIFE, INC.

**DEBT SECURITIES, PREFERRED STOCK, DEPOSITARY SHARES,
COMMON STOCK, WARRANTS, PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND UNITS**

**METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST V
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST VI
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST VII
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST VIII
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST IX**

TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

**Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed by MetLife, Inc.,
As Described in this Prospectus and the Accompanying Prospectus Supplement**

MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, may offer these securities, or any combination thereof, from time to time in amounts, at prices and on other terms to be determined at the time of the offering. MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

THIS PROSPECTUS MAY NOT BE USED TO SELL SECURITIES UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, may offer securities through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, through agents, or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see **Plan of Distribution** in this prospectus.

MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol **MET**. Unless otherwise stated in this prospectus or an accompanying prospectus supplement, none of these securities will be listed on a securities exchange, other than MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, or any of their respective affiliates may use this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement in a remarketing or other resale transaction involving the securities after their initial sale. These transactions may be executed at negotiated prices that are related to market prices at the time of purchase or sale, or at other prices, as determined from time to time.

Investing in our securities or the securities of the trusts involves risk. See **Risk Factors on page 1 of this prospectus.**

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, the New York Superintendent of Insurance or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. They have not made, nor will they make, any determination as to whether anyone should buy these securities. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 1 |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 1 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 2 |
| <u>MetLife, Inc.</u> | 3 |
| <u>The Trusts</u> | 4 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 5 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | 5 |
| <u>Description of Securities</u> | 5 |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u> | 5 |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u> | 14 |
| <u>Description of Depositary Shares</u> | 20 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | 22 |
| <u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u> | 24 |
| <u>Description of Units</u> | 25 |
| <u>Description of Trust Preferred Securities</u> | 25 |
| <u>Description of Guarantees</u> | 27 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 30 |
| <u>Legal Opinions</u> | 31 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 32 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to MetLife, we, our, or us refer to MetLife, Inc., and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, while references to MetLife, Inc. refer only to MetLife, Inc. on an unconsolidated basis. References in this prospectus to the trusts refer to MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that MetLife, Inc. and the trusts filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, MetLife, Inc. may, from time to time, sell any combination of debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, warrants, purchase contracts and units and the trusts may, from time to time, sell trust preferred securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc., as described in this prospectus, in one or more offerings in one or more foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities MetLife, Inc. and the trusts may offer. Each time that securities are sold, a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering will be provided. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

You should rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts are making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of the prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in MetLife, Inc. securities or the securities of the trusts involve risks. You should carefully consider the risks described in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, referenced in Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements below, as well as those included in any prospectus supplement hereto. For example, MetLife, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 contains a discussion of significant risks under the heading Risk Factors which could be relevant to your investment in the securities. Subsequent filings with the SEC may contain amended and updated discussions of significant risks.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement may contain or incorporate by reference information that includes or is based upon forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements give expectations or forecasts of future events. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as anticipate, estimate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe, and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with a discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, prospective services or products, future performance or results of current and anticipated services or products, sales efforts, expenses, the outcome of contingencies such as legal proceedings, trends in operations and financial results.

Any or all forward-looking statements may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Many such factors will be important in determining MetLife's actual future results. These statements are based on current expectations and the current economic environment. They involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. These statements are not guarantees of future performance, and there are no guarantees about the performance of any securities offered by this prospectus. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking

Table of Contents

statements. Risks, uncertainties and other factors that might cause such differences include the risks, uncertainties and other factors identified in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information," including those identified under "Risk Factors" above. These factors include:

changes in general economic conditions, including the performance of financial markets and interest rates;

heightened competition, including with respect to pricing, entry of new competitors, the development of new products by new and existing competitors and for personnel;

investment losses and defaults;

unanticipated changes in industry trends;

catastrophe losses;

ineffectiveness of risk management policies and procedures;

changes in accounting standards, practices and/or policies;

changes in assumptions related to deferred policy acquisition costs ("DAC"), value of business acquired or goodwill;

discrepancies between actual claims experience and assumptions used in setting prices for our products and establishing the liabilities for our obligations for future policy benefits and claims;

discrepancies between actual experience and assumptions used in establishing liabilities related to other contingencies or obligations;

adverse results or other consequences from litigation, arbitration or regulatory investigations;

downgrades in our and our affiliates' claims paying ability, financial strength or credit ratings;

regulatory, legislative or tax changes that may affect the cost of, or demand for, our products or services;

MetLife, Inc.'s primary reliance, as a holding company, on dividends from its subsidiaries to meet debt payment obligations and the applicable regulatory restrictions on the ability of the subsidiaries to pay such dividends;

deterioration in the experience of the "closed block" established in connection with the reorganization of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;

economic, political, currency and other risks relating to our international operations;

the effects of business disruption or economic contraction due to terrorism or other hostilities;

our ability to identify and consummate on successful terms any future acquisitions, and to successfully integrate acquired businesses with minimal disruption;

other risks and uncertainties described from time to time in MetLife, Inc.'s or the trusts' filings with the SEC;

the risk factors or uncertainties set forth herein or listed from time to time in prospectus supplements or any document incorporated by reference herein; and

other risks and uncertainties that have not been identified at this time.

Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts undertake any obligation to publicly correct or update any forward-looking statement if any of MetLife, Inc. or the trusts later become aware that it is not likely to be achieved. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures MetLife, Inc. or the trusts make on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

MetLife, Inc. files reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. These reports, proxy statements and other information, including the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, can be read and copied at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. The SEC maintains an internet site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies that file electronically with the SEC, including MetLife, Inc. MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET. These reports, proxy statements and

Table of Contents

other information can also be read at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 11 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows incorporation by reference into this prospectus of information that MetLife, Inc. files with the SEC. This permits MetLife, Inc. to disclose important information to you by referencing these filed documents. Any information referenced this way is considered part of this prospectus, and any information filed with the SEC subsequent to the date of this prospectus will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. Information furnished under Item 2.02 and Item 7.01 of MetLife, Inc.'s Current Reports on Form 8-K is not incorporated by reference in this registration statement and prospectus. MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the following documents which have been filed with the SEC:

Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated March 31, 2000, relating to registration of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock and Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated March 31, 2000, relating to registration of MetLife, Inc.'s Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock purchase rights;

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2007, June 30, 2007 and September 30, 2007; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 22, 2007, February 16, 2007, March 5, 2007, May 15, 2007, May 25, 2007, June 25, 2007, August 15, 2007, August 28, 2007, September 26, 2007 and October 24, 2007.

MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the documents listed above and any future filings made with the SEC in accordance with Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until MetLife, Inc. and the trusts file a post-effective amendment which indicates the termination of the offering of the securities made by this prospectus. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that the offering of the securities by means of this prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

MetLife, Inc. will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, MetLife, Inc., 1 MetLife Plaza, Long Island City, New York 11101 by electronic mail (metir@metlife.com) or by telephone (212-578-2211). You may also obtain some of the documents incorporated by reference into this document at MetLife's website, www.metlife.com. You should be aware that all other information contained on MetLife's website is not a part of this document.

METLIFE, INC.

We are a leading provider of insurance and other financial services with operations throughout the United States and the regions of Latin America, Europe and Asia Pacific. Through our domestic and international subsidiaries and affiliates, we offer life insurance, annuities, automobile and homeowners insurance, retail banking and other financial services to individuals, as well as group insurance, reinsurance, and retirement & savings products and services to corporations and other institutions.

We are one of the largest insurance and financial services companies in the United States. Our franchises and brand names uniquely position us to be the preeminent provider of protection and savings and investment products in the United States. In addition, our international operations are focused on markets where the demand for insurance and

savings and investment products is expected to grow rapidly in the future.

As a holding company, the primary source of MetLife, Inc.'s liquidity is dividends it receives from its insurance subsidiaries. MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries are subject to regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends imposed by the regulators of their respective domiciles. The dividend limitation for U.S. insurance subsidiaries is based on the surplus to policyholders as of the immediately preceding calendar year and statutory net gain from operations of the immediately preceding calendar year. Statutory accounting practices, as prescribed by insurance regulators of various states in which we conduct business, differ in certain respects from accounting principles used in financial statements prepared in conformity with GAAP. The significant differences related to the treatment of

Table of Contents

DAC, certain deferred income tax, required investment reserves, reserve calculation assumptions, goodwill and surplus notes.

MetLife, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. MetLife, Inc.'s principal executive offices are located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166-0188, and its telephone number is 212-578-2211.

THE TRUSTS

MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX are statutory trusts formed on October 31, 2007 under Delaware law pursuant to declarations of trust between the trustees named therein and MetLife, Inc. and the filing of certificates of trust with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. MetLife, Inc., as sponsor of the trusts, and the trustees named in the declarations of trust will amend and restate the declarations of trust in their entirety substantially in the forms which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, as of or prior to the date the trusts issue any trust preferred securities. The declarations of trust will be qualified as indentures under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the Trust Indenture Act).

The trusts exist for the exclusive purposes of:

issuing preferred securities offered by this prospectus and common securities to MetLife, Inc.;

investing the gross proceeds of the preferred securities and common securities in related series of debt securities, which may be senior or subordinated, issued by MetLife, Inc.; and

engaging in only those other activities which are necessary, appropriate, convenient or incidental to the purposes set forth above.

The payment of periodic cash distributions on the trust preferred securities and payments on liquidation and redemption with respect to the trust preferred securities, in each case to the extent the trusts have funds legally and immediately available, will be guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. to the extent set forth under Description of Guarantees.

MetLife, Inc. will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of the trusts. The common securities will represent an aggregate liquidation amount equal to at least 3% of each trust's total capitalization. The preferred securities of each trust will represent the remaining 97% of each trust's total capitalization. The common securities will have terms substantially identical to, and will rank equal in priority of payment with, the preferred securities. However, if MetLife, Inc. defaults on the related series of debt securities, then cash distributions and liquidation, redemption and other amounts payable on the common securities will be subordinate to the trust preferred securities in priority of payment.

The trusts each have a term of approximately 55 years, but may dissolve earlier as provided in their respective declarations of trust. The trusts' activities will be conducted by the trustees appointed by MetLife, Inc., as the direct or indirect holder of all of the common securities. The holder of the common securities of each trust will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace any of, or increase or reduce the number of, the trustees of the trust. However, the number of trustees shall be at least three, at least one of which shall be an administrative trustee. The duties and obligations of the trustees will be governed by the declaration of trust for each trust. A majority of the trustees of each trust will be persons who are employees or officers of or affiliated with MetLife, Inc. One trustee of each trust will be a financial institution which will be unaffiliated with MetLife, Inc. and which will act as property trustee and as indenture trustee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act, pursuant to the terms set forth in a prospectus supplement. In addition, unless the property trustee maintains a principal place of business in the State of Delaware, and otherwise meets the

requirements of applicable law, one trustee of each trust will have its principal place of business or reside in the State of Delaware.

The property trustee will hold title to the debt securities for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities and the property trustee will have the power to exercise all rights, powers and privileges under the indenture as the holder of the debt securities. In addition, the property trustee will maintain exclusive control of a segregated non-interest bearing bank account to hold all payments made in respect of the debt securities for the benefit of the

Table of Contents

holders of the trust securities. The property trustee will make payments of distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption and otherwise to the holders of the trust securities out of funds from this property account.

The rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including economic rights, rights to information and voting rights, are provided in the declarations of trust of MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX, including any amendments thereto, the trust preferred securities, the Delaware Statutory Trust Act and the Trust Indenture Act.

MetLife, Inc. will pay all fees and expenses related to the trusts and the offering of trust preferred securities. The principal offices of each trust is: The Bank of New York (Delaware), 100 White Clay Center, Route 273, Newark, Delaware 19711, Attention: Corporate Trust Administration. The telephone number of each trust is: 302-283-8905.

Please read the prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities for further information concerning the trusts and the trust preferred securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We may use the proceeds of securities sold or re-sold under this registration statement for, among other things, general corporate purposes. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will specify the intended use of the proceeds of that offering. Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, the trusts will use all of the proceeds they receive from the sale of trust preferred securities to purchase debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES
AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges⁽¹⁾ for the periods indicated:

| | Nine Months Ended | | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | September 30, 2007 | 2006 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 1.80 | 1.72 | 1.67 | 1.92 | 2.03 | 1.73 | 1.47 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends | 1.78 | 1.70 | 1.65 | 1.90 | 2.03 | 1.73 | 1.47 |

⁽¹⁾ For purposes of this computation, earnings are defined as income before provision for income tax and discontinued operations and excluding undistributed income and losses from equity method investments, minority interest and fixed charges, excluding capitalized interest. Fixed charges are the sum of interest and debt issue costs, interest credited to policyholder account balances, and an estimated interest component of rent expense. We did not have any preferred stock outstanding prior to the initial issuances of our (i) Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, issued on June 13, 2005; and (ii) 6.50% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B, issued on June 16, 2005. The preferred stock dividends are included within the total fixed charges to calculate the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, warrants, purchase contracts and units that MetLife, Inc. may sell from time to time, and the trust preferred securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. that the trusts may sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. However, this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used in this prospectus, debt securities means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that MetLife, Inc. may issue from time to time. The debt securities will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, senior debt securities

Table of Contents

will be issued under the Senior Indenture dated as of November 9, 2001 between MetLife, Inc, and Bank One Trust Company, N.A. (predecessor to The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.) (the Senior Indenture) and subordinated debt securities will be issued under the Subordinated Indenture dated as of June 21, 2005 between MetLife, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association (predecessor to The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.) (the Subordinated Indenture). This prospectus sometimes refers to the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture collectively as the Indentures.

The Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding provisions of the Indentures and debt securities are summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the Indentures and the debt securities, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

General

The debt securities will be direct unsecured obligations of MetLife, Inc. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of MetLife, Inc.'s other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s present and future senior indebtedness.

Because MetLife, Inc. is principally a holding company, its right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary, including Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise, is subject to the prior claims of creditors of the subsidiary, except to the extent MetLife, Inc. may be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. Accordingly, MetLife, Inc.'s obligations under the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and liabilities of its subsidiaries, including liabilities under contracts of insurance and annuities written by MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries, and holders of debt securities should look only to MetLife, Inc.'s assets for payment thereunder.

The Indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that MetLife, Inc. may issue and provide that MetLife, Inc. may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. MetLife, Inc. may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable Indenture. The Indentures also do not limit our ability to incur other debt.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the terms relating to the specific series of debt securities being offered. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title of debt securities and whether they are subordinated debt securities or senior debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the price or prices at which MetLife, Inc. will sell the debt securities;

the maturity date or dates of the debt securities;

the rate or rates of interest, if any, which may be fixed or variable, per annum at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the method of determining such rate or rates, if any;

Edgar Filing: METLIFE INC - Form 424B5

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue, the dates on which interest will be payable, or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;

the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of any such deferral period, including the maximum consecutive period during which interest payment periods may be extended;

whether the amount of payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to any index, formula or other method, such as one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices, and the manner of determining the amount of such payments;

Table of Contents

the dates on which MetLife, Inc. will pay interest on the debt securities and the regular record date for determining who is entitled to the interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

if MetLife, Inc. possesses the option to do so, the periods within which and the prices at which MetLife, Inc. may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to optional redemption provisions, and the other terms and conditions of any such provisions;

MetLife, Inc.'s obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities by making periodic payments to a sinking fund or through an analogous provision or at the option of holders of the debt securities, and the period or periods within which and the price or prices at which MetLife, Inc. will redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and the other terms and conditions of such obligation;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;

the portion, or methods of determining the portion, of the principal amount of the debt securities which MetLife, Inc. must pay upon the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities in connection with an Event of Default (as described below), if other than the full principal amount;

the currency, currencies or currency unit in which MetLife, Inc. will pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities, if not United States dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent thereof in United States dollars;

provisions, if any, granting special rights to holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or MetLife, Inc.'s covenants with respect to the applicable series of debt securities, and whether or not such Events of Default or covenants are consistent with those contained in the applicable Indenture;

the application, if any, of the terms of the Indenture relating to defeasance and covenant defeasance (which terms are described below) to the debt securities;

whether the subordination provisions summarized below or different subordination provisions will apply to the debt securities;

the terms, if any, upon which the holders may or are required to convert or exchange such debt securities into or for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities or property or into securities of a third party, including conversion price (which may be adjusted), the method of calculating the conversion price, or the conversion period;

whether any of the debt securities will be issued in global or certificated form and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which global debt securities may be exchanged for certificated debt securities;

any change in the right of the trustee or the requisite holders of debt securities to declare the principal amount thereof due and payable because of an Event of Default;

the depository for global or certificated debt securities;

if applicable, a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to specific debt securities;

any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or other agents with respect to the debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the Indentures, as amended or supplemented.

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued in fully registered form without coupons.

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and certain additional tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

Subordination

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions. However, unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s Senior Indebtedness (as described below).

Under the Subordinated Indenture, *Senior Indebtedness* means all amounts due on obligations in connection with any of the following, whether outstanding at the date of execution of the Subordinated Indenture or thereafter incurred or created:

the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest in respect of indebtedness of MetLife, Inc. for borrowed money and indebtedness evidenced by securities, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments issued by MetLife, Inc.;

all capital lease obligations of MetLife, Inc.;

all obligations of MetLife, Inc. issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all conditional sale obligations of MetLife, Inc. and all obligations of MetLife, Inc. under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable in the ordinary course of business);

all obligations of MetLife, Inc. for the reimbursement on any letter of credit, banker's acceptance, security purchase facility or similar credit transaction;

all obligations of MetLife, Inc. in respect of interest rate swap, cap or other agreements, interest rate future or options contracts, currency swap agreements, currency future or option contracts and other similar agreements;

all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons for the payment of which MetLife, Inc. is responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise; and

all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons secured by any lien on any property or asset of MetLife, Inc. whether or not such obligation is assumed by MetLife, Inc.

Senior Indebtedness does not include:

indebtedness or monetary obligations to trade creditors created or assumed by MetLife, Inc. in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of materials or services;

indebtedness that is, by its terms, subordinated to, or ranks equal with, the subordinated debt securities; and

any indebtedness of MetLife, Inc. to its affiliates (including all debt securities and guarantees in respect of those debt securities issued to any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with MetLife, Inc. that is a financing vehicle of MetLife, Inc. in connection with the issuance by such financing entity of preferred securities or other securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc.) unless otherwise expressly provided in the terms of any such indebtedness.

Table of Contents

At both September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006, Senior Indebtedness aggregated approximately \$7.0 billion. The amount of Senior Indebtedness which MetLife, Inc. may issue is subject to limitations imposed by its board of directors.

Senior Indebtedness shall continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness.

Unless otherwise noted in the accompanying prospectus supplement, if MetLife, Inc. defaults in the payment of any principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any Senior Indebtedness when it becomes due and payable, whether at maturity or at a date fixed for prepayment or by declaration or otherwise, then, unless and until such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, MetLife, Inc. will make no direct or indirect payment (in cash, property, securities, by set-off or otherwise) in respect of the principal of or interest on the subordinated debt securities or in respect of any redemption, retirement, purchase or other requisition of any of the subordinated debt securities.

In the event of the acceleration of the maturity of any subordinated debt securities, the holders of all senior debt securities outstanding at the time of such acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due on the senior debt securities before the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

If any of the following events occurs, MetLife, Inc. will pay in full all Senior Indebtedness before it makes any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, to any holder of subordinated debt securities:

any dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of MetLife, Inc., whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership;

any general assignment by MetLife, Inc. for the benefit of creditors; or

any other marshaling of MetLife, Inc.'s assets or liabilities.

In such event, any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, which would otherwise (but for the subordination provisions) be payable or deliverable in respect of the subordinated debt securities, will be paid or delivered directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders until all Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full. If any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities is received by the trustee of any subordinated debt securities in contravention of any of the terms of the Subordinated Indenture and before all the Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full, such payment or distribution or security will be received in trust for the benefit of, and paid over or delivered and transferred to, the holders of the Senior Indebtedness at the time outstanding in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders for application to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all such Senior Indebtedness in full.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit the issuance of additional Senior Indebtedness.

If debt securities are issued to a trust in connection with the issuance of trust preferred securities, such debt securities may thereafter be distributed pro rata to the holders of such trust securities in connection with the dissolution of such trust upon the occurrence of certain events described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Restrictive Covenants

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, the following restrictive covenants shall apply to each series of senior debt securities:

Limitation on Liens. So long as any senior debt securities are outstanding, neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries will create, assume, incur or guarantee any debt which is secured by any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance on any capital stock of:

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;

any successor to substantially all of the business of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which is also a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.; or

Table of Contents

any corporation (other than MetLife, Inc.) having direct or indirect control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or any such successor.

However, this restriction will not apply if the debt securities then outstanding are secured at least equally and ratably with the otherwise prohibited secured debt so long as it is outstanding.

Limitations on Dispositions of Stock of Certain Subsidiaries. So long as any senior debt securities are outstanding and subject to the provisions of the Senior Indenture regarding mergers, consolidations and sales of assets, neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries will sell or otherwise dispose of any shares of capital stock (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind) of:

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;

any successor to substantially all of the business of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which is also a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.; or

any corporation (other than MetLife, Inc.) having direct or indirect control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or any such successor;

except for, in each case:

a sale or other disposition of any of such stock to a wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc. or of such subsidiary; or

a sale or other disposition of all of such stock for at least fair value (as determined by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors acting in good faith); or a sale or other disposition required to comply with an order of a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction, other than an order issued at MetLife, Inc.'s request or the request of any of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries.

Consolidation, Merger, Sale of Assets and Other Transactions

(i) MetLife, Inc. may not merge with or into or consolidate with another corporation or sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to, any other corporation other than a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., and (ii) no corporation may merge with or into or consolidate with MetLife, Inc. or, except for any direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to MetLife, Inc., unless:

MetLife, Inc. is the surviving corporation or the corporation formed by or surviving such merger or consolidation or to which such sale, assignment, transfer, lease or conveyance has been made, if other than MetLife, Inc., has expressly assumed by supplemental indenture all the obligations of MetLife, Inc. under the debt securities, the Indentures, and any guarantees of preferred securities or common securities issued by the trusts;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing;

if at the time any preferred securities of the trusts are outstanding, such transaction is not prohibited under the applicable declaration of trust and the applicable preferred securities guarantee of each trust; and

MetLife, Inc. delivers to the trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that the supplemental indenture complies with the applicable Indenture.

Events of Default, Notice and Waiver

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, the following shall constitute Events of Default under the Indentures with respect to each series of debt securities:

MetLife, Inc. s failure to pay any interest on any debt security of such series when due and payable, continued for 30 days;

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay principal (or premium, if any) on any debt security of such series when due, regardless of whether such payment became due because of maturity, redemption, acceleration or otherwise, or is required by any sinking fund established with respect to such series;

MetLife, Inc.'s failure to observe or perform any other of its covenants or agreements with respect to such series for 90 days after MetLife, Inc. receives notice of such failure;

certain defaults with respect to MetLife, Inc.'s debt which result in a principal amount in excess of \$100,000,000 becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise have become due and payable (other than the debt securities or non-recourse debt);

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of MetLife, Inc.; and

certain events of dissolution or winding-up of the trusts in the event that debt securities are issued to the trusts or a trustee of the trusts in connection with the issuance of securities by the trusts.

If an Event of Default with respect to any debt securities of any series outstanding under either of the Indentures shall occur and be continuing, the trustee under such Indenture or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series outstanding may declare, by notice as provided in the applicable Indenture, the principal amount (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of that series) of all the debt securities of that series outstanding to be due and payable immediately; provided that, in the case of an Event of Default involving certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, acceleration is automatic; and, provided further, that after such acceleration, but before a judgment or decree based on acceleration, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all Events of Default, other than the nonpayment of accelerated principal, have been cured or waived. Upon the acceleration of the maturity of original issue discount securities, an amount less than the principal amount thereof will become due and payable. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to any original issue discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of maturity thereof.

Any past default under either Indenture with respect to debt securities of any series, and any Event of Default arising therefrom, may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of all debt securities of such series outstanding under such Indenture, except in the case of (i) default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any debt securities of such series, or (ii) default in respect of a covenant or provision which may not be amended or modified without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of such series affected.

The trustee is required, within 90 days after the occurrence of a default (which is known to the trustee and is continuing), with respect to the debt securities of any series (without regard to any grace period or notice requirements), to give to the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of such default; provided, however, that, except in the case of a default in the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, or in the payment of any sinking fund installment, on any debt securities of such series, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if it in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the holders of the debt securities of such series.

The trustee, subject to its duties during default to act with the required standard of care, may require indemnification by the holders of the debt securities of any series with respect to which a default has occurred before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the Indentures at the request of the holders of the debt securities of such series. Subject to such right of indemnification and to certain other limitations, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series under either Indenture may direct the time, method

and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

No holder of a debt security of any series may institute any action against MetLife, Inc. under either of the Indentures (except actions for payment of overdue principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt security or for the conversion or exchange of such debt security in accordance with its terms) unless (i) the holder has given to the trustee written notice of an Event of Default and of the continuance thereof with respect to the debt

Table of Contents

securities of such series specifying an Event of Default, as required under the applicable Indenture, (ii) the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding under such Indenture shall have requested the trustee to institute such action and offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request, and (iii) the trustee shall not have instituted such action within 60 days of such request.

MetLife, Inc. is required to furnish annually to the trustee statements as to MetLife, Inc.'s compliance with all conditions and covenants under each Indenture.

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may discharge or defease its obligations under each Indenture as set forth below.

MetLife, Inc. may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture which have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and which have either become due and payable or are by their terms due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by irrevocably depositing with the trustee cash or, in the case of debt securities payable only in U.S. dollars, U.S. government obligations (as defined in either Indenture), as trust funds in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such debt securities.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may elect either (i) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the debt securities of or within any series (except as otherwise provided in the relevant Indenture) (defeasance) or (ii) to be released from its obligations with respect to certain covenants applicable to the debt securities of or within any series (covenant defeasance), upon the deposit with the relevant Indenture trustee, in trust for such purpose, of money and/or government obligations which, through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient, without reinvestment, to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt securities to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments thereon. As a condition to defeasance or covenant defeasance, MetLife, Inc. must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (i) above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable federal income tax law occurring after the date of the relevant Indenture. In addition, in the case of either defeasance or covenant defeasance, MetLife, Inc. shall have delivered to the trustee (i) an officers' certificate to the effect that the relevant debt securities exchange(s) have informed it that neither such debt securities nor any other debt securities of the same series, if then listed on any securities exchange, will be delisted as a result of such deposit, and (ii) an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with.

MetLife, Inc. may exercise its defeasance option with respect to such debt securities notwithstanding its prior exercise of its covenant defeasance option.

Modification and Waiver

Under the Indentures, MetLife, Inc. and the applicable trustee may supplement the Indentures for certain purposes which would not materially adversely affect the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities of a series without the consent of those holders. MetLife, Inc. and the applicable trustee may also modify the Indentures or any supplemental indenture in a manner that affects the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each

Table of Contents

affected series issued under the Indenture. However, the Indentures require the consent of each holder of debt securities that would be affected by any modification which would:

extend the fixed maturity of any debt securities of any series, or reduce the principal amount thereof, or reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest thereon, or reduce any premium payable upon the redemption thereof;

reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount debt security or any other debt security payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;

change the currency in which any debt security or any premium or interest is payable;

impair the right to enforce any payment on or with respect to any debt security;

adversely change the right to convert or exchange, including decreasing the conversion rate or increasing the conversion price of, any debt security (if applicable);

reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the Indentures or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Indentures or for waiver of certain defaults;

reduce the requirements contained in the Indentures for quorum or voting; or

modify any of the above provisions.

If debt securities are held by a trust or a trustee of a trust, a supplemental indenture that affects the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities will not be effective until the holders of not less than a majority in liquidation preference of the preferred securities and common securities of the applicable trust, collectively, have consented to the supplemental indenture; provided, further, that if the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security is required, the supplemental indenture will not be effective until each holder of the preferred securities and the common securities of the applicable trust has consented to the supplemental indenture.

The Indentures permit the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series issued under the Indenture which is affected by the modification or amendment to waive MetLife, Inc.'s compliance with certain covenants contained in the Indentures.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name a debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal, interest and premium on the debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of such paying agent or paying agents as MetLife, Inc. may designate for such purpose from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at MetLife, Inc.'s option, payment of any interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address appears in the security register.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, a paying agent designated by MetLife, Inc. and located in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, will act as paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. All paying agents initially designated by MetLife, Inc. for the debt securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. MetLife, Inc. may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that MetLife, Inc. will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by MetLife, Inc. to a paying agent for the payment of the principal, interest or premium on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, interest or premium has become due and payable will be repaid to MetLife, Inc. upon request, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to MetLife, Inc. for payment thereof.

Table of Contents

Denominations, Registrations and Transfer

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, debt securities will be represented by one or more global certificates registered in the name of a nominee for The Depository Trust Company (DTC). In such case, each holder s beneficial interest in the global securities will be shown on the records of DTC and transfers of beneficial interests will only be effected through DTC s records.

A holder of debt securities may only exchange a beneficial interest in a global security for certificated securities registered in the holder s name if:

DTC notifies MetLife, Inc. that it is unwilling or unable to continue serving as the depository for the relevant global securities or DTC ceases to maintain certain qualifications under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and no successor depository has been appointed for 90 days; or

MetLife, Inc. determines, in its sole discretion and subject to the procedures of DTC, that the global security shall be exchangeable.

If debt securities are issued in certificated form, they will only be issued in the minimum denomination specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement and integral multiples of such denomination. Transfers and exchanges of such debt securities will only be permitted in such minimum denomination. Transfers of debt securities in certificated form may be registered at the trustee s corporate office or at the offices of any paying agent or trustee appointed by MetLife, Inc. under the Indentures. Exchanges of debt securities for an equal aggregate principal amount of debt securities in different denominations may also be made at such locations.

Governing Law

The Indentures and debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

Relationship with the Trustees

The trustee under the Indentures is The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. (in the case of the Senior Indenture, as successor to Bank One Trust Company, N.A., and in the case of the Subordinated Indenture, as successor to J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association). MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking and trust relationships with a number of banks and trust companies, including the trustee under the Indentures.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for securities described in this prospectus. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at MetLife, Inc. s option. These provisions may allow or require the number of shares of MetLife, Inc. s common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of such series of debt securities to be adjusted.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

MetLife, Inc. s authorized capital stock consists of:

Edgar Filing: METLIFE INC - Form 424B5

200,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which 84,000,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2007:

27,600,000 shares of Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series A (the Series A Preferred Stock), of which 24,000,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2007;

69,000,000 shares of 6.500% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B (the Series B Preferred Stock) of which 60,000,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2007; and

10,000,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which no shares were issued or outstanding as of the date of this prospectus; and

3,000,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which 740,286,838 shares, as well as the same number of rights to purchase shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock pursuant to the

Table of Contents

stockholder rights plan adopted by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors on September 29, 1999, were outstanding as of September 30, 2007. See Stockholder Rights Plan for a description of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. The remaining shares of authorized and unissued common stock will be available for future issuance without additional stockholder approval.

Common Stock

Dividends. The holders of common stock, after any preferences of holders of any preferred stock, are entitled to receive dividends as determined by the board of directors. The issuance of dividends will depend upon, among other factors deemed relevant by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors, MetLife's financial condition, results of operations, cash requirements, future prospects and regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and MetLife, Inc.'s other subsidiaries. There is no requirement or assurance that MetLife, Inc. will declare and pay any dividends. In addition, (i) the certificates of designation for the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock, (ii) MetLife, Inc.'s 6.40% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2066, and (iii) both series of junior subordinated debt securities underlying MetLife, Inc.'s common equity units, all prohibit the declaration or payment of dividends or distributions on common stock under certain circumstances. Under the certificates of designation for the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock, if dividends on such securities are not paid, no dividends may be paid on the common stock. Similarly, under the the 6.40% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2066, under certain circumstances, if interest is not paid in full on such securities, whether because of an optional deferral or a trigger event, subject to certain exceptions, than no dividends may be paid on the common stock. The indenture governing the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities underlying the common equity units prohibits, during any period in which the payment of interest on either series is deferred, or certain other events have occurred, among other things, the declaration or payment of any dividends or distributions on, the redemption, purchase, acquisition of or making a liquidation payment with respect to, any shares of capital stock.

Voting Rights. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters on which the holders of common stock are entitled to vote and do not have any cumulative voting rights.

Liquidation and Dissolution. In the event of MetLife, Inc.'s liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of common stock are entitled to share equally and ratably in MetLife, Inc.'s assets, if any, remaining after the payment of all of MetLife, Inc.'s liabilities and the liquidation preference of any outstanding class or series of preferred stock.

Other Rights. The holders of common stock have no preemptive, conversion, redemption or sinking fund rights. The holders of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock are not required to make additional capital contributions.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. The transfer agent and registrar for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is Mellon Investor Services LLC, successor to ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C.

Preferred Stock

General. MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors has the authority to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the title and number of shares constituting any such series and the designations, powers, preferences, limitations and relative rights including offering price, any dividend rights (including whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative), dividend rate, voting rights, terms of any redemption, any redemption price or prices, conversion or exchange rights and any liquidation preferences of the shares constituting any series, without any further vote or action by stockholders. The specific terms of the preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement.

MetLife, Inc. has authorized 10,000,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock for issuance in connection with its stockholder rights plan. See [Stockholder Rights Plan](#) for a description of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. The Delaware General Corporation Law provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of such preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will describe the voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock.

Table of Contents

Conversion or Exchange. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which the preferred stock may be convertible into or exchangeable for securities described in this prospectus. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at MetLife, Inc.'s option. These provisions may set forth the conversion price, the method of determining the conversion price and the conversion period and may allow or require the number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of preferred stock to be adjusted.

Redemption. The prospectus supplement will describe the obligation, if any, to redeem the preferred stock in whole or in part at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may not purchase or redeem any of the outstanding shares or any series of preferred stock unless full cumulative dividends, if any, have been paid or declared and set apart for payment upon all outstanding shares of any series of preferred stock for all past dividend periods, and unless all of MetLife, Inc.'s matured obligations with respect to all sinking funds, retirement funds or purchase funds for all series of preferred stock then outstanding have been met.

Certain Provisions in MetLife, Inc.'s Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws and in Delaware and New York Law

A number of provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws deal with matters of corporate governance and rights of stockholders. The following discussion is a general summary of selected provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws and regulatory provisions that might be deemed to have a potential anti-takeover effect. These provisions may have the effect of discouraging a future takeover attempt which is not approved by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors but which individual stockholders may deem to be in their best interests or in which stockholders may receive a substantial premium for their shares over then current market prices. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such a transaction may not have an opportunity to do so. Such provisions will also render the removal of the incumbent board of directors or management more difficult. Some provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the New York Insurance Law may also have an anti-takeover effect. The following description of selected provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws and selected provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the New York Insurance Law is necessarily general and reference should be made in each case to MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws, which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and to the provisions of those laws.

Classified Board of Directors and Removal of Directors

Pursuant to MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation, the directors are divided into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, with each class having a term of three years. The classes serve staggered terms, such that the term of one class of directors expires each year. Any effort to obtain control of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors by causing the election of a majority of the board may require more time than would be required without a staggered election structure. MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation also provides that, subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, directors may be removed only for cause at a meeting of stockholders by a vote of a majority of the shares then entitled to vote. This provision may have the effect of slowing or impeding a change in membership of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors that would effect a change of control.

Exercise of Duties by Board of Directors

MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation provides that while the MetLife Policyholder Trust (as described below) is in existence, each MetLife, Inc. director is required, in exercising his or her duties as a director, to take the interests of

the trust beneficiaries into account as if they were holders of the shares of common stock held in the trust, except to the extent that any such director determines, based on advice of counsel, that to do so would violate his or her duties as a director under Delaware law.

Restriction on Maximum Number of Directors and Filling of Vacancies on MetLife, Inc. s Board of Directors

Pursuant to MetLife, Inc. s by-laws and subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, the number of directors may be fixed and increased or decreased from time to time by resolution of the board of directors, but the board of directors will at no time consist of fewer than three directors. Subject to the rights of the

Table of Contents

holders of any class of preferred stock, stockholders can only remove a director for cause by a vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote, in which case the vacancy caused by such removal may be filled at such meeting by the stockholders entitled to vote for the election of the director so removed. Any vacancy on the board of directors, including a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors or resulting from a removal for cause where the stockholders have not filled the vacancy, subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum. If the vacancy is not so filled it will be filled by the stockholders at the next annual meeting of stockholders. The stockholders are not permitted to fill vacancies between annual meetings, except where the vacancy resulted from a removal for cause. These provisions give incumbent directors significant authority that may have the effect of limiting the ability of stockholders to effect a change in management.

Advance Notice Requirements for Nomination of Directors and Presentation of New Business at Meetings of Stockholders; Action by Written Consent

MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws provide for advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and nominations for director. In addition, pursuant to the provisions of both the certificate of incorporation and the by-laws, action may not be taken by written consent of stockholder. Rather, any action taken by the stockholders must be effected at a duly called meeting. Moreover, the stockholders do not have the power to call a special meeting. Only the chief executive officer or the secretary pursuant to a board resolution or, under some circumstances, the president or a director who also is an officer, may call a special meeting. These provisions make it more difficult for a stockholder to place a proposal or nomination on the meeting agenda and prohibit a stockholder from taking action without a meeting, and therefore may reduce the likelihood that a stockholder will seek to take independent action to replace directors or with respect to other matters that are not supported by management for stockholder vote.

Limitations on Director Liability

MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation contains a provision that is designed to limit the directors' liability to the extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law and any amendments to that law. Specifically, directors will not be held liable to MetLife, Inc. or its stockholders for an act or omission in their capacity as a director, except for liability as a result of:

- a breach of the duty of loyalty to MetLife, Inc. or its stockholders;
- acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- payment of an improper dividend or improper repurchase of MetLife, Inc.'s stock under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law; or
- actions or omissions pursuant to which the director received an improper personal benefit.

The principal effect of the limitation on liability provision is that a stockholder is unable to prosecute an action for monetary damages against a director of MetLife, Inc. unless the stockholder can demonstrate one of the specified bases for liability. This provision, however, does not eliminate or limit director liability arising in connection with causes of action brought under the federal securities laws. MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation also does not eliminate the directors' duty of care. The inclusion of the limitation on liability provision in the certificate may, however, discourage or deter stockholders or management from bringing a lawsuit against directors for a breach of their fiduciary duties, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise have benefited MetLife, Inc. and its stockholders. This provision should not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as injunction or rescission based upon a director's breach of the duty of care.

MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws also provide that MetLife, Inc. indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. MetLife, Inc. is required to indemnify its directors and officers for all judgments, fines, settlements, legal fees and other expenses reasonably incurred in connection with pending or threatened legal proceedings because of the director's or officer's position with MetLife, Inc. or another entity, including Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, that the director or officer serves at MetLife, Inc.'s request, subject to certain conditions, and to advance funds to MetLife, Inc.'s directors and officers to enable them to defend against such proceedings. To receive indemnification, the director or officer must succeed in the legal proceeding or act in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of MetLife, Inc. and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be lawful.

Table of Contents***Supermajority Voting Requirement for Amendment of Certain Provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws***

Some of the provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation, including those that authorize the board of directors to create stockholder rights plans, that set forth the duties, election and exculpation from liability of directors and that prohibit stockholders from taking actions by written consent, may not be amended, altered, changed or repealed unless the amendment is approved by the vote of holders of 75% of the then outstanding shares entitled to vote at an election of directors. This requirement exceeds the majority vote of the outstanding stock that would otherwise be required by the Delaware General Corporation Law for the repeal or amendment of such provisions of the certificate of incorporation. MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws may be amended, altered or repealed by the board of directors or by the vote of holders of 75% of the then outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors. These provisions make it more difficult for any person to remove or amend any provisions that have an anti-takeover effect.

Business Combination Statute

In addition, as a Delaware corporation, MetLife, Inc. is subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, unless it elects in its certificate of incorporation not to be governed by the provisions of Section 203. MetLife, Inc. has not made that election. Section 203 can affect the ability of an interested stockholder of MetLife, Inc. to engage in certain business combinations, including mergers, consolidations or acquisitions of additional shares of MetLife, Inc. for a period of three years following the time that the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is defined to include any person owning, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of a corporation. The provisions of Section 203 are not applicable in some circumstances, including those in which (1) the business combination or transaction which results in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder is approved by the corporation's board of directors prior to the time the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder or (2) the interested stockholder, upon consummation of such transaction, owns at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding prior to such transaction.

Restrictions on Acquisitions of Securities

The insurance laws and regulations of New York, the jurisdiction in which MetLife, Inc.'s principal insurance subsidiary, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is organized, may delay or impede a business combination involving MetLife, Inc. In addition to the limitations described in the immediately preceding paragraph, the New York Insurance Law prohibits any person from acquiring control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, either directly or indirectly through any acquisition of control of MetLife, Inc., without the prior approval of the New York Superintendent of Insurance. That law presumes that control exists where any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds the power to vote or holds proxies representing 10% or more of MetLife, Inc.'s outstanding voting stock, unless the New York Superintendent, upon application, determines otherwise. Even persons who do not acquire beneficial ownership of more than 10% of the outstanding shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock may be deemed to have acquired such control, if the New York Superintendent determines that such persons, directly or indirectly, exercise a controlling influence over MetLife, Inc.'s management or policies. Therefore, any person seeking to acquire a controlling interest in MetLife, Inc. would face regulatory obstacles which may delay, deter or prevent an acquisition.

The insurance holding company law and other insurance laws of many other states also regulate changes of control (generally presumed upon acquisitions of 10% or more of voting securities) of domestic insurers (including insurers owned by MetLife, Inc.) and insurance holding companies such as MetLife, Inc.

Stockholder Rights Plan

MetLife, Inc. s board of directors has adopted a stockholder rights plan under which each outstanding share of MetLife, Inc. s common stock issued between April 4, 2000 and the earlier of the distribution date (as described below) and the expiration of the rights (as described below) will be coupled with a stockholder right. Initially, the stockholder rights will be attached to the certificates representing outstanding shares of common stock, and no separate rights certificates will be distributed. Each right will entitle the holder to purchase one one-hundredth of a share of MetLife, Inc. s Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. Each one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock will have economic and voting terms equivalent to one share of

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc.'s common stock. Until it is exercised, the right itself will not entitle the holder thereof to any rights as a stockholder, including the right to receive dividends or to vote at stockholder meetings. The description and terms of the rights are set forth in a rights agreement entered into between MetLife, Inc. and Mellon Investor Services LLC, successor to ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C., as rights agent. Although the material provisions of the rights agreement have been accurately summarized, the statements below concerning the rights agreement are not necessarily complete and in each instance reference is made to the rights agreement itself, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus in its entirety. Each statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

Stockholder rights are not exercisable until the distribution date and will expire at the close of business on April 4, 2010, unless earlier redeemed or exchanged by MetLife, Inc. A distribution date would occur upon the earlier of:

the tenth day after the first public announcement or communication to MetLife, Inc. that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (referred to as an acquiring person) has acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of MetLife, Inc.'s outstanding common stock (the date of such announcement or communication is referred to as the stock acquisition time); or

the tenth business day after the commencement or announcement of the intention to commence a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in a person or group becoming an acquiring person.

If any person becomes an acquiring person, each holder of a stockholder right will be entitled to exercise the right and receive, instead of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, common stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, a reduction in purchase price, property or other securities of MetLife, Inc.) having a value equal to two times the purchase price of the stockholder right. All stockholder rights that are beneficially owned by an acquiring person or its transferee will become null and void.

If at any time after a public announcement has been made or MetLife, Inc. has received notice that a person has become an acquiring person, (1) MetLife, Inc. is acquired in a merger or other business combination, or (2) 50% or more of MetLife, Inc.'s and its subsidiaries' assets, cash flow or earning power is sold or transferred, each holder of a stockholder right (except rights which previously have been voided as set forth above) will have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock of the acquiring company having a value equal to two times the purchase price of the right.

The purchase price payable, the number of one one-hundredths of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock or other securities or property issuable upon exercise of rights and the number of rights outstanding, are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution. With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the purchase price or the number of shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock issuable upon exercise of a stockholder right will be required until the cumulative adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least one percent in the purchase price or number of shares for which a right is exercisable.

At any time until the earlier of (1) the stock acquisition time, or (2) the final expiration date of the rights agreement, MetLife, Inc. may redeem all the stockholder rights at a price of \$0.01 per right. At any time after a person has become an acquiring person and prior to the acquisition of beneficial ownership by such person of 50% or more of the outstanding shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, MetLife, Inc. may exchange the stockholder rights, in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock, or one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (or of a share of a class or series of preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per right.

The stockholder rights plan is designed to protect stockholders in the event of unsolicited offers to acquire MetLife, Inc. and other coercive takeover tactics which, in the opinion of its board of directors, could impair its ability to

represent stockholder interests. The provisions of the stockholder rights plan may render an unsolicited takeover more difficult or less likely to occur or may prevent such a takeover, even though such takeover may offer MetLife, Inc. s stockholders the opportunity to sell their stock at a price above the prevailing market rate and may be favored by a majority of MetLife, Inc. s stockholders.

MetLife Policyholder Trust

Under a plan of reorganization adopted in September 1999, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company converted from a mutual life insurance company to a stock life insurance company subsidiary of MetLife, Inc. MetLife established the

Table of Contents

MetLife Policyholder Trust to hold the shares of common stock allocated to eligible policyholders. A total of 494,466,664 shares of common stock were distributed to the MetLife Policyholder Trust on the effective date of the plan of reorganization. As of October 31, 2007, the trust held 262,431,955 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock. Because of the number of shares held by the trust and the voting provisions of the trust, the trust may affect the outcome of matters brought to a stockholder vote.

The trustee will generally vote all of the shares of common stock held in the trust in accordance with the recommendations given by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors to its stockholders or, if the board gives no such recommendation, as directed by the board, except on votes regarding certain fundamental corporate actions. As a result of the voting provisions of the trust, MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors will effectively be able to control votes on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, excluding those fundamental corporate actions described below, so long as the trust holds a substantial number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

If the vote relates to fundamental corporate actions specified in the trust, the trustee will solicit instructions from the beneficiaries and vote all shares held in the trust in proportion to the instructions it receives, which would give disproportionate weight to the instructions actually given by trust beneficiaries. These actions include:

an election or removal of directors in which a stockholder has properly nominated one or more candidates in opposition to a nominee or nominees of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors or a vote on a stockholder's proposal to oppose a board nominee for director, remove a director for cause or fill a vacancy caused by the removal of a director by stockholders, subject to certain conditions;

a merger or consolidation, a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the assets, or a recapitalization or dissolution of MetLife, Inc., in each case requiring a vote of MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders under applicable Delaware law;

any transaction that would result in an exchange or conversion of shares of common stock held by the trust for cash, securities or other property; and

any proposal requiring MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors to amend or redeem the rights under the stockholder rights plan, other than a proposal with respect to which MetLife, Inc. has received advice of nationally-recognized legal counsel to the effect that the proposal is not a proper subject for stockholder action under Delaware law.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the depositary shares. Further terms of the depositary shares and the applicable deposit agreement will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following description and any description of the depositary shares in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the deposit agreement, a form of which has been or will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The particular terms of the depositary shares offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent to which the general provisions described below may apply to such depositary shares will be outlined in the applicable prospectus supplement.

General

MetLife, Inc. may choose to offer fractional interests in debt securities or fractional shares of common stock or preferred stock. MetLife, Inc. may issue fractional interests in debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, in the form of depositary shares. Each depositary share would represent a fractional interest in a security of a particular series of debt securities or a fraction of a share of common stock or of a particular series of preferred stock, as the case may be, and would be evidenced by a depositary receipt.

MetLife, Inc. will deposit the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock represented by depositary shares under a deposit agreement between MetLife, Inc. and a depositary which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, as an owner of a depositary share,

Table of Contents

you will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a debt security or share of common stock or preferred stock represented by the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the debt security, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, represented by the depositary share, including, as the case may be, interest, dividend, voting, conversion, redemption, sinking fund, repayment at maturity, subscription and liquidation rights.

Interest, Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all payments of interest, cash dividends or other cash distributions received on the debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, to you in proportion to the number of depositary shares that you own. In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to you in an equitable manner, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make a distribution. In that case, the depositary may sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to you.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If a debt security, common stock or series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is redeemed, the depositary will redeem your depositary shares from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per debt security or share of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, payable in relation to the redeemed series of debt securities, common stock or preferred stock. Whenever MetLife, Inc. redeems debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing, as the case may be, fractional interests in the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot, proportionately or by any other equitable method as the depositary may determine.

Exercise of Rights under the Indentures or Voting the Common Stock or Preferred

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which you are entitled to vote, or of any request for instructions or directions from you as holder of fractional interests in debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, the depositary will mail to you the information contained in that notice. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary how to give instructions or directions with respect to the debt securities represented by that holder's depositary shares or how to vote the amount of the common stock or preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The record date for the depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be. The depositary will endeavor, to the extent practicable, to give instructions or directions with respect to the debt securities or to vote the amount of the common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, represented by the depositary shares in accordance with those instructions. MetLife, Inc. will agree to take all reasonable action which the depositary may deem necessary to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will abstain from giving instructions or directions with respect to your fractional interests in the debt securities or voting shares of the common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, if it does not receive specific instructions from you.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

MetLife, Inc. and the depositary may amend the form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement at any time. However, any amendment which materially and adversely affects the rights of the holders of the depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding.

The deposit agreement will terminate if:

all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed;

if applicable, the debt securities and the preferred stock represented by depositary shares have been converted into or exchanged for common stock or, in the case of debt securities, repaid in full; or

Table of Contents

there has been a final distribution in respect of the common stock or preferred stock, including in connection with the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of MetLife, Inc., and the distribution proceeds have been distributed to you.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to MetLife, Inc. notice of its election to do so. MetLife, Inc. also may, at any time, remove the depositary. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. MetLife, Inc. must appoint the successor depositary within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal. The successor depositary must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having total assets of not less than \$1,000,000,000.

Charges of Depositary

MetLife, Inc. will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. MetLife, Inc. will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the debt securities or common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, and issuance of depositary receipts, all withdrawals of depositary shares of debt securities or common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, by you and any repayment or redemption of the debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be. You will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges, as well as the other charges that are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for your account.

Miscellaneous

The depositary will forward all reports and communications from MetLife, Inc. which are delivered to the depositary and which MetLife, Inc. is required or otherwise determines to furnish to holders of debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the depositary will be liable under the deposit agreement to you other than for its gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceedings relating to any depositary shares, debt securities, common stock or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. MetLife, Inc. and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock for deposit, you or other persons believed to be competent and on documents which MetLife, Inc. and the depositary believe to be genuine.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

MetLife, Inc. may issue warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities described in this prospectus, or any combination of these securities, and these warrants may be issued independently or together with any underlying securities and may be attached or separate from the underlying securities. MetLife, Inc. will issue each series of warrants under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between MetLife, Inc. and a warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as MetLife, Inc.'s agent in connection with the warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency for or with holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the warrants. Further terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreement will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following description and any description of the warrants in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the warrant agreement, a form of which has been or will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any warrants that MetLife, Inc. may offer, including the following:

the title of the warrants;

Table of Contents

the total number of warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies investors may use to pay for the warrants;

the designation and terms of the underlying securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the price at which and the currency, currencies, or currency units in which investors may purchase the underlying securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

whether the warrants will be issued in registered form or bearer form;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the underlying securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each underlying security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related underlying securities will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations;

the identity of the warrant agent;

the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the warrants; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Warrant certificates may be exchanged for new warrant certificates of different denominations, and warrants may be exercised at the warrant agent's corporate trust office or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants exercisable for debt securities will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise and will not be entitled to payments of principal (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise. Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants exercisable for shares of preferred stock or common stock will not have any rights of holders of the preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon such exercise and will not be entitled to dividend payments, if any, or voting rights of the preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon such exercise. Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants exercisable for other securities described in this prospectus will not have any rights of holders of such securities purchasable upon such exercise.

Exercise of Warrants

A warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash an amount of securities at an exercise price that will be stated in, or that will be determinable as described in, the applicable prospectus supplement. Warrants may be exercised at any

time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Upon receipt of payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the warrants represented by such warrant certificate is exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

Table of Contents

Enforceability of Rights; Governing Law

The holders of warrants, without the consent of the warrant agent, may, on their own behalf and for their own benefit, enforce, and may institute and maintain any suit, action or proceeding against MetLife, Inc. to enforce their rights to exercise and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of their warrants. Unless otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement, each issue of warrants and the applicable warrant agreement will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

As may be specified in a prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may issue purchase contracts obligating holders to purchase from MetLife, Inc., and MetLife, Inc. to sell to the holders, a number of debt securities, shares of common stock or preferred stock, or other securities described in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement at a future date or dates. The purchase contracts may require MetLife, Inc. to make periodic payments to the holders of the purchase contracts. These payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis to be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to any purchase contracts will specify the material terms of the purchase contracts and any applicable pledge or depositary arrangements, including one or more of the following:

The stated amount that a holder will be obligated to pay under the purchase contract in order to purchase debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, or other securities described in this prospectus or the formula by which such amount shall be determined.

The settlement date or dates on which the holder will be obligated to purchase such securities. The prospectus supplement will specify whether the occurrence of any events may cause the settlement date to occur on an earlier date and the terms on which an early settlement would occur.

The events, if any, that will cause MetLife, Inc.'s obligations and the obligations of the holder under the purchase contract to terminate.

The settlement rate, which is a number that, when multiplied by the stated amount of a purchase contract, determines the number of securities that MetLife, Inc. or a trust will be obligated to sell and a holder will be obligated to purchase under that purchase contract upon payment of the stated amount of that purchase contract. The settlement rate may be determined by the application of a formula specified in the prospectus supplement. If a formula is specified, it may be based on the market price of such securities over a specified period or it may be based on some other reference statistic.

Whether the purchase contracts will be issued separately or as part of units consisting of a purchase contract and an underlying security with an aggregate principal amount equal to the stated amount. Any underlying securities will be pledged by the holder to secure its obligations under a purchase contract.

The type of underlying security, if any, that is pledged by the holder to secure its obligations under a purchase contract. Underlying securities may be debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, or other securities described in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement.

The terms of the pledge arrangement relating to any underlying securities, including the terms on which distributions or payments of interest and principal on any underlying securities will be retained by a collateral

agent, delivered to MetLife, Inc. or be distributed to the holder.

The amount of the contract fee, if any, that may be payable by MetLife, Inc. to the holder or by the holder to MetLife, Inc., the date or dates on which the contract fee will be payable and the extent to which MetLife, Inc. or the holder, as applicable, may defer payment of the contract fee on those payment dates. The contract fee may be calculated as a percentage of the stated amount of the purchase contract or otherwise.

The descriptions of the purchase contracts and any applicable underlying security or pledge or depository arrangements in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement are summaries of the material provisions of the

Table of Contents

applicable agreements and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the purchase contract agreement, pledge agreement and deposit agreement, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit may also include debt obligations of third parties, such as U.S. Treasury securities. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The prospectus supplement will describe:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be held or transferred separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The descriptions of the units and any applicable underlying security or pledge or depositary arrangements in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement are summaries of the material provisions of the applicable agreements and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, the terms and provisions of the applicable agreements, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

DESCRIPTION OF TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the trust preferred securities. Further terms of the trust preferred securities and the amended and restated declarations of trust will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms described in this section apply to that particular series of trust preferred securities. The following description and any description of the trust preferred securities and amended and restated declarations of trust in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the amended and restated declarations of trust, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

General

Each trust may issue only one series of trust preferred securities having terms described in the prospectus supplement. The declaration of trust of each trust will authorize the administrative trustees, on behalf of the trust, to issue the trust preferred securities of the trust. The trusts will use all of the proceeds they receive from the sale of trust preferred securities and common securities to purchase debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc. The debt securities will be held in trust by the trust's property trustee for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities and common securities.

The trust preferred securities of each trust will have such terms as are set forth in the trust's declaration of trust, including as relates to distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights and the other preferred, deferral and special rights and restrictions. A prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities being offered will include

specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the distinctive designation of the trust preferred securities;

the number of trust preferred securities issued by the trust;

the total and per-security liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities;

Table of Contents

- the annual distribution rate, or method of determining such rate, for trust preferred securities of the trust;
- the date or dates on which distributions will be payable and any corresponding record dates;
- whether distributions on the trust preferred securities will be cumulative;
- if the trust preferred securities have cumulative distribution rights, the date or dates, or method of determining the date or dates, from which distributions on the trust preferred securities will be cumulative;
- the amount or amounts that will be paid out of the assets of the trust to the holders of the trust preferred securities of the trust upon voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of the trust;
- the obligation, if any, of the trust to purchase or redeem the trust preferred securities;
- if the trust is to purchase or redeem the trust preferred securities:
- the price or prices at which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed in whole or in part;
- the period or periods within which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part;
- the terms and conditions upon which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part;
- the voting rights, if any, of the trust preferred securities in addition to those required by law, including:
 - the number of votes per trust preferred security; and
 - any requirement for the approval by the holders of trust preferred securities as a condition to specified action or amendments to the trust's declaration of trust;
- the rights, if any, to defer distributions on the trust preferred securities by extending the interest payment period on the related debt securities;
- if the trust preferred securities may be converted into or exercised or exchanged for MetLife's common stock or preferred stock or any other securities, the terms on which conversion, exercise or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at the option of each trust, the date on or the period during which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, the initial conversion, exercise or exchange price or rate and the circumstances or manner in which the amount of common stock or preferred stock or other securities issuable upon conversion, exercise or exchange may be adjusted;
- the terms upon which the debt securities may be distributed to holders of trust preferred securities;
- whether the preferred securities are to be issued in book-entry form and represented by one or more global certificates;
- certain U.S. federal income tax considerations;
- if applicable, any securities exchange upon which the trust preferred securities shall be listed;

provisions relating to events of default and the rights of holders of trust preferred securities in the event of default;

other agreements or other rights including upon the consolidation or merger of the trust; and

any other relative rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of the trust preferred securities not inconsistent with the trust's declaration of trust or applicable law.

All trust preferred securities offered will be guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. to the extent set forth under Description of Guarantees. Any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to an offering of trust preferred securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In connection with the issuance of preferred securities, each trust will issue one series of common securities. The declaration of each trust authorizes the administrative trustees to issue on behalf of such trust one series of

Table of Contents

common securities having such terms including distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights or such restrictions as shall be set forth therein. The terms of the common securities issued by the trust will be substantially identical to the terms of the preferred securities issued by such trust and the common securities will rank equally, and payments will be made thereon pro rata, with the preferred securities. However, upon an event of default under the declaration of trust, the rights of the holders of the common securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the preferred securities. Except in certain limited circumstances, the common securities will also carry the right to vote, and appoint, remove or replace any of the trustees of a trust. MetLife, Inc. will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of each trust.

Enforcement of Certain Rights by Holders of Trust Preferred Securities

If an event of default occurs, and is continuing, under the declaration of trust of any of the trusts, the holders of the preferred securities of that trust would typically rely on the property trustee to enforce its rights as a holder of the related debt securities against MetLife, Inc. Additionally, those who together hold a majority of the liquidation amount of the trust's preferred securities will have the right to:

direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the property trustee; or

direct the exercise of any trust or power that the property trustee holds under the declaration of trust, including the right to direct the property trustee to exercise the remedies available to it as a holder of MetLife, Inc.'s debt securities.

If the property trustee fails to enforce its rights under the applicable series of debt securities, to the fullest extent permitted by law, a holder of trust preferred securities of such trust may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce the property trustee's rights under the applicable series of debt securities without first instituting any legal proceeding against the property trustee or any other person or entity.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an event of default occurs and the event is attributable to MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay interest or principal on the debt securities when due, including any payment on redemption, and this debt payment failure is continuing, a preferred securities holder of the trust may directly institute a proceeding for the enforcement of this payment. Such a proceeding will be limited, however, to enforcing the payment of this principal or interest only up to the value of the aggregate liquidation amount of the holder's preferred securities as determined after the due date specified in the applicable series of debt securities.

DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the guarantees. Further terms of the guarantees will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms described in this section apply to those guarantees. The following description and any description of the guarantees in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the guarantee agreements, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and the Trust Indenture Act.

MetLife, Inc. will execute and deliver the guarantees for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities. Each guarantee will be held by the guarantee trustee for the benefit of holders of the trust preferred securities to which it relates.

Each guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. will act as indenture trustee under each guarantee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act.

General

Pursuant to each guarantee, MetLife, Inc. will irrevocably and unconditionally agree, to the extent set forth in the guarantee, to pay in full, to the holders of the related trust preferred securities, the following guarantee

Table of Contents

payments, to the extent these guarantee payments are not paid by, or on behalf of, the related trust, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim that MetLife, Inc. may have or assert against any person:

any accrued and unpaid distributions required to be paid on the trust preferred securities of the trust, but if and only if and to the extent that the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make those payments;

any distributions of MetLife's common stock or preferred stock or any of its other securities, in the event that the trust preferred securities may be converted into or exercised for common stock or preferred stock, to the extent the conditions of such conversion or exercise have occurred or have been satisfied and the trust does not distribute such shares or other securities but has received such shares or other securities;

the redemption price, including all accrued and unpaid distributions to the date of redemption, with respect to any trust preferred securities called for redemption by the trust, but if and only to the extent the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make that payment; and

upon a dissolution, winding-up or termination of the trust, other than in connection with the distribution of debt securities to the holders of trust preferred securities of the trust, the lesser of:

the total of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the trust preferred securities of the trust to the date of payment, to the extent the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make that payment; and

the amount of assets of the trust remaining available for distribution to holders of trust preferred securities of the trust in liquidation of the trust.

MetLife, Inc. may satisfy its obligation to make a guarantee payment by directly paying the required amounts to the holders of the related trust preferred securities or by causing the related trust to pay such amounts to such holders.

Each guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payments with respect to the related trust preferred securities from the time of issuance of the trust preferred securities. The guarantees will not apply to the payment of distributions and other payments on the trust preferred securities when the related trust does not have sufficient funds legally and immediately available to make the distributions or other payments. If MetLife, Inc. does not make interest payments on the debt securities purchased by a trust, such trust will not pay distributions on the preferred securities issued by such trust and will not have funds available therefor. The guarantee, when taken together with MetLife, Inc.'s obligations under the debt securities, the Indentures and the declarations of trust, will provide a full and unconditional guarantee by MetLife, Inc. of payments due on the trust preferred securities.

MetLife, Inc. will also agree separately, through guarantees of the common securities, to irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the obligations of the trusts with respect to the common securities to the same extent as the guarantees of the preferred securities. However, upon an event of default under the Indentures, holders of preferred securities shall have priority over holders of common securities with respect to distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption or otherwise.

Subordination

MetLife, Inc.'s obligation under each guarantee to make the guarantee payments will be an unsecured obligation of MetLife, Inc. and, if subordinated debt securities are issued to the applicable trust and unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, will rank:

subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc. s other liabilities, including the subordinated debt securities, except those obligations or liabilities ranking equal or subordinate to the guarantees by their terms;

Table of Contents

equally with any other securities, liabilities or obligations that may have equal ranking by their terms; and senior to all of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

If subordinated debt securities are issued to the applicable trust, the terms of the trust preferred securities will provide that each holder of trust preferred securities, by accepting the trust preferred securities, agrees to the subordination provisions and other terms of the guarantee related to subordination.

Each guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection. This means that the holder of trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce its rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity.

Each guarantee will be unsecured and, because MetLife, Inc. is principally a holding company, will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries, including liabilities under contracts of insurance and annuities written by MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries. The guarantee does not limit the incurrence or issuance of other secured or unsecured debt by MetLife, Inc.

Amendments and Assignment

For any changes that materially and adversely affect the rights of holders of the related trust preferred securities, each guarantee may be amended only if there is prior approval of the holders of more than 50% in liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities issued by the applicable trust. All guarantees and agreements contained in each guarantee will bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of MetLife, Inc. and will inure to the benefit of the holders of the related trust preferred securities of the applicable trust then outstanding.

Termination

Each guarantee will terminate and will have no further force and effect as to the related trust preferred securities upon: distribution of debt securities to the holders of all trust preferred securities of the applicable trust; or full payment of the amounts payable upon liquidation of the applicable trust.

Each guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of the related trust preferred securities must restore payment of any sums paid with respect to the trust preferred securities or under the guarantee.

Events of Default

Each guarantee provides that an event of default under a guarantee occurs upon MetLife, Inc.'s failure to perform any of its obligations under the applicable guarantee.

The holders of a majority or more in liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities to which any guarantee relates may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the guarantee trustee with respect to the guarantee or may direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the guarantee trustee in respect of the guarantee.

If the guarantee trustee fails to enforce the guarantee, any holder of the related trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce the holder's rights under such guarantee without first

instituting a legal proceeding against the trust, the guarantee trustee or any other person or entity.

Furthermore, if MetLife, Inc. fails to make a guarantee payment, a holder of trust preferred securities may directly institute a proceeding against MetLife, Inc. for enforcement of the trust preferred securities guarantee for such payment.

The holders of a majority or more in liquidation amount of trust preferred securities of any series may, by vote, on behalf of the holders of all the trust preferred securities of the series, waive any past event of default and its consequences.

Table of Contents

Information Concerning the Guarantee Trustee

Prior to an event of default with respect to any guarantee and after the curing or waiving of all events of default with respect to the guarantee, the guarantee trustee may perform only the duties that are specifically set forth in the guarantee.

Once a guarantee event of default has occurred and is continuing, the guarantee trustee is to exercise, with respect to the holder of the trust preferred securities of the series, the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Unless the guarantee trustee is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which may be incurred by the guarantee trustee by a holder of the related trust preferred securities, the guarantee trustee is not required to exercise any of its powers under any guarantee at the request of the holder. Additionally, the guarantee trustee is not required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of its duties if the guarantee trustee reasonably believes that it is not assured repayment or adequate indemnity.

The guarantee trustee is The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., which is one of a number of banks and trust companies with which MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking and trust relationships.

Governing Law

Each guarantee will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

MetLife, Inc. may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

to underwriters or dealers for resale to the public or to institutional investors;

directly to institutional investors; or

through agents to the public or to institutional investors.

The prospectus supplement with respect to each series of securities will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters or agents;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to be received by MetLife, Inc. or the applicable trust from the sale;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;

any initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.

If MetLife, Inc. or the trusts use underwriters in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

negotiated transactions;

at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

Table of Contents

at prices related to prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

The securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for MetLife, Inc. or the trusts. The prospectus supplement will identify any remarketing firm and will describe the terms of its agreement, if any, with MetLife, Inc. or the trusts and its compensation.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities, if any are purchased.

If MetLife, Inc. sells the securities directly or through agents designated by it, MetLife, Inc. will identify any agent involved in the offering and sale of the securities and will list any commissions payable by MetLife, Inc. to the agent in the accompanying prospectus supplement. Unless indicated otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

MetLife, Inc. may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers by certain institutional investors to purchase securities and provide for payment and delivery on a future date specified in an accompanying prospectus supplement. MetLife, Inc. will describe any such arrangement in the prospectus supplement. Any such institutional investor may be subject to limitations on the minimum amount of securities that it may purchase or on the portion of the aggregate principal amount of such securities that it may sell under such arrangements. Institutional investors from which such authorized offers may be solicited include:

commercial and savings banks;

insurance companies;

pension funds;

investment companies;

educational and charitable institutions; and

such other institutions as MetLife, Inc. may approve.

Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements entered into with MetLife, Inc. and/or the applicable trust, or both, to indemnification by MetLife, Inc. against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be required to make. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for MetLife, Inc., any trust, and/or MetLife, Inc. s affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market other than the common stock which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Any common stock sold will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, upon official notice of issuance. The securities, other than the common stock, may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold by MetLife, Inc. or any trust

for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice.

Any offering of trust preferred securities will be made in compliance with Rule 2810 of the Conduct Rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

LEGAL OPINIONS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for MetLife, Inc. by Richard S. Collins, Senior Chief Counsel – General Corporate, of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and for any underwriters or agents by counsel named in the applicable

Table of Contents

prospectus supplement. Mr. Collins is paid a salary by MetLife, is a participant in various employee benefit plans offered by MetLife to employees generally and has options to purchase shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock. Certain matters of Delaware law relating to the validity of the trust preferred securities of MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX will be passed upon for the trust by Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., Wilmington, Delaware, special Delaware counsel for the trusts.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, consolidated financial statement schedules, and management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, incorporated in this Prospectus by reference from MetLife's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports which are incorporated herein by reference, (which (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial statement schedules and include an explanatory paragraph referring to MetLife's change of its method of accounting for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans, and for certain non-traditional long duration contracts and separate accounts as required by accounting guidance which MetLife adopted on December 31, 2006 and January 1, 2004, respectively, (2) express an unqualified opinion on management's assessment regarding the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, and (3) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents