

Copa Holdings, S.A.  
Form 20-F  
March 17, 2010

**Table of Contents**

**As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2010**

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

**FORM 20-F**

- o **REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
OR**
- þ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009  
OR**
- o **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
OR**
- o **SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
Commission file number: 001-32696**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S.A.**

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Not Applicable**

(Translation of Registrant's Name Into English)

**Republic of Panama**

(Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

**Avenida Principal y Avenida de la Rotonda, Costa del Este**

**Complejo Business Park, Torre Norte**

**Parque Lefevre, Panama City**

**Panama**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**Joseph Putaturo**

**Complejo Business Park, Torre Norte**

**Parque Lefevre, Panama City, Panama**

**+507 304 2677 (Telephone)**

**+507 304 2535 (Facsimile)**

(Registrant's Contact Person)

**Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act**

**Title of Each Class:**

**Name of Each Exchange On Which Registered**

Class A Common Stock, without par value

New York Stock Exchange

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

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act:  
None

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report: At December 31, 2009, there were outstanding 43,344,978 shares of common stock, without par value, of which 30,566,853 were Class A shares and 12,778,125 were Class B shares. Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  Yes  No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.  Yes  No

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).  Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP  IFRS  Other

If Other has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow:

Item 17  Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).  Yes  No

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Introduction</u>	ii
<u>Market Data</u>	ii
<u>Presentation of Financial and Statistical Data</u>	iii
<u>Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements</u>	iii
<u>Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers</u>	1
<u>Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable</u>	1
<u>Item 3. Key Information</u>	1
<u>Item 4. Information on the Company</u>	22
<u>Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	43
<u>Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects</u>	43
<u>Item 6. Directors, senior management and employees</u>	62
<u>Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions</u>	69
<u>Item 8. Financial Information</u>	72
<u>Item 9. The Offer and Listing</u>	74
<u>Item 10. Additional Information</u>	75
<u>Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	88
<u>Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities</u>	89
<u>Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies</u>	90
<u>Item 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds</u>	90
<u>Item 15. Controls and Procedures</u>	90
<u>Item 16. Reserved</u>	91
<u>Item 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert</u>	91
<u>Item 16B. Code of Ethics</u>	92
<u>Item 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	92

<u>Item 16D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees</u>	92
<u>Item 16E. Purchase of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers</u>	92
<u>Item 16F. Changes in Registrant's Certifying Accountant</u>	92
<u>Item 16G. Corporate Governance</u>	93
<u>Item 17. Financial Statements</u>	94
<u>Item 18. Financial Statements</u>	94
<u>Item 19. Exhibits</u>	94
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1
<u>Exhibit 10.51</u>	
<u>Exhibit 10.52</u>	
<u>Exhibit 10.53</u>	
<u>Exhibit 12.1</u>	
<u>Exhibit 12.2</u>	
<u>Exhibit 13.1</u>	
<u>Exhibit 13.2</u>	

**Table of Contents**

**INTRODUCTION**

In this annual report, we use the term *Copa Holdings* to refer to Copa Holdings, S.A., *Copa* or *Copa Airlines* to refer to Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., a subsidiary of Copa Holdings, S.A., and *AeroRepública* to refer to AeroRepública, S.A., a subsidiary of Copa Holdings, S.A. The terms *we*, *us* and *our* refer to Copa Holdings, S.A. together with its subsidiaries, except where the context requires otherwise. References to *Class A shares* refer to Class A shares of Copa Holdings, S.A.

This annual report contains terms relating to operating performance that are commonly used within the airline industry and are defined as follows:

*Aircraft utilization* represents the average number of block hours operated per day per aircraft for the total aircraft fleet.

*Available seat miles* or *ASMs* represents the aircraft seating capacity multiplied by the number of miles the seats are flown.

*Average stage length* represents the average number of miles flown per flight.

*Block hours* refers to the elapsed time between an aircraft leaving an airport gate and arriving at an airport gate.

*Break-even load factor* represents the load factor that would have resulted in total revenues being equal to total expenses.

*Load factor* represents the percentage of aircraft seating capacity that is actually utilized (calculated by dividing revenue passenger miles by available seat miles).

*Operating expense per available seat mile* represents operating expenses divided by available seat miles.

*Operating revenue per available seat mile* represents operating revenues divided by available seat miles.

*Passenger revenue per available seat mile* represents passenger revenue divided by available seat miles.

*Revenue passenger miles* represents the number of miles flown by revenue passengers.

*Revenue passengers* represents the total number of paying passengers (including all passengers redeeming OnePass frequent flyer miles and other travel awards) flown on all flight segments (with each connecting segment being considered a separate flight segment).

*Yield* represents the average amount one passenger pays to fly one mile.

**Market Data**

This annual report contains certain statistical data regarding our airline routes and our competitive position and market share in, and the market size of, the Latin American airline industry. This information has been derived from a variety of sources, including the International Air Transport Association, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, the International Monetary Fund and other third-party sources, governmental agencies or industry or general publications. Information for which no source is cited has been prepared by us on the basis of our knowledge of Latin American airline markets and other information available to us. The methodology and terminology used by different sources are not always consistent, and data from different sources are not readily comparable. In addition, sources other than us use methodologies that are not identical to ours and may produce results that differ from our own estimates. Although we have not independently verified the information concerning our competitive position, market share, market size, market growth or other similar data provided by third-party sources or by industry or general publications, we believe these sources and publications are generally accurate and reliable.

**Table of Contents**

**Presentation of Financial and Statistical Data**

Included elsewhere in this annual report are our audited consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2008 and 2009 and the audited consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2008 and 2009. The consolidated financial information as of December 31, 2005, 2006 and 2007, and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2006 has been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements that were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S. GAAP and which have not been included in this annual report. Our audited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP and are stated in U.S. dollars. We began consolidating the results of our AeroRepública operating subsidiary as of its acquisition date on April 22, 2005. Unless otherwise indicated, all references in the annual report to \$ or dollars refer to U.S. dollars, and all references to Pesos or Ps. refer to Colombian pesos, the local currency of Colombia.

Certain figures included in this annual report have been subject to rounding adjustments. Accordingly, figures shown as totals in certain tables may not be an arithmetic aggregation of the figures that precede them.

**Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements**

This annual report includes forward-looking statements, principally under the captions Risk Factors, Business Overview and Operating and Financial Review and Prospects. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current beliefs, expectations and projections about future events and financial trends affecting our business. Many important factors, in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this annual report, could cause our actual results to differ substantially from those anticipated in our forward-looking statements, including, among other things:

- general economic, political and business conditions in Panama and Latin America and particularly in the geographic markets we serve;
- our management's expectations and estimates concerning our future financial performance and financing plans and programs;
- our level of debt and other fixed obligations;
- demand for passenger and cargo air service in the markets in which we operate;
- competition;
- our capital expenditure plans;
- changes in the regulatory environment in which we operate;
- changes in labor costs, maintenance costs, fuel costs and insurance premiums;
- changes in market prices, customer demand and preferences and competitive conditions;
- cyclical and seasonal fluctuations in our operating results;
- defects or mechanical problems with our aircraft;
- our ability to successfully implement our growth strategy;
- our ability to obtain financing on commercially reasonable terms; and
- the risk factors discussed under Risk Factors beginning on page 4.

The words believe, may, will, aim, estimate, continue, anticipate, intend, expect and similar words identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include information concerning our possible or assumed future results of operations, business strategies, financing plans, competitive position, industry environment, potential growth opportunities, the effects of future regulation and the effects of competition. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they were made, and we undertake no obligation to update publicly or to revise any forward-looking statements after the date of this annual report because of new information, future events or other factors. In light of the risks and uncertainties described above, the forward-looking events and circumstances discussed in this annual report might not occur and are not guarantees of future performance. Considering these limitations, you should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements contained in this annual report.

**Table of Contents****PART I****Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers**

Not applicable.

**Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable**

Not applicable.

**Item 3. Key Information****A. Selected Financial Data**

The following table presents summary consolidated financial and operating data for each of the periods indicated. Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP and are stated in U.S. dollars. You should read this information in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements included in this annual report and the information under Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects appearing elsewhere in this annual report.

The summary consolidated financial information as of December 31, 2008 and 2009 and for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2008 and 2009 has been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report. The consolidated financial information as of December 31, 2005, 2006 and 2007, and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2006 has been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements that were prepared under U.S. GAAP and which have not been included in this annual report.

We have acquired 99.9% of the stock of AeroRepública, a Colombian air carrier, and began consolidating its results on April 22, 2005. As a result of this acquisition, our financial information prior to and after the acquisition is not comparable.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2005<sup>(21)</sup></b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>(in thousands of dollars, except share and per share data and operating data)</b>				
<b>INCOME STATEMENT DATA</b>					
Operating revenue:					
Passenger revenue	\$ 563,520	\$ 798,901	\$ 967,066	\$ 1,217,311	\$ 1,186,717
Cargo, mail and other	45,094	52,259	60,198	71,478	66,370
Total operating revenues	608,614	851,160	1,027,264	1,288,789	1,253,087
Operating expenses:					
Aircraft fuel	149,303	217,730	265,387	404,669	300,816
Salaries and benefits	69,730	91,382	116,691	139,431	157,879
Passenger servicing	50,622	64,380	82,948	98,775	110,768
Commissions	45,087	57,808	65,930	67,177	57,565
Reservations and sales	29,213	38,212	48,229	54,996	56,280
Maintenance, materials and repairs	32,505	50,057	51,249	66,438	76,732
Depreciation	19,857	24,874	35,328	42,891	47,079
Flight operations	24,943	33,740	43,958	56,425	60,873
Aircraft rentals	27,631	38,169	38,636	43,008	46,538
Landing fees and other rentals	17,909	23,929	27,017	32,467	33,628
Other	32,622	44,758	55,093	58,521	62,186
Special fleet charges <sup>(1)</sup>			7,309		19,417
Gain from involuntary conversion <sup>(2)</sup>			(8,019)		
Total operating expenses	499,422	685,039	829,756	1,064,798	1,029,761
Operating income	109,192	166,121	197,508	223,991	223,326



Non-operating income (expense):					
Interest expense	(21,629)	(29,150)	(44,332)	(42,071)	(32,938)
Interest capitalized	1,089	1,712	2,570	1,921	693
Interest income	3,544	7,257	12,193	11,130	9,185
Other, net <sup>(3)</sup>	395	185	10,987	(58,843)	59,703
Total non-operating expenses, net	(16,601)	(19,996)	(18,582)	(87,863)	36,643
Income before income taxes	92,591	146,125	178,926	136,128	259,969
Provision for income taxes	(9,592)	(12,286)	(17,106)	(17,469)	(19,610)
Net income	82,999	133,839	161,820	118,659	240,359

**BALANCE SHEET DATA**

Total cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 114,490	\$ 197,380	\$ 308,358	\$ 396,826	\$ 352,068
---	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2005<sup>(21)</sup></b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>(in thousands of dollars, except share and per share data and operating data)</b>				
Accounts receivable, net	46,533	62,137	74,169	75,201	80,791
Total current assets	184,351	290,651	435,736	522,464	502,154
Purchase deposits for flight equipment	52,753	65,150	64,079	84,861	198,697
Total property and equipment	637,543	862,283	1,166,262	1,337,669	1,481,687
Total assets	916,912	1,255,015	1,707,251	1,954,225	2,092,869
Long-term debt	402,954	529,802	732,209	800,196	750,971
Total shareholders equity	245,867	371,669	531,637	632,432	865,628
Capital stock	29,223	32,563	37,372	42,964	48,244
<b>CASH FLOW DATA</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 115,368	\$ 193,468	\$ 221,941	\$ 198,105	\$ 282,436
Net cash used in investing activities	(159,886)	(258,980)	(334,758)	(322,780)	(151,451)
Net cash provided by financing activities	38,929	141,498	228,295	59,519	(87,849)
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL DATA</b>					
EBITDA <sup>(4)</sup>	129,444	191,180	243,823	208,039	330,108
Aircraft rentals	27,631	38,169	38,636	43,008	46,538
Operating margin <sup>(5)</sup>	17.9%	19.5%	19.2%	17.4%	17.8%
Weighted average shares used in computing net income per share (basic) <sup>(6)</sup>	42,812,500	43,517,489	43,782,386	43,822,879	43,910,929
Weighted average shares used in computing net income per share (diluted) <sup>(6)</sup>	42,812,500	43,517,489	43,782,386	43,822,879	43,910,929
Net income (loss) per share (basic) <sup>(6)</sup>	\$ 1.94	\$ 3.08	\$ 3.70	\$ 2.71	\$ 5.47
Net income (loss) per share (diluted) <sup>(6)</sup>	\$ 1.94	\$ 3.08	\$ 3.70	\$ 2.71	\$ 5.47
Dividends declared per share	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.37
<b>OPERATING DATA</b>					
Revenue passengers carried <sup>(7)</sup>	4,361	5,741	6,015	6,485	7,182
Revenue passenger miles <sup>(8)</sup>	3,824	5,017	5,861	6,717	7,397
Available seat miles <sup>(9)</sup>	5,359	6,866	7,918	8,845	9,911
Load factor <sup>(10)</sup>	71.4%	73.1%	74.0%	75.9%	74.6%
Break-even load factor <sup>(11)</sup>	58.0%	58.0%	58.5%	67.1%	56.2%
Total block hours <sup>(12)</sup>	103,628	130,818	157,200	182,692	206,720
Average daily aircraft utilization <sup>(13)</sup>	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.6	10.1
Average passenger fare	129.2	139.2	160.8	187.7	165.2

Edgar Filing: Copa Holdings, S.A. - Form 20-F

Yield <sup>(14)</sup>	14.74	15.92	16.50	18.12	16.04
Passenger revenue per ASM <sup>(15)</sup>	10.51	11.64	12.21	13.76	11.97
Operating revenue per ASM <sup>(16)</sup>	11.36	12.40	12.97	14.57	12.64
Operating expenses per ASM (CASM) <sup>(17)</sup>	9.32	9.98	10.48	12.04	10.39
Departures	48,934	65,471	71,893	79,664	88,294
Average daily departures	156.6	179.4	197.0	217.7	241.9
Average number of aircraft	31.0	38.6	45.0	52.0	56.3
Airports served at period end	36	42	46	51	51

**SEGMENT FINANCIAL DATA**

**Copa:**

Operating revenue	\$ 505,655	\$ 676,168	\$ 806,201	\$ 1,035,945	\$ 1,024,473
Operating expenses	402,684	509,540	634,521	827,713	810,201
Depreciation	19,242	23,732	30,710	38,107	43,174
Aircraft rentals	22,096	23,842	27,756	31,271	26,037
Interest expense	19,424	26,907	36,300	36,208	30,086
Interest capitalized	1,089	1,712	2,570	1,921	693
Interest income	3,376	6,887	11,720	10,514	8,121
Net income (loss) before tax	89,745	155,533	165,571	119,355	254,346
Total assets	851,075	1,168,121	1,546,623	1,823,512	1,918,964

**AeroRepública:**

Operating revenue	\$ 103,016	\$ 175,883	\$ 226,042	\$ 264,912	\$ 240,359
Operating expenses	96,839	176,388	200,474	249,152	232,743
Depreciation	615	1,142	4,618	4,783	3,905
Aircraft rentals	5,535	14,604	14,760	22,732	26,187
Interest expense	2,205	2,243	8,032	5,863	2,852
Interest capitalized					
Interest income	168	370	473	616	1,064
Net income (loss) before tax	2,846	(9,408)	13,354	5,277	5,229
Total assets	98,091	132,872	256,349	258,562	318,906

**SEGMENT OPERATING DATA**

**Copa:**

Available seat miles <sup>(9)</sup>	4,409	5,239	6,298	7,342	8,319
Load factor <sup>(10)</sup>	73.4%	77.8%	78.4%	78.8%	76.0%
Break-even load factor	56.8%	56.1%	58.7%	67.2%	53.2%
Yield <sup>(14)</sup>	14.41	15.49	15.33	16.81	15.25
Operating revenue per ASM <sup>(16)</sup>	11.47	12.91	12.80	14.11	12.31
CASM <sup>(17)</sup>	9.13	9.73	10.08	11.27	9.74
Average stage length <sup>(19)</sup>	1,123	1,158	1,207	1,216	1,214

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2005<sup>(21)</sup></b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>(in thousands of dollars, except share and per share data and operating data)</b>				
On time performance <sup>(18)</sup>	91.7%	91.0%	86.9%	87.5%	87.6%
<b><i>AeroRepública:</i></b> <sup>(22)</sup>					
Available seat miles <sup>(9)</sup>	950	1,627	1,620	1,503	1,592
Load factor <sup>(10)</sup>	62.0%	57.9%	57.2%	61.7%	67.5%
Break even load factor	60.7%	61.9%	53.8%	62.0%	67.3%
Yield <sup>(14)</sup>	16.53	17.79	22.74	26.31	20.71
Operating revenue per ASM <sup>(16)</sup>	10.84	10.81	13.95	17.63	15.10
CASM <sup>(17)</sup>	10.19	10.84	12.37	16.58	14.62
Average stage length <sup>(19)</sup>	360	370	398	421	429
On time performance <sup>(20)</sup>	70.4%	80.3%	72.8%	84.2%	90.1%

(1) Represents expenses related to costs associated with terms negotiated for the early termination its MD-80 aircraft as a result of AeroRepública's transition to a more fuel efficient all Embraer-190 fleet.

(2) Represents gain on involuntary conversion of non-monetary assets to monetary assets related to insurance proceeds in excess of aircraft book value.

(3) Consists primarily of

changes in the fair value of fuel derivative contracts, foreign exchange gains/losses and gains on sale of Boeing 737-200 aircraft. See

Item 5.

Operating and Financial Review and Prospects and the notes to our consolidated financial statements.

- (4) EBITDA represents net income (loss) plus the sum of interest expense, income taxes, depreciation and amortization minus the sum of interest capitalized and interest income. EBITDA is presented as supplemental information because we believe it is a useful indicator of our operating performance and is useful in comparing our operating performance with other companies in the airline industry. However, EBITDA should

not be considered in isolation, as a substitute for net income prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP or as a measure of a company's profitability. In addition, our calculation of EBITDA may not be comparable to other companies similarly titled measures. The following table presents a reconciliation of our net income to EBITDA for the specified periods:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>(in thousands of dollars)</b>				
Net income	\$ 82,999	\$ 133,839	\$ 161,820	\$ 118,659	\$ 240,359
Interest expense	21,629	29,150	44,332	42,071	32,938
Income taxes	9,592	12,286	17,106	17,469	19,610
Depreciation	19,857	24,874	35,328	42,891	47,079
Subtotal	134,077	200,149	258,586	221,090	339,986
Interest capitalized	(1,089)	(1,712)	(2,570)	(1,921)	(693)
Interest income	(3,544)	(7,257)	(12,193)	(11,130)	(9,185)
EBITDA	129,444	191,180	243,823	208,039	330,108

Aircraft rentals represents a significant operating expense of our business. Because we leased several of our aircraft

during the periods presented, we believe that when assessing our EBITDA you should also consider the impact of our aircraft rent expense, which was \$27.6 million in 2005, \$38.2 million in 2006, \$38.6 million in 2007, \$43.0 million in 2008 and \$46.5 million in 2009.

- (5) Operating margin represents operating income divided by operating revenues.
  
- (6) All share and per share amounts have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the current capital structure described under Description of Capital Stock and in the notes to our consolidated financial statements. In 2009, we changed our method of

calculating earnings per share and adjusted prior period data accordingly. See Note 10 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

- (7) Total number of paying passengers (including all passengers redeeming OnePass frequent flyer miles and other travel awards) flown on all flight segments, expressed in thousands.
- (8) Number of miles flown by scheduled revenue passengers, expressed in millions.
- (9) Aircraft seating capacity multiplied by the number of miles the seats are flown, expressed in millions.
- (10) Percentage of aircraft seating capacity that is actually utilized. Load factors are calculated by dividing revenue



passenger miles  
by available seat  
miles.

- (11) Load factor that would have resulted in total revenues being equal to total expenses, excluding the effect of fuel derivative mark-to-market and special fleet charges, this figure would have been 57.9% in 2005, 57.7% in 2006, 58.6% in 2007, 63.0% in 2008 and 59.2% in 2009.
- (12) The number of hours from the time an airplane moves off the departure gate for a revenue flight until it is parked at the gate of the arrival airport.
- (13) Average number of block hours operated per day per aircraft for the total aircraft fleet.
- (14) Average amount (in cents) one passenger pays to fly one mile.
- (15) Passenger revenues (in cents) divided

by the number  
of available seat  
miles.

**Table of Contents**

- (16) Total operating revenues for passenger related costs (in cents) divided by the number of available seat miles.
- (17) Total operating expenses for passenger aircraft related costs (in cents) divided by the number of available seat miles.
- (18) Percentage of flights that arrive at the destination gate within fifteen minutes of scheduled arrival.
- (19) The average number of miles flown per flight.
- (20) Percentage of flights that depart within fifteen minutes of the scheduled departure time.
- (21) For AeroRepública operating data, this period covers from April 22, 2005 until December 31, 2005 which

corresponds to the period that AeroRepública was consolidated in our financial statements.

- (22) AeroRepública has not historically distinguished between revenue passengers and non-revenue passengers. Although we have implemented systems at AeroRepública to record that information, revenue passenger information and other statistics derived from revenue passenger data for the year ended December 31, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 has been derived from estimates that we believe to be materially accurate.

**B. Capitalization and Indebtedness**

Not applicable

**C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds**

Not applicable

**D. Risk Factors**

*An investment in our Class A shares involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below before making an investment decision. Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our Class A shares could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. The risks described below are those known to us*

*and that we currently believe may materially affect us.*

**Risks Relating to Our Company**

***Our failure to successfully implement our growth strategy may adversely affect our results of operations and harm the market value of our Class A shares.***

We have grown rapidly over the past nine years. During the next several years we intend to continue to grow our fleet, expand our service to new markets and increase the frequency of flights to the markets we currently serve. Achieving these goals is essential in order for our business to benefit from cost efficiencies resulting from economies of scale. We expect to have substantial cash needs as we expand, including cash required to fund aircraft purchases or aircraft deposits as we add to our fleet. We cannot assure you that we will have sufficient cash to fund such projects, and if we are unable to successfully expand our route system, our future revenue and earnings growth would be limited. When we commence a new route, our load factors tend to be lower than those on our established routes and our advertising and other promotional costs tend to be higher, which may result in initial losses that could have a negative impact on our results of operations as well as require a substantial amount of cash to fund. We also periodically run special promotional fare campaigns, particularly in connection with the opening of new routes. Promotional fares may have the effect of increasing load factors while reducing our yield on such routes during the period that they are in effect. The number of markets we serve and our flight frequencies depend on our ability to identify the appropriate geographic markets upon which to focus and to gain suitable airport access and route approval in these markets. There can be no assurance that the new markets we enter will provide passenger traffic that is sufficient to make our operations in those new markets profitable. Any condition that would prevent or delay our access to key airports or routes, including limitations on the ability to process more passengers, the imposition of flight capacity restrictions, the inability to secure additional route rights under bilateral agreements or the inability to maintain our existing slots and obtain additional slots, could constrain the expansion of our operations.

**Table of Contents**

The expansion of our business will also require additional skilled personnel, equipment and facilities. The inability to hire and retain skilled pilots and other personnel or secure the required equipment and facilities efficiently and cost-effectively may adversely affect our ability to execute our growth strategy. In recent years, the airline industry has experienced a pilot shortage that has disproportionately affected smaller and regional carriers, such as Copa. Expansion of our markets and flight frequencies may also strain our existing management resources and operational, financial and management information systems to the point where they may no longer be adequate to support our operations, requiring us to make significant expenditures in these areas. In light of these factors, we cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully establish new markets or expand our existing markets, and our failure to do so could harm our business and results of operations, as well as the value of our Class A shares.

***Our performance is heavily dependent on economic conditions in the countries in which we do business.***

Passenger demand is heavily cyclical and highly dependent on global and local economic growth, economic expectations and foreign exchange rate variations. In the past, we have been negatively impacted by poor economic performance in certain emerging market countries in which we operate. Any of the following developments in the countries in which we operate could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations:

- changes in economic or other governmental policies;
- changes in regulatory, legal or administrative practices; or
- other political or economic developments over which we have no control.

Additionally, a significant portion of our revenues is derived from discretionary and leisure travel which are especially sensitive to economic downturns. A continued recessionary environment could result in a reduction in passenger traffic, and leisure travel in particular, as well as a reduction in our cargo business, and could also impact our ability to raise fares, which in turn would materially and negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations.

***The cost of refinancing our debt and obtaining additional financing for new aircraft has increased and may continue to increase.***

We currently finance our aircraft through bank loans and operating leases. In the past, we have been able to obtain lease or debt financing on terms attractive to us. We have obtained most of the financing for our Boeing aircraft purchases from commercial financial institutions utilizing guarantees provided by the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The Export-Import Bank provides guarantees to companies that purchase goods from U.S. companies for export, enabling them to obtain financing at substantially lower interest rates as compared to those that they could obtain without a guarantee. The Export-Import Bank does not provide similar guarantees in connection with financing for our aircraft purchases from Embraer since those aircraft are not exports from the United States. At December 31, 2009, we had \$363.5 million of outstanding indebtedness that is owed to financial institutions under financing arrangements guaranteed by the Export-Import Bank. We cannot predict whether the Export-Import Bank's credit support will continue to be available to us to fund future purchases of Boeing aircraft. The Export-Import Bank may in the future limit its exposure to Panama-based companies, to our airline or to airlines generally, or may encourage us to diversify our credit sources by limiting future guarantees.

Similarly, we cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to raise financing from past sources, or from other sources, on terms comparable to our existing financing or at all. The recent turmoil in the financial markets has tightened the availability of credit and has increased the cost of obtaining lease or debt financing. If the cost of such financing continues to increase or we are unable to obtain such financing, we may be forced to incur higher than anticipated financing costs, which could have an adverse impact on the execution of our growth strategy and business.

**Table of Contents*****We are dependent on our alliance with Continental and cannot assure you that it will continue.***

We maintain a broad commercial and marketing alliance with Continental Airlines, Inc., or Continental, that has allowed us to enhance our network and, in some cases, offer our customers services that we could not otherwise offer. If Continental were to experience severe financial difficulties or go bankrupt, our alliance and service agreements may be terminated or we may not realize the anticipated benefits from our relationship with Continental. While Continental recorded net income of \$459 million, for 2007, it has also suffered significant losses in recent years and has indicated that several factors threaten its ability to sustain profitability, including high fuel cost, the troubled global capital markets, industry competition and terrorism or other international hostilities. We cannot assure you that Continental will be able to sustain its profitability, and as a result, we may be materially and adversely affected by a deterioration of Continental's financial condition.

Since we began the alliance in 1998, we have benefited from Continental's support in negotiations for aircraft purchases, insurance and fuel purchases, sharing of best practices and engineering support in our maintenance operations, and significant other intangible support. This support has assisted us in our growth strategy, while also improving our operational performance and the quality of our service. Our alliance relationship with Continental is the subject of a grant of antitrust immunity from the U.S. Department of Transportation, or DOT. If our relationship with Continental were to deteriorate, or our alliance relationship were no longer to benefit from a grant of antitrust immunity, or our alliance or services agreements were terminated, our business, financial condition and results of operations would likely be materially and adversely affected. The loss of Copa's codesharing relationship with Continental would likely result in a significant decrease in our revenues. We also rely on Continental's OnePass frequent flyer program that we participate in globally and on a co-branded basis in Latin America, and our business may be adversely affected if the OnePass program does not remain a competitive marketing program. In addition, our competitors may benefit from alliances with other airlines that are more extensive than our alliance with Continental. We cannot predict the extent to which we will be disadvantaged by competing alliances. Our relationship with suppliers depends in part on our alliance with Continental.

During 2008, Continental Airlines announced its intention to leave the SkyTeam Alliance and join the Star Alliance, effective the fourth quarter of 2009. Due to the long-standing alliance relationship with Continental, and in order to ensure we remain fully aligned with Continental on a number of important joint initiatives, we also exited the SkyTeam Alliance during the fourth quarter of 2009. We are currently studying our global alliance options, including potentially following Continental to Star Alliance or whether to remain independent of global alliances while forming strong bilateral partnerships with multiple carriers. The absence of, or entrance into, another airline alliance could involve significant risks because we may incur costs or a loss of revenue and anticipated benefits may not be realized. These risks include an inability to join or a delay in joining another alliance due to lack of applicable approvals or difficulty in satisfying entrance requirements, including the requirement that we enter into certain bilateral agreements with each member of another alliance and/or difficulties integrating our technology processes with the other airline members of a prospective alliance. If any of these risks or costs materializes, they could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***We operate using a hub-and-spoke model and are vulnerable to competitors offering direct flights between destinations we serve.***

The structure of substantially all of our current flight operations (other than those of AeroRepública) generally follows what is known in the airline industry as a hub-and-spoke model. This model aggregates passengers by operating flights from a number of spoke origins to a central hub through which they are transported to their final destinations. In recent years, many traditional hub-and-spoke operators have faced significant and increasing competitive pressure from low-cost, point-to-point carriers on routes with sufficient demand to sustain point-to-point service. A point-to-point structure enables airlines to focus on the most profitable, high-demand routes and to offer greater convenience and, in many instances, lower fares. As demand for air travel in Latin America increases, some of our competitors have initiated non-stop service between destinations that we currently serve through our Panamanian hub. Non-stop service, which bypasses our hub in Panama is more convenient and possibly less expensive, than our connecting service and could significantly decrease demand for our service to those destinations. We believe that competition from point-to-point carriers will be directed towards the largest markets that we serve and such

competition is likely to continue at this level or intensify in the future. As a result, the effect of such competition on us could be significant and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.



**Table of Contents**

***The Panamanian Aviation Act and certain of the bilateral agreements under which we operate contain Panamanian ownership requirements that are not clearly defined, and our failure to comply with these requirements could cause us to lose our authority to operate in Panama or to the international destinations we serve.***

Under Law No. 21 of January 29, 2003, which regulates the aviation industry in the Republic of Panama and which we refer to as the Aviation Act, substantial ownership and effective control of our airline must remain in the hands of Panamanian nationals. Under certain of the bilateral agreements between Panama and other countries pursuant to which we have the right to fly to those other countries and over their territory, we must continue to have substantial Panamanian ownership and effective control by Panamanian nationals to retain these rights. Neither substantial ownership nor effective control are defined in the Aviation Act or in the bilateral agreements, and it is unclear how a Panamanian court or, in the case of the bilateral agreements, foreign regulatory authorities might interpret these requirements. In addition, the manner in which these requirements are interpreted may change over time. We cannot predict whether these requirements would be satisfied through ownership and control by Panamanian record holders, or if these requirements would be satisfied only by direct and indirect ownership and control by Panamanian beneficial owners.

At the present time, Corporación de Inverstiones Aereas, S.A., or CIASA, a Panamanian entity, is the record owner of all of our Class B voting shares, representing approximately 29.1% of our total share capital and all of the voting power of our capital stock.

On November 25, 2005, the Executive Branch of the Government of Panama promulgated a decree stating that the substantial ownership and effective control requirements of the Aviation Act are met if a Panamanian citizen or a Panamanian company is the record holder of shares representing 51% or more of the voting power of the company. Although the decree has the force of law for so long as it remains in effect, it does not supersede the Aviation Act, and it can be modified or superseded at any time by a future Executive Branch decree. Additionally, the decree has no binding effect on regulatory authorities of other countries whose bilateral agreements impose Panamanian ownership and control limitations on us. We cannot assure you that the decree will not be challenged, modified or superseded in the future, that CIASA will continue to own a majority of the Class B shares, or that record ownership of a majority of our Class B shares by Panamanian entities will be sufficient to satisfy the substantial ownership requirement of the Aviation Act and the decree. A change in the ownership of the Class B shares or a determination by the Panamanian Civil Aviation Authority (the *Autoridad de Aeronáutica Civil*), which we refer to as the AAC, or a Panamanian court that substantial Panamanian ownership should be determined on the basis of our direct and indirect ownership, could cause us to lose our license to operate our airline in Panama. Likewise, if a foreign regulatory authority were to determine that our direct or indirect Panamanian ownership fails to satisfy the minimum Panamanian ownership requirements for a Panamanian carrier under the applicable bilateral agreement, we may lose the benefit of that agreement and be prohibited from flying to the relevant country or over its territory. Any such determination would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as on the value of the Class A shares.

***Our business is subject to extensive regulation which may restrict our growth or our operations or increase our costs.***

Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected if we or certain aviation authorities in the countries to which we fly fail to maintain the required foreign and domestic governmental authorizations necessary for our operations. In order to maintain the necessary authorizations issued by the AAC, the Colombian Civil Aviation Administration (the *Unidad Administrativa Especial de Aeronáutica Civil* or UAEAC), and other corresponding foreign authorities, we must continue to comply with applicable statutes, rules and regulations pertaining to the airline industry, including any rules and regulations that may be adopted in the future. We cannot predict or control any actions that the AAC, the UAEAC, or foreign aviation regulators may take in the future, which could include restricting our operations or imposing new and costly regulations. Also, our fares are technically subject to review by the AAC, the UAEAC, and the regulators of certain other countries to which we fly, any of which may in the future impose restrictions on our fares.



**Table of Contents**

We are also subject to international bilateral air transport agreements that provide for the exchange of air traffic rights between each of Panama and Colombia, and various other countries, and we must obtain permission from the applicable foreign governments to provide service to foreign destinations. There can be no assurance that existing bilateral agreements between the countries in which our airline operating companies are based and foreign governments will continue, or that we will be able to obtain more route rights under those agreements to accommodate our future expansion plans. A modification, suspension or revocation of one or more bilateral agreements could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. The suspension of our permits to operate to certain airports or destinations, the cancellation of any of our provisional routes or the imposition of other sanctions could also have a material adverse effect. Due to the nature of bilateral agreements, we can fly to many destinations only from Panama, and to certain destinations only from Colombia. We cannot assure you that a change in a foreign government's administration of current laws and regulations or the adoption of new laws and regulations will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We plan to continue to increase the scale of our operations and revenues by expanding our presence on new and existing routes. Our ability to successfully implement this strategy will depend upon many factors, several of which are outside our control or subject to change. These factors include the permanence of a suitable political, economic and regulatory environment in the Latin American countries in which we operate or intend to operate and our ability to identify strategic local partners.

The most active government regulator among the countries to which we fly is the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA. The FAA from time to time issues directives and other regulations relating to the maintenance and operation of aircraft that require significant expenditures. FAA requirements cover, among other things, security measures, collision avoidance systems, airborne windshear avoidance systems, noise abatement and other environmental issues, and increased inspections and maintenance procedures to be conducted on older aircraft. We expect to continue incurring expenses to comply with the FAA's regulations, and any increase in the cost of compliance could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Additional new regulations continue to be regularly implemented by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, as well.

***The growth of our operations to the United States and the benefits of our code-sharing arrangements with Continental are dependent on Panama's continued favorable safety assessment.***

The FAA periodically audits the aviation regulatory authorities of other countries. As a result of its investigation, each country is given an International Aviation Safety Assessment, or IASA, rating. Since April 2004, IASA has rated Panama as a Category 1 jurisdiction. We cannot assure you that the government of Panama, and the AAC in particular, will continue to meet international safety standards, and we have no direct control over their compliance with IASA guidelines. If Panama's IASA rating were to be downgraded in the future, it could prohibit us from increasing service to the United States and Continental would have to suspend the placing of its code on our flights, causing us to lose direct revenue from codesharing as well as reducing flight options to our customers.

***We are highly dependent on our hub at Panama City's Tocumen International Airport.***

Our business is heavily dependent on our operations at our hub at Panama City's Tocumen International Airport. Substantially all of our Copa flights either depart from or arrive at our hub. The hub-and-spoke structure of our operations is particularly dependent on the on-time arrival of tightly coordinated groupings of flights to ensure that passengers can make timely connections to continuing flights. Like other airlines, we are subject to delays caused by factors beyond our control, including air traffic congestion at airports, adverse weather conditions and increased security measures. Delays inconvenience passengers, reduce aircraft utilization and increase costs, all of which in turn negatively affect our profitability. In addition, at its current utilization level, Tocumen International Airport only has fuel storage capacity for three days worth of fuel. In the event there is a disruption in the transport of fuel to the airport, we may be forced to suspend flights until the fuel tanks can be refueled. A significant interruption or disruption in service or fuel at Tocumen International Airport could have a serious impact on our business, financial condition and operating results. Also, Tocumen International Airport provides international service to the Republic of Panama's population of approximately 3.5 million, whereas the hub markets of our current competitors tend to be much larger, providing those competitors with a larger base of customers at their hub.



**Table of Contents**

Tocumen International Airport is operated by a corporation that is owned and controlled by the government of the Republic of Panama. We depend on our good working relationship with the quasi-governmental corporation that operates the airport to ensure that we have adequate access to aircraft parking positions, landing rights and gate assignments for our aircraft to accommodate our current operations and future plans for expansion. The corporation that operates Tocumen International Airport does not enter into any formal, written leases or other agreements with airlines that govern rights to use the airport's jetways or aircraft parking spaces. Therefore, we do not have contractual recourse in the event the airport authority assigns new capacity to competing airlines, reassigns our resources to other aircraft operators, raises fees or discontinues investments in the airport's maintenance and expansion. Any of these events could result in significant new competition for our routes or could otherwise have a material adverse effect on our current operations or ability for future growth.

***We are exposed to increases in landing charges and other airport access fees and cannot be assured access to adequate facilities and landing rights necessary to achieve our expansion plans.***

We must pay fees to airport operators for the use of their facilities. Any substantial increase in airport charges could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations. Passenger taxes and airport charges have also increased in recent years, sometimes substantially. Certain important airports that we use may be privatized in the near future which is likely to result in significant cost increases to the airlines that use these airports. We cannot assure you that the airports used by us will not impose, or further increase, passenger taxes and airport charges in the future, and any such increases could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Certain airports that we serve (or that we plan to serve in the future) are subject to capacity constraints and impose slot restrictions during certain periods of the day. We cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain a sufficient number of slots, gates and other facilities at airports to expand our services as we are proposing to do. It is also possible that airports not currently subject to capacity constraints may become so in the future. In addition, an airline must use its slots on a regular and timely basis or risk having those slots re-allocated to others. Where slots or other airport resources are not available or their availability is restricted in some way, we may have to amend our schedules, change routes or reduce aircraft utilization. Any of these alternatives could have an adverse financial impact on us.

Some of the airports to which we fly impose various restrictions, including limits on aircraft noise levels, limits on the number of average daily departures and curfews on runway use. In addition, we cannot assure you that airports at which there are no such restrictions may not implement restrictions in the future or that, where such restrictions exist, they may not become more onerous. Such restrictions may limit our ability to continue to provide or to increase services at such airports.

***We have significant fixed financing costs and expect to incur additional fixed costs as we expand our fleet.***

The airline business is characterized by high leverage, and we have a high level of indebtedness. We also have significant expenditures in connection with our operating leases and facility rental costs, and substantially all of our property and equipment is pledged to secure indebtedness. For the year ended December 31, 2009, our interest expense and aircraft and facility rental expense under operating leases aggregated \$94.0 million. At December 31, 2009, approximately 49% of our total indebtedness bore interest at fixed rates, and a small portion of our lease obligations was determined with reference to LIBOR. Accordingly, our financing and rent expense will not decrease significantly if market interest rates decline.

As of December 31, 2009, we had firm commitments to purchase 29 Boeing 737-Next Generation, with an aggregate manufacturer's list price of approximately \$2.3 billion. We will require substantial capital from external sources to meet our future financial commitments. The credit crisis and the related recessionary environment has increased and may continue to increase the costs of such financing. In addition, the acquisition and financing of these aircraft will likely result in a substantial increase in our leverage and fixed financing costs. A high degree of leverage and fixed payment obligations could:

limit our ability in the future to obtain additional financing for working capital or other important needs;



**Table of Contents**

impair our liquidity by diverting substantial cash from our operating needs to service fixed financing obligations; or  
limit our ability to plan for or react to changes in our business, in the airline industry or in general economic conditions.

Any one of these could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. ***Our existing debt financing agreements and our aircraft operating leases contain restrictive covenants that impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us.***

Our aircraft financing loans and operating leases and the instruments governing our other indebtedness contain a number of significant covenants and restrictions that limit our ability and our subsidiaries' ability to:

- create material liens on our assets;
- take certain actions that may impair creditors' rights to our aircraft;
- sell assets or engage in certain mergers or consolidations; and
- engage in other specified significant transactions.

In addition, several of our aircraft financing agreements require us to maintain compliance with specified financial ratios and other financial and operating tests. For example, our access to certain borrowings under our aircraft financing arrangements is conditioned upon our maintenance of minimum debt service coverage and capitalization ratios. See Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Liquidity and Capital Resources. Complying with these covenants may cause us to take actions that make it more difficult to execute successfully our business strategy, and we may face competition from companies not subject to such restrictions. Moreover, our failure to comply with these covenants could result in an event of default or refusal by our creditors to extend certain of our loans.

***If we fail to successfully take delivery of or reliably operate new aircraft, our business could be harmed.***

In 2010, we expect to take delivery of eight Boeing 737-800 and we expect to continue to incorporate new aircraft into our fleet. The decision to incorporate new aircraft is based on a variety of factors, including the implementation of our growth strategy. Acquisition of new aircraft involves a variety of risks relating to its ability to be successfully placed into service including:

- manufacturer's delays in meeting the agreed upon aircraft delivery schedule;
- difficulties in obtaining financing on acceptable terms to complete our purchase of all of the aircraft we have committed to purchase; and
- the inability of new aircraft and their components to comply with agreed upon specifications and performance standards.

In addition, our fleet includes 26 Embraer 190 aircraft, which is a relatively new aircraft to the industry. Although we have not had significant problems with this aircraft, we cannot predict the reliability of the Embraer aircraft as the aircraft age.

If we fail to successfully take delivery of or reliably operate new aircraft, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be harmed.

**Table of Contents*****If we were to determine that our aircraft, rotatable parts or inventory were impaired, it would have a significant adverse effect on our operating results.***

We perform impairment reviews when there are particular risks of impairment or other indicators described in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*, in order to determine whether we need to reduce the carrying value of our aircraft and related assets with a related charge to our earnings. In addition to the fact that the value of our fleet declines as it ages, any potential excess capacity in the airline industry, airline bankruptcies and other factors beyond our control may further contribute to the decline of the fair market value of our aircraft and related rotatable parts and inventory. If such impairment does occur, we would be required under U.S. GAAP to write down these assets to their estimated fair market value through a charge to earnings. A significant charge to earnings would adversely affect our financial condition and operating results. In addition, the interest rates on and the availability of certain of our aircraft financing loans are tied to the value of the aircraft securing the loans. If those values were to decrease substantially, our interest rates may rise or the lenders under those loans may cease extending credit to us, either of which could have an adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

***We rely on information technology systems, and we may become more dependent on such systems in the future.***

We rely upon information technology systems to operate our business and increase our efficiency. We are highly reliant on certain systems for maintenance, reservations, check-in, revenue management, accounting and cargo distribution. Other systems are designed to decrease distribution costs through Internet reservations and to maximize cargo distributions. These systems may not deliver their anticipated benefits. Also, in transitioning to new systems we may lose data or experience interruptions in service, which could harm our business.

***Our quarterly results can fluctuate substantially, and the trading price of our Class A shares may be affected by such variations.***

The airline industry is by nature cyclical and seasonal, and our operating results may vary from quarter to quarter. We tend to experience the highest levels of traffic and revenue in July and August, with a smaller peak in traffic in December and January. In general, demand for air travel is higher in the third and fourth quarters, particularly in international markets, because of the increase in vacation travel during these periods relative to the remainder of the year. We generally experience our lowest levels of passenger traffic in April and May. Given our high proportion of fixed costs, seasonality can affect our profitability from quarter to quarter. Demand for air travel is also affected by factors such as economic conditions, war or the threat of war, fare levels and weather conditions.

Due to the factors described above and others described in this annual report, quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results may not be good indicators of our future performance. In addition, it is possible that in any quarter our operating results could be below the expectations of investors and any published reports or analyses regarding our company. In that event, the price of our Class A shares could decline, perhaps substantially.

***Our reputation and financial results could be harmed in the event of an accident or incident involving our aircraft.***

An accident or incident involving one of our aircraft could involve significant claims by injured passengers and others, as well as significant costs related to the repair or replacement of a damaged aircraft and its temporary or permanent loss from service. We are required by our creditors and the lessors of our aircraft under our operating lease agreements to carry liability insurance, but the amount of such liability insurance coverage may not be adequate and we may be forced to bear substantial losses in the event of an accident. Our insurance premiums may also increase due to an accident or incident affecting one of our aircraft. Substantial claims resulting from an accident in excess of our related insurance coverage or increased premiums would harm our business and financial results. Moreover, any aircraft accident or incident, even if fully insured, could cause the public to perceive us as less safe or reliable than other airlines which could harm our business and results of operations. Our business would also be significantly harmed if the public avoids flying our aircraft due to an adverse perception of the types of aircraft that we operate arising from safety concerns or other problems, whether real or perceived, or in the event of an accident involving those types of aircraft.





**Table of Contents*****Fluctuations in foreign exchange rates could negatively affect our net income.***

In 2009, approximately 71.0% of our expenses and 43.4% of our revenues were denominated in U.S. dollars. The remainder of our expenses and revenues were denominated in the currencies of the various countries to which we fly, with the largest non-dollar amount denominated in Colombian Pesos due to our acquisition of AeroRepública in April 2005. If any of these currencies decline in value against the U.S. dollar, our revenues, expressed in U.S. dollars, and our operating margin would be adversely affected. We may not be able to adjust our fares denominated in other currencies to offset any increases in U.S. dollar-denominated expenses, increases in interest expense or exchange losses on fixed obligations or indebtedness denominated in foreign currency. We currently have hedges in place with respect to some of our U.S. dollar / Colombian Peso exposure.

We are also exposed to exchange rate losses, as well as gains, due to the fluctuation in the value of local currencies vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar during the period of time between the time we are paid in local currencies and the time we are able to repatriate the revenues in U.S. dollars. Although in most countries to which we fly this period is typically between one and two weeks, in Venezuela, foreign companies, including airlines, have experienced increasing delays for approvals by the Venezuelan government to repatriate funds. We have significant cash balances in Bolivars subject to Venezuelan exchange controls. In recent periods, we have experienced up to a nine month delay in repatriating funds. On January 8, 2010, the Venezuelan government announced its decision to implement new fixed exchange rates effective January 11, 2010, which resulted in a significant devaluation of the Bolivar against the U.S. dollar. As a result, we incurred losses of approximately \$21 million, which will be recorded in the first quarter of 2010 in accordance with US GAAP. Given the uncertainty with respect to the exchange control regime in Venezuela, we continue to be exposed in respect of our cash balance in Venezuelan Bolivares should there be a further devaluation of the Bolivar.

***Our maintenance costs will increase as our fleet ages.***

The average age of our fleet was approximately 4.6 years as of December 31, 2009. In recent years, our fleet average age has decreased significantly, mainly as a result of AeroRepública's fleet renewal program which has replaced older MD-80 aircraft with new Embraer-190 aircraft. In past years we have incurred a low level of maintenance expenses because most of the parts on our aircraft were still covered under multi-year warranties. As our fleet ages and these warranties expire, we expect that our maintenance costs will increase significantly, both on an absolute basis and as a percentage of our operating expenses.

***If we enter into a prolonged dispute with any of our employees, many of whom are represented by unions, or if we are required to increase substantially the salaries or benefits of our employees, it may have an adverse impact on our operations and financial condition.***

Approximately 49% of the Company's employees belong to a labor union. There are currently five unions covering our Copa employees based in Panama: the pilots' union; the flight attendants' union; the mechanics' union; the traffic attendants' union; and a generalized union, which represents baggage handlers, aircraft cleaners, counter agents, and other non-executive administrative staff. Copa entered into collective bargaining agreements with its mechanics union in April 2009, its general union in July 2008, its pilot union in November 2007 and its flight attendants union in March 2010. Collective bargaining agreements in Panama are typically between three and four year terms. We also have union contracts with our Copa employees in Brazil and Mexico. AeroRepública is a party to collective bargaining agreements that cover all of AeroRepública's pilots, co-pilots, and flight attendants. A strike, work interruption or stoppage or any prolonged dispute with our employees who are represented by any of these unions could have an adverse impact on our operations. These risks are typically exacerbated during periods of renegotiation with the unions. Any renegotiated collective bargaining agreement could feature significant wage increases and a consequent increase in our operating expenses. Employees outside of Panama that are not currently members of unions may also form new unions that may seek further wage increases or benefits.

**Table of Contents**

Our business is labor intensive. We expect salaries, wages and benefits to increase on a gross basis, and these costs could increase as a percentage of our overall costs. If we are unable to hire, train and retain qualified pilots and other employees at a reasonable cost, our business could be harmed and we may be unable to complete our expansion plans.

***Our revenues depend on our relationship with travel agents and tour operators.***

In 2009, approximately 52% of our revenues were derived from tickets sold by travel agents or tour operators. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain favorable relationships with these ticket sellers. Our revenues could be adversely impacted if travel agents or tour operators elect to favor other airlines or to disfavor us. Our relationship with travel agents and tour operators may be affected by:

- the size of commissions offered by other airlines;
- changes in our arrangements with other distributors of airline tickets; and
- the introduction and growth of new methods of selling tickets.

***We rely on third parties to provide our customers and us with facilities and services that are integral to our business.***

We have entered into agreements with third-party contractors to provide certain facilities and services required for our operations, such as heavy aircraft and engine maintenance; call center services; and catering, ground handling, cargo and baggage handling, or below the wing aircraft services. For example, at airports other than Tocumen International Airport, most of our below the wing aircraft services are performed by third party contractors. Overhaul maintenance and C-checks are handled by contractors in the United States, Panama and Costa Rica, and some line maintenance is handled at certain airports by contract workers rather than our employees. Substantially all of our agreements with third-party contractors are subject to termination on short notice. The loss or expiration of these agreements or our inability to renew these agreements or to negotiate new agreements with other providers at comparable rates could harm our business and results of operations. Further, our reliance on third parties to provide essential services on our behalf gives us less control over the costs, efficiency, timeliness and quality of those services. A contractor's negligence could compromise our aircraft or endanger passengers and crew. This could also have a material adverse effect on our business. We expect to be dependent on such agreements for the foreseeable future and if we enter any new market, we will need to have similar agreements in place.

***We depend on a limited number of suppliers.***

We are subject to the risks of having a limited number of suppliers for our aircraft and engines. One of the elements of our business strategy is to save costs by operating a simplified aircraft fleet. Copa currently operates the Boeing 737-700/800 Next Generation aircraft powered by CFM 56-7B engines from CFM International and the Embraer 190, powered by General Electric CF 34-10 engines. AeroRepública currently operates the Embraer 190, powered by General Electric CF 34-10 engines. We currently intend to continue to rely exclusively on these aircraft for the foreseeable future. If any of Boeing, Embraer, CFM International or GE Engines were unable to perform their contractual obligations, or if we are unable to acquire or lease new aircraft or engines from aircraft or engine manufacturers or lessors on acceptable terms, we would have to find another supplier for a similar type of aircraft or engine.

If we have to lease or purchase aircraft from another supplier, we could lose the benefits we derive from our current fleet composition. We cannot assure you that any replacement aircraft would have the same operating advantages as the Boeing 737-700/800 Next Generation or Embraer 190 aircraft that would be replaced or that Copa could lease or purchase engines that would be as reliable and efficient as the CFM 56-7B and GE CF34-10. We may also incur substantial transition costs, including costs associated with retraining our employees, replacing our manuals and adapting our facilities. Our operations could also be harmed by the failure or inability of Boeing, Embraer, CFM International or GE Engines to provide sufficient parts or related support services on a timely basis.

## **Table of Contents**

Our business would be significantly harmed if a design defect or mechanical problem with any of the types of aircraft or components that we operate were discovered that would ground any of our aircraft while the defect or problem was corrected, assuming it could be corrected at all. The use of our aircraft could be suspended or restricted by regulatory authorities in the event of any actual or perceived mechanical or design problems. Our business would also be significantly harmed if the public began to avoid flying with us due to an adverse perception of the types of aircraft that we operate stemming from safety concerns or other problems, whether real or perceived, or in the event of an accident involving those types of aircraft or components.

We also depend on limited suppliers with respect to supplies obtained locally, such as our fuel supply. These local suppliers may not be able to maintain the pace of our growth and our requirements may exceed their capabilities, which may adversely affect our ability to execute our growth strategy

### ***We are dependent on key personnel.***

Our success depends to a significant extent upon the efforts and abilities of our senior management team and key financial, commercial, operating and maintenance personnel. In particular, we depend on the services of our senior management team, including Pedro Heilbron, our Chief Executive Officer, Victor Vial, our Chief Financial Officer, Daniel Gunn, our Chief Operating Officer, and Joe Mohan our Vice-President of Commercial and Planning.

Competition for highly qualified personnel is intense, and the loss of any executive officer, senior manager or other key employee without adequate replacement or the inability to attract new qualified personnel could have a material adverse effect upon our business, operating results and financial condition.

### ***Our operations in Cuba, which has been identified by the U.S. Department of State as a state sponsor of terrorism, may adversely affect our reputation and the liquidity and value of our Class A shares.***

We currently operate approximately eight daily departures to and from Cuba which provide passenger, cargo and mail transportation service. For the year ended December 31, 2009, our transported passengers to and from Cuba represented approximately 5.4% of our total passengers carried. Our operating revenues from Cuban operations during the year ended December 31, 2009 represented approximately 7.1% of our total consolidated operating revenues for such year. Our assets located in Cuba are insignificant.

Cuba has been identified by the United States government as a state sponsor of terrorism, and the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administers and enforces economic and trade sanctions based on U.S. foreign policy against Cuba and certain other targeted foreign countries. You should understand that our overall business reputation may suffer as a result of our activities in Cuba, particularly if such activities grow in the future. Certain U.S. states have recently enacted legislation regarding investments by pension funds and other retirement systems in companies, such as ours, that have business activities with Cuba and other countries that have been identified as terrorist-sponsoring states. Similar legislation may be pending in other states. As a result, pension funds and other retirement systems may be subject to new reporting requirements and other burdensome restrictions with respect to investments in companies such as ours. Pension funds and similar institutions represent an important source of demand for our shares, and if their willingness to invest in and hold our shares were to diminish as a result of any such requirements or restrictions, or for any other reason, it would likely have a material adverse effect on the liquidity and value of our Class A shares.

### ***Risks Relating to the Airline Industry***

#### ***The airline industry is highly competitive.***

We face intense competition throughout our route network. Overall airline industry profit margins are low and industry earnings are volatile. Airlines compete in the areas of pricing, scheduling (frequency and flight times), on-time performance, frequent flyer programs and other services. Some of our competitors, such as American Airlines, have larger customer bases and greater brand recognition in the markets we serve outside Panama, and some of our competitors have significantly greater financial and marketing resources than we have. Airlines based in other countries may also receive subsidies, tax incentives or other state aid from their respective governments, which are not provided by the Panamanian government. The commencement of, or increase in, service on the routes we serve by existing or new carriers could negatively impact our operating results. Likewise, competitors' service on routes that we are targeting for expansion may make those expansion plans less attractive.



**Table of Contents**

We compete with a number of other airlines that currently serve some of the routes on which we operate, including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Mexicana and Avianca-Taca Limited ( Avianca-Taca ), the entity created by the recent merger of two of our competitors, Aerovías del Continente Americano S.A. ( Avianca ) and Grupo Taca. AeroRepública's results of operations, in particular, are highly sensitive to competitive conditions in the Colombian domestic air travel market. AeroRepública's rapid growth in recent years occurred during a period in which the domestic market leader, Avianca, experienced severe financial difficulties that resulted in its bankruptcy and the exit from the market of several other competitors. Avianca emerged from bankruptcy with new management and an improved financial condition and recently consummated a merger with Grupo Taca. In addition, Aerovías de Integración Regional, or Aires, a low-cost carrier based in Bogotá, Colombia, has recently captured a significant portion of the domestic market in Colombia. It is therefore likely that AeroRepública will face stronger competition in the future than it has in recent years, and its prior results may not be indicative of its future performance.

We must constantly react to changes in prices and services offered by our competitors to remain competitive. The airline industry is highly susceptible to price discounting, particularly because airlines incur very low marginal costs for providing service to passengers occupying otherwise unsold seats. Carriers use discount fares to stimulate traffic during periods of lower demand to generate cash flow and to increase market share. Any lower fares offered by one airline are often matched by competing airlines, which often results in lower industry yields with little or no increase in traffic levels. Price competition among airlines in the future could lead to lower fares or passenger traffic on some or all of our routes, which could negatively impact our profitability. We cannot assure you that any of our competitors will not undercut our fares in the future or increase capacity on routes in an effort to increase their respective market share. Although we intend to compete vigorously and to assert our rights against any predatory conduct, such activity by other airlines could reduce the level of fares or passenger traffic on our routes to the point where profitable levels of operations could not be maintained. Due to our smaller size and financial resources compared to several of our competitors, we may be less able to withstand aggressive marketing tactics or fare wars engaged in by our competitors should such events occur.

***We may face increasing competition from low-cost carriers offering discounted fares.***

Traditional hub-and-spoke carriers in the United States and Europe continue to face substantial and increasing competitive pressure from low-cost carriers offering discounted fares. The low-cost carriers' operations are typically characterized by point-to-point route networks focusing on the highest demand city pairs, high aircraft utilization, single class service and fewer in-flight amenities. As evidenced by the operations of Gol Intelligent Airlines or Gol, which continues to grow both in Brazil as well as in other South American countries, Spirit, which serves Latin America from Fort Lauderdale, JetBlue, which flies from Orlando to Bogota, Aires, which recently has expanded aggressively in the domestic Colombian market and introduced flights between Bogota and Fort Lauderdale, and a number of low-cost carriers which operate within Mexico, among others, the low-cost carrier business model appears to be gaining acceptance in the Latin American aviation industry. As a result, we may face new and substantial competition from low-cost carriers in the future which could result in significant and lasting downward pressure on the fares we charge for flights on our routes.

***Significant changes or extended periods of high fuel costs or fuel supply disruptions could materially affect our operating results.***

Fuel costs constitute a significant portion of our total operating expenses, representing approximately 32.0% of our operating expenses in 2007, 38.0% in 2008 and 29.2% in 2009. Fuel prices reached record levels during the middle of 2008, but decreased substantially in the second half of 2008. Jet fuel costs have been subject to wide fluctuations as a result of increases in demand, sudden disruptions in and other concerns about global supply, as well as market speculation. Both the cost and availability of fuel are subject to many economic, political, weather, environmental and other factors and events occurring throughout the world that we can neither control nor accurately predict, including international political and economic circumstances such as the political instability in major oil-exporting countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. If a future fuel supply shortage were to arise as a result of production curtailments by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, a disruption of oil imports, supply disruptions resulting from severe weather or natural disasters, the continued unrest in Iraq, other conflicts in the Middle East or otherwise, higher fuel prices or further reductions of scheduled airline services could result. We cannot assure you that

we would be able to offset any increases in the price of fuel by increasing our fares.

**Table of Contents**

We routinely enter into derivative contracts for a portion of our fuel needs to protect against rising fuel costs, although in recent periods, we have entered into such arrangements on a much more selective basis. These agreements provide only limited protection against increases in the price of fuel or our counterparties' inability to perform under the agreement, can be less effective during volatile market conditions and may be unavailable to us in the event of a deterioration in our financial condition. Because of the large volume of jet fuel that we consume in our business, entering into derivative contracts for any substantial portion of our future projected fuel requirements is costly. Fuel prices are likely to increase above their current levels and may do so in the near future, which could materially and negatively affect our operating results. Conversely, declines in fuel prices (such as those experienced in the last six months of 2008) may increase the costs associated with our fuel hedging arrangements to the extent we have entered into swaps or collars. Swaps and put options sold as part of a collar obligate us to make payments to the counterparty upon settlement of the contracts if the price of the commodity hedged falls below the agreed upon amount. Historically, declining crude oil prices have resulted in our being required to post significant amounts of collateral to cover potential amounts owed with respect to swap and collar contracts that have not yet settled. Additionally, lower fuel prices may result in lower fares through the reduction or elimination of fuel surcharges.

***We may experience difficulty finding, training and retaining pilots and other employees.***

In previous years, the airline industry has experienced a sustained pilot shortage caused by extraordinary air traffic growth in the Persian Gulf, China and India; the rise of lucrative low-cost carriers in Europe and Asia; and the sustained recovery of the U.S. airlines from the industry recession caused by the September 11 terrorist attacks. This worldwide shortage of pilots disproportionately affects smaller and regional carriers. Our need for qualified pilots has caused us to hire a substantial number of non-Panamanian national pilots. We cannot assure you that we will continue to attract or obtain government approvals for such pilots. Although the current recessionary environment has provided some relief to the pilot shortage, as economies improve, the inability to attract and retain pilots may adversely affect our growth strategy by limiting our ability to add new routes or increase the frequency of existing routes.

The airline industry is a labor-intensive business. We employ a large number of flight attendants, maintenance technicians and other operating and administrative personnel. The airline industry has, from time to time, experienced a shortage of qualified personnel. In addition, as is common with most of our competitors, we may, from time to time, face considerable turnover of our employees. Should the turnover of employees sharply increase, our training costs will be significantly higher. We cannot assure you that we will be able to recruit, train and retain the qualified employees that we need to continue our current operations or replace departing employees. A failure to hire and retain qualified employees at a reasonable cost could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Because the airline industry is characterized by high fixed costs and relatively elastic revenues, airlines cannot quickly reduce their costs to respond to shortfalls in expected revenue.***

The airline industry is characterized by low gross profit margins, high fixed costs and revenues that generally exhibit substantially greater elasticity than costs. The operating costs of each flight do not vary significantly with the number of passengers flown and, therefore, a relatively small change in the number of passengers, fare pricing or traffic mix could have a significant effect on operating and financial results. These fixed costs cannot be adjusted quickly to respond to changes in revenues and a shortfall from expected revenue levels could have a material adverse effect on our net income.



**Table of Contents**

***Airline bankruptcies could adversely affect the industry.***

In recent years, several air carriers have sought to reorganize under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, including some of our competitors such as Avianca and Delta. Successful completion of such reorganizations could present us with competitors with significantly lower operating costs derived from labor, supply and financing contracts renegotiated under the protection of the Bankruptcy Code. In addition, air carriers involved in reorganizations have historically undertaken substantial fare discounting in order to maintain cash flows and to enhance continued customer loyalty. Such fare discounting could further lower yields for all carriers, including us. Further, the market value of aircraft would likely be negatively impacted if a number of air carriers seek to reduce capacity by eliminating aircraft from their fleets.

***Our business may be adversely affected by downturns in the airline industry caused by terrorist attacks, war or outbreak of disease, which may alter travel behavior or increase costs.***

Demand for air transportation may be adversely affected by terrorist attacks, war or political and social instability, epidemics, natural disasters and other events. Any of these events in the markets in which we operate could have a material impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, these types of situations could have a prolonged effect on air transportation demand and on certain cost items.

The terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, for example, have had a severe and lasting adverse impact on the airline industry. Airline traffic in the United States fell dramatically after the attacks and decreased less severely throughout Latin America. The repercussions of September 11th, including increases in security, insurance and fear of similar attacks, continue to affect us and the airline industry. Our revenues depend on the number of passengers traveling on our flights. Therefore, any future terrorist attacks or threat of attacks, whether or not involving commercial aircraft, any increase in hostilities relating to reprisals against terrorist organizations, including an escalation of military involvement in the Middle East, or otherwise and any related economic impact could result in decreased passenger traffic and materially and negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Public health threats, such as the H1N1 flu virus, the bird flu, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARs) and other highly communicable diseases, affect travel behavior and could have a material adverse effect on the industry. During the second quarter of 2009, passenger traffic was negatively affected as a result of the H1N1 flu crisis, which resulted in lower overall demand for intra-Latin America travel, especially to and from Mexico. Although we quickly responded to the crisis by reducing capacities to Mexico and the H1N1 flu situation normalized by July 2009, we cannot assure you that the adverse effects of future outbreaks of H1N1 or other such health threats will be able to be similarly contained. It is impossible to determine if and when such health threats, or perceived health threats, will occur, when the resulting adverse effects will abate and the extent to which they will further decrease demand for air travel, which could materially and negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Increases in insurance costs and/or significant reductions in coverage would harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

Following the 2001 terrorist attacks, premiums for insurance against aircraft damage and liability to third parties increased substantially, and insurers could reduce their coverage or increase their premiums even further in the event of additional terrorist attacks, hijackings, airline crashes or other events adversely affecting the airline industry abroad or in Latin America. In the future, certain aviation insurance could become unaffordable, unavailable or available only for reduced amounts of coverage that are insufficient to comply with the levels of insurance coverage required by aircraft lenders and lessors or applicable government regulations. While governments in other countries have agreed to indemnify airlines for liabilities that they might incur from terrorist attacks or provide low-cost insurance for terrorism risks, the Panamanian government has not indicated an intention to provide similar benefits to us. Increases in the cost of insurance may result in both higher fares and a decreased demand for air travel generally, which could materially and negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Failure to comply with applicable environmental regulations could adversely affect our business.***

Our operations are covered by various local, national and international environmental regulations. These regulations cover, among other things, emissions to the atmosphere, disposal of solid waste and aqueous effluents, aircraft noise and other activities that result from the operation of aircraft. Future operations and financial results may vary as a

result of such regulations. Compliance with these regulations and new or existing regulations that may be applicable to us in the future could increase our cost base and adversely affect our operations and financial results.

**Table of Contents****Risks Relating to Panama and our Region*****We are highly dependent on conditions in Panama and, to a lesser extent, in Colombia.***

A substantial portion of our assets are located in the Republic of Panama, a significant proportion of our customers are Panamanian, and substantially all of Copa's flights operate through our hub at Tocumen International Airport. As a result, we depend on economic and political conditions prevailing from time to time in Panama. Panama's economic conditions in turn highly depend on the continued profitability and economic impact of the Panama Canal. Control of the Panama Canal and many other assets were transferred from the United States to Panama in 1999 after nearly a century of U.S. control. Political events in Panama may significantly affect our operations. Although the Panamanian government is democratically elected and the Panamanian political climate is currently stable, Panamanian elections were held in 2009, we cannot assure you that current conditions will continue under the new administration.

During the second quarter of 2005, we completed our acquisition of AeroRepública. Most of AeroRepública's scheduled operations are conducted within Colombia. As a result, AeroRepública's results of operations are highly sensitive to macroeconomic and political conditions prevailing in Colombia, which have been highly volatile and unstable in recent decades. Although the state of affairs in Colombia has been steadily improving since 2002, continuing guerrilla activity, among other factors, could cause a renewal of political unrest and instability in Colombia, which could adversely affect AeroRepública's financial condition and results of operations. The threat of terrorist attacks could impose additional costs on us, including enhanced security to protect our aircraft, facilities and personnel against possible attacks as well as increased insurance premiums. As a result, we may encounter significant unanticipated problems at AeroRepública, which could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations.

Although the economies of Panama and Colombia fared comparatively well during 2009, many of the countries we serve are experiencing either economic slowdowns or recessions, which have translated into a weakening of demand and may have an adverse effect on our business in the future. According to International Monetary Fund estimates, both the Panamanian and Colombian economies are expected to grow in 2010, however, if either economy experiences a sustained recession, or significant political disruptions, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and negatively affected.

***Any increase in the taxes we or our shareholders pay in Panama or the other countries where we do business could adversely affect the value of our Class A shares.***

We cannot assure you that we will continue to pay taxes at the current rate. Our provision for income taxes was \$17.1 million, \$17.5 million and \$19.6 million in the years ended December 31, 2007, 2008 and 2009, which represented an effective income tax rate of 9.6%, 12.8% and 7.5% for the respective periods. We are subject to local tax regulations in each of the jurisdictions where we operate, the great majority of which are related to the taxation of income. In some of the countries to which we fly, we do not pay any income taxes, because we do not generate income under the laws of those countries either because they do not have income tax or because of treaties or other arrangements those countries have with Panama. In the remaining countries, we pay income tax at a rate ranging from 25% to 34% of income. Different countries calculate income in different ways, but they are typically derived from sales in the applicable country multiplied by our net margin or by a presumed net margin set by the relevant tax legislation. The determination of our taxable income in certain countries is based on a combination of revenues sourced to each particular country and the allocation of expenses of our operations to that particular country. The methodology for multinational transportation company sourcing of revenue and expense is not always specifically prescribed in the relevant tax regulations, and therefore is subject to interpretation by both us and the respective taxing authorities. Additionally, in some countries, the applicability of certain regulations governing non-income taxes and the determination of our filing status are also subject to interpretation. We cannot estimate the amount, if any, of potential tax liabilities that might result if the allocations, interpretations and filing positions used by us in our tax returns were challenged by the taxing authorities of one or more countries. If taxes were to increase, our financial performance and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. Due to the competitive revenue environment, many increases in fees and taxes have been absorbed by the airline industry rather than being passed on to the passenger. Any such increases in our fees and taxes may reduce demand for air travel and thus our revenues.



**Table of Contents**

We have elected to calculate our Panamanian income tax with the gross tax method based on Article 121 of the Panamanian Fiscal Code (as defined in Item 5A. Operating Results Subsequent Events ), under which income for international transportation companies is calculated based on a territoriality method that determines gross revenues earned in Panama by applying the percentage of miles flown within the Panamanian territory against total revenues. Under this method, loss carry-forwards cannot be applied to offset tax liability. If the Panamanian tax authorities do not agree with our methods of allocating revenues, we may be subject to additional tax liability. Dividends from our Panamanian subsidiaries, including Copa, are separately subject to a 10% percent withholding tax on the portion attributable to Panamanian sourced income and a 5% withholding tax on the portion attributable to foreign sourced income. Airlines in Panama are currently not subject to any taxes relating specifically to the airline industry other than the 4% tax collected from passengers on tickets sold in Panama for the benefit of the Panamanian Tourism Bureau. In addition, Law 8 of 2010 (the Tax Reform ), which modifies material sections of the Panamanian Fiscal Code was approved and became effective on March 15, 2010. As a result of this reform package, the airline industry will be subject to higher tax rates than it has paid in the past. We estimate, however, that we will benefit from certain tax credits in respect to taxes paid in foreign jurisdictions in 2010 and on a going-forward basis. We, therefore, anticipate that our effective tax rate for the immediate future will remain within the historical range of the past five years. As a result, we do not believe this tax reform is likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Any future change in the Panamanian tax law increasing the taxes payable by us could have materially adverse effects on our business, financial condition and result of operations.

***Political unrest and instability in Latin American countries to which we fly may adversely affect our business and the market price of our Class A shares.***

While geographic diversity helps to reduce our exposure to risks in any one country, we operate primarily within Latin America and are subject to a full range of risks associated with our international operations. These risks may include unstable political or economic conditions, lack of well-established or reliable legal systems, exchange controls and other limits on our ability to repatriate earnings and changeable legal and regulatory requirements. Although conditions throughout Latin America vary from country to country, our customers' reactions to developments in Latin America generally may result in a reduction in passenger traffic, which could materially and negatively affect our financial condition, results of operations and the market price of our Class A shares.

**Risks Relating to Our Class A Shares**

***The value of our Class A shares may be adversely affected by ownership restrictions on our capital stock and the power of our Board of Directors to take remedial actions to preserve our operating license and international route rights by requiring sales of certain outstanding shares or issuing new stock.***

Pursuant to the Panamanian Aviation Act, as amended and interpreted to date, and certain of the bilateral treaties affording us the right to fly to other countries, we are required to be substantially owned and effectively controlled by Panamanian nationals. Our failure to comply with such requirements could result in the loss of our Panamanian operating license and/or our right to fly to certain important countries. Our Articles of Incorporation (*Pacto Social*) give special powers to our independent directors to take certain significant actions to attempt to ensure that the amount of shares held in us by non-Panamanian nationals does not reach a level which could jeopardize our compliance with Panamanian and bilateral ownership and control requirements. If our independent directors determine it is reasonably likely that we will be in violation of these ownership and control requirements and our Class B shares represent less than 10% of our total outstanding capital stock (excluding newly issued shares sold with the approval of our independent directors committee), our independent directors will have the power to issue additional Class B shares or Class C shares with special voting rights solely to Panamanian nationals. See 10B. Memorandum and Articles of Association Description of Capital Stock.

**Table of Contents**

If any of these remedial actions are taken, the trading price of the Class A shares may be materially and adversely affected. An issuance of Class C shares could have the effect of discouraging certain changes of control of Copa Holdings or may reduce any voting power that the Class A shares enjoy prior to the Class C share issuance. There can be no assurance that we would be able to complete an issuance of Class B shares to Panamanian nationals. We cannot assure you that restrictions on ownership by non-Panamanian nationals will not impede the development of an active public trading market for the Class A shares, adversely affect the market price of the Class A shares or materially limit our ability to raise capital in markets outside of Panama in the future.

***Our controlling shareholder has the ability to direct our business and affairs, and its interests could conflict with yours.***

All of our Class B shares, representing approximately 29.1% of the economic interest in Copa Holdings and all of the voting power of our capital stock, are owned by CIASA. CIASA is in turn controlled by a group of Panamanian investors. In order to comply with the Panamanian Aviation Act, as amended and interpreted to date, we have amended our organizational documents to modify our share capital so that CIASA will continue to exercise voting control of Copa Holdings. CIASA will not be able to transfer its voting control unless control of our company will remain with Panamanian nationals. CIASA will maintain voting control of the company so long as CIASA continues to own a majority of our Class B shares and the Class B shares continue to represent more than 10% of our total share capital (excluding newly issued shares sold with the approval of our independent directors committee). Even after CIASA ceases to own the majority of the voting power of our capital stock, CIASA may continue to control our Board of Directors indirectly through its control of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. As the controlling shareholder, CIASA may direct us to take actions that could be contrary to your interests and under certain circumstances CIASA will be able to prevent other shareholders, including you, from blocking these actions. Also, CIASA may prevent change of control transactions that might otherwise provide you with an opportunity to dispose of or realize a premium on your investment in our Class A shares.

***The Class A shares will only be permitted to vote in very limited circumstances and may never have full voting rights.***

The holders of Class A shares have no right to vote at our shareholders' meetings except with respect to corporate transformations of Copa Holdings, mergers, consolidations or spin-offs of Copa Holdings, changes of corporate purpose, voluntary delistings of the Class A shares from the NYSE, the approval of nominations of our independent directors and amendments to the foregoing provisions that adversely affect the rights and privileges of any Class A shares. The holders of Class B shares have the power, subject to our supplemental agreement with Continental, to elect the Board of Directors and to determine the outcome of all other matters to be decided by a vote of shareholders. Class A shares will not have full voting rights unless the Class B shares represent less than 10% of our total capital stock (excluding newly issued shares sold with the approval of our independent directors committee). See Item 10B. Memorandum and Articles of Association Description of Capital Stock. We cannot assure you that the Class A shares will ever carry full voting rights.

***Substantial future sales of our Class A shares by CIASA could cause the price of the Class A shares to decrease.***

CIASA owns all of our Class B shares, and those Class B shares will be converted into Class A shares if they are sold to non-Panamanian investors. In connection with our initial public offering in December 2005, Continental and CIASA reduced their ownership of our total capital stock from 49% to approximately 27.3% and from 51% to approximately 29.2%, respectively. In a follow-on offering in June 2006, Continental further reduced its ownership of our total capital stock from 27.3% to 10.0%. In May 2008, we, and CIASA, released Continental from its standstill obligations and they sold down their remaining shares in the public market. CIASA holds registration rights with respect to a significant portion of its shares pursuant to a registration rights agreement entered into in connection with our initial public offering. The market price of our Class A shares could drop significantly if CIASA further reduces its investment in us, other significant holders of our shares sell a significant number of shares or if the market perceives CIASA or other significant holders intend to sell them.



**Table of Contents**

***Holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights, and as a result you may experience substantial dilution upon future issuances of stock by us.***

Under Panamanian law and our organizational documents, holders of our Class A shares are not entitled to any preemptive rights with respect to future issuances of capital stock by us. Therefore, unlike companies organized under the laws of many other Latin American jurisdictions, we will be free to issue new shares of stock to other parties without first offering them to our existing shareholders. In the future we may sell Class A or other shares to persons other than our existing shareholders at a lower price than the shares already sold, and as a result you may experience substantial dilution of your interest in us.

***You may not be able to sell our Class A shares at the price or at the time you desire because an active or liquid market for the Class A shares may not continue.***

Our Class A shares are listed on the NYSE. During the three months ended December 31, 2009, the average daily trading volume for our Class A shares as reported by the NYSE was approximately 252,084 shares. We cannot predict whether an active liquid public trading market for our Class A shares will be sustained. Active, liquid trading markets generally result in lower price volatility and more efficient execution of buy and sell orders for our investors. The liquidity of a securities market is often affected by the volume of shares publicly held by unrelated parties.

***Our Board of Directors may, in its discretion, amend or repeal our dividend policy. You may not receive the level of dividends provided for in the dividend policy or any dividends at all.***

Our Board of Directors has adopted a dividend policy that provides for the payment of dividends to shareholders in an amount ranging from 10% to 20% of our annual consolidated net income. Our Board of Directors may, in its sole discretion and for any reason, amend or repeal this dividend policy. On February 10, 2010, for example, our Board of Directors amended the dividend policy to increase the level of dividends to its current range. Our Board of Directors may decrease the level of dividends provided for in this dividend policy or entirely discontinue the payment of dividends. Future dividends with respect to shares of our common stock, if any, will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, cash requirements, financial condition, contractual restrictions, business opportunities, provisions of applicable law and other factors that our Board of Directors may deem relevant. See Item 8A. Consolidated Financial Statements and Other Financial Information Dividend Policy.

***To the extent we pay dividends to our shareholders, we will have less capital available to meet our future liquidity needs.***

Our Board of Directors has adopted a dividend policy that provides for the payment of dividends to shareholders in amounts ranging from 10% to 20% of our annual consolidated net income. Our Board of Directors has also reserved the right to amend the dividend policy, or pay dividends in excess of the level circumscribed in the dividend policy. The aviation industry has cyclical characteristics, and many international airlines are currently experiencing difficulties meeting their liquidity needs. Also, our business strategy contemplates substantial growth over the next several years, and we expect such growth will require a great deal of liquidity. To the extent that we pay dividends in accordance with, or in excess of, our dividend policy, the money that we distribute to shareholders will not be available to us to fund future growth and meet our other liquidity needs.

***Our Articles of Incorporation impose ownership and control restrictions on our company which ensure that Panamanian nationals will continue to control us and that these restrictions operate to prevent any change of control or some transfers of ownership in order to comply with the Aviation Act and other bilateral restrictions.***

Under the Panamanian Aviation Act, as amended and interpreted to date, Panamanian nationals must exercise effective control over the operations of the airline and must maintain substantial ownership. These phrases are not defined in the Aviation Act itself and it is unclear how a Panamanian court would interpret them. The share ownership requirements and transfer restrictions contained in our Articles of Incorporation, as well as the dual-class structure of our voting capital stock are designed to ensure compliance with these ownership and control restrictions. See

Item 10B. Memorandum and Articles of Association Description of Capital Stock. These provisions of our Articles of Incorporation may prevent change of control transactions that might otherwise provide you with an opportunity to realize a premium on your investment in our Class A shares. They also ensure that Panamanians will continue to control all the decisions of our company for the foreseeable future.





**Table of Contents*****The protections afforded to minority shareholders in Panama are different from and more limited than those in the United States and may be more difficult to enforce.***

Under Panamanian law, the protections afforded to minority shareholders are different from, and much more limited than, those in the United States and some other Latin American countries. For example, the legal framework with respect to shareholder disputes is less developed under Panamanian law than under U.S. law and there are different procedural requirements for bringing shareholder lawsuits, including shareholder derivative suits. As a result, it may be more difficult for our minority shareholders to enforce their rights against us or our directors or controlling shareholder than it would be for shareholders of a U.S. company. In addition, Panamanian law does not afford minority shareholders as many protections for investors through corporate governance mechanisms as in the United States and provides no mandatory tender offer or similar protective mechanisms for minority shareholders in the event of a change in control. While our Articles of Incorporation provide limited rights to holders of our Class A shares to sell their shares at the same price as CIASA in the event that a sale of Class B shares by CIASA results in the purchaser having the right to elect a majority of our board, there are other change of control transactions in which holders of our Class A shares would not have the right to participate, including the sale of interests by a party that had previously acquired Class B shares from CIASA, the sale of interests by another party in conjunction with a sale by CIASA, the sale by CIASA of control to more than one party, or the sale of controlling interests in CIASA itself.

***Developments in Latin American countries and other emerging market countries may cause the market price of our Class A shares to decrease.***

The market value of securities issued by Panamanian companies may be affected to varying degrees by economic and market conditions in other countries, including other Latin American and emerging market countries. Although economic conditions in emerging market countries outside Latin America may differ significantly from economic conditions in Panama and Colombia or elsewhere in Latin America, investors' reactions to developments in these other countries may have an adverse effect on the market value of securities of Panamanian issuers or issuers with significant operations in Latin America. As a result of economic problems in various emerging market countries in the past (such as the Asian financial crisis of 1997, the Russian financial crisis of 1998 and the Argentine financial crisis in 2001), investors have viewed investments in emerging markets with heightened caution. Crises in other emerging market countries may hamper investor enthusiasm for securities of Panamanian issuers, including our shares, which could adversely affect the market price of our Class A shares.

**Item 4. Information on the Company****A. History and Development of the Company****General**

Copa was established in 1947 by a group of Panamanian investors and Pan American World Airways, which provided technical and economic assistance as well as capital. Initially, Copa served three domestic destinations in Panama with a fleet of three Douglas C-47 aircraft. In the 1960s, Copa began its international service with three weekly flights to cities in Costa Rica, Jamaica and Colombia using a small fleet of Avro 748s and Electra 188s. In 1971, Pan American World Airways sold its stake in Copa to a group of Panamanian investors who retained control of the airline until 1986. During the 1980s, Copa suspended its domestic service to focus on international flights.

In 1986, CIASA purchased 99% of Copa, which was controlled by the group of Panamanian shareholders who currently control CIASA. From 1992 until 1998, Copa was a part of a commercial alliance with Grupo TACA's network of Central American airline carriers. In 1997, together with Grupo TACA, Copa entered into a strategic alliance with American Airlines. After a year our alliance with American Airlines was terminated by mutual consent.

**Table of Contents**

On May 6, 1998, Copa Holdings, the holding company for Copa and related companies was incorporated as a *sociedad anónima* under the laws of Panama to facilitate the sale by CIASA of a 49% stake in Copa Holdings to Continental. In connection with Continental's investment, we entered into an extensive alliance agreement with Continental providing for code-sharing, joint marketing, technical exchanges and other cooperative initiatives between the airlines. At the time of our initial public offering in December 2005, Continental reduced its ownership of our total capital stock from 49% to approximately 27.3%. In a follow-on offering in June 2006, Continental further reduced its ownership of our total capital stock from 27.3% to 10.0%. In May 2008, Continental sold its remaining shares in the public market.

Since 1998, we have grown and modernized our fleet while improving customer service and reliability. Copa has expanded its fleet from 13 aircraft to 44 aircraft. In 1999, we received our first Boeing 737-700s, in 2003 we received our first Boeing 737-800s, and in 2005 we received our first Embraer 190. In the first quarter of 2005, we completed our fleet renovation program and discontinued use of our last Boeing 737-200s. During the second quarter of 2005, we purchased AeroRepública, the second-largest domestic air carrier in Colombia in terms of number of passengers carried each year since 2005. During this same period, we have expanded from 24 destinations in 18 countries to 45 destinations in 24 countries. We plan to continue our expansion, which includes increasing our fleet, over the next several years.

Our principal executive offices are located at Boulevard Costa del Este, Avenida Principal y Avenida de la Rotonda, Urbanización Costa del Este, Complejo Business Park, Torre Norte, Parque Lefevre, Panama City, Panama and our telephone number is +507 304-2677. The website of Copa is [www.copair.com](http://www.copair.com). AeroRepública maintains a website at [www.aerorepublica.com.co](http://www.aerorepublica.com.co). Information contained on, or accessible through, these websites is not incorporated by reference herein and shall not be considered part of this annual report. Our agent for service in the United States is Puglisi & Associates, 850 Library Avenue, Suite 204, Newark, Delaware 19715, and its telephone number is (302) 738-6680.

**Capital Expenditures**

During 2009, our capital expenditures were \$202.7 million, which consisted primarily of expenditures related to our purchase of one Boeing 737-800 aircraft, as well as to expenditures related to advance payments on aircraft purchase contracts. During 2008, our capital expenditures were \$215.9 million, which consisted primarily of expenditures related to our purchase of four Embraer 190 aircraft and one Boeing 737-800 aircraft, as well as to expenditures related to advance payments on aircraft purchase contracts. During 2007, our capital expenditures were \$366.1 million, which consisted primarily of expenditures related to our purchase of nine Embraer 190 aircraft and two Boeing 737-800 aircraft, as well as to expenditures related to advance payments on aircraft purchase contracts.

**B. Business Overview**

We are a leading Latin American provider of airline passenger and cargo service through our two principal operating subsidiaries, Copa and AeroRepública. Copa operates from its strategically located position in the Republic of Panama, and AeroRepública provides service primarily within Colombia complemented by international flights from various cities in Colombia to Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador. We currently operate a fleet of 58 aircraft, 32 Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and 26 Embraer 190 aircraft. We currently have firm orders, including purchase and lease commitments, for 26 Boeing 737-Next Generation, and purchase rights and options for up to eight additional Boeing 737-Next Generation and 11 additional Embraer 190s.

Copa currently offers approximately 152 daily scheduled flights among 45 destinations in 24 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean from its Panama City hub. Copa provides passengers with access to flights to more than 120 other destinations through codeshare arrangements with Continental pursuant to which each airline places its name and flight designation code on the other's flights. Through its Panama City hub, Copa is able to consolidate passenger traffic from multiple points to serve each destination effectively.

Copa operates a modern fleet of 32 Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and 13 Embraer 190 aircraft. To meet its growing capacity requirements, Copa has firm orders, including purchase and lease commitments, to accept delivery of 26 additional aircraft through 2015 and has purchase rights and options that, if exercised, would allow it to accept delivery of up to 14 additional aircraft through 2017. Copa's firm orders, including purchase and lease commitments, are for 26 additional Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft, and its purchase rights and options are for up to eight

Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and up to six Embraer 190s.

**Table of Contents**

Copa started its strategic alliance with Continental in 1998. Since then, it has conducted joint marketing and code-sharing arrangements, and participated in the award-winning OnePass frequent flyer loyalty program globally and on a co-branded basis in Latin America. We believe that Copa's co-branding and joint marketing activities with Continental have enhanced its brand in Latin America, and that the relationship with Continental has afforded it cost-related benefits, such as improving purchasing power in negotiations with aircraft vendors and insurers. Copa's alliance and related services agreements with Continental are in effect until 2015.

In 2007, Copa joined the SkyTeam global alliance as an Associate Member, in part due to the support and sponsorship of Continental. Continental Airlines left the SkyTeam Alliance and joined the Star Alliance effective the fourth quarter of 2009. Due to the long-standing alliance relationship with Continental, and in order to ensure Copa remains fully aligned with Continental on a number of important joint initiatives, Copa also exited the SkyTeam Alliance during the fourth quarter of 2009. Copa is considering various new alliance options to compliment its current portfolio of alliance partnerships.

During the second quarter of 2005, we purchased AeroRepública, the second-largest domestic carrier in Colombia in terms of number of passengers carried in 2005, which at the time provided point-to-point service among 11 cities in Colombia. AeroRepública currently operates a fleet of 13 Embraer 190. As part of its fleet expansion plan, AeroRepública has options to purchase up to five additional Embraer 190 aircraft through 2013.

Since January 2001, we have grown significantly and have established a track record of consistent profitability. Our total operating revenues have increased from \$290.4 million in 2001 to \$1.3 billion in 2009, while our operating margins have also increased from 8.6% to 17.8% over the same period.

**Our Strengths**

We believe our primary business strengths that have allowed us to compete successfully in the airline industry include the following:

*Our Hub of the Americas airport is strategically located.* We believe that Copa's base of operations at the geographically central location of Tocumen International Airport in Panama City, Panama provides convenient connections to our principal markets in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, enabling us to consolidate traffic to serve several destinations that do not generate enough demand to justify point-to-point service. Flights from Panama operate with few service disruptions due to weather, contributing to high completion factors and on-time performance. Tocumen International Airport's sea-level altitude allows our aircraft to operate without performance restrictions that they would be subject to at higher-altitude airports. We believe that Copa's hub in Panama allows us to benefit from Panama City's status as a center for financial services, shipping and commerce and from Panama's stable, dollar-based economy, free-trade zone and growing tourism.

*We focus on keeping our operating costs low.* In recent years, our low operating costs and efficiency have contributed significantly to our profitability. Our operating cost per available seat mile, excluding costs for fuel and fleet impairment charges, was 6.53 cents in 2005, 6.81 cents in 2006, 7.13 cents in 2007, 7.46 in 2008, and 7.36 in 2009. See Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects for a reconciliation of our operating cost per available seat mile when excluding costs for fuel and fleet impairment charges to our operating cost per available seat mile. We believe that our cost per available seat mile reflects our modern fleet, efficient operations and the competitive cost of labor in Panama.

*We operate a modern fleet.* Our fleet consists of modern Boeing 737-Next Generation and Embraer 190 aircraft equipped with winglets and other modern cost-saving and safety features. Over the next several years, we intend to enhance our modern fleet through the addition of at least 28 additional Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft. We believe that our modern fleet contributes to our on-time performance and high completion factor (percentage of scheduled flights not cancelled). We expect our Boeing 737-700s, 737-800s and Embraer 190s to continue offering substantial operational cost advantages in terms of fuel efficiency and maintenance costs. Since December 2007, AeroRepública has taken delivery of 13 Embraer 190 aircraft and as of February 2010 has completed its fleet modernization and expansion plan.



**Table of Contents**

*We believe Copa has a strong brand and a reputation for quality service.* We believe that the Copa brand is associated with value to passengers, providing world-class service and competitive pricing. For the year ended December 31, 2009, Copa Airlines' statistic for on-time performance was 87.6%, completion factor was 99.4% and baggage handling was 2.5 mishandled bags per 1000 passengers. Additionally, AeroRepública's statistics for on-time performance was 90.1%, completion factor was 99.7% and baggage handling was 1.1 mishandled bags per 1000 passengers. Our focus on customer service has helped to build passenger loyalty. We believe that our brand has also been enhanced through our relationship with Continental, including our joint marketing of the OnePass loyalty program in Latin America, the similarity of our aircraft livery and aircraft interiors and our participation in Continental's President's Club lounge program.

*Our management fosters a culture of teamwork and continuous improvement.* Our management team has been successful at creating a culture based on teamwork and focused on continuous improvement. Each of our employees has individual objectives based on corporate goals that serve as a basis for measuring performance. When corporate operational and financial targets are met, employees are eligible to receive bonuses according to our profit sharing program. See Item 6D. Employees. We also recognize outstanding performance of individual employees through company-wide recognition, one-time awards, special events and, in the case of our senior management, grants of restricted stock and stock options. Our goal-oriented culture and incentive programs have contributed to a motivated work force that is focused on satisfying customers, achieving efficiencies and growing profitability.

**Our Strategy**

Our goal is to continue to grow profitably and enhance our position as a leader in Latin American aviation by providing a combination of superior customer service, convenient schedules and competitive fares, while maintaining competitive costs. The key elements of our business strategy include the following:

*Expand our network by increasing frequencies and adding new destinations.* We believe that demand for air travel in Latin America is likely to expand in the next decade, and we intend to use our increasing fleet capacity to meet this growing demand. We intend to focus on expanding our operations by increasing flight frequencies on our most profitable routes and initiating service to new destinations. Copa's Panama City hub allows us to consolidate traffic and provide service to certain underserved markets, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean, and we intend to focus on providing new service to regional destinations that we believe best enhance the overall connectivity and profitability of our network.

*Continue to focus on keeping our costs low.* We seek to reduce our cost per available seat mile without sacrificing services valued by our customers as we execute our growth plans. Our goal is to maintain a modern fleet and to make effective use of our resources through efficient aircraft utilization and employee productivity. We intend to reduce our distribution costs by increasing direct sales, including internet and call center sales, as well as improving efficiency through technology and automated processes.

*Emphasize superior service and value to our customers.* We intend to continue to focus on satisfying our customers and earning their loyalty by providing a combination of superior service and competitive fares. We believe that continuing our operational success in keeping flights on time, reducing mishandled luggage and offering convenient schedules to attractive destinations will be essential to achieving this goal. We intend to continue to incentivize our employees to improve or maintain operating and service metrics relating to our customers' satisfaction by continuing our profit sharing plan and employee recognition programs and to reward customer loyalty with the popular OnePass frequent flyer program, upgrades and access to President's Club lounges.

*Capitalize on opportunities at AeroRepública.* We are seeking to enhance AeroRepública's profitability through a variety of initiatives, including, expanding its international routes, capitalizing on aircraft interchange with Copa, integrating its route network with Copa's and improving overall efficiency.

**Table of Contents****AeroRepública**

On April 22, 2005, we acquired an initial 85.6% equity ownership interest in AeroRepública which was followed by subsequent acquisitions increasing our total ownership interest in AeroRepública to 99.9% as of December 31, 2009. AeroRepública is the second largest passenger air carrier in Colombia in terms of revenue, with a market share of approximately 17% of the domestic traffic on principal routes in 2009 and approximately 1,430 employees.

Our goal is to achieve growth at AeroRepública, particularly in the business travelers segment. We believe that Copa's operational coordination with AeroRepública may create additional passenger traffic in our existing route network by providing Colombian passengers more convenient access to the international destinations served through our Panama hub.

We have centralized certain administrative functions common to Copa and AeroRepública. We have also implemented e-ticketing at AeroRepública, and since the first quarter of 2006, AeroRepública participates in the OnePass frequent flyer loyalty program.

**Industry**

In Latin America, the scheduled passenger service market consists of three principal groups of travelers: strictly leisure, business and travelers visiting friends and family. Leisure passengers and passengers visiting friends and family typically place a higher emphasis on lower fares, whereas business passengers typically place a higher emphasis on flight frequency, on-time performance, breadth of network and service enhancements, including loyalty programs and airport lounges.

According to data from the International Air Transport Association, or IATA, Latin America comprised approximately 7.6% of worldwide passengers flown in 2008, or 108 million passengers.

The Central American aviation market is dominated by international traffic. According to data from IATA, international traffic represented more than 81% of passengers carried and 90% of passenger miles flown in Central America in 2008. International passenger traffic is concentrated between North America and Central America. This segment represented 89% of international passengers flown in Central America in 2008, compared to 4% for passengers flown between Central America and South America and 7% for passengers flown between Central American countries. Total passengers flown on international flights in Central America grew by 3.2% in 2008, and load factors on international flights to and from Central America were 71% on average.

Domestic traffic and traffic within Central American countries represented approximately 19% of passengers carried and 10% of passenger miles flown in 2008. Average load factors on domestic flights and flights within Central America were 70% in 2008. The chart below details passenger traffic in 2008.

**2008 IATA Traffic Results<sup>(1)</sup>**

	<b>Passengers Carried</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Passenger Miles</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>ASMs</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Load Factor</b>
	<b>(Thousands)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>(Millions)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>(Million)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	
<b>International Scheduled Service</b>							
North America							
Central America	34,327	3.2%	50,046	3.1%	64,979	0.7%	77.0%
North America							
South America	10,699	5.0%	32,076	3.1%	41,080	3.0%	78.1%
Central America							
South America	1,539	8.5%	2,216	13.4%	3,080	8.6%	72.0%
Within Central							
America	2,543	0.2%	1,431	8.5%	2,218	13.8%	64.5%
Within South							
America	12,437	18.4%	11,231	14.9%	15,263	15.8%	73.6%
<b>Domestic Scheduled Service</b>							



Edgar Filing: Copa Holdings, S.A. - Form 20-F

Central America	8,693	-16.7%	5,636	-12.9%	8,085	-18.3%	69.7%
South America	38,119	5.3%	20,966	8.5%	29,858	10.3%	70.2%

(1) IATA passenger traffic data is not yet available for 2009.

**Table of Contents**

Panama serves as a hub for connecting passenger traffic between major markets in North, South, and Central America and the Caribbean. Accordingly, passenger traffic to and from Panama is significantly influenced by economic growth in surrounding regions. Major passenger traffic markets in North, South and Central America experienced either decline or weak growth in their GDP in 2009 on both an absolute and per capita basis, after strong growth years in 2007 and 2008. In 2009, real GDP increased by 1.8% in Panama and declined by 0.2% in Colombia, according to the International Monetary Fund's estimates.

	GDP		GDP per Capita
	2009 GDP Current Prices (US\$bn)	2009 Real GDP (% Growth)	2009 GDP per Capita Current Prices (US\$)
Brazil	1,482	-0.7%	7,737
Argentina	301	-2.5%	7,508
Chile	150	-1.7%	8,853
Mexico	866	-7.3%	8,040
Colombia	229	-0.2%	4,661
Panama	25	1.8%	7,145
USA	14,266	-2.7%	46,443

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2009; real GDP growth calculated in local currency

Panama has benefited from a stable economy with moderate inflation and steady GDP growth. According to International Monetary Fund estimates, from 2000 to 2009 Panama's real GDP grew at an average annual rate of 5.6% while inflation averaged 2.4% per year. The service sector represents approximately 75% of total real GDP in Panama, a higher percentage of GDP than the service sector represents in most other Latin American countries. The International Monetary Fund currently estimates Panama's population to be approximately 3.5 million in 2009, with the majority of the population concentrated in Panama City, where our hub at Tocumen International Airport is located. We believe the combination of a stable, service-oriented economy and steady population growth has helped drive our domestic origin and destination passenger traffic.

Domestic travel within Panama primarily consists of individuals visiting families as well as domestic and foreign tourist visiting the countryside. Most of this travel is done via ground transportation, and its main flow is to and from Panama City, where most of the economic activity and population is concentrated. Demand for domestic air travel is growing and relates primarily to leisure travel from foreign and local tourist. The market is served primarily by two local airlines, Air Panama and Aeroperlas, which operate turbo prop aircraft generally with less than 50 seats. These airlines offer limited international service and operate in the domestic terminal of Panama City, which is located 30 minutes by car from Tocumen International Airport.

Colombia is the third largest country in Latin America in terms of population, with a population of approximately 49.0 million in 2009 according to the International Monetary Fund, and has a land area of approximately 440,000 square miles. Colombia's GDP was approximately \$229 billion in 2009, and per capita income was approximately \$4.7 thousand (current prices) according to the International Monetary Fund. Colombia's geography is marked by the Andean mountains and an inadequate road and rail infrastructure, making air travel a convenient and attractive transportation alternative. Colombia shares a border with Panama, and for historic, cultural and business reasons it represents a significant market for many Panamanian businesses.

**Route Network and Schedules**

***Copa***

As of December 31, 2009, Copa provided regularly scheduled flights to 45 cities in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Substantially all of our Copa flights operate through our hub in Panama which allows us to transport passengers and cargo among a large number of destinations with service that is more frequent than if each route were served directly.

**Table of Contents**

We believe our hub-and-spoke model is the most efficient way for us to operate our business since most of the origination/destination city pairs we serve do not generate sufficient traffic to justify a point-to-point service. Also, since we serve many countries, it would be very difficult to obtain the bilateral route rights necessary to operate a competitive point-to-point system.

We schedule four banks of flights during the day, with flights timed to arrive at the hub at approximately the same time and to depart a short time later.

As a part of our strategic relationship with Continental, Copa provides flights through code-sharing arrangements to over 120 other destinations. Copa also provides flights through its tactical and regional code-sharing arrangements with AeroRepública, KLM, Gol, Aeroméxico and Gulfstream International Airlines.

In 2007, Copa joined the SkyTeam global alliance as an Associate Member, in part due to the support and sponsorship of Continental. Continental Airlines left the SkyTeam Alliance and joined the Star Alliance effective the fourth quarter of 2009. Due to the long-standing alliance relationship with Continental, and in order to ensure Copa remains fully aligned with Continental on a number of important joint initiatives, Copa also exited the SkyTeam Alliance during the fourth quarter of 2009. Copa is considering various new alliance options to compliment its current portfolio of alliance partnerships.

In addition to increasing the frequencies to destinations we already serve, Copa's business strategy is also focused on adding new destinations across Latin America, the Caribbean and North America in order to increase the attractiveness of our Hub of the Americas at Tocumen International Airport hub for intra-American traffic. We currently plan to introduce new destinations and to increase frequencies to many of the destinations that Copa currently serves. Our Embraer 190 aircraft, together with the Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft, allows us to improve our service by increasing frequencies and service to new destinations with the right-sized aircraft.

Our plans to introduce new destinations and increase frequencies depend on the allocation of route rights, a process over which we do not have direct influence. Route rights are allocated through negotiations between the government of Panama and the governments of countries to which we intend to increase flights. If we are unable to obtain route rights, we will exercise the flexibility within our route network to re-allocate capacity as appropriate.

We do not currently provide any domestic service in the Republic of Panama, choosing instead to focus entirely on international traffic. The following table shows our revenue generated in each of our major operating regions.

**Revenue by Region**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
North America(1)	18.9%	14.4%	14.4%
South America	46.1%	55.4%	57.2%
Central America(2)	26.2%	23.7%	21.7%
Caribbean(3)	8.8%	6.6%	6.6%

(1) The United States, Canada and Mexico.

(2) Includes Panama.

(3) Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad

and Tobago

**Table of Contents*****AeroRepública***

AeroRepública currently provides scheduled service to the following cities in Colombia, Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador:

<b>Destinations Served</b>	<b>Date Service Commenced</b>
Barranquilla	Jun 1995
Bogotá	Jun 1993
Bucaramanga	May 1995
Cali	Jun 1993
Caracas, Venezuela	May 2008
Cartagena	Jun 1993
Cúcuta	Nov 2005
Leticia	Nov 1993
Medellín	Oct 1994
Montería	Jul 1994
Panama City, Panama	Dec 2005
Pereira	Mar 2003
San Andrés	Jun 1993
Santa Marta	Jun 1993
Quito, Ecuador	Dec 2009

In addition to the destinations described above, AeroRepública has periodically operated charter flights to Margarita Island, Venezuela; Havana, Cuba; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Aruba.

Since its acquisition, AeroRepública has been granted the authorization to fly regular services to Panama City from Bogota, Cali, Medellín, Bucaramanga, Pereira, Barranquilla and Cartagena, Colombia. As a result, AeroRepública has added daily flights to Panama City from Bogota, Medellin, and Cali; four frequencies per week from Bucaramanga and Pereira, as well as, three frequencies per week from Cartagena and Barranquilla. In March 2007, AeroRepública was granted authorization to operate a second frequency from Bogotá to Panama City. AeroRepública was also granted the authorization to fly four frequencies per week from Medellín to Caracas and four frequencies per week from Cartagena to Caracas.

During 2009, AeroRepública launched its third international destination, Quito, Ecuador. AeroRepública was also granted the authorization to fly to Guayaquil, Ecuador and San Jose, Costa Rica.

In addition to code-sharing with Copa, AeroRepública is leveraging Copa's technology and relationships to increase international traffic with other international carriers. Colombia has open-skies agreements with the Andean Pact (Comunidad Andina) nations of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

**Airline Operations*****Passenger Operations***

Passenger revenue accounted for approximately \$756.4 million in 2007, \$973.2 million in 2008, and \$964.3 million in 2009 representing 93.8%, 93.9% and 94.1%, respectively, of Copa's total revenues, all earned from international routes. Leisure traffic, which makes up close to half of Copa's total traffic, tends to coincide with holidays, school vacations and cultural events and peaks in July and August and again in December and January. Despite these seasonal variations, Copa's overall traffic pattern is relatively stable due to the constant influx of business travelers. Approximately half of Copa passengers regard Panama City as their destination or origination point, and most of the remaining passengers pass through Panama City in transit to other points on our route network.

Passenger revenue accounted for approximately \$210.6 million in 2007, \$244.1 million in 2008, and \$222.4 million in 2009 representing 93.2%, 92.1% and 92.5%, respectively, of AeroRepública's total revenues. The majority of AeroRepública's customers are leisure travelers and travelers visiting friends and family, and traffic is heaviest during the vacation months of July, August and the holiday season in December.



**Table of Contents*****Cargo Operations***

In addition to our passenger service, we make efficient use of extra capacity in the belly of our aircraft by carrying cargo. Copa's cargo business generated revenues of approximately \$34.7 million in 2007, \$41.5 million in 2008 and \$35.6 million in 2009, representing 4.3%, 4.0% and 3.5%, respectively, of Copa's operating revenues. We primarily move our cargo in the belly of our aircraft, however, we also wet-lease and charter freighter capacity when necessary to meet our cargo customers' needs. In 2009, our cargo business consisted of approximately 81.0% in freight; 15.6% in courier; and 3.4% in mail service.

**Pricing and Revenue Management*****Copa***

Copa has designed its fare structure to balance its load factors and yields in a way that it believes will maximize profits on its flights. Copa also maintains revenue management policies and procedures that are intended to maximize total revenues, while remaining generally competitive with those of our major competitors.

Copa charges slightly more for tickets on higher-demand routes, tickets purchased on short notice and other itineraries suggesting a passenger would be willing to pay a premium. This represents strong value to Copa's business customers, who can count on competitive rates when flying with Copa. The number of seats Copa offers at each fare level in each market results from a continual process of analysis and forecasting. Past booking history, seasonality, the effects of competition and current booking trends are used to forecast demand. Current fares and knowledge of upcoming events at destinations that will affect traffic volumes are included in Copa's forecasting model to arrive at optimal seat allocations for its fares on specific routes. Copa uses a combination of approaches, taking into account yields, flight load factors and effects on load factors of continuing traffic, depending on the characteristics of the markets served, to arrive at a strategy for achieving the best possible revenue per available seat mile, balancing the average fare charged against the corresponding effect on our load factors. In 2005, Copa replaced its revenue management software with Airmax, a more sophisticated revenue management system designed by Sabre.

***AeroRepública***

Various improvements have been made to AeroRepública's revenue management, pricing capabilities and systems since its acquisition in 2005. During the fourth quarter of 2007, for example, we completed the implementation of the Airmax revenue management system at AeroRepública.

**Relationship with Continental Airlines**

It is common practice in the commercial aviation industry for airlines to develop marketing and commercial alliances with other carriers in order to offer a more complete and seamless travel experience to passengers. These alliances typically yield certain conveniences such as code-sharing, frequent flyer reciprocity, and, where permitted, coordinated scheduling of flights as well as additional joint marketing activities.

In May 1998, Copa Airlines and Continental Airlines entered into a comprehensive alliance agreement, encompassing a broad array of activities such as Copa's participation in Continental's frequent flyer programs and VIP lounge; as well as agreements in other areas, such as trademarks. These agreements were initially signed for a period of ten years. In November 2005, Copa and Continental amended and restated these agreements and extended their term through the year 2015.

As a result of the Copa-Continental alliance, we have benefited from Continental's expertise and experience over the past decade. Copa has, for example, fully adopted Continental's OnePass frequent flyer program and rolled out a co-branded joint product in much of Latin America, enabling us to develop brand loyalty among our travelers. The co-branding of the OnePass loyalty programs has helped to leverage the brand recognition that Continental already enjoyed across Latin America and enables the two airlines to compete more effectively against regional competitors such as the recently merged Avianca-Taca and the oneworld alliance represented by American Airlines and LAN Airlines. We also share Continental's Sceptre inventory management software, which allows Copa to pool spare parts with the larger airline and to rely on Continental to provide engineering support for maintenance projects. We have also been able to take advantage of Continental's purchasing power and negotiate more competitive rates for spare parts and third-party maintenance work. In addition to the Sceptre system, we have implemented several important information technology systems, such as the SHARES computer reservation system in an effort to maintain commonality with Continental.





**Table of Contents**

Building on the existing track-record of successful alliance accomplishments, Copa and Continental have integrated, where appropriate, AeroRepública in aspects of the existing alliance cooperation, beginning with AeroRepública's participation in the OnePass frequent flyer loyalty program.

The Copa Continental alliance enjoys antitrust immunity in the United States which allows the carriers to coordinate pricing, scheduling and joint marketing initiatives.

In 2007, Copa joined the SkyTeam global alliance as an Associate Member, in part due to the support and sponsorship of Continental. Continental Airlines left the SkyTeam Alliance and joined the Star Alliance effective the fourth quarter of 2009. Due to the long-standing alliance relationship with Continental, and in order to ensure Copa remains fully aligned with Continental on a number of important joint initiatives, Copa also exited the SkyTeam Alliance during the fourth quarter of 2009. Copa is considering various new alliance options to compliment its current portfolio of alliance partnerships.

**Sales, Marketing and Distribution**

***Copa***

*Sales and Distribution.* Approximately 69% of sales during 2009 were completed through travel agents and other airlines while approximately 31% were direct sales via our city ticket offices (CTOs), call centers, airport counters or website. Travel agents receive base commissions, not including back-end incentive payments, ranging from 0% to 6% depending on the country. The weighted average rate for these commissions during 2009 was 2.98%. In recent years, base commissions have decreased significantly in most markets as more efficient back-end incentive programs have been implemented to reward selected travel agencies that exceed their sales targets.

Travel agents obtain airline travel information and issue airline tickets through global distribution systems, or GDSs, that enable them to make reservations on flights from a large number of airlines. GDSs are also used by travel agents to make hotel and car rental reservations. Copa participates actively in all major international GDSs, including SABRE, Amadeus, Galileo and Worldspan. In return for access to these systems, Copa pays transaction fees that are generally based on the number of reservations booked through each system.

Copa has a sales and marketing network consisting of 89 domestic and international ticket offices, including airport and city ticket offices. Copa has 33 CTOs co-branded with Continental and 29 CTOs co-branded with AeroRepública. During the year ended December 31, 2009, approximately 17% and 5% of its sales were booked through its ticket counters and call center, respectively.

The call center that operates Copa's reservations and sales services handles calls from Panama as well as most other countries to which Copa flies. Such centralization has resulted in a significant increase in telephone sales as it efficiently allowed for improvements in service levels such as 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week service, in three different languages.

We encourage the use of direct Internet bookings by our customers because it is our most efficient distribution channel. In the third quarter of 2009, Copa introduced a new booking engine in order to offer more functionality to customers and further reduce distribution costs; 10% of its 2009 sales were made via the website. Copa's goal is to channel more of its total sales through the website.

**Table of Contents**

*Advertising and Promotional Activities.* Our advertising and promotional activities include the use of television, print, radio and billboards, as well as targeted public relation events in the cities where we fly. We believe that the corporate traveler is an important part of our business, and we particularly promote our service to these customers by conveying the reliability, convenience and consistency of our service and offering value-added services such as convention and conference travel arrangements, as well as our Business Rewards loyalty program for our frequent corporate travelers. We also promote package deals among the destinations where we fly through combined efforts with selected hotels and travel agencies.

***AeroRepública***

AeroRepública successfully implemented the OnePass frequent flyer program in March 2006. AeroRepública also implemented e-ticket in January 2006 and e-ticket interline with Copa and Amadeus during the second quarter of 2006, complementing its call center, 24 city ticket offices and 12 airport ticket offices. In February 2007, AeroRepública was brought into Copa's SHARES reservations and check-in platform providing significant benefits in terms of costs and functionality.

**Competition**

We face intense competition throughout our route network. Overall airline industry profit margins are low and industry earnings are volatile. Airlines compete in the areas of pricing, scheduling (frequency and flight times), on-time performance, frequent flyer programs and other services. Copa competes with a number of other airlines that currently serve the routes on which we operate, including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Mexicana, and the newly combined Avianca-Taca. Some of our competitors, such as American Airlines, have larger customer bases and greater brand recognition in the markets we serve outside Panama, and some of our competitors have significantly greater financial and marketing resources than we have. Airlines based in other countries may also receive subsidies, tax incentives or other state aid from their respective governments, which are not provided by the Panamanian government. The commencement of, or increase in, service on the routes we serve by existing or new carriers could negatively impact our operating results. Likewise, competitors' service on routes that we are targeting for expansion may make those expansion plans less attractive. We must constantly react to changes in prices and services offered by our competitors to remain competitive.

Traditional hub-and-spoke carriers in the United States and Europe have in recent years faced substantial and increasing competitive pressure from low-cost carriers offering discounted fares. The low-cost carriers' operations are typically characterized by point-to-point route networks focusing on the highest demand city pairs, high aircraft utilization, single class service and fewer in-flight amenities. As evidenced by the operations of Gol in Brazil and other South American countries and several new low-cost carriers which have recently launched service, the low-cost carrier business model appears to be gaining acceptance in the Latin American aviation industry, and we may face new and substantial competition from low-cost carriers in the future.

The main sources of competition to Copa, and our alliance with Continental, come from the newly combined Avianca-Taca and American Airlines, the U.S. airline with the largest Latin American route network.

Avianca-Taca is the resulting entity from a merger consummated on February 2, 2010 between two of our competitors, Avianca and Grupo Taca. Avianca-Taca will be the fourth largest airline group in Latin America in terms of annual revenues. We cannot predict whether this newly combined entity will prove successful or its impact on our financial results or operations.

Taca's, part of newly combined Avianca-Taca, strategy has been to develop hubs at San Jose, Costa Rica, San Salvador, El Salvador and Lima, Peru, each of which competes with Copa's hub at Tocumen International Airport. Taca primarily operates a fleet of Airbus A320 family aircraft. We have routes to several of the Central American and Caribbean countries where Taca has established service, including Guatemala City, Havana, Managua, San Jose, San Salvador, San Pedro Sula, Santo Domingo and Tegucigalpa.

American Airlines also offers significant competition. American Airlines attracts strong brand recognition throughout the Americas and is able to attract brand loyalty through its AAdvantage frequent flyer program. American Airlines competes with us through its hubs at Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico. American Airlines was a founding member of the Oneworld global marketing alliance.



**Table of Contents**

LAN Airlines is another Oneworld alliance member that offers service to approximately 60 destinations, primarily in Latin America. LAN Airlines is comprised of LAN Chile, LAN Peru, LAN Ecuador, LAN Argentina, LAN Cargo and LAN Express. While we do not compete directly with LAN Airlines on many of our current routes, LAN Airlines has grown rapidly over the past several years and may become a significant competitor in the future.

Copa has significant presence in destinations where local airlines are less viable and competitive, such as the Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo, Santiago de los Caballeros and Punta Cana), Ecuador (Quito and Guayaquil) and Venezuela (Caracas, Maracaibo and Valencia). Copa has also established itself as a significant player on traffic to and from Colombia, with strong market share on routes to and from Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali, Cartagena, Medellín and San Andrés.

AeroRepública competes more directly with Avianca, part of the newly combined Avianca-Taca, and other Colombian carriers in the Colombian domestic market. Avianca emerged from U.S. bankruptcy protection in 2004, after being purchased by Brazil's Synergy Group. Avianca has announced its intention to transform Bogotá into a major international aviation hub which, if successful, will compete directly with our hub at Tocumen International Airport. Avianca recently commenced a fleet renovation project which includes the incorporation of the Boeing 787 and the Airbus A330 wide body aircraft, as well as Airbus A320 and A319 narrow body aircraft.

We cannot predict whether Avianca will become more competitive in the future, if its increased operations from Bogotá will prove successful or the impact of the merger on our financial results of operations. We also experience competition from other Colombian carriers such as Aerolíneas de Antioquia, the state-owned airline Satena, Easy Fly and Aires, which has recently expanded aggressively. Airlines that seek to compete in the Colombian air transportation market face substantial barriers to entry, as the Colombian government requires an airline to operate at least five aircraft and comply with extensive filing and certification requirements before it becomes eligible to receive domestic route rights on certain Colombian routes between major cities. In addition, the number of air carriers offering service on any route is currently regulated by the Colombian Aviation Authority.

With respect to our cargo operations, we will continue to face competition from all of the major airfreight companies, most notably DHL, which has a cargo hub operation at Tocumen International Airport.

**Aircraft****Copa**

As of December 31, 2009, Copa operated a fleet consisting of 42 aircraft, including 20 Boeing 737-700 Next Generation aircraft, nine Boeing 737-800 Next Generation aircraft and 13 Embraer 190 aircraft. As of December 31, 2009, Copa had firm orders, including purchase and lease commitments, for 28 additional Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft. Copa also has options for an additional six Embraer 190s and purchase rights and options for an additional eight Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft.

The current composition of the Copa fleet as of December 31, 2009 is more fully described below:

	Number of Aircraft			Average Term of Lease Remaining	Average Age	Seating Capacity
	Total	Owned	Leased	(Years)	(Years)	
Boeing 737-700	20	14	6	2.2	7.5	124
Boeing 737-800	9	7	2	5.3	3.3	160
Embraer 190	13	13			2.6	94
Total	42	34	8	3.0	5.1	



**Table of Contents**

We expect our Copa fleet to continue to center on the Boeing 737-700 model, although we expect to continue to add Boeing 737-800s to our fleet to cover high-demand routes and Embraer 190s to serve underserved markets as well as fly additional frequencies where we believe excess demand exists. The table below describes the expected size of our Copa fleet at the end of each year set forth below, assuming delivery of all aircraft for which we currently have firm orders but not taking into account any aircraft for which we have purchase rights and options:

<b>Aircraft Type</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
737-700(1)	20	18	13	13	13
737-800(2)	17	22	27	31	35
Embraer 190(3)	11	11	11	11	11
<b>Total Fleet</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>59</b>

(1) Assumes the return of leased aircraft upon expiration of lease contracts.

(2) We have the flexibility to choose between the Boeing 737-700 or the Boeing 737-800 aircraft for most of the 737-700 aircraft deliveries.

(3) Assumes that two additional Embraer 190 aircraft from Copa are transferred to AeroRepublica during 2010.

The Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft currently in our Copa fleet are fuel-efficient and suit our operations well for the following reasons:

They have simplified maintenance procedures.

They require just one type of standardized training for our crews.

They have one of the lowest operating costs in their class.

Our focus on profitable operations means that we periodically review our fleet composition. As a result, our fleet composition changes over time when we conclude that adding other types of aircraft will help us achieve this goal. The introduction of any new type of aircraft to our fleet is only done if, after careful consideration, we determine that such a step will improve our profitability. In line with this philosophy, after conducting a careful cost-benefit analysis, we added the Embraer 190 aircraft because its combination of smaller size and highly efficient operating

characteristics made it the ideal aircraft to serve new mid-sized markets and to increase frequency to existing destinations. The Embraer 190 incorporates advanced design features, such as integrated avionics, fly-by-wire flight controls, and efficient CF34-10 engines made by General Electric. The Embraer E190 has a range of approximately 2,000 nautical miles enabling it to fly to a wide range of destinations from short-haul to certain medium-haul destinations. We have configured Copa's Embraer aircraft with a business class section similar to the business class section we have on our Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft.

Through several special purpose vehicles, we currently have beneficial ownership of 40 of our aircraft, including 19 Embraer 190s. In addition, we lease six of our Boeing 737-700s and two of our Boeing 737-800s under long-term operating lease agreements that have an average remaining term of 3.0 years. Leasing some of our aircraft provides us with flexibility to change our fleet composition if we consider it to be in our best interests to do so. We make monthly rental payments, some of which are based on floating rates, but are not required to make termination payments at the end of the lease. Currently, we do not have purchase options in any of our lease agreements. Under our operating lease agreements, we are required in some cases to maintain maintenance reserve accounts and in other cases to make supplemental rent payments at the end of the lease that are calculated with reference to the aircraft's maintenance schedule. In either case, we must return the aircraft in the agreed upon condition at the end of the lease term. Title to the aircraft remains with the lessor. We are responsible for the maintenance, servicing, insurance, repair and overhaul of the aircraft during the term of the lease.

To better serve the growing number of business travelers, we introduced business class (*Clase Ejecutiva*) in November of 1998. Our business class service features twelve luxury seats in the Boeing 737-700s with a 38-inch pitch, upgraded meal service, special check-in desks, bonus mileage for full-fare business class passengers and access to VIP lounges. Our Boeing 737-800s are currently configured with 14 business class seats. In 2010, we plan to reconfigure our Boeing 737-800 aircraft by adding two additional business class seats and three additional economy seats, increasing the total number of seats from 155 to 160. Our Embraer 190s have 10 business class seats in a three abreast configuration and 38-inch pitch.



**Table of Contents**

Each of our Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft is powered by two CFM International Model CFM 56-7B engines. Each of our Embraer 190 aircraft is powered by two CF34-10 engines made by General Electric. We currently have seven spare engines for service replacements and for periodic rotation through our fleet.

***AeroRepública***

As of December 31, 2009, AeroRepública s operated a fleet of one MD-83, six owned Embraer 190 and seven leased Embraer 190, with an average age of 3.2 years. All of AeroRepública s fleet is configured as a single class, with the MD aircraft having a capacity of 157 seats and the Embraer 190 fleet having a capacity of 106 seats. AeroRepública has options to purchase up to five additional Embraer 190 aircraft through 2013.

**Maintenance**

***Copa***

The maintenance performed on our Copa aircraft can be divided into two general categories: line and heavy maintenance. Line maintenance consists of routine, scheduled maintenance checks on our aircraft, including pre-flight, daily and overnight checks, A-checks and any diagnostics and routine repairs. Copa s line maintenance is performed by Copa s own technicians at our base in Panama and at stations outside Panama by Copa employees or third-party contractors. Heavy maintenance consists of more complex inspections and overhauls, including C-checks, and servicing of the aircraft that cannot be accomplished during an overnight visit. Maintenance checks are performed as defined by the aircraft manufacturer. These checks are based on the number of hours or calendar months flown. We have contract with certified outside maintenance providers, principally with Panama Aerospace Engineering, a subsidiary of Singapore Aerospace Technologies, which is certified as an authorized repair station by the FAA and the AAC, for heavy aircraft maintenance services. Copa also has an exclusive long-term contract with GE Engines whereby they will perform maintenance on all of its CFM-56 engines. There were 17 heavy maintenance events in 2009. When possible, Copa attempts to schedule heavy maintenance during its lower-demand seasons in order to maximize productive use of its aircraft.

Copa employs 249 maintenance professionals, including engineers, supervisors, technicians and mechanics, who perform maintenance in accordance with maintenance programs that are established by the manufacturer and approved and certified by international aviation authorities. Every mechanic is trained in factory procedures and goes through our own rigorous in-house training program. Every mechanic is licensed by the AAC and approximately 33 of our maintenance Professionals are also licensed by the FAA. Copa s safety and maintenance procedures are reviewed and periodically audited by the aircraft manufacturer, the AAC, the FAA, IATA and, to a lesser extent, every foreign country to which its flies. Copa s maintenance facility at Tocumen International Airport has been certified by the FAA as an approved repair station, and twice a year the FAA inspects its facilities to validate and renew the certification. Copa s aircraft are initially covered by warranties that have a term of four years, resulting in lower maintenance expenses during the period of coverage. All of Copa s mechanics are trained to perform line maintenance on both the Boeing 737-Next Generation and Embraer 190s aircraft.

***AeroRepública***

Line maintenance for AeroRepública s aircraft is primarily performed by AeroRepública s in-house maintenance staff, while C-checks on its fleet are performed by FAA certified third-party aviation maintenance companies. All of AeroRepública s maintenance and safety procedures are performed according to Boeing standards (certified by the FAA), and certified by the Aeronautica Civil of Colombia and BVQi, the institute that issues ISO (International Organization for Standardization) quality certificates. All of AeroRepública s maintenance personnel are licensed by the Aeronautica Civil of Colombia. In December 2007, AeroRepública received its IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) compliance certification.

**Table of Contents**

**Safety**

We place a high priority on providing safe and reliable air service. Copa has uniform safety standards and safety-related training programs that cover all of its operations. In particular, Copa periodically evaluates the skills, experience and safety records of its pilots in order to maintain strict control over the quality of its pilot crews. All of Copa's pilots participate in training programs, some of which are sponsored by aircraft manufacturers, and all are required to undergo recurrent training two times per year. We have a full time program of Flight Data Analysis (FDA) wherein the flight data from every Copa flight is analyzed for safety or technical anomalies. During 2007, Copa successfully completed its second IOSA.

On July 17, 2007, one of our AeroRepública Embraer 190s overran a wet runway at Santa Marta, Colombia. As a result of this incident, six people suffered minor injuries and the aircraft sustained damages that caused its permanent removal from service.

The FAA periodically audits the aviation regulatory authorities of other countries. As a result of their investigation, each country is given an International Aviation Safety Assessment, or IASA, rating. Panama is currently rated as Category 1, which indicates a strong level of confidence in the safety regulation of the AAC.

**Airport Facilities**

We believe that our hub at Panama City's Tocumen International Airport (PTY) is an excellent base of operations for the following reasons:

Panama's consistently temperate climate is ideal for airport operations. For example, in recent years Tocumen was closed and unavailable for flight operations for a total of less than two hours per year on average

Tocumen is the only airport in Central America with two operational runways. Also unlike some other regional airports, consistent modernization and growth of our hub has kept pace with our needs. The Tocumen airport recently began an expansion project which is scheduled to be completed in 2011, and there is ample room for further expansion.

Panama's central and sea level location provides a very efficient base to operate our narrow body fleet, efficiently serving short and long-haul destinations in Central, North and South America.

Travelers can generally make connections easily through Tocumen because of its manageable size and Panama's policies accommodating in-transit passengers.

Tocumen International Airport is operated by an independent corporate entity established by the government, where stakeholders have a say in the operation and development of the airport. The law that created this entity also provided for a significant portion of revenues generated at Tocumen to be used for airport expansion and improvements. We do not have any formal, written agreements with the airport management that govern access fees, landing rights or allocation of terminal gates. We rely upon our good working relationship with the airport's management and the Panamanian government to ensure that we have access to the airport resources we need at prices that are reasonable. We worked closely with the airport's management and consulted with the IATA infrastructure group to provide plans and guidance for Phase I of an airport expansion that provided eight new gate positions with jet bridges, six new remote parking positions, expanded retail areas and improved the baggage-handling facilities. The government authorized \$70 million to cover the costs of this expansion. Work on Phase I was completed in the third quarter of 2006. Phase II of the expansion which will add 12 additional jet bridge gates has begun and is expected to be completed in 2011.

We provide all of our own ground services and handling of passengers and cargo at Tocumen International Airport. In addition, we provide services to several of the principal foreign airlines that operate at Tocumen. At most of the foreign airports where we operate, foreign airport services companies provide all of our support services other than sales, counter services and some minor maintenance.

**Table of Contents**

We lease a variety of facilities at Tocumen, including our maintenance hangar and our operations facilities in the airport terminal. From our System Operations Control Center located within our corporate headquarters building, we dispatch, track and direct our aircraft throughout the hemisphere and respond to operational contingencies as necessary. We generally cooperate with the airport authority to modify the lease terms as necessary to account for capital improvements and expansion plans. Currently, our elite passengers have access to a President's Club at the airport, which is jointly operated with Continental. The President's Club was recently expanded to approximately one and half times its current size, utilizing space made available during the recent expansion of the terminal.

**Fuel**

Fuel costs are extremely volatile, as they are subject to many global economic, geopolitical, weather, environmental and other factors that we can neither control nor accurately predict. Due to its inherent volatility, aircraft fuel has historically been our most unpredictable unit cost. As a result of the world's economic condition, demand for oil has surged, especially in fast-growing China. This increase in demand coupled with limited refinery capacity and instability in oil-exporting countries has led to a rapid increase in prices.

	<b>Aircraft Fuel Data</b>				
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<i>Copa</i>					
Average price per gallon of jet fuel into plane (excluding hedge) (in U.S. dollars)	\$ 1.87	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.29	\$ 3.21	\$ 1.84
Gallons consumed (in thousands)	58,924	70,770	85,463	100,266	112,401
Available seat miles (in millions)	4,409	5,239	6,298	7,342	8,319
Gallons per ASM (in hundredths)	1.34	1.35	1.36	1.37	1.35
<i>AeroRepública(1)</i>					
Average price per gallon of jet fuel into plane (excluding hedge) (in U.S. dollars)	\$ 2.12	\$ 2.24	\$ 2.43	\$ 3.49	\$ 1.97
Gallons consumed (in thousands)	17,887	28,321	26,984	24,798	25,617
Available seat miles (in millions)	950	1,627	1,620	1,503	1,592
Gallons per ASM (in hundredths)	1.88	1.74	1.67	1.65	1.61

(1) Since April 22, 2005.

Since 2002, aircraft fuel prices have been rising. From 2004 to 2009, the average price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, a benchmark widely used for crude oil prices that is measured in barrels and quoted in U.S. dollars, increased by 50% from \$41.47 per barrel to \$62.07 per barrel. During 2008, fuel prices experienced significant volatility, with West Texas Intermediate crude prices reaching the record price of approximately \$145 per barrel in July. Prices then dropped below \$40 per barrel at the beginning of 2009, and then stabilized at approximately \$70 per barrel in the second half of 2009. While prices have significantly decreased since their peak in 2008, we believe that fuel prices are likely to increase in the future. In 2009, we hedged 31% of our requirements through the use of jet fuel and crude oil swap contracts, and crude oil zero-cost collars. We have hedged approximately 24% and 11% of our anticipated fuel needs for 2010 and 2011, respectively. We will continue to evaluate various hedging strategies, and we may enter into additional hedging agreements in the future. Any prolonged increase in the price of jet fuel will likely materially and negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operation. To date, we have managed to offset some of the increases in fuel prices with higher load factors, fuel surcharges and fare increases. In addition, our relative young, winglet-equipped fleet also helps us mitigate the impact of higher fuel prices.

**Insurance**

We maintain passenger liability insurance in an amount consistent with industry practice, and we insure our aircraft against losses and damages on an "all risks" basis. We have obtained all insurance coverage required by the terms of our leasing and financing agreements. We believe our insurance coverage is consistent with airline industry standards and appropriate to protect us from material loss in light of the activities we conduct. No assurance can be given, however, that the amount of insurance we carry will be sufficient to protect us from material losses. We have negotiated low premiums on our Copa insurance policies by leveraging the purchasing power of our alliance partner, Continental. Copa's hull and liability operations are insured under Continental's insurance policy. We maintain separate insurance policies for our AeroRepública operations.

**Table of Contents****Environmental**

Our operations are covered by various local, national, and international environmental regulations. These regulations cover, among other things, emissions into the atmosphere, disposal of solid waste and aqueous effluents, aircraft noise and other activities that result from the operation of aircraft. Our aircraft comply with all environmental standards applicable to their operations as described in this annual report. We conducted, through a consulting firm, an environmental audit of our hangar and support facilities at the Tocumen International Airport to determine what, if any, measures we need to implement in order to satisfy the Panamanian effluent standards and the General Environmental Law at those facilities. We plan to implement all measures required for compliance based on our environmental audit. Additionally, the Panamanian Civil Aviation Code (RAC) contains certain environmental provisions that are similar to those set forth in the General Environmental Law regarding effluents, although such provisions do not contain compliance grace periods. In the event the AAC determines that our facilities do not currently meet the RAC standards, we could be subject to a fine. The measures that will be implemented pursuant to the environmental audit will also satisfy the requirements of the RAC. We have installed a water treatment plant to serve part of our facilities and have formally submitted an Environmental Remediation and Management Program (PAMA) in order to seek approval thereof by the Environmental Authority. Such program sets forth an environmental compliance schedule. While we do not believe that compliance with these regulations will expose us to material expenditures, compliance with these or other environmental regulations, whether new or existing, that may be applicable to us in the future could increase our costs. In addition, failure to comply with these regulations could adversely affect us in a variety of ways, including adverse effects on our reputation.

**Regulation*****Panama***

*Authorization and Licenses.* Panamanian law requires airlines providing commercial services in Panama to hold an Operation Certificate and an Air Transportation License/Certificate issued by the AAC. The Air Transportation Certificate specifies the routes, equipment used, capacity, and the frequency of flights. This certificate must be updated every time Copa acquires new aircraft, or when routes and frequencies to a particular destination are modified.

Panamanian law also requires that the aircraft operated by Copa be registered with the Panamanian National Aviation Registrar kept by the AAC, and that the Panamanian National Aviation Authority certify the airworthiness of each aircraft in Copa's fleet. Copa's aircraft must be re-certified every year. This requirement does not apply to AeroRepública's aircraft which are registered in Colombia.

The Panamanian government does not have an equity interest in our company. Bilateral agreements signed by the Panamanian government have protected our operational position and route network, allowing us to have in Panama a significant hub to transport intraregion traffic within and between the Americas and the Caribbean. All international fares are filed and technically subject to the approval of the Panamanian government. Historically, we have been able to modify ticket prices on a daily basis to respond to market conditions. Our status as a private carrier means that we are not required under Panamanian law to serve any particular route and are free to withdraw service from any of the routes we currently serve as we see fit, subject to bilateral agreements. We are also free to determine the frequency of service we offer across our route network without any minimum frequencies imposed by the Panamanian authorities.

*Safety Assessment.* In May 2001, the FAA downgraded Panama's IASA rating from a Category 1 rating to a Category 2 rating due to alleged deficiencies in Panamanian air safety standards and the AAC's capacity to provide regulatory oversight. We collaborated with the Panamanian government to restore the country's Category 1 status, a status that is important both to the operations of Copa as an airline and the general perception of Panama as a country, particularly in view of the fact that the major initiative is to boost tourism in Panama. The country's Category 1 status was restored in April 2004.

**Table of Contents**

*Ownership Requirements.* The most significant restriction on our company imposed by the Panamanian Aviation Act, as amended and interpreted to date, is that Panamanian nationals must exercise effective control over the operations of the airline and must maintain substantial ownership. These phrases are not defined in the Aviation Act itself and it is unclear how a Panamanian court would interpret them. The share ownership requirements and transfer restrictions contained in our Articles of Incorporation, as well as the structure of our capital stock described under the caption

Description of Capital Stock, are designed to ensure compliance with these ownership and control restrictions created by the Aviation Act. While we believe that our ownership structure complies with the ownership and control restrictions of the Aviation Act as interpreted by a recent decree by the Executive Branch, we cannot assure you that a Panamanian court would share our interpretation of the Aviation Act or the decree or that any such interpretations would remain valid for the entire time you hold our Class A shares.

Although the Panamanian government does not currently have the authority to dictate the terms of our service, the government is responsible for negotiating the bilateral agreements with other nations that allow us to fly to other countries. Several of these agreements require Copa to remain effectively controlled and substantially owned by Panamanian nationals in order for us to use the rights conferred by the agreements. Such requirements are analogous to the Panamanian aviation law described above that requires Panamanian control of our business.

*Antitrust Regulations.* In 1996, the Republic of Panama enacted antitrust legislation, which regulates industry concentration and vertical anticompetitive practices and prohibits horizontal collusion. The Consumer Protection and Free Trade Authority is in charge of enforcement and may impose fines only after a competent court renders an adverse judgment. The law also provides for direct action by any affected market participant or consumer, independently or through class actions. The law does not provide for the granting of antitrust immunity, as is the case in the United States. In February 2006, the antitrust legislation was amended to increase the maximum fines that may be assessed for violations to \$1,000,000 for per se violations and \$250,000 for relative violations of antitrust law.

*Noise Restrictions.* Panama has adopted Annex 16 of the ICAO regulations and the noise abatement provisions of ICAO, through Book XIV of the Panamanian Civil Aviation Regulations (RAC). Thus, articles 227-229 of Book XIV of the RAC require aircraft registered in Panama to comply with at least Stage 2 noise requirements, and all aircraft registered for the first time with the Panamanian Civil Aviation Authority after January 1, 2003, to comply with Stage 3 noise restrictions. Currently, all the airplanes we operate or have on order meet the most stringent noise requirements established by both ICAO and the AAC.

**Table of Contents*****Colombia***

The Colombian aviation market is heavily regulated by the Colombian Civil Aviation Administration, Unidad Especial Administrativa de Aeronáutica Civil, or Aeronautica Civil. Colombia is a Category 1 country under the FAA's IASA program. With respect to domestic aviation, airlines must present feasibility studies to secure specific route rights, and no airline may serve the city pairs with the most traffic unless that airline has at least five aircraft with valid airworthiness certificate. In addition, Aeronautica Civil sets maximum fares for each route and a maximum number of competing airlines for each route based on the size of the city pairs served. Airlines in Colombia must also add a surcharge for fuel to their ticket prices. In addition, since November 2006, airlines must have to charge an administrative fee ( Tarifa administrativa ) for each ticket sold through an airline's direct channels. Passengers in Colombia are also entitled by law to compensation in the event of delays in excess of four hours, over-bookings and cancellations. Currently, the San Andres, Bogotá, Pereira, Cali, Cartagena, Medellin, Monteria and Barranquilla airports are under private management arrangements. Furthermore, the government is privatizing other airports in order to finance necessary expansion projects and increase the efficiency of operations, which may lead to increases in landing fees and facility rentals at those airports.

Colombia has open-skies agreements with Aruba and the Andean Pact nations of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru (Comunidad Andina). AeroRepública has been granted the use of 30 of the 56 available route rights for service by Colombian carriers between Colombia and Panama, and as a result, began scheduled service between the two countries in late 2005. In addition, AeroRepública was granted 30 additional bilateral frequencies per week, 7 of these frequencies to Panama from Bucaramanga, Pereira and Barranquilla, have yet to be utilized.

***U.S.***

Operations to the United States by non-U.S. airlines, such as Copa, are subject to Title 49 of the U.S. Code, under which the DOT, the FAA and the TSA exercise regulatory authority. The U.S. Department of Justice also has jurisdiction over airline competition matters under the federal antitrust laws.

*Authorizations and Licenses.* The DOT has jurisdiction over international aviation with respect to air transportation to and from the United States, including regulation of related route authorities, the granting of which are subject to review by the President of the United States. The DOT exercises its jurisdiction with respect to unfair practices and methods of competition by airlines and related consumer protection matters as to all airlines operating to and from the United States. We are authorized by the DOT to engage in scheduled and charter air transportation services, including the transportation of persons, property (cargo) and mail, or combinations thereof, between points in Panama and points in the United States and beyond (via intermediate points in other countries). We hold the necessary authorizations from the DOT in the form of a foreign air carrier permit, an exemption authority and statements of authorization to conduct our current operations to and from the United States. The exemption authority was granted by the DOT in February 1998 and was due to expire in February 2000. However, the authority remains in effect by operation of law under the terms of the Administrative Procedure Act pending final DOT action on the application we filed to renew the authority on January 3, 2000. There can be no assurance that the DOT will grant the application. Our foreign air carrier permit has no expiration date.

Our operations to the United States are also subject to regulation by the FAA with respect to aviation safety matters, including aircraft maintenance and operations, equipment, aircraft noise, ground facilities, dispatch, communications, personnel, training, weather observation, air traffic control and other matters affecting air safety. The FAA requires each foreign air carrier serving the United States to obtain operational specifications pursuant to 14 CFR Part 129 of its regulations and to meet operational criteria associated with operating specified equipment on approved international routes. We believe that we are in compliance in all material respects with all requirements necessary to maintain in good standing our operations specifications issued by the FAA. The FAA can amend, suspend, revoke or terminate those specifications, or can temporarily suspend or permanently revoke our authority if we fail to comply with the regulations, and can assess civil penalties for such failure. A modification, suspension or revocation of any of our DOT authorizations or FAA operating specifications could have a material adverse effect on our business. The FAA also conducts safety audits and has the power to impose fines and other sanctions for violations of airline safety regulations. We have not incurred any material fines related to operations. The FAA also conducts safety International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) as to Panama's compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization

(ICAO) safety standards. Panama is currently considered a Category 1 country that complies with ICAO international safety standards. As a Class 1 country, no limitations are placed upon our operating rights to the United States. If the FAA should determine that Panama does not meet the ICAO safety standards, the FAA and DOT would restrict our rights to expand operations to the United States. We can offer no assurance of Panama's continued compliance with ICAO safety standards.



**Table of Contents**

*Security.* On November 19, 2001, the U.S. Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, (the Aviation Security Act ). This law federalized substantially all aspects of civil aviation security and created the TSA, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, to which the security responsibilities previously held by the FAA were transitioned. The Aviation Security Act requires, among other things, the implementation of certain security measures by airlines and airports, such as the requirement that all passenger, their bags and all cargo be screened for explosives and other security related contraband. Funding for airline and airport security required under the Aviation Security Act is provided in part by a \$2.50 per segment passenger security fee for flights departing from the U.S., subject to a \$10 per roundtrip cap; however, airlines are responsible for costs incurred to meet security requirements beyond those provided by the TSA. The United States Government is considering increases to this fee as the TSA's costs exceed the revenue it receives from these fees. Implementation of the requirements of the Aviation Security Act has resulted in increased costs for airlines and their passengers. Since the events of September 11, 2001, the U.S. Congress has mandated and the TSA has implemented numerous security procedures and requirements that have imposed and will continue to impose burdens on airlines, passengers and shippers.

*Passenger Facility Charges.* Most major U.S. airports impose passenger facility charges. The ability of airlines to contest increases in these charges is restricted by federal legislation, DOT regulations and judicial decisions. With certain exceptions, air carriers pass these charges on to passengers. However, our ability to pass through passenger facility charges to our customers is subject to various factors, including market conditions and competitive factors. The current cap on passenger facility charges is \$4.50 per segment, subject to an \$18 per roundtrip cap; however, there is legislation in Congress to raise the cap on passenger facility charges.

*Airport Access.* Two U.S. airports at which we operate, John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York ( JFK ) and Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., have been designated by the FAA as high density traffic airports . From time to time, operations at these airports have been subject to arrival and departure slot restrictions during certain periods of the day. Although slot restrictions at JFK were eliminated as of January 1, 2007, on January 15, 2008, the FAA issued an order limiting the number of scheduled flight operations at JFK during peak hours to address the over-scheduling, congestion and delays at JFK. In January 2008, the DOT also issued a notice of proposed amendment to its Airport Rates and Charges policy that would allow airports to establish non-weight based fees during peak hours and to apportion certain expenses from reliever airports to the charges for larger airports in an effort to limit congestion. We cannot predict the outcome of this potential rule change on our costs or ability to operate in congested airports.

*Noise Restrictions.* Under the Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990 and related FAA regulations, aircraft that fly to the United States must comply with certain Stage 3 noise restrictions, which are currently the most stringent FAA operating noise requirements. All of our Copa aircraft meet the Stage 3 requirement.

*Other Regulation.* FAA regulations also require compliance with the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System, approved airborne windshear warning system and aging aircraft regulations. Our fleet meets these requirements. In addition, all air carriers are subject to certain provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, because of their extensive use of radio and other communication facilities, and are required to obtain an aeronautical radio license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). To the extent we are subject to FCC requirements, we have taken and will continue to take all necessary steps to comply with those requirements. Additional U.S. laws and regulations have been proposed from time to time that could significantly increase the cost of airline operations by imposing additional requirements or restrictions on airlines. There can be no assurance that laws and regulations currently enacted or enacted in the future will not adversely affect our ability to maintain our current level of operating results.

**Table of Contents**

***Other Jurisdictions***

We are also subject to regulation by the aviation regulatory bodies which set standards and enforce national aviation legislation in each of the jurisdictions to which we fly. These regulators may have the power to set fares, enforce environmental and safety standards, levy fines, restrict operations within their respective jurisdictions or any other powers associated with aviation regulation. We cannot predict how these various regulatory bodies will perform in the future and the evolving standards enforced by any of them could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

**C. Organizational Structure**

The following is an organizational chart showing Copa Holdings and its principal subsidiaries.

- \* Includes ownership by us held through wholly-owned holding companies organized in the British Virgin Islands.

Copa is our principal airline operating subsidiary that operates out of our hub in Panama and provides passenger service in North, South and Central America and the Caribbean. AeroRepública S.A. is our operating subsidiary that is primarily engaged in domestic air travel within Colombia and international service from various points in Colombia to Panama City and Caracas. Oval Financial Leasing, Ltd. controls the special purpose vehicles that have a beneficial interest in the majority of our aircraft.

**D. Property, Plants and Equipment**

***Headquarters***

In 2005, we moved into a newly built headquarters building located six miles away from Tocumen International Airport. We have leased five floors consisting of approximately 104,000 square feet of the building from Desarrollo Inmobiliario del Este, S.A., an entity controlled by the same group of investors that controls CIASA, under a 10-year lease at a rate of \$106,000 per month during the first three years, \$110,000 per month during year 4 through year 6, \$113,000 during year 7 through year 9 and \$116,000 per month in year 10, which we believe to be a market rate.

***Other Property***

At Tocumen International Airport, we lease a maintenance hangar, operations offices in the terminal, counter space, parking spaces and other operational properties from the entity that manages the airport. We pay approximately \$88,000 per month for this leased property. Around Panama City, we also lease various office spaces, parking spaces and other properties from a variety of lessors, for which we pay approximately \$13,000 per month in the aggregate.

**Table of Contents**

In each of our destination cities, we also lease space at the airport for check-in, reservations and airport ticket office sales, and we lease space for CTOs in more than 34 of those cities.

AeroRepública leases most of its airport and CTO. Owned properties include one city ticket office, a warehouse close to the airport and one floor in a high-rise building in downtown Bogota.

See also our discussion of Aircraft and Airport Facilities above.

**Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects**

**A. Operating Results**

*You should read the following discussion in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes and the other financial information included elsewhere in this annual report.*

We are a leading Latin American provider of airline passenger and cargo service through our two principal operating subsidiaries, Copa and AeroRepública. Copa operates from its strategically located position in the Republic of Panama, and AeroRepública provides service primarily within Colombia complemented by international flights from various cities in Colombia to Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador. We currently operate a fleet of 58 aircraft, 32 Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and 26 Embraer 190 aircraft. We currently have firm orders, including purchase and lease commitments, for 26 Boeing 737-Next Generation and purchase rights and options for up to eight additional Boeing 737-Next Generation and 11 additional Embraer 190s.

Copa currently offers approximately 152 daily scheduled flights among 45 destinations in 24 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean from its Panama City hub. Copa provides passengers with access to flights to more than 120 other destinations through codeshare arrangements with Continental pursuant to which each airline places its name and flight designation code on the other's flights. Through its Panama City hub, Copa is able to consolidate passenger traffic from multiple points to serve each destination effectively.

Copa operates a modern fleet of 32 Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and 13 Embraer 190 aircraft. To meet its growing capacity requirements, Copa has firm orders, including purchase and lease commitments, to accept delivery of 26 additional aircraft through 2015 and has purchase rights and options that, if exercised, would allow it to accept delivery of up to 14 additional aircraft through 2017. Copa's firm orders are for 26 additional Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft, and its purchase rights and options are for up to eight Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and up to six Embraer 190s.

Copa started its strategic alliance with Continental in 1998. Since then, it has conducted joint marketing and code-sharing arrangements, and participated in the award-winning OnePass frequent flyer loyalty program globally and on a co-branded basis in Latin America. We believe that Copa's co-branding and joint marketing activities with Continental have enhanced its brand in Latin America, and that the relationship with Continental has afforded it cost-related benefits, such as improving purchasing power in negotiations with aircraft vendors and insurers. Copa's alliance and related services agreements with Continental are in effect until 2015.

During the second quarter of 2005, we purchased AeroRepública, a Colombian air carrier that was the second-largest domestic carrier in Colombia in terms of number of passengers carried in 2005, which at the time provided point-to-point service among 11 cities in Colombia. AeroRepública currently operates a fleet of 13 Embraer 190 and has expanded its routes to include international point-to-point service from various Colombian cities to Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador. As part of its fleet expansion plan, AeroRepública has options to purchase up to five additional Embraer 190 aircraft through 2013.

**Table of Contents**

Fuel is our single largest operating expense and, as a result, our results of operations are likely to continue to be materially affected by the cost of fuel as compared with prior periods. From 2004 to 2009, the average price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, a benchmark widely used for crude oil prices that is measured in barrels and quoted in U.S. dollars, increased by 50% from \$41.47 per barrel to \$62.07 per barrel. During 2008, fuel prices experienced significant volatility, with West Texas Intermediate crude prices reaching the record price of approximately \$145 per barrel in July. Prices then dropped below \$40 per barrel at the beginning of 2009, and then stabilized at approximately \$70 per barrel in the second half of 2009. While prices have decreased since their peak in 2008, we believe that fuel prices are likely to increase in the future. In past years, we have managed to offset some of the increases in fuel prices by managing load factors, fuel related price increases, which may take the form of fare increases or fuel surcharges, and cost cutting initiatives. For example, we estimate that we were able to offset approximately 100% of the increase in unit costs in 2008 as compared to 2007 through higher unit revenues. Although there are other factors affecting unit costs, management considers the 100% cost recoverability to be a fair estimate of the coverage of incremental fuel prices, as most of the increase in unit costs is related to fuel price. We have hedged 24% and 11% of our anticipated fuel needs for 2010 and 2011, respectively. We will continue to evaluate various hedging strategies, and we may enter into additional hedging agreements in the future.

*Our 2005 acquisition of AeroRepública has affected the comparability of our recent results of operations.*

On April 22, 2005 we acquired an initial 85.6% equity ownership interest in AeroRepública which was followed by subsequent acquisitions increasing our total ownership interest in AeroRepública to 99.9% as of December 31, 2009. AeroRepública is the second-largest domestic carrier in Colombia in terms of revenue, currently providing service among 12 cities in Colombia and international service to cities in Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador with a point-to-point route network.

We began to consolidate AeroRepública's results of operations in our consolidated financial statements in April of 2005. We report AeroRepública's operations as a separate segment in our financial statements and the related notes. See Note 17 to our audited financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report for segment data for AeroRepública for the year ended December 31, 2009. As a result of this acquisition and our consolidation of AeroRepública's results as of April 22, 2005, our financial information prior to and after the acquisition is not comparable.

**Regional Economic Environment**

Our historical financial results have been, and we expect them to continue to be, materially affected by the general level of economic activity and growth of per capita disposable income in North, South and Central America and the Caribbean (drivers of our passenger revenue) and the volume of trade between countries in the region (the principal driver of our cargo revenue).

According to data from *The Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, an annual United Nations publication prepared by the Economic Development Division, the economy of Latin America (including the Caribbean) decreased by 1.7% in 2009 and grew by 4.1% in 2008. In recent years, the Panamanian economy has closely tracked the economies of the United States and of Latin America. In 2009, however, the Panamanian economy grew in real terms by 1.8% (versus 9.2% in 2008), according to the International Monetary Fund's estimates. Inflation in Panama rose 2.3% in 2009 (versus 8.8% in 2008). Additionally, the Colombian economy has experienced relatively stable growth. According to the International Monetary Fund's estimates, the Colombian gross domestic product grew by 7.5% in 2007, 2.5% in 2008 and only slightly decreased by -0.2% in 2009 with inflation (as indicated by the consumer price index) rising by 5.5% in 2007, 7.0% in 2008 and 4.6% in 2009.

**Table of Contents****Revenues**

We derive our revenues primarily from passenger transportation which represents 95% of our revenues, with 5% derived from cargo and other revenues.

We recognize passenger revenue when transportation is provided and when unused tickets expire. Passenger revenues reflect the capacity of our aircraft on the routes we fly, load factor and yield. Our capacity is measured in terms of available seat miles (ASMs) which represents the number of seats available on our aircraft multiplied by the number of miles the seats are flown. Our usage is measured in terms of revenue passenger miles (RPMs) which is the number of revenue passengers multiplied by the miles these passengers fly. Load factor, or the percentage of our capacity that is actually used by paying customers, is calculated by dividing RPMs by ASMs. Yield is the average amount that one passenger pays to fly one mile. We use a combination of approaches, taking into account yields, flight load factors and effects on load factors of connecting traffic, depending on the characteristics of the markets served, to arrive at a strategy for achieving the best possible revenue per available seat mile, balancing the average fare charged against the corresponding effect on our load factors.

We recognize cargo revenue when transportation is provided. Our other revenue consists primarily of excess baggage charges, ticket change fees and charter flights.

Overall demand for our passenger and cargo services is highly dependent on the regional economic environment in which we operate, including the GDP of the countries we serve and the disposable income of the residents of those countries. We believe that 50% of our passengers travel at least in part for business reasons, and the growth of intraregional trade greatly affects that portion of our business. The remaining 50% of our passengers are tourists or travelers visiting friends and family.

The following table sets forth our capacity, load factor and yields for the periods indicated.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<i>Copa Segment</i>			
Capacity (in available seat miles, in millions)	6,297.9	7,341.9	8,319.0
Load factor	78.4%	78.8%	76.0%
Yield (in cents)	15.33	16.81	15.25
<i>AeroRepública Segment</i>			
Capacity (in available seat miles, in millions)	1,620.4	1,502.7	1,591.7
Load factor	57.2%	61.7%	67.5%
Yield (in cents)	22.74	26.31	20.71

**Seasonality**

Generally, our revenues from and profitability of our flights peak during the northern hemisphere's summer season in July and August and again during the December and January holiday season. Given our high proportion of fixed costs, this seasonality is likely to cause our results of operations to vary from quarter to quarter.

**Operating Expenses**

The main components of our operating expenses are aircraft fuel, salaries and benefits, passenger servicing, commissions, aircraft maintenance, reservations and sales and aircraft rent. A common measure of per unit costs in the airline industry is cost per available seat mile (CASM), which is generally defined as operating expenses divided by ASMs.

*Aircraft fuel.* The price we pay for aircraft fuel varies significantly from country to country primarily due to local taxes. While we purchase aircraft fuel at all the airports to which we fly, we attempt to negotiate fueling contracts with companies that have a multinational presence in order to benefit from volume purchases. During 2009, as a result of the location of its hub, Copa purchased 57% of its aircraft fuel in Panama. Copa has over 15 suppliers of aircraft fuel across its network. In some cases, we tanker fuel in order to minimize our cost by fueling in airports where fuel prices are lowest. Our aircraft fuel expenses are variable and fluctuate based on global oil prices. From 2004 to 2009, the average price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, a benchmark widely used for crude oil prices that is measured in barrels and quoted in U.S. dollars, increased by 50% from \$41.47 per barrel to \$62.07 per barrel. To date, we have

managed to offset some of the increases in fuel prices with higher load factors, fuel surcharges and fare increases. In addition, our relatively young, winglet-equipped fleet also helps us mitigate the impact of higher fuel prices. Historically, we have not hedged a significant portion of our fuel costs. We have hedged 24% and 11% of our anticipated fuel needs for 2010 and 2011, respectively.

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Aircraft Fuel Data</b>				
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<i>Copa Segment</i>					
Average price per gallon of jet fuel into plane (excluding hedge) (in U.S. dollars)	\$ 1.87	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.29	\$ 3.21	\$ 1.84
Gallons consumed (in thousands)	58,924	70,770	85,463	100,266	112,401
Available seat miles (in millions)	4,409	5,239	6,298	7,342	8,319
Gallons per ASM (in hundredths)	1.34	1.35	1.36	1.37	1.35
<i>AeroRepública(1)</i>					
Average price per gallon of jet fuel into plane (excluding hedge) (in U.S. dollars)	\$ 2.12	\$ 2.24	\$ 2.43	\$ 3.49	\$ 1.97
Gallons consumed (in thousands)	17,887	28,321	26,984	24,798	25,617
Available seat miles (in millions)	950	1,627	1,620	1,503	1,592
Gallons per ASM (in hundredths)	1.88	1.74	1.67	1.65	1.61

(1) Since April 22, 2005.

*Salaries and benefits.* Salaries and benefits expenses have historically increased at the rate of inflation and by the growth in the number of our employees. In some cases, we have adjusted salaries of our employees to correspond to changes in the cost of living in the countries where these employees work. We do not increase salaries based on seniority.

*Passenger servicing expenses.* Our passenger servicing expenses consist of expenses for liability insurance, baggage handling, catering, in-flight entertainment and other costs related to aircraft and airport services. These expenses are generally directly related to the number of passengers we carry or the number of flights we operate.

*Commissions.* Our commission expenses consist primarily of payments for ticket sales made by travel agents and commissions paid to credit card companies. Travel agents receive base commissions, not including back-end incentive programs, ranging from 0% to 6% depending on the country. During the last few years we have reduced our commission expense per available seat mile as a result of an industry-wide trend of paying lower commissions to travel agencies and by increasing the proportion of our sales made through direct channels. We expect this trend to continue as more of our customers become accustomed to purchasing through call centers and through the internet. While increasing direct sales may increase the commissions we pay to credit card companies, we expect that the savings from the corresponding reduction in travel agency commissions will more than offset this increase. In recent years, base commissions paid to travel agents have decreased significantly. At the same time, we have encouraged travel agencies to move from standard base commissions to incentive compensation based on sales volume and fare types.

*Maintenance, material and repair expenses.* Our maintenance, material and repair expenses consist of aircraft repair and charges related to light and heavy maintenance of our aircraft, including maintenance materials. Maintenance and repair expenses, including overhaul of aircraft components, are charged to operating expenses as incurred. As the age of our fleet increases and our warranties expire, our maintenance expenses will increase. We only conduct line maintenance internally and outsource heavy maintenance to independent third party contractors. In 2003, we negotiated with GE Engine Services a maintenance cost per hour program for the repair and maintenance of our CFM-56 engines which power our Boeing 737 Next Generation fleet. Our engine maintenance costs are also aided by the sea-level elevation of our hub and the use of winglets which allow us to operate the engines on our Boeing 737 Next Generation aircraft with lower thrust, thus putting less strain on the engines.

Line maintenance for AeroRepública's fleet is performed by AeroRepública's in-house maintenance staff. The average age of AeroRepública's fleet as of December 31, 2009 was 3.2 years.



**Table of Contents**

*Aircraft rent.* Our aircraft rental expenses are generally fixed by the terms of our operating lease agreements. Currently, six of Copa's operating leases have fixed rates which are not subject to fluctuations in interest rates and the seventh is tied to LIBOR. All of AeroRepública's operating leases have fixed rates which are not subject to fluctuations in interest rates. Our aircraft rent expense also includes rental payments related to our wet-leasing of freighter aircraft to supplement our cargo operations.

*Reservations and sales expenses.* Our reservations and sales expenses arise primarily from payments to global distribution systems, such as Amadeus and Sabre, that list our flight offerings on reservation systems around the world. These reservation systems tend to raise their rates periodically, but we expect that if we are successful in encouraging our customers to purchase tickets through our direct sales channels, these costs will decrease as a percentage of our operating costs. A portion of our reservations and sales expense is also comprised of our licensing payments for the SHARES reservation and check-in management software we use, which is not expected to change significantly from period to period.

*Flight operations and landing fees and other rentals* are generally directly related to the number of flights we operate. *Other* includes publicity and promotion expenses, expenses related to our cargo operations, technology related initiatives and miscellaneous other expenses.

***Taxes***

We pay taxes in the Republic of Panama and in other countries in which we operate, based on regulations in effect in each respective country. Our revenues come principally from foreign operations and according to the Panamanian Tax Code, including all regulations, decrees and executives decrees ( Panamanian Fiscal Code ) these foreign operations are not subject to income tax in Panama.

We have elected to calculate our Panamanian income tax with the gross tax method. Under this method, based on the Panamanian Fiscal Code, income for international transportation companies is calculated based on a territoriality method that determines gross revenues earned in Panama by applying the percentage of miles flown within the Panamanian territory against total revenues. Under this method, loss carry-forwards cannot be applied to offset tax liability. Dividends from our Panamanian subsidiaries, including Copa, are separately subject to a 10% percent withholding tax on the portion attributable to Panamanian sourced income and a 5% withholding tax on the portion attributable to foreign sourced income.

We are also subject to local tax regulations in each of the other jurisdictions where we operate, the great majority of which are related to the taxation of our income. In some of the countries to which we fly, we do not pay any income taxes because we do not generate income under the laws of those countries either because they do not have income taxes or due to treaties or other arrangements those countries have with Panama. In the remaining countries, we pay income tax at a rate ranging from 25% to 34% of our income attributable to those countries. Different countries calculate our income in different ways, but they are typically derived from our sales in the applicable country multiplied by our net margin or by a presumed net margin set by the relevant tax legislation. The determination of our taxable income in several countries is based on a combination of revenues sourced to each particular country and the allocation of expenses to that particular country. The methodology for multinational transportation company sourcing of revenue and expense is not always specifically prescribed in the relevant tax regulations, and therefore is subject to interpretation by both ourselves and the respective tax authorities. Additionally, in some countries, the applicability of certain regulations governing non-income taxes and the determination of our filing status are also subject to interpretation. We cannot estimate the amount, if any, of the potential tax liabilities that might result if the allocations, interpretations and filing positions we use in preparing our income tax returns were challenged by the tax authorities of one or more countries. It is possible that we may become subject to tax in jurisdictions in which, for prior years, we had not been subject to tax and that, in the future, we may become subject to increased taxes in the countries to which we fly.

**Table of Contents**

Under a reciprocal exemption confirmed by a bilateral agreement between Panama and the United States, we are exempt from the U.S. source transportation income tax derived from the international operation of aircraft. We paid taxes totaling approximately \$16.6 million in 2007, \$14.9 million in 2008 and \$13.8 million in 2009.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The preparation of our consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires our management to adopt accounting policies and make estimates and judgments to develop amounts reported in our consolidated financial statements and related notes. We strive to maintain a process to review the application of our accounting policies and to evaluate the appropriateness of the estimates required for the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. We believe that our estimates and judgments are reasonable; however, actual results and the timing of recognition of such amounts could differ from those estimates. In addition, estimates routinely require adjustments based on changing circumstances and the receipt of new or better information.

Critical accounting policies and estimates are defined as those that are reflective of significant judgments and uncertainties and potentially result in materially different results under different assumptions and conditions. For a discussion of these and other accounting policies, see Note 1 to our annual consolidated financial statements.

*Revenue recognition.* Passenger revenue is recognized when transportation is provided rather than when a ticket is sold. The amount of passenger ticket sales not yet recognized as revenue is reflected in the Air traffic liability line on our consolidated balance sheet. Fares for tickets that have expired and/or are more than one year old are recognized as passenger revenue upon expiration.

*Goodwill and indefinite-lived purchased intangible assets.* In accordance with ASC Topic 350, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (ASC Topic 350), we perform impairment testing of goodwill separately from impairment testing of indefinite-lived intangibles. We test goodwill for impairment, at least annually, by comparing the book value to the fair value at the reporting segment level and individually test indefinite-lived intangibles, at least annually, by comparing the individual book values to fair values. Considerable management judgment is necessary to determine the assumptions that marketplace participants would consider in determining the fair value of these assets. We did not recognize any impairment charges for goodwill or intangibles assets during the years presented. All of our goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible are allocated in the AeroRepública segment and are tested annually for impairment. For the years ended December 2009 and 2008, amounts of goodwill and intangible assets have changed due to exchange effect.

*Derivative instruments and hedging activities.* We account for derivatives and hedging activities in accordance with ASC Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging (ASC Topic 815), which requires entities to recognize all derivative instruments as either assets or liabilities in the balance sheet at their respective fair values.

We only enter into derivative contracts that we intend to use in managing the variability in market related values of a forecasted transaction or the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset or liability (cash flow hedge). For all hedging relationships we formally document the hedging relationship and its risk-management objective and strategy for undertaking the hedge, the hedging instrument, the hedged item, the nature of the risk being hedged, how the hedging instrument's effectiveness in offsetting the hedged risk will be assessed prospectively and retrospectively, and a description of the method of measuring ineffectiveness. We also formally assess, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting cash flows of hedged items.

**Table of Contents**

Changes in the fair value of a derivative that is highly effective and that is designated and qualifies as a cash-flow hedge are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income to the extent that the derivative is effective as a hedge, until earnings are affected by the variability in cash flows of the designated hedged item. The ineffective portion of the change in fair value of a derivative instrument that qualifies as a cash-flow hedge or that is not designated as a hedge is reported in earnings.

We discontinued hedge accounting prospectively when we determines that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting cash flows of the hedged item, the derivative expires or is sold, terminated, or exercised, the derivative is de-designated as a hedging instrument because it is unlikely that a forecasted transaction will occur, or management determines that designation of the derivative as a hedging instrument is no longer appropriate.

In all situations in which hedge accounting is discontinued and the derivative is retained, we continue to carry the derivative at its fair value on the balance sheet and recognize any subsequent changes in its fair value in earnings. When it is probable that a forecasted transaction will not occur, we discontinue hedge accounting and recognize immediately in earnings gains and losses that were accumulated in other comprehensive income.

*Maintenance and repair costs.* Maintenance and repair costs for owned and leased flight equipment, including the overhaul of aircraft components, are charged to operating expenses as incurred. Engine overhaul costs covered by power-by-the-hour arrangements are paid and expensed as incurred, on the basis of hours flown per the contract. Under the terms of our power-by-the-hour agreements, we pay a set dollar amount per engine hour flown on a monthly basis and the third-party vendor assumes the obligation to repair the engines at no additional cost to us, subject to certain specified exclusions.

Additionally, although our aircraft lease agreements specifically provide that we, as lessee, are responsible for maintenance of the leased aircraft, we do, under certain of our existing lease agreements, pay maintenance reserves to aircraft and engine lessors that are to be applied towards the cost of future maintenance events. These reserves are calculated based on a performance measure, such as flight hours, and are specifically to be used to reimburse third-party providers that furnish services in connection with maintenance of our leased aircraft. If there are sufficient funds on deposit to pay the invoices submitted, they are paid. However, if amounts on deposit are insufficient to cover the invoices, we must cover the shortfall because, as noted above, we are legally responsible for maintaining the lease aircraft. Under our aircraft lease agreements, if there are excess amounts on deposit at the expiration of the lease, the lessor is entitled to retain any excess amounts. The maintenance reserves paid under our lease agreements do not transfer either the obligation to maintain the aircraft or the cost risk associated with the maintenance activities to the aircraft lessor. In addition, we maintain the right to select any third-party maintenance providers. Therefore, we record these amounts as prepaid maintenance within *Other Assets* on our consolidated balance sheet and then recognize maintenance expense when the underlying maintenance is performed, in accordance with our maintenance accounting policy.

**Adopted and Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncement**

Effective July 1, 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) became the single official source of authoritative, nongovernmental generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States. The historical GAAP hierarchy was eliminated and the ASC became the only level of authoritative GAAP, other than guidance issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission). Our accounting policies were not affected by the conversion to ASC. However, references to specific accounting standards in the footnotes to our consolidated financial statements have been changed to refer to the appropriate section of ASC. In March 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*—an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133 (SFAS 161). SFAS 161 requires entities that utilize derivative instruments to provide qualitative disclosures about their objectives and strategies for using such instruments, as well as any details of credit-risk-related contingent features contained within derivatives. SFAS 161 also requires entities to disclose additional information about the amounts and location of derivatives located within the financial statements, how the provisions of SFAS 133 have been applied, and the impact that hedges have on an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS 161 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early application encouraged. This concept is contained in ASC Topic 815, *Derivatives and Hedging* (ASC Topic 815). The adoption of this amendment did not

have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents**

In September 2006, the FASB issued guidance which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This guidance is contained in ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (ASC Topic 820). In February 2008, the FASB deferred the effective date to January 1, 2009 for all nonfinancial assets and liabilities, except for those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value on a recurring basis (that is, at least annually). We adopted the deferred provisions of ASC Topic 820 on January 1, 2009. Application of the new rules affected our annual impairment testing goodwill and other intangible assets.

In April 2009, the FASB issued additional guidance for estimating fair value in accordance with ASC Topic 820. The additional guidance addresses estimating fair value when the volume and level of activity for an asset or liability has significantly decreased in relation to normal market activity for the asset or liability. We adopted the provisions of this guidance for the fourth quarter of 2009. The adoption did not have a material effect on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

In June 2009, the FASB issued guidance to change financial reporting by enterprises involved with variable interest entities (VIEs). The standard replaces the quantitative-based risks and rewards calculation for determining which enterprise has a controlling financial interest in a VIE with an approach focused on identifying which enterprise has the power to direct the activities of a VIE and the obligation to absorb losses of the entity or the right to receive the entity's residual returns. This accounting standard is effective for us on January 1, 2010. We are currently evaluating the requirements of this pronouncement and have not determined the impact, if any, that adoption of this standard will have on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

In October 2009, the FASB issued guidance that changes the accounting for revenue arrangements with multiple deliverables. The guidance requires an entity to allocate consideration at the inception of an arrangement to all of its deliverables based on their relative selling prices and eliminates the use of the residual method of allocation. The guidance establishes a hierarchy for determining the selling price of a deliverable, based on vendor-specific objective evidence, third-party evidence or estimated selling price. In addition, this guidance expands required disclosures related to a vendor's multiple-deliverable revenue arrangements. This accounting standard is effective for us on January 1, 2011. This guidance did not have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Gain from Involuntary Conversion**

In 2007, we recorded an \$8.0 million gain on involuntary conversion of non-monetary assets to monetary assets related to insurance proceeds in excess of aircraft book value.

**Special Fleet Charges**

In 2009, we decided to terminate early three MD-80 aircraft leases prior to their scheduled expiration, in connection with the transition of AeroRepublica's fleet to Embraer 190. Fees paid for early termination amounted to \$10.5 million and were recognized as Special Fleet Charges in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

In addition to the early lease termination, we wrote down amounts related property, plant and equipment such as rotatable parts, spare engines and tools totaling \$4.9 million, and recognized a loss of \$4.0 million related to the scrapping of obsolete expendable parts.

In 2007, we decided to terminate early five MD-80 aircraft leases, in connection with the transition of AeroRepública's fleet to Embraer 190. Penalties paid for early termination are recognized as Special Fleet Charges in the Statement of Income.

**Table of Contents****Subsequent Events***Currency Devaluation*

On Friday, January 8, 2010, the Venezuelan government announced its decision to implement new fixed exchange rates effective Monday, January 11, 2010, which will result in a significant devaluation of the Bolivar against the U.S. dollar.

Since 2005 the official exchange rate had been fixed at VEB 2.15 per U.S. dollar, however, the new regime applies two official rates to different sectors of the economy. The first exchange rate, applicable to imported goods characterized as essential, will be VEB 2.60 per U.S. dollar, and the rate applicable to all other imported goods and services, including the aviation sector, will be VEB 4.30 per U.S. dollar. At this time we are uncertain how this devaluation will affect future demand for air travel in Venezuela and the results of our business.

In addition, we have significant cash balances in Bolivars subject to Venezuelan exchange controls. Since 2003, under the Venezuelan foreign exchange control regime, foreign companies are required to obtain Venezuelan government approval to exchange Bolivars into U.S. dollars at the fixed official exchange rate for the purpose of transferring funds out of Venezuela. Furthermore, since 2008 foreign companies with operations in Venezuela have experienced increasing delays in obtaining such government approvals. As a result of these delays, as of March 11, 2010, we have approximately \$92 million in Venezuelan Bolivares pending approval and repatriation. In addition, on Wednesday, January 27, the Venezuelan government announced that it would apply the exchange rate of VEB 2.60 per U.S. dollar to all funds pending approval by the Venezuela Central Bank through January 8, 2010 and committed to a four month disbursement schedule for the repatriation of these funds. As a result of the devaluation, we estimate that the Company will incur losses of approximately \$21 million, which will be recorded in the first quarter of 2010 in accordance with US GAAP. Moreover, the exchange control situation in Venezuela remains uncertain, and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to repatriate funds on a timely basis and therefore continue to be exposed should there be a further devaluation of the Bolivar before such approvals.

*Tax Reform*

Law 8 of 2010 (the Tax Reform), which modifies material sections of the Panamanian Fiscal Code was approved and became effective on March 15, 2010. As a result of this reform, the airline industry will be subject to higher tax rates than it has paid in the past. We estimate, however, that we will benefit from certain tax credits in respect to taxes paid in foreign jurisdictions in 2010 and on a going-forward basis. We, therefore, anticipate that our effective tax rate for the immediate future will remain within the historical range of the past five years. As a result, we do not believe this tax reform is likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Any future change in the Panamanian tax law increasing the taxes payable by us could have materially adverse effects on our business, financial condition and result of operations.

**Results of Operation**

The following table shows each of the line items in our income statements for the periods indicated as a percentage of our total operating revenues for that period:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Operating revenues:</b>			
Passenger revenue	94.1%	94.5%	94.7%
Cargo, mail and other	5.9%	5.5%	5.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Operating expenses:</b>			
Aircraft fuel	(25.8)%	(31.4)%	(24.0)%
Salaries and benefits	(11.4)%	(10.8)%	(12.6)%
Passenger servicing	(8.1)%	(7.7)%	(8.8)%
Commissions	(6.4)%	(5.2)%	(4.6)%
Reservation and sales	(4.7)%	(4.3)%	(4.5)%
Maintenance, materials and repairs	(5.0)%	(5.2)%	(6.1)%

Edgar Filing: Copa Holdings, S.A. - Form 20-F

Depreciation	(3.4)%	(3.3)%	(3.8)%
Flight operations	(4.3)%	(4.4)%	(4.9)%
Aircraft rentals	(3.8)%	(3.3)%	(3.7)%
Landing fees and other rentals	(2.6)%	(2.5)%	(2.7)%
Other	(5.4)%	(4.5)%	(5.0)%
Special fleet charges	(0.7)%		(1.5)%
Gain from involuntary conversion	0.8%		
Total	(80.8)%	(82.6)%	(82.2)%
Operating income	19.2%	17.4%	17.8%
Non-operating income (expenses):			
Interest expense	(4.3)%	(3.3)%	(2.6)%
Interest capitalized	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
Interest income	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%
Other, net	1.1%	(4.6)%	(4.8)%
Total	(1.8)%	(6.8)%	(2.9)%
Income/(loss) before income taxes	17.4%	10.6%	20.7%
Income taxes	(1.7)%	(1.4)%	(1.6)%
Net income	15.8%	9.2%	19.2%

**Table of Contents****Year 2009 Compared to Year 2008**

Our consolidated net income in 2009 totaled \$240.4 million, a 102.6% increase over net income of \$118.7 million in 2008. This increase was primarily due to a \$58.0 million gain in the fair value of fuel hedge instruments in 2009 as compared to a \$54.8 million loss in the fair value of fuel hedge instruments in 2008. We had consolidated operating income of \$223.3 million in 2009, a 0.3% decrease from operating income of \$224.0 million in 2008. Our consolidated operating margin in 2009 was 17.8%, an increase of 0.4 percentage points over an operating margin of 17.4% in 2008.

***Operating revenue***

Our consolidated revenue totaled \$1.25 billion in 2009, a 2.8% decrease from operating revenue of \$1.29 billion in 2008 due to decreases in both passenger and cargo revenues.

***Copa segment operating revenue***

Copa's operating revenue totaled \$1.02 billion in 2009, a 1.1% decrease from operating revenue of \$1.04 billion in 2008 due to decreases in both passenger and cargo revenues.

*Passenger revenue.* Passenger revenue totaled \$964.3 million in 2009, a 0.9% decrease over passenger revenue of \$973.2 million in 2008. This decrease resulted primarily from lower passenger yield, which decreased by 9.3% to 15.25 in 2009, and lower load factor, which decreased by 2.8 percentage points to 76.0% in 2009. This decrease in yield and load factor was partially offset by the increase in capacity as available seat miles increased by 13.3% in 2009 as compared to 2008 as a result of increase in departures.

*Cargo, mail and other.* Cargo, mail and other revenue totaled \$60.2 million in 2009, a 4.1% decrease from cargo, mail and other revenue of \$62.7 million in 2008. This decrease was primarily the result of lower cargo revenue resulting from a decrease in cargo volume and cargo unit prices.

***AeroRepública segment operating revenue***

AeroRepública's operating revenue totaled \$240.4 million in 2009, a decrease of \$24.6 million from operating revenue of \$264.9 million in 2008, resulting from a decrease in both passenger and cargo revenues. This decrease resulted primarily from lower passenger yield (yield decreased from 26.31 cents in 2008 to 20.71 cents in 2009) during the period, partly due to a weaker Colombian currency and lower ticket prices. The decrease in yield was partially offset by higher load factor (load factor increased by 9.3 percentage points to 67.5% in 2009) and 5.9% more capacity.

***Operating expenses***

Our consolidated operating expenses totaled \$1.03 billion in 2009, a 3.3% decrease from operating expenses of \$1.06 billion in 2008 that was primarily the result of savings due to lower fuel cost, partially offset by higher operating cost due to growth in capacity.

In 2009, our operating expenses per available seat mile excluding aircraft fuel was 7.36 cents, a 1.5% decrease from operating expenses per available seat mile excluding aircraft fuel of 7.46 cents in 2008. Aircraft fuel per available seat mile was 3.04 cents in 2009, compared to 4.58 cents in 2008. In 2009, our total operating expenses per available seat mile was 10.39 cents, a 13.7% decrease from operating expenses per available seat mile of 12.04 cents in 2008.

An overview of the major variances on a consolidated basis follows:

*Aircraft fuel.* Aircraft fuel totaled \$300.8 million in 2009, a 25.7% decrease from aircraft fuel of \$404.7 million in 2008. This decrease was primarily a result of lower fuel prices, partially offset by 10.4% higher fuel consumption and a realized fuel hedge loss of \$41.9 million in 2009, as compared to a realized fuel hedge gain of \$7.3 million in 2008.



**Table of Contents**

*Salaries and benefits.* Salaries and benefits totaled \$157.9 million in 2009, a 13.2% increase over salaries and benefits of \$139.4 million in 2008. This increase was primarily a result of an overall increase in headcount to support our operations.

*Passenger servicing.* Passenger servicing totaled \$110.8 million in 2009, a 12.1% increase over passenger servicing of \$98.8 million in 2008. This increase was primarily a result of an increase in capacity and on-board passengers.

*Maintenance, materials and repairs.* Maintenance, materials and repairs totaled \$76.7 million in 2009, a 15.5% increase over maintenance, materials and repairs of \$66.4 million in 2008. This increase was primarily a result of increase in capacity and overhaul events.

The remaining operating expenses totaled \$383.6 million in 2009, an increase of \$28.1 million over 2008.

*Copa segment operating expenses*

The breakdown of operating expenses per available seat mile is as follows:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Percent Change</b>
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009 (in cents)</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses per ASM:</b>			
Salaries and benefits	1.48	1.50	1.4%
Passenger servicing	1.11	1.12	0.9%
Commissions	0.71	0.55	(22.3%)
Reservation and sales	0.55	0.50	(10.0%)
Maintenance, materials and repairs	0.63	0.77	23.4%
Depreciation	0.52	0.52	0.0%
Flight operations	0.64	0.62	(3.2%)
Aircraft rentals	0.43	0.31	(26.5%)
Landing fees and other rentals	0.33	0.30	(7.0%)
Other	0.55	0.55	(0.1%)
Total operating expenses per ASM before aircraft fuel	6.94	6.75	(2.8%)
Aircraft fuel	4.33	2.99	(30.9%)
Total operating expenses per ASM	11.27	9.74	(13.6%)

*Aircraft fuel.* Aircraft fuel totaled \$249.0 million in 2009, a 21.7% decrease from aircraft fuel of \$318.2 million in 2008. This decrease was primarily a result of a 29.9% decrease in the all-in average price per gallon of jet fuel (\$2.20 in 2009 compared to \$3.14 in 2008) and the consumption of 12.1% more fuel due to a 12.2% increase in departures. Aircraft fuel per available seat mile decreased by 30.9% due to the decrease in average fuel cost per gallon.

*Salaries and benefits.* Salaries and benefits totaled \$125.2 million in 2009, a 14.9% increase over salaries and benefits of \$108.9 million in 2008. This increase was mainly a result of an overall increase in operating headcount to support increased capacity deployed during the year. Salaries and benefits per available seat mile increased by 1.4%.

*Passenger servicing.* Passenger servicing totaled \$92.9 million in 2009, a 14.3% increase over passenger servicing of \$81.2 million in 2008. This increase was primarily a result of Copa's 13.3% increase in capacity. Passenger servicing per available seat mile increased by 0.9%.

**Table of Contents**

*Commissions.* Commissions totaled \$45.9 million in 2009, a 12.0% decrease from commissions of \$52.1 million in 2008. This decrease was primarily a result of lower passenger revenue and lower average commission rates. Commissions per available seat mile decreased by 22.3%.

*Reservations and sales.* Reservations and sales totaled \$41.5 million in 2009, a 2.0% increase over reservations and sales of \$40.7 million in 2008. This increase was primarily a result of an 8.2% increase in on-board passengers. Reservations and sales expenses per available seat mile decreased by 10.0%.

*Maintenance, materials and repairs.* Maintenance, materials and repairs totaled \$64.2 million in 2009, a 39.8% increase over maintenance, materials and repairs of \$45.9 million in 2008. This increase was primarily a result of a 13.3% increase in capacity and more overhaul events. Maintenance, materials and repair per available seat mile increased by 23.4%. We recognize the cost of overhaul events when they occur. Therefore, our maintenance cost will fluctuate due the timing of these activities.

*Depreciation.* Depreciation totaled \$43.2 million in 2009, a 13.3% increase over depreciation of \$38.1 million in 2008, as a result of higher depreciation attributable to our acquisition of four new Embraer 190 and one new Boeing 737-800 in 2008, and one new Boeing 737-800 in 2009.

*Flight operations, aircraft rentals and landing fees and other rentals.* Combined, flight operations, aircraft rentals and landing fees and other rentals increased from \$101.9 million in 2008 to \$102.5 million in 2009. Combined flight operations, aircraft rentals and landing fees and other rentals per available seat mile decreased by 11.2%, as the increase in the combined expense was offset by a 13.3% increase in available seat miles.

*Other.* Other expenses totaled \$45.9 million in 2009, a 13.2% increase over other expenses of \$40.6 million in 2008. This increase was primarily a result of an increase in OnePass frequent flyer miles earned by customers during the period and higher technology related expenses. Other expenses per available seat mile decreased by 0.1%.

*AeroRepública segment operating expenses*

AeroRepública's operating expenses totaled \$232.7 million in 2009, a decrease of \$16.4 million from operating expenses of \$249.2 million reported during 2008, primarily as a result of lower aircraft fuel cost, partially offset by higher expenses related to 8.6% more departures and special fleet charges related to the retirement of the older MD-80 aircraft.

*Non-operating income (expense)*

Our consolidated non-operating income totaled \$36.6 million in 2009, an increase over non-operating expenses of \$87.9 million in 2008, attributable primarily to a \$58.0 million gain in the market value of fuel hedge instruments as compared to a \$54.8 million loss in the market value of fuel hedge instruments during 2008.

*Copa segment non-operating income (expense)*

Non-operating income totaled \$40.1 million in 2009, an increase over non-operating expense of \$77.4 million in 2008, attributable primarily to a \$53.1 million gain in the market value of fuel hedge instruments.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense totaled \$30.1 million in 2009, a 16.9% decrease from interest expense of \$36.2 million in 2008, primarily resulting from lower average interest rates during the period. The average effective interest rates on our debt decreased by 76 basis points from 4.68% during 2008 to 3.92% during 2009. At period's end, interest rate on 49% of our outstanding debt was fixed at an average effective rate of 4.87%.

*Interest capitalized.* Interest capitalized totaled \$0.7 million in 2009, a 63.9% decrease from interest capitalized of \$1.9 million in 2008, resulting from lower average monthly balance relating to pre-delivery payments on aircraft.

**Table of Contents**

*Interest income.* Interest income totaled \$8.1 million in 2009, a 22.8% decrease from interest income of \$10.5 million in 2008. This decrease was mainly a result of lower average interest rates during the period.

*Other, net.* Other, net income totaled \$61.3 million in 2009, compared to a \$53.6 million other, net loss in 2008. This change was primarily the result of a \$55.9 million gain in the market value of fuel hedge instruments during 2009 as compared to a loss of \$53.1 million during 2008.

*AeroRepública segment non-operating income (expense)*

Non-operating expense totaled \$2.4 million in 2009, a decrease from non-operating expense of \$10.5 million in 2008, attributable primarily to a gain in the market value of fuel hedge instruments during 2009, as compared to a loss in the market value of fuel hedge instruments during 2008.

**Year 2008 Compared to Year 2007**

Our consolidated net income in 2008 totaled \$118.7 million, a 26.7% decrease from net income of \$161.8 million in 2007. This decrease was due to a \$54.9 million loss in the fair value of fuel hedge instruments. Operationally, we had a consolidated income of \$224.0 million in 2008, a 13.4% increase over operating income of \$197.5 million in 2007. Our consolidated operating margin in 2008 was 17.4%, a decrease of 1.8 percentage points from an operating margin of 19.2% in 2007.

***Operating revenue***

Our consolidated revenue totaled \$1.29 billion in 2008, a 25.5% increase over operating revenue of \$1.0 billion in 2007 due to increases in both passenger and cargo revenues.

*Copa segment operating revenue*

Copa's operating revenue totaled \$1.04 billion in 2008, a 28.5% increase over operating revenue of \$806.2 million in 2007 due to increases in both passenger and cargo revenues.

*Passenger revenue.* Passenger revenue totaled \$973.2 million in 2008, a 28.7% increase over passenger revenue of \$756.4 million in 2007. This increase resulted primarily from the addition of capacity (ASMs increased by 16.6% in 2008 as compared to 2007) that resulted from an increase in departures and, to a lesser extent, longer average stage length. Revenues also increased due to our higher overall load factor (load factor increased from 78.4% in 2007 to 78.8% in 2008) during the period and the simultaneous increase in passenger yield, which rose by 9.7% to 16.81 cents in 2008.

*Cargo, mail and other.* Cargo, mail and other revenue totaled \$62.7 million in 2007, a 26.1% increase over cargo, mail and other revenue of \$49.8 million in 2007. This increase was primarily the result of higher excess baggage fees and higher cargo revenue resulting from an increase in belly space capacity available.

*AeroRepública segment operating revenue*

AeroRepública's operating revenue totaled \$264.9 million in 2008, an increase of \$38.9 million over operating revenue of \$226.0 million registered during 2007 resulting from an increase in both passenger and cargo revenues. This increase resulted primarily from higher passenger yield (yield increased from 22.74 cents in 2007 to 26.31 cents in 2008) during the period, partly due to a stronger Colombian currency during the year and higher ticket prices.

**Table of Contents****Operating expenses**

Our consolidated operating expenses totaled \$1.06 billion in 2008, a 28.3% increase over operating expenses of \$829.8 million in 2007 that was primarily attributable to the growth of our operations and higher fuel cost.

In 2008, our operating expenses per available seat mile excluding aircraft fuel was 7.46 cents, a 4.7% increase over operating expenses per available seat mile excluding aircraft fuel of 7.13 cents in 2007. Aircraft fuel per available seat mile was 4.58 cents in 2008, compared to 3.35 cents in 2007. In 2008, our total operating expenses per available seat mile was 12.04 cents, a 14.9% increase over operating expenses per available seat mile of 10.48 cents in 2007.

An overview of the major variances on a consolidated basis follows:

*Aircraft fuel.* Aircraft fuel totaled \$404.7 million in 2008, a 52.5% increase over aircraft fuel of \$265.4 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of higher fuel prices and higher fuel consumption.

*Salaries and benefits.* Salaries and benefits totaled \$139.4 million in 2008, a 19.5% increase over salaries and benefits of \$116.7 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of an overall increase in headcount to support our operations.

*Passenger servicing.* Passenger servicing totaled \$98.8 million in 2008, a 19.1% increase over passenger servicing of \$82.9 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of an increase in Copa's capacity and on-board passengers.

*Commissions.* Commissions totaled \$67.2 million in 2008, a 1.9% increase over commissions of \$65.9 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of higher passenger revenue offset by lower average commissions.

The remaining operating expenses totaled \$354.7 million in 2008, an increase of \$55.9 million over 2007.

**Copa segment operating expenses**

The breakdown of operating expenses per available seat mile is as follows:

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Percent Change</b>
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008 (in cents)</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses per ASM:</b>			
Salaries and benefits	1.45	1.48	2.4%
Passenger servicing	1.09	1.11	1.6%
Commissions	0.74	0.71	(3.6%)
Reservation and sales	0.57	0.55	(2.6%)
Maintenance, materials and repairs	0.62	0.63	0.6%
Depreciation	0.49	0.52	6.4%
Flight operations	0.58	0.64	8.7%
Aircraft rentals	0.44	0.43	(3.4%)
Landing fees and other rentals	0.32	0.33	1.8%
Other	0.61	0.55	(8.8%)
Total operating expenses per ASM before aircraft fuel	6.90	6.94	0.5%
Aircraft fuel	3.17	4.33	36.7%
Total operating expenses per ASM	10.08	11.27	11.9%

**Table of Contents**

*Aircraft fuel.* Aircraft fuel totaled \$318.2 million in 2008, a 59.4% increase over aircraft fuel of \$199.7 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of a 37.0% increase in the all-in average price per gallon of jet fuel (\$3.14 in 2008 compared to \$2.29 in 2007) and the consumption of 16.6% more fuel due to a 18.9% increase in departures and an increase in average stage length. Aircraft fuel per available seat mile increased by 36.7% due to the increase in average fuel cost per gallon.

*Salaries and benefits.* Salaries and benefits totaled \$108.9 million in 2008, a 19.4% increase over salaries and benefits of \$91.2 million in 2007. This increase was mainly a result of an overall increase in operating headcount to support increased capacity deployed during the year. Salaries and benefits per available seat mile increased by 2.5%.

*Passenger servicing.* Passenger servicing totaled \$81.2 million in 2008, an 18.4% increase over passenger servicing of \$68.6 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of Copa's 16.6% increase in capacity. Passenger servicing per available seat mile increased by 1.6%.

*Commissions.* Commissions totaled \$52.1 million in 2008, a 12.3% increase over commissions of \$46.4 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of higher passenger revenue partially offset by lower average commission rates. Commissions per available seat mile decreased by 3.6%.

*Reservations and sales.* Reservations and sales totaled \$40.7 million in 2008, a 13.5% increase over reservations and sales of \$35.9 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of a 15.4% increase in on-board passengers. Reservations and sales expenses per available seat mile decreased by 2.6%.

*Maintenance, materials and repairs.* Maintenance, materials and repairs totaled \$45.9 million in 2008, a 17.2% increase over maintenance, materials and repairs of \$39.2 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of a 16.6% increase in capacity. Maintenance, materials and repair per available seat mile increased by 0.6%.

*Depreciation.* Depreciation totaled \$38.1 million in 2008, a 24.1% increase over depreciation of \$30.7 million in 2007, as a result of higher depreciation attributable to our acquisition of five new Embraer 190 and two new Boeing 737-800 aircraft in 2007, and four new Embraer 190 and one new Boeing 737-800 in 2008. Depreciation per available seat mile increased by 6.4%.

*Flight operations, aircraft rentals and landing fees and other rentals.* Combined, flight operations, aircraft rentals and landing fees and other rentals increased from \$84.7 million in 2007 to \$101.9 million in 2008, primarily as a result of Copa's 16.6% increase in capacity. Combined, flight operations, aircraft rentals and landing fees and other rentals per available seat mile increased by 3.1%.

*Other.* Other expenses totaled \$40.6 million in 2008, a 6.4% increase over other expenses of \$38.1 million in 2007. This increase was primarily a result of an increase in OnePass frequent flyer miles earned by customers during the period. Other expenses per available seat mile decreased by 8.8%.

***AeroRepública segment operating expenses***

AeroRepública's operating expenses totaled \$249.2 million in 2008, an increase of \$48.7 million over operating expenses of \$200.5 million reported during 2007 primarily due to higher aircraft fuel cost and higher maintenance expenses related to the retirement of the older MD-80 aircraft.

***Non-operating income (expense)***

Our consolidated non-operating expenses totaled \$87.9 million in 2008, an increase over non-operating expenses of \$18.6 million in 2007, attributable primarily to a \$54.9 million loss in the market value of fuel hedge instruments.

**Table of Contents**

*Copa segment non-operating income (expense)*

Non-operating expense totaled \$77.4 million in 2008, an increase over non-operating expense of \$6.1 million in 2007, attributable primarily to a \$53.1 million loss in the market value of fuel hedge instruments.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense totaled \$36.2 million in 2008, a 0.3% decrease from interest expense of \$36.3 million in 2007, primarily resulting from lower average interest rates during the period. The average effective interest rates on our debt decreased by 88 basis points from 5.56% during 2007 to 4.68% during 2008. At period's end, interest rate on 47% of our outstanding debt was fixed at an average effective rate of 4.89%.

*Interest capitalized.* Interest capitalized totaled \$1.9 million in 2008, a 25.3% decrease over interest capitalized of \$2.6 million in 2007, resulting from lower average monthly balance relating to pre-delivery payments on aircraft.

*Interest income.* Interest income totaled \$10.5 million in 2008, a 10.3% decrease from interest income of \$11.7 million in 2007. This decrease was mainly a result of lower average interest rates during the period, partially offset by a higher average cash and investment balance.

*Other, net.* Other, net loss totaled \$53.6 million in 2008, compared to a \$15.9 million other, net income in 2007. This change was primarily the result of a \$53.1 million loss in the market value of fuel hedge instruments during the period.

*AeroRepública segment non-operating income (expense)*

Non-operating expense totaled \$10.5 million in 2008, a decrease from non-operating expense of \$12.2 million in 2007, attributable primarily to lower interest expense.

**B. Liquidity and Capital Resources**

In recent years, we have been able to meet our working capital requirements through cash from our operations. Our capital expenditures, which consist primarily of aircraft purchases, are funded through a combination of our cash from operations and long-term financing. From time to time, we finance pre-delivery payments related to our aircraft with medium-term financing in the form of commercial banks loans and/or bonds privately placed with commercial banks. Our accounts receivable at December 31, 2009 increased by \$5.6 million compared with December 31, 2008, primarily as a result of the growth in operating revenues.

Our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments at December 31, 2009 decreased by \$44.7 million to \$352.1 million. At December 31, 2009, we had \$6.4 million in restricted cash within long-term investments as collateral for letters of credits. At December 31, 2009 we had available committed lines of credit totaling \$29.6 million under which there were no amounts outstanding and uncommitted lines of credit totaling \$60.0 million under which there was \$20.0 million outstanding. These lines of credit have been secured to bridge potential liquidity gaps and account for other potential contingencies.

***Operating Activities***

We rely primarily on cash flows from operations to provide working capital for current and future operations. Cash flows from operating activities totaled \$282.4 million in 2009, \$198.1 million in 2008 and \$221.9 million in 2007. The increase in operating cash flows over these periods was primarily due to the growth of our business.

**Table of Contents*****Investing Activities***

During 2009, our capital expenditures were \$202.7 million, which consisted primarily of expenditures related to our purchase of one Boeing 737-800 aircraft, as well as \$151.7 million in expenditures related to advance payments on aircraft purchase contracts for aircraft delivering in 2010, 2011 and 2012. During 2008, our capital expenditures were \$215.9 million, which consisted primarily of expenditures related to our purchase of four Embraer 190 aircraft and one Boeing 737-800 aircraft, as well as to expenditures related to advance payments on aircraft purchase contracts. During 2007, our capital expenditures were \$366.1 million, which consisted primarily of expenditures related to our purchase of nine Embraer 190 aircraft and two Boeing 737-800 aircraft, as well as to expenditures related to advance payments on aircraft purchase contracts.

***Financing Activities***

Financing activities during 2009 consisted primarily of \$103.8 million of financing of one aircraft and aircraft pre-delivery payments, the repayment of \$175.4 million in short and long-term debt and \$16.3 million in dividends declared and paid.

Financing activities during 2008 consisted primarily of \$160.2 million of financing for five aircraft and aircraft pre-delivery payments, the repayment of \$84.5 million in long-term debt and \$16.2 million in dividends declared and paid.

Financing activities during 2007 consisted primarily of \$329.1 million of financing for 11 aircraft and aircraft pre-delivery payments, the repayment of \$87.3 million in long-term debt and \$13.6 million in dividends declared and paid.

In past years we have generally been able to arrange medium-term financing for pre-delivery payments through loans with commercial banks. In 2009, we financed our pre-delivery payments with our own cash. As the aircraft are delivered and the financing for the aircraft is received, these pre-delivery payments will be recovered by the company. Although we have not experienced any difficulty obtaining financing, the current recessionary environment, combined with other factors, has led to a tightening in the credit markets, which has increased the cost of our lease and debt financing and we may not be able to continue to raise financing on terms attractive to us, or at all, in the future. We have financed the acquisition of 21 Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and three spare engines through syndicated loans provided by international financial institutions with the support of partial guarantees issued by the Export-Import Bank of the United States, or Ex-Im, with repayment profiles of 12 years. The Ex-Im guarantees support 85% of the net purchase price and are secured with a first priority mortgage on the aircraft in favor of a security trustee on behalf of Ex-Im. The documentation for each loan follows standard market forms for this type of financing, including standard events of default. Our Ex-Im supported financings amortize on a quarterly basis, are denominated in dollars and originally bear interest at a floating rate linked to LIBOR. Our Ex-Im guarantee facilities typically offer an option to fix the applicable interest rate. We have exercised this option with respect to \$337.8 million as of December 31, 2009 at an average weighted interest rate of 4.67%. The remaining \$25.8 million bears interest at an average weighted interest of LIBOR plus 0.03%. At December 31, 2009, the total amount outstanding under our Ex-Im-supported financings totaled \$363.5 million.

We have effectively extended the maturity of certain of our Boeing aircraft financing to 15 years through the use of a Stretched Overall Amortization and Repayment, or SOAR, structure which provides serial draw-downs calculated to result in a 100% loan accreting to a recourse balloon at the maturity of the Ex-Im guaranteed loan. The SOAR portions of our facilities require us to maintain certain financial covenants, including an EBITDAR to fixed charge ratio, a long-term obligations to EBITDAR ratio and a minimum unrestricted cash balance. To comply with the first ratio, our EBITDA plus aircraft rent expense, or EBITDAR, for the prior year must be at least 2.0 times our fixed charge expenses (including interest, commission, fees, discounts and other finance payments) for that year. To comply with the second ratio, our long-term obligations must be no more than six times EBITDAR. Third, our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investment balance should be at least \$50 million. As of December 31, 2009, we complied with all required covenants. We also pay a commitment fee on the unutilized portion of our SOAR loans.





**Table of Contents**

We also have financed 10% of the purchase price of certain of our Boeing aircraft through commercial loans. Under the commercial loan agreements for aircraft received in 2002, we are required to comply with four specific financial covenants. The first covenant requires our EBITDAR for the prior year to be at least 2.0 times our finance charge expenses (including interest, commission, fees, discounts and other finance payments). The second covenant limits our net borrowings to 85% of our capitalization. The third covenant requires our tangible net worth to be at least \$120 million. The last covenant requires us to maintain a minimum of \$50 million in available cash (including cash equivalents and committed credit facilities). As of December 31, 2009, we complied with all required covenants. Our Embraer aircraft purchases are not eligible for Ex-Im guaranteed financing. During 2005, we secured a senior term loan facility in the amount of \$134 million for the purchase of six Embraer 190 aircraft. The loans have a term of twelve years. During 2005, we utilized \$44 million of this facility and the remaining \$90 million was drawn during 2006. During 2006, we secured a senior and junior term loan facility for a total \$240 million for the purchase of ten Embraer 190 aircraft. The loans have a term of twelve years. During 2006, we utilized \$24 million of this facility and the remainder was drawn during 2007. During 2008, we secured a senior term loan facility in the amount of \$100 million for the purchase of four Embraer 190 aircraft. The loans have a term of twelve years. During 2008, we utilized all of this facility. Under the 2006 loan agreement we are required to comply with certain financial covenants. The first covenant requires our EBITDAR for the prior year to be at least 2.5 times our fixed charge expenses (including interest, commission, fees, discounts and other finance payments) for that year. The second covenant requires a total liability plus operating leases minus operating cash to tangible net worth ratio of less than 5.5 to 1. The third covenant requires our tangible net worth to be at least \$160 million. The last covenant requires us to maintain a minimum of \$75 million in available cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. As of December 31, 2009, we complied with all required covenants.

*Capital resources.* We finance our aircraft through long term debt and operating lease financings. Although we expect to finance future aircraft deliveries with a combination of similar debt arrangements and financing leases, we may not be able to secure such financing on attractive terms. To the extent we cannot secure financing, we may be required to modify our aircraft acquisition plans or incur higher than anticipated financing costs. We expect to meet our operating obligations as they become due through available cash and internally generated funds, supplemented as necessary by short-term credit lines.

As of December 31, 2009, we had placed firm purchase orders with The Boeing Company for 27 Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and we have purchase rights and options for an additional eight Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft. We also have options to purchase an additional 11 Embraer 190 aircraft. The schedule for delivery of our firm purchase orders is as follows: seven in 2010, five in 2011, five in 2012, four in 2013, four in 2014, and two in 2015. We meet our pre-delivery deposit requirements for our Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft by paying cash, or by using medium-term borrowing facilities and/or vendor financing for deposits required between two years and 6 months prior to delivery. Pre-delivery deposits for our Embraer 190 aircraft are required 18, 12 and 6 months prior to delivery. We fund these deposits with our own cash.

We maintain available facilities for letters of credit with several banks with outstanding balances of \$25.7 million and \$34.6 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. These letters of credit are pledged for aircraft rentals, maintenance and guarantees for airport facilities. Of this total, \$7.7 million are letters of credit opened on behalf of AeroRepública for the same purposes listed above. In addition, we have committed lines of credit totaling \$29.6 million, including one line of credit for \$15.0 million with Banco General and an overdraft line of credit of \$10.0 million with Towerbank. We also had a non committed line of credit of \$60.0 million with Bladex. These lines of credit have been secured to bridge liquidity gaps and for other potential contingencies. As of December 31, 2009, we had an outstanding balance of \$20.0 million with Bladex.

**Table of Contents****C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, etc.**

We believe that the Copa brand has strong value and indicates superior service and value in the Latin American travel industry. We have registered the trademarks Copa and Copa Airlines with the trademark office in Panama and have filed requests for registration in other countries, including the United States. We license certain brands, logos and trade dress under the trademark license agreement with Continental related to our alliance. We will have the right to continue to use our current logos on our aircraft for up to five years after the end of the alliance agreement term. AeroRepública s has registered its name as a trademark in Colombia for the next ten years, and plans to register its trademark in Panama, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru.

We operate a number of software products under licenses from our vendors, including our booking engine, our automated pricing system from SMG Technologies, our SABRE revenue management software and our Cargo Management system. Under our agreements with Boeing, we also use a large amount of Boeing s proprietary information to maintain our aircraft. The loss of these software systems or technical support information from Boeing could negatively affect our business.

**D. Trend Information**

We seek to expand our operations by adding frequencies and new routes with the addition of eight new Boeing 737-800 aircraft to our fleet in 2010. For the remainder of 2010, we expect to continue to concentrate on keeping our operating costs low and pursuing ways to make our operations more efficient.

We intend to continue developing initiatives to improve the operations at both Copa and AeroRepública, including a continued focus on on-time performance and completion factors. In February 2010, as part of our plan to modernize AeroRepública s fleet, we completed the retirement of our last remaining MD-80 aircraft. Additionally, we continue to seek further integration of Copa s and AeroRepública s network through codesharing and fleet interchange agreements. We expect jet fuel prices will continue to be volatile in 2010 and expect to continue evaluating fuel hedging programs to help protect us against short-term movements in crude oil prices. We also expect some recovery of the regional economic environment during 2010.

We expect our operating capacity to increase approximately 10% in 2010, primarily as a result of the addition of nine new aircraft throughout the year.

**E. Off-balance sheet arrangements**

None of our operating lease obligations are reflected on our consolidated balance sheet, and we have no other off-balance sheet arrangements. We are responsible for all maintenance, insurance and other costs associated with operating these aircraft; however, we have not made any residual value or other guarantees to our lessors.

**F. Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations**

Our non-cancelable contractual obligations at December 31, 2009 included the following:

	<b>At December 31, 2009</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Less than 1 Year</b>	<b>1-3 Years</b>	<b>3-5 Years</b>	<b>More than 5 Years</b>
	(in thousands of dollars)				
Aircraft and engine purchase commitments	980,883	246,243	347,587	319,975	67,078
Aircraft operating leases	226,557	46,670	79,433	53,038	47,416
Other operating leases	35,935	9,741	13,536	9,396	3,262
Short-term debt and long-term debt(1)	937,630	122,271	206,184	190,124	419,051
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,181,005</b>	<b>424,925</b>	<b>646,740</b>	<b>572,533</b>	<b>536,807</b>

(1) Includes actual interest and estimated interest for

floating-rate  
debt based on  
December 31,  
2009 rates.

**Table of Contents**

Most contract leases include renewal options. Non-aircraft related leases have renewable terms of one year, and their respective amounts included in the table above have been estimated through 2014, but we cannot estimate amounts with respect to those leases for later years. Our leases do not include residual value guarantees.

The Company has a prepaid pension asset, but estimates that contribution payments to the plan, which reflect expected future services, will be \$1.2 million for 2010.

**Item 6. Directors, senior management and employees****A. Directors and Senior Management**

We are managed by our Board of Directors which currently consists of eleven members who serve two-year terms and may be re-elected. The number of directors elected each year alternates between six directors and five directors.

Messrs. Pedro Heilbron, Osvaldo Heilbron, Ricardo A. Arias, Mark Erwin, Alfredo Arias Loreda and Roberto Artavia were each re-elected for two-year terms at our annual shareholders' meeting held in May 2008. At our 2009 annual shareholders' meeting held on May 6, 2009, Messrs. Stanley Motta, José Castañeda Velez, Jaime Arias, Alberto C. Motta Jr., and Joseph Fidanque were re-elected as directors until the 2011 annual shareholders' meeting. Our charter does not have a mandatory retirement age for our directors.

The following table sets forth the name, age and position of each member of our Board of Directors as of February 26, 2010. A brief biographical description of each member of our Board of Directors follows the table.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Age</b>
Pedro Heilbron	Chief Executive Officer and Director	52
Stanley Motta	Chairman and Director	64
Osvaldo Heilbron	Director	84
Jaime Arias	Director	75
Ricardo Alberto Arias	Director	70
Alberto C. Motta, Jr.	Director	63
Mark Erwin	Director	54
Joseph Fidanque III	Director	43
Jose Castañeda Velez	Director	65
Roberto Artavia Loria	Director	51
Alfredo Arias Loreda	Director	63

**Mr. Pedro Heilbron.** See Executive Officers.

**Mr. Stanley Motta** has been one of the directors of Copa Airlines since 1986 and a director of Copa Holdings, since it was established in 1998. Since 1990, he has served as the President of Motta Internacional, S.A. an international importer and distributor of consumer goods. Mr. Motta is the brother of our director, Alberto C. Motta Jr. He serves on the boards of directors of Motta Internacional, S.A., BG Financial Group, S.A., ASSA Compañía de Seguros, S.A., Televisora Nacional, S.A., Inversiones Bahía, Ltd. and GBM Corporation. Mr. Motta is a graduate of Tulane University.

**Mr. Osvaldo Heilbron** has been one of the directors of Copa Airlines since 1986 and a director of Copa Holdings, since it was established in 1998. Mr. Heilbron is the father of Mr. Pedro Heilbron, our chief executive officer. He serves on the boards of directors of CIASA, Desarrollo Costa Del Este, S.A., Harinas Panama, S.A., Televisora Nacional, S.A. and SSA Panama Inc.

**Mr. Jaime Arias** has been one of the directors of Copa Airlines since 1983 and a director of Copa Holdings, since it was established in 1998. He is a founding partner of Galindo, Arias & Lopez. Mr. Arias holds a B.A. from Yale University, a J.D. from Tulane University and legal studies at the University of Paris, Sorbonne. He serves on the boards of directors of Televisora Nacional, S.A., ASSA Compañía de Seguros, S.A., Empresa General de Inversiones, S.A., Petróleos Delta, S.A., Bac International Bank, Inc., Direct Vision, S.A. and Promed, S.A.

**Table of Contents**

**Mr. Ricardo Arias** has been one of the directors of Copa Airlines since 1985 and a director of Copa Holdings, since it was established in 1998. He is a founding partner of Galindo, Arias & Lopez. Mr. Arias is the former Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations. Mr. Arias holds a B.A. in international relations from Georgetown University, an LL.B. from the University of Puerto Rico and an LL.M. from Yale Law School. He serves on the boards of directors of Banco General, S.A. and Empresa General de Inversiones, S.A., which is the holding company that owns Banco General, S.A. Mr. Arias is also listed as a principal or alternate director of several subsidiary companies of Banco General, S.A. and Empresa General de Inversiones, S.A. Mr. Arias is a former Director and President of the Panamanian Stock Exchange.

**Mr. Alberto Motta, Jr.** has been one of the directors of Copa Airlines since 1983 and a director of Copa Holdings, since it was established in 1998. He is a Vice President of Inversiones Bahía, Ltd. Mr. Motta attended the University of Hartwick. He is the brother of Mr. Stanley Motta. He also serves on the boards of directors of Motta Internacional, S.A., BG Financial Group, S.A., Inversiones Costa del Este, S.A., ASSA Compañía de Seguros, S.A., Petroleos Delta, S.A., Productos Toledanos, S.A., Financiera Automotriz, S.A., Televisora Nacional, S.A., Hotel Miramar Inter-Continental and Industrias Panama Boston, S.A.

**Mr. Mark Erwin** has been one of the directors of Copa Airlines and Copa Holdings since 2004. He is the Senior Vice President Corporate Development and Alliances of Continental Airlines and serves on the board of directors of Continental Micronesia, Inc., the wholly owned western Pacific subsidiary of Continental Airlines, Inc. Mr. Erwin held the position of Senior Vice President of Airport Services of Continental Airlines, Inc. from 1995 through 2002. Mr. Erwin is a graduate of Portland State University. Mr. Erwin has been appointed to our Board of Director pursuant to our supplemental agreement with Continental (see Item 7.B Related Party and Certain Significant Transactions Supplemental Agreement ).

**Mr. Joseph Fidanque III** has been one of the directors of Copa Airlines since 2006. He is President of Fidanque Hermanos e Hijos, S.A. and Star Contact, Ltd. He serves on the boards of directors of Multiholding Corporation Panama, Fundación Filantrópica Fidanque, Colon Import and Export and Sky Technologies Network. Mr. Fidanque holds a B.S. in Economics from Tufts University.

**Mr. Roberto Artavia Loria** is one of the independent directors of Copa Holdings. He is Chairman of Viva Trust and Viva Services, President of the Fundación Latinoamérica Posible in Panama and Costa Rica, Board Member and visiting professor of INCAE Business School, and Director of MarViva Foundation in Panama. Mr. Artavia Loria is also an advisor to the governments of five countries in Latin America, and a strategic advisor to Purdy Motor, S.A., the Panama Canal Authority, Coyoil Free Zone and Business Park, Grupo Nacion and FUNDESA, among other organizations in the region. Mr. Artavia Loria also serves on the Board of Directors of the World Resources Institute and the Foundation for Management Education in Central America, both in Washington, Compañía Cervecería de Nicaragua, OBS Americas in Costa Rica, and IDC of Guatemala.

**Mr. José Castañeda Velez** is one of the independent directors of Copa Holdings. He is currently director of MMG Bank Corporation, MMG Fiduciary & Trust Corp., and the Instituto de Gobierno Corporativo de Panamá. Previously, Mr. Castañeda Velez was the chief executive officer of Banco Latinoamericano de Exportaciones, S.A. BLADEX and has held managerial and officer level positions at Banco Río de la Plata, Citibank, N.A., Banco de Credito del Peru and Crocker National Bank. He is a graduate of the University of Lima.

**Mr. Alfredo Arias Loredo** is one of the independent directors of Copa Holdings. He is the former Executive President of Cervecería Nacional, S.A. Mr. Arias Loredo is a member of the Board of Trustees of ANCON (Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza). Mr. Arias Loredo received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. in Industrial Management, both from Georgia Institute of Technology.

**Table of Contents**

The following table sets forth the name, age and position of each of our executive officers as of February 26, 2010. A brief biographical description of each of our executive officers follows the table.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Age</b>
Pedro Heilbron	Chief Executive Officer	52
Victor Vial	Chief Financial Officer	44
Daniel Gunn	Senior Vice-President of Operations	42
Leo Marchosky	Vice-President of Human Resources	53
Joe Mohan	Vice-President of Commercial and Planning	40
Jaime Aguirre	Vice-President of Maintenance	47
Vidalia de Casado	Vice-President of On-Board Services	52
David Lindskoog	Vice-President of Flight Operations	59
Peter Diaz	Vice-President of Airport Services	43
Roberto Junguito Pombo	Chief Executive Officer of AeroRepública	39

**Mr. Pedro Heilbron** has been our Chief Executive Officer for 21 years. He received an M.B.A. from George Washington University and a B.A. from College of the Holy Cross. Mr. Heilbron is the son of Mr. Osvaldo Heilbron, a member of our Board of Directors. Mr. Heilbron is a Member of the Board of Governors of IATA.

**Mr. Victor Vial** has been our Chief Financial Officer since 2000. From 1995 until 2000, Mr. Vial served as our Director of Planning. Prior to his service at Copa, Mr. Vial was a Senior Financial Analyst for HBO-Time Warner. Mr. Vial holds a B.B.A. in International Business from George Washington University.

**Mr. Daniel Gunn** has been our Senior Vice-President of Operations since February 2009. Prior to this Mr. Gunn had served as Vice-President of Commercial and Planning and Vice-President of Planning and Alliances. Prior to joining Copa in 1999, he spent five years with American Airlines holding positions in Finance, Real Estate and Alliances. Mr. Gunn received a B.A. in Business & Economics from Wheaton College and an M.B.A. with an emphasis in Finance and International Business from the University of Southern California.

**Dr. Leo Marchosky** has been our Vice-President of Human Resources since February 2008. Before joining Copa, he was CEO and President of Novartis Mexico and previously held top management and regional positions with the same company in Latin America, Asia and Europe. Dr. Marchosky has a Master in Business Administration from the Sao Paulo Business School in Brazil, and is also an MD with a specialty in Internal Medicine.

**Mr. Joe Mohan** has been our Vice-President of Commercial and Planning since February 2008. Prior to joining Copa, he was the Senior Vice President of Sales at American Land Lease and held several senior positions at Continental Airlines. Mr. Mohan received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Florida and a M.B.A. with an emphasis on strategy from Georgetown University.

**Mr. Jaime Aguirre** has been our Vice President of Maintenance since 2002. Prior to that, he served as our Director of Engineering and Quality Assurance. Before joining Copa, Mr. Aguirre was the Technical Services Director at Avianca, S.A. Mr. Aguirre received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Los Andes University, a Master of Engineering with an emphasis on Engineering Management from Javeriana University and a M.B.A. from the University of Louisville.

**Ms. Vidalia de Casado** has been our Vice-President of On-Board Services since January 2010. She joined Copa in 1989, serving as Passenger Services Manager from 1989 to 1995 and Vice-President of Passenger Services from 1995 to 2010. Prior to joining Copa, she spent seven years as Human Resource and Service Director with Air Panama Internacional, S.A. Ms. de Casado received a B.S. in Business from Universidad Latina and an M.B.A. from the University of Louisville.

**Captain David Lindskoog** has been our Vice-President of Flight Operations since 2008. Captain Lindskoog has worked in the airline industry since 1981, both in line operations and in management. Prior to joining Copa he held management positions at North American Airlines and ATA Airlines. Captain Lindskoog received a B.S. in Professional Pilot Technology from Purdue University.



**Table of Contents**

**Mr. Peter Díaz** has been our Vice-President of Airport Services since January 2010. Prior to joining COPA he served as Vice-President of Primeflight Aviation Services and also held regional positions with JetBlue Airways from 2003 through 2008. He received a B.S. in Business Administration from Embry-Riddle University.

**Mr. Roberto Junguito Pombo** joined our company on November 8, 2005 as the Chief Executive Officer of our AeroRepública operating subsidiary. Mr. Junguito previously spent two years with Avianca, holding positions as the Vice President of Planning, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Restructuring Officer. Avianca declared bankruptcy in March 2003. Mr. Junguito received a B.S. in Industrial Engineering at the Universidad de Los Andes, an M.A. in International Studies from the Joseph H. Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. with an emphasis on finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

The business address for all of our senior management is c/o Copa Airlines, Avenida Principal y Avenida de la Rotonda, Urbanización Costa del Este, Complejo Business Park, Torre Norte, Parque Lefevre Panama City, Panama.

**B. Compensation**

In 2009, we paid an aggregate of approximately \$2.7 million in cash compensation to our executive officers. Although in 2006 we set aside \$3.0 million for payment to senior management related to covenants not to compete with us in the future, we have not set aside any other funds for future payments to executive officers.

Members of our Board of Directors that are not officers of either Copa or Continental receive \$25,000 per year plus expenses incurred to attend our Board of Directors meetings. In addition, members of committees of the Board of Directors receive \$1,000 per committee meeting, with the chairman of the audit committee receiving \$2,000 per meeting of the audit committee. All of the members of our Board of Directors and their spouses receive benefits to travel on Copa flights as well.

**Incentive Compensation Program**

In 2005, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors eliminated the then existing Long Term Retention Plan and approved a one time non vested stock bonus award program for certain executive officers (the Stock Incentive Plan ). Non vested stock delivered under the Stock Incentive Plan may be sourced from treasury stock, or authorized un-issued shares. In March 2006, in accordance with this program, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted 935,650 restricted stock awards. Senior management were granted 847,625 non vested stock awards, which vest over five years in yearly installments equal to 15% of the awarded stock on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, 25% on the fourth anniversary and 30% on the fifth anniversary. Managers, officers and key employees, not on our senior management team, were granted 88,025 non vested stock awards which vest on the second anniversary of the grant date. In each of March 2007, February 2008, and March 2009 the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted 16,955, 73,374 and 113,714 shares of non-vested stock awards, respectively, to certain named executive officers, which vest over three years in yearly installments equal to one-third of the awarded stock on each of the three anniversaries of the grant date. Non-vested stock awards were measured at their fair value, which is the same amount for which a similarly restricted share would be issued to third party, on the grant date. The fair value of these non-vested stocks award was \$22.05, \$37.97, \$53.14 and \$21.10 for the 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 grants, respectively.

In March 2007, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted, for the first time, 35,657 equity stock options to certain named executive officers, which vest over three years in yearly installments equal to one-third of the awarded stock on each of the three anniversaries of the grant date. The exercise price of the options is \$53.14, which is the market price of the Company's stock at the grant date. The stock options have a contractual term of 10 years.

The weighted-average fair value of the stock options at the grant date was \$22.33, and was estimated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model assuming an expected dividend yield of 0.58%, expected volatility of approximately 37.8% based on historical volatility, weighted average risk-free interest rate of 4.59%, and an expected term of 6 years calculated under the simplified method.



## **Table of Contents**

The Compensation Committee plans to make additional equity based awards under the plan from time to time, including additional non vested stock and stock option awards. While the Compensation Committee will retain discretion to vary the exact terms of future awards, we anticipate that future employee non-vested stock and stock option awards granted pursuant to the plan will generally vest over a three year period and the stock options will carry a ten year term.

The total compensation cost recognized for non-vested stocks and options awards was \$5.3 million, \$5.6 million and \$4.8 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and was recorded as a component of Salaries and benefits within Operating Expense.

During first quarter of 2010 the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors approved two new stock compensation plans. Awards were granted under these new plans for 55,758 shares of non-vested stock awards, which will vest over three years. We estimate the fair value of these awards to be approximately \$3.1 million and the 2010 compensation cost for these plans to be \$1.0 million.

### **C. Board Practices**

Our Board of Directors currently meets quarterly. Additionally, informal meetings with Continental are held on an ongoing basis, and are supported by quarterly formal meetings of an Alliance Steering Committee, which directs and reports on the progress of the Copa and Continental Alliance. Our Board of Directors is focused on providing our overall strategic direction and as a result is responsible for establishing our general business policies and for appointing our executive officers and supervising their management.

Currently, our Board of Directors is comprised of eleven members. The number of directors elected each year alternates between six directors and five directors. Messrs. Pedro Heilbron, Osvaldo Heilbron, Alfredo Arias Loredo, Ricardo Arias, Mark Erwin, and Roberto Artavia were each re-elected to two-year terms at our annual shareholders meeting held in May 2008. Messrs. Stanley Motta, Jaime Arias, Alberto C. Motta Jr., Joseph Fidanque and José Castañeda were re-elected to two-year terms at our annual shareholders meeting held in May 2009. Our charter does not have a mandatory retirement age for our directors.

Pursuant to contractual arrangements with us and CIASA, Continental is entitled to designate one of our directors.

### **Committees of the Board of Directors**

**Audit Committee.** The primary function of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing:

- the integrity of financial reports and other financial information made available to the public or any regulator or governmental body;
- the effectiveness of our internal financial control and risk management systems; the effectiveness of our internal audit function, the independent audit process including the appointment, retention, compensation, and supervision of the independent auditor; and
- the compliance with laws and regulations, as well as the policies and ethical codes established by management and the Board of Directors.

The Audit Committee is also responsible for implementing procedures for receiving, retaining and addressing complaints regarding accounting, internal control and auditing matters, including the submission of confidential, anonymous complaints from employees regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

Messrs. Jose Castañeda, Roberto Artavia and Alfredo Arias, all independent non-executive directors under the applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange, are the current members of the committee, which is chaired by Mr. Jose Castañeda. All members are financially literate and Messrs. Jose Castañeda and Roberto Artavia have been determined to be financial experts by the Board of Directors.

## **Table of Contents**

**Compensation Committee.** Our Compensation Committee is responsible for the selection process of the Chief Executive Officer and the evaluation of all executive officers (including the CEO), recommending the level of compensation and any associated bonus. The charter of our Compensation Committee requires that all its members shall be non-executive directors, of which at least one member will be an independent director under the applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange. Messrs. Stanley Motta, Jaime Arias and José Castañeda are the members of our Compensation Committee, and Mr. Stanley Motta is the Chairman of the Compensation Committee.

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.** Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for developing and recommending criteria for selecting new directors, overseeing evaluations of the Board of Directors, its members and committees of the Board of Directors and handling other matters that are specifically delegated to the compensation committee by the Board of Directors from time to time. Our charter documents require that there be at least one independent member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee until the first shareholders' meeting to elect directors after such time as the Class A shares are entitled to full voting rights. Messrs. Ricardo Arias, Osvaldo Heilbron and Roberto Artavia are the members of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and Mr. Ricardo Arias is the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

**Independent Directors Committee.** Our Independent Directors Committee is created by our Articles of Incorporation and consists of any directors that the Board of Directors determines from time to time meet the independence requirements of the NYSE rules applicable to audit committee members of foreign private issuers. Our Articles of Incorporation provide that there will be three independent directors at all times, subject to certain exceptions. Under our Articles of Incorporation, the Independent Directors Committee must approve:

- any transactions in excess of \$5 million between us and our controlling shareholders,
- the designation of certain primary share issuances that will not be included in the calculation of the percentage ownership pertaining to the Class B shares for purposes of determining whether the Class A shares should be converted to voting shares under our Articles of Incorporation, and
- the issuance of additional Class B shares or Class C shares to ensure Copa Airline's compliance with aviation laws and regulations.

The Independent Directors Committee shall also have any other powers expressly delegated by the Board of Directors. Under the Articles of Incorporation, these powers can only be changed by the Board of Directors acting as a whole upon the written recommendation of the Independent Directors Committee. The Independent Directors Committee will only meet regularly until the first shareholders' meeting at which the Class A shareholders will be entitled to vote for the election of directors and afterwards at any time that Class C shares are outstanding. All decisions of the Independent Directors Committee shall be made by a majority of the members of the committee. See Item 10B. Memorandum and Articles of Association Description of Capital Stock.

### **D. Employees**

We believe that our growth potential and the achievement of our results-oriented corporate goals are directly linked to our ability to attract, motivate and maintain the best professionals available in the airline business. In order to help retain our employees, we encourage open communication channels between our employees and management. Our CEO meets quarterly with all of our Copa employees in Panama in town hall-style meetings during which he explains the company's performance and encourages feedback from attendees. A similar presentation is made by our senior executives at each of our foreign stations. Our compensation strategy reinforces our determination to retain talented and highly motivated employees and is designed to align the interests of our employees with our shareholders through profit-sharing.

**Table of Contents**

Approximately 76% of Copa's employees are located in Panama, while the remaining 24% are distributed among our foreign stations. Copa's employees can be categorized as follows:

	<b>December 31,</b>				
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Pilots	235	299	375	492	529
Flight attendants	448	514	575	719	783
Mechanics	200	155	213	247	249
Customer service agents, reservation agents, ramp and other	1,626	1,861	1,898	2,270	2,143
Management and clerical	587	675	742	807	1,068
<b>Total employees</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>4,772</b>

Our profit-sharing program at Copa reflects our belief that our employees will remain dedicated to our success if they have a stake in that success. We identify key performance drivers within each employee's control as part of our annual objectives plan, or Path to Success. Typically, we pay bonuses in February based on our performance during the preceding calendar year. For members of management, 75% of the bonus amount is based on our performance as a whole and 25% is based on the achievement of individual goals. Bonuses for non-management employees are based on the company's performance and payment is typically a multiple of the employee's weekly salary. The bonus payments are approved by our compensation committee. We typically make accruals each month for the expected annual bonuses which are reconciled to actual payments at their dispersal in the first quarter.

We provide training for all of our employees including technical training for our pilots, dispatchers, flight attendants and other technical staff. In addition, we provide recurrent customer service training to frontline staff, as well as leadership training for managers. In 2005, we leased a Level B flight simulator for Boeing 737-Next Generation training that served 80% of our initial training, transition and upgrade training and 100% of our recurrent training needs relating to that aircraft. During 2007, we upgraded this simulator to provide 100% of our initial training. In 2008, we leased a similar flight simulator for Embraer 190 training that serves for all of our initial and recurrent training needs.

We generally maintain good relations with our union and non-union employees and have not experienced work stoppages during the past twenty years. Approximately 56% of Copa's employees are unionized. There are currently five unions covering our Copa employees in Panama: the pilots' union (SIPAC); the flight attendants' union (SIPANAB); the mechanics' union (SINTECMAP); the traffic attendants' union (UGETRACO); and a generalized union, SIELAS, which represents ground personnel, messengers, drivers, counter agents and other non-executive administrative staff. In November of 2007, Copa negotiated a new collective bargaining agreement with its pilot union that will remain in effect for more than four years, with the next negotiation scheduled for August 2012. Copa entered into new collective bargaining agreements with its general union, mechanics union and flight attendants union in July 2008, April 2009, and March 2010 respectively. Collective bargaining agreements in Panama typically extend for four years. We also have agreements with our Copa employees in São Paulo, Brazil and Mexico. We have traditionally experienced good relations with our unions, and we generally agree to terms in line with the economic environment affecting Panama, our company and the airline industry generally.

AeroRepública's pilots and flight attendants are represented by two separate unions. The pilots' union, *Asociación Colombiana de Aviadores Civiles* (ACDAC), represents AeroRepública's pilots and co-pilots. The flight attendants union, *Asociación Colombiana de Auxiliares de Vuelo* (ACAV), represents all of AeroRepública's flight attendants. AeroRepública entered into a new collective bargaining agreement with ACDAC on March 3, 2008 and will be in effect until December 31, 2010. Typically, collective bargaining agreements in Colombia are valid for a period of two to four years. AeroRepública has traditionally experienced good relations with its unions.

**E. Share Ownership**

The members of our Board of Directors and our executive officers as a group own 0.3% of our Class A shares. See Item 7A. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions.

**Table of Contents**

For a description of stock options granted to our Board of Directors and our executive officers, see Compensation Long Term Incentive Compensation Program .

**Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions****A. Major Shareholders**

The following table sets forth information relating to the beneficial ownership of our Class A shares as of December 31, 2009 by each person known to us to beneficially own 5% or more of our common shares and all our directors and officers as a group. Class A shares are limited voting shares entitled only to vote in certain specified circumstances. See Item 10B. Additional Information Memorandum and Articles of Association Description of Capital Stock.

	<b>Class A Shares Beneficially Owned</b>	
	<b>Shares</b>	<b>(%)<sup>(1)</sup></b>
CIASA <sup>(2)</sup>		
Executive officers and directors as a group (20 persons)	98,069	0.3%
Bank of America Corp. <sup>(3)</sup>	2,243,288	7.3%
Others	28,225,496	92.3%
Total	30,566,853	100%

(1) Based on a total of 30,566,853 Class A shares outstanding.

(2) CIASA owns 100% of the Class B shares of Copa Holdings, representing 29.1% of our total capital stock.

(3) Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC, dated February 2, 2010, in which Bank of America Corp. and certain related parties, reported beneficial

ownership of  
2,243,288  
Class A Shares.

In June 2006, Continental reduced its ownership of our total capital stock from 27.3% to 10.0%. In May 2008, Continental sold down its remaining shares in the public market.

CIASA currently owns 100% of the Class B shares of Copa Holdings, representing all of the voting power of our capital stock. CIASA is controlled by a group of Panamanian investors representing several prominent families in Panama. This group of investors has historically acted together in a variety of business activities both in Panama and elsewhere in Latin America, including banking, insurance, real estate, telecommunications, international trade and commerce and wholesale. Members of the Motta, Heilbron and Arias families and their affiliates beneficially own approximately 90% of CIASA's shares. Our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Pedro Heilbron, and several of our directors, including Messrs. Stanley Motta and Alberto C. Motta Jr., Mr. Osvaldo Heilbron, Mr. Jaime Arias and Mr. Ricardo Alberto Arias as a group hold beneficial ownership of approximately 78% of CIASA's shares.

The holders of more than 78% of the issued and outstanding stock of CIASA have entered into a shareholders agreement providing that the parties to the agreement will vote all of their shares in CIASA together as a group on all matters concerning CIASA's holdings of Class B shares. Additionally, this shareholders agreement restricts transfers of CIASA shares to non-Panamanian nationals. Messrs. Stanley Motta and Alberto C. Motta Jr. together exercise effective control of CIASA.

The address of CIASA is Corporación de Inversiones Aéreas, S.A., c/o Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boulevard Costa del Este, Avenida Principal y Avenida de la Rotonda, Urbanización Costa del Este, Complejo Business Park, Torre Norte, Parque Lefevre, Panama City, Panama. The address of Continental is Continental Airlines, Inc., 1600 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

**Table of Contents****B. Related Party and Certain Significant Transactions****Supplemental Agreement**

Copa Holdings is a party to a supplemental agreement with CIASA and Continental entered into in connection with Continental's May 2008 offering of our shares. The supplemental agreement terminates the shareholders' agreement between the Company, CIASA and Continental that existed prior to Continental's exit and further amends the amended and restated registration rights agreement between the parties. Pursuant to the supplemental agreement, Continental has the right to appoint a member of its senior management to our Board of Directors during the term of our alliance agreement with Continental.

**Registration Rights Agreement**

Under the registration rights agreement, as amended by the supplemental agreement, CIASA continues to have the right to make up to two demands on us with respect to the registration and sale of our common stock held by them. One half of the registration expenses incurred in connection with the first demand registration requested after the date hereof, which expenses exclude underwriting discounts and commissions, will be paid ratably by each security holder participating in such offering in proportion to the number of their shares that are included in the offering, and the balance of such expenses will be paid by the Copa Holdings for such demand registrations.

**Commercial Agreements with Continental**

Our alliance relationship with Continental is governed by several interrelated agreements between Copa and Continental. Each of the agreements as amended and restated will expire only upon three years' written notice by one of the airlines to the other, which may not be given before May 2012. Other events of termination are set forth in the descriptions of the major alliance-related agreements set forth below.

*Alliance Agreement.* Under our alliance agreement with Continental, both airlines agree to continue their codesharing relationship with extensions as they feel are appropriate and to work to maintain our antitrust immunity with the DOT. In order to support the codesharing relationship, the alliance agreement also contains provisions mandating a continued frequent flyer relationship between the airlines, setting minimum levels of quality of service for the airlines and encouraging cooperation in marketing and other operational initiatives. Continental and Copa are prohibited by the alliance agreement from entering into commercial agreements with certain classes of competing airlines, and the agreement requires both parties to include each other, as practicable, in their commercial relationships with other airlines. Other than by expiration as described above, the agreement is also terminable by an airline in cases of, among other things, uncured material breaches of the alliance agreement by the other airline, bankruptcy of the other airline, termination of the services agreement for breach by the other airline, termination of the frequent flyer participation agreement without entering into a successor agreement by the other airline, termination by Continental upon the material unremedied breach of the registration rights agreement by CIASA or Copa Holdings, termination by Copa upon the material unremedied breach of the registration rights agreement by Continental, certain competitive activities, certain changes of control of either of the parties and certain significant operational service failures by the other airline.

*Services Agreement.* Under the services agreement, both airlines agree to provide to each other certain services over the course of the agreement at the providing carrier's incremental cost, subject to certain limitations. Services covered under the agreement include consolidating purchasing power for equipment purchases and insurance coverage, sharing management information systems, pooling maintenance programs and inventory management, joint training and employee exchanges, sharing the benefits of other purchase contracts for goods and services, telecommunications and other services. Other than by expiration as described above, the agreement is also terminable by an airline in cases of, among other things, uncured material breaches of the alliance agreement by the other airline, bankruptcy of the other airline, termination of the services agreement for breach by the other airline, termination of the frequent flyer participation agreement without entering into a successor agreement by the other airline, termination by Continental upon the material unremedied breach of the shareholders' agreement or the registration rights agreement by CIASA or Copa Holdings, termination by Copa upon the material unremedied breach of the registration rights agreement by Continental, certain changes of control of either of the parties and certain significant operational service failures by the other airline.





**Table of Contents**

*Frequent Flyer Participation Agreement.* Under the frequent flyer participation agreement, we participate in Continental's OnePass frequent flyer global program and on a co-branded basis in Latin America. Customers in the program receive credit for flying on segments operated by us, which can be redeemed for award travel on our flights and those of other partner airlines. The agreement also governs joint marketing agreements under the program, settlement procedures between the airlines and revenue-sharing under bank card affinity relationships. Further, if the services agreement is terminated or expires, the compensation structure of the frequent flyer program will be revised to be comparable to other of Continental's frequent flyer relationships. We also have the right under the agreement to participate on similar terms in any successor program operated by Continental. Other than by expiration as described above, the agreement is also terminable by an airline in cases of, among other things, uncured material breaches of the alliance agreement by the other airline, bankruptcy of the other airline, termination of the services agreement for breach by the other airline, termination of the frequent flyer participation agreement without entering into a successor agreement by the other airline, certain changes of control of either of the parties and certain significant operational service failures by the other airline.

*Trademark License Agreement.* Under the trademark license agreement, we have the right to use a logo incorporating a globe design that is similar to the globe design of Continental's logo. We also have the right to use Continental's trade dress, aircraft livery and certain other Continental marks under the agreement that allow us to more closely align our overall product with our alliance partner. The trademark license agreement is coterminous with the alliance agreement and can also be terminated for breach. In most cases, we will have a period of five years after termination to cease to use the marks on our aircraft, with less time provided for signage and other uses of the marks or in cases where the agreement is terminated for a breach by us.

**Agreements with our controlling shareholders and their affiliates**

Our directors and controlling shareholders have many other commercial interests within Panama and throughout Latin America. We have commercial relationships with several of these affiliated parties from which we purchase goods or services, as described below. In each case we believe our transactions with these affiliated parties are at arms' length and on terms that we believe reflect prevailing market rates.

***Banco General, S.A.***

We have a strong commercial banking relationship with Banco General, S.A., a Panamanian bank partially owned by our controlling shareholders. We have obtained financing from Banco General under short to medium-term financing arrangements for part of the commercial loan tranche of one of the Company's Export-Import Bank facilities. We also maintain general lines of credit and time deposit accounts with Banco General. Interest payments to Banco General totaled \$0.2 million, \$0.4 million and \$0.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and interest received from Banco General amounted to \$1.4 million, \$1.9 million and \$4.5 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The outstanding debt balance at December 31 amounted to \$2.3 million, \$4.1 million and \$4.8 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. These amounts are included in Current maturities of long-term debt and Long-term debt in the consolidated balance sheet.

***ASSA Compañía de Seguros, S.A.***

Panamanian law requires us to maintain our insurance policies through a local insurance company. We have contracted with ASSA, an insurance company controlled by our controlling shareholders, to provide substantially all of our insurance. ASSA has, in turn, reinsured almost all of the risks under those policies with insurance companies around the world. The net payment to ASSA, after taking into account the reinsurance of these risks, is approximately \$30,000 per year.

***Petróleos Delta, S.A.***

During 2005, we entered into a contract with Petróleos Delta, S.A. to supply our jet fuel needs. The price agreed to under this contract is based on the two week average of the U.S. Gulf Coast Waterborne Mean index plus local taxes, certain third-party handling charges and a handling charge to Delta. The contract has a one year term that automatically renews for one year periods unless terminated by one of the parties. While our controlling shareholders do not hold a controlling equity interest in Petróleos Delta, S.A., several of our directors are also board members of Petróleos Delta, S.A. Payments to Petróleos Delta totaled \$116.1 million in 2009, \$185.8 million in 2008 and \$126.0 million in 2007.



**Table of Contents**

***Desarollo Inmobiliario del Este, S.A.***

During January 2006, we moved into our recently constructed new headquarters located six miles away from Tocumen International Airport. We lease five floors consisting of approximately 104,000 square feet of the building from Desarrollo Inmobiliario del Este, S.A., an entity controlled by the same group of investors that controls CIASA, under a 10-year lease at a rate of \$0.1 million per month, which we believe to be a market rate. Payments to Desarrollo Inmobiliario del Este, S.A. totaled \$1.9 million, \$2.0 million and \$1.9 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

***Galindo, Arias & Lopez***

Most of our legal work is carried out by the law firm Galindo, Arias & Lopez. Messrs. Jaime Arias and Ricardo Alberto Arias, partners of Galindo, Arias & Lopez, are indirect shareholders of CIASA and serve on our Board of Directors. Payments to Galindo, Arias & Lopez totaled \$0.4 million, \$0.3 million and \$0.4 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

***Other Transactions***

We also purchase most of the alcohol and some of the other beverages served on our aircraft from Motta Internacional, S.A. and Global Brands, S.A., both of which are controlled by our controlling shareholders. We do not have any formal contracts for these purchases, but pay wholesale prices based on price lists periodically submitted by those importers. We paid approximately \$0.6 million in 2009, \$0.7 million in 2008 and \$0.6 million in 2007 to these entities.

Our telecommunications services have been provided by Telecarrier. Some of the controlling shareholders of CIASA have a controlling interest in Telecarrier. Payments to Telecarrier totaled \$0.9 million, \$0.6 million and \$0.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The advertising agency that we use in Panama, Rogelio Diaz Publicidad (RDP), is owned by the brother-in-law of our chief executive officer. Gross invoices for all services performed through RDP totaled \$1.0 million, \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

We have received services from Call Center Corporation, a call center that operates Copa's reservations and sales services and handles calls from Panama as well as to most other countries to which Copa flies. One of our directors, Joseph Fidanque III, is one of the owners of this call center. Payments to Call Center Corporation totaled \$3.3 million, \$4.0 million and \$2.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**C. Interests of Experts and Counsel**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Financial Information**

**A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information**

See Item 3. Key Information Selected Financial Data and Item 18. Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****Legal Proceedings**

In the ordinary course of our business, we are party to various legal actions, which we believe are incidental to the operation of our business. While legal proceedings are inherently uncertain, we believe that the outcome of the proceedings to which we are currently a party is not likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. The Antitrust Administrative Agency (Comisión de Libre Competencia y Asuntos del Consumidor, or CLICAC), together with a group of travel agencies, has filed an antitrust lawsuit against Copa, Continental, American Airlines, Taca and Delta Airlines in the Panamanian Commercial Tribunal alleging monopolistic practices in reducing travel agents' commissions. The outcome of this lawsuit is still uncertain and may take several years. We believe that in the worst scenario the airlines could be required to pay up to \$20 million. In addition, ACES, a now-defunct Colombian airline, filed an antitrust lawsuit against Copa, Avianca and SAM, alleging monopolistic practices in relation to their code-sharing agreements. The court of first instance ruled in favor of Copa, but the defendant has appealed the decision and it is currently being reviewed by the superior court. This case could take several years to be resolved. If Copa, Avianca and/or SAM were found at fault and in breach of antitrust legislation, they could be potentially liable for up to \$11 million.

We are also plaintiffs in an action we filed against INFRAERO, Brazil's airport operator, in October of 2003 challenging the legality of the Additional Airport Tariffs (*Adicional das Tarifas Aeroportuárias*, or ATAERO), which is a 50% surcharge imposed on all airlines which fly to Brazil. Similar suits have been filed against INFRAERO by other major airline carriers. In our case, the court of first instance ruled in favor of INFRAERO and we have appealed the judgment. During the pendency of the litigation, we continue to pay the amounts due ATAERO into an escrow account and as of December 31, 2009, the aggregate amount in such account totaled US\$12 million. In the event we receive a final unfavorable judgment, we will be required to release the escrowed fund to INFRAERO and will not be able to recover such amounts. We do not, however, expect the release of such amounts to have a material impact on our financial results.

**Dividends and Dividend Policy**

The payment of dividends on our shares is subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors. Under Panamanian law, we may pay dividends only out of retained earnings and capital surplus. So long as we do not default in our payments under our loan agreements, there are no covenants or other restrictions on our ability to declare and pay dividends. Our Articles of Incorporation provide that all dividends declared by our Board of Directors will be paid equally with respect to all of the Class A and Class B shares. See Item 10B. Additional Information Memorandum and Articles of Association Description of Capital Stock Dividends.

Our Board of Directors recently amended the dividend policy that had provided for the payment of approximately 10% of our annual consolidated net income to shareholders as a dividend. Effective February 10, 2010, the amended dividend policy allows the Board of Directors to provide our shareholders with a dividend payment in an amount ranging from 10% to 20% of our annual consolidated net income to be declared at our annual shareholders' meeting and paid shortly thereafter. Our Board of Directors may, in its sole discretion and for any reason, amend or discontinue the dividend policy. Our Board of Directors may change the level of dividends provided for in this dividend policy or entirely discontinue the payment of dividends. Future dividends with respect to shares of our common stock, if any, will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, cash requirements, financial condition, contractual restrictions, business opportunities, provisions of applicable law and other factors that our Board of Directors may deem relevant.

On May 6, 2009, our Board of Directors declared an annual dividend of \$0.37 per share payable June 15, 2009 to shareholders of record as of May 30, 2009 which represented an aggregate dividend payment of \$16.3 million. On May 7, 2008, our Board of Directors declared an annual dividend of \$0.37 per share payable June 15, 2008 to shareholders of record as of May 30, 2008 which represented an aggregate dividend payment of \$16.2 million. On May 9, 2007, our Board of Directors declared an annual dividend of \$0.31 per share payable June 15, 2007 to shareholders of record as of May 31, 2007 which represented an aggregate dividend payment of \$13.6 million.

**B. Significant Changes**

None



**Table of Contents****Item 9. The Offer and Listing****A. Offer and Listing Details**

Our Class A shares have been listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol CPA since December 14, 2005. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low prices for the Class A shares on the NYSE for the periods indicated.

	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>2005</b>		
Annual <sup>(1)</sup>	21.95	27.40
<b>2006</b>		
Annual	20.31	49.05
<b>2007</b>		
Annual	30.25	73.33
<b>2008</b>		
Annual	18.00	43.64
First quarter	30.00	41.97
Second quarter	27.53	43.64
Third quarter	24.69	42.00
Fourth quarter	18.00	34.00
<b>2009</b>		
Annual	20.36	56.78
First quarter	20.36	33.10
Second quarter	27.20	42.17
Third quarter	38.15	46.70
Fourth quarter	40.00	56.78
<b>Last Six Months</b>		
September 2009	38.66	46.70
October 2009	40.00	47.61
November 2009	41.13	51.35
December 2009	50.55	56.78
January 2010	50.33	58.37
February 2010	47.76	56.33

(1) Period beginning December 14, 2005 through December 31, 2005

**B. Plan of Distribution**

Not applicable.

**C. Markets**

Our Class A shares have been listed on the NYSE under the symbol CPA since December 14, 2005. Our Class B shares are not listed on any exchange and are not publicly traded. We are subject to the NYSE corporate governance listing standards. The NYSE requires that corporations with shares listed on the exchange comply with certain corporate governance standards. As a foreign private issuer, we are only required to comply with certain NYSE rules relating to audit committees and periodic certifications to the NYSE. The NYSE also requires that we provide a summary of the significant differences between our corporate governance practices and those that would apply to a

U.S. domestic issuer. Please refer to Item 16 G. Corporate Governance for a summary of the significant differences between our corporate governance practices and those that would typically apply to a U.S. domestic issuer under the NYSE corporate governance rules.

**D. Selling Shareholders**

Not applicable.

**E. Dilution**

Not applicable.

**F. Expenses of the Issue**

Not applicable.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 10. Additional Information**

**A. Share Capital**

Not applicable.

**B. Memorandum and Articles of Association**

Copa Holdings was formed on May 6, 1998 as a corporation (*sociedad anónima*) duly incorporated under the laws of Panama with an indefinite duration. The Registrant is registered under Public Document No. 3.989 of May 5, 1998 of the Notary Number Eight of the Circuit of Panama and recorded in the Public Registry Office, Microfilm (Mercantile) Section, Microjacket 344962, Film Roll 59672, Frame 0023.

***Objects and Purposes***

Copa Holdings is principally engaged in the investment in airlines and aviation-related companies and ventures, although our Articles of Incorporation grant us general powers to engage in any other lawful business, whether or not related to any of the specific purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.

**Description of Capital Stock**

*The following is a summary of the material terms of Copa Holding's capital stock and a brief summary of certain significant provisions of Copa Holding's Articles of Incorporation. This description contains all material information concerning the common stock but does not purport to be complete. For additional information regarding the common stock, reference is made to the Articles of Incorporation, a copy of which has been filed as an exhibit to this Form 20-F.*

*For purposes of this section only, reference to our or the company shall refer only to Copa Holdings and references to Panamanians shall refer to those entities or natural persons that are considered Panamanian nationals under the Panamanian Aviation Act, as it may be amended or interpreted.*

**Common Stock**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 80 million shares of common stock without par value, divided into Class A shares, Class B shares and Class C shares. As of December 31, 2009, we had 31,136,619 Class A shares issued, 12,778,125 Class B shares issued and outstanding, and no Class C shares outstanding. Class A and Class B shares have the same economic rights and privileges, including the right to receive dividends, except as described in this section.

**Class A Shares**

The holders of the Class A shares are not entitled to vote at our shareholders' meetings, except in connection with the following specific matters:

- a transformation of Copa Holdings into another corporate type;
- a merger, consolidation or spin-off of Copa Holdings;
- a change of corporate purpose;
- voluntarily delisting Class A shares from the NYSE;
- approving the nomination of Independent Directors nominated by our board of directors' Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee following our next annual general shareholders meeting; and
- any amendment to the foregoing special voting provisions adversely affecting the rights and privileges of the Class A shares.

At least 30 days prior to taking any of the actions listed above, we must give notice to the Class A and Class B shareholders of our intention to do so. If requested by shareholders representing at least 5% of our outstanding shares, the Board of Directors shall call an extraordinary shareholders' meeting to approve such action. At the extraordinary shareholders' meeting, shareholders representing a majority of all of the outstanding shares must approve a resolution authorizing the proposed action. For such purpose, every holder of our shares is entitled to one vote per share. See Shareholders Meetings.



**Table of Contents**

The Class A shareholders will acquire full voting rights, entitled to one vote per Class A share on all matters upon which shareholders are entitled to vote, if in the future our Class B shares ever represent fewer than 10% of the total number of shares of our common stock and the Independent Directors Committee shall have determined that such additional voting rights of Class A shareholders would not cause a triggering event referred to below. In such event, the right of the Class A shareholders to vote on the specific matters described in the preceding paragraph will no longer be applicable. The 10% threshold described in the first sentence of this paragraph will be calculated without giving effect to any newly issued shares sold with the approval of the Independent Directors Committee.

At such time, if any, as the Class A shareholders acquire full voting rights, the Board of Directors shall call an extraordinary shareholders meeting to be held within 90 days following the date as of which the Class A shares are entitled to vote on all matters at our shareholders meetings. At the extraordinary shareholders meeting, the shareholders shall vote to elect all eleven members of the Board of Directors in a slate recommended by the Nominating and Governance Committee. The terms of office of the directors that were serving prior to the extraordinary shareholders meeting shall terminate upon the election held at that meeting.

***Class B Shares***

Every holder of Class B shares is entitled to one vote per share on all matters for which shareholders are entitled to vote. Class B shares will be automatically converted into Class A shares upon the registration of transfer of such shares to holders which are not Panamanian as described below under **Restrictions on Transfer of Common Stock; Conversion of Class B Shares**.

***Class C Shares***

Upon the occurrence and during the continuance of a triggering event described below in **Aviation Rights Protections**, the Independent Directors Committee of our Board of Directors, or the Board of Directors as a whole if applicable, are authorized to issue Class C shares to the Class B holders pro rata in proportion to such Class B holders ownership of Copa Holdings. The Class C shares will have no economic value and will not be transferable except to Class B holders, but will possess such voting rights as the Independent Directors Committee shall deem necessary to ensure the effective control of the company by Panamanians. The Class C shares will be redeemable by the company at such time as the Independent Directors Committee determines that such a triggering event shall no longer be in effect. The Class C shares will not be entitled to any dividends or any other economic rights.

***Restrictions on Transfer of Common Stock; Conversion of Class B Shares***

The Class B shares may only be held by Panamanians, and upon registration of any transfer of a Class B share to a holder that does not certify that it is Panamanian, such Class B share shall automatically convert into a Class A share. Transferees of Class B shares will be required to deliver to us written certification of their status as a Panamanian as a condition to registering the transfer to them of Class B shares. Class A shareholders will not be required or entitled to provide such certification. If a Class B shareholder intends to sell any Class B shares to a person that has not delivered a certification as to Panamanian nationality and immediately after giving effect to such proposed transfer the outstanding Class B shares would represent less than 10% of our outstanding stock (excluding newly issued shares sold with the approval of our Independent Directors Committee), the selling shareholder must inform the Board of Directors at least ten days prior to such transfer. The Independent Directors Committee may determine to refuse to register the transfer if the Committee reasonably concludes, on the basis of the advice of a reputable external aeronautical counsel, that such transfer would be reasonably likely to cause a triggering event as described below. After the first shareholders meeting at which the Class A shareholders are entitled to vote for the election of our directors, the role of the Independent Directors described in the preceding sentence shall be exercised by the entire Board of Directors acting as a whole.

Also, the Board of Directors may refuse to register a transfer of stock if the transfer violates any provision of the Articles of Incorporation.

**Table of Contents**

***Tag-along Rights***

Our Board of Directors may refuse to register any transfer of shares in which CIASA proposes to sell Class B shares pursuant to a sale at a price per share that is greater than the average public trading price per share of the Class A shares for the preceding 30 days to an unrelated third party that would, after giving effect to such sale, have the right to elect a majority of the Board of Directors and direct our management and policies, unless the proposed purchaser agrees to make, as promptly as possible, a public offer for the purchase of all outstanding Class A shares and Class B shares at a price per share equal to the price per share paid for the shares being sold by CIASA. While our Articles of Incorporation provide limited rights to holders of our Class A shares to sell their shares at the same price as CIASA in the event that a sale of Class B shares by CIASA results in the purchaser having the right to elect a majority of our board, there are other change of control transactions in which holders of our Class A shares would not have the right to participate, including the sale of interests by a party that had previously acquired Class B shares from CIASA, the sale of interests by another party in conjunction with a sale by CIASA, the sale by CIASA of control to more than one party, or the sale of controlling interests in CIASA itself.

***Aviation Rights Protections***

As described in Regulation Panama, the Panamanian Aviation Act, including the related decrees and regulations, and the bilateral treaties between Panama and other countries that allow us to fly to those countries require that Panamanians exercise effective control of Copa and maintain significant ownership of the airline. The Independent Directors Committee have certain powers under our Articles of Incorporation to ensure that certain levels of ownership and control of Copa Holdings remain in the hands of Panamanians upon the occurrence of certain triggering events referred to below.

In the event that the Class B shareholders represent less than 10% of the total share capital of the company (excluding newly issued shares sold with the approval of our Independent Directors Committee) and the Independent Directors Committee determines that it is reasonably likely that Copa's or Copa Holdings' legal ability to engage in the aviation business or to exercise its international route rights will be revoked, suspended or materially inhibited in a manner which would materially and adversely affect the company, in each case as a result of such non-Panamanian ownership (each a triggering event), the Independent Directors Committee may take either or both of the following actions:

- authorize the issuance of additional Class B shares to Panamanians at a price determined by the Independent Directors to reflect the current market value of such shares or
- authorize the issuance to Class B shareholders such number of Class C shares as the Independent Directors Committee, or the Board of Directors if applicable, deems necessary and with such other terms and conditions established by the Independent Directors Committee that do not confer economic rights on the Class C shares.

***Dividends***

The payment of dividends on our shares is subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors. Under Panamanian law, we may pay dividends only out of retained earnings and capital surplus. Our Articles of Incorporation provide that all dividends declared by our Board of Directors will be paid equally with respect to all of the Class A and Class B shares. Our Board of Directors has adopted a dividend policy that provides for the payment of annual dividends, which range from 10% to 20% of our annual consolidated net income to Class A and Class B shareholders. Our Board of Directors may, in its sole discretion and for any reason, amend or discontinue the dividend policy. Our Board of Directors may change the level of dividends provided for in this dividend policy or entirely discontinue the payment of dividends.

**Table of Contents**

***Shareholder Meetings***

***Ordinary Meetings***

Our Articles of Incorporation require us to hold an ordinary annual meeting of shareholders within the first five months of each fiscal year. The ordinary annual meeting of shareholders is the corporate body that elects the Board of Directors, approves the annual financial statements of Copa Holdings and approves any other matter that does not require an extraordinary shareholders meeting. Shareholders representing at least 5% of the issued and outstanding common stock entitled to vote may submit proposals to be included in such ordinary shareholders meeting, provided the proposal is submitted at least 45 days prior to the meeting.

***Extraordinary Meetings***

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Board of Directors when deemed appropriate. Ordinary and extraordinary meetings must be called by the Board of Directors when requested by shareholders representing at least 5% of the issued shares entitled to vote at such meeting. Only matters that have been described in the notice of an extraordinary meeting may be dealt with at that extraordinary meeting.

***Vote required***

Resolutions are passed at shareholders meetings by the affirmative vote of a majority of those shares entitled to vote at such meeting and present or represented at the meeting.

***Notice and Location***

Notice to convene the ordinary annual meeting or extraordinary meeting is given by publication in at least one national newspaper in Panama and at least one national newspaper widely read in New York City not less than 30 days in advance of the meeting. We intend to publish such official notices in a national journal recognized by the NYSE.

Shareholders meetings are to be held in Panama City, Panama unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors.

***Quorum***

Generally, a quorum for a shareholders meeting is established by the presence, in person or by proxy, of shareholders representing a simple majority of the issued shares eligible to vote on any actions to be considered at such meeting. If a quorum is not present at the first meeting and the original notice for such meeting so provides, the meeting can be immediately reconvened on the same day and, upon the meeting being reconvened, shareholders present or represented at the reconvened meeting are deemed to constitute a quorum regardless of the percentage of the shares represented.

***Proxy Representation***

Our Articles of Incorporation provide that, for so long as the Class A shares do not have full voting rights, each holder, by owning our Class A shares, grants a general proxy to the Chairman of our Board of Directors or any person designated by our Chairman to represent them and vote their shares on their behalf at any shareholders meeting, provided that due notice was made of such meeting and that no specific proxy revoking or replacing the general proxy has been received from such holder prior to the meeting in accordance with the instructions provided by the notice.

**Table of Contents**

***Other Shareholder Rights***

As a general principle, Panamanian law bars the majority of a corporation's shareholders from imposing resolutions which violate its articles of incorporation or the law, and grants any shareholder the right to challenge, within 30 days, any shareholders' resolution that is illegal or that violates its articles of incorporation or by-laws, by requesting the annulment of said resolution and/or the injunction thereof pending judicial decision. Minority shareholders representing at least 5% of all issued and outstanding shares have the right to require a judge to call a shareholders meeting and to appoint an independent auditor (revisor) to examine the corporate accounting books, the background of the company's incorporation or its operation.

Shareholders have no pre-emptive rights on the issue of new shares.

Our Articles of Incorporation provide that directors will be elected in staggered two-year terms, which may have the effect of discouraging certain changes of control.

***Listing***

Our Class A shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol CPA. The Class B shares and Class C shares will not be listed on any exchange unless the Board of Directors determines that it is in the best interest of the company to list the Class B shares on the Panama Stock Exchange.

***Transfer Agent and Registrar***

The transfer agent and registrar for our Class A shares is Mellon Investor Services LLC. Until the Board of Directors otherwise provides, the transfer agent for our Class B shares and any Class C shares is Galindo, Arias & Lopez which maintains the share register for each class in Panama. Transfers of Class B shares must be accompanied by a certification of the transferee that such transferee is Panamanian.

***Summary of Significant Differences between Shareholders' Rights and Other Corporate Governance Matters Under Panamanian Corporation Law and Delaware Corporation Law***

Copa Holdings is a Panamanian corporation (*sociedad anónima*). The Panamanian corporation law was originally modeled after the Delaware General Corporation Law. As such, many of the provisions applicable to Panamanian and Delaware corporations are substantially similar, including (1) a director's fiduciary duties of care and loyalty to the corporation, (2) a lack of limits on the number of terms a person may serve on the board of directors, (3) provisions allowing shareholders to vote by proxy and (4) cumulative voting if provided for in the articles of incorporation. The following table highlights the most significant provisions that materially differ between Panamanian corporation law and Delaware corporation law.

**Panama**

**Delaware**

**Directors**

*Conflict of Interest Transactions.* Transactions involving a Panamanian corporation and an interested director or officer are initially subject to the approval of the board of directors.

At the next shareholders' meeting, shareholders will then have the right to disapprove the board of directors' decision and to decide to take legal actions against the directors or officers who voted in favor of the transaction.

*Conflict of Interest Transactions.* Transactions involving a Delaware corporation and an interested director of that corporation are generally permitted if:

(1) the material facts as to the interested director's relationship or interest are disclosed and a majority of disinterested directors approve the transaction;

(2) the material facts are disclosed as to the interested director's relationship or interest and the stockholders approve the transaction; or

(3) the transaction is fair to the corporation at the time it is authorized by the board of directors, a committee of the

board of directors or the stockholders.

**Table of Contents**

**Panama**

*Terms.* Panamanian law does not set limits on the length of the terms that a director may serve. Staggered terms are allowed but not required.

*Number.* The board of directors must consist of a minimum of three members, which could be natural persons or legal entities.

*Authority to take Actions.* In general, a simple majority of the board of directors is necessary and sufficient to take any action on behalf of the board of directors.

**Delaware**

*Terms.* The Delaware General Corporation Law generally provides for a one-year term for directors. However, the directorships may be divided into up to three classes with up to three-year terms, with the years for each class expiring in different years, if permitted by the articles of incorporation, an initial by-law or a by-law adopted by the shareholders.

*Number.* The board of directors must consist of a minimum of one member.

*Authority to take Actions.* The articles of incorporation or by-laws can establish certain actions that require the approval of more than a majority of directors.

**Shareholder Meetings and Voting Rights**

*Quorum.* The quorum for shareholder meetings must be set by the articles of incorporation or the by-laws. If the articles of incorporation and the notice for a given meeting so provide, if quorum is not met a new meeting can be immediately called and quorum shall consist of those present at such new meeting.

*Action by Written Consent.* Panamanian law does not permit shareholder action without formally calling a meeting.

*Quorum.* For stock corporations, the articles of incorporation or bylaws may specify the number to constitute a quorum but in no event shall a quorum consist of less than one-third of shares entitled to vote at a meeting. In the absence of such specifications, a majority of shares entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

*Action by Written Consent.* Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, any action required or permitted to be taken at any annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders of a corporation may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice and without a vote, if a consent or consents in writing, setting forth the action to be so taken, is signed by the holders of outstanding shares having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and noted.

**Other Shareholder Rights**

*Shareholder Proposals.* Shareholders representing 5% of the issued and outstanding capital of the corporation have the right to require a judge to call a general shareholders meeting and to propose the matters for vote.

*Shareholder Proposals.* Delaware law does not specifically grant shareholders the right to bring business before an annual or special meeting. If a Delaware corporation is subject to the SEC's proxy rules, a shareholder who owns for at least one year by the date of the proposal at least \$2,000 in market value, or 1% of the corporation's securities entitled to vote, may propose a

matter for a vote at an annual or special meeting in accordance with those rules.

*Appraisal Rights.* Shareholders of Panamanian corporation do not have the right to demand payment in cash of the judicially determined fair value of their shares in connection with a merger or consolidation involving the corporation. Nevertheless, in a merger, the majority of shareholders could approve the total or partial distribution of cash, instead of shares, of the surviving entity.

*Appraisal Rights.* Delaware law affords shareholders in certain cases the right to demand payment in cash of the judicially-determined fair value of their shares in connection with a merger or consolidation involving their corporation. However, no appraisal rights are available if, among other things and subject to certain exceptions, such shares were listed on a national securities exchange or designated national market system or such shares were held of record by more than 2,000 holders.

**Table of Contents**

**Panama**

*Shareholder Derivative Actions.* Any shareholder, with the consent of the majority of the shareholders, can sue on behalf of the corporation, the directors of the corporation for a breach of their duties of care and loyalty to the corporation or a violation of the law, the articles of incorporation or the by-laws.

*Inspection of Corporate Records.* Shareholders representing at least 5% of the issued and outstanding shares of the corporation have the right to require a judge to appoint an independent auditor to examine the corporate accounting books, the background of the company's incorporation or its operation.

**Delaware**

*Shareholder Derivative Actions.* Subject to certain requirements that a shareholder make prior demand on the board of directors or have an excuse not to make such demand, a shareholder may bring a derivative action on behalf of the corporation to enforce the rights of the corporation against officers, directors and third parties. An individual may also commence a class action suit on behalf of himself and other similarly-situated stockholders if the requirements for maintaining a class action under the Delaware General Corporation Law have been met. Subject to equitable principles, a three-year period of limitations generally applies to such shareholder suits against officers and directors.

*Inspection of Corporate Records.* A shareholder may inspect or obtain copies of a corporation's shareholder list and its other books and records for any purpose reasonably related to a person's interest as a shareholder.

**Anti-takeover Provisions**

Panamanian corporations may include in their articles of incorporation or by-laws classified board and super-majority provisions.

Panamanian corporation law's anti-takeover provisions apply only to companies that are:

- (1) registered with the CNV for a period of six months before the public offering,
- (2) have over 3,000 shareholders, and
- (3) have a permanent office in Panama with full time employees and investments in the country for more than \$1,000,000.

These provisions are triggered when a buyer makes a public offer to acquire 5% or more of any class of shares with a market value of at least \$5,000,000. In sum, the buyer must deliver to the corporation a complete and accurate statement that includes

- (1) the name of the company, the number of the shares

Delaware corporations may have a classified board, super-majority voting and shareholders' rights plan.

Unless Delaware corporations specifically elect otherwise, Delaware corporations may not enter into a business combination, including mergers, sales and leases of assets, issuances of securities and similar transactions, with an interested stockholder, or one that beneficially owns 15% or more of a corporation's voting stock, within three years of such person becoming an interested shareholder unless:

- (1) the transaction that will cause the person to become an interested shareholder is approved by the board of directors of the target prior to the transactions;
- (2) after the completion of the transaction in which the person becomes an interested shareholder, the interested shareholder holds at least 85% of the voting stock of the



that the buyer intends to acquire and the purchase price;  
(2) the identity and background of the person acquiring  
the shares;

corporation not including shares owned by persons who  
are directors and also officers of interested shareholders  
and shares owned by specified employee benefit plans; or

**Table of Contents**

**Panama**

- (3) the source and amount of the funds or other goods that will be used to pay the purchase price;
- (4) the plans or project the buyer has once it has acquired the control of the company;
- (5) the number of shares of the company that the buyer already has or is a beneficiary of and those owned by any of its directors, officers, subsidiaries, or partners or the same, and any transactions made regarding the shares in the last 60 days;
- (6) contracts, agreements, business relations or negotiations regarding securities issued by the company in which the buyer is a party;
- (7) contract, agreements, business relations or negotiations between the buyer and any director, officer or beneficiary of the securities; and
- (8) any other significant information. This declaration will be accompanied by, among other things, a copy of the buyer's financial statements.

If the board of directors believes that the statement does not contain all required information or that the statement is inaccurate, the board of directors must send the statement to the CNV within 45 days from the buyer's initial delivery of the statement to the CNV. The CNV may then hold a public hearing to determine if the information is accurate and complete and if the buyer has complied with the legal requirements. The CNV may also start an inquiry into the case, having the power to decide whether or not the offer may be made.

Regardless of the above, the board of directors has the authority to submit the offer to the consideration of the shareholders. The board should only convene a shareholders' meeting when it deems the statement delivered by the offeror to be complete and accurate. If convened, the shareholders' meeting should take place within the next 30 days. At the shareholders' meeting, two-thirds of the holders of the issued and outstanding shares of each class of shares of the corporation with a right to vote must approve the offer and the offer is to be executed within 60 days from the shareholders' approval.

**Delaware**

- (3) after the person becomes an interested shareholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and holders of at least 66.67% of the outstanding voting stock, excluding shares held by the interested shareholder.

If the board decides not to convene the shareholders meeting within 15 days following the receipt of a complete and accurate statement from the offeror, shares may then be purchased. In all cases, the purchase of shares can take place only if it is not prohibited by an administrative or judicial order or injunction.

**Table of Contents****Panama**

The law also establishes some actions or recourses of the sellers against the buyer in cases the offer is made in contravention of the law.

**Delaware****Previously Acquired Rights**

In no event can the vote of the majority shareholders deprive the shareholders of a corporation of previously-acquired rights. Panamanian jurisprudence and doctrine has established that the majority shareholders cannot amend the articles of incorporation and deprive minority shareholders of previously-acquired rights nor impose upon them an agreement that is contrary to those articles of incorporation.

No comparable provisions exist under Delaware law.

Once a share is issued, the shareholders become entitled to the rights established in the articles of incorporation and such rights cannot be taken away, diminished nor extinguished without the express consent of the shareholders entitled to such rights. If by amending the articles of incorporation, the rights granted to a class of shareholders is somehow altered or modified to their disadvantage, those shareholders will need to approve the amendment unanimously.

**C. Material Contracts****Commercial Agreements with Continental Airlines**

Our alliance relationship with Continental is governed by several interrelated agreements. We have amended and restated each of these agreements and extended them through 2015 in connection with our initial public offering in December 2005.

*Alliance Agreement between Continental and Copa Airlines.* Under the alliance agreement, both airlines agree to continue their codesharing relationship with extensions as they feel are appropriate and to work to maintain our antitrust immunity with the DOT. In order to support the codesharing relationship, the alliance agreement also contains provisions mandating a continued frequent flyer relationship between the airlines, setting minimum levels of quality of service for the airlines and encouraging cooperation in marketing and other operational initiatives.

*Services Agreement between Continental and Copa Airlines.* Under the services agreement, both airlines agree to provide to each other certain services over the course of the agreement at the providing carrier's incremental cost, subject to certain limitations. Services covered under the agreement include consolidating purchasing power for equipment purchases and insurance coverage, sharing management information systems, pooling maintenance programs and inventory management, joint training and employee exchanges, sharing the benefits of other purchase contracts for goods and services, telecommunications and other services.

*Frequent Flyer Participation Agreement between Continental and Copa Airlines.* Under the frequent flyer participation agreement, we participate in Continental's OnePass frequent flyer global program and on a co-branded basis in Latin America. Customers in the program receive credit for flying on segments operated by us, which can be redeemed for award travel on flights and those of other partner airlines. The agreement also governs joint marketing agreements under the program, settlement procedures between the airlines and revenue-sharing under bank card affinity relationships.



**Table of Contents**

*Trademark License Agreement between Continental and Copa Airlines.* Under the trademark license agreement, Copa has the right to use a logo incorporating a globe design that is similar to the globe design of Continental's logo. Copa also has the right to use Continental's trade dress, aircraft livery and certain other Continental marks under the agreement that allow us to more closely align our overall product with our alliance partner.

**Aircraft General Terms Agreement between The Boeing Company and Copa Airlines**

In 1998, Copa entered into an agreement with the Boeing Company for the purchase of aircraft, installation of buyer furnished equipment provided by Copa, customer support services and product assurance. In addition to the aircraft supplied, The Boeing Company will provide maintenance training and flight training programs, as well as operations engineering support. The agreement has been amended several times since then, most recently in February 2008.

**Purchase Agreement between Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica, S.A. and Copa Airlines**

In 2003, Copa entered into a purchase agreement with Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica, S.A (Embraer) for the purchase of aircraft, customer support services and technical publications.

**Purchase Agreement between Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica, S.A. and Copa Holdings, S.A.**

In February 2006, we entered into a purchase agreement with Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica, S.A (Embraer) for the purchase of aircraft, customer support services and technical publications.

**D. Exchange Controls**

There are currently no Panamanian restrictions on the export or import of capital, including foreign exchange controls, and no restrictions on the payment of dividends or interest, nor are there limitations on the rights of foreign stockholders to hold or vote stock.

**E. Taxation**

**United States**

The following summary describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our Class A shares as of the date hereof. The discussion set forth below is applicable to United States Holders (as defined below) that beneficially own our Class A shares as capital assets for United States federal income tax purposes (generally, property held for investment). This summary does not represent a detailed description of the United States federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws, including if you are:

- a bank;
- a dealer in securities or currencies;
- a financial institution;
- a regulated investment company;
- a real estate investment trust;
- an insurance company;
- a tax-exempt organization;

**Table of Contents**

- a person holding our Class A shares as part of a hedging, integrated or conversion transaction, a constructive sale or a straddle;
- a trader in securities that has elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities;
- a person liable for alternative minimum tax;
- a person who owns 10% or more of our voting stock;
- a partnership or other pass-through entity for United States federal income tax purposes; or
- a person whose functional currency is not the United States dollar.

The discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be replaced, revoked or modified so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below.

**If you are considering the purchase, ownership or disposition of our Class A shares, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the United States federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular situation as well as any consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.**

As used herein, United States Holder means a beneficial owner of our Class A shares that is for United States federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

***Taxation of Dividends***

Distributions on the Class A shares (including amounts withheld to reflect Panamanian withholding taxes, if any) will be taxable as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles. Such income (including withheld taxes) will be includable in your gross income as ordinary income on the day actually or constructively received by you. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations.

With respect to non-corporate United States Holders, certain dividends received in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011 from a qualified foreign corporation may be subject to reduced rates of taxation. A foreign corporation generally is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends paid by that corporation on shares that are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. United States Treasury Department guidance indicates that our Class A shares, which are listed on the NYSE, are currently readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. There can be no assurance, however, that our Class A shares will be considered readily tradable on an established securities market at a later date. Non-corporate United States Holders that do not meet a minimum holding period requirement during which they are not protected from the risk of loss or that elect to treat the dividend income as investment income pursuant to Section 163(d)(4) of the Code will not be eligible for the reduced rates of taxation regardless of our status as a qualified foreign corporation. In addition, the rate reduction will not apply to dividends if the recipient of a dividend is obligated to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. This disallowance applies even if the minimum holding period has been met. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the application of these rules to your particular circumstances.

**Table of Contents**

Subject to certain conditions and limitations, Panamanian withholding taxes on dividends may be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against your United States federal income tax liability. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on the Class A shares generally will be treated as income from sources outside the United States and will generally constitute passive income. Further, in certain circumstances, if you:

have held Class A shares for less than a specified minimum period during which you are not protected from risk of loss, or

are obligated to make payments related to the dividends,

you will not be allowed a foreign tax credit for foreign taxes imposed on dividends paid on the Class A shares, if any.

The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, as determined under United States federal income tax principles, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital, causing a reduction in the adjusted basis of the Class A shares (thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized by you on a subsequent disposition of the Class A shares), and the balance in excess of adjusted basis will be taxed as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange (as discussed below under *Taxation of Capital Gains*). Consequently, such distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would generally not give rise to foreign source income and you would generally not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Panamanian withholding tax imposed on such distributions unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against United States federal income tax due on other foreign source income in the appropriate category for foreign tax credit purposes. However, we do not intend to keep earnings and profits in accordance with United States federal income tax principles. Therefore, you should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend (as discussed above).

***Passive Foreign Investment Company***

We do not believe that we are a passive foreign investment company (a PFIC) for United States federal income tax purposes (or that we were one in 2009), and we expect to operate in such a manner so as not to become a PFIC. If, however, we are or become a PFIC, you could be subject to additional United States federal income taxes on gain recognized with respect to the Class A shares and on certain distributions, plus an interest charge on certain taxes treated as having been deferred under the PFIC rules. Further, non-corporate United States Holders will not be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any dividends received from us in taxable years beginning prior to January 1, 2011, if we are a PFIC in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or the preceding taxable year.

***Taxation of Capital Gains***

For United States federal income tax purposes, you will recognize taxable gain or loss on any sale or exchange of a Class A share in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized for the Class A share and your tax basis in the Class A share. Such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. Capital gains of individuals derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss recognized by you will generally be treated as United States source gain or loss.

***Information reporting and backup withholding***

In general, information reporting will apply to dividends in respect of our Class A shares and the proceeds from the sale, exchange or redemption of our Class A shares that are paid to you within the United States (and in certain cases, outside the United States), unless you are an exempt recipient such as a corporation. A backup withholding tax may apply to such payments if you fail to provide a taxpayer identification number or certification of other exempt status or fail to report in full dividend and interest income.



**Table of Contents**

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against your United States federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

**Panamanian Taxation**

The following is a discussion of the material Panamanian tax considerations to holders of Class A shares under Panamanian tax law, and is based upon the tax laws and regulations in force and effect as of the date hereof, which may be subject to change. This discussion, to the extent it states matters of Panamanian tax law or legal conclusions and subject to the qualifications herein, represents the opinion of Galindo, Arias & Lopez, our Panamanian counsel.

***Taxation of dividends***

Dividends paid by a corporation duly licensed to do business in Panama, whether in the form of cash, stock or other property, are subject to a 10% withholding tax on the portion attributable to Panamanian sourced income, and a 5% withholding tax on the portion attributable to foreign sourced income. Dividends paid by a holding company which correspond to dividends received from its subsidiaries for which the dividend tax was previously paid, are not subject to any further withholding tax under Panamanian law. Therefore, distributions on the Class A shares would not be subject to withholding tax to the extent that said distributions are attributable to dividends received from any of our subsidiaries.

***Taxation of capital gains***

As long as the Class A shares are registered with the CNV and are sold through an organized market, Panamanian taxes on capital gains will not apply either to Panamanians or other countries' nationals. We have registered the Class A shares, with both the New York Stock Exchange and the CNV.

***Other Panamanian taxes***

There are no estate, gift or other taxes imposed by the Panamanian government that would affect a holder of the Class A shares, whether such holder were Panamanian or a national of another country.

**F. Dividends and Paying Agents**

Not applicable.

**G. Statement by Experts**

Not applicable.

**H. Documents on Display**

We are subject to the informational requirements of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which is also known as the Exchange Act. Accordingly, we are required to file reports and other information with the Commission, including annual reports on Form 20-F and reports on Form 6-K. You may inspect and copy reports and other information to be filed with the Commission at the Public Reference Room of the Commission at 100 F Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20549, and copies of the materials may be obtained there at prescribed rates. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Commission's Public Reference Room by calling the Commission in the United States at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the Commission maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), from which you can electronically access the registration statement and its materials.

As a foreign private issuer, we are not subject to the same disclosure requirements as a domestic U.S. registrant under the Exchange Act. For example, we are not required to prepare and issue quarterly reports. However, we furnish our shareholders with annual reports containing financial statements audited by our independent auditors and make available to our shareholders quarterly reports containing unaudited financial data for the first three quarters of each fiscal year. We file such quarterly reports with the SEC within two months of each quarter of our fiscal year, and we file annual reports on Form 20-F within the time period required by the SEC, which is currently six months from December 31, the end of our fiscal year.

**Table of Contents****I. Subsidiary Information**

Not applicable.

**Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

The risks inherent in our business are the potential losses arising from adverse changes to the price of fuel, interest rates and the U.S. dollar exchange rate.

*Aircraft Fuel.* Our results of operations are affected by changes in the price and availability of aircraft fuel. To manage the price risk, we use crude oil option contracts, zero cost collars and swap agreements. Market risk is estimated as a hypothetical 10% increase in the December 31, 2009 cost per gallon of fuel. Based on projected 2010 fuel consumption, such an increase would result in an increase to aircraft fuel expense of approximately \$29.2 million in 2010, not taking into account our derivative contracts. We have hedged approximately 24% and 11% of our anticipated fuel needs for 2010 and 2011, respectively. We may enter into additional hedging agreements in the future to reduce volatility of our fuel expenses.

*Interest.* Our earnings are affected by changes in interest rates due to the impact those changes have on interest expense from variable-rate debt instruments and operating leases and on interest income generated from our cash and investment balances. If interest rates average 10% more in 2010 than they did during 2009, our interest expense would increase by approximately \$0.3 million and the fair value of our debt would decrease by approximately \$0.4 million. If interest rates average 10% less in 2010 than they did in 2009, our interest income from marketable securities would decrease by approximately \$0.9 million and the fair value of our debt would increase by approximately \$0.4 million. These amounts are determined by considering the impact of the hypothetical interest rates on our variable-rate debt and marketable securities equivalent balances at December 31, 2009.

*Foreign Currencies.* The majority of our obligations are denominated in U.S. dollars. Since Panama uses the U.S. dollar as legal tender, the majority of our operating expenses are also denominated in U.S. dollars. Our foreign exchange risk is limited as approximately 43% of our revenues are in U.S. dollars. While a significant part of our revenues are in foreign currency, no single currency represented more than 11% of our operating revenues in 2009, except for the Colombian Peso which represented 17%. Generally, our exposure to most of these foreign currencies, with the exception of the Venezuelan Bolivar and Cuban Peso, is limited to the period of up to two weeks between the completion of a sale and the conversion to U.S. dollars. The Colombian Peso is the functional currency of AeroRepública, and therefore any revenue exposure is mitigated by the operating expenses, which we also denominate in Colombian Peso.

**2009 Revenues and Expenses Breakdown by Currency**

	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Argentinean Peso	6.4%	2.2%
Brazilian Real	6.3%	3.4%
Chilean Peso	2.6%	1.1%
Colombian Peso	16.9%	12.5%
Costa Rican Colon	2.2%	1.0%
Mexican Peso	3.1%	1.4%
U.S. Dollar	43.4%	71.0%
Venezuelan Bolivar	11.4%	3.7%
Other(1)	7.8%	3.7%

(1) Dominican  
Peso, European  
Euro,  
Guatemalan  
Quetzal,  
Jamaican

Dollar,  
Honduran  
Lempira,  
Haitian Gourde,  
Uruguayan  
Peso, Bolivian  
Boliviano,  
Trinidad and  
Tobago Dollar

**Table of Contents**

**Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities**

Not applicable.

**Table of Contents**

**PART II**

**Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies**

None.

**Item 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds**

None.

**Item 15. Controls and Procedures**

***Disclosure controls and procedures***

Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. We carried out an evaluation under the supervision of our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2009. There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any system of disclosure controls and procedures, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of the controls and procedures. Accordingly, even effective disclosure controls and procedures can only provide reasonable assurance of achieving their control objectives. Based upon our evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the applicable rules and forms, and that it is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

***Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company's management and Board of Directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control - Integrated Framework. Based on this assessment, management believes that, as of December 31, 2009, the Company's internal control over financial reporting is effective based on those criteria.

The effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 has been audited by Ernst & Young, the independent registered public accounting firm who also audited the Company's consolidated financial statements. Ernst & Young's attestation report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting is included herein.

***Changes in internal control***

No significant changes in our internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect these controls subsequent to the date of the evaluation, including any corrective actions with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses, were made as a result of the evaluation.

**Table of Contents**

***Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm***

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The Board of Directors and Shareholders  
**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A.**

We have audited Copa Holdings, S. A. (the Company) and its subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). Copa Holdings, S. A. and its subsidiaries' management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

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

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

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

In our opinion, Copa Holdings S. A. and its subsidiaries maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Copa Holdings, S. A. and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 and our report dated March 12, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst and Young

March 16, 2010

Panama City, Republic of Panama

**Item 16. Reserved**

**Item 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert**

Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. José Castañeda and Roberto Artavia qualify as an audit committee financial experts as defined by current SEC rules and meet the independence requirements of the SEC and the NYSE listing standards. For a discussion of the role of our audit committee, see Item 6C. Board Practices Audit Committee.

**Table of Contents****Item 16B. Code of Ethics**

Our Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applicable to our directors, officers, employees and consultants. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics can be found at [www.copaair.com](http://www.copaair.com) under the heading Investor Relations Corporate Governance. Information found at this website is not incorporated by reference into this document.

**Item 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

The following table sets forth by category of service the total fees for services performed by our independent auditors Ernst & Young during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008 and 2009:

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Audit Fees	\$ 769,860	\$ 715,000
Audit-Related Fees		
Tax Fees		
All Other Fees		538,991
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 769,860</b>	<b>\$ 1,253,991</b>

**Audit Fees**

Audit fees for 2009 and 2008 included the audit of our annual financial statements and internal controls, the review of our quarterly reports.

**Audit-Related Fees**

There were no audit-related fees for 2008.

**Tax Fees**

There were no tax fees.

**All Other Fees**

Other fees for 2009 included amounts paid for permitted consulting services performed by Ernst & Young and pre-approved by our audit committee.

There were no other fees for services performed by Ernst & Young during 2008.

**Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

Our audit committee approves all audit, audit-related services, tax services and other services provided by Ernst & Young. Any services provided by Ernst & Young that are not specifically included within the scope of the audit must be pre-approved by the audit committee in advance of any engagement. Pursuant to Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X, audit committees are permitted to approve certain fees for audit-related services, tax services and other services pursuant to a *de minimis* exception prior to the completion of an audit engagement. In 2009, none of the fees paid to Ernst & Young were approved pursuant to the *de minimis* exception.

**Item 16D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees**

None.

**Item 16E. Purchase of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers**

None.

**Item 16F. Change in Registrant's Certifying Accountant**

None.



**Table of Contents**

**Item 16G. Corporate Governance**

Companies that are registered in Panama are required to disclose whether or not they comply with certain corporate governance guidelines and principles that are recommended by the National Securities Commission (*Comisión Nacional de Valores*, or CNV). Statements below referring to Panamanian governance standards reflect these voluntary guidelines set by the CNV rather than legal requirements or standard national practices. Our Class A shares are registered with the CNV, and we comply with the CNV's disclosure requirements.

**NYSE Standards**

***Director Independence.***

*Majority of board of directors must be independent. §303A.01*

***Executive Sessions.*** *Non-management directors must meet regularly in executive sessions without management. Independent directors should meet alone in an executive session at least once a year. §303A.03*

***Nominating/corporate governance committee.*** *Nominating/corporate governance committee of independent directors is required. The committee must have a charter specifying the purpose, duties and evaluation procedures of the committee. §303A.04*

***Compensation committee.*** *Compensation committee of independent directors is required, which must approve executive officer compensation. The committee must have a charter specifying the purpose, duties and evaluation procedures of the committee. §303A.05*

**Our Corporate Governance Practice**

Panamanian corporate governance standards recommend that one in every five directors should be an independent director. The criteria for determining independence under the Panamanian corporate governance standards differs from the NYSE rules. In Panama, a director would be considered independent as long as the director does not directly or indirectly own 5% or more of the issued and outstanding voting shares of the company, is not involved in the daily management of the company and is not a spouse or related to the second degree by blood or marriage to the persons named above.

Our Articles of Incorporation require us to have three independent directors as defined under the NYSE rules.

There are no mandatory requirements under Panamanian law that a company should hold, and we currently do not hold, such executive sessions.

Panamanian corporate governance standards recommend that registered companies have a nominating committee composed of three members of the board of directors, at least one of which should be an independent director, plus the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer. In Panama, the majority of public corporations do not have a nominating or corporate governance committee. Our Articles of Incorporation require that we maintain a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee with at least one independent director until the first shareholders' meeting to elect directors after such time as the Class A shares are entitled to full voting rights.

Panamanian corporate governance standards recommend that the compensation of executives and directors be overseen by the nominating committee but do not otherwise address the need for a compensation committee.

While we maintain a compensation committee that operates under a charter as described by the NYSE governance standards, currently only one of the members of that committee is independent.

*Equity compensation plans. Equity compensation plans require shareholder approval, subject to limited exemptions.*

Under Panamanian law, shareholder approval is not required for equity compensation plans.

**Table of Contents**

**NYSE Standards**

*Code of Ethics. Corporate governance guidelines and a code of business conduct and ethics is required, with disclosure of any waiver for directors or executive officers.*  
§303A.10

**Our Corporate Governance Practice**

Panamanian corporate governance standards do not require the adoption of specific guidelines as contemplated by the NYSE standards, although they do require that companies disclose differences between their practices and a list of specified practices recommended by the CNV.

We have not adopted a set of corporate governance guidelines as contemplated by the NYSE, although we will be required to comply with the disclosure requirement of the CNV.

Panamanian corporate governance standards recommend that registered companies adopt a code of ethics covering such topics as its ethical and moral principles, how to address conflicts of interest, the appropriate use of resources, obligations to inform of acts of corruption and mechanism to enforce the compliance with established rules of conduct.

**PART III**

**Item 17. Financial Statements**

See Item 18. Financial Statements.

**Item 18. Financial Statements**

See our consolidated financial statements beginning on Page F-1.

**Item 19. Exhibits**

- 1.1\*\* English translation of the Articles of Incorporation (*Pacto Social*) of the Registrant
- 2.1\* Form of Second Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement among Copa Holdings, S.A., Corporación de Inversiones Aéreas, S.A. and Continental Airlines, Inc.
- 2.2\* Form of Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement among Copa Holdings, S.A., Corporación de Inversiones Aéreas, S.A. and Continental Airlines, Inc.
- 10.1\*\* Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated as of October 1, 1998, between First Security Bank and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., in respect of Boeing Model 737-71Q Aircraft, Serial No. 29047
- 10.2\*\* Letter Agreement dated as of November 6, 1998 amending Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated October 1, 1998, between First Security Bank and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., in respect of One Boeing Model 737-71Q Aircraft, Manufacturer's Serial No. 29047
- 10.3\*\* Aircraft Lease Amendment Agreement dated as of May 21, 2004 to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated October 1, 1998, between First Security Bank and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., in respect of Boeing Model 737-71Q Aircraft, Serial No. 29047
- 10.4\*\* Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated as of October 1, 1998, between First Security Bank and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., in respect of Boeing Model 737-71Q Aircraft, Serial No. 29048

- 10.5\*\* Letter Agreement dated as of November 6, 1998 amending Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated as of October 1, 1998, between First Security Bank and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., in respect of Boeing Model 737-71Q Aircraft, Serial No. 29048

**Table of Contents**

- 10.6\*\* Aircraft Lease Amendment Agreement dated as of May 21, 2003 to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated October 1, 1998, between First Security Bank and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., in respect of Boeing Model 737-71Q Aircraft, Serial No. 29048
- 10.7\*\* Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated as of November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 28607
- 10.8\*\* Letter Agreement No. 1 dated as of November 18, 1998 to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 28607
- 10.9\*\* Letter Agreement No. 2 dated as of March 8, 1999 to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 28607
- 10.10\*\* Lease Extension and Amendment Agreement dated as of April 30, 2003, to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 28607
- 10.11\*\* Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated as of November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 30049
- 10.12\*\* Letter Agreement No. 1 dated as of November 18, 1998 to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 30049
- 10.13\*\* Letter Agreement No. 2 dated as of March 8, 1999 to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 30049
- 10.14\*\* Lease Extension and Amendment Agreement dated as of April 30, 2003, to Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated November 18, 1998, between Aviation Financial Services Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., Boeing Model 737-700 Aircraft, Serial No. 30049
- 10.15\*\* Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated as of November 30, 2003, between International Lease Finance Corporation and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., New B737-700 or 800, Serial No. 30676
- 10.16\*\* Aircraft Lease Agreement, dated as of March 4, 2004, between International Lease Finance Corporation and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., New B737-700 or 800, Serial No. 32800
- 10.17\*\* Aircraft Lease Agreement dated as of December 23, 2004, between Wells Fargo Bank Northwest, N.A. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A., in respect of Boeing B737-800 Aircraft, Serial No. 29670

Edgar Filing: Copa Holdings, S.A. - Form 20-F

- 10.18\*\* Embraer 190LR Purchase Agreement DCT-006/2003 dated as of May 2003 between Embraer Empresa Brasileira de Aeronáutica S.A. and Regional Aircraft Holdings Ltd.
- 10.19\*\* Letter Agreement DCT-007/2003 between Embraer Empresa Brasileira de Aeronáutica S.A. and Regional Aircraft Holdings Ltd., relating to Purchase Agreement DCT-006/2003
- 10.20\*\* Letter Agreement DCT-008/2003 between Embraer Empresa Brasileira de Aeronáutica S.A. and Regional Aircraft Holdings Ltd., relating to Purchase Agreement DCT-006/2003
- 10.21\* Embraer 190 Purchase Agreement COM 0028-06 dated February 2006 between Embraer Empresa Brasileira de Aeronáutica S.A. and Copa Holdings, S.A. relating to Embraer 190LR aircraft
- 10.22\* Letter Agreement COM 0029-06 to the Embraer Agreement dated February 2006 between Embraer Empresa Brasileira de Aeronáutica S.A. and Copa Holdings, S.A. relating to Embraer 190LR aircraft
- 10.23\*\* Aircraft General Terms Agreement, dated November 25, 1998, between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.24\*\* Purchase Agreement Number 2191, dated November 25, 1998, between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A., Inc. relating to Boeing Model 737-7V3 & 737-8V3 Aircraft
- 10.25\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 1 dated as of June 29, 2001 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.

**Table of Contents**

- 10.26\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 2 dated as of December 21, 2001 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.27\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 3 dated as of June 14, 2002 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.28\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 4 dated as of December 20, 2002 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.29\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 5 dated as of October 31, 2003 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.30\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 6 dated as of September 9, 2004 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.31\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 7 dated as of December 9, 2004 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.32\*\* Supplemental Agreement No. 8 dated as of April 15, 2005 to Purchase Agreement Number 2191 between The Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.33\* Supplemental Agreement No. 9 dated as of March 16, 2006 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.34\* Supplemental Agreement No. 10 dated as of May 8, 2006 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.35\*\* Maintenance Cost per Hour Engine Service Agreement, dated March 5, 2003, between G.E. Engine Services, Inc. and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.36\*\* English translation of Aviation Fuel Supply Agreement, dated July 18, 2005, between Petróleos Delta, S.A. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A.
- 10.37\*\* Form of Guaranteed Loan Agreement
- 10.38\*\* Form of Amended and Restated Alliance Agreement between Continental Airlines, Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A.
- 10.39\*\* Form of Amended and Restated Services Agreement between Continental Airlines, Inc. and Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S.A.
- 10.40\*\* Form of Amended and Restated Frequent Flyer Program Participation Agreement
- 10.41\*\* Form of Copa Holdings, S.A. 2005 Stock Incentive Plan
- 10.42\*\* Form of Copa Holdings, S.A. Restricted Stock Award Agreement
- 10.43\*\* Form of Indemnification Agreement with the Registrant's directors

- 10.44 Supplemental Agreement No. 11 dated as of August 30, 2006 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.45 Supplemental Agreement No. 12 dated as of February 26, 2007 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.46 Supplemental Agreement No. 13 dated as of April 23, 2007 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.47 Supplemental Agreement No. 14 dated as of August 31, 2007 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.48 Supplemental Agreement No. 15 dated as of February 21, 2008 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
- 10.49 Supplemental Agreement No. 16 dated as of June 30, 2008 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.



**Table of Contents**

10.50	Supplemental Agreement No. 17 dated as of December 15, 2008 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A.
10.51	Supplemental Agreement No. 18 dated as of July 15, 2009 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A
10.52	Supplemental Agreement No. 19 dated as of August 31, 2009 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A
10.53	Supplemental Agreement No. 20 dated as of November 19, 2009 to the Boeing Purchase Agreement Number 2191 dated November 25, 1998 between the Boeing Company and Copa Holdings, S.A
12.1	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
12.2	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
13.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
13.2	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
21.1**	Subsidiaries of the Registrant

\* Previously filed with the SEC as an exhibit and incorporated by reference from our Registration Statement on Form F-1, filed June 15, 2006, File No. 333-135031.

\*\* Previously filed with the SEC as an exhibit and incorporated by reference from our Registration Statement on

Form F-1, filed  
November 28,  
2005, as  
amended on  
December 1,  
2005 and  
December 13,  
2005, File  
No. 333-129967.

The Registrant  
was granted  
confidential  
treatment for  
portions of this  
exhibit.

The Registrant  
has requested  
confidential  
treatment for  
portions of this  
exhibit.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

The Registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 20-F and that it has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this annual report on its behalf.

**COPA HOLDINGS, S.A.**

By: /s/ Pedro Heilbron  
Name: Pedro Heilbron  
Title: Chief Executive Officer

Dated: March 16, 2010

**Table of Contents**

**INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>Audited Consolidated Financial Statements</b>	
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-2
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2009 and 2008</u>	F-3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009</u>	F-5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009</u>	F-6
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009</u>	F-7
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-8

**Table of Contents**

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS  
COPA HOLDINGS, S. A.**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Copa Holdings, S. A. ( the Company ) and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule included in Item 18. These consolidated financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and schedule based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Company and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related consolidated financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 10, Earnings per Share (Adjusted), in 2009, the Company changed its method of calculating earnings per share.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of Company s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 12, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon .

/s/ Ernst and Young

March 16, 2010  
Panama City, Republic of Panama

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
(In US\$ thousands, except share and per share data)

	<b>As of December 31,</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 262,656	\$ 220,808
Short-term investments	89,412	176,018
Total cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	<b>352,068</b>	396,826
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4,947 and \$5,002 as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively	76,392	70,609
Accounts receivable from related parties	4,399	4,592
Expendable parts and supplies, net of allowance for obsolescence of \$78 and \$53 as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively	23,327	18,405
Prepaid expenses	32,314	26,694
Other current assets	13,654	5,338
Total Current Assets	<b>502,154</b>	522,464
<b>Investments</b>	<b>6,407</b>	11,145
<b>Property and Equipment:</b>		
Owned property and equipment:		
Flight equipment	1,439,759	1,372,352
Other	61,339	55,291
	<b>1,501,098</b>	1,427,643
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<b>(218,108)</b>	(174,835)
	<b>1,282,990</b>	1,252,808
Purchase deposits for flight equipment	198,697	84,861
Total Property and Equipment	<b>1,481,687</b>	1,337,669
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
Prepaid pension asset	2,227	1,486
Goodwill	23,852	21,732
Other intangible assets	34,973	31,865
Other assets	41,569	27,864

Total Other Assets	<b>102,621</b>	82,947
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,092,869</b>	\$ 1,954,225

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

F-3

---

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (continued)**  
(In US\$ thousands, except share and per share data)

	<b>As of December 31,</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 94,550	\$ 115,833
Accounts payable	51,343	54,066
Accounts payable to related parties	14,103	11,510
Air traffic liability	183,344	182,490
Taxes and interest payable	43,227	37,194
Accrued expenses payable	49,058	40,642
Other current liabilities	10,957	60,349
Total Current Liabilities	<b>446,582</b>	502,084
<b>Non-Current Liabilities:</b>		
Long-term debt	750,971	800,196
Post employment benefits liability	2,370	2,072
Other long-term liabilities	13,908	8,694
Deferred tax liabilities	13,410	8,747
Total Non-Current Liabilities	<b>780,659</b>	819,709
Total Liabilities	<b>1,227,241</b>	1,321,793
<b>Shareholders Equity:</b>		
Class A common stock - 31,136,619 and 31,031,129 shares issued, 30,566,853 and 30,416,441 outstanding in 2009 and 2008	20,864	20,761
Class B common stock - 12,778,125 shares issued and outstanding, no par value	8,722	8,722
Additional paid in capital	18,658	13,481
Retained earnings	817,649	594,004
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(265)	(4,536)
Total Shareholders Equity	<b>865,628</b>	632,432
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders Equity</b>	<b>\$ 2,092,869</b>	\$ 1,954,225



The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

F-4

---

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**  
(In US\$ thousands, except share and per share)

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Operating Revenue:</b>			
Passenger revenue	\$ 1,186,717	\$ 1,217,311	\$ 967,066
Cargo, mail and other	66,370	71,478	60,198
	<b>1,253,087</b>	<b>1,288,789</b>	<b>1,027,264</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Aircraft fuel	300,816	404,669	265,387
Salaries and benefits	157,879	139,431	116,691
Passenger servicing	110,768	98,775	82,948
Commissions	57,565	67,177	65,930
Maintenance, material and repairs	76,732	66,438	51,249
Reservations and sales	56,280	54,996	48,229
Aircraft rentals	46,538	43,008	38,636
Flight operations	60,873	56,425	43,958
Depreciation	47,079	42,891	35,328
Landing fees and other rentals	33,628	32,467	27,017
Other	62,186	58,521	55,093
Special fleet charges	19,417		7,309
Gain from involuntary conversion			(8,019)
	<b>1,029,761</b>	<b>1,064,798</b>	<b>829,756</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>223,326</b>	<b>223,991</b>	<b>197,508</b>
<b>Non-operating Income (Expense):</b>			
Interest costs	(32,938)	(42,071)	(44,332)
Interest capitalized	693	1,921	2,570
Interest income	9,185	11,130	12,193
Other, net	59,703	(58,843)	10,987
	<b>36,643</b>	<b>(87,863)</b>	<b>(18,582)</b>
<b>Income before Income Taxes</b>	<b>259,969</b>	<b>136,128</b>	<b>178,926</b>
Provision for Income Taxes	19,610	17,469	17,106
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 240,359</b>	<b>\$ 118,659</b>	<b>\$ 161,820</b>

**Earnings per share, as adjusted:**

Basic	\$	<b>5.47</b>	\$	2.71	\$	3.70
Diluted	\$	<b>5.47</b>	\$	2.71	\$	3.70

**Denominator for basic and diluted earnings per share, as adjusted**

43,910,929	43,822,879	43,782,386
------------	------------	------------

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY**  
(In US\$ thousands, except share and per share data)

	<i>Common Stock</i> <i>(Non-par value)</i>		<i>Issued Capital</i> <i>Class</i>		<i>Additional</i> <i>Paid in</i>	<i>Retained</i>	<i>Accumulated</i> <i>Other</i> <i>Comprehensive</i> <i>Income</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Class A</i>	<i>Class B</i>	<i>Class A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Earnings</i>	<i>(Loss)</i>	
<b>At December 31, 2006</b>	30,034,375	12,778,125	20,501	8,722	3,340	343,390	(4,284)	371,669
Issuance of stock	125,344		85		(85)			
Net Income						161,820		161,820
Other comprehensive income (loss):								
Net change in fair value of derivative instruments							3,998	3,998
Foreign currency translation							2,954	2,954
Actuarial loss, net of amortization							(2)	(2)
Total comprehensive income								168,770
Restricted stock plan					4,809			4,809
Other						(50)		(50)
Dividends declared						(13,561)		(13,561)
<b>At December 31, 2007</b>	<b>30,159,719</b>	<b>12,778,125</b>	<b>20,586</b>	<b>8,722</b>	<b>8,064</b>	<b>491,599</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>693,457</b>
Issuance of stock	256,722		175		(175)			
Net Income						118,659		118,659
Other comprehensive income (loss):								
Net change in fair value of derivative instruments							(6,713)	(6,713)
Exchange effect on intercompany long term balance							2,155	2,155
Foreign currency translation							(2,503)	(2,503)
Actuarial loss, net of amortization							(141)	(141)
Total comprehensive income								111,456

Edgar Filing: Copa Holdings, S.A. - Form 20-F

Restricted stock plan						5,592		5,592
Other							(47)	(47)
Dividends declared							(16,207)	(16,207)

**At December 31,  
2008**

**30,416,441 12,778,125 \$ 20,761 \$ 8,722 \$ 13,481 \$ 594,004 \$ (4,536) \$ 632,432**

Issuance of stock	150,412		103		(103)			
Net Income						240,359		240,359
Other comprehensive income (loss):								
Net change in fair value of derivative instruments							1,509	1,509
Exchange effect on intercompany long term balance							(1,486)	(1,486)
Foreign currency translation							4,248	4,248
Total comprehensive income								244,630
Restricted stock plan						5,280		5,280
Other							(459)	(459)
Dividends declared							(16,255)	(16,255)

**At December 31,  
2009**

**30,566,853 12,778,125 \$ 20,864 \$ 8,722 \$ 18,658 \$ 817,649 \$ (265) \$ 865,628**

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(In US\$ thousands)

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net income	\$ 240,359	\$ 118,659	\$ 161,820
Adjustments for:			
Deferred income taxes	3,816	4,649	2,352
Depreciation	47,079	42,891	35,328
Gain on sale of property, equipment and involuntary conversion			(9,579)
Special fleet charges	8,923	199	6,300
Provision for doubtful accounts	55	3,230	4,276
Provision for obsolescence of expendable parts and supplies	27	21	12
Derivative instruments mark to market	(59,010)	53,290	(6,291)
Stock compensation	5,278	5,593	4,809
Changes in:			
Accounts receivable	(4,280)	(4,459)	(14,805)
Accounts receivable from related parties	524	(3,177)	1,256
Other current assets	(12,781)	(6,346)	(14,149)
Restricted cash	40,934	(39,803)	(1)
Other assets	(11,831)	974	(7,835)
Accounts payable	(3,669)	(2,074)	7,611
Accounts payable to related parties	7,444	1,681	1,671
Air traffic liability	(246)	32,090	35,215
Other liabilities	19,814	(9,313)	13,951
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>282,436</b>	<b>198,105</b>	<b>221,941</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Acquisition of investments	(217,905)	(240,407)	(500)
Proceeds from redemption of investments	268,314	132,586	17,495
Advance payments on aircraft purchase contracts	(151,676)	(53,434)	(62,128)
Acquisition of property and equipment	(50,994)	(162,479)	(304,013)
Disposal of property and equipment	810	954	2,354
Insurance proceeds on involuntary conversion			12,034
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>	<b>(151,451)</b>	<b>(322,780)</b>	<b>(334,758)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from loans and borrowings	103,780	160,197	329,147
Payments on loans and borrowings	(175,374)	(84,471)	(87,291)
Dividends declared and paid	(16,255)	(16,207)	(13,561)
<b>Net cash flows (used) provided by financing activities</b>	<b>(87,849)</b>	<b>59,519</b>	<b>228,295</b>

<b>Effect of exchange rate change on cash</b>	<b>(1,288)</b>	106	500
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<b>41,848</b>	(65,050)	115,978
Cash and cash equivalents at January 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>220,808</b>	285,858	169,880
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at December 31</b>	<b>\$ 262,656</b>	\$ 220,808	\$ 285,858

**Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information**

Interest paid, net of amount capitalized	<b>\$ 34,170</b>	\$ 40,383	\$ 40,108
Income taxes paid	<b>13,843</b>	14,906	16,553
Investing and financing activities not affecting cash:			
Settlement of debt through insurance proceed on involuntary conversion			22,820

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Corporate Information**

Copa Holdings, S. A. ( the Company ) is a leading Latin American provider of international airline passenger and cargo services. The Company was incorporated according to the laws of the Republic of Panama. The Company owns 99.8% of the shares of Compañía Panameña de Aviación, S. A. ( Copa Airlines ), 100% of the shares of Oval Financial Leasing, Ltd. ( OVAL ), and 99.9% of the shares of AeroRepública, S.A. ( AeroRepública ).

Copa Airlines, the Company s core operation, is incorporated according to the laws of the Republic of Panama and provides international air transportation for passengers, cargo and mail. Copa Airlines operates from its Panama City hub in the Republic of Panama, from where it offers approximately 152 daily scheduled flights among 45 destinations in 24 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Additionally, Copa Airlines provides passengers with access to flights to more than 120 other international destinations through codeshare agreements with Continental Airlines, Inc. ( Continental ) and other airlines. The Company has a broad commercial alliance with Continental which includes joint marketing, code-sharing arrangements, participation in Continental s OnePass frequent flyer loyalty program and access to Continental s VIP lounge program, President s Club, along with other benefits such as improved purchasing power in negotiations with service providers, aircraft vendors and insurers. As of December 31, 2009, Copa Airlines operates a fleet of 42 aircraft with an average age of 5.1 years; consisting of 29 modern Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft and 13 Embraer 190 aircraft.

OVAL is incorporated according to the laws of the British Virgin Islands, and controls the special-purpose vehicles that have a beneficial interest in 40 aircraft, with a carrying value of \$1.1 billion, all of which are leased to either Copa Airlines or AeroRepública. The aircraft are pledged as collateral for the obligation of the special-purpose vehicles, which are all consolidated by the Company for financial reporting purposes.

AeroRepública is a domestic Colombian air carrier, which is incorporated according to the laws of the Republic of Colombia and provides domestic service to 12 cities in Colombia with a point-to-point route network as well as international service to Panama City, Ecuador and Venezuela from seven (7) different cities. As of December 31, 2009, AeroRepública operates a fleet of 14 aircraft with an average age of 3.2 years; consisting of one leased MD-80s and 13 Embraer 190 aircraft.

A substantial portion of the Company s assets are located in the Republic of Panama, and a significant proportion of the Company s flights operate through its hub at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City. As a result, the Company depends on economic and political conditions prevailing from time to time in Panama.

As used in these Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, the terms the Company , we , us , our and similar terms refer to Copa Holdings, S.A. and, unless the context indicates otherwise, its consolidated subsidiaries.



**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation**

These consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for financial reporting using the U.S. Dollar as the reporting currency.

**Principles of Consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements comprise the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. The financial statements of subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the parent company, using consistent accounting policies. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Company and cease to be consolidated from the date on which control is transferred from the Company. All intercompany accounts, transactions and profits arising from consolidated entities have been eliminated in consolidation.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at banks, short-term time deposits and U.S. Government treasury securities with original maturities of three months or less when purchased.

**Investments**

The Company invests in short-term time deposits and U.S. Government treasury securities with original maturities of more than three months but less than one year. Additionally, the Company invests in long-term time deposits with maturities greater than 365 days. These investments are classified as short-term and long-term investments respectively, in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. All of these investments are classified as held-to-maturity securities, and are stated at their amortized cost, since the Company has determined that it has the intent and ability to hold the securities to maturity. Restricted cash is classified within short-term and long-term investments and is held as collateral for letters of credit.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Expendable Parts and Supplies**

Expendable parts and supplies for flight equipment are carried at average acquisition cost and are expensed when used in operations. An allowance for obsolescence is provided over the remaining estimated useful life of the related aircraft, plus an allowance for expendable parts currently identified as excess to reduce the carrying cost to net realizable value. These allowances are based on management estimates, which are subject to change.

**Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment are recorded at cost and are depreciated to estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. Jet aircraft, jet engines and aircraft rotables are assumed to have an estimated residual value of 15% of original cost; other categories of property and equipment are assumed to have no residual value. The estimated useful lives for property and equipment are as follows:

	<b>Years</b>
Jet aircraft	30
Jet engines	30
Ground property and equipment	5 to 10
Furniture, fixture, equipment and others	5 to 10
Software rights and licenses	3 to 8
Aircraft rotables	10 to 30
Leasehold improvements	Lesser of remaining lease term or useful life

**Measurement of Impairment of Long-Lived Assets**

The Company records impairment losses on long-lived assets used in operations, consisting principally of property and equipment, when events or changes in circumstances indicate, in management's judgment, that the assets might be impaired and the undiscounted cash flows estimated to be generated from the use of those assets are less than the carrying amount of those assets. Cash flows estimates are based on historical results adjusted to reflect the Company's best estimate of future market and operating conditions. The net carrying value of assets not recoverable is reduced to fair value. Estimates of fair value represent the Company's best estimate based on industry trends and reference to assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset and are subject to change.

**Revenue Recognition***Passenger Revenue*

Passenger revenue is recognized when transportation is provided rather than when a ticket is sold. The amount of passenger ticket sales not yet recognized as revenue is reflected as Air traffic liability in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Fares for tickets that have expired and/or are one year old are recognized as passenger revenue. A significant portion of the Company's ticket sales are processed through major credit card companies, resulting in accounts receivable which are generally short-term in duration and typically collected prior to when revenue is recognized. The Company believes that the credit risk associated with these receivables is minimal.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

We are required to charge certain taxes and fees on our passenger tickets. These taxes and fees include transportation taxes, airport passenger facility charges and foreign arrival and departure taxes. These taxes and fees are legal assessments on the customer. As we have a legal obligation to act as a collection agent with respect to these taxes and fees, we do not include such amounts in passenger revenue. We record a liability when the amounts are collected and relieve the liability when payments are made to the applicable government agency or operating carrier.

*Cargo and Mail Services Revenue*

Cargo and mail services revenue are recognized when the Company provides the shipping services and thereby completes the earning process.

*Other Revenue*

Other revenue is primarily comprised of excess baggage charges, commissions earned on tickets sold for flights on other airlines and charter flights, and is recognized when transportation or service is provided.

*Frequent Flyer Program*

The Company participates in Continental's OnePass frequent flyer program, for which the Company's passengers receive all the benefits and privileges offered by the OnePass program. Continental is responsible for the administration of the OnePass program. Under the terms of the Company's frequent flyer agreement with Continental, OnePass members receive OnePass frequent flyer mileage credits for travel on Copa Airlines and AeroRepública and the Company pays Continental a per mile rate for each mileage credit granted by Continental, at which point the Company has no further obligation. The amounts due to Continental under this agreement are expensed by the Company as the mileage credits are earned. Continental pays Copa Airlines a per flown mile rate for every OnePass Member that uses his/her miles to obtain reward tickets on Copa Airlines and AeroRepública flights. These rates depend on the class of service, the flight length and the availability of the reward.

**Passenger Traffic Commissions**

Passenger traffic commissions are recognized as expense when the transportation is provided and the related revenue is recognized. Passenger traffic commissions paid but not yet recognized as expense are included in Prepaid expenses in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**Foreign Currency Transactions and Translation**

The Company's functional currency is the U.S. Dollar, the legal tender in Panama. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at end-of-period exchange rates, except for non-monetary assets and liabilities, which are translated at equivalent U.S. dollar costs at dates of acquisition and maintained at historical rate. Results of operations are translated at average exchange rates in effect during the period. Foreign exchange gains and losses are included as a component of Other, net within Non-operating income (expense) in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements of AeroRepública are measured using the Colombian Peso as the functional currency; adjustments to translate those statements into U.S. Dollars are recorded in other comprehensive income (loss). In 2009, approximately 71% of the Company's expenses and 43% of the Company's revenues were denominated in U.S. Dollars. The remainder of the Company's expenses and revenues were denominated in the currencies of the various countries to which the Company flies, with the largest non-dollar amount denominated in Colombian pesos for which the Company hedges the risk of fluctuation from time to time (see Note 7). Generally, the Company's exposure to foreign currencies is limited to a period of up to two weeks, from the time a sale is completed to the time funds are converted into U.S. Dollars. As a result of exchange controls in Venezuela, cash generated from Venezuelan operations may not be available to fund our cash obligations.

**Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities**

The Company accounts for derivatives and hedging activities in accordance with ASC Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging (ASC Topic 815) which requires entities to recognize all derivative instruments as either assets or liabilities in the balance sheet at their respective fair values.

The Company only enters into derivative contracts that it intends to use in managing the variabilities in market related values of forecasted transaction or the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset or liability (cash flow hedge). For all hedging relationships the Company formally documents the hedging relationship and its risk-management objective and strategy for undertaking the hedge, the hedging instrument, the hedged item, the nature of the risk being hedged, how the hedging instrument's effectiveness in offsetting the hedged risk will be assessed prospectively and retrospectively, and a description of the method of measuring ineffectiveness. The Company also formally assesses, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting cash flows of hedged items.

Changes in the fair value of a derivative that is highly effective and that is designated and qualifies as a cash-flow hedge are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income to the extent that the derivative is effective as a hedge, until earnings are affected by the variability in cash flows of the designated hedged item. The ineffective portion of the change in fair value of a derivative instrument that qualifies as a cash-flow hedge or that is not designated as a hedge is reported in earnings.

The Company discontinues hedge accounting prospectively when it determines that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting cash flows of the hedged item, the derivative expires or is sold, terminated, or exercised, the derivative is de-designated as a hedging instrument because it is unlikely that a forecasted transaction will occur, or management determines that designation of the derivative as a hedging instrument is no longer appropriate.

In all situations in which hedge accounting is discontinued and the derivative is retained, the Company continues to carry the derivative at its fair value on the balance sheet and recognizes any subsequent changes in its fair value in earnings. When it is probable that a forecasted transaction will not occur, the Company discontinues hedge accounting and recognizes immediately in earnings gains and losses that were accumulated in other comprehensive income.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Maintenance and Repair Costs**

Maintenance and repair costs for owned and leased flight equipment, including the overhaul of aircraft components, are charged to operating expenses as incurred. Engine overhaul costs covered by power-by-the-hour arrangements are paid and expensed as incurred, on the basis of hours flown per the contract. Under the terms of our power-by-the-hour agreements, we pay a set dollar amount per engine hour flown on a monthly basis and the third-party vendor assumes the obligation to repair the engines at no additional cost to us, subject to certain specified exclusions.

Additionally, although our aircraft lease agreements specifically provide that we, as lessee, are responsible for maintenance of the leased aircraft, we do, under certain of our existing lease agreements, pay maintenance reserves to aircraft and engine lessors that are to be applied towards the cost of future maintenance events. These reserves are calculated based on a performance measure, such as flight hours, and are specifically to be used to reimburse third-party providers that furnish services in connection with maintenance of our leased aircraft. If there are sufficient funds on deposit to pay the invoices submitted, they are paid. However, if amounts on deposit are insufficient to cover the invoices, we must cover the shortfall because, as noted above, we are legally responsible for maintaining the leased aircraft. Under aircraft lease agreements, if there are excess amounts on deposit at the expiration of the lease, the lessor is entitled to retain any excess amounts. The maintenance reserves paid under our lease agreements do not transfer either the obligation to maintain the aircraft or the cost risk associated with the maintenance activities to the aircraft lessor. In addition, we maintain the right to select any third-party maintenance providers. Therefore, we record these amounts as prepaid maintenance within Other Assets on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and then recognize maintenance expense when the underlying maintenance is performed, in accordance with our maintenance accounting policy. As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, based on the experience of the Company's maintenance personnel and industry available data, management determined that it was probable that all maintenance deposits recorded as prepaid maintenance in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets will be used to fund the cost of maintenance events and are therefore recoverable.

**Employee Profit Sharing**

The Company sponsors a profit-sharing program for both management and non-management personnel. For members of management, profit-sharing is based on a combination of the Company's performance as a whole and the achievement of individual goals. Profit-sharing for non-management employees is based solely on the Company's performance. The Company accrues each month for the expected profit-sharing, which is paid annually in February. Amounts expensed for the Company's profit-sharing program were \$10.7 million, \$7.7 million and \$8.4 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Advertising Costs**

Advertising costs are expensed when incurred. The Company recognized as advertising expense \$6.2 million, \$7.7 million, and \$6.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Income Taxes**

Deferred income taxes are provided under the liability method and reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements.

**Goodwill and Intangibles**

The Company performs impairment testing of goodwill, in accordance with ASC Topic 350, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other ( ASC Topic 350 ), separately from impairment testing of indefinite-lived intangibles. The Company tests goodwill for impairment, at least annually, by comparing the book value to the fair value at the reporting segment level and tests individually indefinite-lived intangibles, at least annually, by reviewing the individual book values compared to the fair value. Considerable management judgment is necessary to determine the assumptions that marketplace participants would consider in determining the fair value of these assets. The Company did not recognize any impairment charges for goodwill or intangibles assets during the years presented.

All of the Company's goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles are allocated to its AeroRepública segment.

Indefinite-lived intangible assets consist primarily of the fair value allocated to the routes and the AeroRepública trade name, valued at \$29.4 million and \$5.6 million, respectively. For the years ended December 2009 and 2008, amounts of goodwill and intangible assets have changed due to exchange effects.

**Gain from Involuntary Conversion**

In 2007, the Company recorded an \$8.0 million gain on involuntary conversion of non-monetary assets to monetary assets related to insurance proceeds in excess of aircraft book value.

**Concentration Risk**

The Company attempts to minimize its concentration risk with regards to its cash, cash equivalents, and its investment portfolio. This is accomplished by diversifying and limiting amounts among different counterparties, the type of investment, and the amount invested in any individual security. Even, the Company's exposure to other foreign currencies is limited to a period of up to two weeks, there is some risk related to devaluation of some currencies where the Company has some restrictions by law to convert our funds into U.S. Dollars. Due to exchange controls in Venezuela, however, we often experience additional delays in repatriating cash generated Venezuelan Bolivares to U.S. dollars. See also Note 16.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Earnings per Share**

Earnings per share information is determined using the two-class method, which includes the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period and other securities that participate in dividends ( participating securities ). Our non-vested stock awards are considered participating securities because they include non-forfeitable rights to dividends. In applying the two-class method, earnings are allocated to both common stock shares and participating securities based on their respective weighted-average shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share information may include the additional effect of other securities, if dilutive, in which case the dilutive effect of such securities is calculated using the treasury stock method.

**2. Adopted and Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**

Effective July 1, 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board's ( FASB ) Accounting Standards Codification ( ASC ) became the single official source of authoritative, nongovernmental generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ) in the United States. The historical GAAP hierarchy was eliminated and the ASC became the only level of authoritative GAAP, other than guidance issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our accounting policies were not affected by the conversion to ASC. However, references to specific accounting standards in the footnotes to our consolidated financial statements have been changed to refer to the appropriate section of ASC.

In March 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133 ( SFAS 161 ). SFAS 161 requires entities that utilize derivative instruments to provide qualitative disclosures about their objectives and strategies for using such instruments, as well as any details of credit-risk-related contingent features contained within derivatives. SFAS 161 also requires entities to disclose additional information about the amounts and location of derivatives located within the financial statements, how the provisions of SFAS 133 have been applied, and the impact that hedges have on an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS 161 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early application encouraged. This is contained in ASC Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging ( ASC Topic 815 ). The adoption of this amendment did not have a material impact on these Consolidated Financial Statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued guidance which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This guidance is contained in ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ( ASC Topic 820 ). In February 2008, the FASB deferred the effective date to January 1, 2009 for all nonfinancial assets and liabilities, except for those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value on a recurring basis (that is, at least annually). We adopted the deferred provisions of ASC Topic 820 on January 1, 2009. Application of the new rules affected our annual impairment testing for goodwill and other intangible assets.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

In April 2009, the FASB issued additional guidance for estimating fair value in accordance with ASC Topic 820. The additional guidance addresses estimating fair value when the volume and level of activity for an asset or liability has significantly decreased in relation to normal market activity for the asset or liability. We adopted the provisions of this guidance for the fourth quarter of 2009. The adoption did not have a material effect on these Consolidated Financial Statements.

In June 2009, the FASB issued guidance to change financial reporting by enterprises involved with variable interest entities ( VIEs ). The standard replaces the quantitative-based risks and rewards calculation for determining which enterprise has a controlling financial interest in a VIE with an approach focused on identifying which enterprise has the power to direct the activities of a VIE and the obligation to absorb losses of the entity or the right to receive the entity's residual returns. This accounting standard is effective for us on January 1, 2010. We are currently evaluating the requirements of this pronouncement and have not determined the impact, if any, that adoption of this standard will have on these Consolidated Financial Statements.

In October 2009, the FASB issued guidance that changes the accounting for revenue arrangements with multiple deliverables. The guidance requires an entity to allocate consideration at the inception of an arrangement to all of its deliverables based on their relative selling prices and eliminates the use of the residual method of allocation. The guidance establishes a hierarchy for determining the selling price of a deliverable, based on vendor-specific objective evidence, third-party evidence or estimated selling price. In addition, this guidance expands required disclosures related to a vendor's multiple-deliverable revenue arrangements. This accounting standard is effective for us on January 1, 2011. We are currently evaluating the requirements of this pronouncement and we have not determined the impact, if any on these Consolidated Financial Statements.

**3. Special Fleet Charges**

In 2009, the Company decided to terminate early three MD-80 aircraft leases, in connection with the fleet renovation plan of AeroRepública to Embraer -190 aircraft. Early termination charges amounted to \$10.5 million and were recognized as Special Fleet Charges in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

In connection with the early lease terminations, the Company wrote off related property, plant and equipment such as rotatable parts, spare engines and tools that amounted to \$4.9 million and recognized a loss of \$4.0 million related to the scrap of obsolete expendable parts. We estimated the fair values based on current market conditions, the condition of our aircraft and our expected proceeds from the sale of the assets, using unobservable inputs for which there is little or no market data and which require us to develop our own assumptions about how market participants would price the assets.

During 2007, the Company terminated five MD-80 aircraft leases, in connection with the fleet renovation plan in AeroRepública. Early termination charges amounted to \$7.3 million and were recognized as Special Fleet Charges in the Consolidated Statements of Income.



**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****4. Long-Term Debt**

At December 31, long-term debt consisted of the following (in millions):

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Long-term fixed rate debt (Secured fixed rate indebtedness due through 2019 Effective rates ranged from 3.95% to 6.75%)	\$ 347.2	\$ 363.8
Long-term variable rate debt (Secured variable rate indebtedness due through 2019 Effective rates ranged from 1.00% to 2.80%)	498.3	504.4
Medium-term variable rate debt (Unsecured variable rate indebtedness due in 2009 Effective rates ranged of 2.52% to 4.89%)		47.8
Sub-total	845.5	916.0
Less current maturities	94.5	115.8
Long-term debt less current maturities	\$ 751.0	\$ 800.2

Maturities of long-term debt for the next five years are as follows (in millions):

Year ending December 31,		
2010		\$ 94.5
2011		76.0
2012		95.0
2013		63.7
2014		97.3
Thereafter		\$ 419.0

As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company had \$363.5 million and \$379.2 million of outstanding indebtedness, respectively, that is owed to financial institutions under financing arrangements guaranteed by the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The Export-Import Bank guarantees support 85% of the net purchase price of the aircraft and are secured with a first priority mortgage on the aircraft in favor of a security trustee on behalf of Export-Import Bank.

The Company's Export-Import Bank supported financings are amortized on a quarterly basis, are denominated in U.S. Dollars and originally bear interest at a floating rate linked to LIBOR. The Export-Import Bank guaranteed facilities typically offer an option to fix the applicable interest rate. The Company has exercised this option with respect to \$337.8 million as of December 31, 2009.

The Company effectively extends the maturity of its aircraft financing to 15 years through the use of a Stretched Overall Amortization and Repayment, or SOAR, structure which provides serial draw-downs calculated to result in a 100% loan accreting to a recourse balloon at the maturity of the Export-Import Bank guaranteed loan which totaled

\$66.0 million as of December 31, 2009.

The Company also typically finances a portion of the purchase price of the Boeing aircraft through commercial loans which totaled \$5.8 million as of December 31, 2009.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Assets, primarily aircraft, subject to agreements securing the Company's indebtedness amounted to \$1.1 billion as of December 31, 2008 and 2009.

As of December 31, 2009 the Company has one unused commitment for long-term financing agreements for approximately \$67.1 million to acquire two (2) Boeing 737-800 aircraft to be delivered in the first quarter of 2010.

**5. Investments**

During 2009, the Company invested in time deposits and U.S. Government treasury securities. These investments are classified within short-term and long-term investments in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Investments are classified as held-to-maturity securities since the Company has the intent and the ability to hold them until maturity. These investments are stated at their amortized cost which is essentially the same as their fair value.

Long-term investments mature within three (3) years. Investments held by the Company are composed principally of time deposits.

At December 31, 2009, the Company had \$6.4 million in restricted cash within long-term investments for letters of credits.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****6. Leases**

The Company leases certain aircraft and other assets under long-term lease arrangements. Other leased assets include real property, airport and terminal facilities, sales offices, maintenance facilities, training centers and general offices. Most contract leases include renewal options. Non-aircraft related leases, primarily held with local governments, generally have renewable terms of one year. In certain cases, the rental payments during the renewal periods would be greater than the current payments. Because the lease renewals are not considered to be reasonably assured, as defined in ASC Topic 840, Leases, the rental payments that would be due during the renewal periods are not included in the determination of rent expense until the leases are renewed. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the contractually committed lease term, which does not include the renewal periods. The Company's leases do not include residual value guarantees.

At December 31, 2009, the scheduled future minimum lease payments under operating leases that have initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year are as follows (in millions):

	<b>Operating Leases</b>	
	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Non-Aircraft</b>
Year ending December 31,		
2010	\$ 46.8	\$ 9.7
2011	46.0	7.4
2012	33.5	6.1
2013	26.6	5.3
2014	26.6	4.1
Later years	47.5	3.3
Total minimum lease payments	\$ 227.0	\$ 35.9

Total rent expense was \$61.7 million, \$58.3 million and \$50.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****7. Financial Instruments and Risk Management***Fuel Price Risk Management*

The Company periodically enters into crude oil call options, jet fuel zero cost collars, and jet fuel swap contracts to provide for short to mid-term hedge protection (generally three to eighteen months) against sudden and significant increases in jet fuel prices, while simultaneously ensuring that the Company is not competitively disadvantaged in the event of a substantial decrease in the price of jet fuel. The Company does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. The Company's derivative contracts did not qualify as hedges for financial reporting purposes as defined in ASC Topic 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*. Accordingly, changes in fair value of such derivative contracts, which amounted to \$57.9 million, (\$54.9) million and \$8.4 million in years 2009, 2008, and 2007 respectively, were recorded as a component of Other, net within Non-operating income (expense).

The fair value of derivative contracts amounted to \$10.0 million at December 31, 2009 and was recorded in Other current assets and \$47.9 million at December 31, 2008 was recorded in Other current liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company's purchases of jet fuel are made substantially from one supplier.

As of December 31, 2009, the Company held derivative instruments on 20% of its projected 2010 fuel consumption, as compared with derivatives held on 29% of actual fuel consumed in 2009.

Financial derivative instruments expose the Company to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties to the agreements. However, the Company does not expect any failure of the counterparties to meet their obligations, as the Company's policy to manage credit risk is to engage in business with counterparties who are financially stable and well-versed in the matters of energy risk management. The amount of such credit exposure is generally the unrealized gain, if any, in such contracts.

*Foreign Currency Exchange Risk Management.*

The Company, for its subsidiary AeroRepública, uses forward contracts to hedge against the risk associated with its forecasted U.S. Dollars-denominated cash flows.

The Company's forward derivative contracts did not qualify as hedges for financial reporting purposes in accordance with ASC Topic 815. Accordingly, changes in the fair value of such derivative contracts, which amounted to \$0.4 million, \$1.3 million and \$2.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, were recorded as a component of Other, net within Non-operating income (expense). The fair value of forward contracts amounted to \$0.5 million and \$1.3 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, were recorded in Other current assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

During 2008, the Company decided, for some contracts, to account these derivatives as cash flow hedges for financial reporting purposes in accordance with ASC Topic 815. They are recorded at fair value with changes reflected in other current assets or other current liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets with the offset to Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of hedge ineffectiveness. Hedge ineffectiveness included in Other non-operating income (expense) in the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Income was immaterial. Our loss related to currency hedging instruments included in Accumulated other comprehensive loss was \$0.3 million at December 31, 2008. The fair value of forward contracts, until its maturity date were recorded in Other current assets.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***Interest Rates Risk Management*

The Company uses interest rate swap contracts to hedge against the interest rate risk variations associated with its firm commitments to pay for aircraft leasing denominated in USD. The Company records these derivatives as interest rates cash flow hedges for financial reporting purposes in accordance with ASC Topic 815. They are recorded at fair value with changes reflected in other current assets or other current liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets with the offset to Accumulated other comprehensive loss net of hedge ineffectiveness. During 2009, there was no new hedge ineffectiveness included in Other non-operating income (expense) in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. Our gain (loss) related to the interest rates hedging instruments included in Accumulated other comprehensive loss was \$1.4 million and (\$6.5) million in 2009 and 2008 respectively. The fair value of forward contracts amounted to \$5.2 million and \$6.6 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008 respectively, and was recorded in Other current liabilities .

*Debt*

The fair value of the Company's debt with a carrying value of \$845.5 and \$916.0 millions as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, was approximately \$900.6 and \$961.2 millions respectively. These estimates were based on the discounted amount of future cash flows using the Company's current incremental rate of borrowing for a similar liability.

*Other Financial Instruments*

The carrying amounts of cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash, investments, accounts receivable, and accounts payable approximate fair value due to their short-term nature.

**8. Fair Value Measurement**

In September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued the Accounting Standard Codification Topic 820 Fair Value Measurement and Disclosures (originally issued as SFAS 157, Fair Value Measurement) that does not establish requirements for any new fair value measurements, but it does apply to existing accounting pronouncements in which fair value measurements are already required. ASC Topic 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The Company has adopted the provisions of ASC Topic 820 as of January 1, 2008, for financial instruments. As allowed by ASC Topic 820-10, Effective dates of ASC Topic 820, the Company elected to defer the adoption of ASC Topic 820 with respect to all remaining non financial assets and liabilities until January 1, 2009.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

ASC Topic 820 establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets; Level 2, defined as inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company held certain items that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. These included interest rate hedge contracts, fuel derivative contracts, currency derivatives contracts, cash and cash equivalents, short term investments and restricted cash which are related to the Company's attempts to hedge interest rates, fuel costs and currency fluctuations.

The Company's fuel derivative instruments consist of over-the-counter (OTC) contracts, which are not traded on a public exchange. These contracts include both swaps as well as combination of option contracts. See Note 7 for further information on the Company's derivative instruments and hedging activities. The fair values of swap contracts are determined based on inputs that can be derived from information available in publicly quoted markets. Therefore, the Company has categorized these swap contracts as Level 2. The Company determines the value of option contracts utilizing a standard option pricing model based on inputs that can be derived from information available in publicly quoted markets, or are quoted by financial institutions that trade these contracts. The Company also considers counterparty credit risk and its own credit risk in its determination of all estimated fair values. Therefore, the Company has categorized these option contracts as Level 2.

The Company's interest rate hedge instruments also consist of OTC swap contracts. The inputs utilized to determine the fair values of these contracts are obtained in quoted public markets.

The Company's currency derivatives instruments consist of forward contracts to hedge against the risk associated with its forecasted Colombian peso-denominated cash flows.

**Property and Equipment – MD-80's Aircraft Fleets.** As discussed in Note 3, we terminated early our MD-80's lease fleets in the third quarter of 2009. Fleet assets include leased aircraft, rotatable spare parts, tools and spare engines. We estimated the fair values based on current market conditions, the present value of the expected cash flows payments for the lease aircraft and our expected proceeds from the sale of the assets.

**Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles** As discussed in Note 1, the Company performs an annual impairment test of its goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. As required by ASC Topic 820, the Company considers in determining the fair values of these assets, assumptions that marketplace participants would consider in determining the fair values of similar assets.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following financial instruments are measured at fair value on a recurring basis subject to the disclosure requirements of ASC Topic 820 at December 31, 2009 (in millions):

Description	December 31, 2009	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<b>Assets</b>				
Currency derivatives	\$ 0.5		\$ 0.5	
Fuel derivatives	10.0		10.0	
Total assets	10.5		10.5	
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Interest rate hedges	5.2		5.2	
Total liabilities	\$ 5.2		\$ 5.2	

The valuation techniques that may be use to measure fair value are as follows:

*Market approach:* Uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets or liabilities.

*Income approach:* Uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts to a single present amount based on current market expectations about those future amounts, including present value techniques, option-pricing models and excess earnings method.

*Cost approach:* Based on the amount that currently would be required to replace the service capacity of an asset (replacement cost)

**9. Cash and Stock Based Compensation Plans**

The Company has established equity compensation plans under which it administers non-vested stock, stock options and certain other equity-based awards to attract, retain and motivate executive officers, certain key employees and non-employee directors to compensate them for their contributions to the growth and profits of the Company. Shares delivered under this award program may be sourced from treasury stock, or authorized un-issued shares.

The Company's equity compensation plans are accounted for under ASC Topic 718, Compensation-Stock Compensation (ASC Topic 718) which requires companies to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments (typically stock options) based on the grant-date fair value of the award or at fair value of the award at each reporting date, depending on the type of award granted. The fair value is estimated using option-pricing models. The resulting cost is recognized over the period during which an employee is required to



provide service in exchange for the award, which is usually the vesting period. For those awards issued subsequent to the adoption of ASC Topic 718 that allow for acceleration of vesting upon retirement, total compensation cost is recognized over the period ending on the first eligible retirement date.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The total compensation cost recognized for non-vested stock and options awards was \$5.3 million, \$5.6 million and \$4.8 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and was recorded as a component of Salaries and benefits within Operating expense.

*Non-vested Stock*

In March 2006, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted 935,650 non-vested stock awards for senior management, officers, managers and key employees as follows:

Senior management were granted 847,625 non-vested stock awards which vest over five (5) years in yearly installments equal to 15% of the awarded stock on each of the first three (3) anniversaries of the grant date, 25% on the fourth anniversary and 30% on the fifth anniversary. Managers, officers and key employees, not on our senior management team, were granted 88,025 non-vested stock awards which vest on the second anniversary of the grant date.

In March 2007, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted 16,955 shares of non-vested stock awards to certain named executive officers, which vest over three (3) years in yearly installments equal to one-third of the awarded stock on each of the three anniversaries of the grant date.

During 2008, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted 73,374 shares of non-vested stock awards to certain named executive officers and key employees which vest over three (3) years in yearly installments equal to one-third of the awarded stock on each of the three anniversaries of the grant date.

In March 2009, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted 113,714 non-vested stock awards for senior management, officers, managers and key employees as follows:

Senior management were granted 67,652 non-vested stock awards which vest over three (3) years in yearly installments equal to one-third of the awarded stock on each of the three anniversaries of the grant date. Managers, officers and key employees, not on our senior management team, were granted 46,062 non-vested stock awards, which vest over three (3) years in yearly installments equal to one-third of the awarded stock on each of the three anniversaries of the grant date.

Non-vested stock awards were measured at their fair value, which is the same amount for which a similarly restricted share would be issued to a third party, on the grant date. The fair value of each non-vested stocks award was \$22.05, \$37.97 and \$53.14 for the 2009, 2008 and the 2007 grants, respectively.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

A summary of non-vested stock award activity under the plan as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and changes during the year are as follows:

	<b>2009</b>		<b>2008</b>	
	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value</b>
Non-vested at beginning of year	614,688	\$ 23.60	806,711	\$ 21.77
Granted	113,714	22.05	76,689	37.97
Vested	(150,412)	24.79	(256,722)	22.11
Forfeited	(8,224)	24.83	(11,990)	24.49
Non-vested at end of year	569,766	\$ 22.96	614,688	\$ 23.60

The Company uses the straight-line attribution method to recognize the compensation cost for awards with graded vesting periods. The Company estimates that the remaining compensation cost, not yet recognized for the non-vested stock plan, is \$6.7 million with a weighted average remaining contractual life of 0.8 years. Additionally, the Company estimates that the 2010 compensation cost related to this plan will be \$4.9 million. In determining the expense for stock-based awards, the Company estimates the number of awards that are expected to be forfeited.

The total fair value of shares vested during the year ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 was \$3.7 million and \$5.7 million, respectively.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***Stock Options*

In March 2007, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors granted, 35,657 equity stock options to certain named executive officers, which vest over three (3) years in yearly installments equal to one-third of the awarded stock on each of the three anniversaries of the grant date. The exercise price of the options is \$53.14, which was the market price of the Company's stock at the grant date. The stock options have a contractual term of 10 years. The weighted-average fair value of the stock options at the grant date was \$22.33, and was estimated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model assuming an expected dividend yield of 0.58% based on our historical dividends payments, expected volatility of approximately 37.8% based on our historical volatility, weighted average risk-free interest rate of 4.59% based on the yield of the U.S. Treasury ten year bond, and an expected term of 6 years calculated under the simplified method.

A summary of options award activity under the plan as of December 31, 2009 and changes during the year is as follows:

	<b>Shares</b>
Outstanding at January 1, 2009	33,629
Granted	0
Exercised	0
Forfeited or expired	0
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	33,629

The Company uses the straight-line attribution method to recognize the compensation cost for stock options. The Company estimates that the remaining compensation cost, not yet recognized for stock options, is immaterial with a weighted average contractual life of 7.2 years and zero intrinsic value. Additionally, the Company estimates that the 2010 compensation cost related to this plan will be immaterial.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****10. Earnings Per Share (Adjusted)**

In 2009, the Company changes its method of calculating earnings per share, following the guidance provided in FSP EITF 03-6-1, Determining whether Instruments Granted in Share-Based Payment Transactions are Participating Securities ; which was subsequently codified in ASC 260, Earnings Per Share. The Company adjusted its basic and diluted earnings per share and weighted average shares outstanding calculations to give effect to participating securities under the two-class method of calculating earnings per share. Historically, the Company had utilized the treasury stock method in order to give effect to non-vested stock awards. Under the two-class method, securities that participate in dividends, such as the Company's outstanding non-vested stock awards which include non-forfeitable rights to dividends, are considered participating securities.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (in thousands, except per share data):

	<b>2009</b>	<b>December 31, 2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Numerator for earnings per share:			
Net Income	\$ 240,359	\$ 118,659	\$ 161,820
Denominator for basic and diluted earnings per share, as adjusted			
Weighted average common shares outstanding	43,308	43,143	42,908
Non-vested shares deemed participating securities	603	680	874
Total shares for basic and diluted earnings per share	43,911	43,823	43,782
Earnings per share, as adjusted			
Basic	\$ 5.47	\$ 2.71	\$ 3.70
Diluted	\$ 5.47	\$ 2.71	\$ 3.70
Earnings per share, as previously reported			
Basic		\$ 2.75	\$ 3.77
Diluted		\$ 2.73	\$ 3.72
Weighted average shares outstanding, as reported			
Basic		43,143	42,908
Diluted		43,440	43,464

Options to purchase 33,629 shares of common stock at \$53.14 per share outstanding at the end of 2009 were excluded in the computation of diluted EPS because the options' exercise price was greater than the average market price of the common shares.



**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****11. Accumulated other comprehensive loss**

As of December 31, 2009 and 2008 the components of accumulated other comprehensive loss are as follows (in millions):

	<b>Foreign Currency Translation</b>	<b>Pensions</b>	<b>Derivatives Financial Instruments</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2007</b>	\$ 3.6	\$ (0.9)	\$ 0.0	\$ 2.7
Foreign currency translation	(0.3)			(0.3)
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives instruments			(6.8)	(6.8)
SFAS 158 Unrecognized actuarial loss of the period		(0.2)		(0.2)
Amortization of actuarial loss		0.1		0.1
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2008</b>	\$ 3.3	\$ (1.0)	\$ (6.8)	\$ (4.5)
Foreign currency translation	2.7			2.7
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives instruments			1.5	1.5
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2009</b>	\$ 6.0	\$ (1.0)	\$ (5.3)	\$ (0.3)

**12. Issued Capital and Corporate Reorganization**

On November 23, 2005, the Company's Board of Directors approved a reorganization of the Company's capital stock. Following the reorganization, the Company's authorized capital stock consists of 80 million shares of common stock without par value, divided into Class A shares, Class B shares and Class C shares. Immediately following the reorganization, there were 30,034,375 Class A shares outstanding, 12,778,125 Class B shares outstanding, all owned by CIASA (a Panamanian entity), and no Class C shares outstanding. The reorganization did not impact the operations or financial condition of the Company in any respect and, as such, does not result in a new basis of accounting. All share and per share information for the period give retroactive effect to the reorganization. Class A and Class B shares have the same economic rights and privileges, including the right to receive dividends, except that the holders of the Class A shares are not entitled to vote at the Company's shareholders' meetings, except in connection with a transformation of the Company into another corporate type; a merger, consolidation or spin-off of the Company; a change of corporate purpose; voluntarily delisting Class A shares from the NYSE; approving the nomination of independent directors nominated by the Company's Board of Directors Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee; and any amendment to the foregoing special voting provisions adversely affecting the rights and privileges of the Class A shares.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Class A shareholders will acquire full voting rights, entitled to one vote per Class A share on all matters upon which shareholders are entitled to vote, if in the future the Company's Class B shares ever represent fewer than 10% of the total number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding and the Independent Directors Committee of the Company's Board of Directors (the Independent Directors Committee) shall have determined that such additional voting rights of Class A shareholders would not cause a triggering event referred to below. In such event, the right of the Class A shareholders to vote on the specific matters described in the preceding paragraph will no longer be applicable. At such time, if any, as the Class A shareholders acquire full voting rights, the Board of Directors shall call an extraordinary shareholders' meeting to be held within 90 days following the date as of which the Class A shares are entitled to vote on all matters at the Company's shareholders' meetings. At the extraordinary shareholders' meeting, the shareholders shall vote to elect all eleven members of the Board of Directors in a slate recommended by the Nominating and Governance Committee. The terms of office of the directors that were serving prior to the extraordinary shareholders' meeting shall terminate upon the election held at that meeting.

Every holder of Class B shares is entitled to one vote per share on all matters for which shareholders are entitled to vote. Class B shares will be automatically converted into Class A shares upon the registration of transfer of such shares to holders which are not Panamanian.

The Class C shares will have no economic value and will not be transferable, but will possess such voting rights as the Independent Directors Committee shall deem necessary to ensure the effective control of the Company by Panamanians. The Class C shares will be redeemable by the Company at such time as the Independent Directors Committee determines that a triggering event, shall no longer be in effect. The Class C shares will not be entitled to any dividends or any other economic rights.

**13. Income Taxes**

The Company pays taxes in the Republic of Panama and in other countries in which it operates, based on regulations in effect in each respective country. The Company's revenues come principally from foreign operations and according to the Panamanian Fiscal Code these foreign operations are not subject to income tax in Panama.

The Company has elected to calculate our Panamanian income tax with the gross tax method based on Article 121 of the Panamanian Fiscal Code, under which income for international transportation companies is calculated based on a territoriality method that determines gross revenues earned in Panama by applying the percentage of miles flown within the Panamanian territory against total revenues. Under this method, loss carry-forwards cannot be applied to offset tax liability. If the Panamanian tax authorities do not agree with this method of allocating revenues, the Company may be subject to additional tax liability. Airlines in Panama are currently not subject to any taxes relating specifically to the airline industry other than the 4% tax collected from passengers on tickets sold in Panama for the benefit of the Panamanian Tourism Bureau.



**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Company is also subject to local tax regulations in each of the jurisdictions where it operates, the great majority of which are related to the taxation of income. In some of the countries to which the Company flies, the Company does not pay any income taxes because it does not generate taxable income under the laws of those countries or because of treaties or other arrangements those countries have with Panama. In the remaining countries, the Company pays income tax at a rate ranging from 25% to 34% of income. Different countries calculate income in different ways, but they are typically derived from sales in the applicable country multiplied by the Company's net margin or by a presumed net margin set by the relevant tax legislation. The methodology for multinational transportation company sourcing of revenue and expense is not always specifically prescribed in the relevant tax regulations, and therefore is subject to interpretation by both the Company and the respective taxing authorities. Additionally, in some countries, the applicability of certain regulations governing non-income taxes and the determination of the filing status of the Company are also subject to interpretation.

Under a reciprocal exemption confirmed by a bilateral agreement between Panama and the United States the Company is exempt from the U.S. source transportation income tax derived from the international operation of its aircraft.

The provision for income taxes recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Income was as follows (in millions):

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Panama			
Current	\$ 1.7	\$ 1.7	\$ 1.3
Deferred			
Foreign			
Current	14.1	11.2	13.4
Deferred	3.8	4.6	2.4
Total	19.6	17.5	17.1

The Company paid taxes of \$13.8 million, \$14.9 million and \$16.6 million in years 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Pre-tax income, based on the Copa Airlines' internal route profitability measures, related to Panamanian operations was \$54.5 million, \$50.4 million and \$49.7 million in 2009, 2008, and 2007, respectively, and related to foreign operations was \$205.5 million, \$85.8 million and \$129.3 million in 2009, 2008, and 2007, respectively.

AeroRepública's benefit from operating loss carryforwards amounted to \$0.3 million, \$0.4 million and \$0.6 million as of December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The benefit from operating loss carryforwards are available for a period of seven (7) years from when they were generated in 2005.

Income tax returns for all companies incorporated in the Republic of Panama are subject to review by tax authorities up to the last three (3) years, including the year ended December 31, 2009 according to current tax regulations. For other countries where the Company operates, it is subject to review by their respective tax authorities for periods ranging from the last two (2) to six (6) years.

The amount of income tax expense incurred in Panama varies from the statutory rate because of the Panamanian gross tax election. Income taxes outside of Panama are generally determined on the basis of net income or revenue, and all of the countries have rates that vary from the Panamanian statutory rate.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The reconciliations of income tax computed at the Panamanian statutory tax rate to income tax expense for the years ended December 31 are as follows (in millions):

	<b>Amount</b>			<b>Percentage</b>		
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Provision for income taxes at Panamanian statutory rates	\$ 78.0	\$ 40.8	\$ 53.7	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%
Panamanian gross tax election	(14.6)	(13.5)	(13.6)	(5.6%)	(9.9%)	(7.6%)
Exemption in non-taxable countries	(4.0)	(2.2)	(2.4)	(1.6%)	(1.7%)	(1.3%)
Difference in Panamanian statutory rates and non-Panamanian statutory rates	(39.8)	(7.6)	(20.6)	(15.3%)	(5.6%)	(11.5%)
Provision for income taxes	\$ 19.6	\$ 17.5	\$ 17.1	7.5%	12.8%	9.6%

Deferred income taxes are provided under the liability method and reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Significant components of the Company's deferred tax liabilities and assets are as follows (in millions):

	2009	2008
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Intangible Assets	\$ (11.5)	\$ (10.5)
Maintenance reserves	(2.3)	(2.2)
Others	(0.1)	(0.5)
	(13.9)	(13.2)
Deferred tax assets:		
Property and Equipment	0.0	3.5
Allowance for doubtful accounts	0.0	0.1
Expendable parts and supplies	0.0	0.4
Others	2.3	2.0
	2.3	6.0
Net deferred tax liabilities	(11.6)	(7.2)
Less: Current deferred tax assets	1.8	1.5
Non current deferred tax liabilities	\$ (13.4)	\$ (8.7)

The Company accounts for uncertainty in income taxes following ASC Topic 740, Income Taxes, which requires the impact of a tax position to be recognized in the financial statements if that position is more likely than not of being sustained by the taxing authority. Interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits are recognized within interest expense and other non-operating income (expense), respectively, in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

**14. Related Party Transactions**

The following is a summary of significant related party transactions that occurred during 2009, 2008 and 2007. Except as otherwise discussed, the payments to and from related parties in the ordinary course of business were based on prevailing market rates.

**Continental Airlines.** Since 1998, Continental has implemented a comprehensive commercial and services alliance with Copa Airlines. Key elements of the alliance include: similar brand images, code sharing, co-branding of the OnePass frequent flyer program in Latin America, joint construction and operation of the Panama Presidents Club VIP lounge, joint purchasing, maintenance and engineering support and a number of other marketing, sales and service initiatives. As a result of these activities, the Company paid Continental \$36.4 million, \$33.1 million, and \$29.4 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and Continental paid Copa Airlines \$30.9 million, \$31.5 million, and \$21.2 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The Company owed Continental \$1.9 million, \$1.9 million, and \$0.2 million at December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Continental owed the Company \$0.5 million at December 31, 2007. The services provided are considered normal to the daily operations of both airlines.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Banco General, S. A. ( Banco General )**. The Company has a strong commercial banking relationship with Banco General, S. A. The Company's shareholders own approximately 40% of BG Financial Group, which is the controlling company of Banco General.

The Company obtains financing from Banco General under short to medium-term financing arrangements for part of the commercial loan tranche of one of the Company's Export-Import Bank facilities. The Company also maintains general lines of credit and time deposit accounts with Banco General.

Interest payments to Banco General totaled \$0.2 million, \$0.4 million, and \$0.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and the Company received interest income of \$1.4 million, \$1.9 million, and \$4.5 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The debt balance outstanding at December 31 amounted to \$2.3 million and \$4.1 million in 2009 and 2008 respectively. These amounts are included in Current maturities of long-term debt and Long-term debt in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**ASSA Compañía de Seguros, S. A. ( ASSA )**. Panamanian law requires the Company to maintain its insurance policies through a local insurance company. The Company has contracted ASSA, an insurance company controlled by the Company's controlling shareholders, to provide substantially all of its insurance. ASSA has, in turn, reinsured almost all of the risks under those policies with insurance companies in Europe. The net payment to ASSA, after taking into account the reinsurance of these risks totaled \$0.03 million in each of 2009, 2008 and 2007.

**Petróleos Delta, S. A. ( Delta Petroleum )**. During 2005, the Company entered into a contract with Petróleos Delta, S.A. to supply its jet fuel needs. The price agreed to under this contract is based on the two week average of the U.S. Gulf Coast Waterborne Mean index plus local taxes, certain third-party handling charges and a handling charge to Delta. The contract has a one year term that automatically renews for one year period unless terminated by one of the parties. While the Company's controlling shareholders do not hold a controlling equity interest in Petróleos Delta, S.A., various members of the Company's Board of Directors also are board members of Petróleos Delta, S.A. Payments to Petróleos Delta totaled \$116.1 million in 2009, \$185.8 million in 2008 and \$126.0 million in 2007.

**Desarrollo Inmobiliario del Este, S. A. ( Desarrollo Inmobiliario )**. During January 2006, the Company moved into its new headquarters, a recently constructed building located six miles away from Tocumen International Airport. The Company leases five floors consisting of approximately 104,000 square feet of the building from Desarrollo Inmobiliario, an entity controlled by the same group of investors that controls CIASA, under a ten-year lease at a rate of \$0.1 million per month. Payments to Desarrollo Inmobiliario del Este, S.A. totaled \$1.9 million, \$2.0 million, and \$1.9 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Galindo, Arias & Lopez**. Most of the Company's legal work, including passing on the validity of the shares offered, is carried out by the law firm Galindo, Arias & Lopez. Certain partners of Galindo, Arias & Lopez are indirect shareholders of CIASA and serve on the Company's Board of Directors. Payments to Galindo, Arias & Lopez totaled \$0.4 million, \$0.3 million and \$0.4 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Other Transactions.** The Company purchases most of the alcohol and other beverages served on its aircraft from Motta Internacional, S.A. and Global Brands, S.A., both of which are controlled by the Company's controlling shareholders. The Company does not have any formal contracts for these purchases, but pays wholesale prices based on price lists periodically submitted by those importers. The Company paid \$0.6 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The Company's telecommunications and other data services have been provided by Telecarrier, Inc., since February 2003. Some of the controlling shareholders of CIASA have a controlling interest in Telecarrier. Payments to Telecarrier totaled \$0.9 million, \$0.6 million and \$0.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The Company receives services from Call Center Corporation, a call center that operates Copa Airlines' reservations and sales services and handles calls from Panama as well as most other countries to which Copa Airlines flies. One of the Company's directors is one of the owners of this call center. Payments to Call Center Corporation totaled \$3.3 million, \$4.0 million and \$2.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The advertising agency that the Company uses in Panama, RD Nexos, S.A., is owned by the brother-in-law of the Company's chief executive officer. Gross invoices for all services performed through RDP totaled \$1.0 million, \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**15. Commitments and Contingencies**

The Company has a purchase contract with Boeing for 35 Boeing 737-Next Generation aircraft, under which the Company has twenty nine (27) firm orders and eight (8) purchase options. Additionally, the Company has eleven purchase options with Embraer for Embraer 190 aircraft.

The firm orders have an approximate value of \$2.3 billion based on aircraft list prices, including estimated amounts for contractual price escalation and pre-delivery deposits. The Company is scheduled to take delivery of the aircraft underlying the 29 firm orders between 2010 and 2015.

*Covenants*

As a result of the various aircraft financing contracts entered into by the Company, the Company is required to comply with certain financial covenants. These covenants, among other things, require the Company to maintain an EBITDAR to fixed charge ratio of at least 2.5 times, a minimum tangible net worth of \$160 million, an EBITDAR to finance charge expense ratio of at least 2.0 times, a net borrowings to Company's capitalization ratio of less than 85%, a total liability plus operating leases minus operating cash to tangible net worth ratio of less than 5.5, a long-term obligations to EBITDAR ratio of less than 6.0, a minimum unrestricted cash balance of \$50 million and a minimum of \$75 million in available cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments.

As of December 31, 2009, the Company was in compliance with all required covenants.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*Labor Unions*

Approximately 50% of the Company's 6,108 employees are unionized. There are currently seven (7) union organizations; five (5) covering employees in Panama and two (2) covering employees in Colombia.

The five (5) unions covering employees in Panama include: the pilots' union (SIPAC); the flight attendants' union (SIPANAB); the mechanics' union (SINTECMAP); the traffic attendants' union (UGETRACO); and a generalized union (SIELAS), which represents ground personnel, messengers, drivers, counter agents and other non-executive administrative staff. Copa Airlines entered into a new collective bargaining agreement with SIELAS on June 2008 which will end May 2013 and another one on April 2009 with SINTECMAP from 2010 which will end in 2014.

Typically, collective bargaining agreements in Panama have terms of four years. Copa Airlines has traditionally experienced good relations with its unions.

The two (2) unions covering employees in Colombia are: the pilots' union (ACDAC) and the traffic attendants' union (ACAV). AeroRepública entered into a new collective bargaining agreement with ACAV, on July 17, 2008 which will end December 31, 2011. AeroRepública entered into a new collective bargaining agreement with ACDAC on March 3, 2008 that will end December 31, 2010. Typically, collective bargaining agreements in Colombia have terms of two to four years. AeroRepública has traditionally experienced good relations with its unions.

*Lines of Credit for Working Capital and Letters of Credit*

The Company maintained available facilities for letters of credit with several banks with outstanding balances of \$25.7 million and \$34.6 million at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. These letters of credit are pledged for operating lessors, maintenance providers and airport operators. Of this total, \$7.7 million are letters of credit opened on behalf of AeroRepública for the same purposes listed above.

Copa Airlines has letters of credit at total amount of \$89.6 million, in which it has committed lines of credit totaling \$29.6 million, including one line of credit for \$15 million with Banco General, an overdraft line of credit of \$10 million with Towerbank and one line of credit of \$4.6 million with Banco Panama. Copa Airlines also has a non-committed line of credit of \$60.0 million with Bladex. These lines of credit have been put in place to bridge liquidity gaps and for other potential contingencies.

As of December 31, 2009 Copa Airlines has an outstanding balance of \$20.0 million dollars with Bladex.

*Litigation*

We are plaintiffs in an action we filed against INFRAERO, Brazil's airport operator, in October of 2003 challenging the legality of the Additional Airport Tariffs (*Adicional das Tarifas Aeroportuárias*, or ATAERO), which is a 50% surcharge imposed on all airlines which fly to Brazil. Similar suits have been filed against INFRAERO by other major airline carriers. In our case, the court of first instance ruled in favor of INFRAERO and we have appealed the judgment. During the pendency of the litigation, we continue to pay the amounts due ATAERO into an escrow account and as of December 31, 2009, the aggregate amount in such account totaled US\$12 million. In the event we receive a final unfavorable judgment, we will be required to release the escrowed fund to INFRAERO and will not be able to recover such amounts. We do not, however, expect the release of such amounts to have a material impact on our financial results.

**Table of Contents**

**COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**16. Subsequent Events**

*Stock Grants*

During first quarter of 2010, the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors approved two (2) new awards. Awards were granted under these new plans for 55,758 shares of non-vested stock, which will vest over three (3) years. The Company estimates the fair value of these awards to be approximately \$3.1 million and the 2010 compensation cost for these plans is \$1.0 million.

*Currency devaluation*

On January 8, 2010, the Venezuelan government announced its decision to implement new fixed exchange rates effective Monday, January 11, 2010, which will result in a significant devaluation of the Bolivar against the U.S. dollar.

Since 2005 the official exchange rate had been fixed at VEB 2.15 per U.S. dollar, however, the new regime applies two official rates to different sectors of the economy. The first exchange rate, applicable to imported goods characterized as essential, will be VEB 2.60 per U.S. dollar, and the rate applicable to all other imported goods and services, including the aviation sector, will be VEB 4.30 per U.S. dollar. At this time we are uncertain how this devaluation will affect future demand for air travel in Venezuela and the results of our business.

In addition, we have significant cash balances in Bolivars subject to Venezuelan exchange controls. Since 2003, under the Venezuelan foreign exchange control regime, foreign companies are required to obtain Venezuelan government approval to exchange Bolivars into U.S. dollars at the fixed official exchange rate for the purpose of transferring funds out of Venezuela. Furthermore, since 2008 foreign companies with operations in Venezuela have experienced increasing delays in obtaining such government approvals. On January 27, 2010 the Venezuelan government announced that it would apply the exchange rate of VEB 2.60 per U.S. dollar to all authorization requests in process of approval by the Venezuela Central Bank through January 8, 2010. As a result, we estimate that the Company will incur losses related to the devaluation of these funds of approximately US\$21 million, which will be recorded in the first quarter of 2010 in accordance with US GAAP.

*Tax Reform*

Law 8 of 2010 (the Tax Reform), which modifies material sections of the Panamanian Fiscal Code was approved and became effective on March 15, 2010. As a result of this reform, the airline industry will be subject to higher tax rates than it has paid in the past. We have not yet determined the exact impact of the new law, but we estimate, however, that we will benefit from certain tax credits in respect to taxes paid in foreign jurisdictions in 2010 and on a going-forward basis. We, therefore, anticipate that our effective tax rate for the immediate future will remain within the historical range of the past five years. As a result, we do not believe this tax reform is likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Any future change in the Panamanian tax law increasing the taxes payable by us could have materially adverse effects on our business, financial condition and result of operations.

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following table illustrates the pro forma effect on net income and earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2009 had we applied the Venezuelan Bolivar devaluation (in million, except per share data):

	<b>2009</b>
Net income, as reported	\$ 240.4
Losses related to the Venezuelan Bolivar devaluation	(21)
Net Income, pro forma	\$ 219.4
Basic earnings per share:	
As reported	\$ 5.47
Pro forma	\$ 5.00
Diluted earnings per share:	
As reported	\$ 5.47
Pro forma	\$ 5.00

**17. Segment Reporting**

The Company determined it has two reportable segments, the Copa segment and the AeroRepública segment, primarily because: (1) management evaluates the financial and operational results of the Copa segment and AeroRepública segment separately for internal reporting and management performance evaluation purposes; and (2) management intends to allow AeroRepública's existing management to continue operating the airline as a point-to-point Colombian carrier. The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in Note 1, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. General corporate and other assets are allocated to the Copa segment.



**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Operating information for the Copa segment and the AeroRepública segment for the period ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 is as follow (in millions):

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 1,024.5	\$ 1,035.9	\$ 806.2
AeroRepública segment	240.3	264.9	226.0
Eliminations	(11.7)	(12.1)	(4.9)
Consolidated	\$ 1,253.1	\$ 1,288.8	\$ 1,027.3
<b>Depreciation:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 43.2	\$ 38.1	\$ 30.7
AeroRepública segment	3.9	4.8	4.6
Consolidated	\$ 47.1	\$ 42.9	\$ 35.3
<b>Aircraft Rentals:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 26.0	\$ 31.3	\$ 27.8
AeroRepública segment	25.7	22.7	14.8
Eliminations	(5.2)	(11.0)	(4.0)
Consolidated	\$ 46.5	\$ 43.0	\$ 38.6
<b>Operating income:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 214.3	\$ 208.2	\$ 171.7
AeroRepública segment	7.6	15.8	25.8
Adjustments	1.4		
Consolidated	\$ 223.3	\$ 224.0	\$ 197.5
<b>Interest expense:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ (29.4)	\$ (34.3)	\$ (33.8)
AeroRepública segment	(2.8)	(5.9)	(8.0)
Consolidated	\$ (32.2)	\$ (40.2)	\$ (41.8)
<b>Interest income:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 8.1	\$ 10.5	\$ 11.7
AeroRepública segment	1.1	0.6	0.5

Edgar Filing: Copa Holdings, S.A. - Form 20-F

Consolidated	\$ 9.2	\$ 11.1	\$ 12.2
<b>Income (loss) before income taxes:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 254.8	\$ 130.9	\$ 165.6
AeroRepública segment	5.2	5.3	13.3
Consolidated	\$ 260.0	\$ 136.1	\$ 178.9
<b>Total Assets at End of Period:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 1,919.0	\$ 1,823.5	\$ 1,546.6
AeroRepública segment	318.9	258.6	256.3
Eliminations	(146.5)	(127.8)	(95.6)
Consolidated	\$ 2,091.4	\$ 1,954.2	\$ 1,707.3
<b>Capital Expenditures:</b>			
Copa Segment	\$ 200.5	\$ 212.7	\$ 250.5
AeroRepública segment	55.0	3.2	115.6
Consolidated	\$ 255.5	\$ 215.9	\$ 366.1

F-38

---

**Table of Contents****COPA HOLDINGS, S. A. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Information concerning operating revenue by principal geographic area for the period ended December 31 is as follow (in millions):

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
North America	\$ 180.7	\$ 186.1	\$ 152.1
Central America and Caribbean	179.7	192.4	162.3
South America	717.0	710.3	573.6
Panama	175.7	200.0	139.3
 Total operating revenue	 \$ 1,253.1	 \$ 1,288.8	 \$ 1,027.3

We attribute revenue among the geographical areas based upon point of sales. Our tangible assets and capital expenditures consist primarily of flight and related ground support equipment, which is mobile across geographic markets and, therefore, has not been allocated.

**Table of Contents****Schedule II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts**

Description	Balance at Beginning of Year	Additions Charged To Expense (in thousands)	Deductions from Reserves	Balance at End of Year
<b>2009</b>				
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	\$ 5,002	\$ 2,017	\$ (2,073)	\$ 4,947
Allowance for Obsolescence of Expendable Parts and Supplies	53	25	0	78
<b>2008</b>				
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	\$ 8,157	\$ 3,401	\$ (6,556)	\$ 5,002
Allowance for Obsolescence of Expendable Parts and Supplies	35	18	0	53
<b>2007</b>				
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	\$ 7,305	\$ 4,276	\$ (3,424)	\$ 8,157
Allowance for Obsolescence of Expendable Parts and Supplies	21	14	0	35
<b>2006</b>				
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	\$ 4,911	\$ 3,764	\$ (1,370)	\$ 7,305
Allowance for Obsolescence of Expendable Parts and Supplies	9	12	0	21