

Vulcan Materials CO
Form 10-K
March 02, 2009

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K
ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008
Commission file number: 001-33841
VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

New Jersey **20-8579133**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
organization)
1200 Urban Center Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35242
(Address, including zip code, of registrant's principal executive offices)
(205) 298-3000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class Name of each exchange on which registered

Common Stock, \$1 par value **New York Stock Exchange**
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aggregate market value of voting stock held by non-affiliates as of June 30, 2008: \$6,309,460,043

Number of shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value, outstanding as of February 16, 2009: 110,361,738

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

(1)

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Portions of the registrant's annual proxy statement for the annual meeting of its shareholders to be held on May 8, 2009, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY
Annual Report on Form 10-K
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008
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PART I

Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

Certain of the matters and statements made herein or incorporated by reference into this report constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. All such statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements reflect our intent, belief or current expectation. Often, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as anticipate, may, believe, estimate, project, expect, intend and words of similar addition to the statements included in this report, we may from time to time make other oral or written forward-looking statements in other filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or in other public disclosures. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results could differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements involve certain assumptions, risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those included in or contemplated by the statements. These assumptions, risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

general economic and business conditions;

changes in interest rates;

the timing and amount of federal, state and local funding for infrastructure;

changes in the level of spending for residential and private nonresidential construction;

the highly competitive nature of the construction materials industry;

the impact of future regulatory or legislative action;

the outcome of pending legal proceedings;

pricing of our products;

weather and other natural phenomena;

energy costs;

costs of hydrocarbon-based raw materials;

healthcare costs;

the timing and amount of any future payments to be received under the 5CP earn-out contained in the agreement for the divestiture of our Chemicals business;

our ability to secure and permit aggregates reserves in strategically located areas;

our ability to manage and successfully integrate acquisitions;

the risks and uncertainties related to the acquisition of Florida Rock including our ability to successfully integrate the operations of Florida Rock and to achieve the anticipated cost savings and operational synergies;

the possibility that business may suffer because management's attention is diverted to integration concerns;

the impact of the global financial crisis on our business and financial condition;

the risks set forth in Item 1A Risk Factors, Item 3 Legal Proceedings, Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and Note 12 Other Commitments and Contingencies to the consolidated financial statements in Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, all as set forth in this report; and

other assumptions, risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in our filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All forward-looking statements are made as of the date of filing or publication. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Investors are cautioned not to rely unduly on such forward-looking statements when evaluating the information presented in our filings, and are advised to consult our future disclosures in filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission and our press releases with regard to our business and consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

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Item 1. Business

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this report to Vulcan, the company, we, our, us refer to Vulcan Materials Company and its consolidated subsidiaries. In November 2007, we acquired all of the outstanding stock of Florida Rock Industries, Inc. (Florida Rock) in a series of mergers, collectively referred to as the Florida Rock merger. Unless otherwise noted, all information presented in this report regarding Vulcan includes the consolidated results of Florida Rock.

We provide the basic materials for the infrastructure needed to drive the U.S. economy. Headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, we are the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates, primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel, a major producer of asphalt mix and concrete and a leading producer of cement in Florida. We are a New Jersey corporation that was incorporated on February 14, 2007.

We have three reporting segments organized around our principal product lines: Aggregates, Asphalt mix and Concrete, and Cement. We have combined our Asphalt mix and Concrete operations into one reporting segment as the products are similar in nature and the businesses exhibit similar economic characteristics, product processes, types and classes of customer, methods of distribution and regulatory environments.

Aggregates Segment Overview

Construction aggregates include crushed stone, sand and gravel, rock asphalt and recycled concrete. Aggregates are essential infrastructure materials required by the U. S. economy, and are employed in virtually all types of construction, including highway construction and maintenance, and in the production of asphalt mix and ready-mixed concrete. Aggregates also are widely used as railroad track ballast. The Aggregates segment produces and sells aggregates and related products and services in eight regional divisions. Our Aggregates segment constituted approximately 65%, 76% and 76% of our sales dollars before the elimination of intersegment sales in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. In 2008, 93% of our sales dollars were referable to aggregates or asphalt mix and concrete that included our aggregates.

During 2008, the Aggregates segment served markets in 23 states, the District of Columbia, the Bahamas, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Chile, and Mexico with a full line of aggregates, and 7 additional states with railroad ballast. Customers are served by truck, rail and water distribution networks from our production facilities and sales yards. Due to the high weight-to-value ratio of aggregates, markets generally are local in nature. Quarries located on waterways and rail lines allow us to serve remote markets where local aggregates reserves may not be available. We sell a relatively small amount of construction aggregates outside the United States. Nondomestic net sales were \$25,295,000 in 2008, \$19,981,000 in 2007, and \$20,595,000 in 2006.

Each type of aggregates is sold in competition with producers of other types of aggregates, as well as the same type of aggregates. Because of the relatively high transportation costs inherent in the business, competition generally is limited to areas in proximity to production facilities. Noteworthy exceptions are areas where there are no economically viable deposits of aggregates. These areas include sections of the Mississippi, Tennessee-Tombigbee and James River systems, and the Gulf Coast and South Atlantic Coast, which are served from remote quarries by barge, oceangoing vessels or railroad. During 2008, we shipped 204.3 million tons into 23 states, the District of Columbia, the Bahamas, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Chile and Mexico from 331 aggregates production facilities and sales yards. The 10 largest states that we serve, measured by aggregates shipments, accounted for 82% of total aggregates shipments.

At the end of 2008, we operated 175 crushed stone plants, 47 sand and gravel plants and 20 plants producing other aggregates (principally recycled concrete). Reserves largely determine the ongoing viability of an aggregates business. For a discussion of our estimated proven and probable aggregates reserves as of the end of 2008, see Item 2 Properties below. Our current estimate of 13.3 billion tons of zoned and permitted aggregates reserves represents a net increase of 5.0 billion tons since the end of 1998. During that same period we produced approximately 2.3 billion tons of aggregates. We believe that these reserves are sufficient to last, on average, 51.7 years at current annual production rates. We do not anticipate any material difficulties in the availability of raw materials in the near future.

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In addition to our 242 aggregates production facilities, at the end of 2008, we operated 89 truck, rail and water distribution yards located in select markets for the sale of aggregates. Additionally, at the end of 2008, our Aggregates segment included 15 aggregates related operations for equipment service and repair, landfill and transportation. Zoning and permitting regulations have made it increasingly difficult for the construction aggregates industry to expand existing quarries or to develop new quarries in some markets. Although we cannot predict future governmental policies affecting the construction materials industry, we believe that future zoning and permitting costs will not have a materially adverse effect on our business. However, future land use restrictions in some markets could make zoning and permitting more difficult. Any such restrictions, while potentially curtailing expansion in certain areas, could also enhance the value of our reserves at existing locations.

We strive to maintain a sufficient level of aggregates inventory to meet delivery requirements of our customers. We generally provide our customers with 30-day payment terms, similar to those customary for the construction aggregates industry.

Asphalt mix and Concrete Segment Overview

The Asphalt mix and Concrete segment produces and sells asphalt mix and ready-mixed concrete in four regional divisions serving 8 states primarily in our mid-Atlantic, Florida, southwestern and western markets, the Bahamas and the District of Columbia. Additionally, two of the divisions produce and sell other concrete products such as block, prestressed and precast beams, and resell purchased building materials related to the use of ready-mixed concrete and concrete block. Aggregates comprise approximately 95% of asphalt mix by weight and 78% of ready-mixed concrete by weight. Our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment is almost wholly supplied with its aggregates requirements from our Aggregates segment. These product transfers are made at local market prices for the particular grade and quality of material utilized in the production of asphalt mix and concrete. Customers for our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment are generally served locally from our production facilities or by truck. Because ready-mixed concrete and asphalt mix harden rapidly, delivery is time constrained and generally confined to a radius of approximately 20 to 25 miles from the producing facility. Our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment constituted approximately 32%, 24% and 24% of our sales dollars before the elimination of intersegment sales in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

The crushed rock, sand and gravel used as raw materials by our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment are almost wholly supplied by our Aggregates segment. Therefore, like the Aggregates segment, the Asphalt mix and Concrete segment relies upon our reserves of aggregates. Concrete production also requires cement. In the Florida market, our requirement for cement for concrete production is substantially supplied by our Florida Rock Division. In other markets, we purchase cement from third party suppliers. The asphalt production process also requires liquid asphalt. We do not anticipate any material difficulties in obtaining the raw materials necessary for this segment to operate.

Cement Segment Overview

Our Newberry, Florida cement plant produces Portland and masonry cement which is sold in both bulk form and bags to the concrete products industry. The Brooksville, Florida plant produces calcium products for the animal feed, paint, plastics and joint compound industries. The Tampa, Florida facility imports cement and slag where some of the imported cement is resold and the balance of the cement is blended, bagged or reprocessed into specialty cements which are then sold. The slag is ground and sold in blended or unblended form. The Port Manatee, Florida facility imports clinker that is ground into bulk cement and sold.

The Cement segment's largest customer is our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment.

We are in the process of expanding our Newberry facility to double its production capacity. Construction began on this project in 2006 and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2009. The Newberry cement plant is supplied by limestone mined at the facility. The limestone reserves at the Newberry cement facility total 194.7 million tons, or 75 years of life at expected production rates based on the increased plant capacity.

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The Brooksville calcium facility is supplied by high quality calcium carbonate material mined at the Brooksville quarry. The calcium carbonate reserves at this quarry total approximately 6.9 million tons, or 9 years of life at expected production rates and based on a lease termination.

Identifiable Assets, Gross Profit, Sales and Primary Customers by Segment

	Aggregates	Asphalt mix and Concrete	Cement	Total²
Identifiable Assets¹ (Millions of dollars)				
2008	\$7,528.2	\$ 767.6	\$435.2	\$8,914.2
2007	7,207.8	875.6	587.9	8,936.4
2006	2,889.3	313.5	0	3,427.8
Gross Profit¹ (Millions of dollars)				
2008	\$ 657.6	\$ 74.4	\$ 17.7	\$ 749.7
2007	828.7	122.2	0	950.9
2006	819.0	112.9	0	931.9
Net Sales¹ (Millions of dollars)				
2008	\$2,406.8	\$1,201.2	\$106.5	\$3,453.1
2007	2,448.2	765.9	14.1	3,090.1
2006	2,405.5	760.9	0	3,041.1
Approximate % of 2008 Sales Dollars³	65%	32%	3%	
Principal Products	crushed stone sand and gravel	asphalt mix ready-mixed concrete concrete block prestressed and precast concrete products	Portland cement Masonry cement	
End Use	public construction private nonresidential private residential railroad ballast agricultural chemical	public construction private nonresidential private residential	public construction private nonresidential private residential	
Methods of Distribution	truck, rail, barge and ocean-going vessels	truck	truck and rail	
Customers	asphalt mix and ready-mixed concrete producers	road and highway contractors nonresidential building	ready-mixed concrete producers concrete products producers	

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concrete products producers	contractors nonresidential parking lot contractors	our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment
construction contractors railroads	residential contractors	
our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment		

¹ Amounts exclude Florida Rock prior to the November 16, 2007 merger with Vulcan.

² The total of identifiable assets includes general corporate assets and cash items of \$183.2 million in 2008, \$265.1 million in 2007 and \$225.0 million in 2006. The total net dollar sales includes the elimination of intersegment sales of \$261.4 million in 2008, \$138.1 million in 2007 and \$125.3 million in 2006.

³ Net sales excluding the elimination of intersegment sales.

As shown in the table above, primary end uses for our products include public construction, such as highways, bridges, airports, schools, prisons and other public buildings, as well as private nonresidential (e.g., manufacturing, retail, offices, industrial and institutional) and private residential construction (i.e., single-family and multi-family). Following is a more detailed discussion of the most significant of these end uses.

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End Markets

Public This construction end market is generally the most aggregates intensive. The primary end uses include transportation-related infrastructure such as highways, bridges and airports as well as other infrastructure construction for sewer and waste disposal systems, water supply systems, dams and reservoirs. Public buildings for government and education are also important end markets for consumption of our products. Construction for power plants and other utilities is funded from both public and private sources. In 2008, publicly funded construction accounted for 45% of our total aggregates shipments.

Generally, public sector construction spending is more stable than in the private end markets, in part because public sector spending is less sensitive to interest rates and often is supported by multi-year legislation and programs. Public construction projects are typically funded through a combination of federal, state and local sources. The federal transportation bill is the principal source of federal funding for public infrastructure and transportation projects. Federal highway spending is primarily determined by a six-year authorization bill, now covering fiscal years 2004-2009, and annual budget appropriations using funds largely taken from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which receives taxes on gasoline and other levies. Specific highway and bridge projects are typically managed by state transportation departments, which obligate their portion of federal revenues and supplement this federal funding with state fuel taxes, vehicle registration fees and general fund appropriations. States also transfer funds to counties and municipalities to fund local street construction and maintenance. The level of state spending on infrastructure varies across the United States and depends on individual state needs and economies. Other public infrastructure construction includes airports, sewer and waste disposal systems, water supply systems, dams, reservoirs and government buildings. Construction for power plants and other utilities is funded from both public and private sources.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Act) was signed into law on February 17, 2009 for the purpose of creating jobs and restoring economic growth through, among other things, the modernization of America's infrastructure and the enhancement of its energy resources. Since the Act is expected to generate significant construction spending, demand for our products should increase. The Act allocates \$27.5 billion for highways and bridges. Also, construction activity will increase due to spending allocated to the following areas: \$1.1 billion for airports; \$8.4 billion for mass transit; \$8.0 billion for high speed rail; \$4.6 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers; \$6.0 billion for water and sewer projects; \$4.2 billion for United States Department of Defense facilities; \$6.4 billion to clean nuclear weapon sites; \$6.0 billion to subsidize loans for renewable energy; \$20 billion for renewable energy tax incentives; \$6.3 billion to states for energy efficiency and clean energy grants; \$8.8 billion for the renovation of schools; and \$6.6 billion for a first time homebuyer credit of \$8,000. The effects of the Act will not be felt for several months because Congress will have to appropriate funds for these programs and each state will have to take appropriate measures to take advantage of such funding. We expect that the economic stimulus plan will provide incremental demand for our major product lines starting in the second half of 2009. We cannot predict the full impact of the spending under the Act on our business, and the extent and timing of the spending is uncertain at this time.

Private This construction end market includes both nonresidential and residential construction. In 2008, privately-funded construction accounted for 55% of our total aggregates shipments.

Private nonresidential construction includes a wide array of project types and generally is more aggregates intensive than residential construction but less aggregates intensive than public construction. Overall demand in private nonresidential construction is generally driven by job growth, vacancy rates, private infrastructure needs and demographic trends. Strong corporate profits and growth of the private workforce generate demand for offices, hotels and restaurants. Likewise, population growth generates demand for stores, shopping centers, warehouses and parking decks as well as hospitals, churches and entertainment facilities. Large industrial projects, such as a new manufacturing facility, can increase the need for other manufacturing plants to supply its parts and assemblies. Additionally, construction activity in this end market is influenced by a firm's ability to finance and the cost of such financing.

The majority of residential construction activity is for single-family houses with the remainder consisting of multi-family construction (i.e., two family houses, apartment buildings and condominiums). Public housing comprises a small portion of the housing supply. Household formation is a primary driver of housing demand along with

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mortgage rates. In the last 10 years, the number of households in the United States has increased 11% from 103.2 million to 114.6 million, or approximately 15% on average, in the markets we serve. Construction activity in this end market is influenced by the cost and availability of mortgage financing. Demand for our products generally occurs early in the infrastructure phase of residential construction and later as part of the foundation, driveway or parking lot.

Other

Ballast is sold to railroads for construction and maintenance of track. Riprap and jetty stone are sold for erosion control along waterways. Stone also can be used as a feedstock for cement and lime plants and for making a variety of adhesives, fillers and extenders. Coal-burning power plants use limestone in scrubbers to reduce harmful emissions. Limestone that is crushed to a fine powder also can be sold as agricultural lime.

Seasonality and Cyclical Nature of Our Business

Virtually all our products are produced and consumed outdoors. Our financial results for any individual quarter are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the year, due primarily to the effect that seasonal changes and other weather-related conditions can have on the production and sales volumes of our products. Normally, the highest sales and earnings are attained in the third quarter and the lowest are realized in the first quarter. Furthermore, our sales and earnings are sensitive to national, regional and local economic conditions and particularly to cyclical swings in construction spending. These cyclical swings are further affected by fluctuations in interest rates, and demographic and population fluctuations.

Financial Results

Net sales, total revenues, earnings from continuing operations, earnings from continuing operations per common share, total assets, long-term obligations and cash dividends declared per common share for the five years ended December 31, 2008, are reported under Item 6 Selected Financial Data below.

Competition and Customers

The products of all of our reporting segments are marketed under highly competitive conditions, including competition in price, service and product performance. In most of the markets we serve, there are a substantial number of competitors.

We are the largest producer of construction aggregates in the United States. We estimate that the 10 largest aggregates producers in the nation produce 35% to 40% of all aggregates in the U.S. There are many small, independent producers of aggregates, resulting in highly fragmented markets in some areas. Therefore, depending on the market, we may compete with a number of large regional and small local producers. Since construction aggregates are expensive to transport relative to their value, an important competitive factor in the construction aggregates business is the transportation cost necessary to deliver product to the location where it is used. We focus on serving metropolitan areas that demographers expect will experience the largest absolute growth in population in the future. Due to the high weight-to-value ratio of aggregates, markets generally are local in nature. They often consist of a single metropolitan area or one or more counties or portions thereof when transportation is by truck only. Truck delivery accounts for approximately 84% of our total aggregates shipments. Additionally, sales yards and other distribution facilities located on waterways and rail lines allow us to reach markets that do not have locally available sources of aggregates. We sell a relatively small amount of construction aggregates outside of the United States. Long-lived assets outside the United States are reported in Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements in Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data below.

Zoning and permitting regulations have made it increasingly difficult to expand existing quarries or to develop new quarries in some markets. Although we cannot predict what governmental policies will be adopted in the future that might affect our industry, we believe that future zoning and permitting costs will not have a materially adverse effect on our business. However, land use restrictions in some markets could make zoning and permitting more difficult. Any such restrictions, while potentially curtailing expansion in certain areas, could also enhance the value of our reserves at existing locations.

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The customers for each of our reporting segments and the methods of distribution to such customers are detailed in the table under Item 1 Business of this report. No material part of our business is dependent upon one or a few customers, the loss of which would have a material adverse effect on our business. In 2008, our top five customers accounted for 3.8% of our total revenues (excluding internal sales), and no single customer accounted for more than 2% of our total revenues. Our products are sold principally to private industry and not directly to governmental entities. Although historically over 40% of our sales have on average gone into publicly funded construction, such as highways, airports and government buildings, relatively insignificant sales are made directly to federal, state, county or municipal governments/agencies. Therefore, although reductions in state and federal funding of publicly funded construction can curtail construction spending, our business is not directly subject to renegotiation of profits or termination of contracts as a result of state or federal government elections.

Research and Development Costs

We conduct research and development and technical service activities at our facility in Birmingham, Alabama. In general, our research and development efforts are directed toward new and more efficient uses of our products. We spent approximately \$1,546,000 in 2008, \$1,617,000 in 2007 and \$1,704,000 in 2006 on such activities.

Environmental Costs and Governmental Regulation

Our operations are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to the environment and to health and safety, including noise, water discharge, air quality, dust control, zoning and permitting. We estimate that capital expenditures for environmental control facilities in 2009 and 2010 will be approximately \$10,131,000 and \$17,467,000, respectively.

Frequently we are required by state and local regulations or contractual obligations to reclaim our former mining sites. In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No.143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations, these reclamation liabilities are recorded in our financial statements as a liability at the time the obligation arises. The fair value of such obligations is capitalized and depreciated over the estimated useful life of the owned or leased site. The liability is accreted through charges to operating expenses. To determine the fair value, we estimate the cost of a third party to perform the legally required reclamation, adjusted for inflation and risk and including a reasonable profit margin. All reclamation obligations are reviewed at least annually. See Notes 1 and 17 to the consolidated financial statements in Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data below. Reclaimed quarries often have potential for use in commercial or residential development or as reservoirs or landfills. However, no projected cash flows from these anticipated uses have been considered to offset or reduce the estimated reclamation liability.

Patents and Trademarks

As of February 25, 2009, we do not own or have a license or other rights under any patents, trademarks or trade names that are material to any of our reporting segments.

Other Information Regarding Vulcan

Our principal sources of energy are electricity, diesel fuel, natural gas and coal. We do not anticipate any difficulty in obtaining sources of energy required for our operation of any of our reporting segments.

As of January 1, 2009, we employed 9,320 people, a reduction of 1,202 from January 1, 2008. Of these employees, 927 are represented by labor unions. We do not anticipate any significant issues with such unions in 2009.

We do not consider our backlog of orders to be material to, or a significant factor in, evaluating and understanding our business.

Investor Information

We make available on our website, www.vulcanmaterials.com, free of charge, copies of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as well as all Forms 3, 4 and 5 filed with the SEC by our executive officers and directors, as soon as the filings are made publicly available by the SEC on its EDGAR database (www.sec.gov). The public may read and copy materials filed with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street,

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NE, Washington, D. C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-732-0330. In addition to accessing copies of our reports online, you may request a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, including financial statements, by writing to Jerry F. Perkins Jr., Secretary, Vulcan Materials Company, 1200 Urban Center Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35242.

We have a Business Conduct Policy applicable to all employees and directors. Additionally, we have adopted a Code of Ethics for the CEO and Senior Financial Officers. Copies of the Business Conduct Policy and the Code of Ethics are available on our website under the heading Corporate Governance. If we make any amendment to, or waiver of, any provision of the Code of Ethics, we will disclose such information on our website as well as through filings with the SEC. Our Board of Directors has also adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines and charters for its Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and Governance Committee that are designed to meet all applicable SEC and New York Stock Exchange regulatory requirements. Each of these documents is available on our website under the heading Corporate Governance, or you may request a copy of any of these documents by writing to Jerry F. Perkins Jr., Secretary, Vulcan Materials Company, 1200 Urban Center Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35242.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

An investment in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully consider the following risks, together with the information included in or incorporated by reference in this report, before deciding whether an investment in our common stock is suitable for you. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, results of operations or financial condition could be materially and adversely affected. In such an event, the trading prices of our common stock could decline, and you might lose all or part of your investment.

Risks and Uncertainties Related to the Florida Rock Merger

We may fail to realize the anticipated benefits of the Florida Rock merger The Florida Rock merger involves the integration of two companies that previously had operated independently, each with its own business, customers, employees, culture and systems. To realize the anticipated benefits from the mergers, we must successfully combine the businesses of Vulcan and Florida Rock in a manner that permits, among other things, earnings growth and cost savings. In addition, we must achieve these savings without adversely affecting revenues. If we are not able to successfully achieve these objectives, the anticipated benefits of the mergers may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected.

Our incurrence of additional debt to finance a portion of the Florida Rock merger significantly increased our interest expense, financial leverage and debt service requirements We have incurred considerable short-term and long-term debt to finance the Florida Rock merger. Incurrence of this debt significantly increased our leverage and caused a downgrade in our credit rating. There may be circumstances in which required payments of principal and/or interest on this debt could adversely affect our cash flows and operating results.

There are various financial covenants and other restrictions in our debt instruments. If we fail to comply with any of these requirements, the related indebtedness (and other unrelated indebtedness) could become due and payable prior to its stated maturity. A default under our debt instruments may also significantly affect our ability to obtain additional or alternative financing.

Our ability to make scheduled payments or to refinance our obligations with respect to indebtedness will depend on our operating and financial performance, which in turn is subject to prevailing economic conditions and to financial, business and other factors beyond our control.

Risks and Uncertainties Related to Other Aspects of Our Business

Construction, both commercial and residential, is dependent upon the overall U.S. economy which remains weak and could weaken further Commercial and residential construction levels generally move with economic cycles; when the economy is strong, construction levels rise, and when the economy is weak, construction levels fall. The overall U.S. economy has been hurt by the changes in the financial services sector, including failures of several large financial institutions, significant merger and acquisition activity within that industry, and the resulting lack of credit

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availability. The commercial construction market declined in 2008, due mostly to disruptions in credit availability and was felt most significantly starting in September 2008. Also, continued weakness in the residential construction market negatively affected the commercial construction market. The residential construction market further softened in 2008 as a result of the housing market downturn. The overall weakness in the economy and the crisis in the credit markets could cause commercial and residential construction to remain at low levels or weaken further.

The collapse of the subprime mortgage market and, in turn, the housing market could continue to negatively affect demand for our products In most of our markets, particularly Florida and California, sales volumes have been negatively impacted by the collapse of the subprime mortgage market and a significant decline in residential construction. Our sales volumes and earnings could continue to be depressed and negatively impacted by this segment of the market until these slowdowns in residential construction improve.

A decline in public sector construction and reductions in governmental funding could adversely affect our operations and results In 2008, 45% of our sales volume of construction aggregates was made to contractors on publicly funded construction. If, as a result of a loss of funding or a significant reduction in state or federal budgets, spending on publicly funded construction were to be reduced significantly, our earnings and cash flows could be negatively affected.

Difficult and volatile conditions in the credit markets could affect our financial position, results of operations and cash flows The current credit environment has negatively affected the U.S. economy and demand for our products. Commercial and residential construction could continue to decline if companies and consumers are unable to finance construction projects or if the economic slowdown continues to cause delays or cancellations of capital projects. State and federal budget issues may negatively affect the funding available for infrastructure spending unless the economic stimulus plan provides the requisite funding.

A recessionary economy can also increase the likelihood we will not be able to collect on our accounts receivable from our customers. We have experienced a delay in payment from some of our customers during this economic downturn.

The current credit environment has limited our ability to issue commercial paper. Additional financing or refinancing might not be available and, if available, may not be at economically favorable terms. Interest rates on new issuances of long-term public debt in the market have increased, reflecting higher credit and risk premiums. There is no guarantee we will be able to access the capital markets at economical interest rates, which could negatively affect our business.

We may be required to obtain financing in order to fund certain strategic acquisitions, if they arise, or to refinance our outstanding debt. We are also exposed to risks from tightening credit markets, through the interest payable on our outstanding short-term debt and the interest cost on our commercial paper, to the extent it is available to us. While it is the objective of management to maintain our credit ratings at investment grade levels, we cannot be assured these ratings will remain at those levels. While management believes we will continue to have adequate credit available to meet our needs, there can be no assurance of such credit availability.

Weather can materially affect our quarterly results Almost all of our products are used in the public or private construction industry, and our production and distribution facilities are located outdoors. Inclement weather affects both our ability to produce and distribute our products and affects our customers' short-term demand since their work also can be hampered by weather. Therefore, our results can be negatively affected by inclement weather.

Within our local markets, we operate in a highly competitive industry The construction aggregates industry is highly fragmented with a large number of independent local producers in a number of our markets. However, in most markets, we also compete against large private and public companies. This results in intense competition in a number of markets in which we operate. Significant competition could lead to lower prices, lower sales volumes and higher costs in some markets, negatively affecting our earnings and cash flows.

Table of Contents***Our long-term success is dependent upon securing and permitting aggregates reserves in strategically located areas***

Construction aggregates are bulky and heavy and, therefore, difficult to transport efficiently. Because of the nature of the products, the freight costs can quickly surpass the production costs. Therefore, except for geographic regions that do not possess commercially viable deposits of aggregates and are served by rail, barge or ship, the markets for our products tend to be very localized around our quarry sites. New quarry sites often take a number of years to develop, so our strategic planning and new site development must stay ahead of actual growth. Additionally, in a number of urban and suburban areas in which we operate, it is increasingly difficult to permit new sites or expand existing sites due to community resistance. Therefore, our future success is dependent, in part, on our ability to accurately forecast future areas of high growth in order to locate optimal facility sites and on our ability to secure operating and environmental permits to operate at those sites.

We use large amounts of electricity, diesel fuel, liquid asphalt and other petroleum-based resources that are subject to potential supply constraints and significant price fluctuation

In our production and distribution processes, we consume significant amounts of electricity, diesel fuel, liquid asphalt and other petroleum-based resources. The availability and pricing of these resources are subject to market forces that are beyond our control. Our suppliers contract separately for the purchase of such resources and our sources of supply could be interrupted should our suppliers not be able to obtain these materials due to higher demand or other factors interrupting their availability. Variability in the supply and prices of these resources could materially affect our operating results from period to period and rising costs could erode our profitability.

We use estimates in accounting for a number of significant items. Changes in our estimates could affect our future financial results

As discussed more fully in *Critical Accounting Policies* under Item 7 *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* below, we use significant judgment in accounting for goodwill and goodwill impairment; impairment of long-lived assets excluding goodwill; reclamation costs; pension and other postretirement benefits; environmental compliance; claims and litigation including self-insurance; and income taxes. Although we believe we have sufficient experience and reasonable procedures to enable us to make appropriate assumptions and formulate reasonable estimates, these assumptions and estimates could change significantly in the future and could result in a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

We are involved in a number of legal proceedings. We cannot predict the outcome of litigation and other contingencies with certainty

We are involved in several class action and complex litigation proceedings, some arising from our previous ownership and operation of our Chemicals business. Although we divested our Chemicals business in June 2005, we retained certain liabilities related to the business. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, we establish reserves when a loss is determined to be probable and the amount can be reasonably estimated. Our assessment of probability and loss estimates are based on the facts and circumstances known to us at a particular point in time. Subsequent developments in legal proceedings may affect our assessment and estimates of a loss contingency. Furthermore, unfavorable results in one or more of these actions could result in an adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. For a description of our current legal proceedings see Note 12 *Other Commitments and Contingencies* in Item 8 *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data* below.

The costs of providing pension and healthcare benefits to our employees have risen in recent years. Continuing increases in such costs could negatively affect our earnings

The costs of providing pension and healthcare benefits to our employees have increased substantially over the past several years. We have instituted measures to help slow the rate of increase. However, if these costs continue to rise, this could have an adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

Our industry is capital intensive, resulting in significant fixed and semi-fixed costs. Therefore, our earnings are highly sensitive to changes in volume

Due to the high levels of fixed capital required for the extraction and production of construction aggregates, profitability as measured in absolute dollars and as a percentage of net sales (*margins*) can be greatly impacted due to changes in volume.

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Our products generally must be transported by truck, rail, barge or ship, usually by third party providers. Significant delays or increased costs affecting these transportation methods could materially affect our operations and earnings Our products are distributed either by truck to local markets or by rail, barge or oceangoing vessel to remote markets. Costs of transporting our products could be negatively affected by factors outside of our control, including rail service interruptions or rate increases, tariffs, rising fuel costs and capacity constraints. Additionally, inclement weather, including hurricanes, tornadoes and other weather events, can negatively impact our distribution network.

Our future success depends greatly upon attracting and retaining qualified personnel, particularly in sales and operations A significant factor in our future profitability is our ability to attract, develop and retain qualified personnel. Our success in attracting qualified personnel, particularly in the areas of sales and operations, is affected by changing demographics of the available pool of workers with the training and skills necessary to fill the available positions, the impact on the labor supply due to general economic conditions, and our ability to offer competitive compensation and benefit packages.

Changes in legal requirements and governmental policies concerning zoning land use, environmental and other areas of the law impact our business Our operations expose us to the risk of material environmental liabilities. Our operations are affected by numerous federal, state and local laws and regulations related to zoning, land use and environmental matters. Despite our compliance efforts there is the inherent risk of liability in the operation of our business, especially from an environmental standpoint. These potential liabilities could have an adverse impact on our operations and profitability. Our operations require numerous governmental approvals and permits, which often require us to make significant capital and maintenance expenditures to comply with zoning and environmental laws and regulations. Stricter laws and regulations, or more stringent interpretations of existing laws or regulations, may impose new liabilities on us, reduce operating hours, require additional investment by us in pollution control equipment, or impede our opening new or expanding existing plants or facilities.

Our future growth is dependent in part on acquiring other businesses in our industry and successfully integrating them with our existing operations The expansion of our business is dependent in part on the acquisition of existing businesses that own aggregates reserves. Our constrained credit and financing opportunities make it more difficult to capitalize on potential acquisitions. Additionally, with regard to the acquisitions we are able to complete, our future results will be dependent in part on our ability to successfully integrate these businesses with our existing operations.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

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Item 2. Properties

We have 222 sites at which we engage in the extraction of stone, sand and gravel. Of these, 219 are located in the United States, one in Mexico, one in the Bahamas and one in Canada. We also have 89 sales yards used for the distribution of stone, sand and gravel not located at the extraction facilities. The following map shows the locations of our stone and sand and gravel production facilities and our aggregates distribution yards as of December 31, 2008. Our current estimate of 13.3 billion tons of proven and probable aggregates reserves reflects an increase of 0.6 billion tons from the estimate at the end of 2007. We believe that the quantities of proven and probable reserves at our aggregates facilities are sufficient to result in an average life of approximately 51.7 years at present operating levels. In calculating the average life of 51.7 years, we assumed an annual aggregates production rate of 257 million tons. See footnote 1 to the following table for a description of our method employed for estimating the life of reserves. This table presents, by regional division, the estimated aggregates reserve life and the percentage of aggregates reserves by rock type.

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	Estimated Years of Life (1)	Percentage of Aggregates Reserves by Rock Type			Sand & Gravel
		Sedimentary	Metamorphic	Igneous	
By Regional Division:					
Mideast	66	20.6%	13.5%	64.2%	1.7%
Midsouth	69	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Midwest	63	98.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Southeast	56	1.3%	94.2%	4.5%	0.0%
Southern and Gulf Coast	46	96.3%	0.5%	0.8%	2.4%
Southwest	39	98.8%	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%
Western	27	0.0%	0.0%	23.0%	77.0%
Florida Rock	30	34.2%	0.0%	1.4%	64.4%
Total	52	51.4%	20.2%	19.4%	9.0%

(1) Estimated years of life of aggregates reserves are based on the average annual rate of production of each regional division for the most recent three-year period, except that if reserves are acquired or if production has been reactivated during that period, the estimated years of life are based on the annual rate of production from the date of such acquisition or reactivation. Revisions may be necessitated by such occurrences as

changes in zoning laws governing facility properties, changes in aggregates specifications required by major customers and passage of government regulations applicable to aggregates operations. Estimates also are revised when and if additional geological evidence indicates that a revision is necessary. For 2008, the total three-year average annual rate of production was 257 million tons, as described above. These production rates include Florida Rock's production for periods prior to the November 16, 2007 acquisition by Vulcan.

The foregoing estimates of reserves are of recoverable stone, sand and gravel of suitable quality for economic extraction, based on drilling and studies by our geologists and engineers, recognizing reasonable economic and operating restraints as to maximum depth of overburden and stone excavation, subject to permit restrictions. Of the 222 permanent reserve-supplied aggregates production facilities which we operate, 86 (representing 49% of total reserves) are located on owned land, 45 (representing 21% of total reserves) are on land owned in part and leased in part, and 91 (representing 30% of total reserves) are on leased land. While some of our leases run until reserves at the leased sites are exhausted, generally our leases have definite expiration dates, which range from 2009 to 2159. Most of our leases have renewal options to extend them well beyond their current terms at our discretion.

The following table provides specific information regarding our 10 largest active aggregates facilities determined on the basis of the quantity of aggregates reserves. None of our aggregates facilities contributes more than 5% to our net sales.

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Location	Rock	Average Annual Production Rate (millions of tons)	Estimated Years of Life At Average Rate of Production (1)	Nature of Interest	Lease Expiration Date, if Applicable	Distribution Method
(nearest major metropolitan area) Playa del Carmen (Cancun), Mexico	Sedimentary	9.8	69	Owned		oceangoing vessel, truck
Hanover (Harrisburg), Pennsylvania	Sedimentary	3.4	Over 100	Owned		truck, rail
McCook (Chicago), Illinois	Sedimentary	7.4	61	Owned		truck
Dekalb (Chicago), Illinois	Sedimentary	0.8	Over 100	Owned		truck
Grayson (Atlanta), Georgia	Metamorphic	1.4	Over 100	Owned		truck
Rockingham (Charlotte), North Carolina	Igneous	4.2	60	27% Leased 73% Owned	(2)	truck, rail
1604 Stone (San Antonio), Texas	Sedimentary	3.6	60	Leased	2035	truck
Gold Hill (Charlotte), North Carolina	Metamorphic	1.3	Over 100	33% Leased 67% Owned	(3)	truck
Geronimo (San Antonio), Texas	Sedimentary	0.4	Over 100	Leased	(4)	truck truck, rail,
Grand Rivers (Paducah), Kentucky	Sedimentary	7.2	26	Leased	(5)	barge

(1) Estimated years of life of aggregates reserves are based on the average annual rate of production of the facility for the most recent three-year period, except that if reserves are acquired or if production has been reactivated during that period, the estimated years

of life are based on the annual rate of production from the date of such acquisition or reactivation.

Revisions may be necessitated by such occurrences as changes in zoning laws governing facility properties, changes in aggregates specifications required by major customers and passage of government regulations applicable to aggregates operations.

Estimates also are revised when and if additional geological evidence indicates that a revision is necessary.

- (2) Leases expire as follows: 81% in 2025 and 19% in 2027.
- (3) Leases expire as follows: 73% in 2058 and 27% in 2044.
- (4) Lease renewable by us through 2044.

- (5) Lease does not expire until reserves are exhausted. The surface rights are owned by us.

Our Cement segment operates two quarries for its raw materials: the Newberry, Florida quarry, which has limestone reserves of 194.7 million tons, or 75 years of life at expected future production rates; and the Brooksville, Florida quarry, which has calcium carbonate reserves of 6.9 million tons, or 9 years of life based on expected production rates and a lease termination.

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Other Properties

We also operate 124 concrete plants, 41 asphalt mix plants, 4 cement facilities and 1 calcium plant as noted in the following map.

Our headquarters are located in an office complex in Birmingham, Alabama. The office space is leased through December 31, 2013, with two five-year renewal periods, and consists of approximately 184,125 square feet. The annual rental cost for the current term of the lease is \$3.4 million.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are subject to occasional governmental proceedings and orders pertaining to occupational safety and health or to protection of the environment, such as proceedings or orders relating to noise abatement, air emissions or water discharges. As part of our continuing program of stewardship in safety, health and environmental matters, we have been able to resolve such proceedings and to comply with such orders without any material adverse effects on our business.

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We are a defendant in various lawsuits in the ordinary course of business. It is not possible to determine with precision the outcome of, or the amount of liability, if any, under these lawsuits, especially where the cases involve possible jury trials with as yet undetermined jury panels.

See Note 12 Other Commitments and Contingencies in Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data below for a discussion of our material legal proceedings.

In addition to our legal proceedings listed in Note 12, we have one environmental penalty in excess of \$100,000. During November 2008, we received an Administrative Civil Liability complaint from the California Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, related to a discharge of water and sediment that occurred at our Pleasanton, California aggregates facility in April 2007. The complaint alleged that the discharge violated provisions of the California Water Code and the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. We paid a civil penalty of \$190,000 on February 5, 2009, in full settlement of this matter.

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

No matter was submitted to our security holders through the solicitation of proxies or otherwise during the fourth quarter of 2008.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The names, positions and ages, as of February 28, 2009, of our executive officers are as follows:

Name	Position	Age
Donald M. James	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	60
Guy M. Badgett, III	Senior Vice President, Construction Materials Group	60
Robert A. Wason IV	Senior Vice President, General Counsel	57
Ronald G. McAbee	Senior Vice President, Construction Materials-West	61
Daniel F. Sansone	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	56
Danny R. Shepherd	Senior Vice President, Construction Materials-East	57
Ejaz A. Khan	Vice President, Controller and Chief Information Officer	51

The principal occupations of the executive officers during the past five years are set forth below:

Donald M. James was named Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1997.

Guy M. Badgett, III, was elected Senior Vice President, Construction Materials Group in February 1999.

Robert A. Wason IV was elected Senior Vice President, General Counsel in August 2008. Before that he had served as Senior Vice President, Corporate Development since December 1998.

Ronald G. McAbee was elected Senior Vice President, Construction Materials-West in February 2007. Prior to that date, he served as President, Western Division from June 1, 2004 through January 31, 2007. Prior to that he served as President, Mideast Division.

Daniel F. Sansone was elected Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer in May 2005. Prior to that date, he served as President, Southern and Gulf Coast Division from July 23, 1999 through May 12, 2005.

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Danny R. Shepherd was elected Senior Vice President, Construction Materials-East in February 2007. Prior to that date, he served as President, Southeast Division from May 1, 2002 through January 31, 2007.

Ejaz A. Khan was elected Vice President and Controller in February 1999. He was appointed Chief Information Officer in February 2000.

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

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (ticker symbol VMC). As of February 16, 2009, the number of shareholders of record was 5,284. The prices in the following table represent the high and low sales prices for our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange and the quarterly dividends declared by our Board of Directors in 2008 and 2007.

	Common Stock Prices			Dividends Declared
	High	Low		
2008				
First Quarter	\$ 79.75	\$ 60.20	\$	0.49
Second Quarter	84.73	59.26		0.49
Third Quarter	100.25	49.39		0.49
Fourth Quarter	77.95	39.52		0.49
2007				
First Quarter	\$ 125.79	\$ 87.27	\$	0.46
Second Quarter	128.62	111.46		0.46
Third Quarter	116.52	80.50		0.46
Fourth Quarter	96.09	77.04		0.46

Our policy is to pay out a reasonable share of net cash provided by operating activities as dividends, consistent on average with the payout record of past years, while maintaining debt ratios within what we believe to be prudent and generally acceptable limits. The future payment of dividends, however, will be within the discretion of our Board of Directors and depends on our profitability, capital requirements, financial condition, debt reduction, growth, business opportunities and other factors which our Board of Directors may deem relevant. We are not a party to any contracts or agreements that currently materially limit, or are likely to limit in the future, our ability to pay dividends.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

We did not have any repurchases of stock during the fourth quarter of 2008. We did not have any unregistered sales of equity securities during the fourth quarter of 2008.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

The selected statement of earnings, per share data and balance sheet data for each of the five years ended December 31, 2008, set forth below have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements. The following data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes to consolidated financial statements in Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data below.

	Years ended December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(Amounts in millions, except per share data)				
Net sales	\$3,453.1	\$3,090.1	\$3,041.1	\$2,615.0	\$2,213.2
Total revenues	\$3,651.4	\$3,327.8	\$3,342.5	\$2,895.3	\$2,454.3
Gross profit	\$ 749.7	\$ 950.9	\$ 931.9	\$ 708.8	\$ 584.3
Earnings (loss) from continuing operations ⁽¹⁾	\$ (1.7)	\$ 463.1	\$ 480.2	\$ 344.1	\$ 262.5
Earnings (loss) on discontinued operations, net of tax ⁽²⁾	(2.4)	(12.2)	(10.0)	44.9	26.2
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (4.1)	\$ 450.9	\$ 470.2	\$ 389.1	\$ 288.7
Basic per share:					
Earnings (loss) from continuing operations before cumulative effect of accounting changes	\$ (0.02)	\$ 4.77	\$ 4.92	\$ 3.37	\$ 2.56
Discontinued operations	(0.02)	(0.12)	(0.10)	0.44	0.26
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (0.04)	\$ 4.65	\$ 4.82	\$ 3.81	\$ 2.82
Diluted per share:					
Earnings (loss) from continuing operations before cumulative effect of accounting changes	\$ (0.02)	\$ 4.66	\$ 4.81	\$ 3.31	\$ 2.53
Discontinued operations	(0.02)	(0.12)	(0.10)	0.43	0.25
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (0.04)	\$ 4.54	\$ 4.71	\$ 3.74	\$ 2.78
Total assets	\$8,914.2	\$8,936.4	\$3,427.8	\$3,590.4	\$3,667.5
Long-term obligations	\$2,153.6	\$1,529.8	\$ 322.1	\$ 323.4	\$ 604.5
Shareholders equity	\$3,522.7	\$3,759.6	\$2,010.9	\$2,133.6	\$2,020.8
Cash dividends declared per share	\$ 1.96	\$ 1.84	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.04

⁽¹⁾ Earnings (loss) from continuing operations during 2008 includes an after tax goodwill impairment charge of \$227.6 million, or \$2.07 per diluted share,

related to our
Cement segment
in Florida.

- (2) Discontinued operations include the results from operations attributable to our former Chloralkali and Performance Chemicals businesses, divested in 2005 and 2003, respectively.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Introduction

Vulcan provides the basic materials for the infrastructure needed to drive the U.S. economy. We are the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates—primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel—a major producer of asphalt mix and concrete and a leading producer of cement in Florida.

Segments

Our four operating segments are organized around our principal product lines: aggregates, asphalt mix, concrete and cement. For reporting purposes, we have combined our Asphalt mix and Concrete segments into one reporting segment as the products are similar in nature and the businesses exhibit similar economic characteristics, product processes, types and classes of customer, methods of distribution and regulatory environments. Management reviews earnings for the product line reporting units principally at the gross profit level.

Our Aggregates segment mines, processes, distributes and sells crushed stone, sand and gravel. Our Asphalt mix and Concrete segment produces and sells asphalt mix, ready-mixed concrete, concrete block, prestressed concrete beams

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and precast concrete, and sells other building materials. Our Cement segment mines limestone feedstock and produces and sells Portland cement and masonry cement. It also imports, grinds, blends and sells cement and slag, and produces and sells calcium products.

Products

We operate primarily in the United States and our principal product aggregates is consumed in virtually all types of publicly and privately funded construction. During 2008, we shipped 204.3 million tons into 23 states, the District of Columbia, the Bahamas, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Chile and Mexico from 331 aggregates production facilities and sales yards. Our ten largest states, measured by our aggregates shipments, accounted for 82% of our total aggregates shipments. Reserves largely determine the ongoing viability of an aggregates business. Our current estimate of 13.3 billion tons of zoned and permitted aggregates reserves represents a net increase of 5.0 billion tons since the end of 1998. We believe that these reserves are sufficient to last, on average, 51.7 years at current annual production rates. While aggregates are our primary business, we believe vertical integration between aggregates and downstream products, such as asphalt mix and concrete, can be managed effectively in certain markets to generate acceptable financial returns. As such, we evaluate the structural characteristics of individual markets to determine the appropriateness of an aggregates-only or vertical integration strategy.

For a discussion of End Markets, Competition and Customers, and Seasonality and Cyclical Nature of Our Business, see Item 1 Business above.

Other

On November 16, 2007, we acquired 100% of the outstanding common stock of Florida Rock Industries, Inc. (Florida Rock), a leading producer of construction aggregates, cement, concrete and concrete products in the southeastern and mid-Atlantic states, in exchange for cash and stock of approximately \$4.2 billion based on the closing price of Vulcan common stock on November 15, 2007. The acquisition further diversified the geographic scope of Vulcan's operations, expanding our presence in attractive Florida markets and in other high-growth southeastern and mid-Atlantic states, and adding approximately 1.6 billion tons of proven and probable aggregates reserves and 0.1 billion tons of proven and probable cement and calcium carbonate reserves in many markets where reserves are increasingly scarce. In June 2005, we sold our Chemicals business as presented in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements and, accordingly, its results are reported as discontinued operations in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Earnings.

In the discussion that follows, continuing operations consist of our Construction Materials business, which is organized into three reportable segments: Aggregates; Asphalt mix and Concrete; and Cement. The results of operations discussed below include Florida Rock for the periods from November 16, 2007 through December 31, 2007 and January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Discontinued operations, which consist of our former Chemicals business, are discussed separately. In the comparative analysis, segment revenue at the product line level includes intersegment sales. Net sales and cost of goods sold exclude intersegment sales and delivery revenues and cost. This presentation is consistent with the basis on which management reviews results of operations.

Results of Operations

2008 versus 2007

The financial and economic turmoil in the U.S. is unprecedented and the external factors affecting the construction industry continue to present unique challenges for our business. Aggregates demand and our shipments have declined for three consecutive years. Our legacy aggregates shipments in 2008 were down 30% from the peak level achieved in 2005. Throughout 2008, we focused aggressively on controlling costs while realizing higher pricing for our products reflecting their value in the attractive markets we serve. We reduced our operating costs by limiting operating hours, streamlining our work force, and focusing on production efficiencies in the face of a sharp decline in demand for our products. As a result of these actions, the cash earnings per ton of aggregates in our legacy operations increased over 50% from the 2005 level, which was a year of peak demand for aggregates. The cash earnings generated on each ton of aggregates sold in 2008 was higher than in any other period in our history. The

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increased level of unit profitability supports our optimism about the earnings potential of our business when demand begins to recover.

Net sales for 2008 of \$3.5 billion reflected an increase of 12% from the prior year. This increase resulted from the inclusion of the former Florida Rock operations for the full year. Volumes were adversely affected by the continuing sharp downturn in construction activity. Pricing for our products remained strong and helped offset the earnings effects of lower volumes, higher energy-related costs, increased interest expense, as well as higher noncash charges for depreciation, depletion and amortization. The unit cost for diesel fuel and liquid asphalt increased 36% and 69%, respectively, from 2007 in our legacy operations. Net loss per diluted share was \$0.04 in 2008 compared with net earnings of \$4.54 per diluted share in 2007. The 2008 results include an estimated \$227.6 million, or \$2.07 per diluted share, after tax goodwill impairment charge referable to our Cement segment in Florida. The 2008 results also include net earnings per diluted share of \$0.34 referable to the sale of quarry sites divested as a condition for approval by the Department of Justice of the Florida Rock acquisition. Results in 2007 include net earnings per diluted share of \$0.24 referable to the sale of real estate in California, net of the related incentives. Additionally, the higher energy-related costs lowered earnings per diluted share \$0.86 compared with 2007.

Aggregates segment revenues decreased \$41.4 million to \$2,406.8 million compared with 2007, as the effect of lower volumes from legacy operations more than offset the effect of improved pricing and the inclusion of a full year of sales from the former Florida Rock aggregates operations. Compared with 2007, total aggregates shipments declined 12% while the average selling price increased 7%. Most of our geographic markets reported double-digit percentage declines in aggregates volumes except for markets in Texas and along the Central Gulf Coast. Gross profit for the Aggregates segment of \$657.6 million declined 21% from 2007 as the earnings effects from the decline in legacy Vulcan shipments and sharply higher unit cost for diesel fuel more than offset the improvement in aggregates pricing and the inclusion of earnings from the former Florida Rock operations.

Asphalt mix and Concrete segment revenues increased \$435.3 million to \$1,201.2 million compared with 2007. Shipments of asphalt mix declined 9% in 2008 while concrete shipments increased significantly due to inclusion of a full year of sales from the former Florida Rock concrete operations. Asphalt mix prices increased 15% from 2007 while the unit cost of liquid asphalt rose 69%. Asphalt mix earnings decreased due principally to higher costs for liquid asphalt. Compared with 2007, gross profit for the Asphalt mix and Concrete segment decreased 39% to \$74.4 million in 2008.

Revenues and gross profit for the Cement segment were \$106.5 million and \$17.7 million, respectively. The Cement segment was acquired in November 2007 as part of the Florida Rock acquisition, and therefore, no comparable revenues or earnings were reported for the first 10 months of 2007.

Selling, administrative and general expenses increased \$53.0 million from 2007. This increase was primarily attributable to including a full year of expenses related to the former Florida Rock businesses, \$10.5 million of expense related to the fair market value of donated property and \$6.7 million related to the replacement of legacy information technology systems and the related consolidation of certain administrative support functions.

During 2008, we recorded an estimated \$252.7 million pretax goodwill impairment charge related to our cement operations in Florida, representing the entire balance of goodwill at this reporting unit. There were no comparable charges in 2007.

During 2008, we recorded a \$73.8 million pretax gain referable to the sale of quarry sites divested as a condition for approval by the Department of Justice of the Florida Rock acquisition. During 2007, we recorded a \$43.8 million pretax gain, net of transaction costs, on the sale of real estate in California.

Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes were \$75.1 million, a decrease of \$592.4 million from the prior year. In addition to the items noted above, higher interest expense contributed to this decrease in earnings. Interest expense, net of interest income, increased \$128.1 million due primarily to debt incurred for the acquisition of Florida Rock.

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Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes for 2008 versus 2007 are summarized below (in millions of dollars):

2007	\$ 668
Lower aggregates earnings due to	
Lower volumes	(210)
Higher selling prices	115
Higher costs	(76)
Lower asphalt mix and concrete earnings	(48)
Higher cement earnings	18
Higher selling, administrative and general expenses	(53)
Goodwill impairment cement (estimated)	(253)
Gain on divestitures	74
Gain on 2007 sale of California real estate	(44)
Higher interest expense, net	(128)
All other	12
2008	\$ 75

Earnings (loss) from continuing operations decreased to (\$0.02) per diluted share in 2008 from \$4.66 per diluted share in 2007. The goodwill impairment charge accounted for \$2.07 per diluted share of the decline.

2007 versus 2006

Consolidated net sales increased 2% from the prior year to a record \$3.1 billion. Continued strong growth in aggregates pricing during 2007 contributed to an increase in operating earnings year-over-year despite lower sales volumes across all principal product lines. The pricing momentum achieved in 2005 and 2006 continued in 2007, reflecting an environment that recognizes the high cost of replacing aggregates reserves in high growth metropolitan markets.

Aggregates segment revenues were \$2,448.2 million in 2007, an increase of 2% from \$2,405.5 in the prior year. Excluding the effects of the Florida Rock acquisition, revenues for Vulcan's legacy Aggregates segment declined slightly as lower shipments were substantially offset by a 13% increase in average selling prices. Aggregates shipments during 2007 decreased approximately 9% from 2006 levels, primarily as a result of lower demand in the residential construction market. The impact of residential construction activity on shipments was partially offset by increased levels of highway construction and nonresidential building construction. Gross profit for the Aggregates segment increased \$9.7 million, or 1%, over 2006. Unit costs for aggregates produced at legacy Vulcan operations increased in 2007 due principally to the effects of higher depreciation expense referable to recently completed capital projects coupled with a 10% reduction in production volumes. Additionally, unit costs for energy, such as diesel fuel and electric power, increased by approximately 7%. Higher costs for diesel fuel lowered gross profit from legacy Vulcan aggregates operations approximately \$12 million.

Revenues for the Asphalt mix and Concrete segment increased slightly to \$765.9 million in 2007 as compared to \$760.9 million in 2006. Excluding the effects of the Florida Rock acquisition, revenues for Vulcan's legacy Asphalt mix and Concrete segment decreased by \$60.5 million, or 8%. Revenues for asphalt mix improved due to higher pricing, which more than offset a 9% decline in volumes. Concrete pricing improved 7%, but was more than offset by a 30% decline in volumes. Gross profit for the Asphalt mix and Concrete segment was mixed, with asphalt mix improving and concrete declining. Higher pricing for asphalt mix more than offset the lower volumes and higher prices for aggregates supplied internally. Unit costs for liquid asphalt remained at high levels in 2007 with little change when compared with the prior year. Higher pricing for concrete was more than offset by lower volumes and higher raw material costs, including aggregates supplied internally.

Revenues and gross profit for the Cement segment, all of which was acquired in the Florida Rock transaction, were immaterial to 2007 results of operations.

Operating earnings improved to \$714.4 million, a 2.8% increase over 2006. The increase in operating earnings was due to the aforementioned higher pricing for each of our principal products and a \$43.8 million gain on sale of real estate in California during the first quarter of 2007. Prior year results include a \$24.8 million gain referable to the

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sale of contractual rights to mine a quarry in Atlanta, Georgia. These favorable contributions to operating earnings more than offset the effects of lower production levels, an increase in energy costs and Florida Rock transaction and integration related costs.

Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes were \$667.5 million, a decrease of \$36.0 million from the prior year. The 2006 earnings include a pretax gain of \$28.7 million related to the increase in the carrying value of the contingent ECU (electrochemical unit) earn-out received in connection with the sale of our Chemicals business. The 2007 corresponding pretax gain from the ECU earn-out was \$1.9 million. An increase of \$21.9 million in interest expense also contributed to the decline in earnings from continuing operations before income taxes.

Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes for 2007 versus 2006 are summarized below (in millions of dollars):

2006	\$703
Legacy Vulcan operations	
Higher aggregates earnings	7
Higher asphalt mix and concrete earnings	7
Higher selling, administrative and general expenses	(13)
Gain on sale of California real estate	44
Gain on 2006 sale of contractual rights to mine	(25)
Lower gain on contingent ECU earn-out	(27)
All other Legacy	4
Florida Rock acquisition	(32)
2007	\$668

Earnings from continuing operations decreased to \$4.66 per diluted share from \$4.81 per diluted share in 2006. Earnings per share in 2007 include the effects of the Florida Rock acquisition, including operating results, interest expense associated with the financing of the transaction, additional shares issued as part of the transaction, one-time expenses associated with executing the transaction and integrating the businesses, and depreciation associated with the write-up of assets to fair value in accordance with purchase accounting. Specifically, 2007 diluted earnings per share include approximately \$0.13 per share due to one-time transaction related items, \$0.12 per share related to higher interest expense attributable to the additional debt incurred to fund the transaction, and \$0.07 per share due to the effect of additional shares issued as purchase consideration in the transaction.

Selling, Administrative and General

Selling, administrative and general expenses were \$342.6 million in 2008 as compared with \$289.6 million in the prior year. This increase was primarily attributable to the following: including a full year of expenses related to the former Florida Rock businesses; \$10.5 million of expense related to the fair market value of donated property (a partially offsetting amount is recorded in gain on sale of property, plant & equipment and businesses, net as noted below); and \$6.7 million related to the replacement of legacy information technology systems and the related consolidation of certain administrative support functions. Excluding the effects of the aforementioned items, selling, administrative and general expenses decreased approximately \$30.0 million or 11% compared with the prior year, primarily as a result of lower performance-based compensation. Selling, administrative and general expenses as a percentage of net sales were 9.9% in 2008, up from the prior year's 9.4%. In 2007, selling, administrative and general expenses increased \$25.3 million or 9.6% from the 2006 level. This increase was partially attributable to selling, administrative and general expenses associated with the newly acquired Florida Rock operations as well as transaction and integration related costs. Excluding the effects of Florida Rock, during 2007 selling, administrative and general expenses increased approximately 5% over the 2006 level.

Goodwill Impairment

During 2008, we recorded an estimated \$252.7 million pretax goodwill impairment charge related to our Cement segment in Florida, representing the entire balance of goodwill at this reporting unit. These operations were acquired as part of the Florida Rock transaction in November 2007. There were no charges for goodwill impairment in 2007 and 2006. For additional details regarding this impairment, see the Goodwill and Goodwill Impairment Critical Accounting Policy below.

Table of Contents**Gain on Sale of Property, Plant & Equipment and Businesses, Net**

During 2008, we recorded gains on the sale of property, plant & equipment and businesses of \$94.2 million, an increase of \$35.5 million from the prior year. Included in the 2008 gains was the aforementioned \$73.8 million pretax gain referable to the sale of quarry sites divested as a condition for approval by the Department of Justice of the Florida Rock acquisition. Also included was \$10.4 million of gain related to the fair market value of donated property. During 2007, we recorded gains on the sale of property, plant & equipment and businesses of \$58.7 million, an increase of \$53.1 million from 2006. Included in the 2007 gains was a \$43.8 million pretax gain, net of transaction costs, on the sale of real estate in California. As none of these asset sales met the definition of a component of an entity as defined in SFAS No. 144, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-lived Assets (FAS 144), the gains were reported in continuing operations.

Other Operating (Income) Expense, Net

Other operating income, net of other operating expense, increased \$5.9 million from the 2007 level to a net income of \$0.4 million in 2008. Other operating expense, net of other operating income, increased \$27.4 million from the 2006 level to a net expense of \$5.5 million in 2007. The variance from 2006 resulted primarily from a \$24.8 million pretax gain in 2006 from the sale of contractual rights to mine the Bellwood quarry in Atlanta, Georgia with no similar gain in 2007.

Other Income (Expense), Net

In 2008, other expense of \$4.4 million declined \$0.9 million from 2007. In 2007, other expense was \$5.3 million compared to other income of \$28.5 million in 2006. Gains attributable to increases in the carrying value of the ECU earn-out amounted to \$1.9 million during 2007 compared with \$28.7 million in 2006.

Interest Income

Interest income was \$3.1 million in 2008 compared with \$6.6 million in 2007. This decrease in interest income resulted primarily from lower average cash and cash equivalents balances resulting primarily from the financing requirements of the November 2007 Florida Rock acquisition. Interest income in 2007 increased \$0.5 million from the 2006 level.

Interest Expense

Interest expense was \$172.8 million in 2008 compared with the 2007 amount of \$48.2 million. This increase in interest expense was due primarily to debt incurred for the acquisition of Florida Rock. Excluding capitalized interest credits, gross interest expense for 2008 was \$187.1 million compared with \$53.3 million in 2007 and \$31.3 million in 2006. Interest expense was \$48.2 million in 2007 compared with the 2006 amount of \$26.3 million. The \$21.9 million increase was due primarily to approximately \$3.2 billion in borrowings to fund the cash portion of the consideration paid to acquire Florida Rock.

Income Taxes

Our 2008 effective tax rate for continuing operations was 102.2%, up 71.6 percentage points from 30.6% in 2007. This increase principally reflected the unfavorable impact of the goodwill impairment charge. Excluding the impact of the goodwill impairment charge, our 2008 effective tax rate for continuing operations was 31.1%, up 0.5 percentage points from 2007. The 2007 rate for continuing operations was down 1.1 percentage points from the 2006 rate of 31.7%. This decrease principally reflected a reduction in state income taxes and an increase in the tax benefit from contributions.

Discontinued Operations

In 2005, we sold substantially all the assets of our Chemicals business, known as Vulcan Chemicals, to Basic Chemicals, a subsidiary of Occidental Chemical Corporation. The purchaser also assumed certain liabilities related to the Chemicals business, including the obligation to monitor and remediate all releases of hazardous materials at or from the Wichita, Geismar and Port Edwards plant facilities. The decision to sell the Chemicals business was based on our desire to focus our resources on the Construction Materials business. Financial results referable to our Chemicals business are reported in discontinued operations for all periods presented.

The transaction, which was structured as a sale of assets, involved initial cash proceeds, contingent future proceeds under two earn-out provisions and the transfer of certain liabilities. At the closing date, the fair value of the

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consideration received in connection with the sale of the Chemicals business, including anticipated cash flows from the two earn-out agreements, was expected to exceed the net carrying value of the assets and liabilities sold. However, pursuant to SFAS No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies, since the proceeds under the earn-out agreements were contingent in nature, no gain was recognized on the Chemicals sale and the value recorded at the June 7, 2005 closing date referable to these two earn-outs was limited to \$128.2 million. Furthermore, under SAB Topic 5:Z:5, upward adjustments to the fair value of the ECU earn-out subsequent to closing, which totaled \$51.3 million, were recorded in continuing operations, and therefore did not contribute to the gain or loss on the sale of the Chemicals business. Ultimately, gain or loss on disposal will be recognized to the extent future cash receipts under the 5CP

(hydrochlorocarbon product HCC-240fa) earn-out related to the remaining performance period from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2012 exceed or fall short of its \$10.8 million December 31, 2008 carrying amount.

Pretax operating results from discontinued operations were a loss of \$4.1 million in 2008 compared with a loss of \$19.3 million in 2007. These operating losses reflect charges related to general and product liability costs, including legal defense costs, and environmental remediation costs associated with our former Chemicals businesses. For additional information regarding discontinued operations, see Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements.

Accounting Changes

FAS 157 On January 1, 2008, we adopted SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements (FAS 157) with respect to financial assets and liabilities and elected to defer our adoption of FAS 157 for nonfinancial assets and liabilities as permitted by Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Staff Position No. FAS 157-2 (FSP FAS 157-2). FAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The adoption of FAS 157 for financial assets and liabilities had no effect on our results of operations, financial position or cash flows. Additionally, its adoption resulted in no material changes in our valuation methodologies, techniques or assumptions for such assets and liabilities. See Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements under the caption Fair Value Measurements for disclosures related to financial assets and liabilities pursuant to the requirements of FAS 157.

FAS 158 On January 1, 2008, we adopted the measurement date provision of SFAS No. 158, Employers Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans, an amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106 and 132(R) (FAS 158). In addition to the recognition provisions (which we adopted December 31, 2006), FAS 158 requires an employer to measure the plan assets and benefit obligations as of the date of its year-end balance sheet. This requirement was effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2008. Upon adopting the measurement date provision, we remeasured plan assets and benefit obligations as of January 1, 2008, pursuant to the transition requirements of FAS 158. The transition adjustment resulted in an increase to noncurrent assets of \$15.0 million, an increase to noncurrent liabilities of \$2.2 million, an increase to deferred tax liabilities of \$5.1 million, a decrease to retained earnings of \$1.3 million and an increase to accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax, of \$9.0 million.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We believe we have sufficient financial resources, including cash provided by operating activities, unused bank lines of credit and access to the capital markets, to fund business requirements in the future, including debt service obligations, cash contractual obligations, capital expenditures and dividend payments.

In February 2009, we issued \$400 million of long-term debt (as noted in Note 22 to the consolidated financial statements) and used the proceeds to reduce short-term bank borrowings, thereby freeing up a like amount of liquidity under our bank lines of credit. Debt reduction and achieving target debt ratios remain a priority use of cash flows. We expect to reduce total debt by \$200 million during 2009, excluding any earnings effect from the economic stimulus plan. For the full year 2009, we expect capital spending, excluding acquisitions, to approximate \$200 million, down sharply from the \$354.2 million spent in 2008.

Table of Contents**Cash Flows**

Net cash provided by operating activities (including discontinued operations) decreased \$272.9 million to \$435.2 million during 2008 as compared with a total of \$708.1 million in 2007. Net earnings adjusted for noncash expenses related to goodwill impairment and depreciation, depletion, accretion and amortization accounted for \$84.8 million of the decrease. In addition, certain assets were required to be disposed of as a condition to the acquisition of Florida Rock (Note 20 to the consolidated financial statements). The reclassification of gains resulting from these dispositions and other net gains on sale of property, plant & equipment contributed an additional \$35.6 million to the year-over-year decrease in cash provided by operating activities as the associated cash received is presented as a component of investing activities. Reductions in trade payables and other accruals accounted for an additional \$102.6 million decrease in cash provided by operating activities.

Net cash provided by operating activities (including discontinued operations) totaled \$708.1 million in 2007, an increase of \$128.8 million or 22% as compared with 2006. Net earnings adjusted for noncash expenses related to depreciation, depletion, accretion and amortization increased \$25.8 million when compared with the prior year. Comparative changes in working capital and other assets and liabilities contributed approximately \$129.0 million to the increase in net cash provided by operating activities, primarily resulting from decreases in accounts receivable and income tax liabilities. Partially offsetting these favorable changes to operating cash flows was a reclassification to investing activities of \$28.3 million related to net gains on sales of property, plant & equipment and contractual rights. Net cash used for investing activities totaled \$189.0 million in 2008 compared with \$3,654.3 million in 2007. The \$3,465.3 million decrease was largely attributable to the acquisition of Florida Rock in 2007, which required cash payments of \$3,239.0 million, net of cash acquired and including Vulcan's direct transaction costs. A reduction in capital spending of \$130.1 million from the prior year reflects our focus on utilizing cash to reduce debt. Proceeds from the sale of businesses required to be divested as part of the Florida Rock acquisition contributed to a \$195.2 million increase in proceeds from the sale of businesses, partially offset by a \$63.4 million decrease in proceeds from the sale of property, plant & equipment. Additionally, \$36.7 million in assets held in money market and other money funds were reclassified from cash equivalents to medium-term investments during 2008, as discussed in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements.

Net cash used for financing activities totaled \$270.8 million in 2008, as compared with net cash provided by financing activities during 2007 of \$2,925.8 million. The \$3,196.6 million decrease in cash generated from financing activities was due primarily to a \$2,901.6 million change in net short-term borrowing activity, an increase in payments of short-term debt and current maturities of \$46.8 million, and a \$271.0 million decrease in proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt, net of discounts and debt issuance costs. Proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt in 2008 of \$949.1 million were used to pay down short-term borrowings drawn during 2007 to fund the Florida Rock acquisition (Note 6 to the consolidated financial statements). Partially offsetting these decreases in cash from financing activities were cash proceeds of \$55.1 million from the issuance of common stock, as discussed in Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

Our policy is to pay out a reasonable share of net cash provided by operating activities as dividends, consistent on average with the payout record of past years, while maintaining debt ratios within what we believe to be prudent and generally acceptable limits.

Working Capital

Working capital, the excess of current assets over current liabilities, totaled (\$769.2) million at December 31, 2008, an increase of \$601.8 million from the (\$1,371.0) million level at December 31, 2007. The increase in working capital primarily resulted from a decrease of \$1,009.0 million in short-term borrowings partially offset by an increase in current maturities of \$276.5 million. Weakness in demand for our products resulted in a \$64.9 million year-over-year decrease in net accounts and notes receivable, offset by a related decrease in trade payables and accruals of \$72.4 million. As of December 31, 2008, we have \$1,672.5 million in bank lines of credit, of which \$1,082.5 million was drawn.

Working capital totaled (\$1,371.0) million at December 31, 2007, a decrease of \$1,614.7 million from the \$243.7 million level at December 31, 2006. The 2007 decrease resulted primarily from the use of cash and short-term

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borrowings to fund the acquisition of Florida Rock. Excluding the effects of the change in short-term borrowings, working capital increased \$278.0 million, primarily due to inventory and accounts receivable, offset in part by current trade payables and accrued liabilities, acquired in the Florida Rock transaction.

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures, which exclude business acquisitions, totaled \$354.2 million in 2008, down \$126.3 million from the 2007 level of \$480.5 million. During 2008, we completed three major aggregates plant rebuilds and continued the multi-year expansion project at our Newberry Cement plant. As explained in the Financial Terminology, we classify our capital expenditures into three categories based on the predominant purpose of the project. In 2008, profit-adding projects accounted for \$230.1 million or 65% of the 2008 spending.

Commitments for capital expenditures were \$25.0 million at December 31, 2008. We expect to fund these commitments using available cash, internally generated cash flow or additional borrowings.

Acquisitions and Divestitures

In 2008, the total purchase price (cash and stock consideration paid) of acquisitions amounted to \$152.1 million, down significantly from the prior year, which included \$4,678.4 million related to the Florida Rock acquisition (the largest in our history).

As a result of the 2007 Florida Rock acquisition, we entered into a Final Judgment with the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that required us to divest nine Florida Rock and Legacy Vulcan sites. We completed these divestitures in 2008 resulting in the acquisition of several sites through exchanges with various entities, as follows. In a transaction with Luck Stone Corporation, we acquired two aggregates production facilities in Virginia and cash in exchange for two Florida Rock sites in Virginia, an aggregates production facility and a distribution yard. In a transaction with Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. (Martin Marietta), we received cash and acquired an aggregates production facility near Sacramento, California, real property with proven and permitted reserves adjacent to one of our aggregates production facilities in San Antonio, Texas, and fee ownership of property at one of our aggregates production facilities in North Carolina that we had previously leased from Martin Marietta. In return, we divested four aggregates production facilities and a greenfield (undeveloped) aggregates site located in Georgia, and an aggregates production facility located in Tennessee. Two of the divested sites included in the transaction with Martin Marietta were owned by Vulcan prior to our acquisition of Florida Rock. Accordingly, during 2008, we recognized a pretax gain of \$73.8 million on the sale of these assets. In a separate transaction, we sold our interest in an aggregates production facility in Georgia to The Concrete Company, which had been the joint venture partner with Florida Rock in this operation.

In addition to the 2008 acquisitions obtained in the aforementioned exchanges, other acquisitions completed during 2008 included four aggregates production facilities, one asphalt mix plant, a recycling facility and vacant land located in California, an aggregates production facility in Illinois and our former joint venture partner's interest in an aggregates production facility in Tennessee. These acquisitions cost approximately \$108.4 million (total cash and stock consideration paid) including acquisition costs and net of acquired cash.

The 2007 acquisitions included the Florida Rock acquisition, an aggregates production facility in Illinois and an aggregates production facility in North Carolina. In addition to these acquisitions, during 2007, we acquired an aggregates production facility in Alabama in exchange for two aggregates production facilities in Illinois. The Florida Rock acquisition (exclusive of divestitures required pursuant to an agreement with the Department of Justice) consisted of 29 aggregates production facilities, 15 aggregates sales yards, 108 concrete plants, 1 cement plant, 1 calcium products plant and 3 cement grinding facilities located in the southeastern and mid-Atlantic states. Proven and probable reserves (aggregates, calcium products and cement) acquired in the Florida Rock transaction amounted to approximately 1.7 billion tons.

Table of Contents**Short-term Borrowings and Investments**

Net short-term borrowings and investments at December 31 consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

	2008	2007	2006
Short-term investments			
Cash equivalents	\$ 3,217	\$ 32,981	\$ 50,374
Medium-term investments	36,734	0	0
Total short-term investments	\$ 39,951	\$ 32,981	\$ 50,374
Short-term borrowings			
Bank borrowings	\$ 1,082,500	\$ 1,260,500	\$ 2,500
Commercial paper	0	831,000	196,400
Total short-term borrowings	\$ 1,082,500	\$ 2,091,500	\$ 198,900
Net short-term borrowings	\$ (1,042,549)	(2,058,519)	\$(148,526)
Bank borrowings			
Maturity	2 days	2 to 22 days	January 2007
Weighted-average interest rate	1.63%	4.88%	5.58%
Commercial paper			
Maturity	n/a	2 to 28 days	2 to 36 days
Weighted-average interest rate	n/a	4.92%	5.32%

We were a net short-term borrower throughout 2008 and ended the year in a net short-term borrowed position of \$1,042.5 million. In 2008, total short-term borrowings reached a peak of \$2,192.7 million and amounted to \$1,082.5 million at year end. Throughout 2007, we were a net short-term borrower and ended the year in a net short-term borrowed position of \$2,058.5 million. In 2007, total short-term borrowings reached a peak of \$3,314.9 million and amounted to \$2,091.5 million at year end. During most of 2006, we were a net short-term borrower and ended the year in a net short-term borrowed position of \$148.5 million. In 2006, total short-term borrowings reached a peak of \$236.8 million and amounted to \$198.9 million at year end.

We utilize our bank lines of credit as liquidity back-up for outstanding commercial paper or draw on the bank lines to access London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)-based short-term loans to fund our borrowing requirements. Periodically, we issue commercial paper for general corporate purposes, including working capital requirements. We plan to continue this practice from time to time as circumstances warrant.

Our policy is to maintain committed credit facilities at least equal to our outstanding commercial paper. Unsecured bank lines of credit totaling \$1,672.5 million were maintained at the end of 2008, of which \$7.5 million expired January 28, 2009, \$165.0 million expires November 16, 2009, and \$1,500.0 million expires November 16, 2012. As of December 31, 2008, \$1,082.5 million of the lines of credit was drawn. Interest rates are determined at the time of borrowing based on current market conditions.

As of December 31, 2008, our commercial paper was rated A-2 and P-2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's), respectively. Both Standard & Poor's and Moody's have assigned a negative outlook to our short-term debt ratings.

Current Maturities

Current maturities of long-term debt as of December 31 are summarized below (in thousands of dollars):

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	2008	2007	2006
3-year floating loan issued 2008	\$ 60,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
6.00% 10-year notes issued 1999	250,000	0	0
Private placement notes	0	33,000	0
Other notes	1,685	2,181	630
Total	\$ 311,685	\$ 35,181	\$ 630

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Scheduled debt payments during 2008 included \$33.0 million in December to retire a private placement note, \$15.0 million in December representing the first quarterly payment under the 3-year floating rate loan issued in June and payments under various miscellaneous notes that either matured at various dates or required monthly payments. A note in the amount of \$1.3 million previously scheduled to be retired in 2008 was extended until May 2009. Scheduled debt payments during 2007 were composed of miscellaneous notes that matured at various dates.

Maturity dates for our \$311.7 million of current maturities as of December 31, 2008 are as follows: March 2009 \$15.0 million, April 2009 \$250.0 million, May 2009 \$1.3 million, June 2009 \$15.0 million, September 2009 \$15.0 million, December 2009 \$15.0 million, and various dates for the remaining \$0.4 million. We expect to retire this debt using available cash or by issuing commercial paper or other debt securities.

Debt and Capital

The calculations of our total debt as a percentage of total capital and the weighted-average stated interest rates on our long-term debt as of December 31 are summarized below (amounts in thousands, except percentages):

	2008	2007	2006
Debt			
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 311,685	\$ 35,181	\$ 630
Short-term borrowings	1,082,500	2,091,500	198,900
Long-term debt	2,153,588	1,529,828	322,064
Total debt	\$ 3,547,773	\$ 3,656,509	\$ 521,594
Capital			
Total debt	\$ 3,547,773	\$ 3,656,509	\$ 521,594
Shareholders' equity	3,522,736	3,759,600	2,010,899
Total capital	\$ 7,070,509	\$ 7,416,109	\$ 2,532,493
Total debt as a percentage of total capital	50.2%	49.3%	20.6%
Long-term debt weighted-average stated interest rate	6.72%	6.67%	6.42%

Our debt agreements do not subject us to contractual restrictions with regard to working capital or the amount we may expend for cash dividends and purchases of our stock. The percentage of consolidated debt to total capitalization (total debt as a percentage of total capital), as defined in our bank credit facility agreements, must be less than 65%. In the future, our total debt as a percentage of total capital will depend on specific investment and financing decisions. As a result of our financing to fund the November 2007 Florida Rock acquisition, our total debt as a percentage of total capital increased for the two subsequent periods above. We intend to maintain an investment grade rating and expect our operating cash flows will enable us to reduce our total debt as a percentage of total capital to a target range of 35% to 40% within the next five years, in line with our historical capital structure targets. We have made acquisitions from time to time and will continue to pursue attractive investment opportunities. Such acquisitions could be funded by using internally generated cash or issuing debt or equity securities.

During the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, long-term debt increased cumulatively by \$1,830.2 million from the \$323.4 million outstanding at December 31, 2005. During the same three-year period, shareholders' equity, net of dividends of \$541.6 million, increased by \$1,389.1 million to \$3,522.7 million.

During 2008, long-term debt increased by \$623.8 million to \$2,153.6 million, compared with a net increase of \$1,207.8 million in 2007. Both the 2008 and 2007 increases relate primarily to debt issuances to fund the November 2007 acquisition of Florida Rock. The issuances noted below effectively replace the short-term borrowings

we incurred to initially fund the cash portion of the acquisition.

In June 2008, we issued \$650.0 million of long-term notes in two series (tranches), as follows: \$250.0 million of 5-year 6.30% coupon notes and \$400.0 million of 10-year 7.00% coupon notes. These notes are presented in our consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2008 net of discounts from par in the amounts of \$0.5 million and \$0.4 million, respectively. These discounts are being amortized using the effective interest method over the

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respective lives of the notes. The effective interest rates for the 5-year and 10-year 2008 note issuances, including the effects of underwriting commissions and the settlement of the forward starting interest rate swap agreements, are 7.47% and 7.86%, respectively.

Additionally, in June 2008 we established a \$300.0 million 3-year syndicated floating rate term loan based on a spread over LIBOR (1, 2, 3 or 6-month LIBOR options). As of December 31, 2008, the spread was 1.5 percentage points above the selected LIBOR option. The spread is subject to increase if our long-term credit ratings are downgraded. This loan requires quarterly principal payments of \$15.0 million starting in December 2008 and a final principal payment of \$135.0 million in June 2011.

In December 2007, we issued \$1,225.0 million of long-term notes in four related series (tranches), as follows: \$325.0 million of 3-year floating rate notes, \$300.0 million of 5-year 5.60% coupon notes, \$350.0 million of 10-year 6.40% coupon notes and \$250.0 million of 30-year 7.15% coupon notes. Concurrent with the issuance of the notes, we entered into an interest rate swap agreement on the \$325.0 million 3-year floating rate notes to convert them to a fixed interest rate of 5.25%. These notes are presented in our financial statements net of discounts from par in the amounts of \$0.0 million, \$0.5 million, \$0.2 million and \$0.7 million, respectively. These discounts are being amortized using the effective interest method over the respective lives of the notes. The effective interest rates for these notes, including the effects of underwriting commissions and other debt issuance costs, the above mentioned interest rate swap agreement and the settlement of the forward starting interest rate swap agreements, are 5.41%, 6.58%, 7.39% and 8.04% for the 3-year, 5-year, 10-year and 30-year notes, respectively.

Additionally, as a result of the November 2007 Florida Rock acquisition, we assumed existing debt as follows: \$17.6 million of variable-rate tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds of which \$3.6 million is secured, unsecured notes in the amount of \$0.6 million and secured notes in the amount of \$1.4 million as of December 31, 2008.

As of December 31, 2008, Standard & Poor's and Moody's rated our public long-term debt at the BBB+ and Baa2 level, respectively. Both Standard & Poor's and Moody's have assigned a negative outlook to our long-term debt ratings.

Table of Contents**Contractual Obligations and Credit Facilities**

Our obligations to make future payments under contracts as of December 31, 2008 are summarized in the table below (in millions of dollars):

	Note Reference	Total	Payments Due by Year			
			2009	2010-2011	2012-2013	Thereafter
Cash Contractual Obligations						
Short-term borrowings						
Lines of credit drawn ¹	Note 6	\$ 1,082.5	\$ 1,082.5	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
Interest payments		1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long-term debt						
Principal payments	Note 6	2,467.1	311.7	570.6	562.6	1,022.2
Interest payments	Note 6	1,199.6	137.8	233.6	179.2	649.0
Operating leases	Note 7	125.4	27.9	39.2	27.9	30.4
Mineral royalties	Note 12	194.9	14.8	21.2	15.4	143.5
Unconditional purchase obligations						
Capital	Note 12	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Noncapital ²	Note 12	88.4	28.9	25.4	16.8	17.3
Benefit plans ³	Note 10	528.7	38.7	86.7	99.3	304.0
Total cash contractual obligations ^{4,5}		\$ 5,713.0	\$ 1,668.7	\$ 976.7	\$ 901.2	\$ 2,166.4

¹ Lines of credit drawn represent borrowings under our five-year credit facility which expires November 16, 2012.

² Noncapital unconditional purchase obligations relate primarily to transportation and electrical contracts.

³ Payments in Thereafter column for

benefit plans are
for the years
2014-2018.

- 4 The above table excludes discounted asset retirement obligations in the amount of \$173.4 million at December 31, 2008, the majority of which have an estimated settlement date beyond 2013 (see Note 17 to the consolidated financial statements).
- 5 The above table excludes unrecognized tax benefits in the amount of \$18.1 million at December 31, 2008, as we cannot make a reasonably reliable estimate of the amount and period of related future payment of these FIN 48 liabilities (for more details, see Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements).