

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC
Form 10-Q
May 09, 2008

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

**x QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2008

OR

**o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 000-50070

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

13-4181699

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

20 Custom House Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110

(Address of principal executive offices including zip code)

(617) 951-0600

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See 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
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

As of May 6, 2008, there were 16,259,712 shares of common stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share outstanding.

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

Table of Contents

| | Page No. |
|----------------------|--|
| PART I. | FINANCIAL INFORMATION |
| Item 1. | Financial Statements |
| | Consolidated Balance Sheets at March 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007 (Unaudited) |
| | 3 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Operations |
| | for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 (Unaudited) |
| | 4 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity |
| | for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 (Unaudited) |
| | 5 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income |
| | for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 (Unaudited) |
| | 6 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows |
| | for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 (Unaudited) |
| | 7 |
| | Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements |
| | 8 |
| Item 2. | Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations |
| | Executive Summary and Overview |
| | 18 |
| | Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates |
| | 22 |
| | Results of Operations – Three Months Ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 |
| | 30 |
| | Liquidity and Capital Resources |
| | 34 |
| | Forward-Looking Statements |
| | 36 |
| Item 3. | Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk |
| | 37 |
| Item 4. | Controls and Procedures |
| | 37 |
| PART II. | OTHER INFORMATION |
| Item 1. | Legal Proceedings |
| | 38 |
| Item 1A. | Risk Factors |
| | 38 |
| Item 2. | Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds |
| | 38 |
| Item 3. | Defaults upon Senior Securities |
| | 38 |
| Item 4. | Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders |
| | 38 |
| Item 5. | Other Information |
| | 38 |
| Item 6. | Exhibits |
| | 38 |
| SIGNATURE | 39 |
| EXHIBIT INDEX | 40 |

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands, except share data)

| | March 31, 2008 | December 31, 2007 |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Investment securities available for sale: | | |
| Fixed maturities, at fair value (amortized cost: \$1,005,567 and \$995,360) | \$ 1,018,477 | \$ 1,002,028 |
| Equity securities, at fair value (cost: \$8,613 and \$6,794) | 8,619 | 6,977 |
| Total investment securities | 1,027,096 | 1,009,005 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 28,050 | 46,311 |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts | 160,279 | 156,343 |
| Accrued investment income | 10,533 | 10,972 |
| Receivable from reinsurers related to paid loss and loss adjustment expenses | 12,444 | 13,047 |
| Receivable from reinsurers related to unpaid loss and loss adjustment expenses | 79,818 | 84,290 |
| Ceded unearned premiums | 30,287 | 28,818 |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs | 51,271 | 48,652 |
| Deferred income taxes | 11,847 | 13,388 |
| Equity and deposits in pools | 28,660 | 26,235 |
| Other assets | 11,163 | 9,931 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,451,448 | \$ 1,446,992 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Loss and loss adjustment expense reserves | \$ 467,940 | \$ 477,720 |
| Unearned premium reserves | 335,513 | 320,545 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 28,024 | 50,023 |
| Taxes payable | 5,284 | 120 |
| Outstanding claims drafts | 17,701 | 17,922 |
| Payable to reinsurers | 11,932 | 10,662 |
| Total liabilities | 866,394 | 876,992 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 7) | | |
| Shareholders equity | | |
| Common stock: \$0.01 par value; 30,000,000 shares authorized; 16,373,008 and 16,242,213 shares issued | 164 | 162 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 135,210 | 134,224 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of taxes | 8,396 | 4,453 |
| Retained earnings | 445,313 | 432,746 |
| Treasury stock, at cost; 122,324 and 48,124 shares | (4,029) | (1,585) |
| Total shareholders equity | 585,054 | 570,000 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders equity | \$ 1,451,448 | \$ 1,446,992 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Operations

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands, except per share and share data)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Net earned premiums | \$ 150,748 | \$ 153,590 |
| Net investment income | 11,528 | 11,039 |
| Net realized gains on investments | 31 | 71 |
| Finance and other service income | 4,498 | 3,993 |
| Total revenue | 166,805 | 168,693 |
| Losses and loss adjustment expenses | 95,870 | 92,558 |
| Underwriting, operating and related expenses | 44,465 | 40,698 |
| Interest expenses | 19 | 22 |
| Total expenses | 140,354 | 133,278 |
| Income before income taxes | 26,451 | 35,415 |
| Income tax expense | 7,406 | 10,766 |
| Net income | \$ 19,045 | \$ 24,649 |
| Earnings per weighted average common share: | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.19 | \$ 1.54 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.18 | \$ 1.53 |
| Cash dividends paid per common share | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.25 |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 16,024,794 | 15,992,229 |
| Diluted | 16,082,162 | 16,064,746 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands)

| | Common Stock | Additional Paid-in Capital | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, Net of Taxes | Retained Earnings | Treasury Stock | Total Shareholders Equity |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Balance at December 31, 2006 | \$ 161 | \$ 129,785 | \$ 21 | \$ 366,381 | \$ | \$ 496,348 |
| Net income, January 1 to March 31, 2007 | | | | 24,649 | | 24,649 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of deferred federal income taxes | | | 1,155 | | | 1,155 |
| Exercise of options and unearned compensation on restricted stock, net of deferred federal income taxes | 1 | 1,301 | | | | 1,302 |
| Dividends paid | | | | (4,043) | | (4,043) |
| Balance at March 31, 2007 | \$ 162 | \$ 131,086 | \$ 1,176 | \$ 386,987 | \$ | \$ 519,411 |

| | Common Stock | Additional Paid-in Capital | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, Net of Taxes | Retained Earnings | Treasury Stock | Total Shareholders Equity |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Balance at December 31, 2007 | \$ 162 | \$ 134,224 | \$ 4,453 | \$ 432,746 | \$ (1,585) | \$ 570,000 |
| Net income, January 1 to March 31, 2008 | | | | 19,045 | | 19,045 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of deferred federal income taxes | | | 3,943 | | | 3,943 |
| Exercise of options and unearned compensation on restricted stock, net of deferred federal income taxes | 2 | 986 | | | | 988 |
| Dividends paid | | | | (6,478) | | (6,478) |
| Acquisition of treasury stock | | | | | (2,444) | (2,444) |
| Balance at March 31, 2008 | \$ 164 | \$ 135,210 | \$ 8,396 | \$ 445,313 | \$ (4,029) | \$ 585,054 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income
(Unaudited)
(Dollars in thousands)

| | Three Months Ended | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Net income | \$ 19,045 | \$ 24,649 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | |
| Unrealized holding gains during the period, net of tax expense of \$2,134 and \$646 | 3,963 | 1,201 |
| Reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income, net of tax benefit of \$(11) and \$(25) | (20) | (46) |
| Unrealized gains on securities available for sale | 3,943 | 1,155 |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 22,988 | \$ 25,804 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$ 19,045 | \$ 24,649 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization, net | 2,842 | 2,201 |
| (Provision) benefit for deferred income taxes | (582) | 71 |
| Net realized gains on investments | (31) | (71) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts receivable | (3,936) | (13,804) |
| Accrued investment income | 439 | (143) |
| Receivable from reinsurers | 5,075 | (1,423) |
| Ceded unearned premiums | (1,469) | (718) |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs | (2,619) | (3,175) |
| Other assets | (3,289) | (1,331) |
| Loss and loss adjustment expense reserves | (9,780) | 4,092 |
| Unearned premium reserves | 14,968 | 21,042 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (21,999) | (22,978) |
| Payable to reinsurers | 1,270 | 2,448 |
| Other liabilities | 4,821 | 8,131 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 4,755 | 18,991 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Fixed maturities purchased | (42,064) | (115,481) |
| Equity securities purchased | (2,379) | (3,241) |
| Proceeds from sales of fixed maturities | 23,897 | 138,817 |
| Proceeds from maturities of fixed maturities | 6,675 | 5,000 |
| Proceed from sales of equity securities | 560 | 979 |
| Fixed assets purchased | (871) | (1,346) |
| Net cash (used for) provided by investing activities | (14,182) | 24,728 |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | |
| Proceeds and excess tax benefits from exercise of stock options | 88 | 181 |
| Dividends paid to shareholders | (6,478) | (4,043) |
| Acquisition of treasury stock | (2,444) | |
| Net cash used for financing activities | (8,834) | (3,862) |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents | (18,261) | 39,857 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 46,311 | 26,283 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ 28,050 | \$ 66,140 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

1. Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

The consolidated financial statements include Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Company). The subsidiaries consist of Safety Insurance Company, Safety Indemnity Insurance Company, Safety Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Whiteshirts Asset Management Corporation (WAMC), and Whiteshirts Management Corporation, which is WAMC 's holding company. All intercompany transactions have been eliminated. Prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

The financial information as of March 31, 2008 and for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 is unaudited; however, in the opinion of the Company, the information includes all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the financial condition and results of operations for the periods. These unaudited consolidated financial statements may not be indicative of financial results for the full year and should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements included in the Company 's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on March 14, 2008.

The Company is a leading provider of personal lines property and casualty insurance focused exclusively on the Massachusetts market. The Company 's principal product line is private passenger automobile insurance, which accounted for 74.6% of its direct written premiums in 2007. The Company operates through its insurance company subsidiaries, Safety Insurance Company, Safety Indemnity Insurance Company and Safety Property and Casualty Company (together referred to as the Insurance Subsidiaries).

On June 20, 2007, the Company applied for admission in the State of New Hampshire for a Certificate of Authority to transact insurance business. On October 16, 2007, the State of New Hampshire Insurance Department issued a Certificate of Authority for property and casualty insurance to each of the Company 's insurance company subsidiaries. To date, the Company has not commenced writing business in New Hampshire.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No.157, Fair Value Measurements (FAS 157). FAS 157 defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. This standard applies to fair value measurements already required or permitted by existing standards and is effective

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. See Note 5 for further information regarding the Company's investments and fair value measurements.

In February 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities - Including an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 115, which is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. This statement permits an entity to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value at specified election dates. Subsequent unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected will be reported in earnings. The Company has chosen not to elect the fair value option permitted by this statement.

In March 2008, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 161, Disclosures About Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133, which is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. This statement requires enhanced disclosures about how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under Statement No. 133 and its related interpretations, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. The Company does not expect this statement will have a material impact on its consolidated results of operations or financial position.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

3. Earnings per Weighted Average Common Share

Basic earnings per weighted average common share (EPS) are calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of basic common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS are calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of basic common shares outstanding and the net effect of potentially dilutive common shares. At March 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company's potentially dilutive instruments were common shares under options of 330,388, and 366,368, and common shares under restriction of 230,325, and 176,781, respectively.

Basic and diluted EPS were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Earnings per weighted average common share: | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.19 | \$ 1.54 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.18 | \$ 1.53 |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 16,024,794 | 15,992,229 |
| Effect of dilutive securities: | | |
| Stock options | 57,368 | 68,226 |
| Restricted stock | | 4,291 |
| Diluted | 16,082,162 | 16,064,746 |

Diluted EPS excludes stock options with exercise prices and exercise tax benefits greater than the average market price of the Company's common stock during the period because their inclusion would be anti-dilutive. There were 174,925 and 186,225 anti-dilutive stock options for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Diluted EPS also excludes common shares under restriction with a fair value on the grant date greater than the average market price of the Company's common stock during the period because their inclusion would be anti-dilutive. There were 230,325 and 65,760 anti-dilutive shares under restriction for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

4. Stock-Based Compensation

Management Omnibus Incentive Plan

Long-term incentive compensation is provided under the Company's 2002 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan (the Incentive Plan) which provides for a variety of stock-based compensation awards, including nonqualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock (RS) awards.

The maximum number of shares of common stock with respect to which awards may be granted is 2,500,000. Shares of stock covered by an award under the Incentive Plan that are forfeited will again be available for issuance in connection with future grants of awards under the plan. At March 31, 2008, there were 1,056,595 shares available for future grant. The Board and the Compensation Committee intend to issue more awards under the Incentive Plan in the future.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

A summary of stock based awards granted under the Incentive Plan during the three months ended March 31, 2008 is as follows:

| Type of Equity Awarded | Effective Date | Number of Awards Granted | Fair Value per Share (1) | Vesting Terms |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| RS | March 10, 2008 | 76,816 | \$ 35.80 | 3 years, 30%-30%-40% |
| RS | March 10, 2008 | 4,000 | \$ 35.80 | No vesting period (2) |
| RS | March 20, 2008 | 45,779 | \$ 34.37 | 5 years, 20% annually |

(1) The fair value per share of the restricted stock grant is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date.

(2) The shares cannot be sold, assigned, pledged, or otherwise transferred, encumbered or disposed of until the recipient is no longer a member of the Board of Directors.

Accounting and Reporting for Stock-Based Awards

Effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 123R (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment (FAS 123R), which requires the Company to measure and recognize the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments. Under the provisions of FAS 123R, share-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date, based on the fair value of the award, and is recognized as an expense over the requisite service period (generally the vesting period of the equity grant).

As permitted by FAS 123R, the Company elected the modified prospective transition method. Under the modified prospective transition method, (i) compensation expense for share-based awards granted prior to January 1, 2006 is recognized over the remaining service period using the compensation cost calculated for pro forma disclosure purposes under FAS 123 as adjusted to incorporate forfeiture assumptions under FAS 123R, and (ii) compensation expense for all share-based awards granted subsequent to December 31, 2005 is based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of FAS 123R.

Stock Options

The fair value of stock options used to compute net income and earnings per share for the three month period ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 is the estimated fair value at grant date using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Expected dividend yield | 1.36% - 2.52% | 1.36% - 2.52% |
| Expected volatility | 0.20 - 0.36 | 0.20 - 0.36 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 3.23% - 4.76% | 3.23% - 4.76% |
| Expected holding period | 6.5 - 7 years | 6.5 - 7 years |

Expected dividend yield is the Company's dividend yield on the measurement date and is based on the assumption that the current yield will continue in the future. Expected volatility is based on historical volatility of the Company's common stock as well as the volatility of a peer group of property and casualty insurers measured for a period equal to the expected holding period of the option. The risk-free interest rate is based upon the yield on the measurement date of a zero-coupon U.S. Treasury bond with a maturity period equal to the expected holding period of the option. The expected holding period is based upon the simplified method provided in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107,

Share-Based Payment, which utilizes the mid-points between the vesting dates and the expiration date of the option award to calculate the overall expected term. There were no stock options granted during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

The following table summarizes stock option activity under the Incentive Plan for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

| | Shares Under Option | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term | Aggregate Intrinsic Value |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Outstanding at beginning of year | 334,588 | \$ 28.25 | | |
| Exercised | (4,200) | \$ 14.04 | | |
| Outstanding at end of period | 330,388 | \$ 28.43 | 6.5 years | \$ 2,995 |
| Exercisable at end of period | 208,153 | \$ 23.74 | 6.0 years | \$ 2,617 |

The aggregate intrinsic value in the preceding table represents the total pretax intrinsic value, based upon the Company's closing stock price of \$34.13 on March 31, 2008, which would have been received by the option holders had all option holders exercised their options as of that date. The range of exercise prices on stock options outstanding under the Incentive Plan was \$12.00 to \$42.85 at March 31, 2008 and 2007. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$84, and \$200, respectively.

A summary of the status of non-vested options as of March 31, 2008, is presented below.

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Exercise Price |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Non-vested at beginning of year | 192,580 | \$ 33.62 |
| Vested | (70,345) | \$ 28.75 |
| Non-vested at end of period | 122,235 | \$ 36.43 |

As of March 31, 2008, there was \$1,337 of unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested option awards that is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.7 years.

Cash received from options exercised was \$59, and \$106 for the three months ended March 31, 2008, and 2007, respectively.

Restricted Stock

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Restricted stock awarded to employees in the form of unvested shares is recorded at the market value of the Company's common stock on the grant date and amortized ratably as expense over the requisite service period.

The following table summarizes restricted stock activity under the Incentive Plan during the three months ended March 31, 2008.

| | Shares Under Restriction | | Weighted Average Fair Value |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|--|
| Outstanding at beginning of the year | 186,751 | \$ | 41.85 |
| Granted | 126,595 | \$ | 35.28 |
| Vested and unrestricted | (67,021) | \$ | 40.79 |
| Outstanding at end of period | 246,325 | \$ | 38.77 |

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

As of March 31, 2008, there was \$8,697 of unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested restricted stock awards that is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.0 years. The total fair value of the shares that were vested and unrestricted during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 was \$2,733 and \$1,996, respectively. For the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company recorded compensation expense related to restricted stock of \$566, and \$468 net of income tax benefits of \$304, and \$252, respectively.

5. Investments

The gross unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments in fixed maturity securities and equity securities, including interests in mutual funds, was as follows:

| | March 31, 2008 | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Cost or Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies(1) | \$ 320,422 | \$ 9,102 | \$ (372) | \$ 329,152 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 517,943 | 8,686 | (2,410) | 524,219 |
| Asset-backed securities (1) | 94,269 | 75 | (2,997) | 91,347 |
| Corporate and other securities | 72,933 | 1,735 | (909) | 73,759 |
| Subtotal, fixed maturity securities | 1,005,567 | 19,598 | (6,688) | 1,018,477 |
| Equity securities | 8,613 | 50 | (44) | 8,619 |
| Totals | \$ 1,014,180 | \$ 19,648 | \$ (6,732) | \$ 1,027,096 |

(1) Obligations of U.S. Government agencies include collateralized mortgage obligations issued, guaranteed and/or insured by the following issuers: Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA). The total of these fixed maturity securities was \$288,907 at amortized cost and \$295,158 at fair value as of March 31, 2008. As such, the asset-backed securities presented exclude such issuers already presented under U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government Agencies.

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

| | March 31, 2008 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Estimated Fair Value |
| Due in one year or less | \$ 20,387 | \$ 20,506 |

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Due after one year through five years | 256,384 | 264,185 |
| Due after five years through ten years | 166,754 | 169,574 |
| Due after ten years through twenty years | 170,582 | 169,529 |
| Due after twenty years | 8,284 | 8,178 |
| Asset-backed securities | 383,176 | 386,505 |
| Totals | \$ 1,005,567 | \$ 1,018,477 |

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

The gross realized gains (losses) on sales of fixed maturities and equity securities were as follows for the periods indicated:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Gross realized gains | | |
| Fixed maturity securities | \$ 56 | \$ 843 |
| Equity securities | | 93 |
| Gross realized losses | | |
| Fixed maturity securities | (25) | (865) |
| Net realized gains on investments | \$ 31 | \$ 71 |

Proceeds from fixed maturities maturing were \$6,675, and \$5,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The following table illustrates the gross unrealized losses included in the Company's investment portfolio and the fair value of those securities aggregated by investment category. The table also illustrates the length of time that they have been in a continuous unrealized loss position.

| | Less than 12 Months | | As of March 31, 2008 12 Months or More | | Total | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies | \$ 36,934 | \$ 73 | \$ 22,971 | \$ 299 | \$ 59,905 | \$ 372 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 95,612 | 2,020 | 36,956 | 390 | 132,568 | 2,410 |
| Asset-backed securities | 25,182 | 1,422 | 48,023 | 1,575 | 73,205 | 2,997 |
| Corporate and other securities | 7,803 | 228 | 14,708 | 681 | 22,511 | 909 |
| Subtotal, fixed maturity securities | 165,531 | 3,743 | 122,658 | 2,945 | 288,189 | 6,688 |
| Equity securities | 1,438 | 44 | | | 1,438 | 44 |
| Total temporarily impaired securities | \$ 166,969 | \$ 3,787 | \$ 122,658 | \$ 2,945 | \$ 289,627 | \$ 6,732 |

The Company's investment portfolio included 135 securities in an unrealized loss position at March 31, 2008. The Company's methodology of assessing other-than-temporary impairment is based upon analysis of each security as of the balance sheet date and considers various factors including the length of time and the extent to which fair value has been less than the cost, the financial condition and the near term prospects of the issuer, whether the debtor is current on its contractually obligated interest and principal payments, and the Company's intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery of its costs.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

As of March 31, 2008, the Company's fixed income securities portfolio was comprised entirely of investment grade corporate fixed maturity securities, U.S. Government and Agency securities, and asset-backed securities (i.e., all securities received a rating assigned by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. of Baa or higher, except the few securities not rated by Moody's which received Standard & Poor's ratings of A- or higher, as well as a rating assigned by the Securities Valuation Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners of 1 or 2). The Company holds no subprime mortgage debt securities. All of the Company's holdings in mortgage-backed securities are either U.S. Government or Agency guaranteed or are rated Aaa/AAA. Management continues to expect the recent subprime mortgage market deterioration to have little or no effect on the Company's portfolio. The unrealized losses recorded on the fixed maturity investment portfolio at March 31, 2008, resulted from fluctuations in market interest rates as opposed to fundamental changes in the credit quality of the issuers of such securities. Therefore, these decreases in values are viewed as being temporary as the Company has the intent and ability to retain such investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery in fair value.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries**Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements****(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)**

During the three months ended March 31, 2008, and 2007, there was no significant deterioration in the credit quality of any of the Company's holdings and no other-than-temporary impairment charges were recorded related to the Company's portfolio of investment securities.

Net Investment Income

The components of net investment income were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Interest and dividends on fixed maturities | \$ 11,523 | \$ 10,871 |
| Dividends on equity securities | 51 | 26 |
| Interest on cash and cash equivalents | 289 | 468 |
| Total investment income | 11,863 | 11,365 |
| Investment expenses | 335 | 326 |
| Net investment income | \$ 11,528 | \$ 11,039 |

Fair Value Measurements

On January 1, 2008, the Company adopted FAS 157. FAS 157 provides a revised definition of fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands financial statement disclosure requirements for fair value information. Under FAS 157, fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants (an exit price). The Statement establishes a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between inputs based on market data from independent sources (observable inputs) and a reporting entity's internal assumptions based upon the best information available when external market data is limited or unavailable (unobservable inputs). The fair value hierarchy in FAS 157 prioritizes fair value measurements into three levels based on the nature of the inputs as follows:

Level 1 Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities;

Level 2 Valuations based on observable inputs that do not meet the criteria for Level 1, including quoted prices in inactive markets and quoted prices in active markets for similar, but not identical instruments; and

Level 3 Valuations based on unobservable inputs.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The Company uses observable inputs for the vast majority of its investment portfolio. Fair value measurements for securities for which quoted prices are unavailable are estimated based upon reference to observable inputs, such as benchmark interest rates, market comparables, broker quotes and other relevant inputs. In circumstances where quoted prices or observable inputs are adjusted to reflect management's best estimate of fair value, such fair value measurements are considered a lower level measurement in the FAS 157 fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the Company's fair value measurements for investments by level.

| | March 31, 2008 | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Total | Level 1 Inputs | Level 2 Inputs | Level 3 Inputs |
| Fixed maturity securities | \$ 1,018,477 | \$ | \$ 1,014,808 | \$ 3,669 |
| Equity securities | 8,619 | 8,619 | | |
| Total investment securities | \$ 1,027,096 | \$ 8,619 | \$ 1,014,808 | \$ 3,669 |

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

The following table summarizes the changes in the Company's Level 3 fair value measurements for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

| | Fixed Maturity Securities | Equity Securities | Total |
|--|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance at January 1, 2008 | \$ 3,758 | \$ | \$ 3,758 |
| Net gains and losses included in earnings | | | |
| Net losses included in other comprehensive income | (89) | | (89) |
| Purchases and sales | | | |
| Transfers in (out) of Level 3 | | | |
| Balance at March 31, 2008 | \$ 3,669 | \$ | \$ 3,669 |
| Amount of total losses included in earnings attributable to the change in unrealized losses related to assets still held at March 31, 2008 | \$ | \$ | \$ |

On January 1 and March 31, 2008, one fixed maturity security was manually priced solely using broker quotes. This was deemed to render the fair value measurements as based upon unobservable inputs and accordingly, it was classified within Level 3. Transfers in and out of Level 3 would be attributable to changes in the ability to observe significant inputs in determining fair value exit pricing. As noted in the table above, no transfers were made in or out of Level 3 inputs during the three months ended March 31, 2008.

6. Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense (LAE) Reserves

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of beginning and ending reserves for losses and LAE, as shown in the Company's consolidated financial statements for the periods indicated:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Reserves for losses and LAE at beginning of year | \$ 477,720 | \$ 449,444 |
| Less reinsurance recoverable on unpaid losses and LAE | (84,290) | (78,464) |
| Net reserves for losses and LAE at beginning of year | 393,430 | 370,980 |
| Incurred losses and LAE, related to: | | |
| Current year | 105,082 | 101,924 |
| Prior years | (9,212) | (9,366) |
| Total incurred losses and LAE | 95,870 | 92,558 |
| Paid losses and LAE related to: | | |
| Current year | 38,643 | 36,112 |
| Prior years | 62,535 | 53,696 |
| Total paid losses and LAE | 101,178 | 89,808 |
| Net reserves for losses and LAE at end of period | 388,122 | 373,730 |
| Plus reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses and LAE | 79,818 | 79,806 |

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|----|----------------|----|---------|
| Reserves for losses and LAE at end of period | \$ | 467,940 | \$ | 453,536 |
|--|----|----------------|----|---------|

At the end of each period, the reserves were re-estimated for all prior accident years. The Company's prior year reserves decreased by \$9,212, and \$9,366 for the three months ended March 31, 2008, and 2007, respectively. The decreases in prior year reserves during the three months ended March 31, 2008 resulted from re-estimations of prior years ultimate loss and LAE liabilities and is primarily composed of reductions of \$7,334 in our retained automobile reserves and \$1,384 in reserves assumed from Commonwealth Automobile Reinsurers (CAR). The 2007 decrease is primarily composed of reductions of \$4,934 in our retained automobile reserves and \$4,127 in reserves assumed from CAR.

Due to the nature of the risks that the Company underwrites and has historically underwritten, management does not believe that it has an exposure to asbestos or environmental pollution liabilities.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

7. Commitments and Contingencies

Various claims, generally incidental to the conduct of normal business, are pending or alleged against the Company from time to time. In the opinion of management, based in part on the advice of legal counsel, the ultimate resolution of such claims will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements. However, if estimates of the ultimate resolutions of those proceedings are revised, liabilities related to those proceedings could be adjusted in the near term.

Massachusetts law requires that insurers licensed to do business in Massachusetts participate in the Massachusetts Insurers Insolvency Fund (Insolvency Fund). Members of the Insolvency Fund are assessed a proportionate share of the obligations and expenses of the Insolvency Fund in connection with an insolvent insurer. It is anticipated that there will be additional assessments from time to time relating to various insolvencies. Although the timing and amounts of any future assessments are not known, based upon existing knowledge, management's opinion is that such future assessments will not have a material effect upon the financial position of the Company.

8. Debt

The Company has a \$30,000 revolving credit facility with Citizens Bank of Massachusetts which expires on June 17, 2008. Loans under the credit facility bear interest at the Company's option at either (i) the LIBOR rate plus 1.5% per annum or (ii) the higher of Citizens Bank of Massachusetts' prime rate or 0.5% above the federal funds rate plus 1.5% per annum. Interest only is payable prior to maturity. The obligations of the Company under the credit facility are secured by pledges of the Company's assets and the capital stock of its operating subsidiaries. The credit facility is guaranteed by the non-insurance company subsidiaries of the Company. The credit facility contains covenants including requirements to maintain minimum risk based capital ratios and statutory surplus of Safety Insurance Company as well as limitations or restrictions on indebtedness, liens, dividends, and other matters. As of March 31, 2008, the Company was in compliance with all such covenants.

The Company had no amounts outstanding on its credit facility at March 31, 2008 and at December 31, 2007. The credit facility commitment fee included in interest expenses was computed at a rate of 0.25% on the \$30,000 commitment at March 31, 2008 and 2007.

The Company expects that the credit facility will be renewed prior to expiration.

9. Income Taxes

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Federal income tax expense for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 has been computed using estimated effective tax rates. These rates are revised, if necessary, at the end of each successive interim period to reflect the current estimates of the annual effective tax rates.

The Company adopted the provisions of FIN 48 on January 1, 2007. This interpretation prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. FIN 48 requires that the Company determine whether the benefits of its tax positions have a more likely than not chance of being sustained upon audit based upon the technical merits of the tax position. This interpretation also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. As a result of the implementation of FIN 48, the Company recognized no adjustment to its consolidated balance sheet or statement of operations. The Company believes that the positions taken on its income tax returns for open tax years will be sustained upon examination by the IRS. Therefore, the Company has not recorded a liability under FIN 48.

During the three months ended March 31, 2008, there were no material changes to the amount of the Company's unrecognized tax benefits or to any assumptions regarding the amount of its FIN 48 liability.

As of March 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Company was no longer subject to examination of its U.S. federal tax returns for years prior to 2004.

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

10. Share Repurchase Program

On August 3, 2007, the Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program of up to \$30,000 of the Company's outstanding common shares. Under the program, the Company may repurchase shares of its common stock for cash in public or private transactions, in the open market or otherwise, at management's discretion. The timing of such repurchases and actual number of shares repurchased depend on a variety of factors including price, market conditions and applicable regulatory and corporate requirements. The program does not require the Company to repurchase any specific number of shares and may be modified, suspended or terminated at any time without prior notice.

During the three months ended March 31, 2008, the Company purchased 74,200 of its common shares on the open market under the program at a cost of \$2,444. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2007, the Company purchased 48,124 of its common shares on the open market under the program at a cost of \$1,585.

Item 2.

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our accompanying consolidated financial statements and notes thereto, which appear elsewhere in this document. In this discussion, all dollar amounts are presented in thousands, except share and per share data.

The following discussion contains forward-looking statements. We intend statements which are not historical in nature to be, and are hereby identified as forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In addition, the Company's senior management may make forward-looking statements orally to analysts, investors, the media and others. This safe harbor requires that we specify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of us. We cannot promise that our expectations in such forward-looking statements will turn out to be correct. Our actual results could be materially different from and worse than our expectations. See Forward-Looking Statements below for specific important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements.

Executive Summary and Overview

In this discussion, Safety refers to Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and our Company, we, us and our refer to Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries consist of Safety Insurance Company (Safety Insurance), Safety Indemnity Insurance Company (Safety Indemnity), Safety Property and Casualty Insurance Company (Safety P&C), Whiteshirts Asset Management Corporation (WAMC), and Whiteshirts Management Corporation, which is WAMC's holding company.

We are a leading provider of private passenger automobile insurance in Massachusetts. In addition to private passenger automobile insurance (which represented 74.6% of our direct written premiums in 2007), we offer a portfolio of other insurance products, including commercial automobile (13.3% of 2007 direct written premiums), homeowners (9.3% of 2007 direct written premiums), dwelling fire, umbrella and business owner policies (totaling 2.8% of 2007 direct written premiums). Operating exclusively in Massachusetts through our insurance company subsidiaries, Safety Insurance, Safety Indemnity, and Safety P&C, (together referred to as the Insurance Subsidiaries), we have established strong relationships with 814 independent insurance agents in 916 locations throughout Massachusetts. We have used these relationships and our extensive knowledge of the Massachusetts market to become the second largest private passenger automobile and third largest commercial automobile insurance carrier in Massachusetts, capturing an approximate 11.4% and 11.1% share respectively of the Massachusetts automobile market in 2007, according to the Commonwealth Automobile Reinsurers (CAR) Cession Volume Analysis Report of February 15, 2008, based on automobile exposures. These statistics total, for each vehicle insured, the number of months during the year insurance for that vehicle is in effect, to arrive at an aggregate number of car-months for each insurer; this aggregate number, divided by 12, equals the insurer's number of car-years, a measure we refer to in this discussion as automobile exposures.

On June 20, 2007, we applied for admission in the State of New Hampshire for a Certificate of Authority to transact insurance business. On October 16, 2007, the State of New Hampshire Insurance Department issued a Certificate of Authority for property and casualty insurance to each of our Insurance Subsidiaries. We anticipate that we will begin writing business in New Hampshire late in 2008.

Massachusetts Automobile Insurance Market

We have been subject to extensive regulation in the private passenger automobile insurance industry in Massachusetts, which represented 74.6% of our direct written premiums in 2007. Owners of registered automobiles in Massachusetts are required to maintain minimum automobile insurance coverage. Prior to April 1, 2008, the Commissioner of Insurance (the Commissioner) had fixed and established the maximum rates that could be charged for private passenger automobile insurance. Prior to April 1, 2008, as a servicing carrier of CAR, we were required to issue a policy to all qualified applicants. CAR operates at an underwriting deficit. This deficit is allocated among every Massachusetts automobile insurance company, including us, based on a complex formula that takes into consideration a company's voluntary market share, the rate at which it cedes business to CAR, and the company's utilization of a credit system CAR has designed to encourage carriers to reduce their use of CAR. In addition, based on our market share, we have been assigned certain licensed producers by CAR that have been unable to obtain a voluntary contract with another insurer. We call these agents Exclusive Representative Producers, or ERPs.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

On July 16, 2007, the Commissioner issued two decisions that significantly changed how private passenger automobile insurance is regulated in Massachusetts. In the first decision, the Commissioner announced that she would not fix and establish the maximum premium rates that can be charged for private passenger automobile insurance policies issued or renewed after April 1, 2008. In a letter accompanying the decision, the Commissioner stated that in place of the fixed and established system, she would institute a system that introduces competitive pricing to the Massachusetts private passenger automobile insurance market, which the Commissioner has described as managed competition (Managed Competition). On October 5, 2007, the Commissioner issued a Competitive Rating Regulation; 211 CMR 79.00: Private Passenger Motor Vehicle Insurance Rates that describes the technical details of Managed Competition (the Regulation). The Regulation governs the rate filing that an insurer can file. Safety filed its rate filing on November 19, 2007 and amended it on November 27, 2007.

In addition, the Regulation prohibits the following rating and underwriting factors:

- *Rating Factors:* Insurers are prohibited from using credit information, sex, marital status, race, creed, national origin, religion, occupation, income, education, home ownership and age (except to produce the reduction in rates for insureds age 65 and over).
- *Underwriting Factors:* Insurers are prohibited from refusing to issue or renew a private passenger auto insurance policy based on credit information, sex, marital status, race, creed, national origin, religion, age, occupation, income, principal place of garaging, education and home ownership.

We are not able at this time to determine what effect the Regulation will have on our business.

The Commissioner has also issued a number of Regulatory Review Standards Applicable to Private Passenger Motor Vehicle Insurance (the Rating Bulletins). Rating Bulletins 2007-07 and 2007-08 limit rates to not more than 110% of what the 2007 premium rate level would have been for each risk. Rating Bulletin 2007-10 sets standards for filing policy forms and application for insurance. Rating Bulletin 2007-11 offers guidance on required and optional discounts, and Rating Bulletin 2007-12 limits the ability of companies to offer different rate levels within companies of the same insurance group.

In the second decision, the Commissioner approved and set a time table for the implementation of new CAR rules pursuant to which the current reinsurance program run by CAR will be replaced with an assigned risk plan, the Massachusetts Automobile Insurance Plan (MAIP). Under these new rules, we will no longer be assigned ERPs whose business we must insure (subject to the option of ceding it to CAR) and instead, we will be assigned individual policies by CAR. The MAIP will begin with business effective on or after April 1, 2008 for new business and those risks that have 10 or more Safe Driver Points. The last policy effective date on which any risk can be ceded to CAR in accordance with the current reinsurance program is March 31, 2009. We are not able at this time to determine what effect these new CAR rules will have on our business.

The Commissioner's decision to implement an assigned risk plan brought to a close a lengthy period of regulatory and judicial consideration of the Massachusetts private passenger residual market.

CAR runs a reinsurance pool for commercial automobile policies and beginning January 1, 2006, CAR implemented a Limited Servicing Carrier Program (LSC) for ceded commercial automobile policies. CAR approved Safety Insurance and five other servicing carriers through a Request

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

for Proposal to process ceded commercial automobile business, which is spread equitably among the six servicing carriers. Each Massachusetts commercial automobile insurer must bear a portion of the losses of the commercial reinsurance pool that is serviced by the six servicing carriers in the LSC program. Subject to Commissioner review, CAR sets the premium rates for commercial automobile policies reinsured through CAR and this reinsurance pool can generate an underwriting result that is a profit or deficit based upon CAR's rate level. This underwriting result is allocated among every Massachusetts commercial automobile insurance company, including us, based on a company's commercial automobile voluntary market share.

CAR also runs a reinsurance pool for Taxi, Limousine and Car Service risks (the Taxi/Limo Program). On April 25, 2007, Safety submitted through a Request for Proposal a bid to process a portion of the Taxi/Limo Program. CAR approved Safety as one of the two servicing carriers for this program beginning January 1, 2008. Based on CAR data, Safety would process approximately half of the \$18,000 in ceded Taxi/Limo business.

As noted above, in 2007 and previous years, the Commissioner set the maximum premium rates that could be charged and minimum commissions that had to be paid to agents for private passenger automobile insurance. Beginning in 2007, the effective date of the Commissioner's rate decision was April 1st as compared to January 1st of 2006 and prior rate decisions. The 2006 rates were in effect from January 1, 2006 until March 31, 2007. The Commissioner announced on December 15, 2006, an 11.7% statewide average private passenger automobile insurance rate decrease for 2007, compared to an 8.7% decrease for 2006.

Coinciding with the 2007 rate decision, the Commissioner also approved a 13.0% commission rate which agents receive for selling private passenger automobile insurance, as a percentage of premiums, compared to a commission rate of 11.8% in 2006.

Under Managed Competition, we decreased our rates an average 6.3% effective April 1, 2008. We decreased our rates an additional average 0.2% effective May 1, 2008. Our rates include a 13.0% commission rate for agents.

Our direct written premiums increased by 20.0% between 2002 and 2007, from \$516,556 to \$619,848. However, our direct written premiums decreased by 1.5% between 2006 and 2007 as a result of the state mandated private passenger automobile rate decrease effective April 1, 2007. We anticipate a further reduction in private passenger automobile direct written premiums for 2008 as a result of Managed Competition rate decreases effective April 1, 2008.

For the three month ended March 31, 2008, our average private passenger premium per exposure decreased by 8.3% from the three months ended March 31, 2007 primarily as a result of the state mandated average rate decrease of 11.7% on April 1, 2007. The table below shows average Massachusetts-mandated private passenger automobile premium rate changes and changes in our average premium per automobile exposure.

Massachusetts Private Passenger Rate Decisions

| Year | State Mandated Average Rate Change (1) | Safety Change in Average Premium per Automobile Exposure (2) |
|------|--|--|
| 2007 | (11.7)% | (5.5)% |
| 2006 | (8.7)% | (6.8)% |
| 2005 | (1.7)% | 0.1% |
| 2004 | 2.5% | 6.1% |
| 2003 | 2.7% | 6.9% |
| 2002 | 0.0% | 5.2% |
| 2001 | (8.3)% | 0.0% |
| 2000 | 0.7% | 7.4% |
| 1999 | 0.7% | 10.9% |
| 1998 | (4.0)% | 2.8% |

(1) Source: Commissioner rate decisions for 1998 - 2007. The 11.7% average rate decrease in 2007 was in effect for the period April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.

(2) Source: Safety Insurance.

Statutory Accounting Principles

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Our results are reported in accordance with GAAP, which differ from amounts reported in accordance with statutory accounting principles (SAP) as prescribed by insurance regulatory authorities. Specifically, under GAAP:

- Policy acquisition costs such as commissions, premium taxes and other variable costs incurred in connection with writing new and renewal business are capitalized and amortized on a pro rata basis over the period in which the related premiums are earned, rather than expensed as incurred, as required by SAP.
- Certain assets are included in the consolidated balance sheets whereas, under SAP, such assets are designated as non admitted assets, and charged directly against statutory surplus. These assets consist primarily of premium receivables that are outstanding over ninety days, federal deferred tax assets in excess of statutory limitations, furniture, equipment, leasehold improvements and prepaid expenses.
- Amounts related to ceded reinsurance are shown gross of ceded unearned premiums and reinsurance recoverables, rather than netted against unearned premium reserves and loss and loss adjustment expense reserves, respectively, as required by SAP.
- Fixed maturities securities, which are classified as available-for-sale, are reported at current fair values, rather than at amortized cost, or the lower of amortized cost or market, depending on the specific type of security, as required by SAP.
- The differing treatment of income and expense items results in a corresponding difference in federal income tax expense. Changes in deferred income taxes are reflected as an item of income tax benefit or expense, rather than recorded directly to surplus as regards policyholders, as required by SAP. Admittance testing may result in a charge to unassigned surplus for

non-admitted portions of deferred tax assets. Under GAAP reporting, a valuation allowance may be recorded against the deferred tax asset and reflected as an expense.

Insurance Ratios

The property and casualty insurance industry uses the combined ratio as a measure of underwriting profitability. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss ratio (losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred as a percent of net earned premiums) plus the expense ratio (underwriting expenses as a percent of net written premiums, if calculated on a SAP basis, or net earned premiums, if calculated on a GAAP basis). The combined ratio reflects only underwriting results, and does not include income from investments or finance and other service income. Underwriting profitability is subject to significant fluctuations due to competition, catastrophic events, weather, economic and social conditions and other factors.

Our statutory insurance ratios are outlined in the following table:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Statutory ratios: | | |
| Loss ratio | 63.6% | 60.3% |
| Expense ratio | 28.4 | 24.9 |
| Combined ratio | 92.0% | 85.2% |

Under GAAP, the loss ratio is computed in the same manner as under SAP, but the expense ratio is determined by matching underwriting expenses to the period over which net premiums were earned, rather than to the period that net premiums were written.

Our GAAP insurance ratios are outlined in the following table:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| GAAP ratios: | | |
| Loss ratio | 63.6% | 60.3% |
| Expense ratio | 29.5 | 26.5 |
| Combined ratio | 93.1% | 86.8% |

Stock-Based Compensation

Long-term incentive compensation is provided under the our 2002 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan (the Incentive Plan) which provides for a variety of stock-based compensation awards, including nonqualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock (RS) awards.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The maximum number of shares of common stock with respect to which awards may be granted is 2,500,000. Shares of stock covered by an award under the Incentive Plan that are forfeited will again be available for issuance in connection with future grants of awards under the plan. At March 31, 2008, there were 1,056,595 shares available for future grant. The Board and the Compensation Committee intend to issue more awards under the Incentive Plan in the future.

A summary of stock based awards granted under the Incentive Plan during the three months ended March 31, 2008 is as follows:

| Type of Equity Awarded | Effective Date | Number of Awards Granted | Fair Value per Share (1) | Vesting Terms |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| RS | March 10, 2008 | 76,816 | \$ 35.80 | 3 years, 30%-30%-40% |
| RS | March 10, 2008 | 4,000 | \$ 35.80 | No vesting period (2) |
| RS | March 20, 2008 | 45,779 | \$ 34.37 | 5 years, 20% annually |

(1) The fair value per share of the restricted stock grant is equal to the closing price of our common stock on the grant date.

(2) The shares cannot be sold, assigned, pledged, or otherwise transferred, encumbered or disposed of until the recipient is no longer a member of the Board of Directors.

Reinsurance

We reinsure with other insurance companies a portion of our potential liability under the policies we have underwritten, thereby protecting us against an unexpectedly large loss or a catastrophic occurrence that could produce large losses, primarily in our homeowners line of business. We use various software products to measure our exposure to catastrophe losses and the probable maximum loss to us for catastrophe losses such as hurricanes. The models include estimates for our share of the catastrophe losses generated in the residual market for property insurance by the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association (FAIR

Plan). In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the reinsurance market has seen from the various software modelers, increases in the estimate of damage from hurricanes in the southern and northeast portions of the United States due to revised estimations of increased hurricane activity and increases in the estimation of demand surge in the periods following a significant event. We continue to adjust our reinsurance programs as a result of the changes to the models. As of January 2008, our catastrophe reinsurance provides gross per occurrence reinsurance coverage up to \$280,000. As a result of the changes to the models, and our revised reinsurance program, our catastrophe reinsurance protects us in the event of a 208-year storm (that is, a storm of a severity expected to occur once in a 208-year period). Swiss Re, our primary reinsurer, maintains an A.M. Best rating of A+ (Superior). All of our other reinsurers have an A.M. Best rating of A (Excellent) or better except for Folksamerica, Montpelier, New Castle and PARIS RE which are rated A- (Excellent). We are a participant in CAR, a state-established body that runs the residual market reinsurance programs for both private passenger and commercial automobile insurance in Massachusetts under which premiums, expenses, losses and loss adjustment expenses on ceded business are shared by all insurers writing automobile insurance in Massachusetts. We also participate in the FAIR Plan in which premiums, expenses, losses and loss adjustment expenses on homeowners business that cannot be placed in the voluntary market are shared by all insurers writing homeowners insurance in Massachusetts. The FAIR Plan has grown dramatically over the past few years as insurance carriers have reduced their exposure to coastal property. The FAIR Plan's exposure to catastrophe losses has increased and as a result the FAIR Plan has decided to buy reinsurance to reduce their exposure to catastrophe losses. On July 1, 2007, the FAIR Plan purchased \$979,500 of catastrophe reinsurance for property losses in excess of \$180,000. At March 31, 2008, we had no material amounts recoverable from any reinsurer, excluding the residual markets described above.

On March 10, 2005, our Board of Directors adopted a resolution that prohibits Safety from purchasing finite reinsurance (reinsurance that transfers only a finite or limited amount of risk to the reinsurer) without approval by the Board. To date, the Company has never purchased a finite reinsurance contract.

Effects of Inflation

We do not believe that inflation has had a material effect on our consolidated results of operations, except insofar as inflation may affect interest rates.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves.

Significant periods of time can elapse between the occurrence of an insured loss, the reporting to us of that loss and our final payment of that loss. To recognize liabilities for unpaid losses, we establish reserves as balance sheet liabilities. Our reserves represent estimates of amounts needed to pay reported and unreported losses and the expenses of investigating and paying those losses, or loss adjustment expenses. Every quarter, we review our previously established reserves and adjust them, if necessary.

When a claim is reported, claims personnel establish a case reserve for the estimated amount of the ultimate payment. The amount of the reserve is primarily based upon an evaluation of the type of claim involved, the circumstances surrounding each claim and the policy provisions relating to the loss. The estimate reflects the informed judgment of such personnel based on general insurance reserving practices and on the experience and knowledge of the claims person. During the loss adjustment period, these estimates are revised as deemed necessary by our claims department based on subsequent developments and periodic reviews of the cases.

In accordance with industry practice, we also maintain reserves for estimated losses incurred but not yet reported (IBNR). IBNR reserves are determined in accordance with commonly accepted actuarial reserving techniques on the basis of our historical information and experience. We review and make adjustments to incurred but not yet reported reserves quarterly.

When reviewing reserves, we analyze historical data and estimate the impact of various loss development factors, such as our historical loss experience and that of the industry, trends in claims frequency and severity, our mix of business, our claims processing procedures, legislative enactments, judicial decisions, legal developments in imposition of damages, and changes and trends in general economic conditions, including the effects of inflation. A change in any of these factors from the assumption implicit in our estimate can cause our actual loss experience to be better or worse than our reserves, and the difference can be material. There is no precise method, however, for evaluating the impact of any specific factor on the adequacy of reserves, because the eventual development of reserves is affected by many factors.

Management determines our loss and LAE reserves estimate based upon the analysis of our actuaries. A reasonable estimate is derived by selecting a point estimate within a range of indications as calculated by our actuaries using generally accepted actuarial techniques. The key assumption in most actuarial analysis is that past patterns of frequency and severity will repeat in the future, unless a significant change in the factors described above takes place. Our key factors and resulting assumptions are the ultimate frequency and severity of claims, based upon the most recent ten years of claims reported to the Company, and the data CAR reports to us to calculate our share of the residual market, as of the date of the applicable balance sheet. For each accident year and each coverage within a line of business our actuaries calculate the ultimate losses incurred. Our total reserves are the difference between the ultimate losses incurred and the cumulative loss and loss adjustment payments made to date. Our IBNR reserves are calculated as the difference between our total reserves and the outstanding case reserves at the end of the accounting period. To determine ultimate losses, our actuaries calculate a range of indications and select a point estimation using such actuarial techniques as:

- *Paid Loss Indications:* This method projects ultimate loss estimates based upon extrapolations of historic paid loss trends. This method tends to be used on short tail lines such as automobile physical damage.
- *Incurred Loss Indications:* This method projects ultimate loss estimates based upon extrapolations of historic incurred loss trends. This method tends to be used on long tail lines of business such as automobile liability and homeowner's liability.
- *Bornhuetter-Ferguson Indications:* This method projects ultimate loss estimates based upon extrapolations of an expected amount of IBNR, which is added to current incurred losses or paid losses. This method tends to be used on small, immature, or volatile lines of business, such as our BOP and umbrella lines of business.
- *Bodily Injury Code Indications:* This method projects ultimate loss estimates for our private passenger and commercial automobile bodily injury coverage based upon extrapolations of the historic number of accidents and the historic number of bodily injury claims per accident. Projected ultimate bodily injury claims are then segregated into expected claims by type of injury (e.g. soft tissue injury vs. hard tissue injury) based on past experience. An ultimate severity, or average paid loss amounts, is estimated based upon extrapolating historic trends. Projected ultimate loss estimates using this method are the aggregate of estimated losses by injury type.

Such techniques assume that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, are an appropriate basis for predicting our ultimate losses, total reserves and resulting IBNR reserves. It is possible that the final outcome may fall above or below these amounts as a result of a number of factors, including immature data, sparse data, or significant growth in a line of business. Using these methodologies our actuaries established a range of reasonably possible estimations for net reserves of approximately \$348,080 to \$393,934 as of March 31, 2008. In general, the low and high values of the ranges represent reasonable minimum and maximum values of the indications based on the techniques described above. The Company's selected point estimate of net loss and LAE reserves based upon the analysis of our actuaries was \$388,122 as of March 31, 2008.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The following table presents the point estimation of the recorded reserves and the range of estimations by line of business for net loss and LAE reserves as of March 31, 2008.

| Line of Business | Low | Recorded | High |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Private passenger automobile | \$ 242,365 | \$ 271,796 | \$ 273,232 |
| Commercial automobile | 56,166 | 60,556 | 62,806 |
| Homeowners | 33,403 | 36,358 | 36,761 |
| All other | 16,146 | 19,412 | 21,135 |
| Total | \$ 348,080 | \$ 388,122 | \$ 393,934 |

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The following table presents our total net reserves and the corresponding case reserves and IBNR reserves for each line of business as of March 31, 2008.

| Line of Business | Case | IBNR | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Private passenger automobile | \$ 202,777 | \$ 20,648 | \$ 223,425 |
| CAR assumed private passenger auto | 27,143 | 21,228 | 48,371 |
| Commercial automobile | 33,285 | 8,080 | 41,365 |
| CAR assumed commercial automobile | 9,908 | 9,283 | 19,191 |
| Homeowners | 16,464 | 6,028 | 22,492 |
| FAIR Plan assumed homeowners | 5,834 | 8,032 | 13,866 |
| All other | 8,593 | 10,819 | 19,412 |
| Total net reserves for losses and LAE | \$ 304,004 | \$ 84,118 | \$ 388,122 |

For our private passenger automobile, commercial automobile and homeowners lines of business as of March 31, 2008, due to the relatively long time we have been writing these lines of insurance and our stable long-term trends in frequency and severity, the range of reserves is relatively narrow.

For our all other lines of business as of March 31, 2008 due to the relatively short time we have been writing these lines of business, the sparse amount of data and the resulting immature history available for our analysis, the range of reserves is relatively wide. In all business lines, we have recorded reserves closer to the high in the ranges of our projections.

Our IBNR reserves for CAR assumed private passenger and assumed commercial automobile business are 43.9% and 48.4%, respectively, of our total reserves for CAR assumed private passenger and assumed commercial automobile business as of March 31, 2008 due to the reporting delays in the information we receive from CAR, as described further in the section entitled *CAR Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves*.

The following table presents information by line of business for our total net reserves and the corresponding retained (i.e., direct less ceded) reserves and assumed reserves as of March 31, 2008.

| Line of Business | Retained | Assumed | Net |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| Private passenger automobile | \$ 223,425 | | |
| CAR assumed private passenger automobile | | \$ 48,371 | |
| Net private passenger automobile | | | \$ 271,796 |
| Commercial automobile | 41,365 | | |
| CAR assumed commercial automobile | | 19,191 | |
| Net commercial automobile | | | 60,556 |
| Homeowners | 22,492 | | |
| FAIR Plan assumed homeowners | | 13,866 | |
| Net homeowners | | | 36,358 |
| All other | 19,412 | | 19,412 |
| Total net reserves for losses and LAE | \$ 306,694 | \$ 81,428 | \$ 388,122 |

CAR Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

We are a participant in CAR and assume a significant portion of losses and LAE on business ceded by the industry participants to CAR. We estimate reserves for assumed losses and LAE that have not yet been reported to us by CAR. Our estimations are based upon the same factors we use for our own reserves, plus additional factors due to the nature of and the information we receive from CAR.

The CAR deficit, which consists of premium ceded to CAR less CAR losses and LAE, is allocated among every automobile insurance company writing business in Massachusetts based on a complex formula (the Participation Ratio) that takes into consideration a company's voluntary market share, the amount of business it cedes to CAR and credits the company earns under a system CAR has designed to encourage carriers to voluntarily write business in selected under-priced classes and territories.

We receive a Settlement of Balances report from CAR that reports our share of CAR premium, losses and LAE, on a lagged basis, seventy-five days after the end of every quarter. CAR-published financial data is always at least one quarter behind the financial data we report. For example, when we reported our financial results for the year ended December 31, 2007, we had nine months of reported 2007 CAR financial data, and we had to estimate and record as IBNR reserves what CAR would report to us for the last three months of the year.

We receive our final calendar year Participation Ratio report from CAR eight months after the end of that year, and thus we have to estimate for six quarters our share of the CAR deficit. For example, for the year ended December 31, 2006 we had to estimate our 2006 policy year CAR Participation Ratio beginning with the first quarter of 2006 through the second quarter of 2007.

Because of the lag in CAR estimates, and in order to try to validate to the extent possible the information CAR does provide, we must try to estimate the effects of the actions of our competitors in order to establish our Participation Ratio. Before final Participation Ratios are available, we estimate the size of CAR and the resulting deficit based on historical analysis of CAR results, and estimations of our competitors' current cession strategies. Even after our final Participation Ratio is available from CAR, we must continue to estimate the size of CAR, and the resulting deficit based upon data published by CAR and our own continuing analysis. As a result, changes in our reserves for CAR may continue to occur until all claims are finally settled. The Loss Reserving Committee at CAR meets 70 days after the end of each quarter to estimate the CAR deficit for all active policy years and publishes estimations, which we use to estimate our share of the deficit. The estimation that CAR calculates is based on data it collects from 19 servicing carriers which settle, reserve and report claims using a variety of methods. Any delays or errors in the collection of this data could have a significant impact on the accuracy of CAR's estimations.

Although we rely to a significant extent in setting our reserves on the information CAR provides, we are cautious in our use of that information, both because of the delays described above and because the CAR estimates incorporate data CAR receives from all other CAR servicing carriers in Massachusetts. We do not have direct access to that data or firsthand knowledge of how those carriers are currently conducting their operations. As a result, we are cautious in recording CAR reserves for the calendar years that we have to estimate our Participation Ratio and these reserves are subject to significant judgments and estimates.

Sensitivity Analysis

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Establishment of appropriate reserves is an inherently uncertain process. There can be no certainty that currently established reserves based on our key assumptions regarding frequency and severity in our lines of business, or our assumptions regarding our share of the CAR loss will prove adequate in light of subsequent actual experience. To the extent that reserves are inadequate and are strengthened, the amount of such increase is treated as a charge to earnings in the period that the deficiency is recognized. To the extent that reserves are redundant and are released, the amount of the release is a credit to earnings in the period the redundancy is recognized. For the three months ended March 31, 2008, a 1 percentage-point change in the loss and LAE ratio would result in a change in reserves of \$1,507. Each 1 percentage-point change in the loss and loss expense ratio would have a \$980 effect on net income, or \$0.06 per diluted share.

Our assumptions consider that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, are an appropriate basis for establishing our reserves. Our individual key assumptions could each have a reasonable possible range of plus or minus 5 percentage-points for each estimation, although there is no guarantee that our assumptions will not have more than a 5 percentage point variation. The following sensitivity tables present information for each of our primary lines of business on the effect each 1 percentage-point change in each of our key assumptions on unpaid frequency and severity could have on our retained (i.e., direct minus ceded) loss and LAE reserves and net income for the three months ended March 31, 2008. In evaluating the information in the table, it should be noted that a 1 percentage-point change in a single assumption would change estimated reserves by 1 percentage-point. A 1 percentage-point change in both our key assumptions would change estimated reserves within a range of plus or minus 2 percentage-points.

| | -1 Percent Change in Frequency | No Change in Frequency | +1 Percent Change in Frequency |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Private passenger automobile retained loss and LAE reserves | | | |
| -1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated decrease in reserves | \$ (4,469) | \$ (2,234) | \$ |
| Estimated increase in net income | 2,905 | 1,452 | |
| No Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves | (2,234) | | 2,234 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in net income | 1,452 | | (1,452) |
| +1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated increase in reserves | | 2,234 | 4,469 |
| Estimated decrease in net income | | (1,452) | (2,905) |
| Commercial automobile retained loss and LAE reserves | | | |
| -1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated decrease in reserves | (827) | (414) | |
| Estimated increase in net income | 538 | 269 | |
| No Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves | (414) | | 414 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in net income | 269 | | (269) |
| +1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated increase in reserves | | 414 | 827 |
| Estimated decrease in net income | | (269) | (538) |
| Homeowners retained loss and LAE reserves | | | |
| -1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated decrease in reserves | (450) | (225) | |
| Estimated increase in net income | 293 | 146 | |
| No Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves | (225) | | 225 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in net income | 146 | | (146) |
| +1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated increase in reserves | | 225 | 450 |
| Estimated decrease in net income | | (146) | (293) |
| All other retained loss and LAE reserves | | | |
| -1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated decrease in reserves | (388) | (194) | |
| Estimated increase in net income | 252 | 126 | |
| No Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves | (194) | | 194 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in net income | 126 | | (126) |
| +1 Percent Change in Severity | | | |
| Estimated increase in reserves | | 194 | 388 |
| Estimated decrease in net income | | (126) | (252) |

Our estimated share of CAR loss and LAE reserves is based on assumptions about our Participation Ratio, the size of CAR, and the resulting deficit (similar assumptions apply with respect to the FAIR Plan). Our assumptions consider that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, are an appropriate basis for establishing our CAR reserves. Each of our assumptions could have a reasonably possible range of plus or minus 5 percentage-points for each estimation. The following sensitivity table presents information of the effect each 1 percentage-point change in our assumptions on our share of reserves for CAR and other residual markets could have on our assumed loss and LAE reserves and net income

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

for the three months ended March 31, 2008. In evaluating the information in the table, it should be noted that a 1 percentage-point change in our assumptions would change estimated reserves by 1 percentage-point.

| | -1 Percent Change in Estimation | +1 Percent Change in Estimation |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CAR assumed private passenger automobile | | |
| Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves | \$ (484) | \$ 484 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in net income | 315 | (315) |
| CAR assumed commercial automobile | | |
| Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves | (192) | 192 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in net income | 125 | (125) |
| FAIR Plan assumed homeowners | | |
| Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves | (139) | 139 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in net income | 90 | (90) |

Reserve Development Summary

The changes we have recorded in our reserves in the past illustrate the uncertainty of estimating reserves. The Company's prior year reserves decreased by \$9,212, and \$9,366 for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The following table presents a comparison of prior year development of our net reserves for losses and LAE for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007. Each accident year represents all claims for an annual accounting period in which loss events occurred, regardless of when the losses are actually reported, booked or paid. Our financial statements reflect the aggregate results of the current and all prior accident years.

| Accident Year | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| 1998 & prior | \$ (59) | \$ (2) |
| 1999 | (85) | |
| 2000 | (238) | (8) |
| 2001 | (521) | (18) |
| 2002 | (1,275) | 44 |
| 2003 | (701) | (67) |
| 2004 | (1,951) | (1,555) |
| 2005 | (2,291) | (2,749) |
| 2006 | (1,589) | (5,011) |
| 2007 | (502) | |
| All prior years | \$ (9,212) | \$ (9,366) |

The decreases in prior years reserves during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 resulted from re-estimations of prior year ultimate loss and LAE liabilities. The 2008 decrease is primarily composed of reductions of \$7,334 in our retained automobile reserves and \$1,384 in CAR assumed reserves. The decrease in prior year reserves during the 2007 period resulted from re-estimations of prior year ultimate loss and LAE liabilities and is composed primarily of a reduction of \$4,934 in the Company's retained automobile reserves and a reduction of \$4,127 in CAR assumed reserves.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The following table presents information by line of business for prior year development of our net reserves for losses and LAE for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

| Accident Year | Private Passenger Automobile | Commercial Automobile | Homeowners | All Other | Total |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1998 & prior | \$ (58) | \$ (1) | \$ | \$ | \$ (59) |
| 1999 | (85) | | | | (85) |
| 2000 | (231) | (2) | (5) | | (238) |
| 2001 | (507) | (2) | (12) | | (521) |
| 2002 | (1,266) | (5) | (4) | | (1,275) |
| 2003 | (610) | | 20 | (111) | (701) |
| 2004 | (1,935) | (26) | 10 | | (1,951) |
| 2005 | (2,024) | (8) | (259) | | (2,291) |
| 2006 | (1,530) | (2) | (57) | | (1,589) |
| 2007 | (427) | 1 | (76) | | (502) |
| All prior years | \$ (8,673) | \$ (45) | \$ (383) | \$ (111) | \$ (9,212) |

To further clarify the effects of changes in our reserve estimates for CAR and other residual markets, the next two tables break out the information in the table above by source of the business (i.e., non-residual market vs. residual market).

The following table presents information by line of business for prior year development of retained reserves for losses and LAE for the three months ended March 31, 2008; that is, all our reserves except for business ceded or assumed from CAR and other residual markets.

| Accident Year | Retained Private Passenger Automobile | Retained Commercial Automobile | Retained Homeowners | Retained All Other | Total |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1998 & prior | \$ (58) | \$ (1) | \$ | \$ | \$ (59) |
| 1999 | (85) | | | | (85) |
| 2000 | (231) | (2) | | | (233) |
| 2001 | (507) | (2) | | | (509) |
| 2002 | (1,266) | (5) | | | (1,271) |
| 2003 | (610) | | | (111) | (721) |
| 2004 | (1,686) | (26) | | | (1,712) |
| 2005 | (1,658) | (8) | (250) | | (1,916) |
| 2006 | (1,188) | (2) | | | (1,190) |
| 2007 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| All prior years | \$ (7,289) | \$ (45) | \$ (250) | \$ (111) | \$ (7,695) |

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The following table presents information by line of business for prior year development of reserves assumed from CAR and other residual markets for losses and LAE for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

| Accident Year | CAR Assumed Private Passenger Automobile | CAR Assumed Commercial Automobile | FAIR Plan Homeowners | All Other | Total |
|-----------------|--|---|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1998 & prior | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| 1999 | | | | | |
| 2000 | | | (5) | | (5) |
| 2001 | | | (12) | | (12) |
| 2002 | | | (4) | | (4) |
| 2003 | | | 20 | | 20 |
| 2004 | (249) | | 10 | | (239) |
| 2005 | (366) | | (9) | | (375) |
| 2006 | (342) | | (57) | | (399) |
| 2007 | (427) | | (76) | | (503) |
| All prior years | \$ (1,384) | \$ | \$ (133) | \$ | \$ (1,517) |

Our private passenger automobile line of business prior year reserves decreased by \$8,673 for the three months ended March 31, 2008. The decrease was primarily due to improved retained private passenger results of \$1,658, \$1,686, and \$1,266 for the 2005, 2004, and 2002 accident years, respectively and improved assumed CAR results for the private passenger automobile pool of \$1,384 for accident years 2004 through 2007. The improved CAR results were due primarily to improved CAR private passenger loss ratios as published and reported by the CAR Loss Reserving Committee meetings. The improved retained private passenger results were primarily due to fewer IBNR claims than previously estimated and better than previously estimated severity on our established bodily injury and property damage case reserves.

Our commercial automobile line of business prior year reserves decreased by \$45 for the three months ended March 31, 2008 due primarily to fewer IBNR claims than previously estimated.

Our homeowners line of business prior year reserves decreased by \$383 for the three months ended March 31, 2008. Our retained homeowners and FAIR Plan homeowners reserves decreased by \$250 and \$133, respectively.

In estimating all our loss reserves, including CAR, we follow the guidance prescribed by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (FAS) No. 60, Accounting and Reporting by Insurance Enterprises and FAS No. 113, Accounting and Reporting for Reinsurance of Short-Duration and Long-Duration Contracts.

For further information, see Results of Operations: *Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses*.

Other-Than-Temporary Impairments.

We use a systematic methodology to evaluate declines in fair values below cost or amortized cost of our investments. This methodology ensures that we evaluate available evidence concerning any declines in a disciplined manner.

In our determination of whether a decline in fair value below amortized cost is an other-than-temporary impairment, we consider and evaluate several factors and circumstances including the issuer's overall financial condition, the issuer's credit and financial strength ratings, a weakening of the general market conditions in the industry or geographic region in which the issuer operates, a prolonged period (typically six months or longer) in which the fair value of an issuer's securities remains below our amortized cost, our ability and intent to hold these investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery of our costs, and any other factors that may raise doubt about the issuer's ability to continue as a going concern.

We record other-than-temporary impairments as realized losses, which serve to reduce net income and earnings per share. We record temporary losses as unrealized losses, which do not impact net income and earnings per share but reduce other comprehensive net income. The risks inherent in our assessment of other-than-temporary impairments include the risk that market

factors may differ from our expectations, or that the credit assessment could change in the near term, resulting in a charge to earnings.

For further information, see Results of Operations: *Net Realized Investment Losses*.

Results of Operations

Three Months Ended March 31, 2008 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2007

The following table shows certain of our selected financial results.

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Direct written premiums | \$ 168,344 | \$ 181,506 |
| Net written premiums | \$ 164,247 | \$ 173,914 |
| Net earned premiums | \$ 150,748 | \$ 153,590 |
| Investment income | 11,528 | 11,039 |
| Net realized gains on investments | 31 | 71 |
| Finance and other service income | 4,498 | 3,993 |
| Total revenue | 166,805 | 168,693 |
| Loss and loss adjustment expenses | 95,870 | 92,558 |
| Underwriting, operating and related expenses | 44,465 | 40,698 |
| Interest expenses | 19 | 22 |
| Total expenses | 140,354 | 133,278 |
| Income before income taxes | 26,451 | 35,415 |
| Income tax expense | 7,406 | 10,766 |
| Net income | \$ 19,045 | \$ 24,649 |
| Earnings per weighted average common share: | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.19 | \$ 1.54 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.18 | \$ 1.53 |
| Cash dividends paid per common share | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.25 |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 16,024,794 | 15,992,229 |
| Diluted | 16,082,162 | 16,064,746 |

Direct Written Premiums. Direct written premiums for the three months ended March 31, 2008, decreased by \$13,162, or 7.3% to \$168,344 from \$181,506 for 2007. The 2008 decrease occurred primarily in our personal automobile line, largely as a result of a state mandated private passenger rate decrease of 11.7% effective April 1, 2007. Our personal automobile line experienced an 8.3% decrease in average written premium per exposure and a 0.7% decrease in written exposures. Our commercial automobile line's average written premium per exposure decreased by 1.3% with a 9.0% decrease in written exposures. Partially offsetting these decreases was an increase in our average written premium per exposure in our homeowners line of 1.2% with a 14.8% increase in written exposures.

Net Written Premiums. Net written premiums for the three months ended March 31, 2008, decreased by \$9,667 or 5.6% to \$164,247 from \$173,914 for 2007. This decrease was primarily due to the factors that decreased direct written premiums and was partially offset with increases in premiums assumed from CAR, and by decreases in premiums ceded to CAR.

Net Earned Premiums. Net earned premiums for the three months ended March 31, 2008, decreased by \$2,842, or 1.9%, to \$150,748 from \$153,590 for 2007. This decrease was due to the factors that decreased direct and net written premiums.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The effect of reinsurance on net written and net earned premiums is presented in the following table.

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Written Premiums | | |
| Direct | \$ 168,344 | \$ 181,506 |
| Assumed | 14,590 | 13,527 |
| Ceded | (18,687) | (21,119) |
| Net written premiums | \$ 164,247 | \$ 173,914 |
| Earned Premiums | | |
| Direct | \$ 151,716 | \$ 157,598 |
| Assumed | 16,250 | 16,394 |
| Ceded | (17,218) | (20,402) |
| Net earned premiums | \$ 150,748 | \$ 153,590 |

Net Investment Income. Net investment income for the three months ended March 31, 2008, was \$11,528 compared to \$11,039 for the comparable 2007 period, an increase of 4.4%. Average cash and investment securities (at cost) increased by \$72,105, or 7.4%, to \$1,045,347 for the three months ended March 31, 2008, from \$973,242 for the three months ending March 31, 2007. The net effective annualized yield on the investment portfolio was 4.4% during the three months ended March 31, 2008, compared to 4.5% during the three months ended March 31, 2007. Our duration remained at 4.2 years at March 31, 2008, consistent with 4.2 years at December 31, 2007.

Net Realized Gains on Investments. Net realized gains on investments were \$31 for the three months ended March 31, 2008 compared to net realized gains of \$71 for the comparable 2007 period.

The gross unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments in fixed maturity securities and equity securities, including interests in mutual funds, was as follows:

| | March 31, 2008 | | | Estimated Fair Value |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Cost or Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies(1) | \$ 320,422 | \$ 9,102 | \$ (372) | \$ 329,152 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 517,943 | 8,686 | (2,410) | 524,219 |
| Asset-backed securities (1) | 94,269 | 75 | (2,997) | 91,347 |
| Corporate and other securities | 72,933 | 1,735 | (909) | 73,759 |
| Subtotal, fixed maturity securities | 1,005,567 | 19,598 | (6,688) | 1,018,477 |
| Equity securities | 8,613 | 50 | (44) | 8,619 |
| Totals | \$ 1,014,180 | \$ 19,648 | \$ (6,732) | \$ 1,027,096 |

(1) Obligations of U.S. Government agencies include collateralized mortgage obligations issued, guaranteed and/or insured by the following issuers: Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA). The total of these fixed maturity securities was \$288,907 at amortized cost and \$295,158 at fair value as of March 31, 2008. As such, the asset-backed securities presented exclude such issuers already presented under U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government Agencies.

As of March 31, 2008, our portfolio of fixed maturity investments was comprised entirely of investment grade corporate fixed maturity securities, U.S. government and agency securities and asset-backed securities (i.e., all our securities received a rating assigned by Moody's of Baa or higher, except the few securities not rated by Moody's which received Standard & Poor's ratings of A- or higher, as well as a rating assigned by the SVO 1 or 2).

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The composition of our fixed income security portfolio by Moody's rating was as follows:

| | March 31, 2008 | |
|--|-------------------------|---------|
| | Estimated Fair Value | Percent |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies | \$ 329,152 | 32.3% |
| Aaa/Aa | 559,852 | 55.0 |
| A | 75,018 | 7.4 |
| Baa | 43,068 | 4.2 |
| Not rated (Standard & Poor's rating of A- or higher) | 11,387 | 1.1 |
| Total | \$ 1,018,477 | 100.0% |

Ratings are assigned by Moody's, or the equivalent, as discussed above. Such ratings are generally assigned upon the issuance of the securities and are subject to revision on the basis of ongoing evaluations. Ratings in the table are as of the date indicated.

In our determination of other-than-temporary impairments, we consider several factors and circumstances including the issuer's overall financial condition, the issuer's credit and financial strength ratings, a weakening of the general market conditions in the industry or geographic region in which the issuer operates, a prolonged period (typically six months or longer) in which the fair value of an issuer's securities remains below our amortized cost, our ability and intent to hold these investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery of our costs, and any other factors that may raise doubt about the issuer's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other-than-temporary impairments are recorded as realized losses, which serve to reduce net income and earnings per share. Temporary losses are recorded as unrealized losses, which do not impact net income and earnings per share but reduce other comprehensive net income. The risks inherent in the assessment of other-than-temporary impairments include the risk that market factors may differ from our expectations; we may decide to subsequently sell a security for unforeseen business needs; or the credit assessment could change in the near term, resulting in a charge to earnings.

The following table illustrates the gross unrealized losses included in the Company's investment portfolio and the fair value of those securities, aggregated by investment category. The table also illustrates the length of time that they have been in a continuous unrealized loss position as of March 31, 2008.

| | Less than 12 Months | | As of March 31, 2008 12 Months or More | | Total | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies | \$ 36,934 | \$ 73 | \$ 22,971 | \$ 299 | \$ 59,905 | \$ 372 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 95,612 | 2,020 | 36,956 | 390 | 132,568 | 2,410 |
| Asset-backed securities | 25,182 | 1,422 | 48,023 | 1,575 | 73,205 | 2,997 |
| Corporate and other securities | 7,803 | 228 | 14,708 | 681 | 22,511 | 909 |
| Subtotal, fixed maturity securities | 165,531 | 3,743 | 122,658 | 2,945 | 288,189 | 6,688 |

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----------------|----|--------------|----|----------------|----|--------------|----|----------------|----|--------------|
| Equity securities | | 1,438 | | 44 | | | | 1,438 | | 44 | | |
| Total temporarily impaired securities | \$ | 166,969 | \$ | 3,787 | \$ | 122,658 | \$ | 2,945 | \$ | 289,627 | \$ | 6,732 |

The unrealized losses recorded on the fixed maturity investment portfolio at March 31, 2008, resulted from fluctuations in market interest rates as opposed to fundamental changes in the credit quality of the issuers of such securities. Therefore, these decreases in values are viewed as being temporary as we have the intent and ability to retain such investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery in fair value.

Of the \$6,732 gross unrealized losses as of March 31, 2008, \$2,782 relates to fixed maturity obligations of U.S. government agencies and obligations of states and political subdivisions. The remaining \$3,950 of gross unrealized losses relates primarily to holdings of investment grade asset-backed, corporate, other fixed maturity and equity securities.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

We continue to hold no subprime mortgage debt securities. All of our holdings in mortgage-backed securities are either U.S. Government or Agency guaranteed or are rated Aaa/AAA. We continue to expect the recent subprime mortgage market deterioration to have little or no effect on the Company's portfolio.

During the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, there was no significant deterioration in the credit quality of any of our holdings and no other-than-temporary impairment charges were recorded related to our portfolio of investment securities.

On January 1, 2008, we adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 157, Fair Value Measurements (FAS157). FAS 157 provides a revised definition of fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands financial statement disclosure requirements for fair value information. Under FAS 157, fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants (an exit price). The statement establishes a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between inputs based on market data from independent sources (observable inputs) and a reporting entity's internal assumptions based upon the best information available when external market data is limited or unavailable (unobservable inputs). The fair value hierarchy in FAS 157 prioritizes fair value measurements into three levels based on the nature of the inputs as follows:

Level 1 Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities;

Level 2 Valuations based on observable inputs that do not meet the criteria for Level 1, including quoted prices in inactive markets and quoted prices in active markets for similar, but not identical instruments; and

Level 3 Valuations based on unobservable inputs.

We use observable inputs for the vast majority of our investment portfolio. Fair value measurements for securities for which quoted prices are unavailable are estimated based upon reference to observable inputs, such as benchmark interest rates, market comparables, broker quotes and other relevant inputs. In circumstances where quoted prices or observable inputs are adjusted to reflect management's best estimate of fair value, such fair value measurements are considered a lower level measurement in the FAS 157 fair value hierarchy.

As of March 31, 2008, approximately 99.6% of the investment portfolio recorded at fair value was priced based upon quoted market prices or other observable inputs. The following table summarizes our total fair value measurements and the fair value measurements based on Level 3 inputs for investments at March 31, 2008.

| | March 31, 2008 | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Total Fair Value | Level 3 Inputs | Level 3 Inputs as a % of Fair Value |
| Fixed maturity securities | \$ 1,018,477 | \$ 3,669 | 0.4% |
| Equity securities | 8,619 | | |
| Total investment securities | \$ 1,027,096 | \$ 3,669 | 0.4% |

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The following table summarizes the changes in our Level 3 fair value measurements for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

| | Fixed Maturity Securities | Equity Securities | Total |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Balance at January 1, 2008 | \$ 3,758 | \$ | \$ 3,758 |
| Net gains and losses included in earnings | | | |
| Net losses included in other comprehensive income | (89) | | (89) |
| Purchases and sales | | | |
| Transfers in (out) of Level 3 | | | |
| Balance at March 31, 2008 | \$ 3,669 | \$ | \$ 3,669 |
| Amount of total losses included in earnings attributable to the change in unrealized losses related to assets still held at March 31, 2008 | \$ | \$ | \$ |

On January 1 and March 31, 2008, one fixed maturity security was manually priced solely using broker quotes. This was deemed to render the fair value measurements as based upon unobservable inputs and accordingly, it was classified within Level 3. Transfers in and out of Level 3 would be attributable to changes in the ability to observe significant inputs in determining fair value exit pricing. As noted in the table above, no transfers were made in or out of Level 3 inputs during the three months ended March 31, 2008.

Finance and Other Service Income. Finance and other service income includes revenues from premium installment charges, which we recognize when earned, and other miscellaneous income and fees. Finance and other service income for the three months ended March 31, 2008, was \$4,498 compared to \$3,993 for the comparable 2007 period.

Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses. Losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred for the three months ended March 31, 2008, increased by \$3,312 or 3.6%, to \$95,870 from \$92,558 for the comparable 2007 period. Our GAAP loss ratio for the three months ended March 31, 2008, increased to 63.6% compared to 60.3% for the comparable 2007 period. Our GAAP loss ratio excluding loss adjustment expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2008, increased to 55.4% from 51.8% for the comparable 2007 period. The loss ratio increased primarily as a result of a decrease in earned premiums per exposure. Total prior year favorable development included in the pre-tax results for the three months ended March 31, 2008 was \$9,212 compared to prior year favorable development of \$9,366 for the comparable 2007 period.

Underwriting, Operating and Related Expenses. Underwriting, operating and related expense for the three months ended March 31, 2008 increased by \$3,767, or 9.3%, to \$44,465 from \$40,698 for the comparable 2007 period. Our GAAP expense ratios for the three months ended March 31, 2008, increased to 29.5% compared to 26.5% for the comparable 2007 period. The expense ratio increased primarily as a result of the decrease in net earned premiums as discussed above.

Interest Expenses. Interest expense for the three months ended March 31, 2008 was \$19 compared to \$22 for the comparable 2007 period. The credit facility commitment fee included in interest expense was \$18 for both the first quarter of 2008 and 2007.

Income Tax Expense. Our effective tax rates were 28.0% and 30.4% for the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. These effective rates were lower than the statutory rate of 35.0% primarily due to adjustments for tax-exempt investment income.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As a holding company, Safety's assets consist primarily of the stock of our direct and indirect subsidiaries. Our principal source of funds to meet our obligations and pay dividends to shareholders, therefore, is dividends and other permitted payments from our subsidiaries, principally Safety Insurance. Safety is the borrower under our credit facilities.

Safety Insurance's sources of funds primarily include premiums received, investment income and proceeds from sales and redemptions of investments. Safety Insurance's principal uses of cash are the payment of claims, operating expenses and taxes, the purchase of investments and payment of dividends to Safety.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$4,755 and \$18,991 during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Our operations typically generate substantial positive cash flows from operations as most premiums are received in advance of the time when claim and benefit payments are required. These positive operating cash flows are expected to continue to meet our liquidity requirements.

Net cash used for investing activities was \$14,182, during the three months ended March 31, 2008, primarily from purchases of fixed maturities in excess of sales and maturities of fixed maturities. Net cash provided from investing activities was \$24,728, during the three months ended March 31, 2007, primarily from the sales and maturities of fixed maturity securities in excess of purchases.

Net cash used for financing activities was \$8,834 and \$3,862 during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Net cash used for financing activities is primarily comprised of dividend payments to shareholders during the three months ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 and the acquisition of treasury stock during the three months ended March 31, 2008.

Credit Facility

Safety has a \$30,000 revolving credit facility with Citizens Bank of Massachusetts which expires on June 17, 2008. Loans under the credit facility bear interest at our option at either (i) the LIBOR rate plus 1.5% per annum or (ii) the higher of Citizens Bank of Massachusetts prime rate or 0.5% above the federal funds rate plus 1.5% per annum. Interest only is payable prior to maturity. The obligations of Safety under the credit facility are secured by pledges of Safety's assets and the capital stock of our operating subsidiaries. The credit facility is guaranteed by our non-insurance company subsidiaries. The credit facility contains covenants including requirements to maintain minimum risk based capital ratios and statutory surplus of Safety Insurance as well as limitations or restrictions on indebtedness, liens, dividends, and other matters. As of March 31, 2008, we were in compliance with all such covenants.

We had no amounts outstanding on our credit facility at March 31, 2008, and 2007. The credit facility commitment fee included in interest expenses was computed at a rate of 0.25% on the \$30,000 commitment at March 31, 2008 and 2007.

We expect that the credit facility will be renewed prior to expiration.

Regulatory Matters

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to various regulatory restrictions that limit the maximum amount of dividends available to be paid to their parent without prior approval of the Commissioner. The Massachusetts statute limits the dividends an insurer may pay in any twelve-month period, without the prior permission of the Commissioner, to the greater of (i) 10% of the insurer's surplus as of the preceding December 31 or (ii) the insurer's net income for the twelve-month period ending the preceding December 31, in each case determined in accordance with statutory accounting practices. Our insurance company subsidiaries may not declare an extraordinary dividend (defined as any dividend or distribution that, together with other distributions made within the preceding twelve months, exceeds the limits established by Massachusetts statute) until thirty days after the Commissioner has received notice of the intended dividend and has not objected. As historically administered by the Commissioner, this provision requires the Commissioner's prior approval of an extraordinary dividend. Under Massachusetts law, an insurer may pay cash dividends only from its unassigned funds, also known as earned surplus, and the insurer's remaining surplus must be both reasonable in relation to its outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs. At year-end 2007, the statutory surplus of Safety Insurance

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

was \$514,957, and its net income for 2007 was \$83,375. As a result, a maximum of \$83,375 is available in 2008 for such dividends without prior approval of the Commissioner. During the three months ended March 31, 2008, Safety Insurance did not record any dividends to Safety.

The maximum dividend permitted by law is not indicative of an insurer's actual ability to pay dividends, which may be constrained by business and regulatory considerations, such as the impact of dividends on surplus, which could affect an insurer's ratings or competitive position, the amount of premiums that can be written and the ability to pay future dividends.

On February 15, 2008, our Board approved and declared a quarterly cash dividend on our common stock of \$0.40 per share, or \$6,478, which was paid on March 14, 2008, to shareholders of record on March 3, 2008. On May 6, 2008, our Board approved and declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.40 per share on our issued and outstanding common stock, payable on June 13, 2008 to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 2, 2008. We plan to continue to declare and pay quarterly cash dividends in 2008, depending on our financial position and the regularity of our cash flows.

On August 3, 2007, our Board approved a share repurchase program of up to \$30,000 of Safety's outstanding common shares. Under the program, Safety may repurchase shares of its common stock for cash in public or private transactions, in the

open market or otherwise, at management's discretion. The timing of such repurchases and actual number of shares repurchased will depend on a variety of factors including price, market conditions and applicable regulatory and corporate requirements. The program does not require Safety to repurchase any specific number of shares and may be modified, suspended or terminated at any time without prior notice. During the three months ended March 31, 2008, we purchased 74,200 of our common shares on the open market under the program at a cost of \$2,444. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2007, we purchased 48,124 of our common shares on the open market under the program at a cost of \$1,585.

Management believes that the current level of cash flow from operations provides us with sufficient liquidity to meet our operating needs over the next 12 months. We expect to be able to continue to meet our operating needs after the next 12 months from internally generated funds. Since our ability to meet our obligations in the long term (beyond such twelve-month period) is dependent upon such factors as market changes, insurance regulatory changes and economic conditions, no assurance can be given that the available net cash flow will be sufficient to meet our operating needs. We expect that we would need to borrow or issue capital stock if we needed additional funds, for example, to pay for an acquisition or a significant expansion of our operations. There can be no assurance that sufficient funds for any of the foregoing purposes would be available to us at such time.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have no material obligations under a guarantee contract meeting the characteristics identified in paragraph 3 of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 45, Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others. We have no material retained or contingent interests in assets transferred to an unconsolidated entity. We have no material obligations, including contingent obligations, under contracts that would be accounted for as derivative instruments. We have no obligations, including contingent obligations, arising out of a variable interest in an unconsolidated entity held by, and material to, us, where such entity provides financing, liquidity, market risk or credit risk support to, or engages in leasing, hedging or research and development services with us. We have no direct investments in real estate and no holdings of mortgages secured by commercial real estate. Accordingly, we have no material off-balance sheet arrangements.

Forward-Looking Statements

Forward-looking statements might include one or more of the following, among others:

- Projections of revenues, income, earnings per share, capital expenditures, dividends, capital structure or other financial items;
- Descriptions of plans or objectives of management for future operations, products or services;
- Forecasts of future economic performance, liquidity, need for funding and income;
- Descriptions of assumptions underlying or relating to any of the foregoing; and
- Future performance of credit markets.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They often include words such as believe, expect, anticipate, intend, plan, estimate, aim, projects, or words of similar meaning and expressions that indicate future trends, or future or conditional verbs such as will, would, should, could, or may. All statements that address expectations or projections about the future, including statements about the Company's strategy for growth, product development, market position, expenditures and financial results, are forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. By their nature, forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties. There are a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause actual future conditions, events, results or trends to differ significantly and/or materially from historical results or those projected in the forward-looking statements. These factors include but are not limited to the competitive nature of our industry and the possible adverse effects of such competition. Although a number of national insurers that are much larger than we are do not currently compete in a material way in the Massachusetts private passenger automobile market, if one or more of these companies decided to aggressively enter the market it could have a material adverse effect on us. Other significant factors include conditions for business operations and restrictive regulations in Massachusetts, the possibility of losses due to claims resulting from severe weather, the possibility that the Commissioner may approve future Rule changes that change the operation of the residual market, our possible need for and availability of additional financing, and our dependence on strategic relationships, among others, and other risks and factors identified from time to time in our reports filed with the SEC, such as those set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, filed with the SEC on March 14, 2008.

Some other factors, such as market, operational, liquidity, interest rate, equity and other risks, are described elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Factors relating to the regulation and supervision of our Company are also described or incorporated in this report. There are other factors besides those described or incorporated in this report that could cause actual conditions, events or results to differ from those in the forward-looking statements.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. We do not undertake any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Information about Market Risk (Dollars in thousands)

Market Risk. Market risk is the risk that we will incur losses due to adverse changes in market rates and prices. We have exposure to market risk through our investment activities and our financing activities. Our primary market risk exposure is to changes in interest rates. We use both fixed and variable rate debt as sources of financing. We have not entered, and do not plan to enter, into any derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes.

Interest Rate Risk. Interest rate risk is the risk that we will incur economic losses due to adverse changes in interest rates. Our exposure to interest rate changes primarily results from our significant holdings of fixed rate investments and from our financing activities. Our fixed maturity investments include U.S. and foreign government bonds, securities issued by government agencies, obligations of state and local governments and governmental authorities, corporate bonds and asset-backed securities, most of which are exposed to changes in prevailing interest rates.

We manage our exposure to risks associated with interest rate fluctuations through active review of our investment portfolio by our management and Board and consultation with third-party financial advisors. As a general matter, we do not attempt to match the durations of our assets with the durations of our liabilities, and the majority of our liabilities are short term. Our goal is to maximize the total after-tax return on all of our investments. An important strategy that we employ to achieve this goal is to try to hold enough in cash and short-term investments in order to avoid liquidating longer-term investments to pay claims.

Based upon the results of interest rate sensitivity analysis, the following table shows the interest rate risk of our investments in fixed maturities, including preferred stocks with characteristics of fixed maturities, measured in terms of fair value (which is equal to the carrying value for all our fixed maturity securities).

| | -100 Basis Point Change | No Change | +100 Basis Point Change |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| As of March 31, 2008 | | | |
| Estimated fair value | \$ 1,065,698 | \$ 1,018,477 | \$ 967,790 |
| Estimated increase (decrease) in fair value | \$ 47,221 | \$ | \$ (50,687) |

With respect to floating rate debt, we are exposed to the effects of changes in prevailing interest rates. At March 31, 2008, we had no debt outstanding under our credit facility. Assuming the full utilization of our current available credit facility, a 2.0% increase in the prevailing interest rate on our variable rate debt would result in interest expense increasing approximately \$600 for 2008, assuming that all of such debt is

outstanding for the entire year.

In addition, in the current market environment, our investments can also contain liquidity risks.

Equity Risk. Equity risk is the risk that we will incur economic losses due to adverse changes in equity prices. In the past, our exposure to changes in equity prices primarily resulted from our holdings of common stocks, mutual funds and other equities. While we have in the past held common equity securities in our investment portfolio, presently we hold none, except for interests in mutual funds to fund the executive deferred compensation plan. We continuously evaluate market conditions and we expect in the future to purchase equity securities. We principally managed equity price risk through industry and issuer diversification and asset allocation techniques.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined

in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our CEO and CFO have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are adequate and effective and ensure that all information required to be disclosed is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and that information required to be disclosed in such reports is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Part II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings - Please see Item 1 Financial Statements - Note 7, Commitments and Contingencies.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

On August 3, 2007, the Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program of up to \$30 million of Safety's outstanding common shares. The program does not require Safety to repurchase any specific number of shares and may be modified, suspended or terminated at any time without prior notice. Below is the activity for the quarter ended March 31, 2008.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plan | Maximum Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plan |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| March 1-31 | 74,200 | \$ 32.94 | 74,200 | \$ 25,971,296 |

Item 3. Defaults upon Senior Securities - None.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders - None.

Item 5. Other Information - None.

Item 6. Exhibits - The exhibits are contained herein as listed in the Exhibit Index.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC. (Registrant)

Date: May 9, 2008

By:

/s/ WILLIAM J. BEGLEY, JR.

William J. Begley, Jr.

Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|---------------------------|---|
| 11 | Statement re: Computation of Per Share Earnings. (1) |
| 31.1 | CEO Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2) |
| 31.2 | CFO Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2) |
| 32.1 | CEO Certification Pursuant to U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2) |
| 32.2 | CFO Certification Pursuant to U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2) |

(1) Not included herein as the information can be calculated from the face of the Consolidated Statements of Operations (see page 4).

(2) Included herein.