

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP
Form 10-K
February 23, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011
OR

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 1-6028

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

35-1140070
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Suite A305, Radnor,
Pennsylvania
(Address of principal executive offices)

19087
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (484) 583-1400

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	New York
\$3.00 Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, Series A	New York
6.75% Capital Securities	New York
Warrants, each to purchase one share of common stock	New York

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

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. 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 Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the shares of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates (based upon the closing price of these shares on the New York Stock Exchange) as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter was \$8.8 billion.

As of February 17, 2012, 291,330,818 shares of common stock of the registrant were outstanding.

Documents Incorporated by Reference:

Selected portions of the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, scheduled for May 24, 2012, have been incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

Lincoln National Corporation

Table of Contents

Item		Page
	PART I	
1.	Business	1
	Overview	1
	Business Segments and Other Operations	2
	Annuities	2
	Retirement Plan Services	4
	Life Insurance	6
	Group Protection	8
	Other Operations	9
	Reinsurance	9
	Reserves	10
	Investments	10
	Financial Strength Ratings	10
	Regulatory	11
	Employees	16
	Available Information	16
1A.	Risk Factors	17
1B.	Unresolved Staff Comments	30
2.	Properties	31
3.	Legal Proceedings	31
4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	31
	Executive Officers of the Registrant	32
	PART II	
5.	Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	33
6.	Selected Financial Data	34
7.	Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	35
	Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language	35
	Introduction	36
	Executive Summary	36
	Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates	40
	Acquisitions and Dispositions	54
	Results of Consolidated Operations	55
	Results of Annuities	57

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

Results of Retirement Plan Services	63
Results of Life Insurance	70
Results of Group Protection	77
Results of Other Operations	81

Item	Page
Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking	84
Consolidated Investments	87
Reinsurance	102
Review of Consolidated Financial Condition	103
Liquidity and Capital Resources	103
Other Matters	111
Other Factors Affecting Our Business	111
Recent Accounting Pronouncements	111
7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	111
8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	119
9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	207
9A. Controls and Procedures	207
9B. Other Information	207
PART III	
10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	207
11. Executive Compensation	208
12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	208
13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	209
14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services	209
PART IV	
15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	209
Signatures	210
Index to Financial Statement Schedules	FS-1
Index to Exhibits	E-1

PART I

The “Business” section and other parts of this Form 10-K contain forward-looking statements that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about our beliefs and expectations, and containing words such as “believes,” “estimates,” “anticipates,” “expects” or similar words are forward-looking statements. Our actual results may differ materially from the projected results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in “Item 1A. Risk Factors” and in the “Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language” in “Part II – Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” (“MD&A”) of the Form 10-K. Our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements (“Notes”) are presented in “Part II – Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.”

Item 1. Business

OVERVIEW

Lincoln National Corporation (“LNC,” which also may be referred to as “Lincoln,” “we,” “our” or “us”) is a holding company, which operates multiple insurance and retirement businesses through subsidiary companies. Through our business segments, we sell a wide range of wealth protection, accumulation and retirement income products and solutions. These products include fixed and indexed annuities, variable annuities, universal life insurance (“UL”), variable universal life insurance (“VUL”), linked-benefit UL, term life insurance, employer-sponsored retirement plans and services, and group life, disability and dental. LNC was organized under the laws of the state of Indiana in 1968. We currently maintain our principal executive offices in Radnor, Pennsylvania. “Lincoln Financial Group” is the marketing name for LNC and its subsidiary companies. As of December 31, 2011, LNC had consolidated assets of \$202.9 billion and consolidated stockholders’ equity of \$14.2 billion.

We provide products and services and report results through four segments as follows:

Business Segments

Annuities

Retirement Plan Services (formerly known as the “Defined Contribution Segment”)

Life Insurance

Group Protection

We also have Other Operations, which includes the financial data for operations that are not directly related to the business segments.

As a result of entering agreements of sale for Lincoln National (UK) plc (“Lincoln UK”) and Delaware Management Holdings, Inc. (“Delaware”) during 2009, we have reported the results of these businesses as discontinued operations on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) for all periods presented and the assets and liabilities, prior to the sale, as held for sale on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. For further information, see “Acquisitions and Dispositions” below.

The results of Lincoln Financial Network (“LFN”) and Lincoln Financial Distributors (“LFD”), our retail and wholesale distributors, respectively, are included in the segments for which they distribute products. LFD distributes our individual products and services, defined contribution plans and corporate-owned UL and VUL (“COLI”) and bank-owned UL and VUL (“BOLI”) products and services. The distribution occurs primarily through consultants, brokers, planners, agents, financial advisors, third-party administrators (“TPAs”) and other intermediaries. Group

Protection distributes its products and services primarily through employee benefit brokers, TPAs and other employee benefit firms. As of December 31, 2011, LFD had approximately 560 internal and external wholesalers (including sales managers). As of December 31, 2011, LFN offered LNC and non-proprietary products and advisory services through a national network of approximately 8,150 active producers who placed business with us within the last 12 months.

Financial information in the tables that follow is presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), unless otherwise indicated. We provide revenues, income (loss) from operations and assets attributable to each of our business segments and Other Operations in Note 22. Assets, revenues and earnings attributable to foreign activities were not material in the periods presented.

Acquisitions and Dispositions

On January 8, 2009, the Office of Thrift Supervision approved our application to become a savings and loan holding company and our acquisition of Newton County Loan & Savings, FSB ("NCLS"), a federally regulated savings bank located in Indiana. We closed on our purchase of NCLS on January 15, 2009. On July 25, 2011, NCLS submitted a voluntary plan of dissolution with the Officer of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC"). The OCC approved NCLS's voluntary dissolution effective November 30, 2011.

On August 18, 2009, we entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Macquarie Bank Limited (“MBL”), pursuant to which we agreed to sell to MBL all of the outstanding capital stock of Delaware, our former subsidiary, which provided investment products and services to individuals and institutions. This transaction closed on January 4, 2010, with net of tax proceeds of approximately \$405 million.

In addition, certain of our subsidiaries, including The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company (“LNL”), our primary insurance subsidiary, entered into investment advisory agreements with Delaware dated January 4, 2010, pursuant to which Delaware will continue to manage the majority of the general account insurance assets of the subsidiaries. The investment advisory agreements will have 10-year terms, and we may terminate them without cause, subject to a purchase price adjustment of up to \$67 million in the event that all of the agreements with our subsidiaries are terminated. The amount of the potential adjustment declines on a pro rata basis over the 10-year term of the advisory agreements.

On October 1, 2009, we completed the sale of the capital stock of Lincoln UK to SLF of Canada UK Limited for net of tax proceeds of \$325 million. We retained Lincoln UK’s pension plan assets and liabilities. The former Lincoln UK segment primarily focused on providing life and retirement income products in the United Kingdom.

On November 12, 2007, Lincoln Financial Media Company (“LFMC”), our wholly-owned subsidiary, entered into two stock purchase agreements with Raycom Holdings, LLC (“Raycom”). Pursuant to one of the agreements, LFMC agreed to sell to Raycom all of the outstanding capital stock of three of LFMC’s wholly-owned subsidiaries: WBTV, Inc., the owner and operator of television station WBTV, Charlotte, North Carolina; WCSC, Inc., the owner and operator of television station WCSC, Charleston, South Carolina; and WWBT, Inc., the owner and operator of television station WWBT, Richmond, Virginia. The transaction closed on March 31, 2008, and LFMC received proceeds of \$546 million. Pursuant to the other agreement, LFMC agreed to sell to Raycom all of the outstanding capital stock of Lincoln Financial Sports, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of LFMC. This transaction closed on November 30, 2007, and LFMC received \$42 million of proceeds.

On November 12, 2007, LFMC also entered into a stock purchase agreement with Greater Media, Inc., to sell all of the outstanding capital stock of LFMC of North Carolina, the owner and operator of radio stations WBT(AM), Charlotte, North Carolina; WBT-FM, Chester, South Carolina; and WLNK(FM), Charlotte, North Carolina. This transaction closed on January 31, 2008, and LFMC received proceeds of \$100 million. More information on these LFMC transactions can be found in our Form 8-K filed on November 14, 2007.

On April 3, 2006, we completed our merger with Jefferson-Pilot Corporation (“Jefferson-Pilot”), pursuant to which Jefferson-Pilot merged into one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries. Prior to the merger, Jefferson-Pilot, through its subsidiaries, offered full lines of individual life, annuity and investment products, and group life insurance products, disability income and dental contracts, and it operated television and radio stations and a sports broadcasting network.

For further information about acquisitions and divestitures, see Note 3.

BUSINESS SEGMENTS AND OTHER OPERATIONS

ANNUITIES

Overview

The Annuities segment provides tax-deferred investment growth and lifetime income opportunities for its clients by offering fixed (including indexed) and variable annuities. The “fixed” and “variable” classifications describe whether we

or the contract holders bear the investment risk of the assets supporting the contract. This also determines the manner in which we earn investment margin profits from these products, either as investment spreads for fixed products or as asset-based fees charged to variable products.

Annuities have several features that are attractive to customers. First, they provide tax-deferred growth on the underlying principal, thereby deferring the tax consequences of the growth in value until withdrawals are made from the accumulation values, often at lower tax rates occurring during retirement. Second, annuities are unique in that contract holders can select a variety of payout alternatives to help provide an income flow for life. Many annuity contracts include guarantee features (living and death benefits) that are not found in any other investment vehicle and, we believe, make annuities attractive especially in times of economic uncertainty.

Products

In general, an annuity is a contract between an insurance company and an individual or group in which the insurance company, after receipt of one or more premium payments, agrees to pay an amount of money either in one lump sum or on a periodic basis (i.e., annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly), beginning on a certain date and continuing for a period of time as specified in

the contract or as requested. Periodic payments can begin within 12 months after the premium is received (referred to as an immediate annuity) or at a future date in time (referred to as a deferred annuity). This retirement vehicle helps protect an individual from outliving his or her money.

Variable Annuities

A variable annuity provides the contract holder the ability to direct the investment of premium deposits into one or more sub-accounts offered through the product (“variable portion”) or into a fixed account with a guaranteed return (“fixed portion”). The value of the variable portion of the contract holder’s account varies with the performance of the underlying sub-accounts chosen by the contract holder.

We charge mortality and expense assessments and administrative fees on variable annuity accounts to cover insurance and administrative expenses. These assessments are built into accumulation unit values, which when multiplied by the number of units owned for any sub-account equals the contract holder’s account value for that sub-account. The fees that we earn from these contracts are reported as insurance fees on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). In addition, for some contracts, we collect surrender charges that range from 0% to 10% of withdrawals when contract holders surrender their contracts during the surrender charge period, which is generally higher during the early years of a contract.

We offer guaranteed benefit riders with certain of our variable annuity products, such as a guaranteed death benefit (“GDB”), a guaranteed withdrawal benefit (“GWB”), a guaranteed income benefit (“GIB”) and a combination of such benefits. Most of our variable annuity products also offer the choice of a fixed option that provides for guaranteed interest credited to the account value.

The GDB features offered in 2011 included those where we contractually guarantee to the contract holder that upon death, depending on the particular product, we will return no less than: the current contract value; the total deposits made to the contract, adjusted to reflect any partial withdrawals; the highest contract value on a specified anniversary date adjusted to reflect any partial withdrawals following the contract anniversary; or the current contract value plus a specified percentage of contract earnings, not to exceed a covered earnings limit.

In 2011, we offered product riders including the Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage, Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage 2.0 and Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage Plus, which are hybrid benefit riders combining aspects of GWB and GIB. These benefit riders allow the contract holder the ability to take income at a maximum rate of 4% or 5% of the guaranteed amount when they are above the lifetime income age or income through i4LIFE[®] Advantage with the GIB. Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage, Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage 2.0 and Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage Plus provide higher income if the contract holder delays withdrawals, including both a 5% enhancement to the guaranteed amount each year a withdrawal is not taken for a specified period of time and an annual step-up of the guaranteed amount to the current contract value. The Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage Plus provides an additional benefit, which is a return of principal at the end of the seventh year if the customer has not taken any withdrawals. Contract holders under Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage, Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage 2.0 and Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Advantage Plus are subject to restrictions on the allocation of their account value within the various investment choices.

We also offered the i4LIFE[®] Advantage and 4LATER[®] Advantage. The i4LIFE[®] Advantage rider, on which we have received a U.S. patent, allows variable annuity contract holders access and control during the income distribution phase of their contract. This added flexibility allows the contract holder to access the account value for transfers, additional withdrawals and other service features like portfolio rebalancing. In general, GIB is an optional feature available with i4LIFE[®] Advantage that guarantees regular income payments will not fall below the greater of a minimum income floor set at benefit issue, or 75% of the highest income payment on a specified anniversary date

(reduced for any subsequent withdrawals). 4LATER® Advantage provides a minimum income base used to determine the GIB floor when a client begins income payments under i4LIFE® Advantage. The income base is equal to the initial deposit, or contract value, if elected after issue, and increases by 15% every three years, subject to a 200% cap. The owner may step up the income base to the current contract value on or after the third anniversary of rider election or of the most recent step-up, which also resets the 200% cap.

The Lincoln SmartSecurity® Advantage one-year benefit is a GWB rider that offers the contract holder a guarantee equal to the initial deposit (or contract value, if elected after issue), adjusted for any subsequent purchase payments or withdrawals. Lincoln SmartSecurity® Advantage one-year allows an owner to step up the guarantee amount automatically on the benefit anniversary to the current contract value if the contract value is greater than the guarantee amount at the time of step up. To receive the full amount of the guarantee, annual withdrawals are limited to 5% of the guaranteed amount. Withdrawals will continue until the longer of when the guarantee is equal to zero or for the rest of the owner's life ("single life version") or the life of the owner or owner's spouse ("joint life version") as long as withdrawals begin after attained age 65 and are limited to 5% of the guaranteed amount. Withdrawals in excess of the applicable maximum in any contract year are assessed any applicable surrender charges, and the guaranteed amount is recalculated.

We design and actively manage the features and structure of our guaranteed benefit riders to maintain a competitive suite of products consistent with profitability and risk management goals. To mitigate the increased risks associated with guaranteed

benefits, we developed a dynamic hedging program. The customized dynamic hedging program uses equity and interest rate futures positions, interest rate and variance swaps, as well as equity-based options depending upon the risks underlying the guarantees. For more information on our hedging program, see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Derivatives” and “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking” in the MD&A. For information regarding risks related to guaranteed benefits, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors – Market Conditions – Changes in the equity markets, interest rates and/or volatility affect the profitability of our products with guaranteed benefits; therefore, such changes may have a material adverse effect on our business and profitability.”

Fixed Annuities

A fixed annuity preserves the principal value of the contract while guaranteeing a minimum interest rate to be credited to the accumulation value. Our fixed annuity product offerings as of December 31, 2011, consisted of traditional fixed-rate and fixed indexed deferred annuities, as well as fixed-rate immediate annuities with various payment options, including lifetime incomes.

Our traditional fixed-rate deferred annuity products include Lincoln ClassicSM (Single and Flexible Premium), Lincoln SelectSM, Lincoln Smart Course[®], Lincoln MYGuaranteeSM Plus and Lincoln GrowSmartSM Fixed Annuity.

Our fixed indexed deferred annuity products include Lincoln OptiPoint[®], Lincoln OptiChoiceSM and Lincoln New Directions[®]. Our fixed indexed annuities allow the contract holder to elect an interest rate based on the performance of the Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”) 500 Index[®] (“S&P 500”). The indexed interest rate is guaranteed never to be less than zero. Available with certain of our fixed indexed annuities, Lincoln Living IncomeSM Advantage and Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSM Edge provide the contract holder a guaranteed lifetime withdrawal benefit. Withdrawals in excess of the free amount are assessed any applicable surrender charges, and the guaranteed withdrawal amount is recalculated. We use derivatives to hedge the equity market risk associated with our fixed indexed annuity products. For more information on our hedging program, see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Derivatives” and “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking” in the MD&A.

In addition to traditional fixed-rate immediate annuities, we offered the Lincoln SmartIncomeSM Inflation Annuity that provides lifetime income with annual adjustments to keep pace with inflation.

We offer single and flexible premium fixed deferred annuities. Single premium fixed deferred annuities are contracts that allow only a single premium to be paid. Flexible premium fixed deferred annuities are contracts that allow multiple premium payments on either a scheduled or non-scheduled basis.

Fixed annuity contracts are general account obligations. We bear the investment risk for fixed annuity contracts. To protect from premature withdrawals, we impose surrender charges. Surrender charges are typically applicable during the early years of the annuity contract, with a declining level of surrender charges over time. We expect to earn a spread between what we earn on the underlying general account investments supporting the fixed annuity product line and what we credit to our fixed annuity contract holders’ accounts.

Distribution

The Annuities segment distributes its individual fixed and variable annuity products through LFD. LFD’s distribution channels give the Annuities segment access to its target markets. LFD distributes the segment’s products to a large number of financial intermediaries, including LFN. The financial intermediaries include wire/regional firms, independent financial planners, financial institutions and managing general agents.

Competition

The annuities market is very competitive and consists of many companies, with no one company dominating the market for all products. The Annuities segment competes with numerous other financial services companies. The main factors upon which entities in this market compete are distribution channel access and the quality of wholesalers, investment performance, cost, product features, speed to market, brand recognition, financial strength ratings, crediting rates and client service.

RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES

Overview

The Retirement Plan Services segment provides employers with retirement plan products and services, primarily in the defined contribution retirement plan marketplaces. While our focus is employer-sponsored defined contribution plans, we also serve the defined benefit plan and individual retirement account (“IRA”) markets. We provide a variety of plan investment vehicles, including individual and group variable annuities, group fixed annuities and mutual fund-based programs. We also offer a broad array of plan services including plan recordkeeping, compliance testing, participant education and other related services.

Defined contribution plans are a popular employee benefit offered by many employers across a wide spectrum of industries and by employers large and small. Retirement Plan Services primarily focuses on the Mid – Large market, which accounted for 45% of this segment’s total assets under management as of December 31, 2011. In addition, Retirement Plan Services focuses on the small market 401(k) business, which accounted for 16% of this segment’s total assets under management as of December 31, 2011.

Products and Services

The Retirement Plan Services segment currently brings three primary offerings to the employer-sponsored market: LINCOLN DIRECTORSM group variable annuity, LINCOLN ALLIANCE® program, and Multi-Fund® variable annuity.

LINCOLN DIRECTORSM and Multi-Fund® products are variable annuities. The LINCOLN ALLIANCE® program is mutual fund-based. These offerings primarily cover the 403(b) and 401(k) marketplace. The 403(b) plans are available to employees of educational institutions, not-for-profit healthcare organizations and certain other not-for-profit entities; and 401(k) plans are generally available to employees of for-profit entities. The investment options for our annuities encompass the spectrum of asset classes with varying levels of risk and include both equity and fixed income.

LINCOLN DIRECTORSM group variable annuity is a 401(k) defined contribution retirement plan solution available to small businesses, typically those with plans having less than \$2 million in account values. The LINCOLN DIRECTORSM product offers participants a broad array of investment options from several fund families and a fixed account. The Retirement Plan Services segment earns revenue through asset charges, investment management fees, surrender charges and recordkeeping fees from this product. We also receive fees from the underlying mutual funds companies for the services we provide, and we earn investment margins on assets in the fixed account.

The LINCOLN ALLIANCE® program is a defined contribution retirement plan solution aimed at mid to large employers, typically those that have defined contribution plans with \$2 million or more in account value. The target market is primarily for-profit corporations, educational institutions and healthcare providers. The program bundles our traditional fixed annuity products with the employer’s choice of mutual funds, along with recordkeeping, plan compliance services and customized employee education services. The program allows the use of any mutual fund. We earn fees for our recordkeeping and educational services and the services we provide to mutual fund accounts. We also earn investment margins on fixed annuities.

Multi-Fund® Variable Annuity is a defined contribution retirement plan solution with full-bundled administrative services and high quality investment choices marketed to small- to mid-sized healthcare, education, governmental and not-for-profit plans. The product can be sold either to the employer through the Multi-Fund® group variable annuity contract or directly to the individual through the Multi-Fund® Select variable annuity contract. We earn mortality and expense charges, investment income on the fixed account and surrender charges from this product. We also receive fees for services that we provide to funds in the underlying separate accounts.

Distribution

Retirement Plan Services products are primarily distributed by LFD. Wholesalers and managers distribute these products through advisors, consultants, banks, wirehouses, TPAs and individual planners. During 2011, LFD expanded its distribution of the segment’s products by increasing wholesalers and managers from 49 to 55, increasing relationship management expertise and growing the number of broker-dealer relationships.

The Multi-Fund® program is sold primarily by affiliated advisors. The LINCOLN ALLIANCE® program is sold primarily through consultants and affiliated advisors. LINCOLN DIRECTORS group variable annuity is sold in the small marketplace by intermediaries, including financial advisors, TPAs, planners and wirehouses.

Competition

The retirement plan marketplace is very competitive and is comprised of many providers with no one company dominating the market for all products. As stated above, we compete in the small, mid and large markets. We compete with numerous other financial services companies. The main factors upon which entities in this market compete are distribution channel access and the quality of wholesalers, investment performance, cost, product features, speed to market, brand recognition, financial strength ratings, crediting rates, client service and client compliance and fiduciary services. During the fourth quarter of 2011, we began to put new clients on our enhanced recordkeeping platform. We believe the new platform will allow us to compete more effectively in the retirement plan marketplace.

LIFE INSURANCE

Overview

The Life Insurance segment focuses on the creation and protection of wealth for its clients through the manufacturing of life insurance products, including term insurance, a linked-benefit product (which is a UL policy linked with riders that provide for long-term care costs) and both single and survivorship versions of UL and VUL, including COLI and BOLI products.

The segment generally has higher sales in the second half of the year than in the first half of the year. Approximately 45%, 44% and 44% of total sales were in the first half of 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Mortality margins, morbidity margins (for linked-benefit products), investment margins (through spreads or fees), expense margins (expense charges assessed to the contract holder less expenses incurred to manage the business) and surrender fees drive life insurance profits. Mortality margins, morbidity margins, and some expense assessments are a function of the rates priced into the product and level of insurance in force. Insurance in force, in turn, is driven by sales, persistency and mortality experience.

Similar to the annuity product classifications described above, life products can be classified as “fixed” (which includes indexed) or “variable” contracts. This classification describes whether we or the contract holders bear the investment risk of the assets supporting the policy. This also determines the manner in which we earn investment margin profits from these products, either as investment spreads for fixed products or as asset-based fees charged to variable products.

Products

We offer four categories of life insurance products consisting of:

Interest-Sensitive Life Insurance

Interest-sensitive life insurance products provide life insurance with account values that earn rates of return based on company-declared interest rates. Contract holder account values are invested in our general account investment portfolio, so we bear the risk of investment performance. Some of our UL contracts include secondary guarantees, which are explained more fully below.

In a UL contract, contract holders typically have flexibility in the timing and amount of premium payments and the amount of death benefit, provided there is sufficient account value to cover all policy charges for mortality and expenses for the coming period. Under certain contract holder options and market conditions, the death benefit amount may increase or decrease. Premiums received on a UL product, net of expense loads and charges, are added to the contract holder’s account value. The client has access to their account value (or a portion thereof), less surrender charges and policy loan payoffs, through contractual liquidity features such as loans, partial withdrawals and full surrenders. Loans and withdrawals reduce the death benefit amount payable and are limited to certain contractual maximums (some of which are required under state law), and interest is charged on all loans. Our UL contracts assess surrender charges against the policies’ account values for full or partial surrenders that occur during the contractual surrender charge period. Depending on the product selected, surrender charge periods can range from 0 to 20 years.

We also offer a fixed indexed UL product that functions similarly to a traditional UL policy, with the added flexibility of allowing contract holders to have portions of their account value earn interest credits based on the performance of the S&P 500.

As mentioned previously, we offer survivorship versions of our individual UL products. These products insure two lives with a single policy and pay death benefits upon the second death.

Sales results are influenced by the series of UL products with secondary guarantees. A UL policy with a secondary guarantee can stay in force, even if the base policy cash value is zero, as long as secondary guarantee requirements have been met. The secondary guarantee requirement is based on the evaluation of a reference value within the policy, calculated in a manner similar to the base policy account value, but using different assumptions as to expense charges, cost of insurance (“COI”) charges and credited interest. The assumptions for the secondary guarantee requirement are listed in the contract. As long as the contract holder funds the policy to a level that keeps this calculated reference value positive, the death benefit will be guaranteed. The reference value has no actual monetary value to the contract holder; it is only a calculated value used to determine whether or not the policy will lapse should the base policy cash value be less than zero.

Unlike other GDB designs, our secondary guarantee benefits maintain the flexibility of a traditional UL policy, which allows a contract holder to take loans or withdrawals. Although loans and withdrawals are likely to shorten the time period of the guaranteed death benefit, the guarantee is not automatically or completely forfeited, as is sometimes the case with other death benefit guarantee designs. The length of the guarantee may be increased at any time through additional excess premium deposits.

Linked-Benefit Life Products

Linked-benefit life products combine UL with long-term care insurance through the use of riders. The first rider allows the contract holder to accelerate death benefits on a tax-free basis in the event of a qualified long-term care need. The second rider extends the long-term care insurance benefits for an additional period of time if the death benefit is fully depleted for the purposes of long-term care. The policy also provides a reduced death benefit to the contract holder's beneficiary if the contract holder accelerates the death benefit as long-term care benefits during his or her life.

VUL

VUL products are UL products that provide a return on account values linked to an underlying investment portfolio of sub-accounts offered through the product. The value of the contract holder's account varies with the performance of the sub-accounts chosen by the contract holder. As the return on the investment portfolio increases or decreases, the account value of the VUL policy will increase or decrease. As with fixed UL products, contract holders have access, within contractual maximums, to account values through loans, withdrawals and surrenders. Surrender charges are assessed during the surrender charge period, ranging from 0 to 20 years depending on the product.

In addition, VUL products offer a fixed account option that is managed by us. Investment risk is borne by the customer on all but the fixed account option.

We also offer survivorship versions of our individual VUL products. These products insure two lives with a single policy and pay death benefits upon the second death.

We also offer single life and survivorship versions of our VUL products with secondary guarantees.

Term Life Insurance

Term life insurance provides a fixed death benefit for a scheduled period of time. It usually does not offer cash values. Scheduled policy premiums are required to be paid at least annually.

Distribution

The Life Insurance segment's products are sold through LFD. LFD provides the Life Insurance segment with access to financial intermediaries in the following primary distribution channels: wire/regional firms; independent planner firms (including LFN); financial institutions; and managing general agents/independent marketing organizations. LFD distributes COLI and BOLI products and services to small- to mid-sized banks and mid- to large-sized corporations, primarily through 14 intermediaries who specialize in one or both of these markets and who are serviced through a network of internal and external LFD sales professionals.

Competition

The life insurance industry is very competitive and consists of many companies with no one company dominating the market for all products. As of the end of 2010, the latest year for which data is available, there were 917 life insurance companies in the U.S. and U.S. territories, according to the American Council of Life Insurers.

The Life Insurance segment primarily targets the affluent to high net worth markets, defined as households with at least \$250,000 of financial assets. For those individual policies we sold in 2011, the average face amount (excluding MoneyGuard® products) was approximately \$1 million and average first year premiums paid were approximately

\$40,000. The Life Insurance segment competes primarily on product design and customer service. With respect to customer service, management tracks the speed, accuracy and responsiveness of service to customers' calls and transaction requests. Further, management tracks the turnaround time and quality for various client services such as processing of applications. Additional competitive factors relevant to the Life Insurance segment include product breadth, speed to market, underwriting and risk management, financial strength ratings and extent of distribution network.

Underwriting

In the context of life insurance, underwriting is the process of evaluating medical and non-medical information about an individual and determining the effect these factors statistically have on mortality. This process of evaluation is often referred to as risk classification. Of course, no one can accurately predict how long any individual will live, but certain risk factors can affect life expectancy and are evaluated during the underwriting process.

Claims Administration

Claims services are delivered to customers from the Greensboro, North Carolina and Concord, New Hampshire offices. Claims examiners are assigned to each claim notification based on coverage amount, type of claim and the experience of the examiner. Claims meeting certain criteria are referred to senior claim examiners. A formal quality assurance program is carried out to ensure the consistency and effectiveness of claims examining activities. A network of in-house legal counsel, compliance officers, medical personnel and an anti-fraud investigative unit also support claim examiners. A special team of claims examiners, in conjunction with claims management, focus on more complex claims matters such as long-term care claims, claims incurred during the contestable period, beneficiary disputes, litigated claims and the few invalid claims that are encountered.

GROUP PROTECTION

Overview

The Group Protection segment offers group non-medical insurance products, principally term life, disability and dental, to the employer marketplace through various forms of contributory and noncontributory plans. Most of the segment's group contracts are sold to employers with fewer than 500 employees.

Products

Group Life Insurance

We offer employer-sponsored group term life insurance products including basic, optional and voluntary term life insurance to employees and their dependents. Additional benefits may be provided in the event of a covered individual's accidental death or dismemberment.

Group Disability Insurance

We offer short- and long-term employer-sponsored group disability insurance, which protects an employee against loss of wages due to illness or injury. Short-term disability generally provides benefits for up to 26 weeks following a short waiting period, ranging from 1 to 30 days. Long-term disability provides benefits following a longer waiting period, usually between 30 and 180 days and provides benefits for a longer period, at least 2 years and typically extending to normal (Social Security) retirement age.

Group Dental

We offer employer-sponsored group dental insurance, which covers a portion of the cost of eligible dental procedures for employees and their dependents. Products offered include indemnity coverage, which does not distinguish benefits based on a dental provider's participation in a network arrangement, and a Preferred Provider Organization ("PPO") product that does reflect the dental provider's participation in the PPO network arrangement, including agreement with network fee schedules.

Group Accident Insurance

We offer employer-sponsored group accident insurance products for employees and their covered dependents. This product is predominantly purchased on an employee-paid basis. Accident insurance provides scheduled benefits for over 30 types of benefit triggers related to accidental causes, and it is available for non-occupational accidents exclusively or on a 24-hour coverage basis.

Group Critical Illness Insurance

We offer employer-sponsored group critical illness insurance to employees and their covered dependents. This product is predominantly purchased on an employee-paid basis. The coverage provides for lump sum payouts upon the occurrence of one of the specified critical illness benefit triggers covered within a critical illness insurance policy. This product also includes Lincoln CareCompassSM, a package of benefits and services that assists employees and their family members in prevention, early detection and treatment of critical illness events.

Group Medical

We manage employer-sponsored benefits designed to supplement a company's major medical plan by reimbursing executives and eligible dependents for health care expenses not covered by the basic plan. Along with medical expense reimbursement, EXEC-U-CARE[®] plans include Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage, EXEC-U-CARE CONCIERGE[®] health care assistance and TravelConnectSM travel assistance services.

Distribution

The segment's products are marketed primarily through a national distribution system, including approximately 150 managers and marketing representatives. The managers and marketing representatives develop business through employee benefit brokers, TPAs and other employee benefit firms.

Competition

The group protection marketplace is very competitive. Principal competitive factors include particular product features, price, quality of customer service and claims management, technological capabilities and financial strength ratings. In this market, the Group Protection segment competes with a limited number of major companies and selected other companies that focus on these products.

Underwriting

The Group Protection segment's underwriters evaluate the risk characteristics of each employee group. Generally, the relevant characteristics evaluated include employee census information (such as age, gender, income and occupation), employer industry classification, geographic location, benefit design elements and other factors. The segment employs detailed underwriting policies, guidelines and procedures designed to assist the underwriter to properly assess and quantify risks. The segment uses technology to efficiently review, price and issue smaller cases, utilizing its underwriting staff on larger, more complex cases. Individual underwriting techniques (including evaluation of individual medical history information) may be used on certain covered individuals selecting larger benefit amounts. For voluntary and other forms of employee paid coverages, minimum participation requirements are used to obtain a better spread of risk and minimize the risk of anti-selection.

Claims Administration

Claims for the Group Protection segment are managed by a staff of experienced in-house claim specialists and outsourced third-party resources. Claims are evaluated for eligibility and payment of benefits pursuant to the group insurance contract and in compliance with federal and state regulations. Prompt decisions, accurate benefit payment and fair claims handling are paramount to customer satisfaction with claim services. Disability claims management is especially important to segment results, as results depend on both the incidence and the length of approved disability claims. The segment employs a variety of clinical experts, including internal and external medical professionals and rehabilitation specialists, to evaluate medically supported functional capabilities, assess employability and develop return to work plans. Dental claims management focuses on assisting plan administrators and members with the rising costs of insurance by utilizing tools to optimize dental claims payment accuracy through advanced claims review and validation, improved data analysis, enhanced clinical review of claims and provider utilization monitoring.

OTHER OPERATIONS

Other Operations includes the financial data for operations that are not directly related to the business segments. Other Operations includes investments related to the excess capital in our insurance subsidiaries; investments in media properties and other corporate investments; benefit plan net liability; the unamortized deferred gain on indemnity reinsurance related to the sale of reinsurance to Swiss Re Life & Health America, Inc. ("Swiss Re") in 2001; the results of certain disability income business; our run-off Institutional Pension business in the form of group annuity and insured funding-type of contracts with assets under management of approximately \$1.8 billion as of December 31, 2011; and debt. We are actively managing our remaining radio station clusters to maximize performance and future value.

REINSURANCE

We follow the industry practice of reinsuring a portion of our life insurance and annuity risks with unaffiliated reinsurers. In a reinsurance transaction, a reinsurer agrees to indemnify another insurer for part or all of its liability under a policy or policies it has issued for an agreed upon premium. We use reinsurance to protect our insurance subsidiaries against the severity of losses on individual claims and unusually serious occurrences in which a number of claims produce an aggregate extraordinary loss. We also use reinsurance to improve our results by leveraging favorable reinsurance pricing. Although reinsurance does not discharge the insurance subsidiaries from their primary liabilities to their contract holders for losses insured under the insurance policies, it does make the assuming reinsurer liable to the insurance subsidiaries for the reinsured portion of the risk. Because we bear the risk of nonpayment by one or more of our reinsurers, we primarily cede reinsurance to well-capitalized, highly rated reinsurers.

We reinsure approximately 25% to 30% of the mortality risk on newly issued non-term life insurance contracts and approximately 30% to 35% of total mortality risk including term insurance contracts. As of December 31, 2011, our policy for this program was to retain no more than \$11 million on a single insured life issued on fixed, VUL and term life insurance contracts. The retention per single insured life for COLI was less than \$1 million.

Portions of our deferred annuity business have been reinsured on a modified coinsurance (“Modco”) basis with other companies to limit our exposure to interest rate risks. In a Modco program, the reinsurer shares proportionally in all financial terms of the reinsured policies (i.e. premiums, expenses, claims, etc.) based on their respective quota share of the risk.

In addition, we acquire other reinsurance to cover products other than as discussed above with retentions and limits that management believes are appropriate for the circumstances.

We obtain reinsurance from a diverse group of reinsurers, and we monitor concentration and financial strength ratings of our principal reinsurers. Swiss Re represents our largest reinsurance exposure. The amounts recoverable from reinsurers were \$6.5 billion as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, of which \$2.8 billion and \$3.0 billion for the respective periods were recoverable from Swiss Re related to the sale of our reinsurance business to Swiss Re.

We also utilize inter-company reinsurance agreements to manage our statutory capital position as well as our hedge program for variable annuity guarantees. These inter-company agreements do not have an effect on our consolidated financial statements.

For more information regarding reinsurance, see “Reinsurance” in the MD&A and Note 9. For risks involving reinsurance, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors – Operational Matters – We face a risk of non-collectibility of reinsurance, which could materially affect our results of operations.”

RESERVES

The applicable insurance laws under which insurance companies operate require that they report, as liabilities, policy reserves to meet future obligations on their outstanding policies. These reserves are the amounts that, with the additional premiums to be received and interest thereon compounded annually at certain assumed rates, are calculated to be sufficient to meet the various policy and contract obligations as they mature. These laws specify that the reserves shall not be less than reserves calculated using certain specified mortality and morbidity tables, interest rates and methods of valuation.

For more information on reserves, see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Derivatives” and “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Future Contract Benefits and Other Contract Holder Obligations” in the MD&A.

See “Regulatory” below for information on permitted practices and proposed regulations that may impact the amount of statutory reserves necessary to support our current insurance liabilities.

For risks related to reserves, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors – Market Conditions – Changes in interest rates and sustained low interest rates may cause interest rate spreads to decrease and changes in interest rates may also result in increased contract withdrawals.”

INVESTMENTS

An important component of our financial results is the return on invested assets. Our investment strategy is to balance the need for current income with prudent risk management, with an emphasis on generating sufficient current income to meet our obligations. This approach requires the evaluation of risk and expected return of each asset class utilized, while still meeting our income objectives. This approach also permits us to be more effective in our asset-liability management because decisions can be made based upon both the economic and current investment income considerations affecting assets and liabilities. Investments by our insurance subsidiaries must comply with the insurance laws and regulations of the states of domicile.

Derivatives are used for hedging purposes and income generation. Hedging strategies are employed for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, hedging certain portions of our exposure to changes in our GDB, GWB and GIB liabilities, interest rate fluctuations, the widening of bond yield spreads over comparable maturity U.S. Government obligations and credit, foreign exchange and equity risks. Income generation strategies include credit default swaps through replication synthetic asset transactions. These derivatives synthetically create exposure in the general account to corporate debt, similar to investing in the credit markets.

For additional information on our investments, including carrying values by category, quality ratings and net investment income, see “Consolidated Investments” in the MD&A, as well as Notes 1 and 5.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH RATINGS

The Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organizations rate the financial strength of our principal insurance subsidiaries.

Rating agencies rate insurance companies based on financial strength and the ability to pay claims, factors more relevant to contract holders than investors. We believe that the ratings assigned by nationally recognized, independent rating agencies are material to

our operations. There may be other rating agencies that also rate our insurance companies, which we do not disclose in our reports.

Insurer Financial Strength Ratings

The insurer financial strength rating scales of A.M. Best, Fitch Ratings (“Fitch”), Moody’s Investors Service (“Moody’s”) and S&P are characterized as follows:

- A.M. Best – A++ to S
- Fitch – AAA to C
- Moody’s – Aaa to C
- S&P – AAA to D

As of February 21, 2012, the financial strength ratings of our principal insurance subsidiaries, as published by the principal rating agencies that rate our securities, or us, were as follows:

	A.M. Best	Fitch	Moody's	S&P
Insurer Financial Strength Ratings				
LNL	A+ (2nd of 16)	A+ (5th of 19)	A2 (6th of 21)	AA- (4th of 22)
Lincoln Life & Annuity Co. of New York ("LLANY")	A+ (2nd of 16)	A+ (5th of 19)	A2 (6th of 21)	AA- (4th of 22)
First Penn-Pacific Life Insurance Co. ("FPP")	A+ (2nd of 16)	A+ (5th of 19)	A2 (6th of 21)	A- (7th of 22)

A downgrade of the financial strength rating of one of our principal insurance subsidiaries could affect our competitive position in the insurance industry and make it more difficult for us to market our products, as potential customers may select companies with higher financial strength ratings. Ratings are not recommendations to buy our securities.

All ratings are on outlook stable, except Moody's ratings, which are on outlook positive. All of our ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the rating agencies, and therefore, no assurance can be given that our principal insurance subsidiaries can maintain these ratings. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

REGULATORY

Insurance Regulation

Our insurance subsidiaries, like other insurance companies, are subject to regulation and supervision by the states, territories and countries in which they are licensed to do business. The extent of such regulation varies, but generally has its source in statutes that delegate regulatory, supervisory and administrative authority to supervisory agencies. In the U.S., this power is vested in state insurance departments.

In supervising and regulating insurance companies, state insurance departments, charged primarily with protecting contract holders and the public rather than investors, enjoy broad authority and discretion in applying applicable insurance laws and regulation for that purpose. Our principal insurance subsidiaries, LNL, LLANY and FPP, are domiciled in the states of Indiana, New York and Indiana, respectively.

The insurance departments of the domiciliary states exercise principal regulatory jurisdiction over our insurance subsidiaries. The extent of regulation by the states varies, but in general, most jurisdictions have laws and regulations governing standards of solvency, adequacy of reserves, reinsurance, capital adequacy, licensing of companies and agents to transact business, prescribing and approving policy forms, regulating premium rates for some lines of business, prescribing the form and content of financial statements and reports, regulating the type and amount of investments permitted and standards of business conduct. Insurance company regulation is discussed further under “Insurance Holding Company Regulation” and “Restrictions on Subsidiaries’ Dividends and Other Payments.”

As part of their regulatory oversight process, state insurance departments conduct periodic, generally once every three to five years, examinations of the books, records, accounts, and business practices of insurers domiciled in their states. During the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, we have not received any material adverse findings resulting from state insurance department examinations of our insurance subsidiaries conducted during this period.

State insurance laws and regulations require our U.S. insurance companies to file financial statements with state insurance departments everywhere they do business, and the operations of our U.S. insurance companies and accounts are subject to examination by those departments at any time. Our U.S. insurance companies prepare statutory financial statements in accordance with accounting practices and procedures prescribed or permitted by these departments. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (“NAIC”) has approved a series of statutory accounting principles that have been adopted, in some cases with minor modifications, by virtually all state insurance departments. Changes in these statutory accounting principles can significantly affect our capital and surplus. See “Item 1A. Risk Factors – Legislative, Regulatory and Tax – Changes to the calculation of reserves and attempts to mitigate the impact of Regulation XXX and Actuarial Guideline 38 may fail in whole or in part resulting in an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.”

Statutory reserves established for variable annuity contracts and riders are sensitive to changes in the equity markets and are affected by the level of account values relative to the level of any guarantees, product design and reinsurance arrangements. As a result, the relationship between reserve changes and equity market performance is non-linear during any given reporting period.

For more information on statutory reserving and our use of captive reinsurance structures, see “Review of Consolidated Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources” in the MD&A.

Insurance Holding Company Regulation

LNC and its primary insurance subsidiaries are subject to regulation pursuant to the insurance holding company laws of the states of Indiana and New York. These insurance holding company laws generally require an insurance holding company and insurers that are members of such insurance holding company’s system to register with the insurance department authorities, to file with it certain reports disclosing information, including their capital structure, ownership, management, financial condition, and certain inter-company transactions, including material transfers of assets and inter-company business agreements and to report material changes in that information. These laws also require that inter-company transactions be fair and reasonable and, under certain circumstances, prior approval of the insurance departments must be received before entering into an inter-company transaction. Further, these laws require that an insurer’s contract holders’ surplus following any dividends or distributions to shareholder affiliates is reasonable in relation to the insurer’s outstanding liabilities and adequate for its financial needs.

In general, under state holding company regulations, no person may acquire, directly or indirectly, a controlling interest in our capital stock unless such person, corporation or other entity has obtained prior approval from the applicable insurance commissioner for such acquisition of control. Pursuant to such laws, in general, any person acquiring, controlling or holding the power to vote, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting securities of an insurance company, is presumed to have “control” of such company. This presumption may be rebutted by a showing that control does not exist in fact. The insurance commissioner, however, may find that “control” exists in circumstances in which a person owns or controls a smaller amount of voting securities. To obtain approval from the insurance commissioner of any acquisition of control of an insurance company, the proposed acquirer must file with the applicable commissioner an application containing information regarding: the identity and background of the acquirer and its affiliates; the nature, source and amount of funds to be used to carry out the acquisition; the financial statements of the acquirer and its affiliates; any potential plans for disposition of the securities or business of the insurer; the number and type of securities to be acquired; any contracts with respect to the securities to be acquired; any agreements with broker-dealers; and other matters.

Other jurisdictions in which our insurance subsidiaries are licensed to transact business may have similar or additional requirements for prior approval of any acquisition of control of an insurance or reinsurance company licensed or authorized to transact business in those jurisdictions. Additional requirements in those jurisdictions may include

re-licensing or subsequent approval for renewal of existing licenses upon an acquisition of control. As further described below, laws that govern the holding company structure also govern payment of dividends to us by our insurance subsidiaries.

Restrictions on Subsidiaries' Dividends and Other Payments

We are a holding company that transacts substantially all of our business directly and indirectly through subsidiaries. Our primary assets are the stock of our operating subsidiaries. Our ability to meet our obligations on our outstanding debt and to pay dividends and our general and administrative expenses depends on the surplus and earnings of our subsidiaries and the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends or to advance or repay funds to us.

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to certain insurance department regulatory restrictions as to the transfer of funds and payment of dividends to the holding company. Under Indiana laws and regulations, our Indiana insurance subsidiaries, including our primary insurance subsidiary, LNL, may pay dividends to LNC without prior approval of the Indiana Insurance Commissioner (the "Commissioner"), only from unassigned surplus or must receive prior approval of the Commissioner to pay a dividend if such dividend, along with all other dividends paid within the preceding 12 consecutive months, would exceed the statutory limitation. The current statutory limitation is the greater of 10% of the insurer's contract holders' surplus, as shown on its last annual

statement on file with the Commissioner or the insurer's statutory net gain from operations for the previous 12 months, but in no event to exceed statutory unassigned surplus. We may not consider the benefit from the statutory accounting principles relating to our insurance subsidiaries' deferred tax assets in calculating available dividends. Indiana law gives the Commissioner broad discretion to disapprove requests for dividends in excess of these limits. New York, the state of domicile of our other major insurance subsidiary, LLANY, has similar restrictions, except that in New York it is the lesser of 10% of surplus to contract holders as of the immediately preceding calendar year or net gain from operations for the immediately preceding calendar year, not including realized capital gains.

Indiana law also provides that following the payment of any dividend, the insurer's contract holders' surplus must be reasonable in relation to its outstanding liabilities and adequate for its financial needs, and permits the Commissioner to bring an action to rescind a dividend that violates these standards. In the event the Commissioner determines that the contract holders' surplus of one subsidiary is inadequate, the Commissioner could use his or her broad discretionary authority to seek to require us to apply payments received from another subsidiary for the benefit of that insurance subsidiary. For information regarding dividends paid to us during 2011 from our insurance subsidiaries, see "Review of Consolidated Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Sources of Liquidity and Cash Flow" in the MD&A.

Risk-Based Capital ("RBC")

The NAIC has adopted RBC requirements for life insurance companies to evaluate the adequacy of statutory capital and surplus in relation to investment and insurance risks. The requirements provide a means of measuring the minimum amount of statutory surplus appropriate for an insurance company to support its overall business operations based on its size and risk profile. There are five major risks involved in determining the requirements:

Category	Name	Description
Asset risk - affiliates	C-0	Risk of assets' default for certain affiliated investments
Asset risk - others	C-1	Risk of assets' default of principal and interest or fluctuation in fair value
Insurance risk	C-2	Risk of underestimating liabilities from business already written or inadequately pricing business to be written in the future
Interest rate risk, health credit risk and market risk	C-3	Risk of losses due to changes in interest rate levels, risk that health benefits prepaid to providers become the obligation of the health insurer once again and risk of loss due to changes in market levels associated with variable products with guarantees
Business risk	C-4	Risk of general business

A company's risk-based statutory surplus is calculated by applying factors and performing calculations relating to various asset, premium, claim, expense and reserve items. Regulators can then measure adequacy of a company's statutory surplus by comparing it to the RBC determined by the formula. Under RBC requirements, regulatory compliance is determined by the ratio of a company's total adjusted capital, as defined by the NAIC, to its company action level of RBC (known as the RBC ratio), also as defined by the NAIC. Accordingly, factors that have an impact

on the total adjusted capital of our insurance subsidiaries, such as the permitted practices discussed above, will also affect their RBC levels.

Four levels of regulatory attention may be triggered if the RBC ratio is insufficient:

- “Company action level” – If the RBC ratio is between 75% and 100%, then the insurer must submit a plan to the regulator detailing corrective action it proposes to undertake;
- “Regulatory action level” – If the RBC ratio is between 50% and 75%, then the insurer must submit a plan, but a regulator may also issue a corrective order requiring the insurer to comply within a specified period;
- “Authorized control level” – If the RBC ratio is between 35% and 50%, then the regulatory response is the same as at the “Regulatory action level,” but in addition, the regulator may take action to rehabilitate or liquidate the insurer; and
- “Mandatory control level” – If the RBC ratio is less than 35%, then the regulator must rehabilitate or liquidate the insurer.

As of December 31, 2011, the RBC ratios of LNL, LLANY and FPP reported to their respective states of domicile and the NAIC all exceeded the “company action level.” We believe that we will be able to maintain the RBC ratios of our insurance subsidiaries in excess of “company action level” through prudent underwriting, claims handling, investing and capital management. However, no assurances can be given that developments affecting the insurance subsidiaries, many of which could be outside of our control, will not cause the RBC ratios to fall below our targeted levels. These developments may include, but may not be limited to: changes to the manner in which the RBC ratio is calculated; new regulatory requirements for calculating reserves, such as principles-based reserving; economic conditions leading to higher levels of impairments of securities in our insurance subsidiaries’

general accounts; and an inability to finance life reserves including the issuing of letters of credit supporting captive reinsurance structures.

See “Item 1A. Risk Factors – Liquidity and Capital Position – A decrease in the capital and surplus of our insurance subsidiaries may result in a downgrade to our credit and insurer financial strength ratings.”

Privacy Regulations

In the course of our business, we collect and maintain personal data from our customers including personally identifiable non-public financial and health information, which subjects us to regulation under federal and state privacy laws. These laws require that we institute certain policies and procedures in our business to safeguard this information from improper use or disclosure. If the federal or state regulators establish further regulations for addressing customer privacy, we may need to amend our policies and adapt our internal procedures.

Federal Initiatives

The U.S. federal government does not directly regulate the insurance industry; however, federal initiatives from time to time can impact the insurance industry.

Financial Reform Legislation

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”) was signed by the President in July 2010. This wide-ranging legislation requires substantial reform of the financial services industry and financial products. The Dodd-Frank Act requires significant rulemaking across numerous federal agencies, a process that began in the second half of 2010, but is proceeding slower than anticipated. Consequently, we are unable to predict at this time the manner or the extent to which financial markets in general, or our business, financial condition and results of operations, may be affected following its full implementation.

For instance, the Dodd-Frank Act mandates a new regulatory framework for derivatives transactions, which we use to mitigate many types of risk in our business. The new regulations will require clearing and centralized execution for many derivatives transactions that are currently conducted over-the-counter. This transition will result in significant costs for all substantial market participants. New margin requirements for cleared and uncleared transactions will likely require the posting of higher margin levels for our derivatives activities and also may narrowly restrict the range of eligible collateral. This may require us to hold more of our assets in cash and cash equivalents that generate lower yields than other investments. The new regulations may reduce the level of risk exposure we have to our derivatives counterparties (currently managed by holding collateral), but will increase our exposure to central clearinghouses. The standardization of derivatives products for clearing may make customized products unavailable or uneconomical, potentially decreasing the effectiveness of some of our hedging activities. Although the current draft regulatory plan contemplates a phasing-in of these new requirements, the risks of market disruption cannot be eliminated, and the attendant consequences cannot be estimated. Finally, although the draft rule defining the term “swap” contains an exclusion for insurance products, it is not yet final or sufficiently clear to be certain that all life insurance and annuity products will be excluded. If some insurance and annuity products are characterized as swaps, this will carry additional burdensome regulation. In the face of this continuing uncertainty, it is premature to determine the extent to which our derivatives costs and strategies may change and the extent to which those changes may affect the range or pricing of our products.

Another area of concern related to the Dodd-Frank Act is the possible impact of the Volcker Rule on non-bank financial market participants. Restrictive implementation of the Volcker Rule’s proprietary trading provisions could potentially inhibit legitimate market-making activities and impair overall liquidity in the marketplace to the detriment

of investors such as life insurers. Because the Volcker rulemaking is still in progress, we are unable to predict its ultimate impact on our business.

In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act requires new regulations governing broker-dealers and investment advisers. In particular, the fiduciary standard rulemaking could potentially have broad implications for how our products are designed and sold in the future. In January 2011, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) released a study on the obligations and standards of conduct of financial professionals, as required under the Dodd-Frank Act. The SEC staff recommended establishing a uniform fiduciary standard for investment advisers and broker-dealers when providing investment advice about securities, including guidance for principal trading and definitions of the duties of loyalty and care owed to retail customers that would be consistent with the standard that currently applies to investment advisers. A more uniform fiduciary standard could potentially affect our business in areas including, but not limited to: design and availability of proprietary products; commission-based compensation arrangements; advertising and other communications; use of finders or solicitors of clients (i.e., business contacts who provide referrals); and continuing education requirements for advisors.

Additional provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act include, among other things, the creation of a new Federal Insurance Office within the U.S. Department of the Treasury to gather information regarding the insurance industry; the creation of a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers of certain financial products; and changes to certain corporate governance rules. The SEC has postponed rule-making on a number of these provisions through 2012. Given the state of the rulemaking and implementation process, the ultimate impact on our business is undeterminable at this time.

Department of Labor Regulation

In October 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor (“DOL”) issued a proposed regulation that would, if finalized in current form, substantially expand the range of activities that would be considered to be fiduciary investment advice under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”) and the Internal Revenue Code. If finalized as proposed, the investment-related information and support that our advisors and employees could provide to plan sponsors, participants and IRA holders on a non-fiduciary basis could be substantially limited beyond what is allowed under current law. This could have a material impact on the level and type of services we can provide as well as the nature and amount of compensation and fees we and our advisors and employees may receive for investment-related services. This proposal has generated substantial public comment and as a result, it is likely that any final regulation will be different from the proposal. On September 19, 2011, the DOL announced that it would re-

propose the regulation in early 2012. The exact nature of any re-proposed regulation, the extent of any substantive changes from the originally proposed regulation and any potential effect on our businesses is undeterminable as this time.

Federal Tax Legislation

In May 2003, the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (“JGTRRA”) was enacted. Individual taxpayers are the principal beneficiaries of JGTRRA, which accelerated certain of the income tax rate reductions enacted originally under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (“EGTRRA”), as well as reduced the long-term capital gains and dividend tax rates to 15%. On May 17, 2006, the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2006 (“TIPRA”) was signed into law. TIPRA extended the lower capital gains and dividends rates through the end of 2010. EGTRRA also included provisions that eliminated the estate tax for a single year in 2010, while also replacing the step-up in basis rule applicable to property held in a decedent’s estate with a modified carryover basis rule. The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 extended for two years through 2012 all of the lower individual tax rates and set the estate tax rate at 35% with a personal exemption of \$5 million. Should these provisions not be extended beyond 2012, the higher marginal tax rates on individuals could have a positive impact upon the sale of insurance and annuity products.

On February 13, 2012, the Obama Administration submitted to Congress its fiscal year 2013 budget proposal. Included therein are policy and tax recommendations that could have an effect upon our company and our products. All of these recommendations were proposed in last year’s budget submission to Congress. Included among the various proposed policy recommendations are modifications to the dividends received deduction for life insurance company separate accounts. If these proposed changes were enacted into law or, if applicable, changed administratively through the tax regulation process, they could have an adverse effect upon the Company’s profitability. The budget also proposes changes to the tax laws that would affect purchasers of products offered and sold through our various business lines, including such items as expanding the pro-rata disallowance for COLI, the creation of an auto-enrollment IRA program for small employers and encouraging increased use of qualified plans through tax credits to defray start-up costs. Some of these proposed changes, should they become law, would have the potential to improve the attractiveness of our products to consumers and enhance our sales. Other provisions could have the opposite effect. The submission of the Administration’s budget to Congress begins the Congressional Budget process. Any changes to the tax law will require legislation, which may or may not incorporate provisions found in the budget proposal, to move through both houses of Congress before being signed into law by the President.

Health Care Reform Legislation

In March 2010, the President signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which was subsequently amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act. This legislation, as well as subsequent state and federal laws and regulations, includes provisions that provide for additional taxes to help finance the cost of these reforms, and substantive changes and additions to health care and related laws, which could potentially impact some of our lines of businesses.

Patriot Act

The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 includes anti-money laundering and financial transparency laws as well as various regulations applicable to broker-dealers and other financial services companies, including insurance companies. Financial institutions are required to collect information regarding the identity of their customers, watch for and report suspicious transactions, respond to requests for information by regulatory authorities and law enforcement agencies, and share information with other financial institutions. As a result, we are required to maintain certain internal compliance practices, procedures and controls.

ERISA Considerations

ERISA is a comprehensive federal statute that applies to U.S. employee benefit plans sponsored by private employers and labor unions. Plans subject to ERISA include pension and profit sharing plans and welfare plans, including health, life and disability plans. ERISA provisions include reporting and disclosure rules, standards of conduct that apply to plan fiduciaries and prohibitions on transactions known as “prohibited transactions,” such as conflict-of-interest transactions and certain transactions between a benefit plan and a party in interest. ERISA also provides for a scheme of civil and criminal penalties and enforcement. Our insurance, asset management, plan administrative services and other businesses provide services to employee benefit plans subject to ERISA, including services where we may act as an ERISA fiduciary. In addition to ERISA regulation of businesses providing products and services to ERISA plans, we become subject to ERISA’s prohibited transaction rules for transactions with those plans, which may affect our ability to enter transactions, or the terms on which transactions may be entered, with those plans, even in businesses unrelated to those giving rise to party in interest status.

Broker-Dealer and Securities Regulation

In addition to being registered under the Securities Act of 1933, some of our separate accounts as well as mutual funds that we sponsor are registered as investment companies under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the shares of certain of these

entities are qualified for sale in some or all states and the District of Columbia. We also have several subsidiaries that are registered as broker-dealers under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Exchange Act”) and are subject to federal and state regulation, including but not limited to the Financial Industry Regulation Authority’s (“FINRA”) net capital rules. In addition, we have several subsidiaries that are investment advisors registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Agents and employees registered or associated with any of our broker-dealer subsidiaries are subject to the Exchange Act and to examination requirements and regulation by the SEC, FINRA and state securities commissioners. Regulation also extends to various LNC entities that employ or control those individuals. The SEC and other governmental agencies and self-regulatory organizations, as well as state securities commissions in the U.S., have the power to conduct administrative proceedings that can result in censure, fines, the issuance of cease-and-desist orders or suspension and termination or limitation of the activities of the regulated entity or its employees.

Environmental Considerations

Federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations apply to our ownership and operation of real property. Inherent in owning and operating real property are the risk of hidden environmental liabilities and the costs of any required clean-up. Under the laws of certain states, contamination of a property may give rise to a lien on the property to secure recovery of the costs of clean-up, which could adversely affect our commercial mortgage lending. In several states, this lien has priority over the lien of an existing mortgage against such property. In addition, in some states and under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (“CERCLA”), we may be liable, as an “owner” or “operator,” for costs of cleaning-up releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances at a property mortgaged to us. We also risk environmental liability when we foreclose on a property mortgaged to us. Federal legislation provides for a safe harbor from CERCLA liability for secured lenders that foreclose and sell the mortgaged real estate, provided that certain requirements are met. However, there are circumstances in which actions taken could still expose us to CERCLA liability. Application of various other federal and state environmental laws could also result in the imposition of liability on us for costs associated with environmental hazards.

We routinely conduct environmental assessments for real estate we acquire for investment and before taking title through foreclosure to real property collateralizing mortgages that we hold. Although unexpected environmental liabilities can always arise, based on these environmental assessments and compliance with our internal procedures, we believe that any costs associated with compliance with environmental laws and regulations or any clean-up of properties would not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Intellectual Property

We rely on a combination of copyright, trademark, patent and trade secret laws to establish and protect our intellectual property. We have implemented a patent strategy designed to protect innovative aspects of our products and processes which we believe distinguish us from competitors. We currently own several issued U.S. patents and have additional patent applications pending in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

We regard our patents as valuable assets and intend to vigorously protect them against infringement. However, complex legal and factual determinations and changes in patent law make protection uncertain, and while we believe our patents provide us with a competitive advantage, we cannot be certain that patents will be issued from any of our pending patent applications or that any issued patents will have sufficient breadth to offer meaningful protection. In addition, our issued patents may be successfully challenged, invalidated, circumvented or found unenforceable so that our patent rights would not create an effective competitive barrier.

Finally, we have an extensive portfolio of trademarks and service marks that we consider important in the marketing of our products and services, including, among others, the trademarks of the Lincoln National and Lincoln Financial names, the Lincoln silhouette logo and the combination of these marks. Trademark registrations may be renewed indefinitely subject to continued use and registration requirements. We regard our trademarks as valuable assets in marketing our products and services and intend to protect them against infringement and dilution.

EMPLOYEES

As of December 31, 2011, we had a total of 8,564 employees. In addition, we had a total of 1,159 planners and agents who had active sales contracts with one of our insurance subsidiaries. None of our employees are represented by a labor union, and we are not a party to any collective bargaining agreements. We consider our employee relations to be good.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other documents with the SEC under the Exchange Act. The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at

1-800-SEC-0330. Also, the SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers, including LNC, that file electronically with the SEC. The public can obtain any documents that we file with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We also make available, free of charge, on or through our Internet website <http://www.lincolnfinancial.com>, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

The information on the website listed above is not, and should not, be considered part of this annual report on Form 10-K and is not incorporated by reference in this document. This website is, and is only intended to be, an inactive textual reference.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the risks described below before investing in our securities. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially affected. In that case, the value of our securities could decline substantially.

Legislative, Regulatory and Tax

Our businesses are heavily regulated and changes in regulation may affect our insurance subsidiary capital requirements or reduce our profitability.

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to extensive supervision and regulation in the states in which we do business. The supervision and regulation relate to numerous aspects of our business and financial condition. The primary purpose of the supervision and regulation is the protection of our insurance contract holders, and not our investors. The extent of regulation varies, but generally is governed by state statutes. These statutes delegate regulatory, supervisory and administrative authority to state insurance departments. This system of supervision and regulation covers, among other things:

- Standards of minimum capital requirements and solvency, including RBC measurements;
- Restrictions of certain transactions between our insurance subsidiaries and their affiliates;
- Restrictions on the nature, quality and concentration of investments;
- Restrictions on the types of terms and conditions that we can include in the insurance policies offered by our primary insurance operations;
- Limitations on the amount of dividends that insurance subsidiaries can pay;
- The licensing status of the company;
- Certain required methods of accounting;
- Reserves for unearned premiums, losses and other purposes; and
- Assignment of residual market business and potential assessments for the provision of funds necessary for the settlement of covered claims under certain policies provided by impaired, insolvent or failed insurance companies.

Although we endeavor to maintain all required licenses and approvals, our businesses may not fully comply with the wide variety of applicable laws and regulations or the relevant authority's interpretation of the laws and regulations, which may change from time to time. Also, regulatory authorities have relatively broad discretion to grant, renew or revoke licenses and approvals. If we do not have the requisite licenses and approvals or do not comply with

applicable regulatory requirements, the insurance regulatory authorities could preclude or temporarily suspend us from carrying on some or all of our activities or impose substantial fines. Further, insurance regulatory authorities have relatively broad discretion to issue orders of supervision, which permit such authorities to supervise the business and operations of an insurance company. As of December 31, 2011, no state insurance regulatory authority had imposed on us any substantial fines or revoked or suspended any of our licenses to conduct insurance business in any state or issued an order of supervision with respect to our insurance subsidiaries, which would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

In addition, Lincoln Financial Advisors, Lincoln Financial Securities and LFD, as well as our variable annuities and variable life insurance products, are subject to regulation and supervision by the SEC and FINRA. These laws and regulations generally grant supervisory agencies and self-regulatory organizations broad administrative powers, including the power to limit or restrict the subsidiaries from carrying on their businesses in the event that they fail to comply with such laws and regulations.

Recently, there has been an increase in potential federal initiatives that would affect the financial services industry. On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act, a wide-ranging Act that includes a number of reforms of the financial services industry and financial products. The Dodd-Frank Act includes, among other things, changes to the rules governing derivatives; restrictions on proprietary trading by certain entities; the imposition of capital and leverage requirements on bank and

savings and loan holding companies; a study by the SEC of the rules governing broker-dealers and investment advisers with respect to individual investors and investment advice, followed potentially by rulemaking; the creation of a new Federal Insurance Office within the U.S. Treasury to gather information regarding the insurance industry; the creation of a resolution authority to unwind failing institutions, funded on a post-event basis; the creation of a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers of certain financial products; and changes to executive compensation and certain corporate governance rules, among other things. The Dodd-Frank Act requires significant rulemaking across numerous agencies within the federal government. Although the rulemaking process began in the second half of 2010, it is proceeding substantially slower than the aggressive schedule contemplated at the time of enactment. Consequently, the ultimate impact of these provisions on our businesses (including product offerings), results of operations, liquidity or capital resources is currently indeterminable.

Many of the foregoing regulatory or governmental bodies have the authority to review our products and business practices and those of our agents and employees. In recent years, there has been increased scrutiny of our businesses by these bodies, which has included more extensive examinations, regular sweep inquiries and more detailed review of disclosure documents. These regulatory or governmental bodies may bring regulatory or other legal actions against us if, in their view, our practices, or those of our agents or employees, are improper. These actions can result in substantial fines, penalties or prohibitions or restrictions on our business activities and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

Changes to the calculation of reserves and attempts to mitigate the impact of Regulation XXX and Actuarial Guideline 38 may fail in whole or in part resulting in an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

The Valuation of Life Insurance Policies Model Regulation (“XXX”) requires insurers to establish additional statutory reserves for term life insurance policies with long-term premium guarantees and UL policies with secondary guarantees. In addition, Actuarial Guideline 38 (“AG38”), commonly known as “AXXX,” clarifies the application of XXX with respect to certain UL insurance policies with secondary guarantees. Virtually all of our newly issued term and the majority of our newly issued UL insurance products are now affected by XXX and AG38. The application of both AG38 and XXX involve numerous interpretations. In the fourth quarter of 2011, the Life Actuarial Task Force, an advisory group to the Life Insurance and Annuities (A) Committee of the NAIC, submitted a draft statement on the application of AG38 (the “Statement”) to the Committee. The NAIC’s Executive Committee set up a joint working group (the “Joint Working Group”) comprised of members of the Life Insurance and Annuities (A) Committee and the Financial Condition (E) Committee to review the Statement and the current application of AG38 to determine whether new interim guidelines should be developed for the products within the scope of AG38. The Joint Working Group has developed a draft framework that proposes to evaluate in-force reserves based on an asset adequacy analysis incorporating moderately adverse scenarios. New business written after a certain date, yet to be specified, would be reserved using a formulaic approach consistent with the Statement, as modified or clarified by the NAIC. Any interim guidelines would be in place only until principles-based reserving is implemented. Because the draft framework contains many open issues, we cannot predict its impact on our statutory reserves. However, a change to the method for calculating reserves may require us to significantly increase our statutory reserves for UL policies with secondary guarantees. Further, changes in the method of calculating reserves may also impact the future profitability and sales of our UL insurance policies with secondary guarantees.

We have implemented reinsurance and capital management actions to mitigate the capital impact of XXX and AG38, including the use of letters of credit to support the reinsurance provided by captive reinsurance subsidiaries. Although formal details have not been provided, we anticipate the rating agencies may require a portion of these letters of credit to be included in our leverage calculations, which would pressure our leverage ratios and potentially our ratings. Therefore, we cannot provide assurance that there will not be regulatory, rating agency or other challenges to the actions we have taken to date. The result of those potential challenges could require us to increase statutory reserves or incur higher operating and/or tax costs.

We also cannot provide assurance that we will be able to continue to implement actions to mitigate the impact of XXX or AG38 on future sales of term and UL insurance products. If we are unable to continue to implement those actions, we may have lower returns on such products sold than we currently anticipate and/or reduce our sales of these products.

Changes in U.S. federal income tax law could increase our tax costs and make the products that we sell less desirable.

Changes to the Internal Revenue Code, administrative rulings or court decisions could increase our effective tax rate, make our products less desirable and lower our net income. For example, on February 14, 2011, the Obama Administration released its fiscal year 2012 budget proposal including proposals which, if enacted, would affect the taxation of life insurance companies and certain life insurance products. If enacted into law, the statutory changes contemplated by the Administration's revenue proposals would, among other things, change the method used to determine the amount of dividend income received by a life insurance company on assets held in separate accounts used to support products, including variable life insurance and variable annuity contracts, that are eligible for the dividend received deduction. The dividend received deduction reduces the amount of dividend income subject to tax and is a significant component of the difference between our actual tax expense and expected amount determined using the federal statutory tax rate of 35%. Our income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2011, included a separate account dividend received deduction benefit of \$112 million. In addition, the proposals would affect the treatment of COLI policies by limiting the availability of certain interest deductions for companies that purchase those policies. If proposals of this type were

enacted, our sale of COLI, variable annuities and variable life products could be adversely affected and our actual tax expense could increase, reducing earnings.

Legal and regulatory actions are inherent in our businesses and could result in financial losses or harm our businesses.

We are, and in the future may be, subject to legal and regulatory actions in the ordinary course of our insurance and retirement operations. Pending legal actions include proceedings relating to aspects of our businesses and operations that are specific to us and proceedings that are typical of the businesses in which we operate. Some of these proceedings have been brought on behalf of various alleged classes of complainants. In certain of these matters, the plaintiffs are seeking large and/or indeterminate amounts, including punitive or exemplary damages. Substantial legal liability in these or future legal or regulatory actions could have a material financial effect or cause significant harm to our reputation, which in turn could materially harm our business prospects. See Note 13 for a description of legal and regulatory proceedings and actions. These actions include ongoing audits on behalf of multiple states' treasury and controllers' offices for compliance with laws and regulations concerning the identification, reporting and escheatment of unclaimed contract benefits or abandoned funds.

Changes in accounting standards issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or other standard-setting bodies may adversely affect our financial statements.

Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP as identified in the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification™ ("ASC"). From time to time, we are required to adopt new or revised accounting standards or guidance that are incorporated into the FASB ASC. It is possible that future accounting standards we are required to adopt could change the current accounting treatment that we apply to our consolidated financial statements and that such changes could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

For example, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2010-26, "Accounting for Costs Associated with Acquiring or Renewing Insurance Contracts" ("ASU 2010-26"), which clarifies the types of costs that insurance companies may capitalize and amortize over the life of the business. ASU 2010-26 significantly reduces the amount of acquisition cost that we will be able to defer in connection with sales of our insurance products. Although this will not affect the ultimate profitability of our products, we expect it could materially alter the pattern of our earnings. For further information, see "Part II – Item 7 – Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Critical Accounting Policies – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – New DAC Methodology."

In addition, the FASB is working on several projects with the International Accounting Standards Board, which could result in significant changes as GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") attempt to converge, including how we account for our insurance contracts and financial instruments and how our financial statements are presented. Furthermore, the SEC is considering whether and how to incorporate IFRS into the U.S. financial reporting system. The accounting changes being proposed by the FASB may result in a complete change to how we account for and report significant areas of our business, such as insurance contracts and deferred acquisition costs ("DAC"). The effective dates and transition methods are not known; however, issuers may be required to or may choose to adopt the new standards retrospectively. In this case, the issuer will report results under the new accounting method as of the effective date, as well as for all periods presented. The changes to GAAP and potential incorporation of IFRS into the U.S. financial reporting system will impose special demands on issuers in the areas of governance, employee training, internal controls, contract fulfillment and disclosure and will likely affect how we manage our business, as it will likely affect other business processes such as design of compensation plans, product design, etc.

Anti-takeover provisions could delay, deter or prevent our change in control, even if the change in control would be beneficial to LNC shareholders.

We are an Indiana corporation subject to Indiana state law. Certain provisions of Indiana law could interfere with or restrict takeover bids or other change in control events affecting us. Also, provisions in our articles of incorporation, bylaws and other agreements to which we are a party could delay, deter or prevent our change in control, even if a change in control would be beneficial to shareholders. In addition, under Indiana law, directors may, in considering the best interests of a corporation, consider the effects of any action on shareholders, employees, suppliers and customers of the corporation and the communities in which offices and other facilities are located, and other factors the directors consider pertinent. One statutory provision prohibits, except under specified circumstances, LNC from engaging in any business combination with any shareholder who owns 10% or more of our common stock (which shareholder, under the statute, would be considered an “interested shareholder”) for a period of five years following the time that such shareholder became an interested shareholder, unless such business combination is approved by the board of directors prior to such person becoming an interested shareholder. In addition, our articles of incorporation contain a provision requiring holders of at least three-fourths of our voting shares then outstanding and entitled to vote at an election of directors, voting together, to approve a transaction with an interested shareholder rather than the simple majority required under Indiana law.

In addition to the anti-takeover provisions of Indiana law, there are other factors that may delay, deter or prevent our change in control. As an insurance holding company, we are regulated as an insurance holding company and are subject to the insurance

holding company acts of the states in which our insurance company subsidiaries are domiciled. The insurance holding company acts and regulations restrict the ability of any person to obtain control of an insurance company without prior regulatory approval. Under those statutes and regulations, without such approval (or an exemption), no person may acquire any voting security of a domestic insurance company, or an insurance holding company which controls an insurance company, or merge with such a holding company, if as a result of such transaction such person would “control” the insurance holding company or insurance company. “Control” is generally defined as the direct or indirect power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person and is presumed to exist if a person directly or indirectly owns or controls 10% or more of the voting securities of another person.

Market Conditions

Difficult conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally may materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our results of operations are materially affected by conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally, both in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world. Concerns over the viability of the European Union and its ability to resolve the European debt crisis, the ability of the U.S. government to reign in the U.S. deficit, continued high unemployment and a stagnant real estate market in the U.S. have contributed to increased volatility and diminished expectations for the economy and the markets going forward. These events may have an adverse effect on us given our credit and equity market exposure. Our revenues are likely to decline in such circumstances and our profit margins could erode. In addition, in the event of extreme prolonged market events, such as the global credit crisis and recession that occurred during 2008 and 2009, we could incur significant losses. Even in the absence of a market downturn, we are exposed to substantial risk of loss due to market volatility.

Factors such as consumer spending, business investment, domestic and foreign government spending, the volatility and strength of the capital markets, the potential for inflation or deflation and uncertainty over domestic and foreign government actions all affect the business and economic environment and, ultimately, the amount and profitability of our business. In an economic downturn characterized by higher unemployment, lower family income, lower corporate earnings, lower business investment and lower consumer spending, the demand for our financial and insurance products could be adversely affected. In addition, we may experience an elevated incidence of claims and lapses or surrenders of policies. Our contract holders may choose to defer paying insurance premiums or stop paying insurance premiums altogether. Adverse changes in the economy could affect earnings negatively and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Changes in interest rates and sustained low interest rates may cause interest rate spreads to decrease and changes in interest rates may also result in increased contract withdrawals.

Interest rate fluctuations and/or a sustained period of low interest rates could negatively affect our profitability. Some of our products, principally fixed annuities, interest-sensitive whole life, UL and the fixed portion of VUL, have interest rate guarantees that expose us to the risk that changes in interest rates will reduce our spread, or the difference between the amounts that we are required to pay under the contracts and the amounts we are able to earn on our general account investments intended to support our obligations under the contracts. Spreads are an important component of our net income. Declines in our spread or instances where the returns on our general account investments are not enough to support the interest rate guarantees on these products could have a material adverse effect on our businesses or results of operations.

In periods when interest rates are declining or remain at low levels, we may have to reinvest the cash we receive as interest or return of principal on our investments in lower yielding instruments reducing our spread. Moreover, borrowers may prepay fixed-income securities, commercial mortgages and mortgage-backed securities in our general account in order to borrow at lower market rates, which exacerbates this risk. Lowering interest crediting rates helps

to mitigate the effect of spread compression on some of our products. However, because we are entitled to reset the interest rates on our fixed rate annuities only at limited, pre-established intervals, and since many of our contracts have guaranteed minimum interest or crediting rates, our spreads could still decrease. As of December 31, 2011, 85% of our annuities business, 93% of our retirement plan services business and 92% of our life insurance business with guaranteed minimum interest or crediting rates are at their guaranteed minimums.

Our expectation for future spreads is an important component in the amortization of DAC and value of business acquired (“VOBA”) as it affects the future profitability of the business. Currently, new money rates continue to be at historically low levels. The Federal Reserve Board recently announced that it will keep rates low until at least late 2014. If interest rates were to remain low over a sustained period of time, this will put additional pressure on our spreads, potentially resulting in unlocking of our DAC and VOBA assets, thereby reducing net income in the affected reporting period. We would expect the effect to be most pronounced in our Life Insurance segment. For additional information on interest rate risks, see “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – Interest Rate Risk.”

A decline in market interest rates could also reduce our return on investments that do not support particular policy obligations. During periods of sustained lower interest rates, our recorded policy liabilities may not be sufficient to meet future policy obligations and may need to be strengthened, thereby reducing net income in the affected reporting period. Accordingly, declining

interest rates may materially affect our results of operations, financial position and cash flows and significantly reduce our profitability.

Increases in market interest rates may also negatively affect our profitability. In periods of rapidly increasing interest rates, we may not be able to replace the assets in our general account with higher yielding assets needed to fund the higher crediting rates necessary to keep our interest-sensitive products competitive. We therefore may have to accept a lower spread and thus lower profitability or face a decline in sales and greater loss of existing contracts and related assets. Increases in interest rates may cause increased surrenders and withdrawals of insurance products. In periods of increasing interest rates, policy loans and surrenders and withdrawals of life insurance policies and annuity contracts may increase as contract holders seek to buy products with perceived higher returns. This process may lead to a flow of cash out of our businesses. These outflows may require investment assets to be sold at a time when the prices of those assets are lower because of the increase in market interest rates, which may result in realized investment losses. A sudden demand among consumers to change product types or withdraw funds could lead us to sell assets at a loss to meet the demand for funds. Furthermore, unanticipated increases in withdrawals and termination may cause us to unlock our DAC and VOBA assets, which would reduce net income. An increase in market interest rates could also have a material adverse effect on the value of our investment portfolio, for example, by decreasing the estimated fair values of the fixed income securities that comprise a substantial portion of our investment portfolio. An increase in interest rates could also result in decreased fee income associated with a decline in the value of variable annuity account balances invested in fixed income funds.

Because the equity markets and other factors impact the profitability and expected profitability of many of our products, changes in equity markets and other factors may significantly affect our business and profitability.

The fee revenue that we earn on equity-based variable annuities and VUL insurance policies is based primarily upon account values. Because strong equity markets result in higher account values, strong equity markets positively affect our net income through increased fee revenue. Conversely, a weakening of the equity markets results in lower fee income and may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and capital resources.

The increased fee revenue resulting from strong equity markets increases the expected gross profits (“EGPs”) from variable insurance products as do better than expected lapses, mortality rates and expenses. As a result, higher EGPs may result in lower net amortized costs related to DAC, deferred sales inducements (“DSI”), VOBA, deferred front-end loads (“DFEL”) and changes in future contract benefits. However, a decrease in the equity markets, as well as worse than expected increases in lapses, mortality rates and expenses, depending upon their significance, may result in higher net amortized costs associated with DAC, DSI, VOBA, DFEL and changes in future contract benefits and may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and capital resources. If we were to have unlocked our reversion to the mean (“RTM”) assumption in the corridor as of December 31, 2011, we would have recorded a favorable prospective unlocking of approximately \$175 million, pre-tax, for our Annuities segment, approximately \$20 million, pre-tax for our Retirement Plan Services segment and approximately \$15 million, pre-tax, for our Life Insurance segment. For further information about our RTM process, see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Reversion to the Mean” in the MD&A.

Changes in the equity markets, interest rates and/or volatility affect the profitability of our products with guaranteed benefits; therefore, such changes may have a material adverse effect on our business and profitability.

Certain of our variable annuity products include guaranteed benefit riders. These include GDB, GWB and GIB riders. Our GWB, GIB and 4LATER® (a form of GIB rider) features have elements of both insurance benefits accounted for under the Financial Services – Insurance – Claim Costs and Liabilities for Future Policy Benefits Subtopic of the FASB ASC (“benefit reserves”) and embedded derivatives accounted for under the Derivatives and Hedging and the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topics of the FASB ASC (“embedded derivative reserves”). We calculate the value of the embedded derivative reserve and the benefit reserves based on the specific characteristics of

each guaranteed living benefit feature. The amount of reserves related to GDB for variable annuities is tied to the difference between the value of the underlying accounts and the GDB, calculated using a benefit ratio approach. The GDB reserves take into account the present value of total expected GDB payments, the present value of total expected GDB assessments over the life of the contract, claims paid to date and assessments to date. Reserves for our GIB and certain GWB with lifetime benefits are based on a combination of fair value of the underlying benefit and a benefit ratio approach that is based on the projected future payments in excess of projected future account values. The benefit ratio approach takes into account the present value of total expected GIB payments, the present value of total expected GIB assessments over the life of the contract, claims paid to date and assessments to date. The amount of reserves related to those GWB that do not have lifetime benefits is based on the fair value of the underlying benefit.

Both the level of expected payments and expected total assessments used in calculating the reserves not carried at fair value are affected by the equity markets. The liabilities related to fair value are impacted by changes in equity markets, interest rates and volatility. Accordingly, strong equity markets, increases in interest rates and decreases in volatility will generally decrease the reserves calculated using fair value. Conversely, a decrease in the equity markets along with a decrease in interest rates and an increase in volatility will generally result in an increase in the reserves calculated using fair value.

Increases in reserves would result in a charge to our earnings in the quarter in which the increase occurs. Therefore, we maintain a customized dynamic hedge program that is designed to mitigate the risks associated with income volatility around the change in reserves on guaranteed benefits. However, the hedge positions may not be effective to exactly offset the changes in the carrying value of the guarantees due to, among other things, the time lag between changes in their values and corresponding changes in the hedge positions, high levels of volatility in the equity markets and derivatives markets, extreme swings in interest rates, contract holder behavior different than expected, a strategic decision to under- or over-hedge in reaction to extreme market conditions or inconsistencies between economic and statutory reserving guidelines and divergence between the performance of the underlying funds and hedging indices. For example, for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we experienced a breakage on our variable annuity net derivatives results of \$(106) million, \$(27) million and \$103 million, respectively, pre-tax and before the associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL and changes in other contract holder funds and funds withheld reinsurance liabilities. Breakage is defined as the difference between the change in the value of the liabilities, excluding the amount related to the non-performance risk component, and the change in the fair value of the derivatives. Breakage can be positive or negative. The non-performance risk factor is required under the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the FASB ASC, which requires us to consider our own credit standing, which is not hedged, in the valuation of certain of these liabilities. A decrease in our own credit spread could cause the value of these liabilities to increase, resulting in a reduction to net income. Conversely, an increase in our own credit spread could cause the value of these liabilities to decrease, resulting in an increase to net income.

In addition, we remain liable for the guaranteed benefits in the event that derivative counterparties are unable or unwilling to pay, and we are also subject to the risk that the cost of hedging these guaranteed benefits increases, resulting in a reduction to net income. These, individually or collectively, may have a material adverse effect on net income, financial condition or liquidity.

Liquidity and Capital Position

Adverse capital and credit market conditions may affect our ability to meet liquidity needs, access to capital and cost of capital.

We need liquidity to pay our operating expenses, interest on our debt and dividends on our capital stock, to maintain our securities lending activities and to replace certain maturing liabilities. Without sufficient liquidity, we will be forced to curtail our operations, and our business will suffer. When considering our liquidity and capital position, it is important to distinguish between the needs of our insurance subsidiaries and the needs of the holding company.

For our insurance and other subsidiaries, the principal sources of liquidity are insurance premiums and fees, annuity considerations and cash flow from our investment portfolio and assets, consisting mainly of cash or assets that are readily convertible into cash.

In the event that current resources do not satisfy our needs, we may have to seek additional financing. The availability of additional financing will depend on a variety of factors such as market conditions, the general availability of credit, the volume of trading activities, the overall availability of credit to the financial services industry, our credit ratings and credit capacity, as well as the possibility that customers or lenders could develop a negative perception of our long- or short-term financial prospects if we incur large investment losses or if the level of our business activity decreases due to a market downturn. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities or rating agencies take negative actions against us. See “Item 7. MD&A – Review of Consolidated Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Sources of Liquidity and Cash Flows” for a description of our credit ratings. Our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient, and in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms, or at all.

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

Because we are a holding company with no direct operations, the inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to us in sufficient amounts would harm our ability to meet our obligations.

We are a holding company and we have no direct operations. Our principal asset is the capital stock of our insurance subsidiaries. Our ability to meet our obligations for payment of interest and principal on outstanding debt obligations and to pay dividends to shareholders, repurchase our securities and pay corporate expenses depends primarily on the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends or to advance or repay funds to us. Under Indiana laws and regulations, our Indiana insurance subsidiaries, including LNL, our primary insurance subsidiary, may pay dividends to us without prior approval of the Commissioner up to a certain threshold, or must receive prior approval of the Commissioner to pay a dividend if such dividend, along with all other dividends paid within the preceding 12 consecutive months exceed the statutory limitation. The current Indiana statutory limitation is the

greater of 10% of the insurer's contract holders' surplus, as shown on its last annual statement on file with the Commissioner or the insurer's statutory net gain from operations for the prior calendar year.

In addition, payments of dividends and advances or repayment of funds to us by our insurance subsidiaries are restricted by the applicable laws of their respective jurisdictions requiring that our insurance subsidiaries hold a specified amount of minimum reserves in order to meet future obligations on their outstanding policies. These regulations specify that the minimum reserves shall be calculated to be sufficient to meet future obligations, after giving consideration to future required premiums to be received, and are based on certain specified mortality and morbidity tables, interest rates and methods of valuation, which are subject to change. In order to meet their claims-paying obligations, our insurance subsidiaries regularly monitor their reserves to ensure we hold sufficient amounts to cover actual or expected contract and claims payments. At times, we may determine that reserves in excess of the minimum may be needed to ensure sufficiency.

Changes in, or reinterpretations of, these laws can constrain the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends or to advance or repay funds to us in sufficient amounts and at times necessary to meet our debt obligations and corporate expenses. Requiring our insurance subsidiaries to hold additional reserves has the potential to constrain their ability to pay dividends to the holding company. See "Legislative, Regulatory and Tax – Changes to the calculation of reserves and attempts to mitigate the impact of Regulation XXX and Actuarial Guideline 38 may fail in whole or in part resulting in an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations" above for additional information on potential changes in these laws.

The earnings of our insurance subsidiaries impact contract holders' surplus. Lower earnings constrain the growth in our insurance subsidiaries' capital, and therefore, can constrain the payment of dividends and advances or repayment of funds to us.

In addition, the amount of surplus that our insurance subsidiaries could pay as dividends is constrained by the amount of surplus they hold to maintain their financial strength ratings, to provide an additional layer of margin for risk protection and for future investment in our businesses. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we believe that our insurance subsidiaries have sufficient liquidity to meet their contract holder obligations and maintain their operations.

A decrease in the capital and surplus of our insurance subsidiaries may result in a downgrade to our credit and insurer financial strength ratings.

In any particular year, statutory surplus amounts and RBC ratios may increase or decrease depending on a variety of factors, including the amount of statutory income or losses generated by our insurance subsidiaries (which itself is sensitive to equity market and credit market conditions), the amount of additional capital our insurance subsidiaries must hold to support business growth, changes in reserving requirements, such as AG38 and principles-based reserving, our inability to secure capital market solutions to provide reserve relief, such as issuing letters of credit to support captive reinsurance structures, changes in equity market levels, the value of certain fixed-income and equity securities in our investment portfolio, the value of certain derivative instruments that do not get hedge accounting, changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates, as well as changes to the NAIC RBC formulas. The RBC ratio is also affected by the product mix of the in-force book of business (i.e., the amount of business without guarantees is not subject to the same level of reserves as the business with guarantees). Most of these factors are outside of our control. Our credit and insurer financial strength ratings are significantly influenced by the statutory surplus amounts and RBC ratios of our insurance company subsidiaries. The RBC ratio of LNL is an important factor in the determination of the credit and financial strength ratings of LNC and its subsidiaries. In addition, rating agencies may implement changes to their internal models that have the effect of increasing or decreasing the amount of statutory capital we must hold in order to maintain our current ratings. In addition, in extreme scenarios of equity market declines, the amount of additional statutory reserves that we are required to hold for our variable annuity guarantees may increase at a rate greater than the rate of change of the markets. Increases in reserves reduce the

statutory surplus used in calculating our RBC ratios. To the extent that our statutory capital resources are deemed to be insufficient to maintain a particular rating by one or more rating agencies, we may seek to raise additional capital through public or private equity or debt financing, which may be on terms not as favorable as in the past. Alternatively, if we were not to raise additional capital in such a scenario, either at our discretion or because we were unable to do so, our financial strength and credit ratings might be downgraded by one or more rating agencies. For more information on risks regarding our ratings, see “Covenants and Ratings – A downgrade in our financial strength or credit ratings could limit our ability to market products, increase the number or value of policies being surrendered and/or hurt our relationships with creditors” below.

Assumptions and Estimates

Our reserves for future policy benefits and claims related to our current and future business as well as businesses we may acquire in the future may prove to be inadequate.

We establish and carry, as a liability, reserves based on estimates of how much we will need to pay for future benefits and claims. For our insurance products, we calculate these reserves based on many assumptions and estimates, including, but not limited to, estimated premiums we will receive over the assumed life of the policies, the timing of the events covered by the insurance policies,

the lapse rate of the policies, the amount of benefits or claims to be paid and the investment returns on the assets we purchase with the premiums we receive.

The sensitivity of our statutory reserves and surplus established for our variable annuity base contracts and riders to changes in the equity markets will vary depending on the magnitude of the decline. The sensitivity will be affected by the level of account values relative to the level of guaranteed amounts, product design and reinsurance. Statutory reserves for variable annuities depend upon the cumulative equity market impacts on the business in force, and therefore, result in non-linear relationships with respect to the level of equity market performance within any reporting period.

The assumptions and estimates we use in connection with establishing and carrying our reserves are inherently uncertain. Accordingly, we cannot determine with precision the ultimate amount or the timing of the payment of actual benefits and claims or whether the assets supporting the policy liabilities will grow to the level we assume prior to payment of benefits or claims. If our actual experience is different from our assumptions or estimates, our reserves may prove to be inadequate in relation to our estimated future benefits and claims. Increases in reserves have a negative effect on income from operations in the quarter incurred.

If our businesses do not perform well and/or their estimated fair values decline or the price of our common stock does not increase, we may be required to recognize an impairment of our goodwill or to establish a valuation allowance against the deferred income tax asset, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Goodwill represents the excess of the acquisition price incurred to acquire subsidiaries and other businesses over the fair value of their net assets as of the date of acquisition. As of December 31, 2011, we had a total of \$2.3 billion of goodwill on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, of which \$1.5 billion related to our Life Insurance segment and \$440 million related to our Annuities segment. We test goodwill at least annually for indications of value impairment with consideration given to financial performance, merger and acquisitions and other relevant factors. In addition, certain events, including a significant and adverse change in legal factors, accounting standards or the business climate, an adverse action or assessment by a regulator or unanticipated competition, would cause us to review the carrying amounts of goodwill for impairment. Impairment testing is performed based upon estimates of the fair value of the "reporting unit" to which the goodwill relates. As of December 31, 2011, we recorded a goodwill impairment of \$747 million, primarily related to our Life Insurance segment. Subsequent reviews of goodwill could result in impairment of goodwill, and such write downs could have a material adverse effect on our net income and book value, but will not affect the statutory capital of our insurance subsidiaries. For more information on goodwill, see Note 10 and "Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets" in the MD&A.

Deferred income tax represents the tax effect of the differences between the book and tax basis of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets are assessed periodically by management to determine if they are realizable. As of December 31, 2011, we had a deferred tax asset of \$2.5 billion. Factors in management's determination include the performance of the business, including the ability to generate capital gains from a variety of sources and tax planning strategies. If, based on available information, it is more likely than not that the deferred income tax asset will not be realized, then a valuation allowance must be established with a corresponding charge to net income. Such valuation allowance could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position.

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments taken on our investments is highly subjective and could materially impact our results of operations or financial position.

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments varies by investment type and is based upon our periodic evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available. Management

updates its evaluations regularly and reflects changes in allowances and impairments in operations as such evaluations are revised. There can be no assurance that our management has accurately assessed the level of impairments taken and allowances reflected in our financial statements. Furthermore, additional impairments may need to be taken or allowances provided for in the future. Historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments or allowances.

We regularly review our available-for-sale (“AFS”) securities for declines in fair value that we determine to be other-than-temporary. For an equity security, if we do not have the ability and intent to hold the security for a sufficient period of time to allow for a recovery in value, we conclude that an other-than-temporary impairment (“OTTI”) has occurred, and the amortized cost of the equity security is written down to the current fair value, with a corresponding change to realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). When assessing our ability and intent to hold the equity security to recovery, we consider, among other things, the severity and duration of the decline in fair value of the equity security as well as the cause of decline, a fundamental analysis of the liquidity, business prospects and overall financial condition of the issuer.

For a debt security, if we intend to sell a security or it is more likely than not we will be required to sell a debt security before recovery of its amortized cost basis and the fair value of the debt security is below amortized cost, we conclude that an OTTI has

occurred and the amortized cost is written down to current fair value, with a corresponding charge to realized loss on our Consolidated Statements of Income. If we do not intend to sell a debt security or it is not more likely than not we will be required to sell a debt security before recovery of its amortized cost basis but the present value of the cash flows expected to be collected is less than the amortized cost of the debt security (referred to as the credit loss), we conclude that an OTTI has occurred and the amortized cost is written down to the estimated recovery value with a corresponding charge to realized loss on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss), as this is also deemed the credit portion of the OTTI. The remainder of the decline to fair value is recorded in other comprehensive income (loss) ("OCI") to unrealized OTTI on AFS securities on our Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity, as this is considered a noncredit (i.e., recoverable) impairment. Net OTTI recognized in net income (loss) was \$118 million, \$152 million and \$392 million, pre-tax, for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The portion of OTTI recognized in OCI for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, was \$47 million and \$88 million, pre-tax, respectively.

Related to our unrealized losses, we establish deferred tax assets for the tax benefit we may receive in the event that losses are realized. The realization of significant realized losses could result in an inability to recover the tax benefits and may result in the establishment of valuation allowances against our deferred tax assets. Realized losses or impairments may have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and financial position.

Our valuation of fixed maturity, equity and trading securities may include methodologies, estimations and assumptions which are subject to differing interpretations and could result in changes to investment valuations that may materially adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition.

Fixed maturity, equity and trading securities and short-term investments, which are reported at fair value on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, represented the majority of our total cash and invested assets. Pursuant to the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topics of the FASB ASC, we have categorized these securities into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of the inputs to the respective valuation technique. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

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

During periods of market disruption, including periods of significantly increasing/decreasing or high/low interest rates, rapidly widening credit spreads or illiquidity, it may be difficult to value certain securities if trading becomes less frequent and/or market data becomes less observable. There may be certain asset classes that were in active markets with significant observable data that become illiquid due to the current financial environment. In such cases, more securities may fall to Level 3 and thus require more subjectivity and management judgment. As such, valuations may include inputs and assumptions that are less observable or require greater estimation, as well as valuation methods which are more sophisticated or require greater estimation, thereby resulting in values which may be less than the value at which the investments may be ultimately sold. Further, rapidly changing and unprecedented credit and equity market conditions could materially impact the valuation of securities as reported within our consolidated financial statements and the period-to-period changes in value could vary significantly. Decreases in value may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Significant adverse mortality experience may result in the loss of, or higher prices for, reinsurance.

We reinsure a significant amount of the mortality risk on fully underwritten, newly issued, individual life insurance contracts. We regularly review retention limits for continued appropriateness and they may be changed in the future. If we were to experience adverse mortality or morbidity experience, a significant portion of that would be reimbursed by our reinsurers. Prolonged or severe adverse mortality or morbidity experience could result in increased reinsurance costs, and ultimately, reinsurers not willing to offer coverage. If we are unable to maintain our current level of reinsurance or purchase new reinsurance protection in amounts that we consider sufficient, we would either have to be willing to accept an increase in our net exposures or revise our pricing to reflect higher reinsurance premiums. If this were to occur, we may be exposed to reduced profitability and cash flow strain or we may not be able to price new business at competitive rates.

Catastrophes may adversely impact liabilities for contract holder claims and the availability of reinsurance.

Our insurance operations are exposed to the risk of catastrophic mortality, such as a pandemic, an act of terrorism, natural disaster or other event that causes a large number of deaths or injuries. Significant influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, but the likelihood, timing or severity of a future pandemic cannot be predicted. Additionally, the impact of climate change could cause changes in weather patterns, resulting in more severe and more frequent natural disasters such as forest fires,

hurricanes, tornados, floods and storm surges. In our group insurance operations, a localized event that affects the workplace of one or more of our group insurance customers could cause a significant loss due to mortality or morbidity claims. These events could cause a material adverse effect on our results of operations in any period and, depending on their severity, could also materially and adversely affect our financial condition.

The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. Pandemics, natural disasters and man-made catastrophes, including terrorism, may produce significant damage in larger areas, especially those that are heavily populated. Claims resulting from natural or man-made catastrophic events could cause substantial volatility in our financial results for any fiscal quarter or year and could materially reduce our profitability or harm our financial condition. Also, catastrophic events could harm the financial condition of our reinsurers and thereby increase the probability of default on reinsurance recoveries. Accordingly, our ability to write new business could also be affected.

Consistent with industry practice and accounting standards, we establish liabilities for claims arising from a catastrophe only after assessing the probable losses arising from the event. We cannot be certain that the liabilities we have established or applicable reinsurance will be adequate to cover actual claim liabilities, and a catastrophic event or multiple catastrophic events could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Operational Matters

Our enterprise risk management policies and procedures may leave us exposed to unidentified or unanticipated risk, which could negatively affect our businesses or result in losses.

We have devoted significant resources to develop our enterprise risk management policies and procedures and expect to continue to do so in the future. Nonetheless, our policies and procedures to identify, monitor and manage risks may not be fully effective. Many of our methods of managing risk and exposures are based upon our use of observed historical market behavior or statistics based on historical models. As a result, these methods may not predict future exposures, which could be significantly greater than the historical measures indicate, such as the risk of pandemics causing a large number of deaths. Other risk management methods depend upon the evaluation of information regarding markets, clients, catastrophe occurrence or other matters that is publicly available or otherwise accessible to us, which may not always be accurate, complete, up-to-date or properly evaluated. Management of operational, legal and regulatory risks requires, among other things, policies and procedures to record properly and verify a large number of transactions and events, and these policies and procedures may not be fully effective.

We face a risk of non-collectibility of reinsurance, which could materially affect our results of operations.

We follow the insurance practice of reinsuring with other insurance and reinsurance companies a portion of the risks under the policies written by our insurance subsidiaries (known as “ceding”). As of December 31, 2011, we ceded \$331.7 billion of life insurance in force to reinsurers for reinsurance protection. Although reinsurance does not discharge our subsidiaries from their primary obligation to pay contract holders for losses insured under the policies we issue, reinsurance does make the assuming reinsurer liable to the insurance subsidiaries for the reinsured portion of the risk. As of December 31, 2011, we had \$6.5 billion of reinsurance receivables from reinsurers for paid and unpaid losses, for which they are obligated to reimburse us under our reinsurance contracts. Of this amount, \$2.8 billion related to the sale of our reinsurance business to Swiss Re in 2001 through an indemnity reinsurance agreement. Swiss Re has funded a trust to support this business. The balance in the trust changes as a result of ongoing reinsurance activity and was \$2.2 billion as of December 31, 2011. Furthermore, approximately \$1.0 billion of the Swiss Re treaties are funds withheld structures where we have a right of offset on assets backing the reinsurance receivables.

The balance of the reinsurance is due from a diverse group of reinsurers. The collectibility of reinsurance is largely a function of the solvency of the individual reinsurers. We perform annual credit reviews on our reinsurers, focusing on, among other things, financial capacity, stability, trends and commitment to the reinsurance business. We also require assets in trust, letters of credit or other acceptable collateral to support balances due from reinsurers not authorized to transact business in the applicable jurisdictions. Despite these measures, a reinsurer's insolvency, inability or unwillingness to make payments under the terms of a reinsurance contract, especially Swiss Re, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Competition for our employees is intense, and we may not be able to attract and retain the highly skilled people we need to support our business.

Our success depends, in large part, on our ability to attract and retain key people. Intense competition exists for the key employees with demonstrated ability, and we may be unable to hire or retain such employees. The unexpected loss of services of one or more of our key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our operations due to their skills, knowledge of our business, their years of industry experience and the potential difficulty of promptly finding qualified replacement employees. We compete with other financial institutions primarily on the basis of our products, compensation, support services and financial position. Sales in our businesses and our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected if we are unsuccessful in

attracting and retaining key employees, including financial advisors, wholesalers and other employees, as well as independent distributors of our products.

We may not be able to protect our intellectual property and may be subject to infringement claims.

We rely on a combination of contractual rights and copyright, trademark, patent and trade secret laws to establish and protect our intellectual property. Although we use a broad range of measures to protect our intellectual property rights, third parties may infringe or misappropriate our intellectual property. We may have to litigate to enforce and protect our copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets and know-how or to determine their scope, validity or enforceability, which represents a diversion of resources that may be significant in amount and may not prove successful. Additionally, complex legal and factual determinations and evolving laws and court interpretations make the scope of protection afforded our intellectual property uncertain, particularly in relation to our patents. While we believe our patents provide us with a competitive advantage, we cannot be certain that any issued patents will be interpreted with sufficient breadth to offer meaningful protection. In addition, our issued patents may be successfully challenged, invalidated, circumvented or found unenforceable so that our patent rights would not create an effective competitive barrier. The loss of intellectual property protection or the inability to secure or enforce the protection of our intellectual property assets could have a material adverse effect on our business and our ability to compete.

We also may be subject to costly litigation in the event that another party alleges our operations or activities infringe upon another party's intellectual property rights. Third parties may have, or may eventually be issued, patents that could be infringed by our products, methods, processes or services. Any party that holds such a patent could make a claim of infringement against us. We may also be subject to claims by third parties for breach of copyright, trademark, trade secret or license usage rights. Any such claims and any resulting litigation could result in significant liability for damages. If we were found to have infringed a third-party patent or other intellectual property rights, we could incur substantial liability, and in some circumstances could be enjoined from providing certain products or services to our customers or utilizing and benefiting from certain methods, processes, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets or licenses, or alternatively could be required to enter into costly licensing arrangements with third parties, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our information systems may experience interruptions or breaches in security.

Our information systems are critical to the operation of our business. We collect, process, maintain, retain and distribute large amounts of personal financial and health information and other confidential and sensitive data about our customers in the ordinary course of our business. Our business therefore depends on our customers' willingness to entrust us with their personal information. Any failure, interruption or breach in security could result in disruptions to our critical systems and adversely affect our customer relationships. While we employ a robust and tested information security program, there can be no assurance that any such failure, interruption or security breach will not occur or, if any does occur, that it can be sufficiently remediated. The occurrence of any such failure, interruption or security breach of our systems could damage our reputation, result in a loss of customer business, subject us to additional regulatory scrutiny, or expose us to civil litigation and financial liability.

Covenants and Ratings

A downgrade in our financial strength or credit ratings could limit our ability to market products, increase the number or value of policies being surrendered and/or hurt our relationships with creditors.

Nationally recognized rating agencies rate the financial strength of our principal insurance subsidiaries and rate our debt. Ratings are not recommendations to buy our securities. Each of the rating agencies reviews its ratings periodically, and our current ratings may not be maintained in the future.

Our financial strength ratings, which are intended to measure our ability to meet contract holder obligations, are an important factor affecting public confidence in most of our products and, as a result, our competitiveness. A downgrade of the financial strength rating of one of our principal insurance subsidiaries could affect our competitive position in the insurance industry by making it more difficult for us to market our products as potential customers may select companies with higher financial strength ratings and by leading to increased withdrawals by current customers seeking companies with higher financial strength ratings. This could lead to a decrease in fees as net outflows of assets increase, and therefore, result in lower fee income. Furthermore, sales of assets to meet customer withdrawal demands could also result in losses, depending on market conditions. The interest rates we pay on our borrowings are largely dependent on our credit ratings. A downgrade of our debt ratings could affect our ability to raise additional debt, including bank lines of credit, with terms and conditions similar to our current debt, and accordingly, likely increase our cost of capital.

All of our ratings and ratings of our principal insurance subsidiaries are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the rating agencies, and therefore, no assurance can be given that our principal insurance subsidiaries or we can maintain these ratings. See “Item 1. Business – Financial Strength Ratings” and “Item 7. MD&A – Review of Consolidated Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Sources of Liquidity and Cash Flows” for a description of our ratings.

We will be required to pay interest on our capital securities with proceeds from the issuance of qualifying securities if we fail to achieve capital adequacy or net income and stockholders' equity levels.

As of December 31, 2011, we had approximately \$1.2 billion in principal amount of capital securities outstanding. All of the capital securities contain covenants that require us to make interest payments in accordance with an alternative coupon satisfaction mechanism ("ACSM") if we determine that one of the following triggers exists as of the 30th day prior to an interest payment date, or the "determination date":

1. LNL's RBC ratio is less than 175% (based on the most recent annual financial statement filed with the State of Indiana); or
2. (i) The sum of our consolidated net income for the four trailing fiscal quarters ending on the quarter that is two quarters prior to the most recently completed quarter prior to the determination date is zero or negative, and (ii) our consolidated stockholders' equity (excluding accumulated OCI and any increase in stockholders' equity resulting from the issuance of preferred stock during a quarter), or "adjusted stockholders' equity," as of (x) the most recently completed quarter and (y) the end of the quarter that is two quarters before the most recently completed quarter, has declined by 10% or more as compared to the quarter that is ten fiscal quarters prior to the last completed quarter, or the "benchmark quarter."

The ACSM would generally require us to use commercially reasonable efforts to satisfy our obligation to pay interest in full on the capital securities with the net proceeds from sales of our common stock and warrants to purchase our common stock with an exercise price greater than the market price. We would have to utilize the ACSM until the trigger events above no longer existed, and, in the case of test 2 above, until our adjusted stockholders' equity amount increased or declined by less than 10% as compared to the adjusted stockholders' equity at the end of the benchmark quarter for each interest payment date as to which interest payment restrictions were imposed by test 2 above.

If we were required to utilize the ACSM and were successful in selling sufficient shares of common stock or warrants to satisfy the interest payment, we would dilute the current holders of our common stock. Furthermore, while a trigger event is occurring and if we do not pay accrued interest in full, we may not, among other things, pay dividends on or repurchase our capital stock. Our failure to pay interest pursuant to the ACSM will not result in an event of default with respect to the capital securities, nor will a nonpayment of interest, unless it lasts for ten consecutive years, although such breaches may result in monetary damages to the holders of the capital securities.

The calculations of RBC, net income (loss) and adjusted stockholders' equity are subject to adjustments and the capital securities are subject to additional terms and conditions as further described in supplemental indentures filed as exhibits to our Forms 8-K filed on March 13, 2007, May 17, 2006, and April 20, 2006.

Certain blocks of our insurance business purchased from third-party insurers under indemnity reinsurance agreements may require us to place assets in trust, secure letters of credit or return the business, if the financial strength ratings and/or capital ratios of certain insurance subsidiaries are not maintained at specified levels.

Under certain indemnity reinsurance agreements, one of our insurance subsidiaries, LLANY, provides 100% indemnity reinsurance for the business assumed, however, the third-party insurer, or the "cedent," remains primarily liable on the underlying insurance business. Under these types of agreements, as of December 31, 2011, we held statutory reserves of \$3.1 billion. These indemnity reinsurance arrangements require that our subsidiary, as the reinsurer, maintain certain insurer financial strength ratings and capital ratios. If these ratings or capital ratios are not maintained, depending upon the reinsurance agreement, the cedent may recapture the business, or require us to place assets in trust or provide letters of credit at least equal to the relevant statutory reserves. Under the largest indemnity reinsurance arrangement, we held \$2.1 billion of statutory reserves as of December 31, 2011. LLANY must maintain an A.M. Best financial strength rating of at least B+, an S&P financial strength rating of at least BB+ and a Moody's

financial strength rating of at least Ba1, as well as maintain an RBC ratio of at least 160% or an S&P capital adequacy ratio of 100%, or the cedent may recapture the business. Under two other arrangements, by which we established approximately \$875 million of statutory reserves, LLANY must maintain an A.M. Best financial strength rating of at least B++, an S&P financial strength rating of at least BBB- and a Moody's financial strength rating of at least Baa3. One of these arrangements also requires LLANY to maintain an RBC ratio of at least 185% or an S&P capital adequacy ratio of 115%. Each of these arrangements may require LLANY to place assets in trust equal to the relevant statutory reserves. As of December 31, 2011, LLANY's RBC ratio exceeded the required ratio. See "Item 1. Business – Financial Strength Ratings" for a description of our financial strength ratings.

If the cedent recaptured the business, LLANY would be required to release reserves and transfer assets to the cedent. Such a recapture could adversely impact our future profits. Alternatively, if LLANY established a security trust for the cedent, the ability to transfer assets out of the trust could be severely restricted, thus negatively impacting our liquidity.

Investments

Some of our investments are relatively illiquid and are in asset classes that have been experiencing significant market valuation fluctuations.

We hold certain investments that may lack liquidity, such as privately placed fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans, policy loans and other limited partnership interests. These asset classes represented 21% of the carrying value of our total cash and invested assets as of December 31, 2011.

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

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

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

Defaults on our mortgage loans and write downs of mortgage equity may adversely affect our profitability.

Our mortgage loans face default risk and are principally collateralized by commercial properties. The performance of our mortgage loan investments may fluctuate in the future. In addition, some of our mortgage loan investments have balloon payment maturities. An increase in the default rate of our mortgage loan investments could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Further, any geographic or sector exposure in our mortgage loans may have adverse effects on our investment portfolios and consequently on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition. While we seek to mitigate this risk by having a broadly diversified portfolio, events or developments that have a negative effect on any particular geographic region or sector may have a greater adverse effect on the investment portfolios to the extent that the portfolios are exposed.

The difficulties faced by other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

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

due to bankruptcy, lack of liquidity, downturns in the economy or real estate values, operational failure, corporate governance issues or other reasons. A further downturn in the U.S. and other economies could result in increased impairments. There can be no assurance that any such losses or impairments to the carrying value of these assets would not materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our requirements to post collateral or make payments related to declines in market value of specified assets may adversely affect our liquidity and expose us to counterparty credit risk.

Many of our transactions with financial and other institutions, including settling futures positions, specify the circumstances under which the parties are required to post collateral. The amount of collateral we may be required to post under these agreements may increase under certain circumstances, which could adversely affect our liquidity. In addition, under the terms of some of our transactions, we may be required to make payments to our counterparties related to any decline in the market value of the specified assets.

Our investments are reflected within our consolidated financial statements utilizing different accounting bases, and, accordingly, there may be significant differences between cost and fair value that are not recorded in our consolidated financial statements.

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

- Fixed maturity and equity securities are classified as AFS, except for those designated as trading securities, and are reported at their estimated fair value. The difference between the estimated fair value and amortized cost of AFS securities (i.e., unrealized investment gains and losses) is recorded as a separate component of OCI, net of adjustments to DAC, contract holder related amounts and deferred income taxes;
- Fixed maturity and equity securities designated as trading securities are recorded at fair value with subsequent changes in fair value recognized in realized gain (loss). However, in certain cases, the trading securities support reinsurance arrangements. In those cases, offsetting the changes to fair value of the trading securities are corresponding changes in the fair value of the embedded derivative liability associated with the underlying reinsurance arrangement. In other words, the investment results for the trading securities, including gains and losses from sales, are passed directly to the reinsurers through the contractual terms of the reinsurance arrangements. These types of securities represent 60% of our trading securities;
- Short-term investments include investments with remaining maturities of one year or less, but greater than three months, at the time of acquisition and are stated at amortized cost, which approximates fair value;
- Also, mortgage loans on real estate are carried at unpaid principal balances, adjusted for any unamortized premiums or discounts and deferred fees or expenses, net of valuation allowances;
- Policy loans are carried at unpaid principal balances;
- Real estate joint ventures and other limited partnership interests are carried using the equity method of accounting; and
- Other invested assets consist principally of derivatives with positive fair values. Derivatives are carried at fair value with changes in fair value reflected in income from non-qualifying derivatives and derivatives in fair value hedging relationships. Derivatives in cash flow hedging relationships are reflected as a separate component of other comprehensive income or loss.

Investments not carried at fair value on our consolidated financial statements, principally, mortgage loans, policy loans and real estate, may have fair values which are substantially higher or lower than the carrying value reflected on our consolidated financial statements. In addition, unrealized losses are not reflected in net income unless we realize the losses by either selling the security at below amortized cost or determine that the decline in fair value is deemed to be other-than-temporary (i.e., impaired). Each of such asset classes is regularly evaluated for impairment under the accounting guidance appropriate to the respective asset class.

Competition

Intense competition could negatively affect our ability to maintain or increase our profitability.

Our businesses are intensely competitive. We compete based on a number of factors, including name recognition, service, the quality of investment advice, investment performance, product features, price, perceived financial strength and claims-paying and credit ratings. Our competitors include insurers, broker-dealers, financial advisors, asset managers and other financial institutions. A number of our business units face competitors that have greater market share, offer a broader range of products or have higher financial strength or credit ratings than we do.

In recent years, there has been substantial consolidation and convergence among companies in the financial services industry resulting in increased competition from large, well-capitalized financial services firms. Many of these firms

also have been able to increase their distribution systems through mergers or contractual arrangements. Furthermore, larger competitors may have lower operating costs and an ability to absorb greater risk while maintaining their financial strength ratings, thereby allowing them to price their products more competitively. We expect consolidation to continue and perhaps accelerate in the future, thereby increasing competitive pressure on us.

Our sales representatives are not captive and may sell products of our competitors.

We sell our annuity and life insurance products through independent sales representatives. These representatives are not captive, which means they may also sell our competitors' products. If our competitors offer products that are more attractive than ours, or pay higher commission rates to the sales representatives than we do, these representatives may concentrate their efforts in selling our competitors' products instead of ours.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

30

Item 2. Properties

As of December 31, 2011, LNC and our subsidiaries owned or leased approximately 3.5 million square feet of office space. We leased 0.1 million square feet of office space in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for LFN. We leased 0.2 million square feet of office space in Radnor, Pennsylvania for our corporate center and for LFD. We owned or leased 0.8 million square feet of office space in Fort Wayne, Indiana, primarily for our Annuities and Retirement Plan Services segments. We owned or leased 0.8 million square feet of office space in Greensboro, North Carolina, primarily for our Life Insurance segment. We owned or leased 0.3 million square feet of office space in Omaha, Nebraska, primarily for our Group Protection segment. An additional 1.3 million square feet of office space is owned or leased in other U.S. cities for branch offices. As provided in Note 13, the rental expense on operating leases for office space and equipment was \$42 million for 2011. This discussion regarding properties does not include information on investment properties.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

For information regarding legal proceedings, see “Regulatory and Litigation Matters” in Note 13, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

Executive Officers of the Registrant as of February 17, 2012, were as follows:

Name	Age (1)	Position with LNC and Business Experience During the Past Five Years
Dennis R. Glass	62	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (since July 2007). President, Chief Operating Officer and Director (April 2006 - July 2007). President and Chief Executive Officer, Jefferson-Pilot (2004 - April 2006). President and Chief Operating Officer, Jefferson-Pilot (2001 - April 2006).
Lisa M. Buckingham	46	Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer (since March 2011) Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer (December 2008 - March 2011). Senior Vice President, Global Talent, Thomson Reuters, a provider of information and services for businesses and professionals (April 2008 - November 2008). Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Thomson Corporation (2002 - April 2008).
Charles C. Cornelio	52	President, Retirement Plan Services (since December 2009). Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer (November 2008 - December 2009). Senior Vice President, Shared Services and Chief Information Officer (April 2006 - November 2008). Executive Vice President, Technology and Insurance Services, Jefferson-Pilot (2004 - April 2006). Senior Vice President, Jefferson-Pilot (1997 - 2004).
Robert W. Dineen	62	President, Lincoln Financial Network, and CEO, Lincoln Financial Advisors (2) (since 2002). Senior Vice President, Managed Asset Group, Merrill Lynch & Co., a diversified financial services company (2001 - 2002).
Randal J. Freitag	49	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (since January 2011). Senior Vice President, Chief Risk Officer (2007 - December 2010). Senior Vice President, Chief Risk Officer and Treasurer (2007 - October 2009). Senior Vice President, Product Risk and Profitability and Actuary (2004 - 2007).
Wilford H. Fuller	41	President and CEO, Lincoln Financial Distributors (2) (since February 2009). Head, Distribution, Global Wealth Management, Merrill Lynch & Co., a diversified financial services company (2007 - 2009). Head, Distribution, Managed Solutions Group, Merrill Lynch & Co. (2005 - 2007). National Sales Manager, Merrill Lynch & Co. (2000 - 2005).
Mark E. Konen	52	President, Insurance Solutions and Annuities (since July 2008 and February 2009 respectively). President, Individual Markets (April 2006 - July 2008). Executive Vice President, Life and Annuity Manufacturing, Jefferson-Pilot (2004 - April 2006). Executive Vice President, Product/Financial Management, Jefferson-Pilot (2002 - 2004).

(1) Age shown is based on the officer's age as of February 17, 2012.

(2) Denotes an affiliate of LNC.

PART II

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

(a) Stock Market and Dividend Information

Our common stock is traded on the New York stock exchange under the symbol LNC. As of January 27, 2012, the number of shareholders of record of our common stock was 10,053. The dividend on our common stock is declared each quarter by our Board of Directors if we are eligible to pay dividends and the Board determines that we will pay dividends. In determining dividends, the Board takes into consideration items such as our financial condition, including current and expected earnings, projected cash flows and anticipated financing needs. For potential restrictions on our ability to pay dividends, see "Review of Consolidated Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources" in "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and Note 20 in the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements presented in "Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," as well as in "Part I – Item 1. Business – Regulatory – Insurance Regulation – Restriction on Subsidiaries' Dividends and Other Payments." The following presents the high and low prices for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange during the periods indicated and the dividends declared per share during such periods:

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
2011				
High	\$ 32.68	\$ 32.39	\$ 29.67	\$ 21.88
Low	28.00	25.97	15.00	13.75
Dividend declared	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.080
2010				
High	\$ 30.74	\$ 33.55	\$ 26.83	\$ 29.12
Low	22.52	23.86	20.65	23.17
Dividend declared	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050

For information on securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans, see "Part III – Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters," which is incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Not Applicable

(c) Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following summarizes purchases of equity securities by the issuer during the quarter ended December 31, 2011 (dollars in millions, except per share data):

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased (1)	(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced	(d) Approximate Dollar Value of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the
--------	---	---	--	--

				Plans or Programs (2)		Plans or Programs (3)
10/1/11 - 10/31/11	2,378	\$	16.27	-	\$	740
11/1/11 - 11/30/11	7,572,969		19.01	7,572,600		596
12/1/11 - 12/31/11	2,822,964		19.78	2,812,800		540

- (1) Of the total number of shares purchased, no shares were received in connection with the exercise of stock options and related taxes and 12,911 shares were withheld for taxes on the vesting of restricted stock. For the quarter ended December 31, 2011, there were 10,385,400 shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs.
- (2) On February 23, 2007, our Board approved a \$2.0 billion increase to our securities repurchase authorization, bringing the total authorization at that time to \$2.6 billion. As of December 31, 2011, our security repurchase authorization was \$540 million. The security repurchase authorization does not have an expiration date. The amount and timing of share repurchase depends on key capital ratios, rating agency expectations, the generation of free cash flow and an evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with alternative uses of capital. The shares repurchased in connection with the awards described in Note 19 in the

accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements presented in “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” do not reduce our security repurchase authorization.

(3) As of the last day of the applicable month.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The following selected financial data (in millions, except per share data) should be read in conjunction with “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements presented in “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.” Some previously reported amounts have been reclassified to conform to the presentation as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011.

	For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Total revenues	\$ 10,636	\$ 10,407	\$ 8,499	\$ 9,224	\$ 9,614
Income (loss) from continuing operations	302	951	(415)	(10)	1,199
Net income (loss)	294	980	(485)	57	1,215
Per share data: (1)(2)					
Income (loss) from continuing operations - basic	0.99	2.53	(1.60)	(0.04)	4.44
Income (loss) from continuing operations - diluted	0.95	2.45	(1.60)	(0.04)	4.37
Net income (loss) - basic	0.96	2.62	(1.85)	0.22	4.50
Net income (loss) - diluted	0.92	2.54	(1.85)	0.22	4.43
Common stock dividends	0.230	0.080	0.040	1.455	1.600
	As of December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Assets	\$ 202,906	\$ 193,824	\$ 177,433	\$ 163,136	\$ 191,435
Long-term debt:					
Principal	5,088	5,363	5,019	4,555	4,620
Unamortized premiums (discounts) and fair value					
hedge on interest rate swap agreements	303	36	31	176	(2)
Stockholders' equity	14,164	12,806	11,700	7,977	11,718
Per common share data: (1)					
Stockholders' equity, including accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (3)	48.59	40.54	36.02	31.15	44.32
Stockholders' equity, excluding accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (3)	40.19	38.17	36.89	42.09	43.46
Market value of common stock	19.42	27.81	24.88	18.84	58.22

(1) Per share amounts were affected by the retirement of 24.7 million, 1.1 million, less than 1 million, 9.3 million and 15.4 million shares of common stock during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

(2) For discussion of the reduction of net income (loss) available to common stockholders see Note 14 in the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements presented in “Item 8. Financial Statements and

Supplementary Data.”

(3) Per share amounts are calculated under the assumption that our Series A preferred stock has been converted to common stock, but exclude Series B preferred stock balances as it was non-convertible.

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

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") is intended to help the reader understand the financial condition as of December 31, 2011, compared with December 31, 2010, and the results of operations in 2011 and 2010, compared with the immediately preceding year of Lincoln National Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries. Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, "LNC," "Lincoln," "Company," "we," "our" or "us" refer to Lincoln National Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries. The MD&A is provided as a supplement to, and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements ("Notes") presented in "Part II – Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," as well as "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors" above.

In this report, in addition to providing consolidated revenues and net income (loss), we also provide segment operating revenues and income (loss) from operations because we believe they are meaningful measures of revenues and the profitability of our operating segments. Financial information that follows is presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), unless otherwise indicated. See Note 1 for a discussion of GAAP.

Operating revenues and income (loss) from operations are the financial performance measures we use to evaluate and assess the results of our segments. Accordingly, we define and report operating revenues and income (loss) from operations by segment in Note 22. Our management believes that operating revenues and income (loss) from operations explain the results of our ongoing businesses in a manner that allows for a better understanding of the underlying trends in our current businesses because the excluded items are unpredictable and not necessarily indicative of current operating fundamentals or future performance of the business segments, and, in many instances, decisions regarding these items do not necessarily relate to the operations of the individual segments. In addition, we believe that our definitions of operating revenues and income (loss) from operations will provide investors with a more valuable measure of our performance because it better reveals trends in our business.

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior periods' financial information.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS – CAUTIONARY LANGUAGE

Certain statements made in this report and in other written or oral statements made by us or on our behalf are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PSLRA"). A forward-looking statement is a statement that is not a historical fact and, without limitation, includes any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results, performance or achievements, and may contain words like: "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "estimate," "project," "will," "shall" and other words or phrases with similar meaning in connection with a discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, trends in our businesses, prospective services or products, future performance or financial results and the outcome of contingencies, such as legal proceedings. We claim the protection afforded by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by the PSLRA.

Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from the results contained in the forward-looking statements. Risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to vary materially, some of which are described within the forward-looking statements, include, among others:

- Deterioration in general economic and business conditions that may affect account values, investment results, guaranteed benefit liabilities, premium levels, claims experience and the level of pension benefit costs, funding and investment results;
- Adverse global capital and credit market conditions could affect our ability to raise capital, if necessary, and may cause us to realize impairments on investments and certain intangible assets, including goodwill and a valuation

allowance against deferred tax assets, which may reduce future earnings and/or affect our financial condition and ability to raise additional capital or refinance existing debt as it matures;

- Because of our holding company structure, the inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to the holding company in sufficient amounts could harm the holding company's ability to meet its obligations;
- Legislative, regulatory or tax changes, both domestic and foreign, that affect the cost of, or demand for, our subsidiaries' products, the required amount of reserves and/or surplus, or otherwise affect our ability to conduct business, including changes to statutory reserve requirements related to secondary guarantees under universal life, such as a change to reserve calculations under Actuarial Guideline 38 (also known as The Application of the Valuation of Life Insurance Policies Model Regulation, or "AG38"), and variable annuity products under Actuarial Guideline 43 (also known as Commissioners Annuity Reserve Valuation Method for Variable Annuities, or "AG43"); restrictions on revenue sharing and 12b-1 payments; and the potential for U.S. federal tax reform;
- Uncertainty about the effect of rules and regulations to be promulgated under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act on us and the economy and the financial services sector in particular;
- The initiation of legal or regulatory proceedings against us, and the outcome of any legal or regulatory proceedings, such as: adverse actions related to present or past business practices common in businesses in which we compete; adverse decisions in

- significant actions including, but not limited to, actions brought by federal and state authorities and class action cases; new decisions that result in changes in law; and unexpected trial court rulings;
- Changes in or sustained low interest rates causing a reduction in investment income, the interest margins of our businesses, estimated gross profits and demand for our products;
 - A decline in the equity markets causing a reduction in the sales of our subsidiaries' products, a reduction of asset-based fees that our subsidiaries charge on various investment and insurance products, an acceleration of the net amortization of deferred acquisition costs ("DAC"), value of business acquired ("VOBA"), deferred sales inducements ("DSI") and deferred front-end loads ("DFEL") and an increase in liabilities related to guaranteed benefit features of our subsidiaries' variable annuity products;
 - Ineffectiveness of our risk management policies and procedures, including various hedging strategies used to offset the effect of changes in the value of liabilities due to changes in the level and volatility of the equity markets and interest rates;
 - A deviation in actual experience regarding future persistency, mortality, morbidity, interest rates or equity market returns from the assumptions used in pricing our subsidiaries' products, in establishing related insurance reserves and in the net amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL, which may reduce future earnings;
 - Changes in GAAP, including the potential incorporation of International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") into the U.S. financial reporting system, that may result in unanticipated changes to our net income;
 - Lowering of one or more of our debt ratings issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations and the adverse effect such action may have on our ability to raise capital and on our liquidity and financial condition;
 - Lowering of one or more of the insurer financial strength ratings of our insurance subsidiaries and the adverse effect such action may have on the premium writings, policy retention, profitability of our insurance subsidiaries and liquidity;
 - Significant credit, accounting, fraud, corporate governance or other issues that may adversely affect the value of certain investments in our portfolios, as well as counterparties to which we are exposed to credit risk, requiring that we realize losses on investments;
 - The effect of acquisitions and divestitures, restructurings, product withdrawals and other unusual items;
 - The adequacy and collectibility of reinsurance that we have purchased;
 - Acts of terrorism, a pandemic, war or other man-made and natural catastrophes that may adversely affect our businesses and the cost and availability of reinsurance;
 - Competitive conditions, including pricing pressures, new product offerings and the emergence of new competitors, that may affect the level of premiums and fees that our subsidiaries can charge for their products;
 - The unknown effect on our subsidiaries' businesses resulting from changes in the demographics of their client base, as aging baby-boomers move from the asset-accumulation stage to the asset-distribution stage of life; and
 - Loss of key management, financial planners or wholesalers.

The risks included here are not exhaustive. Other sections of this report, our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and other documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") include additional factors that could affect our businesses and financial performance, including "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors," "Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" and the risk discussions included in this section under "Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates," "Consolidated Investments" and "Reinsurance," which are incorporated herein by reference. Moreover, we operate in a rapidly changing and competitive environment. New risk factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all such risk factors.

Further, it is not possible to assess the effect of all risk factors on our businesses or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Given these risks and uncertainties, investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements as a prediction of actual results. In addition, we disclaim any obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date of this report.

INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

We are a holding company that operates multiple insurance and retirement businesses through subsidiary companies. Through our business segments, we sell a wide range of wealth protection, accumulation and retirement income products and solutions. These products include fixed and indexed annuities, variable annuities, universal life insurance (“UL”), variable universal life insurance (“VUL”), linked-benefit UL, term life insurance, employer-sponsored defined contribution retirement plans, mutual funds and group life, disability and dental.

We provide products and services and report results through our Annuities, Retirement Plan Services (formerly referred to as “Defined Contribution”), Life Insurance and Group Protection segments. We also have Other Operations. These segments and Other Operations are described in “Part I – Item 1. Business” above.

For information on how we derive our revenues, see the discussion in results of operations by segment below.

Current Market Conditions

Recent unfavorable market conditions including, but not limited to, the following concerns are weighing on and threatening the financial stability of the economy:

- The effects of low interest rates;
 - The effects of the European debt crisis;
 - The effects of volatile equity and capital markets; and
 - Slow growth in the U.S. economy;
- § Uncertainty regarding the long-term effect of the Budget Control Act of 2011;
- § Downgrades and threatened downgrades by credit rating agencies;
- § The interest rate on overnight loans between banks controlled by the Federal Reserve Board remaining unchanged in January 2012 at 0% to 0.25%, with low rates expected to continue at least through late 2014, in anticipation of weakening economic conditions and a subdued outlook on inflation, an indicator of general interest rate trends;
- § Persistent high unemployment, shrinking unemployment benefits and weak job creation;
- § Continued slow and unpredictable U.S. housing market; and
- § Historically low consumer confidence as the Consumer Confidence Index fell during 2011 to a level not seen since April 2009 when the U.S. was still officially in recession, reflecting the lowest percentile since the inception of the index.

The Federal Reserve's projections for 2012 announced in the fourth quarter of 2011 reflect weak growth and a slowing economic recovery. In the face of these economic challenges, we continue to focus on building our businesses through these difficult markets and beyond by developing and introducing high quality products, expanding distribution into new and existing key accounts and channels and targeting market segments that have high growth potential while maintaining a disciplined approach to managing our expenses.

Significant Operational Matters

Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses

Because the profitability of our fixed annuity, UL, VUL and defined contribution insurance business depends in part on interest rate spreads, interest rate fluctuations could negatively affect our profitability. Changes in interest rates may reduce both our profitability from spread businesses and our return on invested capital. Some of our products, principally our fixed annuities, UL and VUL, have interest rate guarantees that expose us to the risk that changes in interest rates or prolonged low interest rates will reduce our spread, or the difference between the interest that we are required to credit to contracts and the yields that we are able to earn on our general account investments supporting our obligations under the contracts. Although we have been proactive in our investment strategies, product designs, crediting rate strategies and overall asset-liability practices to mitigate the risk of unfavorable consequences in this type of environment, declines in our spread, or instances where the returns on our general account investments are not enough to support the interest rate guarantees on these products, could have an adverse effect on some of our businesses or results of operations.

Given the level of interest rates as of the end of 2011, we have provided disclosures around the effects of sustained low interest rates in "Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – Interest Rate Risk – Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses – Falling Rates" and "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Changes in interest rates and sustained low interest rates may cause interest rate spreads to decrease and changes in interest rates may also result in increased contract withdrawals."

Earnings from Account Values

The Annuities and Retirement Plan Services segments are the most sensitive to the equity markets, as well as, to a lesser extent, our Life Insurance segment. We discuss the earnings effect of the equity markets on account values and the related asset-based earnings below in “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – Equity Market Risk – Effect of Equity Market Sensitivity.” From December 31, 2010, to December 31, 2011, our account values were up \$2.7 billion driven primarily by positive net flows during 2011.

Variable Annuity Hedge Program Performance

We offer variable annuity products with living benefit guarantees. As described below in “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Derivatives – Guaranteed Living Benefits,” we use derivative instruments to hedge our exposure to the risks and earnings volatility that result from the guaranteed living benefit (“GLB”) embedded derivatives in certain of our variable annuity products. The change in fair value of these instruments tends to move in the opposite direction of the change in embedded derivative reserves. These results are excluded from the Annuities and Retirement Plan Services segments’ operating revenues and income from operations. See “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking – Variable Annuity Net Derivatives Results” below for information on our methodology for calculating the non-performance risk (“NPR”), which affects the discount rate used in the calculation of the GLB embedded derivative reserves.

We also offer variable products with death benefit guarantees. As described below in “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Future Contract Benefits and Other Contract Holder Obligations – Guaranteed Death Benefits,” we use derivative instruments to attempt to hedge the income statement effect in the opposite direction of the guaranteed death benefit (“GDB”) benefit ratio unlocking for movements in equity markets. These results are excluded from income (loss) from operations.

The costs of derivative instruments that we use to hedge these variable annuity products may increase as a result of the low interest rate environment.

The variable annuity hedge program ended 2011 with assets of \$2.9 billion, which were in excess of the estimated liability of \$2.6 billion as of December 31, 2011.

Credit Losses, Impairments and Unrealized Losses

Related to our investments in fixed income and equity securities, we experienced net realized losses that reduced net income by \$76 million for 2011 and included credit-related write-downs of securities for other-than-temporary impairments (“OTTI”) of \$77 million. Although economic conditions have improved, we expect a continuation of some level of OTTI. If we were to experience another period of weakness in the economic environment, it could lead to increased credit defaults, resulting in additional write-downs of securities for OTTI.

Declines in overall market yields driven by improved credit fundamentals resulted in a \$304 million decrease in gross unrealized losses on the available-for-sale (“AFS”) fixed maturity securities in our general account as of December 31, 2011.

Improvement of Return on Equity

One of our highest priorities continues to be increasing our return on equity (“ROE”). Growth in ROE will be driven by a number of items including:

- Earnings mix shift to businesses with higher returns;
- Sales of products that have higher returns than the products already in force; and
- Capital management actions consisting of redeployment of excess capital (including returning capital to common stockholders) and further generation of excess capital.

Strategic Investments

We continue to make strategic investments in our businesses to grow revenues, further spur productivity and improve our efficiency and service to our customers. These efforts include investments in technology and system upgrades,

new products for the voluntary market and expanded distribution focus.

Industry Trends

We continue to be influenced by a variety of trends that affect the industry.

Financial Environment

The level of long-term interest rates and the shape of the yield curve can have a negative effect on the demand for and the profitability of spread-based products such as fixed annuities and UL. A flat or inverted yield curve and low long-term interest rates will be a concern if new money rates on corporate bonds are lower than our overall life insurer investment portfolio yields. Equity market performance can also affect the profitability of life insurers, as product demand and fee revenue from variable annuities and fee revenue from pension products tied to separate account balances often reflect equity market performance. A steady economy is important as it provides for continuing demand for insurance and investment-type products. Insurance

premium growth, with respect to group life and disability products, for example, is closely tied to employers' total payroll growth. Additionally, the potential market for these products is expanded by new business creation.

Demographics

In the coming decade, a key driver shaping the actions of the insurance industry will be the escalation of income protection and wealth accumulation goals and needs of the retiring baby-boomers. As a result of increasing longevity, retirees will need to accumulate sufficient savings to finance retirements that may span 30 or more years. Helping the baby-boomers to accumulate assets for retirement and subsequently to convert these assets into retirement income represents an opportunity for the insurance industry.

Insurers are well positioned to address the baby-boomers' rapidly increasing need for savings tools and for income protection. We believe that, among insurers, those with strong brands, high financial strength ratings and broad distribution are best positioned to capitalize on the opportunity to offer income protection products to baby-boomers.

Moreover, the insurance industry's products, and the needs they are designed to address, are complex. We believe that individuals approaching retirement age will need to seek information to plan for and manage their retirements. In the workplace, as employees take greater responsibility for their benefit options and retirement planning, they will need information about their possible individual needs. One of the challenges for the insurance industry will be the delivery of this information in a cost effective manner.

Competitive Pressures

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

Regulatory Changes

The insurance industry is regulated at the state level, with some products and services also subject to federal regulation. Regulators may refine capital requirements and introduce new reserving standards for the life insurance industry. Regulations recently adopted or currently under review, such as the Dodd-Frank Act, can potentially affect the capital requirements of the industry and result in increased regulation and oversight for the industry. In addition, changes in GAAP, including future convergence with IFRS, as well as the methodologies, estimations and assumptions thereunder, may result in unanticipated changes to our net income. See "Part I – Item 1. Business – Regulatory" for a discussion of the potential effects of regulatory changes on our industry.

Issues and Outlook

Going into 2012, significant issues include:

- Continuation of the low interest rate environment in comparison to historical periods;
-

Planned reductions in sales levels, especially in our UL products with secondary guarantees, due to economic factors; and

- Increased actions by government and regulatory authorities to introduce regulations or change existing regulations or guidance in a manner that could have a significant effect on our capital, earnings and/or business models, such as changing long-standing reserving methods for products with guarantee features.

In the face of these issues and potential issues, we expect to focus on the following:

- Closely monitoring our capital and liquidity positions taking into account the uncertain economic recovery and changing statutory accounting and reserving practices;
- Continuing to explore additional financing strategies addressing the statutory reserve strain related to our secondary guarantee UL products in order to manage our capital position effectively;
- Taking actions to manage the risk of a continuation of lower interest rates, including re-pricing our products;
- Closely monitoring ongoing activities in the legal and regulatory environment and taking an active role in the legislative and/or regulatory process;
- Continuing to make investments in our businesses to grow revenues and further spur productivity;

- Shifting focus toward other life insurance products, such as indexed UL and linked-benefit rider products, that have greater market acceptance in the current environment; and
- Managing our expenses aggressively through process improvement initiatives combined with continued financial discipline and execution excellence throughout our operations.

For additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language” above.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

We have identified the accounting policies below as critical to the understanding of our results of operations and our financial position. In applying these critical accounting policies in preparing our financial statements, management must use critical assumptions, estimates and judgments concerning future results or other developments, including the likelihood, timing or amount of one or more future events. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our assumptions, estimates and judgments based upon historical experience and various other information that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. For a detailed discussion of other significant accounting policies, see Note 1.

DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL

Accounting for intangible assets requires numerous assumptions, such as estimates of expected future profitability for our operations and our ability to retain existing blocks of life and annuity business in force. Our accounting policies for DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL affect the Annuities, Retirement Plan Services, Life Insurance and Group Protection segments.

Deferrals

Qualifying deferrable acquisition expenses are recorded as an asset on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as DAC for products we sold during a period or VOBA for books of business we acquired during a period. In addition, we defer costs associated with DSI and revenues associated with DFEL. DSI increases interest credited and reduces income when amortized. DFEL is a liability included within other contract holder funds on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, and when amortized, increases insurance fees on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

Our DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL balances (in millions) by business segment as of December 31, 2011, were as follows:

	Retirement				
	Plan	Life	Group		
	Annuities	Services	Insurance	Protection	Total
DAC and VOBA					
Gross	\$ 2,941	\$ 526	\$ 7,227	\$ 195	\$ 10,889
Unrealized (gain) loss	(623)	(195)	(1,880)	-	(2,698)
Carrying value	\$ 2,318	\$ 331	\$ 5,347	\$ 195	\$ 8,191
DSI					
Gross	\$ 322	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 325
Unrealized (gain) loss	(53)	(1)	-	-	(54)
Carrying value	\$ 269	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 271

DFEL				
Gross	\$ 268	\$ -	\$ 1,810	\$ - 2,078
Unrealized (gain) loss	(5)	-	(704)	- (709)
Carrying value	\$ 263	\$ -	\$ 1,106	\$ - 1,369

AFS securities and certain derivatives are stated at fair value with unrealized gains and losses included within accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of associated DAC, VOBA, DSI, other contract holder funds and deferred income taxes. The unrealized balances in the table above represent the DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL balances for these effects of unrealized gains and losses on AFS securities and certain derivatives as of the end-of-period.

New DAC Methodology

In October 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-26, “Accounting for Costs Associated with Acquiring or Renewing Insurance Contracts” (referred to herein as the “new DAC methodology”), which clarifies the types of costs incurred by an insurance entity that can be capitalized in the acquisition of insurance contracts. Only those costs incurred that result directly from and are essential to the successful acquisition of new or renewal insurance contracts may be capitalized as deferrable acquisition costs. This determination of deferability must be made on a contract-level basis. This new DAC methodology contrasts to the existing guidance we follow that defines deferrable acquisition costs as costs that vary with and are related primarily to new or renewal business, regardless of whether the acquisition efforts were successful or unsuccessful.

Some examples of acquisition costs that remain subject to deferral as part of the new DAC methodology include the following:

- Employee, agent or broker commissions for successful contract acquisitions;
- Wholesaler production bonuses for successful contract acquisitions;
- Renewal commissions and bonuses to agents or brokers;
- Medical and inspection fees for successful contract acquisitions;
- Premium-related taxes and assessments; and
- A portion of the salaries and benefits of certain employees involved in the underwriting, contract issuance and processing, medical and inspection and sales force contract selling functions related to the successful issuance or renewal of an insurance contract.

All other acquisition-related costs, including costs incurred by the insurer for soliciting potential customers, market research, training, administration, management of distribution and underwriting functions, unsuccessful acquisition or renewal efforts and product development, are considered non-deferrable acquisition costs and must be expensed in the period incurred.

In addition, the following indirect costs are considered non-deferrable acquisition costs as part of the new DAC methodology and must be charged to expense in the period incurred:

- Administrative costs;
- Rent;
- Depreciation;
- Occupancy costs;
- Equipment costs (including data processing equipment dedicated to acquiring insurance contracts); and
- Other general overhead.

We will adopt the new DAC methodology effective January 1, 2012, and have elected to apply the guidance retrospectively. We expect that our adoption of the new DAC methodology will result in an overall reduction in deferrable acquisition costs, partially offset by lower DAC amortization, in each of our business segments. We currently estimate that retrospective adoption will result in the restatement of all years presented with a cumulative effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings for the earliest period presented of approximately \$950 million to \$1.15 billion. In addition, the adoption of this accounting guidance will result in a lower DAC adjustment associated with unrealized gains and losses on AFS securities and certain derivatives; therefore, we will also adjust these DAC balances through a cumulative effect adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (“AOCI”). This adjustment is dependent on our unrealized position as of the date of adoption. We believe that the total of our segment results would have declined by approximately 5% to 7% for 2011 had we applied the provisions of the new DAC methodology during 2011. This decline would not have been uniform across our segments as the effect on the Life Insurance segment would have been greater due to its products having

longer contract lives and its more significant VOBA balance that is not affected by the new methodology. This estimate does not include changes that management may make to mitigate the effects of this new DAC methodology.

Amortization

Deferrable acquisition costs for variable annuity and deferred fixed annuity contracts and UL and VUL policies are amortized over the lives of the contracts in relation to the incidence of estimated gross profits (“EGPs”) derived from the contracts. Broker commissions or broker-dealer expenses, which vary with and are related to sales of mutual fund products, respectively, are expensed as incurred. For our traditional products, we amortized deferrable acquisition costs either on a straight-line basis or as a level percent of premium of the related contracts, depending on the block of business.

EGPs vary based on a number of sources including policy persistency, mortality, fee income, investment margins, expense margins and realized gains and losses on investments, including assumptions about the expected level of credit-related losses. Each of these sources of profit is, in turn, driven by other factors. For example, assets under management and the spread between earned and

credited rates drive investment margins; net amount at risk (“NAR”) drives the level of cost of insurance (“COI”) charges and reinsurance premiums. The level of separate account assets under management is driven by changes in the financial markets (equity and bond markets, hereafter referred to collectively as “equity markets”) and net flows. Realized gains and losses on investments include amounts resulting from differences in the actual level of impairments and the levels assumed in calculating EGPs.

We amortize DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL in proportion to our EGPs for interest-sensitive products. When actual gross profits are higher in the period than EGPs, we recognize more amortization than planned. When actual gross profits are lower in the period than EGPs, we recognize less amortization than planned. In a calendar year where the gross profits for a certain group of policies, or “cohorts,” are negative, our actuarial process limits, or floors, the amortization expense offset to zero.

For a discussion of the periods over which we amortize our DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL see “DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL” in Note 1.

Unlocking

As discussed and defined in “DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL” in Note 1, we may record retrospective unlocking, prospective unlocking – assumption changes and prospective unlocking – model refinements on a quarterly basis that result in increases or decreases to the carrying values of DAC, VOBA, DSI, DFEL, embedded derivatives and reserves for life insurance and annuity products with living benefit and death benefit guarantees. The primary distinction between retrospective and prospective unlocking is that retrospective unlocking is driven by the difference between actual gross profits compared to EGPs each period, while prospective unlocking is driven by changes in assumptions or projection models related to our expectations of future EGPs.

For illustrative purposes, the following presents the hypothetical effects to EGPs and DAC (1) amortization attributable to changes in assumptions from those our model projections assume (i.e., prospective unlocking), assuming all other factors remain constant:

Actual Experience Differs From Those Our Model Projections Assume	Hypothetical Effect to Net Income for EGPs	Hypothetical Effect to Net Income for DAC (1) Amortization	Description of Expected Effect
Higher equity markets	Favorable	Favorable	Increase to fee income and decrease to changes in reserves.
Lower equity markets	Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Decrease to fee income and increase to changes in reserves.
Higher investment margins	Favorable	Favorable	Increase to interest rate spread on our fixed product line, including fixed portion of variable.
Lower investment margins	Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Decrease to interest rate spread on our fixed product line, including fixed portion of variable.
Higher credit losses	Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Decrease to realized gains on investments.

Lower credit losses	Favorable	Favorable	Increase to realized gains on investments.
Higher lapses	Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Decrease to fee income, partially offset by decrease to benefits due to shorter contract life.
Lower lapses	Favorable	Favorable	Increase to fee income, partially offset by increase to benefits due to longer contract life.
Higher death claims	Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Decrease to fee income and increase to changes in reserves due to shorter contract life.
Lower death claims	Favorable	Favorable	Increase to fee income and decrease to changes in reserves due to longer contract life.

(1)DAC refers to the associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL and changes in future contract benefits.

Details underlying the effect to income (loss) from continuing operations from prospective unlocking (in millions) were as follows:

	Assumption Changes For the Years Ended December 31,			Model Refinements For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2009
Income (loss) from operations:						
Annuities	\$ (17)	\$ 27	\$ (9)	\$ -	\$ (6)	\$ -
Retirement Plan Services	-	10	5	(2)	(5)	-
Life Insurance	26	(101)	(7)	25	18	-
Excluded realized gain (loss)	(72)	18	(151)	-	-	(6)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ (63)	\$ (46)	\$ (162)	\$ 23	\$ 7	\$ (6)

Our prospective unlocking – assumption changes were attributable primarily to the following:

2011

- For Annuities, we lowered our long-term equity market growth rate and interest margin assumptions, partially offset by lowering our lapse assumptions;
- For Life Insurance, we updated our crediting rate assumptions to reflect actions implemented to reduce interest crediting rates; and
- For excluded realized gain (loss), we increased our lapse assumptions, partially offset by lowering our assumptions for long-term volatility.

2010

- For Annuities, we included an estimate in our models for rider fees related to our annuity products with living benefit guarantees and lowered our lapse assumptions, partially offset by completing the planned conversion of our actuarial valuation systems to a uniform platform for certain blocks of business (see more discussion below);
- For Retirement Plan Services, we completed the planned conversion of our actuarial valuation systems to a uniform platform for certain blocks of business (see more discussion below);
- For Life Insurance, we lowered our new money investment yield assumption to reflect the then current new money rates and to approximate the forward curve for interest rates relevant at such time, as this effect alone represented \$114 million unfavorable unlocking; and
- For excluded realized gain (loss), we lowered our lapse assumptions, which was significantly offset by shifting the mapping of approximately 5% of variable annuity account values to blended equity and fixed maturity hedging indices, whereas previously we had been mapped almost exclusively to equity.

During 2010, we completed the planned conversion of our actuarial valuation systems to a uniform platform for certain blocks of business for our Annuities and Retirement Plan Services segments. This conversion harmonized assumptions, methods of calculations and processes and upgraded a critical platform for our financial reporting and analysis capabilities for these blocks of business. We recorded unfavorable prospective unlocking for Annuities and favorable prospective unlocking for Retirement Plan Services as a result of the planned conversion. We are in the process of completing a similar conversion for Life Insurance and also have other blocks of business in Annuities that we intend to convert. Although we expect some differences to emerge as a result of this exercise, based upon the current status of these efforts, we are not able to provide an estimate or range of the effects to our results of operations until completion of the conversion.

2009

- For Annuities, we increased our assumptions related to maintenance expenses, partially offset by increasing our assumptions for expense assessments and modifying the valuation of variable annuity products that have elements of both benefit reserves and embedded derivative reserves;
- For Retirement Plan Services, we modified our assumptions related to compensation in our wholesaling distribution organization that lowered deferrals as a percentage of total expenses incurred and revised our assumptions related to maintenance expenses;
- For Life Insurance, we lowered our investment margin assumptions and increased our expense, death claim and lapse assumptions; and

43

- For excluded realized gain (loss), we modified the valuation of variable annuity products that have elements of both benefit reserves and embedded derivative reserves, and we revised our fund assumptions related to hedged indices.

Details underlying the effect to income (loss) from continuing operations from retrospective unlocking (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Income (loss) from operations:			
Annuities	\$ 104	\$ 81	\$ 29
Retirement Plan Services	10	(3)	(1)
Life Insurance	(10)	(3)	(18)
Benefit ratio unlocking	(14)	10	89
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 90	\$ 85	\$ 99

Our retrospective unlocking was attributable primarily to the following:

2011

- For Annuities, we experienced higher average equity markets and prepayment and bond makewhole premiums and lower lapses than our model projections assumed;
- For Retirement Plan Services, we experienced lower lapses and higher average equity markets than our model projections assumed;
- For Life Insurance, we received lower premiums and experienced higher death claims than our model projections assumed; and
- For benefit ratio unlocking, the period to period equity markets were less favorable than our model projections assumed.

2010

- For Annuities, we experienced higher average equity markets and expense assessments and lower lapses than our model projections assumed;
- For Retirement Plan Services, we experienced higher lapses, partially offset by higher average equity markets, than our model projections assumed;
- For Life Insurance, we received lower premiums and experienced higher death claims, partially offset by lower lapses and expenses, than our model projections assumed; and
- For benefit ratio unlocking, the period to period equity markets were more favorable than our model projections assumed.

2009

- For Annuities, we experienced lower lapses and higher average equity markets than our model projections assumed;
- For Retirement Plan Services, we experienced higher lapses and maintenance expenses and lower average equity markets than our model projections assumed;
- For Life Insurance, we received lower premiums and experienced lower investment income on alternative investments and prepayment and bond makewhole premiums, partially offset by lower death claims and lapses, than our model projections assumed; and

- For benefit ratio unlocking, the period to period equity markets were more favorable than our model projections assumed.

Reversion to the Mean (“RTM”)

Because equity market movements have a significant effect on the value of variable annuity and VUL products and the fees earned on these accounts, EGPs could increase or decrease with movements in the equity markets; therefore, significant and sustained changes in equity markets have had and could in the future have an effect on DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL amortization for our variable annuity, annuity-based 401(k) and VUL businesses.

As equity markets do not move in a systematic manner, we reset the baseline of account values from which EGPs are projected, which we refer to as our RTM process. Under our RTM process, on each valuation date, future EGPs are projected using stochastic modeling of a large number of future equity market scenarios in conjunction with best estimates of lapse rates, interest

rate spreads and mortality to develop a statistical distribution of the present value of future EGPs for our variable annuity, annuity-based 401(k) and VUL blocks of business. Because future equity market returns are unpredictable, the underlying premise of this process is that best estimate projections of future EGPs need not be affected by random short-term and insignificant deviations from expectations in equity market returns. However, long-term or significant deviations from expected equity market returns require a change to best estimate projections of EGPs and prospective unlocking of DAC, VOBA, DSI, DFEL and changes in future contract benefits. The statistical distribution is designed to identify when the equity market return deviations from expected returns have become significant enough to warrant a change of the future equity return EGP assumption.

The stochastic modeling performed for our variable annuity blocks of business as described above is used to develop a range of reasonably possible future EGPs. We compare the range of the present value of the future EGPs from the stochastic modeling to that used in our amortization model. A set of intervals around the mean of these scenarios is utilized to calculate two separate statistical ranges of reasonably possible EGPs. These intervals are then compared again to the present value of the EGPs used in the amortization model. If the present value of EGP assumptions utilized for amortization were to exceed the margin of the reasonable range of statistically calculated EGPs, a revision of the EGPs used to calculate amortization would occur. If a revision is deemed necessary, future EGPs would be re-projected using the current account values at the end of the period during which the revision occurred along with a revised long-term annual equity market gross return assumption such that the re-projected EGPs would be our best estimate of EGPs.

Notwithstanding these intervals, if a severe decline or advance in equity markets were to occur or should other circumstances, including contract holder behavior, suggest that the present value of future EGPs no longer represents our best estimate, we could determine that a revision of the EGPs is necessary.

Our practice is not necessarily to unlock immediately after exceeding the first of the two statistical ranges, but, rather, if we stay between the first and second statistical range for several quarters, we would likely unlock. Additionally, if we exceed the ranges as a result of a short-term market reaction, we would not necessarily unlock. However, if the second statistical range is exceeded for more than one quarter, it is likely that we would unlock. While this approach reduces adjustments to DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL due to short-term equity market fluctuations, significant changes in the equity markets that extend beyond one or two quarters could result in a significant favorable or unfavorable unlocking.

Our long-term equity market growth rate assumption, which is used in the determination of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL amortization for the variable component of our variable annuity and VUL products, is an immediate drop of approximately 8% followed by growth going forward of 8% to 9% depending on the block of business and reflecting differences in contract holder fund allocations between fixed income and equity-type investments. If we were to have unlocked our RTM assumption in the corridor as of December 31, 2011, we would have recorded a favorable prospective unlocking of approximately \$175 million, pre-tax, for Annuities, approximately \$20 million, pre-tax, for Retirement Plan Services, and approximately \$15 million, pre-tax, for Life Insurance.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives are not amortized, but are subject to impairment tests conducted at least annually as of October 1. Intangibles that do not have indefinite lives are amortized over their estimated useful lives. We are required to perform a two-step test in our evaluation of the carrying value of goodwill for each of our reporting units, and the results of one test on one reporting unit cannot subsidize the results of another reporting unit. In Step 1 of the evaluation, the fair value of each reporting unit is determined and compared to the carrying value of the reporting unit. If the fair value is greater than the carrying value, then the carrying value of the reporting unit is deemed to be recoverable, and Step 2 is not required. If the fair value estimate is less than the carrying value, it is an indicator that impairment may exist, and Step 2 is required. In Step 2, the implied fair value of goodwill is

determined for each reporting unit. The reporting unit's fair value as determined in Step 1 is assigned to all of its net assets (recognized and unrecognized) as if the reporting unit were acquired in a business combination as of the date of the impairment test. If the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill is lower than its carrying amount, goodwill is impaired and written down to its fair value.

The fair values of our insurance and annuities businesses are comprised of two components: the value of new business and the value of in-force business. Factors could cause us to believe our estimated fair value of the total business may be lower than the carrying value and trigger a Step 1 test, but may not require a Step 2 test if the fair value of the reporting unit is greater than its carrying value. We may also conduct a Step 2 test, but it may not result in goodwill impairment because the implied fair value of goodwill may exceed our carrying amount of goodwill. The value of our goodwill asset is supported by our value of new business, which is not affected by the same factors as our value of in-force business.

The implied fair value of goodwill is most sensitive to new business production levels, profitability and discount rates. Factors that could affect production levels and profitability include mix of new business, pricing changes, customer acceptance of our products and distribution strength. Recent declines in interest rates have applied downward pressure to the interest rate inputs used in the discount rate calculation. Spread compression and related effects to profitability caused by lower interest rates affect the valuation

of in-force business much more significantly than the valuation of new business. The effect of interest rate movements on the value of new business is primarily related to the discount rate. However, current market conditions have led to re-pricing actions in the life insurance industry creating additional uncertainty around future sales returns and levels, which we believe has resulted in an increase in the discount rate a market participant would assume for new business in our Life Insurance segment.

Refer to Note 10 of our consolidated financial statements for goodwill and specifically identifiable intangible assets by segment as well as the results of our recoverability analysis for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009. All the discussion that follows represents our analysis as of October 1, 2011.

We performed a Step 1 analysis on all of our reporting units including: Annuities, Retirement Plan Services, Life Insurance, Group Protection and Media. Our Annuities, Retirement Plan Services and Group Protection reporting units passed the Step 1 analysis, and although the carrying value of the net assets for Group Protection was within the estimated fair value range, we deemed it prudent to validate the carrying value of goodwill through a Step 2 analysis. Given the Step 1 results, we also performed a Step 2 analysis for our Life Insurance and Media reporting units.

Step 1 Results and Information for our Annuities and Retirement Plan Services Reporting Units

For Annuities and Retirement Plan Services, we estimated the fair values of the reporting units based on a discounted cash flow valuation technique (“income approach”) similar to that of our Life Insurance and Group Protection reporting units discussed below. We also updated our estimates of discount rates based upon current market observable inputs. We used discount rates ranging from 12.0% to 13.0% for both Annuities and Retirement Plan Services based upon the weighted average cost of capital adjusted for risks associated with the operations.

Based upon our Step 1 analysis for Annuities and Retirement Plan Services, our estimated implied fair value was well in excess of each reporting unit’s carrying value of net assets, including goodwill.

Step 2 Results and Information for our Life Insurance, Group Protection and Media Reporting Units

In our Step 2 analyses of Life Insurance, Group Protection and Media, we estimated the implied fair value of goodwill for each reporting unit primarily through an income approach, although limited available market data was also considered. In determining the estimated implied fair value of goodwill for these reporting units, we considered discounted cash flow calculations and assumptions that market participants would make in valuing the new business of these reporting units. These analyses required us to make judgments about new business revenues, earnings projections, capital market assumptions and discount rates.

The key assumptions used in the analyses to determine the implied fair value of goodwill for the Life Insurance and Group Protection reporting units included:

- New business for 10 years;
- Expense synergies assumption that would be expected to be realized in a market-participant transaction similar to prior market observable transactions and our prior experience; and
- Interest rates used to discount new business cash flows; we considered discount rates ranging from 9.0% to 10.5% for our Life Insurance reporting unit and from 9.0% to 10.0% for our Group Protection reporting unit based on the weighted average cost of capital adjusted for the risk factors associated with the operations.

Based upon our Step 2 analysis for Life Insurance, we recorded a goodwill impairment of \$650 million that was attributable primarily to marketplace dynamics, including product changes that we have implemented or will

implement shortly that we believe will have an unfavorable effect on our sales levels for a period of time. We believe the assumptions used in our estimates of the implied fair value of our goodwill are reasonable.

Based upon our Step 2 analysis for Group Protection, we determined that there was no impairment.

The key assumptions used in the analysis to determine the fair value of the Media reporting unit included:

- Broadcast cash flows for 10 years and a terminal value in year 11; and
- Interest rates used to discount broadcast cash flows; we considered discount rates ranging from 12.0% to 14.0% that were based on the weighted average cost of capital adjusted for the risk factors associated with the operations.

Based upon our Step 2 analysis for Media, we recorded a goodwill impairment of \$97 million, which represented the entire remaining balance of goodwill for this reporting unit. The goodwill impairment was primarily a result of the deterioration in operating environment and outlook for the business.

Control Premium Information and Outlook

We believe that our stock price has been unfavorably affected by macroeconomic events and concerns about the economic recovery as discussed above in “Current Market Conditions.” Our stock price has experienced increased volatility and continues to be lower than our book value. We believe that our stock price is not representative of the underlying fair value of our reporting units.

In addition, as discussed above in “New DAC Methodology,” we currently estimate that retrospective adoption will result in lower carrying values for our Annuities, Retirement Plan Services, Life Insurance and Group Protection reporting units by approximately \$950 million to \$1.15 billion, which will provide a favorable change in next year’s Step 1 evaluation.

Because our stock is trading at a price below book value, we are required to evaluate and reassess each reporting period whether or not there is an indicator that would require us to perform an impairment test. Factors that can influence the value of goodwill include the capital markets, competitive landscape, regulatory environment, consumer confidence and any items that can directly or indirectly affect new business future cash flows. For example, unfavorable changes to assumptions as compared to our October 1, 2011, analysis or factors that could result in impairment include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lower expectations for future sales levels or future sales profitability;
- Higher discount rates on new business assumptions;
- Weakened expectations for the ability to execute future reinsurance transactions for life insurance business over the long-term or expectations for significant increases in the associated costs.
- Legislative, regulatory or tax changes that affect the cost of, or demand for, our subsidiaries’ products, the required amount of reserves and/or surplus, or otherwise affect our ability to conduct business, including changes to statutory reserve requirements or changes to risk-based capital (“RBC”) requirements; and
- Valuations of mergers or acquisitions of companies or blocks of business that would provide relevant market-based inputs for our impairment assessment that could support different conclusions regarding the estimated fair value of our reporting units.

Investments

Invested assets are an integral part of our operations, and we invest in fixed maturity and equity securities that are primarily classified as available-for-sale and carried at fair value with the difference from amortized cost included in stockholders’ equity as a component of AOCI. See “Consolidated Investments” below for more information.

Investment Valuation

Our measurement of fair value is based on assumptions used by market participants in pricing the asset or liability, which may include inherent risk, restrictions on the sale or use of an asset or non-performance risk, which would include our own credit risk. Our estimate of an exchange price is the price in an orderly transaction between market participants to sell the asset or transfer the liability (“exit price”) in the principal market, or the most advantageous market in the absence of a principal market, for that asset or liability, as opposed to the price that would be paid to acquire the asset or receive a liability (“entry price”). Pursuant to the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the FASB Accounting Standards Codification™ (“ASC”), we categorize our financial instruments carried at fair value into a three-level fair value hierarchy, based on the priority of inputs to the respective valuation technique. The three-level hierarchy for fair value measurement is defined in Note 1.

The following summarizes our AFS and trading securities and derivative investments carried at fair value by pricing source and fair value hierarchy level (in millions):

	As of December 31, 2011			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Priced by third party pricing services	\$ 700	\$ 67,361	\$ -	\$ 68,061
Priced by independent broker quotations	-	-	3,058	3,058
Priced by matrices	-	9,063	-	9,063
Priced by other methods (1)	-	-	1,916	1,916
Total	\$ 700	\$ 76,424	\$ 4,974	\$ 82,098
Percent of total	1%	93%	6%	100%

(1) Represents primarily securities for which pricing models were used to compute fair value.

For the categories and associated fair value of our AFS fixed maturity securities classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, see Notes 1 and 21.

Our investment securities are valued using market inputs, including benchmark yields, reported trades, broker-dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, bids, offers and reference data. In addition, market indicators and industry and economic events are monitored, and further market data is acquired if certain triggers are met. Credit risk is also considered in the valuation of our investment securities as we incorporate the issuer's credit rating and a risk premium, if warranted, given the issuer's industry and the security's time to maturity. The credit rating is based upon internal and external analysis of the issuer's financial strength. We use an internationally recognized pricing service as our primary pricing source, and we do not adjust prices received from third parties or obtain multiple prices when measuring the fair value of our investments. We generally use prices from the pricing service rather than broker quotes because we have documentation from the pricing service on the observable market inputs they use, which contrasts to the broker quotes where we have limited information on the pricing inputs. For certain security types, additional inputs may be used, or some of the inputs described above may not be applicable. For private placement securities, we use pricing matrices that utilize observable pricing inputs of similar public securities and Treasury yields as inputs to the fair value measurement. It is possible that different valuation techniques and models, other than those described above, could produce materially different estimates of fair value.

When the volume and level of activity for an asset or liability has significantly decreased in relation to normal market activity for the asset or liability, we believe that the market is not active as indicated by the following:

- Few recent transactions based on volume and level of activity in the market; therefore, there is not sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis;
- Price quotations are not based on current information;
- Price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers;
-

Indexes that previously were highly correlated with the fair values of the asset are demonstrably uncorrelated with recent fair values;

- Abnormal, or significant increases in, liquidity risk premiums or implied yields for quoted prices when compared with reasonable estimates using realistic assumptions of credit and other nonperformance risk for the asset class;
- Abnormally wide bid-ask spread or significant increases in the bid-ask spread; and
- Limited public information available.

After evaluating all factors and considering the significance and relevance of each factor, we evaluate whether there has been a significant decrease in the volume and level of activity for the asset when the market for that asset is not active. As of December 31, 2011, we evaluated the markets that our securities trade in and concluded that none were inactive. We will continue to re-evaluate this conclusion, as needed, based on market conditions.

We use unobservable inputs to measure the fair value of securities trading in less liquid or illiquid markets with limited or no pricing information. We obtain broker quotes for securities such as synthetic convertibles, index-linked certificates of deposit and collateralized debt obligations (“CDOs”) when sufficient security structure or other market information is not available to produce an evaluation. For broker-quoted only securities, non-binding quotes from market makers or broker-dealers are obtained from sources recognized as market participants. Broker-quoted securities are based solely on receipt of updated quotes from a single market maker or a broker-dealer recognized as a market participant. Our broker-quoted only securities are generally classified as Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. As of December 31, 2011, we used broker quotes for 77 securities as our final price source, representing approximately 2% of total securities owned.

In order to validate the pricing information and broker-dealer quotes, we employ, where possible, procedures that include comparisons with similar observable positions, comparisons with subsequent sales and observations of general market movements for those security classes. Our primary third-party pricing service has policies and processes to ensure that it is using objectively verifiable observable market data. The pricing service regularly reviews the evaluation inputs for securities covered, including broker quotes, executed trades and credit information, as applicable. If the pricing service determines it does not have sufficient objectively verifiable information about a security’s valuation, it discontinues providing a valuation for the security. The pricing service regularly publishes and updates a summary of inputs used in its valuations by major security type. In addition, we have policies and procedures in place to review the process that is utilized by the third-party pricing service and the output that is provided to us by the pricing service. On a periodic basis, we test the pricing for a sample of securities to evaluate the inputs and assumptions used by the pricing service, and we perform a comparison of the pricing service output to an alternative pricing source. In addition, we check prices provided by our primary pricing service to ensure that they are not stale or unreasonable by reviewing the prices for unusual changes from period to period based on certain parameters or for lack of change from one period to the next. If such anomalies in the pricing are observed, we may use pricing information from another pricing source.

Valuation of Alternative Investments

Recognition of investment income on alternative investments is delayed due to the availability of the related financial statements, which are generally obtained from the partnerships’ general partners, as our venture capital, real estate and oil and gas portfolios are generally reported to us on a three-month delay, and our hedge funds are reported to us on a one-month delay. In addition, the effect of audit adjustments related to completion of calendar-year financial statement audits of the investees are typically received during the first or second quarter of each calendar year. Accordingly, our investment income from alternative investments for any calendar year period may not include the complete effect of the change in the underlying net assets for the partnership for that calendar year period.

Annually, typically during the first or second quarter, we obtain audited financial statements for our alternative investment partnerships for the preceding calendar year and recognize adjustments to the extent that the audited equity of the investee differs from the equity used for reporting in prior quarters. Recorded audit adjustments affect our investment income on alternative investments in the period that the adjustments are recorded.

Write-downs for OTTI and Allowance for Losses

We regularly review our AFS securities for declines in fair value that we determine to be other-than-temporary. For additional details, see “Consolidated Investments” below and Notes 1, 2 and 5.

For certain securitized fixed maturity securities with contractual cash flows, including asset-backed securities, we use our best estimate of cash flows for the life of the security to determine whether there is an OTTI of the security. In addition, we review for other indicators of impairment as required by the Investments – Debt and Equity Securities Topic of the FASB ASC.

Based on our evaluation of securities with an unrealized loss as of December 31, 2011, we do not believe that any additional OTTI, other than those already reflected in the financial statements, are necessary. As of December 31, 2011, there were AFS securities with gross unrealized losses totaling \$1.1 billion, pre-tax, and prior to the effect of DAC, VOBA, DSI and other contract holder funds.

As the discussion in Notes 1, 2 and 5 indicates, there are risks and uncertainties associated with determining whether declines in the fair value of investments are other-than-temporary. These include subsequent significant changes in general overall economic conditions, as well as specific business conditions affecting particular issuers, future financial market effects such as interest rate spreads, stability of foreign governments and economies, future rating agency actions and significant accounting, fraud or corporate governance issues that may adversely affect certain investments. In addition, there are often significant estimates and assumptions that we use to estimate the fair values of securities, including projections of expected future cash flows and pricing of private securities. We continually monitor developments and update underlying assumptions and financial models based upon new information.

Write-downs and allowances for losses on select mortgage loans, real estate and other investments are established when the underlying value of the property is deemed to be less than the carrying value. All mortgage loans that are impaired have an established allowance for credit loss. Changing economic conditions affect our valuation of mortgage loans. Increasing vacancies, declining rents and the like are incorporated into the discounted cash flow analysis that we perform for monitored loans and may contribute to the establishment of (or an increase in) an allowance for credit losses. In addition, we continue to monitor the entire commercial mortgage loan portfolio to identify risk. Areas of emphasis include properties that have deteriorating credits or have experienced debt-service coverage and/or loan-to-value reduction. Where warranted, we have established or increased loss reserves based upon this analysis.

Derivatives

We use derivative instruments to manage a variety of equity market and interest rate risks that are inherent in many of our life insurance and annuity products. Assessing the effectiveness of these hedging programs and evaluating the carrying values of the related derivatives often involve a variety of assumptions and estimates. We use derivatives to hedge equity market risks, interest rate risk and foreign currency exposures that are embedded in our annuity and life insurance product liabilities or investment portfolios. Derivatives held as of December 31, 2011, contain industry standard terms. Our accounting policies for derivatives and the potential effect on interest spreads in a falling rate environment are discussed in “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk,” Note 1 and Note 6.

We measure our derivative instruments at fair value, which fluctuates from period to period due to the volatility of the inputs some of which are significantly affected by economic conditions. The effect to revenue is reported in realized gain (loss) and such amount along with the associated federal income taxes is excluded from income (loss) from operations of our segments. Subsequent to the adoption of the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the FASB ASC, we did not make any material changes to valuation techniques or models used to determine the fair value of the liabilities we carry at fair value. As part of our on-going valuation process, we assess the reasonableness of all our valuation techniques or models and make adjustments as necessary.

Our insurance liabilities that contain embedded derivatives are valued based on a stochastic projection of scenarios of the embedded derivative fees, benefits and expenses. The scenario assumptions, at each valuation date, are those we view to be appropriate for a hypothetical market participant and include assumptions for capital markets, actuarial lapse, benefit utilization, mortality, risk margin, administrative expenses and a margin for profit. In addition, an NPR component is determined at each valuation date that reflects our risk of not fulfilling the obligations of the underlying liability. The spread for the NPR is added to the discount rates used in determining the fair value from the net cash flows. We believe these assumptions are consistent with those that would be used by a market participant; however, as the related markets develop we will continue to reassess our assumptions. It is possible that different valuation techniques and assumptions could produce a materially different estimate of fair value.

Our future contract benefits (embedded derivatives) carried at fair value on a recurring basis are all classified as Level 3.

Changes of our future contract benefits carried at fair value and classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy result from changes in market conditions, as well as changes in mix and increases and decreases in fair values as a result of those classifications. During 2011, there was a significant increase in future contract benefits classified as Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy due primarily to lower equity markets and increased volatility as compared to 2010. For more information, see Notes 1 and 21.

Guaranteed Living Benefits

We have a dynamic hedging strategy designed to mitigate selected risk and income statement volatility caused by changes in the equity markets, interest rates and market implied volatilities associated with the Lincoln SmartSecurity® Advantage guaranteed withdrawal benefit (“GWB”) feature and our i4LIFE® Advantage and 4LATER® Advantage guaranteed income benefit (“GIB”) features that are available in our variable annuity products. We have certain GLB variable annuity products with GWB and GIB features that are embedded derivatives. Certain features of these guarantees, notably our GIB, 4LATER® and Lincoln Lifetime IncomeSMA Advantage features, have elements of both insurance benefits accounted for under the Financial Services – Insurance – Claim Costs and Liabilities for Future Policy Benefits Subtopic of the FASB ASC (“benefit reserves”) and embedded derivative reserves. We calculate the value of the embedded derivative reserve and the benefit reserve based on the specific characteristics of each GLB feature. In addition to mitigating selected risk and income statement volatility, the hedge program is also focused on a long-term goal of accumulating assets that could be used to pay claims under these benefits, recognizing that such claims are likely to begin no earlier than approximately a decade in the future.

The hedging strategy is designed such that changes in the value of the hedge contracts move in the opposite direction of changes in GLB embedded derivative reserves. This dynamic hedging strategy utilizes options on U.S.-based equity indices, futures on U.S.-

based and international equity indices and variance swaps on U.S.-based equity indices, as well as interest rate futures and swaps. The notional amounts of the underlying hedge instruments are such that the magnitude of the change in the value of the hedge instruments due to changes in equity markets, interest rates and implied volatilities is designed to offset the magnitude of the change in the fair value of the GLB guarantees caused by those same factors. See “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking – Variable Annuity Net Derivatives Results” for information on how we determine our NPR.

As part of our current hedging program, equity market, interest rate and market implied volatility conditions are monitored on a daily basis. We rebalance our hedge positions based upon changes in these factors as needed. While we actively manage our hedge positions, these positions may not completely offset changes in the fair value embedded derivative reserve caused by movements in these factors due to, among other things, differences in timing between when a market exposure changes and corresponding changes to the hedge positions, extreme swings in the equity markets, interest rates and market implied volatilities, realized market volatility, contract holder behavior, divergence between the performance of the underlying funds and the hedging indices, divergence between the actual and expected performance of the hedge instruments or our ability to purchase hedging instruments at prices consistent with our desired risk and return trade-off.

Approximately 48% of our variable annuity account values contained a GWB rider as of December 31, 2011. Declines in the equity markets increase our exposure to potential benefits under the GWB contracts, leading to an increase in our existing liability for those benefits. For example, a GWB contract is “in the money” if the contract holder’s account balance falls below the guaranteed amount. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 80% and 35% respectively, of all GWB in-force contracts were “in the money,” and our exposure to the guaranteed amounts, after reinsurance, as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, was \$2.5 billion and \$1.1 billion, respectively. Our exposure before reinsurance for these same periods was \$2.7 billion and \$1.2 billion, respectively. However, the only way the GWB contract holder can monetize the excess of the guaranteed amount over the account value of the contract is upon death or through a series of withdrawals that do not exceed a specific percentage per year of the guaranteed amount. If, after the series of withdrawals, the account value is exhausted, the contract holder will receive a series of annuity payments equal to the remaining guaranteed amount, and, for our lifetime GWB products, the annuity payments can continue beyond the guaranteed amount. The account value can also fluctuate with equity market returns on a daily basis resulting in increases or decreases in the excess of the guaranteed amount over account value.

As a result of these factors, the ultimate amount to be paid by us related to GWB guarantees is uncertain and could be significantly more or less than \$2.5 billion, net of reinsurance. Our fair value estimates of the GWB liabilities, which are based on detailed models of future cash flows under a wide range of market-consistent scenarios, reflect a more comprehensive view of the related factors and represent our best estimate of the present value of these potential liabilities. The market-consistent scenarios used in the determination of the fair value of the GWB liabilities are similar to those used by an investment bank to value derivatives for which the pricing is not transparent and the aftermarket is nonexistent or illiquid. In our calculation, risk-neutral Monte Carlo simulations resulting in over 35 million scenarios are utilized to value the entire block of guarantees. The market-consistent scenario assumptions, at each valuation date, are those we view to be appropriate for a hypothetical market participant. The market consistent inputs include assumptions for the capital markets (e.g., implied volatilities, correlation among indices, risk-free swap curve, etc.), policyholder behavior (e.g., policy lapse, benefit utilization, mortality, etc.), risk margins, administrative expenses and a margin for profit. We believe these assumptions are consistent with those that would be used by a market participant; however, as the related markets develop, we will continue to reassess our assumptions. It is possible that different valuation techniques and assumptions could produce a materially different estimate of fair value.

For information on our variable annuity hedge program performance, see our discussion in “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking – Variable Annuity Net Derivatives Results” below.

The following table presents our estimates of the potential instantaneous effect to realized gain (loss), which could result from sudden changes that may occur in equity markets, interest rates and implied market volatilities (in millions) at the levels indicated in the table and excludes the net cost of operating the hedging program. The amounts represent the estimated difference between the change in the portion of GLB reserves that is calculated on a fair value basis and the change in the value of the underlying hedge instruments after the amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL and taxes. These effects do not include any estimate of retrospective or prospective unlocking that could occur, nor do they estimate any change in the NPR component of the GLB reserve or any estimate of effects to our GLB benefit ratio unlocking. These estimates are based upon the recorded reserves as of December 30, 2011, and the related hedge instruments in place as of that date. The effects presented in the table below are not representative of the aggregate impacts that could result if a combination of such changes to equity market returns, interest rates and implied volatilities occurred.

	In-Force Sensitivities			
	-20%	-10%	-5%	5%
Equity Market Return				
Hypothetical effect to net income	\$ (60)	\$ (16)	\$ (4)	\$ (3)
			+25	+50
Interest Rates	-50 bps	-25 bps	bps	bps
Hypothetical effect to net income	\$ (14)	\$ (4)	\$ (1)	\$ (6)
			2%	4%
Implied Volatilities	-4%	-2%		
Hypothetical effect to net income	\$ 16	\$ 8	\$ (9)	\$ (18)

The following table shows the effect (dollars in millions) of indicated changes in instantaneous shifts in equity market returns, interest rate scenarios and market implied volatilities:

	Assumptions of Changes In			Hypothetical Effect to Net Income
	Equity Market Return	Interest Rate Yields	Market Implied Volatilities	
Scenario 1	-5%	-12.5 bps	+1%	\$ (11)
Scenario 2	-10%	-25.0 bps	+2%	(36)
Scenario 3	-20%	-50.0 bps	+4%	(130)

The actual effects of the results illustrated in the two tables above could vary significantly depending on a variety of factors, many of which are out of our control, and consideration should be given to the following:

- The analysis is only valid as of December 30, 2011, due to changing market conditions, contract holder activity, hedge positions and other factors;
- The analysis assumes instantaneous shifts in the capital market factors and no ability to rebalance hedge positions prior to the market changes;
- The analysis assumes constant exchange rates and implied dividend yields;
-

Assumptions regarding shifts in the market factors, such as assuming parallel shifts in interest rate and implied volatility term structures, may be overly simplistic and not indicative of actual market behavior in stress scenarios;

- It is very unlikely that one capital market sector (e.g., equity markets) will sustain such a large instantaneous movement without affecting other capital market sectors; and
- The analysis assumes that there is no tracking or basis risk between the funds and/or indices affecting the GLB reserves and the instruments utilized to hedge these exposures.

Standard & Poor's ("S&P") 500 Index® ("S&P 500") Benefits

Our indexed annuity and indexed UL contracts permit the holder to elect a fixed interest rate return or a return where interest credited to the contracts is linked to the performance of the S&P 500. Contract holders may elect to rebalance among the various accounts within the product at renewal dates, either annually or biannually. At the end of each 1-year or 2-year indexed term we have the opportunity to re-price the indexed component by establishing different caps, spreads or specified rates, subject to contractual guarantees. We purchase S&P 500 options that are highly correlated to the portfolio allocation decisions of our contract holders, such that we are economically hedged with respect to equity returns for the current reset period. The mark-to-market of the options held generally offsets the change in value of the embedded derivative within the indexed annuity, both of which are recorded as a component of realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). The Derivatives and Hedging and the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topics of the FASB ASC require that we calculate fair values of index options we may purchase in the future to hedge contract holder index allocations in future reset periods. These fair values

represent an estimate of the cost of the options we will purchase in the future, discounted back to the date of the balance sheet, using current market indicators of volatility and interest rates. Changes in the fair values of these liabilities are included as a component of realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). For information on our S&P 500 benefits hedging results, see our discussion in “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking” below.

Future Contract Benefits and Other Contract Holder Obligations

Reserves

Reserves are the amounts that, with the additional premiums to be received and interest thereon compounded annually at certain assumed rates, are calculated to be sufficient to meet the various policy and contract obligations as they mature. Establishing adequate reserves for our obligations to contract holders requires assumptions to be made regarding mortality and morbidity. The applicable insurance laws under which insurance companies operate require that they report, as liabilities, policy reserves to meet future obligations on their outstanding contracts. These laws specify that the reserves shall not be less than reserves calculated using certain specified mortality and morbidity tables, interest rates, and methods of valuation.

The reserves reported in our financial statements contained herein are calculated in accordance with GAAP and differ from those specified by the laws of the various states and carried in the statutory financial statements of the life insurance subsidiaries. These differences arise from the use of mortality and morbidity tables, interest, persistency and other assumptions that we believe to be more representative of the expected experience for these contracts than those required for statutory accounting purposes and from differences in actuarial reserving methods.

The assumptions on which reserves are based are intended to represent an estimation of experience for the period that policy benefits are payable. If actual experience is better than or equal to the assumptions, then reserves should be adequate to provide for future benefits and expenses. If experience is worse than the assumptions, additional reserves may be required. This would result in a charge to our net income during the period the increase in reserves occurred. The key experience assumptions include mortality rates, policy persistency and interest rates. We periodically review our experience and update our policy reserves for new issues and reserve for all claims incurred, as we believe appropriate.

Guaranteed Death Benefits

The reserves related to the GDB features available in our variable annuity products are based on the application of a “benefit ratio” (the present value of total expected benefit payments over the life of the contract divided by the present value of total expected assessments over the life of the contract) to total variable annuity assessments received in the period. The level and direction of the change in reserves will vary over time based on the emergence of the benefit ratio and the level of assessments associated with the variable annuity.

We utilize a delta hedging strategy for variable annuity products with a GDB feature, which uses futures on U.S.-based equity market indices to hedge against movements in equity markets. The hedging strategy is designed such that changes in the value of the hedge contracts move in the opposite direction of equity market driven changes in the reserve for GDB contracts subject to the hedging strategy. Because the GDB reserves are based upon projected long-term equity market return assumptions, and because the value of the hedging contracts will reflect current capital market conditions, the quarterly changes in values for the GDB reserves and the hedging contracts may not exactly offset each other.

For information on our variable annuity hedge program performance, see our discussion in “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking – Variable Annuity Net Derivatives Results” below.

UL Products with Secondary Guarantees

We issue UL contracts where we contractually guarantee to the contract holder a secondary guarantee. The policy can remain in force, even if the base policy account value is zero, as long as contractual secondary guarantee requirements have been met. The reserves related to UL products with secondary guarantees are based on the application of a benefit ratio the same as our GDB features, which are discussed above. The level and direction of the change in reserves will vary over time based on the emergence of the benefit ratio and the level of assessments associated with the contracts. For more discussion, see “Results of Life Insurance.”

Contingencies

Management establishes separate reserves for each contingent matter when it is deemed probable and can be reasonably estimated. The outcomes of contingencies, which relate to corporate litigation and regulatory matters, are inherently difficult to predict, and the reserves that have been established for the estimated settlement are subject to significant changes. It is possible that the ultimate cost to LNC, including the tax-deductibility of payments, could exceed the reserve by an amount that would have a

material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations or cash flows in a particular quarterly or annual period. See Note 13 for more information on our contingencies.

Stock-Based Incentive Compensation

Determining the fair value of stock options at the grant date requires judgment, including estimates for the average risk-free interest rate, expected volatility, expected exercise behavior, expected dividend yield and expected forfeitures. If any of those assumptions differ significantly from actual, stock-based compensation expense could be affected, which could have a material effect on our consolidated results of operations in a particular quarterly or annual period. See Note 19 for more information on our stock-based incentive compensation plans.

Income Taxes

Management uses certain assumptions and estimates in determining the income taxes payable or refundable for the current year, the deferred income tax liabilities and assets for items recognized differently in its financial statements from amounts shown on its income tax returns, and the federal income tax expense. Determining these amounts requires analysis and interpretation of current tax laws and regulations. Management exercises considerable judgment in evaluating the amount and timing of recognition of the resulting income tax liabilities and assets. These judgments and estimates are re-evaluated on a continual basis as regulatory and business factors change. Legislative changes to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, modification or new regulations, administrative rulings, or court decisions could increase our effective tax rate.

The application of GAAP requires us to evaluate the recoverability of our deferred tax assets and establish a valuation allowance, if necessary, to reduce our deferred tax asset to an amount that is more likely than not to be realizable. Considerable judgment and the use of estimates are required in determining whether a valuation allowance is necessary, and if so, the amount of such valuation allowance. In evaluating the need for a valuation allowance, we consider many factors, including: the nature and character of the deferred tax assets and liabilities; taxable income in prior carryback years; future reversals of existing temporary differences; the length of time carryovers can be utilized; and any tax planning strategies we would employ to avoid a tax benefit from expiring unused. Although realization is not assured, management believes it is more likely than not that the deferred tax assets, including our capital loss deferred tax asset, will be realized. For additional information on our income taxes, see Note 7.

Acquisitions and Dispositions

For information about acquisitions and divestitures, see Note 3.

RESULTS OF CONSOLIDATED OPERATIONS

Details underlying the consolidated results, deposits, net flows and account values (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Net Income (Loss)					
Income (loss) from operations:					
Annuities	\$ 592	\$ 484	\$ 353	22 %	37 %
Retirement Plan Services	167	154	133	8 %	16 %
Life Insurance	604	513	569	18 %	-10 %
Group Protection	101	72	124	40 %	-42 %
Other Operations	(146)	(186)	(237)	22 %	22 %
Excluded realized gain (loss), after-tax	(252)	(95)	(780)	NM	88 %
Gain (loss) on early extinguishment of debt, after-tax	(5)	(3)	42	-67 %	NM
Income (expense) from reserve changes (net of related amortization) on business sold through reinsurance, after-tax	2	2	2	0 %	0 %
Impairment of intangibles, after-tax	(747)	-	(710)	NM	100 %
Benefit ratio unlocking, after-tax	(14)	10	89	NM	-89 %
Income (loss) from continuing operations, after-tax	302	951	(415)	-68 %	NM
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, after-tax	(8)	29	(70)	NM	141 %
Net income (loss)	\$ 294	\$ 980	\$ (485)	-70 %	NM

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Deposits					
Annuities	\$ 10,650	\$ 10,667	\$ 10,362	0 %	3 %
Retirement Plan Services	5,566	5,301	4,952	5 %	7 %
Life Insurance	5,393	4,934	4,451	9 %	11 %
Total deposits	\$ 21,609	\$ 20,902	\$ 19,765	3 %	6 %
Net Flows					
Annuities	\$ 2,191	\$ 3,555	\$ 3,893	-38 %	-9 %
Retirement Plan Services	504	(291)	995	273 %	NM
Life Insurance	3,683	3,057	2,421	20 %	26 %
Total net flows	\$ 6,378	\$ 6,321	\$ 7,309	1 %	-14 %

	As of December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Account Values					
Annuities	\$ 85,534	\$ 84,848	\$ 74,281	1 %	14 %
Retirement Plan Services	39,133	38,824	35,302	1 %	10 %
Life Insurance	35,278	33,585	31,744	5 %	6 %
Total account values	\$ 159,945	\$ 157,257	\$ 141,327	2 %	11 %

Comparison of 2011 to 2010

Net income decreased due primarily to goodwill impairment in our Life Insurance segment and media business during 2011 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets” for more information).

The decrease in net income was partially offset primarily by the following:

- Positive net flows and more favorable average equity markets driving higher average daily variable account values;
- Growth in business and interest crediting rate actions driving higher net investment income and flat interest credited, partially offset by new money rates averaging below portfolio yields;
- Higher legal expenses during 2010; and
- Higher EGPs on rider fees related to our products with living benefit guarantees resulting in a lower DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL amortization rate.

Comparison of 2010 to 2009

Net income increased due primarily to the following:

- Market volatility, the corresponding increase in discount rates and lower annuity sales leading to goodwill impairment in our Annuities segment during 2009; and declining results and forecasted advertising revenues for the entire radio market leading to goodwill and Federal Communications Commission licenses impairment related to our radio clusters during 2009;
- Volatile capital markets during 2009 leading to realized losses;
- Positive net flows and more favorable average equity markets driving higher average daily variable account values;
- More favorable investment income on alternative investments and higher prepayment and bond makewhole premiums;
- The effect of unlocking during 2010 as compared to 2009;
- Income from discontinued operations during 2010 compared to loss from discontinued operations during 2009, both related to our former Lincoln UK and Investment Management segments; and
- Unfavorable adjustments during 2009 related to rescinding the reinsurance agreement on certain disability income business sold to Swiss Re Life & Health America, Inc. (“Swiss Re”).

The increase in net income was partially offset primarily by the following:

- Higher death claims in our Life Insurance segment, and unfavorable claims incidence and termination experience in the long-term disability product line in our Group Protection segment;
- Early extinguishing long-term debt resulting in a gain in 2009;
- Settlement of the Transamerica litigation matter during 2010; and
- Higher account values driving higher trail commissions.

RESULTS OF ANNUITIES

Income (Loss) from Operations

Details underlying the results for Annuities (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Operating Revenues					
Insurance premiums (1)	\$ 74	\$ 53	\$ 89	40 %	-40 %
Insurance fees	1,247	1,098	841	14 %	31 %
Net investment income	1,106	1,119	1,037	-1 %	8 %
Operating realized gain (loss)	89	69	54	29 %	28 %
Other revenues and fees (2)	349	315	280	11 %	13 %
Total operating revenues	2,865	2,654	2,301	8 %	15 %
Operating Expenses					
Interest credited	698	726	682	-4 %	6 %
Benefits	213	174	242	22 %	-28 %
Underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	1,248	1,168	983	7 %	19 %
Total operating expenses	2,159	2,068	1,907	4 %	8 %
Income (loss) from operations before taxes	706	586	394	20 %	49 %
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	114	102	41	12 %	149 %
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 592	\$ 484	\$ 353	22 %	37 %

(1) Includes primarily our single-premium immediate annuities (“SPIA”), which have a corresponding offset in benefits for changes in reserves.

(2) Consists primarily of fees attributable to broker-dealer services that are subject to market volatility.

Comparison of 2011 to 2010

Income from operations for this segment increased due primarily to the following:

- Higher insurance fees attributable to more favorable average equity markets driving higher average daily variable account values;
 - More favorable tax return true-ups recorded in 2011 than in 2010 driven by the separate account dividends-received deduction (“DRD”) and other items; and
 - Higher net investment income net of interest credited driven primarily by:
 - § Actions implemented to reduce interest crediting rates;
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information);
 - § Positive net flows and interest credited to contract holders driving higher average fixed account values; and
 - § An increase in surplus investments;
- partially offset by:
- § New money rates averaging below our portfolio yields; and
 - § Transfers from fixed to variable reducing average fixed account values; and
 - Higher insurance premiums due to growth in our SPIA business.

The increase in income from operations was partially offset primarily by the following:

- Higher underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses due to:
 - § Higher account values driving higher trail commissions; and
 - § Investments in strategic initiatives related to updating information technology and expanding distribution and support during 2011;partially offset by:
 - § Higher EGPs on rider fees related to our products with living benefit guarantees resulting in a lower amortization rate; and
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information); and

- Higher benefits attributable to:
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information); and
 - § Growth in our SPIA business;partially offset by:
 - § More favorable average equity markets that reduced our expected GDB benefit payments; and
 - § Favorable mortality experience on SPIA.

Comparison of 2010 to 2009

Income from operations for this segment increased due primarily to the following:

- Higher insurance fees attributable to more favorable average equity markets driving higher average daily variable account values;
- Higher net investment income, partially offset by higher interest credited, driven by:
 - § Positive net flows and interest credited to contract holders, partially offset by transfers from fixed to variable, driving higher average fixed account values;
 - § More favorable investment income on alternative investments within our surplus portfolio, and higher prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (see “Consolidated Investments – Alternative Investments” and “Consolidated Investments – Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for more information); and
 - § Holding less cash during 2010, and actions implemented to reduce interest crediting rates; and
- Lower benefits attributable primarily to more favorable average equity markets that reduced our expected GDB benefit payments.

The increase in income from operations was partially offset primarily by the following:

- Higher underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses due to:
 - § Negative gross profits in total for certain cohorts during 2009 resulting in a higher DAC and VOBA amortization rate during 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Amortization” for more information); and
 - § Higher account values driving higher trail commissions;partially offset by:
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2010 as compared to 2009 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information); and
- More favorable tax return true-ups recorded in 2009 than in 2010.

Additional Information

We are in the process of completing the planned conversion of our actuarial valuation systems to a uniform platform for certain blocks of business. See “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information.

We expect to continue making strategic investments during 2012 that will result in higher expenses.

New deposits are an important component of net flows and key to our efforts to grow our business. Although deposits do not significantly affect current period income from operations, they are an important indicator of future profitability.

The other component of net flows relates to the retention of the business. An important measure of retention is the lapse rate, which compares the amount of withdrawals to the average account values. The overall lapse rate for our annuity products was 8%, 7% and 8% for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Our fixed annuity business includes products with discretionary crediting rates that are reset on an annual basis and are not subject to surrender charges. Our ability to retain annual reset annuities will be subject to current competitive conditions at the time interest rates for these products reset. We expect to manage the effects of spreads on near-term income from operations through portfolio management and, to a lesser extent, crediting rate actions, which assumes no significant changes in net flows into or out of our fixed accounts or other changes that may cause interest rate spreads to differ from our expectations. For information on interest rate spreads and the interest rate risk due to falling interest rates, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Market Conditions – Changes in interest rates and sustained low interest rates may cause interest rate spreads to decrease and changes in interest rates may also result in increased contract withdrawals” and “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – Interest Rate Risk – Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses – Falling Rates.”

We provide information about this segment's operating revenue and operating expense line items, the period in which amounts are recognized, key drivers of changes and historical details underlying the line items and their associated drivers below. For detail on the operating realized gain (loss), see "Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking" below.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language" above.

Insurance Fees

Details underlying insurance fees, account values and net flows (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Insurance Fees					
Mortality, expense and other assessments	\$ 1,258	\$ 1,113	\$ 860	13 %	29 %
Surrender charges	34	37	36	-8 %	3 %
DFEL:					
Deferrals	(61)	(75)	(56)	19 %	-34 %
Amortization, net of interest:					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	6	1	3	NM	-67 %
Retrospective unlocking	(11)	(1)	2	NM	NM
Amortization, net of interest, excluding unlocking	21	23	(4)	-9 %	NM
Total insurance fees	\$ 1,247	\$ 1,098	\$ 841	14 %	31 %

	As of or for the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Account Value Information					
Variable annuity deposits, excluding the fixed portion of variable	\$ 5,871	\$ 5,099	\$ 4,007	15 %	27 %
Net flows for variable annuities, excluding the fixed portion of variable	(396)	7	(27)	NM	126 %
Change in market value on variable, excluding the fixed portion of variable	(2,296)	6,087	11,995	NM	-49 %
Transfers to the variable portion of variable annuity products from the fixed portion of variable annuity products	2,844	3,396	2,475	-16 %	37 %
Average daily variable annuity account values, excluding the fixed portion of variable	66,007	58,188	46,551	13 %	25 %
Average daily S&P 500	1,268.03	1,138.78	947.53	11 %	20 %
Variable annuity account values, excluding the fixed portion of variable	65,010	64,858	55,368	0 %	17 %

We charge contract holders mortality and expense assessments on variable annuity accounts to cover insurance and administrative expenses. These assessments are a function of the rates priced into the product and the average daily variable account values. Average daily account values are driven by net flows and the equity markets. In addition, for our fixed annuity contracts and for some variable contracts, we collect surrender charges when contract holders surrender their contracts during their surrender charge periods to protect us from premature withdrawals. Insurance fees include charges on both our variable and fixed annuity products, but exclude the attributed fees on our GLB

products; see “Realized Gain (Loss) and Benefit Ratio Unlocking – Operating Realized Gain (Loss)” below for discussion of these attributed fees.

Net Investment Income and Interest Credited

Details underlying net investment income, interest credited (in millions) and our interest rate spread were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Net Investment Income					
Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	\$ 975	\$ 1,002	\$ 955	-3 %	5 %
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (1)	27	23	5	17 %	NM
Alternative investments (2)	1	1	-	0 %	NM
Surplus investments (3)	103	93	77	11 %	21 %
Total net investment income	\$ 1,106	\$ 1,119	\$ 1,037	-1 %	8 %
Interest Credited					
Amount provided to contract holders	\$ 697	\$ 738	\$ 730	-6 %	1 %
DSI deferrals	(39)	(65)	(75)	40 %	13 %
Interest credited before DSI amortization	658	673	655	-2 %	3 %
DSI amortization:					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	2	3	-	-33 %	NM
Retrospective unlocking	(17)	(7)	(5)	NM	-40 %
Amortization, excluding unlocking	55	57	32	-4 %	78 %
Total interest credited	\$ 698	\$ 726	\$ 682	-4 %	6 %

- (1) See “Consolidated Investments – Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for additional information.
- (2) See “Consolidated Investments – Alternative Investments” below for additional information.
- (3) Represents net investment income on the required statutory surplus for this segment and includes the effect of investment income on alternative investments for such assets that are held in the portfolios supporting statutory surplus versus the portfolios supporting product liabilities.

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Basis Point Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Interest Rate Spread					
Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	5.13 %	5.50 %	5.50 %	(37)	(0)
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums	0.14 %	0.13 %	0.03 %	1	10
Alternative investments	0.00 %	0.01 %	0.00 %	(1)	1
Net investment income yield on reserves	5.27 %	5.64 %	5.53 %	(37)	11
Interest rate credited to contract holders	3.33 %	3.52 %	3.77 %	(19)	(25)
Interest rate spread	1.94 %	2.12 %	1.76 %	(18)	36

	As of or for the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Other Information					
Fixed annuity deposits, including the fixed portion of variable	\$ 4,779	\$ 5,568	\$ 6,355	-14 %	-12 %
Net flows for fixed annuities, including the fixed portion of variable	2,587	3,548	3,920	-27 %	-9 %
Transfers from the fixed portion of variable annuity products to the variable portion of variable annuity products	(2,844)	(3,396)	(2,475)	16 %	-37 %
Average invested assets on reserves	19,071	18,248	17,363	5 %	5 %
Average fixed account values, including the fixed portion of variable	20,728	20,029	18,249	3 %	10 %
Fixed annuity account values, including the fixed portion of variable	20,524	19,990	18,913	3 %	6 %

A portion of our investment income earned is credited to the contract holders of our fixed annuity products, including the fixed portion of variable annuity contracts. We expect to earn a spread between what we earn on the underlying general account investments supporting the fixed annuity product line, including the fixed portion of variable annuity contracts, and what we credit to our fixed annuity contract holders' accounts, including the fixed portion of variable annuity contracts. Changes in commercial mortgage loan prepayments and bond makewhole premiums, investment income on alternative investments and surplus investment income can vary significantly from period to period due to a number of factors and, therefore, may contribute to investment income results that are not indicative of the underlying trends.

Benefits

Details underlying benefits (dollars in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Benefits					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	\$ 43	\$ (3)	\$ 7	NM	NM
Net death and other benefits, excluding unlocking	170	177	235	-4 %	-25 %
Total benefits	\$ 213	\$ 174	\$ 242	22 %	-28 %

Benefits for this segment include changes in reserves of immediate annuity account values driven by premiums, changes in benefit reserves and our expected costs associated with purchases of derivatives used to hedge our benefit ratio unlocking.

Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses

Details underlying underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses					
Commissions:					
Deferrable	\$ 466	\$ 474	\$ 463	-2 %	2 %
Non-deferrable	260	223	165	17 %	35 %
General and administrative expenses	360	337	317	7 %	6 %
Inter-segment reimbursement associated with reserve financing and LOC expenses (1)	(2)	(1)	1	-100%	NM
Taxes, licenses and fees	21	20	20	5 %	0 %
Total expenses incurred, excluding broker-dealer	1,105	1,053	966	5 %	9 %
DAC deferrals	(618)	(624)	(624)	1 %	0 %
Total pre-broker-dealer expenses incurred, excluding amortization, net of interest	487	429	342	14 %	25 %
DAC and VOBA amortization, net of interest					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	(13)	(41)	10	68 %	NM
Prospective unlocking - model refinements	-	9	-	-100%	NM
Retrospective unlocking	(114)	(84)	(19)	-36 %	NM
Amortization, net of interest, excluding unlocking	535	535	360	0 %	49 %
Broker-dealer expenses incurred	353	320	290	10 %	10 %
Total underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	\$ 1,248	\$ 1,168	\$ 983	7 %	19 %
DAC Deferrals					
As a percentage of sales/deposits	5.8 %	5.8 %	6.0 %		

(1) Represents reimbursements to the Annuities segment from the Life Insurance segment for reserve financing, net of expenses incurred for this segment's use of letters of credit ("LOCs").

Commissions and other costs that vary with and are related primarily to the production of new business are deferred to the extent recoverable and are amortized over the lives of the contracts in relation to EGPs. Certain of our commissions, such as trail commissions that are based on account values, are expensed as incurred rather than deferred and amortized.

Broker-dealer expenses that vary with and are related to sales are expensed as incurred and not deferred and amortized. Fluctuations in these expenses correspond with fluctuations in other revenues and fees.

RESULTS OF RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES

Income (Loss) from Operations

Details underlying the results for Retirement Plan Services (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Operating Revenues					
Insurance fees	\$ 210	\$ 201	\$ 183	4 %	10 %
Net investment income	793	769	732	3 %	5 %
Other revenues and fees (1)	14	18	11	-22 %	64 %
Total operating revenues	1,017	988	926	3 %	7 %
Operating Expenses					
Interest credited	437	440	445	-1 %	-1 %
Benefits	2	2	(3)	0 %	167 %
Underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	344	332	301	4 %	10 %
Total operating expenses	783	774	743	1 %	4 %
Income (loss) from operations before taxes	234	214	183	9 %	17 %
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	67	60	50	12 %	20 %
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 167	\$ 154	\$ 133	8 %	16 %

(1) Consists primarily of mutual fund account program fees for mid to large employers.

Comparison of 2011 to 2010

Income from operations for this segment increased due primarily to the following:

- Higher net investment income and relatively flat interest credited driven by:
 - § Transfers from variable to fixed and interest credited to contract holders driving higher average fixed account values;
 - § Higher prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (see “Consolidated Investments – Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for more information); and
 - § Actions implemented to reduce interest crediting rates;
- partially offset by:
 - § Negative net flows reducing average fixed account values; and
 - § New money rates averaging below our portfolio yields; and
- Higher insurance fees attributable to more favorable average equity markets driving higher average daily variable account values, partially offset by an overall shift in business mix toward products with lower expense assessment rates and negative variable net flows.

The increase in income from operations was partially offset primarily by higher underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses attributable to the following:

- Investments in strategic initiatives related to updating information technology and expanding distribution and support during 2011; and
- Higher account values driving higher trail commissions;
- partially offset by:
-

A lower amortization rate during 2011 due primarily to no VOBA amortization as our VOBA balance became fully amortized during the fourth quarter of 2010; and

- The effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information).

Comparison of 2010 to 2009

Income from operations for this segment increased due primarily to the following:

- Higher net investment income and relatively flat interest credited driven by:
 - § Transfers from variable to fixed and interest credited to contract holders, partially offset by negative net flows, driving higher average fixed account values;
 - § Actions implemented to reduce interest crediting rates;
 - § More favorable investment income on alternative investments within our surplus portfolio and higher prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (see “Consolidated Investments – Alternative Investments” and “Consolidated Investments – Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for more information); and
 - § Holding less cash during 2010; and
- Higher insurance fees attributable to more favorable average equity markets driving higher average daily variable account values, partially offset by an overall shift in business mix toward products with lower expense assessment rates.

The increase in income from operations was partially offset primarily by higher underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses attributable to the following:

- Investments in strategic initiatives related to updating information technology and expanding distribution during 2010; and
 - Higher account values driving higher trail commissions;
- partially offset by:
- An overall shift in business mix toward products with lower deferrable expense rates resulting in a lower amortization rate during 2010.

Additional Information

We expect to continue making strategic investments during 2012 to improve our infrastructure and product offerings that will result in higher expenses.

Net flows in this business fluctuate based on the timing of larger plans rolling onto our platform and rolling off over the course of the year, and we expect this trend will continue during 2012.

New deposits are an important component of net flows and key to our efforts to grow our business. Although deposits do not significantly affect current period income from operations, they are an important indicator of future profitability. The other component of net flows relates to the retention of the business. An important measure of retention is the lapse rate, which compares the amount of withdrawals to the average account values. The overall lapse rate for our annuity and mutual fund products was 13%, 15% and 13% for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Our lapse rate is negatively affected by the continued net outflows from our oldest blocks of annuities business (as presented on our Account Value Roll Forward table below as “Total Multi-Fund® and Other Variable Annuities”), which are also our higher margin product lines in this segment, due to the fact that they are mature blocks with much of the account values out of their surrender charge period. The proportion of these products to our total account values was 40%, 42% and 45% for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Due to this expected overall shift in business mix toward products with lower returns, a significant increase in new deposit production will be necessary to maintain earnings at current levels.

Our fixed annuity business includes products with discretionary and index-based crediting rates that are reset on a quarterly basis. Our ability to retain quarterly reset annuities will be subject to current competitive conditions at the time interest rates for these products reset. We expect to manage the effects of spreads on near-term income from operations through portfolio management and, to a lesser extent, crediting rate actions, which assumes no significant changes in net flows into or out of our fixed accounts or other changes that may cause interest rate spreads to differ from our expectations. For information on interest rate spreads and the interest rate risk due to falling interest rates, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Market Conditions – Changes in interest rates and sustained low interest rates may cause interest rate spreads to decrease and changes in interest rates may also result in increased contract withdrawals” and “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – Interest Rate Risk – Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses – Falling Rates.”

We provide information about this segment’s operating revenue and operating expense line items, the period in which amounts are recognized, key drivers of changes and historical details underlying the line items and their associated drivers below.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language” above.

Insurance Fees

Details underlying insurance fees, account values and net flows (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Insurance Fees					
Annuity expense assessments	\$ 178	\$ 172	\$ 157	3 %	10 %
Mutual fund fees	30	26	22	15 %	18 %
Total expense assessments	208	198	179	5 %	11 %
Surrender charges	2	3	4	-33 %	-25 %
Total insurance fees	\$ 210	\$ 201	\$ 183	4 %	10 %

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Account Value Roll Forward – By Product					
Total Micro – Small Segment:					
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 6,396	\$ 5,863	\$ 4,888	9 %	20 %
Gross deposits	1,301	1,242	1,157	5 %	7 %
Withdrawals and deaths	(1,402)	(1,377)	(1,273)	-2 %	-8 %
Net flows	(101)	(135)	(116)	25 %	-16 %
Transfers between fixed and variable accounts	5	4	(2)	25 %	300 %
Investment increase and change in market value	(139)	664	1,093	NM	-39 %
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 6,161	\$ 6,396	\$ 5,863	-4 %	9 %
Total Mid – Large Segment:					
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 16,207	\$ 13,653	\$ 9,540	19 %	43 %
Gross deposits	3,563	3,308	2,954	8 %	12 %
Withdrawals and deaths	(2,095)	(2,558)	(1,110)	18 %	NM
Net flows	1,468	750	1,844	96 %	-59 %
Transfers between fixed and variable accounts	(68)	16	12	NM	33 %
Other (1)	-	186	-	-100%	NM
Investment increase and change in market value	(166)	1,602	2,257	NM	-29 %
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 17,441	\$ 16,207	\$ 13,653	8 %	19 %
Total Multi-Fund® and Other Variable Annuities:					
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 16,221	\$ 15,786	\$ 14,450	3 %	9 %
Gross deposits	702	751	841	-7 %	-11 %
Withdrawals and deaths	(1,565)	(1,657)	(1,574)	6 %	-5 %
Net flows	(863)	(906)	(733)	5 %	-24 %
Transfers between fixed and variable accounts	-	-	(1)	NM	100 %
Investment increase and change in market value	173	1,341	2,070	-87 %	-35 %
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 15,531	\$ 16,221	\$ 15,786	-4 %	3 %
Total Annuities and Mutual Funds:					
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 38,824	\$ 35,302	\$ 28,878	10 %	22 %
Gross deposits	5,566	5,301	4,952	5 %	7 %
Withdrawals and deaths	(5,062)	(5,592)	(3,957)	9 %	-41 %
Net flows	504	(291)	995	273 %	NM
Transfers between fixed and variable accounts	(63)	20	9	NM	122 %
Other (1)	-	186	-	-100%	NM
Investment increase and change in market value	(132)	3,607	5,420	NM	-33 %
Balance as of end-of-year (2)	\$ 39,133	\$ 38,824	\$ 35,302	1 %	10 %

(1) Represents LINCOLN ALLIANCE® program assets held by a third-party trustee that were not previously included in the account value roll forward. Effective January 1, 2010, all such LINCOLN ALLIANCE® program activity was included in the account value roll forward.

(2) Includes mutual fund account values and other third-party trustee-held assets. These items are not included in the separate accounts reported on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as we do not have any ownership interest in them.

	As of or for the Years Ended			Change Over	
	2011	December 31, 2010	2009	2011	2010
Account Value Information					
Variable annuity deposits, excluding the fixed portion of variable	\$ 1,615	\$ 1,614	\$ 1,586	0 %	2 %
Net flows for variable annuities, excluding the fixed portion of variable	(497)	(544)	(302)	9 %	-80 %
Change in market value on variable, excluding the fixed portion of variable	(280)	1,687	2,843	NM	-41 %
Transfers from the variable portion of variable annuity products to the fixed portion of variable annuity products	(283)	(169)	(176)	-67 %	4 %
Average daily variable annuity account values, excluding the fixed portion of variable	13,611	12,930	11,315	5 %	14 %
Average daily S&P 500	1,268.03	1,138.78	947.53	11 %	20 %
Variable annuity account values, excluding the fixed portion of variable	12,867	13,927	12,953	-8 %	8 %

We charge expense assessments to cover insurance and administrative expenses. Expense assessments are generally equal to a percentage of the daily variable account values. Average daily account values are driven by net flows and the equity markets. Our expense assessments include fees we earn for the services that we provide to our mutual fund programs. In addition, for both our fixed and variable annuity contracts, we collect surrender charges when contract holders surrender their contracts during the surrender charge periods to protect us from premature withdrawals.

Net Investment Income and Interest Credited

Details underlying net investment income, interest credited (in millions) and our interest rate spread were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	2011	December 31, 2010	2009	2011	2010
Net Investment Income					
Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	\$ 719	\$ 705	\$ 681	2 %	4 %
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (1)	21	9	5	133 %	80 %
Alternative investments (2)	1	3	1	-67 %	200 %
Surplus investments (3)	52	52	45	0 %	16 %
Total net investment income	\$ 793	\$ 769	\$ 732	3 %	5 %
Interest Credited	\$ 437	\$ 440	\$ 445	-1 %	-1 %

(1) See “Consolidated Investments – Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for additional information.

(2) See “Consolidated Investments – Alternative Investments” below for additional information.

(3) Represents net investment income on the required statutory surplus for this segment and includes the effect of investment income on alternative investments for such assets that are held in the portfolios supporting statutory surplus versus the portfolios supporting product liabilities.

	For the Years Ended			Basis Point Change	
	December 31,			Over Prior	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Interest Rate Spread					
Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	5.53 %	5.70 %	5.76 %	(17)	(6)
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums	0.16 %	0.08 %	0.04 %	8	4
Alternative investments	0.01 %	0.02 %	0.01 %	(1)	1
Net investment income yield on reserves	5.70 %	5.80 %	5.81 %	(10)	(1)
Interest rate credited to contract holders	3.32 %	3.49 %	3.70 %	(17)	(21)
Interest rate spread	2.38 %	2.31 %	2.11 %	7	20

	As of or for the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Other Information					
Fixed annuity deposits, including the fixed portion of variable	\$ 1,436	\$ 1,332	\$ 1,342	8 %	-1 %
Net flows for fixed annuities, including the fixed portion of variable	(106)	(347)	(62)	69 %	NM
Transfers to the fixed portion of variable annuity products from the variable portion of variable annuity products	283	169	176	67 %	-4 %
Average invested assets on reserves	12,988	12,360	11,815	5 %	5 %
Average fixed account values, including the fixed portion of variable	13,168	12,580	12,024	5 %	5 %
Fixed annuity account values, including the fixed portion of variable	13,630	12,779	12,246	7 %	4 %

A portion of our investment income earned is credited to the contract holders of our fixed annuity products, including the fixed portion of variable annuity contracts. We expect to earn a spread between what we earn on the underlying general account investments supporting the fixed annuity product line, including the fixed portion of variable annuity contracts, and what we credit to our fixed annuity contract holders' accounts, including the fixed portion of variable annuity contracts. Commercial mortgage loan prepayments and bond makewhole premiums, investment income on alternative investments and surplus investment income can vary significantly from period to period due to a number of factors and, therefore, may contribute to investment income results that are not indicative of the underlying trends.

Benefits

Benefits for this segment include changes in benefit reserves and our expected costs associated with purchases of derivatives used to hedge our benefit ratio unlocking.

Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses

Details underlying underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses					
Commissions:					
Deferrable	\$ 22	\$ 27	\$ 28	-19 %	-4 %
Non-deferrable	45	38	36	18 %	6 %
General and administrative expenses	273	242	221	13 %	10 %
Taxes, licenses and fees	13	13	12	0 %	8 %
Total expenses incurred	353	320	297	10 %	8 %
DAC deferrals	(69)	(67)	(69)	-3 %	3 %
Total expenses recognized before amortization	284	253	228	12 %	11 %
DAC and VOBA amortization, net of interest:					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	-	(16)	(8)	100 %	-100 %
Prospective unlocking - model refinements	3	8	-	-63 %	NM
Retrospective unlocking	(15)	4	2	NM	100 %
Amortization, net of interest, excluding unlocking	72	83	79	-13 %	5 %
Total underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	\$ 344	\$ 332	\$ 301	4 %	10 %
DAC Deferrals					
As a percentage of annuity sales/deposits	2.3 %	2.3 %	2.4 %		

Commissions and other costs that vary with and are related primarily to the sale of annuity contracts are deferred to the extent recoverable and are amortized over the lives of the contracts in relation to EGPs. Certain of our commissions, such as trail commissions that are based on account values, are expensed as incurred rather than deferred and amortized. We do not pay commissions on sales of our mutual fund products, and distribution expenses associated with the sale of these mutual fund products are expensed as incurred.

RESULTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

Income (Loss) from Operations

Details underlying the results for Life Insurance (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Operating Revenues					
Insurance premiums	\$ 441	\$ 439	\$ 392	0 %	12 %
Insurance fees	1,979	1,934	1,901	2 %	2 %
Net investment income	2,294	2,186	1,975	5 %	11 %
Other revenues and fees	25	31	27	-19 %	15 %
Total operating revenues	4,739	4,590	4,295	3 %	7 %
Operating Expenses					
Interest credited	1,235	1,199	1,185	3 %	1 %
Benefits	1,669	1,734	1,373	-4 %	26 %
Underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	948	908	923	4 %	-2 %
Total operating expenses	3,852	3,841	3,481	0 %	10 %
Income (loss) from operations before taxes	887	749	814	18 %	-8 %
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	283	236	245	20 %	-4 %
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 604	\$ 513	\$ 569	18 %	-10 %

Comparison of 2011 to 2010

Income from operations for this segment increased due primarily to the following:

- Higher net investment income, only partially offset by higher interest credited attributable to:
 - § Growth in business in force; and
 - § Actions implemented to reduce interest crediting rates;
 partially offset by:
 - § New money rates averaging below our portfolio yields;
- Lower benefits attributable primarily to:
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information);
 partially offset by:
 - § Higher death claims; and
 - § Model refinements and continued growth in our secondary guarantee life insurance business; and
- Higher insurance fees due to growth in insurance in force, partially offset by the effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information).

The increase in income from operations was partially offset primarily by an increase in underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other underwriting expenses attributable to:

- The effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information);
-

Higher pricing of reserve financing transactions supporting our secondary guarantee UL and term business in reaction to the unfavorable market conditions experienced during the recession and our continued efforts to reduce the strain of these statutory reserves (see “Strategies to Address Statutory Reserve Strain” below for more information); and

- The effect of the inter-company reinsurance agreement effective December 31, 2010.

Comparison of 2010 to 2009

Income from operations for this segment decreased due primarily to the following:

- Higher benefits attributable to:
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2010 as compared to 2009 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information);
 - § Higher death claims;
 - § Harmonizing certain processes resulting in an increase in traditional product reserves; and
 - § Continued growth in our secondary guarantee life insurance business; and
- More favorable tax return true-ups recorded in 2009 than in 2010.

The decrease in income from operations was partially offset primarily by the following:

- Higher net investment income and relatively flat interest credited attributable to:
 - § More favorable investment income on alternative investments and higher prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (see “Consolidated Investments – Alternative Investments” and “Consolidated Investments – Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below);
 - § Growth in business in force; and
 - § Actions implemented to reduce interest crediting rates; and
 - Lower underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses attributable to:
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2010 as compared to 2009 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information);
- partially offset by:
- § Reducing projected EGPs for this segment (discussed in “Additional Information” below) resulting in a higher amortization rate; and
 - § Higher pricing of reserve financing transactions supporting our secondary guarantee UL and term business in reaction to the unfavorable market conditions experienced during the recession and our continued efforts to reduce the strain of these statutory reserves (see “Strategies to Address Statutory Reserve Strain” below for more information).

Strategies to Address Statutory Reserve Strain

Our insurance subsidiaries have statutory surplus and RBC levels above current regulatory required levels. Products containing secondary guarantees require reserves calculated under AG38. Our insurance subsidiaries are employing strategies to reduce the strain of increasing AG38 and Valuation of Life Insurance Policies Model Regulation (“XXX”) statutory reserves associated with secondary guarantee UL and term products. As discussed below, we have been successful in executing reinsurance solutions to release capital to Other Operations. We expect to regularly execute transactions designed to release capital as we continue to sell products that are subject to these reserving requirements. We also plan to refinance prior transactions with long-term structured solutions.

Included in the LOCs issued as of December 31, 2011, and reported in the credit facilities table in Note 12, was approximately \$2.0 billion of long-dated LOCs issued to support inter-company reinsurance arrangements, of which approximately \$200 million and \$1.0 billion was issued for UL business with secondary guarantees through 2015 and 2031, respectively, and approximately \$800 million was issued for term business through 2023. We have also used the proceeds from senior note issuances of approximately \$1.1 billion to execute long-term structured solutions supporting secondary guarantee UL and term business. LOCs and related capital market alternatives lower the capital effect of secondary guarantee UL products. An inability to obtain the necessary LOC capacity or other capital market alternatives could affect our returns on our in-force secondary guarantee UL business. However, we believe that our

insurance subsidiaries have sufficient capital to support the increase in statutory reserves, based on our current reserve projections, if such structures are not available. See “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Legislative, Regulatory and Tax – Changes to the calculation of reserves and attempts to mitigate the impact of Regulation XXX and Actuarial Guideline 38 may fail in whole or in part resulting in an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations” for further information on XXX and AG38 reserves. See the table in “Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses” below for the presentation of our expenses associated with reserve financing.

Additional Information

We are in the process of completing the planned conversion of our actuarial valuation systems to a uniform platform for certain blocks of business. See “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information.

We expect to continue making strategic investments during 2012 that will result in higher expenses.

We expect to manage the effects of spreads on near-term income from operations through portfolio management and, to a lesser extent, crediting rate actions, which assumes no significant changes in net flows into or out of our fixed accounts or other changes that may cause interest rate spreads to differ from our expectations. During the third quarter of 2010, we lowered our new money investment yield assumption. This assumption revision had the effect of lowering the projected EGPs for this segment, thereby increasing our rate of amortization, which results in higher DAC, VOBA and DFEL amortization and lower earnings for this segment.

For information on interest rate spreads and the interest rate risk due to falling interest rates, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Market Conditions – Changes in interest rates and sustained low interest rates may cause interest rate spreads to decrease and changes in interest rates may also result in increased contract withdrawals” and “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – Interest Rate Risk – Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses – Falling Rates.”

Sales are not recorded as a component of revenues (other than for traditional products) and do not have a significant effect on current quarter income from operations but are indicators of future profitability. Generally, we have higher sales during the second half of the year with the fourth quarter being our strongest. However, we face conditions in the marketplace as discussed in “Introduction – Executive Summary – Current Market Conditions” above that may challenge our sales volume in 2012. For example, we are implementing pricing changes to our products that reflect the current low interest rate environment that we believe will lower our sales volumes and could potentially reduce our market share until competitive conditions change.

We provide information about this segment’s operating revenue and operating expense line items, the period in which amounts are recognized, key drivers of changes and historical details underlying the line items and their associated drivers below.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language” above.

Insurance Premiums

Insurance premiums relate to traditional products and are a function of the rates priced into the product and the level of insurance in force. Insurance in force, in turn, is driven by sales, persistency and mortality experience.

Insurance Fees

Details underlying insurance fees, sales, net flows, account values and in-force face amount (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Insurance Fees					
Mortality assessments	\$ 1,312	\$ 1,287	\$ 1,299	2 %	-1 %
Expense assessments	935	844	759	11 %	11 %
Surrender charges	96	100	112	-4 %	-11 %
DFEL:					
Deferrals	(483)	(472)	(439)	-2 %	-8 %
Amortization, net of interest:					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	(11)	56	20	NM	180 %

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

Prospective unlocking - model refinements	(26)	(56)	-	54 %	NM
Retrospective unlocking	(4)	24	15	NM	60 %
Amortization, net of interest, excluding unlocking	160	151	135	6 %	12 %
Total insurance fees	\$ 1,979	\$ 1,934	\$ 1,901	2 %	2 %

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Sales by Product					
UL:					
Excluding MoneyGuard®	\$ 317	\$ 353	\$ 397	-10 %	-11 %
MoneyGuard®	186	108	67	72 %	61 %
Total UL	503	461	464	9 %	-1 %
VUL	50	43	36	16 %	19 %
COLI and BOLI	92	63	51	46 %	24 %
Term	55	70	59	-21 %	19 %
Total sales	\$ 700	\$ 637	\$ 610	10 %	4 %

Net Flows					
Deposits	\$ 5,393	\$ 4,934	\$ 4,451	9 %	11 %
Withdrawals and deaths	(1,710)	(1,877)	(2,030)	9 %	8 %
Net flows	\$ 3,683	\$ 3,057	\$ 2,421	20 %	26 %
Contract holder assessments	\$ 3,286	\$ 3,119	\$ 2,996	5 %	4 %

	As of December 31,			Change Over	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Account Values					
UL (1)	\$ 28,052	\$ 26,199	\$ 24,994	7 %	5 %
VUL (1)	4,929	5,108	4,468	-4 %	14 %
Interest-sensitive whole life	2,297	2,278	2,282	1 %	0 %
Total account values	\$ 35,278	\$ 33,585	\$ 31,744	5 %	6 %
In-Force Face Amount					
UL and other (1)	\$ 307,900	\$ 297,837	\$ 291,879	3 %	2 %
Term insurance (2)	271,931	265,154	248,726	3 %	7 %
Total in-force face amount	\$ 579,831	\$ 562,991	\$ 540,605	3 %	4 %

- (1) Effective with the March 31, 2009, transfer of certain life insurance policies to a third party, UL and VUL account values were reduced by \$938 million and \$640 million, respectively, and UL and other face amount in force was reduced by \$20.9 billion.
- (2) Excludes \$19.8 billion of face amount in force associated with our assumption of the mortality risk effective October 1, 2009, on the block of business mentioned in footnote one above.

Insurance fees relate only to interest-sensitive products and include mortality assessments, expense assessments (net of deferrals and amortization related to DFEL) and surrender charges. Mortality and expense assessments are deducted from our contract holders' account values. These amounts are a function of the rates priced into the product and premiums received, face amount in force and account values. Insurance in force, in turn, is driven by sales, persistency and mortality experience. In-force growth should be considered independently with respect to term products versus UL and other products, as term products have a lower profitability relative to face amount compared to interest-sensitive and other products.

Sales in the table above and as discussed above were reported as follows:

- UL (excluding linked-benefit products) and VUL (including COLI and BOLI) – first year commissionable premiums plus 5% of excess premiums received, including an adjustment for internal replacements of approximately 50% of commissionable premiums;
- MoneyGuard® (our linked-benefit product) – 15% of premium deposits; and
- Term – 100% of first year paid premiums.

UL and VUL products with secondary guarantees represented approximately 38% of interest-sensitive life insurance in force as of December 31, 2011, and approximately 43% of sales for 2011. Changes in the marketplace and product focuses are resulting in a shift in our business mix away from products with secondary guarantees to accumulation products like Indexed UL, VUL, and

COLI. For example, during the fourth quarter of 2011, UL and VUL products with secondary guarantees represented only 29% of sales. Actuarial Guideline 37, or Variable Life Reserves for Guaranteed Minimum Death Benefits, and AG38 impose additional statutory reserve requirements for these products.

Net Investment Income and Interest Credited

Details underlying net investment income, interest credited (in millions) and our interest rate spread were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Net Investment Income					
Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	\$ 2,092	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,942	5 %	3 %
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (1)	23	30	12	-23 %	150 %
Alternative investments (2)	62	49	(69)	27 %	171 %
Surplus investments (3)	117	107	90	9 %	19 %
Total net investment income	\$ 2,294	\$ 2,186	\$ 1,975	5 %	11 %
Interest Credited	\$ 1,235	\$ 1,199	\$ 1,185	3 %	1 %

(1) See “Consolidated Investments – Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for additional information.

(2) See “Consolidated Investments – Alternative Investments” below for additional information.

(3) Represents net investment income on the required statutory surplus for this segment and includes the effect of investment income on alternative investments for such assets that are held in the portfolios supporting statutory surplus versus the portfolios supporting product liabilities.

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Basis Point Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Interest Rate Yields and Spread					
Attributable to interest-sensitive products:					
Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	5.79 %	5.87 %	5.93 %	(8)	(6)
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums	0.07 %	0.09 %	0.04 %	(2)	5
Alternative investments	0.19 %	0.17 %	-0.25 %	2	42
Net investment income yield on reserves	6.05 %	6.13 %	5.72 %	(8)	41
Interest rate credited to contract holders	4.08 %	4.16 %	4.23 %	(8)	(7)
Interest rate spread	1.97 %	1.97 %	1.49 %	(0)	48

Attributable to traditional products:

Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	5.90 %	6.12 %	5.99 %	(22)	13
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums	0.03 %	0.07 %	0.01 %	(4)	6
Alternative investments	0.01 %	0.02 %	0.00 %	(1)	2

Net investment income yield on reserves 5.94% 6.21% 6.00 % (27) 21

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

	For the Years Ended December			Change Over	
	2011	31, 2010	2009	2011	Prior Year 2010
Averages					
Attributable to interest-sensitive products:					
Invested assets on reserves (1)	\$ 31,752	\$ 29,391	\$ 27,824	8 %	6 %
Account values - universal and whole life (1)	30,066	28,465	27,674	6 %	3 %
Attributable to traditional products:					
Invested assets on reserves	4,297	4,465	4,896	-4 %	-9 %

(1) We experienced declines in our average invested assets on reserves and account values attributable to interest-sensitive products subsequent to the transfer of certain life insurance policies to a third party, which reduced these balances by \$927 million and \$938 million, respectively, on March 31, 2009.

A portion of the investment income earned for this segment is credited to contract holder accounts. Invested assets will typically grow at a faster rate than account values because of the AG38 reserve requirements, which cause statutory reserves to grow at a faster rate than account values. Invested assets are based upon the statutory reserve liabilities and are therefore affected by various reserve adjustments, including capital transactions providing relief from AG38 reserve requirements, which leads to a transfer of invested assets from this segment to Other Operations for use in other corporate purposes. We expect to earn a spread between what we earn on the underlying general account investments and what we credit to our contract holders' accounts. We use our investment income to offset the earnings effect of the associated build of our policy reserves for traditional products. Commercial mortgage loan prepayments and bond makewhole premiums and investment income on alternative investments can vary significantly from period to period due to a number of factors, and, therefore, may contribute to investment income results that are not indicative of the underlying trends.

Benefits

Details underlying benefits (dollars in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	2011	December 31, 2010	2009	2011	Prior Year 2010
Benefits					
Death claims direct and assumed	\$ 2,847	\$ 2,538	\$ 2,260	12 %	12 %
Death claims ceded	(1,368)	(1,154)	(993)	-19 %	-16 %
Reserves released on death	(452)	(433)	(394)	-4 %	-10 %
Net death benefits	1,027	951	873	8 %	9 %
Change in secondary guarantee life insurance product reserves:					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	(297)	84	(3)	NM	NM
Prospective unlocking - model refinements	155	71	-	118 %	NM
Change in reserves, excluding unlocking	467	306	249	53 %	23 %
Other benefits:					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	33	-	-	NM	NM
Other benefits, excluding unlocking (1)	284	322	254	-12 %	27 %
Total benefits	\$ 1,669	\$ 1,734	\$ 1,373	-4 %	26 %
Death claims per \$1,000 of in-force	1.80	1.72	1.63	5 %	6 %

(1) Includes primarily traditional product changes in reserves and dividends.

Benefits for this segment includes claims incurred during the period in excess of the associated reserves for its interest-sensitive and traditional products. In addition, benefits includes the change in secondary guarantee life insurance product reserves. The reserve for secondary guarantees is affected by changes in expected future trends of expense assessments causing unlocking adjustments to this liability similar to DAC, VOBA and DFEL.

75

Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses

Details underlying underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses					
Commissions	\$ 678	\$ 664	\$ 676	2 %	-2 %
General and administrative expenses	473	451	451	5 %	0 %
Expenses associated with reserve financing	57	37	6	54 %	NM
Taxes, licenses and fees	145	129	115	12 %	12 %
Total expenses incurred	1,353	1,281	1,248	6 %	3 %
DAC and VOBA deferrals	(948)	(915)	(900)	-4 %	-2 %
Total expenses recognized before amortization	405	366	348	11 %	5 %
DAC and VOBA amortization, net of interest					
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	215	129	33	67 %	291 %
Prospective unlocking - model refinements	(219)	(155)	-	-41 %	NM
Retrospective unlocking	12	28	42	-57 %	-33 %
Amortization, net of interest, excluding unlocking	531	536	496	-1 %	8 %
Other intangible amortization	4	4	4	0 %	0 %
Total underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	\$ 948	\$ 908	\$ 923	4 %	-2 %

DAC and VOBA Deferrals

As a percentage of sales

	135.4%	143.6%	147.5%
--	--------	--------	--------

Commissions and other general and administrative expenses that vary with and are related primarily to the production of new business are deferred to the extent recoverable and for our interest-sensitive products are generally amortized over the lives of the contracts in relation to EGPs. For our traditional products, DAC and VOBA are amortized on either a straight-line basis or as a level percent of premium of the related contracts, depending on the block of business.

When comparing DAC and VOBA deferrals as a percentage of sales for 2011 to 2010 and for 2010 to 2009, the decrease is primarily a result of incurred deferrable commissions declining at a rate higher than sales attributable primarily to changes in sales mix to products with lower commission rates.

RESULTS OF GROUP PROTECTION

Income (Loss) from Operations

Details underlying the results for Group Protection (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Operating Revenues					
Insurance premiums	\$ 1,778	\$ 1,682	\$ 1,579	6 %	7 %
Net investment income	152	141	127	8 %	11 %
Other revenues and fees	9	8	7	13 %	14 %
Total operating revenues	1,939	1,831	1,713	6 %	7 %
Operating Expenses					
Interest credited	3	3	3	0 %	0 %
Benefits	1,314	1,296	1,116	1 %	16 %
Underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	467	422	403	11 %	5 %
Total operating expenses	1,784	1,721	1,522	4 %	13 %
Income (loss) from operations before taxes	155	110	191	41 %	-42 %
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	54	38	67	42 %	-43 %
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 101	\$ 72	\$ 124	40 %	-42 %

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Income (Loss) from Operations by Product Line					
Life	\$ 34	\$ 37	\$ 42	-8 %	-12 %
Disability	64	34	79	88 %	-57 %
Dental	(2)	(4)	(2)	50 %	-100 %
Total non-medical	96	67	119	43 %	-44 %
Medical	5	5	5	0 %	0 %
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 101	\$ 72	\$ 124	40 %	-42 %

Comparison of 2011 to 2010

Income from operations for this segment increased due primarily to the following:

- More favorable non-medical loss ratio experience;
- Growth in insurance premiums driven by normal, organic business growth in our non-medical products; and
- Higher net investment income driven by an increase in business.

The increase in income from operations was partially offset primarily by higher underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses attributable to an increase in business and investments in strategic initiatives associated with enhancements to sales and distribution processes and improvements to technology platforms during 2011.

Comparison of 2010 to 2009

Income from operations for this segment decreased due to unfavorable claims incidence and, to a lesser extent, termination experience on our long-term disability business and adverse mortality and morbidity experience on our life business resulting in a non-medical loss ratio of 76.2% during 2010 that was above the high end of our historical expected range of 71% to 74%.

The decrease in income from operations was partially offset primarily by the following:

- Growth in insurance premiums driven by normal, organic business growth in our non-medical products and strong case persistency; and
- Higher net investment income driven by an increase in business and more favorable investment income on alternative investments within our surplus portfolio (see “Consolidated Investments – Alternative Investments” below for more information).

Additional Information

During 2011, our non-medical loss ratio was 72.9%, below the 76.2% we experienced during 2010, attributable primarily to improvement in disability claim incidence rates. Non-medical loss ratios in general are likely to remain within our long-term expectation of 71% to 74% during 2012. For every one percent increase in the loss ratio above our expectation, we would expect an approximate annual \$10 million to \$12 million decrease to income from operations.

Management compares trends in actual loss ratios to pricing expectations because group-underwriting risks change over time. We expect normal fluctuations in our composite non-medical loss ratios of this segment, as claims experience is inherently uncertain. We have taken actions to manage the effects of our loss ratio results, such as implementing price adjustments on our product lines upon renewal to better reflect our experience going forward. In addition, we have been focusing on managing the higher volume of incidence through claims risk management, including contracting additional resources to help reduce caseloads and improve claim recovery experience so that incidence volumes do not detract from our claim recovery efforts. We have also been employing tools to identify and support claimants who will return to work.

We expect to continue making strategic investments during 2012 that will result in higher expenses.

We are evaluating the potential effects that health care reform may have on the value and profitability of this segment’s products and income from operations, including, but not limited to, potential changes to traditional sources of income for our brokers who may seek additional portfolio options and/or modification to compensation structures.

During the second quarter of 2011, we reviewed the discount rate assumptions associated with reserves for long-term disability and life waiver claim incurrals. Due to the persistent decline in new money investment yields, we lowered the discount rate by 50 basis points to 4.25% on new incurrals, which decreased income from operations by \$3 million during the second quarter of 2011. For information on the effects of current interest rates on our long-term disability claim reserves, see “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – Interest Rate Risk – Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses – Falling Rates.”

Sales relate to long-duration contracts sold to new contract holders and new programs sold to existing contract holders. We believe that the trend in sales is an important indicator of development of business in force over time.

We provide information about this segment’s operating revenue and operating expense line items, the period in which amounts are recognized, key drivers of changes and historical details underlying the line items and their associated drivers below.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language” above.

Insurance Premiums

Details underlying insurance premiums (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Insurance Premiums by Product Line					
Life	\$ 693	\$ 639	\$ 584	8 %	9 %
Disability	757	727	692	4 %	5 %
Dental	183	167	149	10 %	12 %
Total non-medical	1,633	1,533	1,425	7 %	8 %
Medical	145	149	154	-3 %	-3 %
Total insurance premiums	\$ 1,778	\$ 1,682	\$ 1,579	6 %	7 %
Sales	\$ 395	\$ 353	\$ 361	12 %	-2 %

Our cost of insurance and policy administration charges are embedded in the premiums charged to our customers. The premiums are a function of the rates priced into the product and our business in force. Business in force, in turn, is driven by sales and persistency experience. Sales in the table above are the combined annualized premiums for our life, disability and dental products.

Net Investment Income

We use our investment income to offset the earnings effect of the associated build of our policy reserves, which are a function of our insurance premiums and the yields on our invested assets.

Benefits and Interest Credited

Details underlying benefits and interest credited (in millions) and loss ratios by product line were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Benefits and Interest Credited by Product Line					
Life	\$ 518	\$ 484	\$ 420	7 %	15 %
Disability	529	548	443	-3 %	24 %
Dental	143	136	121	5 %	12 %
Total non-medical	1,190	1,168	984	2 %	19 %
Medical	127	131	135	-3 %	-3 %
Total benefits and interest credited	\$ 1,317	\$ 1,299	\$ 1,119	1 %	16 %

Loss Ratios by Product Line

Life	74.8 %	75.8 %	72.0 %
Disability	69.9 %	75.4 %	64.0 %
Dental	77.9 %	81.5 %	81.7 %
Total non-medical	72.9 %	76.2 %	69.1 %
Medical	87.9 %	87.6 %	87.9 %

Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses

Details underlying underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change	
	December 31,			Over Prior	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance and Other Expenses					
Commissions	\$ 201	\$ 190	\$ 176	6 %	8 %
General and administrative expenses	244	208	204	17 %	2 %
Taxes, licenses and fees	41	39	36	5 %	8 %
Total expenses incurred	486	437	416	11 %	5 %
DAC deferrals	(65)	(61)	(59)	-7 %	-3 %
Total expenses recognized before amortization	421	376	357	12 %	5 %
DAC and VOBA amortization, net of interest	46	46	46	0 %	0 %
Total underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	\$ 467	\$ 422	\$ 403	11 %	5 %
DAC Deferrals					
As a percentage of insurance premiums	3.7 %	3.6 %	3.7 %		

Expenses, excluding broker commissions, that vary with and are related primarily to the production of new business are deferred to the extent recoverable and are amortized on either a straight-line basis or as a level percent of premium of the related contracts depending on the block of business. Broker commissions, which vary with and are related to paid premiums, are expensed as incurred. The level of expenses is an important driver of profitability for this segment as group insurance contracts are offered within an environment that competes on the basis of price and service.

RESULTS OF OTHER OPERATIONS

Income (Loss) from Operations

Details underlying the results for Other Operations (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Operating Revenues					
Insurance premiums	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 4	-50 %	-50 %
Net investment income	307	326	307	-6 %	6 %
Amortization of deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance	72	72	73	0 %	-1 %
Media revenues (net)	77	75	68	3 %	10 %
Other revenues and fees	4	12	13	-67 %	-8 %
Total operating revenues	461	487	465	-5 %	5 %
Operating Expenses					
Interest credited	113	120	148	-6 %	-19 %
Benefits	126	139	258	-9 %	-46 %
Media expenses	69	59	53	17 %	11 %
Other expenses	90	176	125	-49 %	41 %
Interest and debt expense	285	286	261	0 %	10 %
Total operating expenses	683	780	845	-12 %	-8 %
Income (loss) from operations before taxes	(222)	(293)	(380)	24 %	23 %
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	(76)	(107)	(143)	29 %	25 %
Income (loss) from operations	\$ (146)	\$ (186)	\$ (237)	22 %	22 %

Comparison of 2011 to 2010

Loss from operations for Other Operations decreased due primarily to lower other expenses attributable to higher legal and merger-related expenses in 2010, partially offset by an assessment associated with the New York State Department of Financial Services' liquidation plan for Executive Life Insurance Company of New York during 2011. State guaranty funds assess insurance companies to cover losses to contract holders of insolvent or rehabilitated companies.

The decrease in loss from operations was partially offset primarily by lower net investment income, net of interest credited, attributable to the following:

- Repurchases of common stock, net cash used in operating activities due primarily to interest payments and transfers to other segments for OTTI, partially offset by distributable earnings received from our insurance segments, resulting in lower average invested assets; and
- New money rates averaging below our portfolio yields.

Comparison of 2010 to 2009

Loss from operations for Other Operations decreased due primarily to the following:

- The unfavorable effect during 2009 related to rescinding the reinsurance agreement on certain disability income business sold to Swiss Re (discussed in "Reinsurance" below), which resulted in pre-tax increases in benefits of \$78

million, interest credited of \$15 million and other expenses of \$5 million, partially offset by a \$34 million tax benefit;

- Higher benefits during 2009 associated with our run-off disability income business due to increasing reserves supporting this business and writing off certain receivables upon rescinding the reinsurance agreement; and
- Higher net investment income due to distributable earnings received from our insurance segments, issuances of common stock and preferred stock and proceeds from the sale of Lincoln UK and Delaware, partially offset by redemption of our Series B preferred stock and repurchase and cancellation of associated common stock warrants, resulting in higher average invested assets.

The decrease in loss from operations was partially offset primarily by the following:

- Higher other expenses due to:
 - § Settlement of the Transamerica litigation matter during 2010 (see Note 13 for more information);
 - § More favorable state income tax true-ups in 2009; and
 - § Higher branding expenses in 2010;
- partially offset by:
 - § Restructuring charges for expense initiatives in 2009; and
 - § Higher merger-related expenses in 2009; and
- Higher interest and debt expense attributable to higher average balances of outstanding debt during 2010.

Additional Information

The deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance will be fully amortized during the first half of 2017.

The results of Other Operations include our thrift business. We completed the liquidation of this business on November 30, 2011, which did not have a significant effect on the results of Other Operations.

We provide information about Other Operations' operating revenue and operating expense line items, the period in which amounts are recognized, key drivers of changes and historical details underlying the line items and their associated drivers below.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language" above.

Net Investment Income and Interest Credited

We utilize an internal formula to determine the amount of capital that is allocated to our business segments. Investment income on capital in excess of the calculated amounts is reported in Other Operations. If regulations require increases in our insurance segments' statutory reserves and surplus, the amount of capital retained by Other Operations would decrease and net investment income would be negatively affected.

Write-downs for OTTI decrease the recorded value of our invested assets owned by our business segments. These write-downs are not included in the income from operations of our operating segments. When impairment occurs, assets are transferred to the business segments' portfolios and will reduce the future net investment income for Other Operations, but should not have an effect on a consolidated basis unless the impairments are related to defaulted securities. Statutory reserve adjustments for our business segments can also cause allocations of invested assets between the affected segments and Other Operations.

The majority of our interest credited relates to our reinsurance operations sold to Swiss Re in 2001. A substantial amount of the business was sold through indemnity reinsurance transactions, which is still recorded in our consolidated financial statements. The interest credited corresponds to investment income earnings on the assets we continue to hold for this business. There is no effect to income or loss in Other Operations or on a consolidated basis for these amounts because interest earned on the blocks that continue to be reinsured is passed through to Swiss Re in the form of interest credited.

Benefits

Benefits are recognized when incurred for Institutional Pension products and disability income business.

Other Expenses

Details underlying other expenses (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Other Expenses					
General and administrative expenses:					
Legal	\$ 1	\$ 77	\$ 14	-99 %	NM
Branding	29	27	18	7 %	50 %
Non-brand marketing	4	11	9	-64 %	22 %
Other (1)	38	59	52	-36 %	13 %
Total general and administrative expenses	72	174	93	-59 %	87 %
Merger-related expenses (2)	-	9	17	-100 %	-47 %
Restructuring charges (recoveries) for expense initiatives (3)	-	(1)	34	100 %	NM
Taxes, licenses and fees	27	(4)	(19)	NM	79 %
Inter-segment reimbursement associated with reserve financing and LOC expenses (4)	(9)	(2)	-	NM	NM
Total other expenses	\$ 90	\$ 176	\$ 125	-49 %	41 %

- (1) Includes expenses that are corporate in nature including charitable contributions, amortization of media intangible assets with a definite life, other expenses not allocated to our business segments and inter-segment expense eliminations.
- (2) Includes the result of actions undertaken by us to eliminate duplicate operations and functions as a result of the Jefferson-Pilot merger along with costs related to the implementation of our unified product portfolio and other initiatives. These actions were completed during 2010. Our cumulative integration expense was approximately \$225 million, pre-tax, which excluded amounts capitalized or recorded as goodwill.
- (3) Includes expenses associated with a restructuring plan implemented starting in December 2008 in response to the economic downturn and sustained market volatility, which focused on reducing expenses. These actions were completed during 2009. Our cumulative pre-tax charges amounted to \$41 million for severance, benefits and related costs associated with the plan for workforce reduction and other restructuring actions.
- (4) Consists of reimbursements to Other Operations from the Life Insurance segment for the use of proceeds from certain issuances of senior notes that were used as long-term structured solutions, net of expenses incurred by Other Operations for its use of LOCs.

Interest and Debt Expense

Our current level of interest expense may not be indicative of the future due to, among other things, the timing of the use of cash, the availability of funds from our inter-company cash management program and the future cost of capital. For additional information on our financing activities, see "Review of Consolidated Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Sources of Liquidity and Cash Flow – Financing Activities" below.

REALIZED GAIN (LOSS) AND BENEFIT RATIO UNLOCKING

Details underlying realized gain (loss), after-DAC (1) and benefit ratio unlocking (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Components of Realized Gain (Loss), Pre-Tax					
Total operating realized gain (loss)	\$ 89	\$ 69	\$ 54	29 %	28 %
Total excluded realized gain (loss)	(388)	(146)	(1,200)	NM	88 %
Total realized gain (loss), pre-tax	\$ (299)	\$ (77)	\$ (1,146)	NM	93 %
Reconciliation of Excluded Realized Gain (Loss) Net of Benefit Ratio Unlocking, After-Tax					
Total excluded realized gain (loss)	\$ (252)	\$ (95)	\$ (780)	NM	88 %
Benefit ratio unlocking	(14)	10	89	NM	-89 %
Excluded realized gain (loss) net of benefit ratio unlocking, after-tax	\$ (266)	\$ (85)	\$ (691)	NM	88 %
Components of Excluded Realized Gain (Loss) Net of Benefit Ratio Unlocking, After-Tax					
Realized gain (loss) related to certain investments	\$ (99)	\$ (118)	\$ (350)	16 %	66 %
Gain (loss) on the mark-to-market on certain instruments	(54)	49	23	NM	113 %
Variable annuity net derivatives results:					
Hedge program performance	(106)	(27)	103	NM	NM
Unlocking for GLB reserves hedged	(72)	18	(157)	NM	111 %
GLB NPR component	65	(19)	(313)	NM	94 %
Total variable annuity net derivatives results	(113)	(28)	(367)	NM	92 %
Indexed annuity forward-starting option	-	12	2	-100%	NM
Realized gain (loss) on sale of subsidiaries/businesses	-	-	1	NM	-100%
Excluded realized gain (loss) net of benefit ratio unlocking, after-tax	\$ (266)	\$ (85)	\$ (691)	NM	88 %

(1) DAC refers to the associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL and changes in other contract holder funds and funds withheld reinsurance liabilities.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language” above.

For information on our counterparty exposure, see “Part II – Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.”

Comparison of 2011 to 2010

We had higher realized losses in 2011 as compared to 2010 due primarily to the following:

- Losses on the mark-to-market on certain instruments during 2011 as compared to gains in 2010 attributable to spreads widening on corporate credit default swaps, partially offset by declines in interest rates leading to an increase in the value of our trading securities; and
- Higher losses on variable annuity net derivatives results attributable to:
 - § Volatile capital markets during 2011 resulting in higher losses in our hedge program; and
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2011 as compared to 2010 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information);

partially offset by:

- § Widening of our credit spreads during 2011 resulting in a favorable GLB NPR component (see “Variable Annuity Net Derivatives Results” below for a discussion of how our NPR adjustment is determined).

Comparison of 2010 to 2009

We had lower realized losses in 2010 as compared to 2009 due primarily to the following:

- More favorable variable annuity net derivatives results attributable to:
 - § Narrowing of our credit spreads during 2009 resulting in an unfavorable GLB NPR component (see “Variable Annuity Net Derivatives Results” below for a discussion of how our NPR adjustment is determined); and
 - § The effect of unlocking in 2010 as compared to 2009 (see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Unlocking” for more information);

partially offset by:

- § Less favorable hedge program performance;
- General improvement in the credit markets leading to a decline in OTTI (see “Consolidated Investments – Realized Gain (Loss) Related to Certain Investments” below for more information); and
- Higher gains on the mark-to-market on certain instruments attributable to spreads narrowing on corporate credit default swaps and declines in interest rates leading to an increase in the value of our trading securities.

Operating Realized Gain (Loss)

Operating realized gain (loss) includes indexed annuity net derivatives results representing the net difference between the change in the fair value of the S&P 500 call options that we hold and the change in the fair value of the embedded derivative liabilities of our indexed annuity products. The change in the fair value of the liability for the embedded derivative represents the amount that is credited to the indexed annuity contract.

Our GWB, GIB and 4LATER® features have elements of both benefit reserves and embedded derivative reserves. We calculate the value of the embedded derivative reserves and the benefit reserves based on the specific characteristics of each GLB feature. For our GLBs that meet the definition of an embedded derivative under the Derivatives and Hedging Topic of the FASB ASC, we record them at fair value on our Consolidated Balance Sheets with changes in fair value recorded in realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). In bifurcating the embedded derivative, we attribute to the embedded derivative the portion of total fees collected from the contract holder that relates to the GLB riders (the “attributed fees”). These attributed fees represent the present value of future claims expected to be paid for the GLB at the inception of the contract (the “net valuation premium”) plus a margin that a theoretical market participant would include for risk/profit (the “risk/profit margin”).

We also include the risk/profit margin portion of the GLB attributed rider fees in operating realized gain (loss) and include the net valuation premium of the GLB attributed rider fees in excluded realized gain (loss). For our Annuities and Retirement Plan Services segments, the excess of total fees collected from the contract holders over the GLB attributed rider fees is reported in insurance fees.

Details underlying the effect to operating realized gain (loss) from unlocking (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Retrospective unlocking	\$ 39	\$ 34	\$ 20	15 %	70 %

Realized Gain (Loss) Related to Certain Investments

See “Consolidated Investments – Realized Gain (Loss) Related to Certain Investments” below.

Gain (Loss) on the Mark-to-Market on Certain Instruments

Gain (loss) on the mark-to-market on certain instruments, including those associated with our consolidated variable interest entities (“VIEs”) and trading securities represents changes in the fair values of certain derivative instruments (including the credit default swaps and contingent forwards associated with consolidated VIEs), total return swaps (embedded derivatives that are theoretically included in our various modified coinsurance and coinsurance with funds withheld reinsurance arrangements that have contractual returns related to various assets and liabilities associated with these arrangements) and trading securities.

See Note 4 for information about our consolidated VIEs.

Variable Annuity Net Derivatives Results

Our variable annuity net derivatives results include the net valuation premium, the change in the GLB embedded derivative reserves and the change in the fair value of the derivative instruments we own to hedge them, including the cost of purchasing the hedging instruments. In addition, these results include the changes in reserves not accounted for at fair value and resulting benefit ratio unlocking on our GDB and GLB riders and the change in the fair value of the derivative instruments we own to hedge them.

We use derivative instruments to hedge our exposure to the risks and earnings volatility that result from changes in the GLB embedded derivative reserves. The change in fair value of these derivative instruments is designed to generally offset the change in embedded derivative reserves. Our variable annuity net derivatives results can be volatile especially when sudden and significant changes in equity markets and/or interest rates occur. We do not attempt to hedge the change in the NPR component of the liability. As of December 31, 2011, the net effect of the NPR resulted in a \$211 million decrease in the liability for our GLB embedded derivative reserves. The NPR factors affect the discount rate used in the calculation of the GLB embedded derivative reserve. Our methodology for calculating the NPR component of the embedded derivative reserve utilizes an extrapolated 30-year NPR spread curve applied to a series of expected cash flows over the expected life of the embedded derivative. Our cash flows consist of both expected fees to be received from contract holders and benefits to be paid, and these cash flows are different on a pre- and post- NPR basis. We utilize a model based on our holding company’s credit default swap (“CDS”) spreads adjusted for items, such as the liquidity of our holding company CDS. Because the guaranteed benefit liabilities are contained within our insurance subsidiaries, we apply items, such as the effect of our insurance subsidiaries’ claims-paying ratings compared to holding company credit risk and the over-collateralization of insurance liabilities, in order to determine factors that are representative of a theoretical market participant’s view of the NPR of the specific liability within our insurance subsidiaries.

Details underlying the NPR component and associated effect to our GLB embedded derivative reserves (dollars in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011	As of September 30, 2011	As of June 30, 2011	As of March 31, 2011	As of December 31, 2010
10-year CDS spread	3.65%	4.42%	2.02%	1.78%	1.98%
NPR factor related to 10-year CDS spread	0.43%	0.51%	0.24%	0.17%	0.17%

Unadjusted embedded derivative liability	\$ 2,418	\$ 2,642	\$ 306	\$ 112	\$ 389
--	----------	----------	--------	--------	--------

Estimating what the absolute amount of the NPR effect will be period to period is difficult due to the utilization of all cash flows and the shape of the spread curve. Currently, we estimate that if the NPR factors as of December 31, 2011, were to have been zero along all points on the spread curve, then the NPR offset to the unadjusted liability would have resulted in an unfavorable effect to net income of approximately \$315 million, pre-DAC and pre-tax. Alternatively, if the NPR factors were 20 basis points higher along all points on the spread curve as of December 31, 2011, then there would have been a favorable effect to net income of approximately \$120 million, pre-DAC and pre-tax. In the preceding two sentences, “DAC” refers to the associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL. Changing market conditions could cause this relationship to deviate significantly in future periods. Sensitivity within this range is primarily a result of volatility in our CDS spreads and the slope of the CDS spread term structure.

For additional information on our guaranteed benefits, see “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Derivatives – Guaranteed Living Benefits” above.

Indexed Annuity Forward-Starting Option

The liability for the forward-starting option reflects changes in the fair value of embedded derivative liabilities related to index call options we may purchase in the future to hedge contract holder index allocations applicable to future reset periods for our indexed annuity products accounted for under the Derivatives and Hedging and the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topics of the FASB ASC. These fair values represent an estimate of the cost of the options we will purchase in the future, discounted back to the date of the balance sheet, using current market indications of volatility and interest rates, which can vary significantly from period to period due to a number of factors and therefore can provide results that are not indicative of the underlying trends.

CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENTS

Details underlying our consolidated investment balances (in millions) were as follows:

	As of December		Percentage of Total Investments	
	31, 2011	31, 2010	As of December 31, 2011	As of December 31, 2010
Investments				
AFS securities:				
Fixed maturity	\$ 75,433	\$ 68,030	81.0 %	81.6 %
VIEs' fixed maturity	700	584	0.8 %	0.7 %
Total fixed maturity	76,133	68,614	81.8 %	82.3 %
Equity	139	197	0.1 %	0.2 %
Trading securities	2,675	2,596	2.9 %	3.1 %
Mortgage loans on real estate	6,942	6,752	7.4 %	8.1 %
Real estate	137	202	0.1 %	0.3 %
Policy loans	2,884	2,865	3.1 %	3.5 %
Derivative investments	3,151	1,076	3.4 %	1.3 %
Alternative investments	807	750	0.9 %	0.9 %
Other investments	262	288	0.3 %	0.3 %
Total investments	\$ 93,130	\$ 83,340	100.0 %	100.0 %

Investment Objective

Invested assets are an integral part of our operations. We follow a balanced approach to investing for both current income and prudent risk management, with an emphasis on generating sufficient current income, net of income tax, to meet our obligations to customers, as well as other general liabilities. This balanced approach requires the evaluation of expected return and risk of each asset class utilized, while still meeting our income objectives. This approach is important to our asset-liability management because decisions can be made based upon both the economic and current investment income considerations affecting assets and liabilities. For a discussion on our risk management process, see "Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk."

Investment Portfolio Composition and Diversification

Fundamental to our investment policy is diversification across asset classes. Our investment portfolio, excluding cash and invested cash, is composed of fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate, real estate (either

wholly-owned or in joint ventures) and other long-term investments. We purchase investments for our segmented portfolios that have yield, duration and other characteristics that take into account the liabilities of the products being supported.

We have the ability to maintain our investment holdings throughout credit cycles because of our capital position, the long-term nature of our liabilities and the matching of our portfolios of investment assets with the liabilities of our various products.

Fixed Maturity and Equity Securities Portfolios

Fixed maturity securities and equity securities consist of portfolios classified as AFS and trading. Mortgage-backed and private securities are included in both of the AFS and trading portfolios.

Details underlying our fixed maturity and equity securities portfolios by industry classification (in millions) are presented in the tables below. These tables agree in total with the presentation of AFS securities in Note 5; however, the categories below represent a more detailed breakout of the AFS portfolio; therefore, the investment classifications listed below do not agree to the investment categories provided in Note 5.

	As of December 31, 2011				
	Amortized	Unrealized	Losses	Fair	%
	Cost	Gains	and	Value	Fair
			OTTI		Value
Fixed Maturity AFS Securities					
Industry corporate bonds:					
Financial services	\$ 8,926	\$ 607	\$ 158	\$ 9,375	12.3 %
Basic industry	3,394	323	27	3,690	4.8 %
Capital goods	3,933	455	9	4,379	5.8 %
Communications	3,247	364	37	3,574	4.7 %
Consumer cyclical	3,226	345	36	3,535	4.6 %
Consumer non-cyclical	7,956	1,190	1	9,145	12.0 %
Energy	5,026	690	6	5,710	7.5 %
Technology	1,682	192	3	1,871	2.5 %
Transportation	1,360	166	1	1,525	2.0 %
Industrial other	755	74	3	826	1.1 %
Utilities	10,644	1,457	27	12,074	15.8 %
Collateralized mortgage and other obligations ("CMOs"):					
Agency backed	3,226	357	-	3,583	4.7 %
Non-agency backed	1,481	12	199	1,294	1.7 %
Mortgage pass through securities ("MPTS"):					
Agency backed	2,982	179	-	3,161	4.2 %
Non-agency backed	1	-	-	1	0.0 %
Commercial mortgage-backed securities ("CMBS"):					
Non-agency backed	1,642	73	115	1,600	2.1 %
Corporate asset-backed securities ("ABS"):					
CDOs	88	-	6	82	0.1 %
Commercial real estate ("CRE") CDOs	33	-	13	20	0.0 %
Credit card	790	47	-	837	1.1 %
Home equity	905	3	271	637	0.8 %
Manufactured housing	85	5	1	89	0.1 %
Auto loan	52	1	-	53	0.1 %
Other	246	29	1	274	0.4 %
Municipals:					
Taxable	3,452	565	9	4,008	5.3 %
Tax-exempt	38	1	-	39	0.1 %
Government and government agencies:					
United States	1,468	232	-	1,700	2.2 %
Foreign	1,746	152	4	1,894	2.5 %
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	1,277	50	170	1,157	1.5 %
Total fixed maturity AFS securities	69,661	7,569	1,097	76,133	100.0 %
Equity AFS Securities	135	16	12	139	

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

	Total AFS securities	69,796	7,585	1,109	76,272
Trading Securities (1)		2,301	408	34	2,675
	Total AFS and trading securities	\$ 72,097	\$ 7,993	\$ 1,143	\$ 78,947

88

	As of December 31, 2010				%
	Amortized	Unrealized	Unrealized Losses and	Fair	Fair
	Cost	Gains	OTTI	Value	Value
Fixed Maturity AFS Securities					
Industry corporate bonds:					
Financial services	\$ 8,377	\$ 438	\$ 148	\$ 8,667	12.7 %
Basic industry	2,478	203	20	2,661	3.9 %
Capital goods	3,425	243	45	3,623	5.3 %
Communications	3,050	251	32	3,269	4.8 %
Consumer cyclical	2,772	185	47	2,910	4.2 %
Consumer non-cyclical	7,259	628	20	7,867	11.5 %
Energy	4,533	428	17	4,944	7.2 %
Technology	1,414	108	9	1,513	2.2 %
Transportation	1,379	116	3	1,492	2.2 %
Industrial other	884	53	10	927	1.4 %
Utilities	9,800	708	62	10,446	15.2 %
CMOs:					
Agency backed	3,975	308	1	4,282	6.2 %
Non-agency backed	1,718	16	259	1,475	2.1 %
MPTS:					
Agency backed	2,978	106	5	3,079	4.5 %
Non-agency backed	2	-	-	2	0.0 %
CMBS:					
Non-agency backed	2,144	95	186	2,053	3.0 %
ABS:					
CDOs	128	22	8	142	0.2 %
CRE CDOs	46	-	14	32	0.0 %
Credit card	831	33	4	860	1.3 %
Home equity	1,002	6	268	740	1.1 %
Manufactured housing	110	3	4	109	0.2 %
Auto loan	162	2	-	164	0.2 %
Other	211	21	1	231	0.3 %
Municipals:					
Taxable	3,219	27	94	3,152	4.6 %
Tax-exempt	3	-	-	3	0.0 %
Government and government agencies:					
United States	931	120	2	1,049	1.5 %
Foreign	1,438	94	7	1,525	2.2 %
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	1,476	56	135	1,397	2.0 %
Total fixed maturity AFS securities	65,745	4,270	1,401	68,614	100.0%
Equity AFS Securities	179	25	7	197	
Total AFS securities	65,924	4,295	1,408	68,811	
Trading Securities (1)	2,340	297	41	2,596	
Total AFS and trading securities	\$ 68,264	\$ 4,592	\$ 1,449	\$ 71,407	

(1)

Certain of our trading securities support our modified coinsurance arrangements (“Modco”) and the investment results are passed directly to the reinsurers. Refer to the “Trading Securities” section for further details.

AFS Securities

In accordance with the AFS accounting guidance, we reflect stockholders' equity as if unrealized gains and losses were actually recognized, and consider all related accounting adjustments that would occur upon such a hypothetical recognition of unrealized gains and losses. Such related balance sheet effects include adjustments to the balances of DAC, VOBA, DFEL, other contract holder funds and deferred income taxes. Adjustments to each of these balances are charged or credited to accumulated OCI. For instance, DAC is adjusted upon the recognition of unrealized gains or losses because the amortization of DAC is based upon an assumed emergence of gross profits on certain insurance business. Deferred income tax balances are also adjusted because unrealized gains or losses do not affect actual taxes currently paid.

The quality of our AFS fixed maturity securities portfolio, as measured at estimated fair value and by the percentage of fixed maturity securities invested in various ratings categories, relative to the entire fixed maturity AFS security portfolio (in millions) was as follows:

NAIC Designation (1)	Rating Agency Equivalent Designation (1)	As of December 31, 2011			As of December 31, 2010		
		Amortized Cost	Fair Value	% of Total	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	% of Total
Investment Grade Securities							
1	Aaa / Aa / A	\$ 42,436	\$ 47,490	62.4%	\$ 40,573	\$ 42,769	62.3%
2	Baa	23,323	25,237	33.1%	21,032	22,286	32.5%
Total investment grade securities		65,759	72,727	95.5%	61,605	65,055	94.8%
Below Investment Grade Securities							
3	Ba	2,466	2,350	3.1%	2,620	2,403	3.5%
4	B	960	750	1.0%	796	665	1.0%
5	Caa and lower	318	218	0.3%	476	325	0.5%
6	In or near default	158	88	0.1%	248	166	0.2%
Total below investment grade securities		3,902	3,406	4.5%	4,140	3,559	5.2%
Total fixed maturity AFS securities		\$ 69,661	\$ 76,133	100.0%	\$ 65,745	\$ 68,614	100.0%
Total securities below investment grade as a percentage of total fixed maturity AFS securities							
		5.6%	4.5%		6.3%	5.2%	

(1)

Based upon the rating designations determined and provided by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (“NAIC”) or the major credit rating agencies (Fitch Ratings (“Fitch”), Moody's Investors Service (“Moody’s”) and S&P). For securities where the ratings assigned by the major credit agencies are not equivalent, the second highest rating assigned is used. For those securities where ratings by the major credit rating agencies are not available, which does not represent a significant amount of our total fixed maturity AFS securities, we base the ratings disclosed upon internal ratings.

Comparisons between the NAIC ratings and rating agency designations are published by the NAIC. The NAIC assigns securities quality ratings and uniform valuations, which are used by insurers when preparing their annual statements. The NAIC ratings are similar to the rating agency designations of the Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations for marketable bonds. NAIC ratings 1 and 2 include bonds generally considered investment grade (rated Baa3 or higher by Moody’s, or rated BBB- or higher by S&P and Fitch), by such ratings organizations. However, securities rated NAIC 1 and NAIC 2 could be deemed below investment grade by the rating agencies as a result of the current RBC rules for residential mortgage-backed securities (“RMBS”) and CMBS for statutory reporting. NAIC ratings 3 through 6 include bonds generally considered below investment grade (rated Ba1 or lower by Moody’s, or rated BB+ or lower by S&P and Fitch).

We have identified direct and indirect exposure to select countries in Europe that are currently experiencing stress in the credit markets, notably Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Hungary and Cyprus. These countries were identified due to high credit spreads and political and economic uncertainty in these countries. The exposure was determined by country of domicile, provided that a meaningful portion of revenues is generated from the country of domicile. As of December 31, 2011, we had direct sovereign exposure only to Italy with an amortized cost of \$3 million and fair value of \$2 million. We had no exposure to any issuers, sovereign or non-sovereign, located in Greece, Hungary or Cyprus. Our non-sovereign exposure in Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain was limited to two large banks in which we had investments with an amortized cost and fair value of \$77 million as of December 31, 2011.

Our total non-banking and non-sovereign AFS securities exposure to Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain had an amortized cost of \$770 million and a fair value of \$798 million as of December 31, 2011, of which approximately 50% was related to large multinational companies domiciled in those countries. The detailed breakout by country was as follows (in millions):

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Spain	\$ 367	\$ 386
Ireland	215	227
Italy	148	154
Portugal	40	31
Total	\$ 770	\$ 798

We purchased a European subordinated investment grade financial index hedge in the amount of €35 million with a maturity of December 20, 2016, to provide some protection on possible defaults on our European investments.

We manage European and other investment risks through our internal investment department and outside asset managers. The risk management is focused on monitoring spreads, pricing and monitoring of global economic developments. We have incorporated these risks into our stress testing.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 67.4% and 79.8%, respectively, of the total publicly traded and private securities in an unrealized loss status were rated as investment grade. See Note 5 for maturity date information for our fixed maturity investment portfolio. Our gross unrealized losses on AFS securities as of December 31, 2011, decreased \$299 million. This change was attributable to a decline in overall market yields, which was driven by market uncertainty and weakening economic activity. As more fully described in Note 1, we regularly review our investment holdings for OTTI. We believe the unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2011, does not represent OTTI as we do not intend to sell these debt securities, it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the debt securities before recovery of their amortized cost basis, the estimated future cash flows are equal to or greater than the amortized cost basis of the debt securities, or we have the ability and intent to hold the equity securities for a period of time sufficient for recovery. For further information on our unrealized losses on AFS securities see “Composition by Industry Categories of our Unrealized Losses on AFS Securities” below.

Selected information for certain AFS securities in a gross unrealized loss position (dollars in millions) was as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011					
	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Estimated Years until Call	Estimated Average Recovery Years	Subordination Level	Current Origination
CMBS	\$ 324	\$ 115	1 to 41	27	22.1 %	15.3 %
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	677	170	1 to 55	31	N/A	N/A

As provided in the table above, many of the securities in these categories are long-dated with some of the preferred securities being perpetual. This is purposeful as it matches the long-term nature of our liabilities associated with our life insurance and annuity products. See “Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk” where

we present information related to maturities of securities and the expected cash flows for rate sensitive liabilities and maturities of our holding company debt, which also demonstrates the long-term nature of the cash flows associated with these items. Because of this relationship, we do not believe it will be necessary to sell these securities before they recover or mature. For these securities, the estimated range and average period until recovery is the call or maturity period. It is difficult to predict or project when the securities will recover as it is dependent upon a number of factors including the overall economic climate. We do not believe it is necessary to impair these securities as long as the expected future cash flows are projected to be sufficient to recover the amortized cost of these securities.

The actual range and period until recovery could vary significantly depending on a variety of factors, many of which are out of our control. There are several items that could affect the length of the period until recovery, such as the pace of economic recovery, level of delinquencies, performance of the underlying collateral, changes in market interest rates, exposures to various industry or geographic conditions, market behavior and other market conditions.

We concluded that it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the fixed maturity AFS securities before recovery of their amortized cost basis, that the estimated future cash flows are equal to or greater than the amortized cost basis of the debt securities and that we have the ability to hold the equity AFS securities for a period of time sufficient for recovery. This conclusion is consistent with our asset-liability management process. Management considers the following as part of the evaluation:

- The current economic environment and market conditions;
- Our business strategy and current business plans;
- The nature and type of security, including expected maturities and exposure to general credit, liquidity, market and interest rate risk;
- Our analysis of data from financial models and other internal and industry sources to evaluate the current effectiveness of our hedging and overall risk management strategies;
- The current and expected timing of contractual maturities of our assets and liabilities, expectations of prepayments on investments and expectations for surrenders and withdrawals of life insurance policies and annuity contracts;
- The capital risk limits approved by management; and
- Our current financial condition and liquidity demands.

To determine the recoverability of a debt security, we consider the facts and circumstances surrounding the underlying issuer including, but not limited to, the following:

- Historic and implied volatility of the security;
- Length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than amortized cost;
- Adverse conditions specifically related to the security or to specific conditions in an industry or geographic area;
- Failure, if any, of the issuer of the security to make scheduled payments; and
- Recoveries or additional declines in fair value subsequent to the balance sheet date.

As reported on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, we had \$97.6 billion of investments and cash, which exceeded the liabilities for our future obligations under insurance policies and contracts, net of amounts recoverable from reinsurers, which totaled \$82.8 billion as of December 31, 2011. If it were necessary to liquidate securities prior to maturity or call to meet cash flow needs, we would first look to those securities that are in an unrealized gain position, which had a fair value of \$69.1 billion, excluding consolidated VIEs in the amount of \$700 million, as of December 31, 2011, rather than selling securities in an unrealized loss position. The amount of cash that we have on hand at any point of time takes into account our liquidity needs in the future, other sources of cash, such as the maturities of investments, interest and dividends we earn on our investments and the on-going cash flows from new and existing business.

See “AFS Securities – Evaluation for Recovery of Amortized Cost” in Note 1 and Note 5 for additional discussion.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the estimated fair value for all private securities was \$9.3 billion and \$8.4 billion, respectively, representing approximately 10% of total invested assets.

For information regarding our VIEs’ fixed maturity securities, see Note 1 and Note 4.

Trading Securities

Trading securities, which in certain cases support reinsurance funds withheld and our Modco reinsurance agreements, are carried at estimated fair value and changes in estimated fair value are recorded in net income as they occur. Investment results for these certain portfolios, including gains and losses from sales, are passed directly to the reinsurers through the contractual terms of the reinsurance arrangements. Offsetting these amounts in certain cases

are corresponding changes in fair value of the embedded derivative liability associated with the underlying reinsurance arrangement. See Notes 1 and 9 for more information regarding our accounting for Modco.

Mortgage-Backed Securities (“MBS”) (Included in AFS and Trading Securities)

Our fixed maturity securities include MBS. These securities are subject to risks associated with variable prepayments. This may result in differences between the actual cash flow and maturity of these securities than that expected at the time of purchase. Securities that have an amortized cost greater than par and are backed by mortgages that prepay faster than expected will incur a reduction in yield or a loss. Those securities with an amortized cost lower than par that prepay faster than expected will generate an increase in yield or a gain. In addition, we may incur reinvestment risks if market yields are lower than the book yields earned on the securities. Prepayments occurring slower than expected have the opposite effect. We may incur reinvestment risks if market yields are higher than the book yields earned on the securities and we are forced to sell the securities. The degree to which a security is susceptible to either gains or losses is influenced by: the difference between its amortized cost and par; the relative

sensitivity of the underlying mortgages backing the assets to prepayment in a changing interest rate environment; and the repayment priority of the securities in the overall securitization structure.

We limit the extent of our risk on MBS by prudently limiting exposure to the asset class, by generally avoiding the purchase of securities with a cost that significantly exceeds par, by purchasing securities backed by stable collateral and by concentrating on securities with enhanced priority in their trust structure. Such securities with reduced risk typically have a lower yield (but higher liquidity) than higher-risk MBS. A significant amount of assets in our MBS portfolio are either guaranteed by U.S. government-sponsored enterprises or are supported in the securitization structure by junior securities enabling the assets to achieve high investment grade status.

Our exposure to subprime mortgage lending is limited to investments in banks and other financial institutions that may be affected by subprime lending and direct investments in CDOs, ABS and RMBS. Mortgage-related ABS are backed by home equity loans and RMBS are backed by residential mortgages. These securities are backed by loans that are characterized by borrowers of differing levels of creditworthiness: prime; Alt-A; and subprime. Prime lending is the origination of residential mortgage loans to customers with excellent credit profiles. Alt-A lending is the origination of residential mortgage loans to customers who have prime credit profiles but lack documentation to substantiate income. Subprime lending is the origination of loans to customers with weak or impaired credit profiles.

Delinquency and loss rates on residential mortgages and home equity loans have been showing positive trends, and as long as the unemployment rate remains stable to improving, we expect these trends to continue. We continue to expect to receive payments in accordance with contractual terms for a significant amount of our securities, largely due to the seniority of the claims on the collateral of the securities that we own. The tranches of the securities will experience losses according to their seniority level with the least senior (or most junior), typically the unrated residual tranche, taking the initial loss. The credit ratings of our securities reflect the seniority of the securities that we own. Our RMBS had a market value of \$8.3 billion and an unrealized gain of \$365 million, or 4%, as of December 31, 2011.

The market value of AFS securities and trading securities backed by subprime loans was \$442 million and represented less than 1% of our total investment portfolio as of December 31, 2011. AFS securities represented \$428 million, or 97%, and trading securities represented \$14 million, or 3%, of the subprime exposure as of December 31, 2011. AFS securities and trading securities rated A or above represented 45% of the subprime investments and \$223 million in market value of our subprime investments was backed by loans originating in 2005 and forward. The table below summarizes our investments in AFS securities backed by pools of residential mortgages (in millions):

Type	As of December 31, 2011									
	Prime Agency		Prime/ Non-Agency		Alt-A		Subprime		Total	
	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost
RMBS	\$ 6,743	\$ 6,207	\$ 835	\$ 911	\$ 461	\$ 567	\$ -	\$ 4	\$ 8,039	\$ 7,689
ABS home equity	4	4	-	-	205	280	428	621	637	905
Total by type (1)(2)	\$ 6,747	\$ 6,211	\$ 835	\$ 911	\$ 666	\$ 847	\$ 428	\$ 625	\$ 8,676	\$ 8,594
Rating										
AAA	\$ 6,672	\$ 6,142	\$ 62	\$ 60	\$ 32	\$ 31	\$ 79	\$ 82	\$ 6,845	\$ 6,315
AA	60	56	52	51	6	6	44	50	162	163
A	15	13	54	56	33	36	64	68	166	173
BBB	-	-	52	55	63	64	23	24	138	143
BB and below	-	-	615	689	532	710	218	401	1,365	1,800
Total by rating (1)(2)(3)	\$ 6,747	\$ 6,211	\$ 835	\$ 911	\$ 666	\$ 847	\$ 428	\$ 625	\$ 8,676	\$ 8,594
Origination Year										
2004 and prior	\$ 1,562	\$ 1,445	\$ 215	\$ 221	\$ 228	\$ 255	\$ 209	\$ 265	\$ 2,214	\$ 2,186
2005	842	754	119	141	245	300	158	230	1,364	1,425
2006	246	217	162	175	158	237	60	128	626	757
2007	1,097	963	339	374	35	55	-	-	1,471	1,392
2008	240	217	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	217
2009	1,197	1,121	-	-	-	-	1	2	1,198	1,123
2010	1,074	1,020	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,074	1,020
2011	489	474	-	-	-	-	-	-	489	474
Total by origination year (1)(2)	\$ 6,747	\$ 6,211	\$ 835	\$ 911	\$ 666	\$ 847	\$ 428	\$ 625	\$ 8,676	\$ 8,594
Total AFS RMBS as a percentage of total AFS securities									11.4%	12.3%
Total prime/non-agency, Alt-A and subprime as a percentage of total AFS securities									2.5%	3.4%

(1)

Does not include the fair value of trading securities totaling \$265 million, which support our Modco reinsurance agreements because investment results for these agreements are passed directly to the reinsurers. The \$265 million in trading securities consisted of \$241 million prime, \$10 million Alt-A and \$14 million subprime.

- (2) Does not include the amortized cost of trading securities totaling \$255 million, which support our Modco reinsurance agreements because investment results for these agreements are passed directly to the reinsurers. The \$255 million in trading securities consisted of \$225 million prime, \$13 million Alt-A and \$17 million subprime.
- (3) Based upon the rating designations determined and provided by the major credit rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and S&P). For securities where the ratings assigned by the major credit agencies are not equivalent, the second highest rating assigned is used. For those securities where ratings by the major credit rating agencies are not available, which does not represent a significant amount of our total fixed maturity AFS securities, we base the ratings disclosed upon internal ratings.

None of these investments included any direct investments in subprime lenders or mortgages. We are not aware of material exposure to subprime loans in our alternative asset portfolio.

The following summarizes our investments in AFS securities backed by pools of commercial mortgages (in millions):

Type	As of December 31, 2011							
	Multiple Property		Single Property		CRE CDOs		Total	
	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost
CMBS	\$ 1,553	\$ 1,551	\$ 47	\$ 91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,642
CRE CDOs	-	-	-	-	20	33	20	33
Total by type (1)(2)	\$ 1,553	\$ 1,551	\$ 47	\$ 91	\$ 20	\$ 33	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,675
Rating								
AAA	\$ 1,028	\$ 967	\$ 14	\$ 13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,042	\$ 980
AA	215	213	10	10	-	-	225	223
A	134	138	5	6	1	1	140	145
BBB	108	114	5	6	7	8	120	128
BB and below	68	119	13	56	12	24	93	199
Total by rating (1)(2)(3)	\$ 1,553	\$ 1,551	\$ 47	\$ 91	\$ 20	\$ 33	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,675
Origination Year								
2004 and prior	\$ 901	\$ 893	\$ 23	\$ 23	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 928	\$ 921
2005	325	309	23	60	7	8	355	377
2006	136	149	1	8	9	20	146	177
2007	136	146	-	-	-	-	136	146
2010	55	54	-	-	-	-	55	54
Total by origination year (1)(2)	\$ 1,553	\$ 1,551	\$ 47	\$ 91	\$ 20	\$ 33	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,675

Total AFS securities backed by pools of commercial mortgages as a percentage of total AFS securities

2.1% 2.4%

- (1) Does not include the fair value of trading securities totaling \$34 million, which support our Modco reinsurance agreements because investment results for these agreements are passed directly to the reinsurers. The \$34 million in trading securities consisted of \$31 million CMBS and \$3 million CRE CDOs.
- (2) Does not include the amortized cost of trading securities totaling \$39 million, which support our Modco reinsurance agreements because investment results for these agreements are passed directly to the reinsurers. The \$39 million in trading securities consisted of \$35 million CMBS and \$4 million CRE CDOs.
- (3) Based upon the rating designations determined and provided by the major credit rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and S&P). For securities where the ratings assigned by the major credit agencies are not equivalent, the second highest rating assigned is used. For those securities where ratings by the major credit rating agencies are not available, which does not represent a significant amount of our total fixed maturity AFS securities, we base the ratings disclosed upon internal ratings.

As of December 31, 2011, the amortized cost and fair value of our exposure to Monoline insurers was \$593 million and \$537 million, respectively.

Composition by Industry Categories of our Unrealized Losses on AFS Securities

When considering unrealized gain and loss information, it is important to recognize that the information relates to the status of securities at a particular point in time and may not be indicative of the status of our investment portfolios subsequent to the balance sheet date. Further, because the timing of the recognition of realized investment gains and losses through the selection of which securities are sold is largely at management's discretion, it is important to consider the information provided below within the context of the overall unrealized gain or loss position of our investment portfolios. These are important considerations that should be included in any evaluation of the potential effect of unrealized loss securities on our future earnings.

The composition by industry categories of all securities in unrealized loss status (in millions), was as follows:

As of December 31, 2011						
	Fair Value	% Fair Value	Amortized Cost	% Amortized Cost	Unrealized Loss and OTTI	% Unrealized Loss and OTTI
ABS	\$ 680	10.5%	\$ 972	12.7%	\$ 292	26.3%
Banking	1,507	23.2%	1,769	23.2%	262	23.6%
CMOs	946	14.5%	1,142	15.0%	196	17.7%
CMBS	324	5.0%	439	5.8%	115	10.4%
Property and casualty insurers	108	1.7%	136	1.8%	28	2.5%
Media - non-cable	155	2.4%	182	2.4%	27	2.4%
Electric	217	3.3%	240	3.2%	23	2.1%
Retailers	67	1.0%	88	1.2%	21	1.9%
Paper	102	1.6%	122	1.6%	20	1.8%
Life	117	1.8%	129	1.7%	12	1.1%
Local authorities	40	0.6%	51	0.7%	11	1.0%
Wirelines	159	2.4%	170	2.2%	11	1.0%
Brokerage	87	1.3%	97	1.3%	10	0.9%
Industries with unrealized losses less than \$10 million	1,994	30.7%	2,075	27.2%	81	7.3%
Total by industry	\$ 6,503	100.0%	\$ 7,612	100.0%	\$ 1,109	100.0%

Total by industry as a percentage of total AFS securities	8.5%	10.9%	100.0%
---	------	-------	--------

As of December 31, 2011, the amortized cost and fair value of securities subject to enhanced analysis and monitoring for potential changes in unrealized loss status was \$1,015 million and \$701 million, respectively.

Mortgage Loans on Real Estate

The following tables summarize key information on mortgage loans on real estate (in millions):

	As of December 31, 2011		As of December 31, 2010	
	Carrying Value	%	Carrying Value	%
Credit Quality Indicator				
Current	\$ 6,854	98.7 %	\$ 6,699	99.2 %
Delinquent and in foreclosure (1)	88	1.3 %	53	0.8 %
Total mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 6,942	100.0%	\$ 6,752	100.0%

(1)

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, there were 16 and 10 mortgage loans on real estate that were delinquent and in foreclosure, respectively.

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
By Segment		
Annuities	\$ 1,341	\$ 1,172
Retirement Plan Services	1,080	920
Life Insurance	3,731	3,856
Group Protection	278	285
Other Operations	512	519
Total mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 6,942	\$ 6,752

	As of December 31, 2011
Allowance for Losses	
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 13
Additions	24
Charge-offs, net of recoveries	(6)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 31

	As of December 31, 2011		State Exposure	As of December 31, 2011	
	Carrying Value	%		Carrying Value	%
Property Type					
Office building	\$ 2,207	31.8 %	CA	\$ 1,579	22.7 %
Industrial	1,775	25.6 %	TX	636	9.2 %
Retail	1,557	22.4 %	MD	420	6.1 %
Apartment	1,022	14.7 %	VA	350	5.0 %
Mixed use	152	2.2 %	NC	285	4.1 %
Hotel/Motel	132	1.9 %	TN	279	4.0 %
Other commercial	97	1.4 %	FL	272	3.9 %
Total	\$ 6,942	100.0 %	WA	264	3.8 %
			GA	233	3.4 %
Geographic Region			AZ	216	3.1 %
Pacific	\$ 1,965	28.3 %	IN	208	3.0 %
South Atlantic	1,689	24.3 %	IL	189	2.7 %
East North Central	671	9.7 %	NV	184	2.7 %
West South Central	656	9.5 %	OH	177	2.5 %
Mountain	553	8.0 %	PA	174	2.5 %
East South Central	475	6.8 %	NY	150	2.2 %
Middle Atlantic	442	6.4 %	MN	149	2.1 %
			Other states under		
West North Central	349	5.0 %	2%	1,177	17.0 %
New England	142	2.0 %	Total	\$ 6,942	100.0 %
Total	\$ 6,942	100.0 %			

Origination Year	As of December 31, 2011			As of December 31, 2010		
	Principal Amount	%	Future Principal Payments	Principal Amount	%	
2004 and prior	\$ 2,486	35.7 %	2012	\$ 309	4.4 %	
2005	783	11.3 %	2013	379	5.4 %	
2006	647	9.3 %	2014	402	5.8 %	
2007	911	13.1 %	2015	622	8.9 %	
2008	796	11.4 %	2016	518	7.5 %	
2009	148	2.1 %	2017 and thereafter	4,730	68.0 %	
2010	280	4.0 %	Total	\$ 6,960	100.0 %	
2011	909	13.1 %				
Total	\$ 6,960	100.0 %				

The global financial markets and credit market conditions experienced a period of extreme volatility and disruption that began in the second half of 2007 and continued and substantially increased throughout 2008 that led to a decrease in the overall liquidity and availability of capital in the mortgage loan market, and in particular a decrease in activity by securitization lenders. These conditions and the overall economic downturn put pressure on the fundamentals of mortgage loans through rising vacancies, falling rents and falling property values.

See Note 5 for information regarding our loan-to-value and debt-service coverage ratios.

There were 12 and 9 impaired mortgage loans on real estate, or 1% and less than 1% of the total dollar amount of mortgage loans on real estate as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The carrying value on the mortgage loans on real estate that were two or more payments delinquent as of December 31, 2011, was \$76 million, or 1% of total mortgage loans on real estate. The total principal and interest past due on the mortgage loans on real estate that were two or more payments delinquent as of December 31, 2011, was \$41 million. The carrying value on the mortgage loans on real estate that were two or more payments delinquent as of December 31, 2010, was \$48 million, or less than 1% of total mortgage loans on real estate. The total principal and interest past due on the mortgage loans on real estate that were two or more payments delinquent as of December 31, 2010, was \$5 million. See Note 1 for more information regarding our accounting policy relating to the impairment of mortgage loans on real estate.

Alternative Investments

Investment income (loss) on alternative investments by business segment (in millions) was as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Annuities	\$ 10	\$ 14	\$ 3	-29 %	NM
Retirement Plan Services	6	10	2	-40 %	NM
Life Insurance	71	63	(66)	13 %	195 %
Group Protection	3	5	1	-40 %	NM
Other Operations	-	1	5	-100 %	-80 %
Total (1)	\$ 90	\$ 93	\$ (55)	-3 %	269 %

(1) Represents net investment income on the alternative investments supporting the required statutory surplus of our insurance businesses.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, alternative investments included investments in approximately 96 and 95 different partnerships, respectively, and the portfolio represented less than 1% of our overall invested assets. The partnerships do not represent off-balance sheet financing and generally involve several third-party partners. Some of our partnerships contain capital calls, which require us to contribute capital upon notification by the general partner. These capital calls are contemplated during the initial investment decision and are planned for well in advance of the call date. The capital calls are not material in size and are not material to our liquidity. Alternative investments are accounted for using the equity method of accounting and are included in other investments on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

As discussed in “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Investments – Valuation of Alternative Investments,” we update the carrying value of our alternative investment portfolio whenever audited financial statements of the investees for the preceding year become available. Net investment income (loss) derived from our consolidated alternative investments by segment (in millions) related to the effect of preceding year audit adjustments recorded during the indicated year at the investee was as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Annuities	\$ 4	\$ 2	\$ (3)	100 %	167 %
Retirement Plan Services	2	1	(3)	100 %	133 %
Life Insurance	30	14	(65)	114 %	122 %
Group Protection	2	1	(1)	100 %	200 %
Total	\$ 38	\$ 18	\$ (72)	111 %	125 %

Non-Income Producing Investments

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying amount of fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and real estate that were non-income producing was \$14 million and \$17 million, respectively.

Net Investment Income

Details underlying net investment income (in millions) and our investment yield were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Net Investment Income					
Fixed maturity AFS securities	\$ 3,842	\$ 3,694	\$ 3,474	4 %	6 %
VIEs' fixed maturity AFS securities	14	14	-	0 %	NM
Equity AFS securities	5	6	8	-17 %	-25 %
Trading securities	154	157	159	-2 %	-1 %
Mortgage loans on real estate	408	424	462	-4 %	-8 %
Real estate	22	24	18	-8 %	33 %
Standby real estate equity commitments	1	1	1	0 %	0 %
Policy loans	165	169	172	-2 %	-2 %
Invested cash	4	7	15	-43 %	-53 %
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (1)	82	67	24	22 %	179 %
Alternative investments (2)	90	93	(55)	-3 %	269 %
Consent fees	3	8	5	-63 %	60 %
Other investments	(27)	(3)	9	NM	NM
Investment income	4,763	4,661	4,292	2 %	9 %
Investment expense	(111)	(120)	(114)	8 %	-5 %
Net investment income	\$ 4,652	\$ 4,541	\$ 4,178	2 %	9 %

(1) See “Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for additional information.

(2) See “Alternative Investments” above for additional information.

	For the Years Ended			Basis Point	
	December 31,			Change	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Interest Rate Yield					
Fixed maturity securities, mortgage loans on real estate and other, net of investment expenses	5.49 %	5.63 %	5.81 %	(14)	(18)
Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums	0.10 %	0.09 %	0.03 %	1	6
Alternative investments	0.11 %	0.12 %	-0.08 %	(1)	20
Consent fees	0.00 %	0.01 %	0.01 %	(1)	-
Net investment income yield on invested assets	5.70 %	5.85 %	5.77 %	(15)	8

	For the Years Ended December			Change Over	
	31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Average invested assets at amortized cost	\$ 81,640	\$ 77,558	\$ 72,359	5 %	7 %

We earn investment income on our general account assets supporting fixed annuity, term life, whole life, UL, interest-sensitive whole life and fixed portion of retirement plan and VUL products. The profitability of our fixed annuity and life insurance products is affected by our ability to achieve target spreads, or margins, between the interest income earned on the general account assets and the interest credited to the contract holder on our average fixed account values, including the fixed portion of variable. Net investment income and the interest rate yield table each include commercial mortgage loan prepayments and bond makewhole premiums, alternative investments and contingent interest and standby real estate equity commitments. These items can vary significantly from period to period due to a number of factors and therefore can provide results that are not indicative of the underlying trends.

The increase in net investment income when comparing 2011 to 2010 was attributable to higher prepayment and bond makewhole premiums (see “Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums” below for more information) and higher invested assets driven primarily by favorable net flows on fixed account values, including the fixed portion of variable, partially offset by new money rates averaging below our portfolio yields.

Standby Real Estate Equity Commitments

Historically, we have entered into standby commitments, which obligated us to purchase real estate at a specified cost if a third-party sale does not occur within approximately one year after construction is completed. These commitments were used by a developer to obtain a construction loan from an outside lender on favorable terms. In return for issuing the commitment, we received an annual fee and a percentage of the profit when the property is sold. During 2009, we suspended the practice of entering into new standby real estate commitments.

As of December 31, 2011, we did not have any standby real estate equity commitments. During 2011, we funded commitments of \$19 million and recorded a gain of \$6 million due to our funding being less than our estimated allowance for loss related to these commitments. As of December 31, 2010, we had standby real estate equity commitments totaling \$53 million. During 2010, we funded commitments of \$142 million and recorded a loss of \$8

million. During 2009, we recorded a \$69 million estimated allowance for loss related to the probable funding of our outstanding commitments. As a result of the 2011 and 2010 funding, the allowance for loss related to these commitments was \$0 and \$13 million as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Commercial Mortgage Loan Prepayment and Bond Makewhole Premiums

Prepayment and makewhole premiums are collected when borrowers elect to call or prepay their debt prior to the stated maturity. A prepayment or makewhole premium allows investors to attain the same yield as if the borrower made all scheduled interest payments until maturity. These premiums are designed to make investors indifferent to prepayment.

The increase in prepayment and makewhole premiums when comparing 2011 to 2010 was attributable primarily to a decline in interest rates coupled with improvements in the capital markets and real estate financing environment, which resulted in more refinancing activity and more prepayment income.

Realized Gain (Loss) Related to Certain Investments

The detail of the realized gain (loss) related to certain investments (in millions) was as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,			Change Over Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Fixed maturity AFS securities:					
Gross gains	\$ 86	\$ 107	\$ 161	-20 %	-34 %
Gross losses	(227)	(248)	(709)	8 %	65 %
Equity AFS securities:					
Gross gains	12	9	6	33 %	50 %
Gross losses	-	(3)	(27)	100 %	89 %
Gain (loss) on other investments	(9)	(53)	(130)	83 %	59 %
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI, and DFEL and changes in other contract holder funds	(13)	8	161	NM	-95 %
Total realized gain (loss) related to certain investments, pre-tax	\$ (151)	\$ (180)	\$ (538)	16 %	67 %

Amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL and changes in other contract holder funds reflect an assumption for an expected level of credit-related investment losses. When actual credit-related investment losses are realized, we recognize a true-up to our DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL amortization and changes in other contract holder funds within realized loss reflecting the incremental effect of actual versus expected credit-related investment losses. These actual to expected amortization adjustments could create volatility in net realized gains and losses. The write-down for impairments includes both credit-related and interest-rate related impairments.

Realized gains and losses generally originate from asset sales to reposition the portfolio or to respond to product experience. During 2011 and 2010, we sold securities for gains and losses. In the process of evaluating whether a security with an unrealized loss reflects declines that are other-than-temporary, we consider our ability and intent to sell the security prior to a recovery of value. However, subsequent decisions on securities sales are made within the context of overall risk monitoring, assessing value relative to other comparable securities and overall portfolio maintenance. Although our portfolio managers may, at a given point in time, believe that the preferred course of action is to hold securities with unrealized losses that are considered temporary until such losses are recovered, the dynamic nature of portfolio management may result in a subsequent decision to sell. These subsequent decisions are consistent with the classification of our investment portfolio as AFS. We expect to continue to manage all non-trading invested assets within our portfolios in a manner that is consistent with the AFS classification.

We consider economic factors and circumstances within countries and industries where recent write-downs have occurred in our assessment of the status of securities we own of similarly situated issuers. While it is possible for realized or unrealized losses on a particular investment to affect other investments, our risk management has been designed to identify correlation risks and other risks inherent in managing an investment portfolio. Once identified, strategies and procedures are developed to effectively monitor and manage these risks. The areas of risk correlation that we pay particular attention to are risks that may be correlated within specific financial and business markets, risks within specific industries and risks associated with related parties.

When the detailed analysis by our credit analysts and investment portfolio managers leads us to the conclusion that a security's decline in fair value is other-than-temporary, the security is written down to estimated recovery value. In instances where declines are considered temporary, the security will continue to be carefully monitored. See "Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates" for additional information on our portfolio management strategy.

Details underlying write-downs taken as a result of OTTI (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Fixed maturity securities:					
Corporate bonds	\$ (14)	\$ (90)	\$ (214)	84 %	58 %
RMBS	(79)	(65)	(250)	-22 %	74 %
CMBS	(57)	(41)	-	-39 %	NM
CDOs	(1)	(1)	(39)	0 %	97 %
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	(2)	(5)	(67)	60 %	93 %
Total fixed maturity securities	(153)	(202)	(570)	24 %	65 %
Equity securities	-	(3)	(27)	100 %	89 %
Gross OTTI recognized in net income (loss)	(153)	(205)	(597)	25 %	66 %
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	35	53	205	-34 %	-74 %
Net OTTI recognized in net income (loss), pre-tax	\$ (118)	\$ (152)	\$ (392)	22 %	61 %
Portion of OTTI Recognized in OCI					
Gross OTTI recognized in OCI	\$ 58	\$ 98	\$ 357	-41 %	-73 %
Change in DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(11)	(10)	(82)	-10 %	88 %
Net portion of OTTI recognized in OCI, pre-tax	\$ 47	\$ 88	\$ 275	-47 %	-68 %

The decrease in write-downs for OTTI when comparing 2011 to 2010 was primarily due to a decline in write-downs for OTTI on our corporate bonds attributable to continued strengthening of the associated market, partially offset by an increase in write-downs for OTTI on our AFS MBS attributable primarily to continued weakness within the commercial and residential real estate market that affected select RMBS and CMBS holdings.

The \$211 million of impairments taken during 2011 were split between \$153 million of credit-related impairments and \$58 million of noncredit-related impairments. The credit-related impairments were largely attributable to our RMBS and CMBS holdings primarily as a result of continued weakness within the commercial and residential real estate market that affected select RMBS and CMBS holdings. The noncredit-related impairments were incurred due to declines in values of securities for which we do not have an intent to sell or it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the securities before recovery.

REINSURANCE

Our insurance companies cede insurance to other companies. The portion of risks exceeding each of our insurance companies' retention limits is reinsured with other insurers. We seek reinsurance coverage within the businesses that sell life insurance to limit our exposure to mortality losses and enhance our capital management. We utilize inter-company reinsurance agreements to manage our statutory capital position as well as our hedge program for variable annuity guarantees. These inter-company agreements do not have an effect on our consolidated financial statements.

Portions of our deferred annuity business have been reinsured on a modified coinsurance basis with other companies to limit our exposure to interest rate risks. As of December 31, 2011, the reserves associated with these reinsurance arrangements totaled \$878 million. To cover products other than life insurance, we acquire other insurance coverage

with retentions and limits that management believes are appropriate for the circumstances. The consolidated financial statements included in “Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” reflect insurance premiums, insurance fees, benefits and DAC, net of insurance ceded. Our insurance companies remain liable if their reinsurers are unable to meet contractual obligations under applicable reinsurance agreements.

Our amounts recoverable from reinsurers represent receivables from and reserves ceded to reinsurers. The amounts recoverable from reinsurers were \$6.5 billion as of December 31, 2011 and 2010. We obtain reinsurance from a diverse group of reinsurers, and we monitor concentration and financial strength ratings of our principal reinsurers. Swiss Re represents our largest exposure. In 2001, we sold our reinsurance business to Swiss Re primarily through indemnity reinsurance arrangements. Because we are not relieved of our liability to the ceding companies for this business, the liabilities and obligations associated with the reinsured policies remain on our Consolidated Balance Sheets with a corresponding reinsurance receivable from Swiss Re, which totaled \$2.8 billion and \$3.0 billion as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Swiss Re has funded a trust with a balance of \$2.2 billion

as of December 31, 2011, to support this business. In addition to various remedies that we would have in the event of a default by Swiss Re, we continue to hold assets in support of certain of the transferred reserves. These assets consist of those reported as trading securities and certain mortgage loans. Our liabilities for funds withheld and embedded derivatives included \$1.0 billion and \$142 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2011, related to the business sold to Swiss Re.

We sold a block of disability income business to Swiss Re as part of several indemnity reinsurance transactions executed in 2001, as discussed above. On January 24, 2009, an award of rescission was declared related to an ongoing dispute between us and Swiss Re for this treaty, which requires us to be fully responsible for all claims incurred and liabilities supporting this block as if the reinsurance treaty never existed. We completed a review of the adequacy of the reserves supporting the liabilities during the fourth quarter of 2009. See Note 13 for a discussion of the effects of the rescission.

See Note 9 for further information regarding reinsurance transactions.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language” above.

REVIEW OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL CONDITION

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Sources of Liquidity and Cash Flow

Liquidity refers to the ability of an enterprise to generate adequate amounts of cash from its normal operations to meet cash requirements with a prudent margin of safety. Our principal sources of cash flow from operating activities are insurance premiums and fees and investment income, while sources of cash flows from investing activities result from maturities and sales of invested assets. Our operating activities provided cash of \$1.3 billion, \$1.7 billion and \$937 million in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. When considering our liquidity and cash flow, it is important to distinguish between the needs of our insurance subsidiaries and the needs of the holding company, LNC. As a holding company with no operations of its own, LNC derives its cash primarily from its operating subsidiaries.

The sources of liquidity of the holding company are principally comprised of dividends and interest payments from subsidiaries, augmented by holding company short-term investments, bank lines of credit and the ongoing availability of long-term public financing under an SEC-filed shelf registration statement. These sources of liquidity and cash flow support the general corporate needs of the holding company, including its common and preferred stock dividends, interest and debt service, funding of callable securities, securities repurchases, acquisitions and investment in core businesses. Our cash flows associated with collateral received from and posted with counterparties change as the market value of the underlying derivative contract changes. As the value of a derivative asset declines (or increases), the collateral required to be posted by our counterparties would also decline (or increase). Likewise, when the value of a derivative liability declines (or increases), the collateral we are required to post for our counterparties’ benefit would also decline (or increase). During 2011, our payables for collateral on derivative investments increased by \$2.2 billion as declines in the equity and credit markets and interest rates increased the fair values of the associated derivative investments. For additional information, see “Credit Risk” in Note 6.

Details underlying the primary sources of our holding company cash flows (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company ("LNL")	\$ 836	\$ 712	\$ 405	17 %	76 %
Lincoln Financial Media (1)	-	-	2	NM	-100%
First Penn-Pacific	18	-	50	NM	-100%
Delaware Investments (2)	-	390	10	-100%	NM
Lincoln Barbados	-	-	300	NM	-100%
Newton County Loan & Savings, FSB ("NCLS")	21	-	-	NM	NM
Loan Repayments and Interest from Subsidiaries					
Interest on inter-company notes	105	93	94	13 %	-1 %
	\$ 980	\$ 1,195	\$ 861	-18 %	39 %
Other Cash Flow and Liquidity Items					
Net proceeds on common stock issuance	\$ -	\$ 368	\$ 652	-100%	-44 %
Lincoln UK sale proceeds	-	18	307	-100%	-94 %
Increase (decrease) in commercial paper, net	(100)	1	(216)	NM	100 %
Net capital received from (paid for taxes on) stock option exercises and restricted stock	(1)	-	(1)	NM	100 %
	\$ (101)	\$ 387	\$ 742	NM	-48 %

(1) During May of 2009, Lincoln Financial Media became a subsidiary of LNL.

(2) For 2010, amount includes proceeds on the sale of Delaware. For more information, see Note 3.

The table above focuses on significant and recurring cash flow items and excludes the effects of certain financing activities, namely the periodic issuance and retirement of debt and cash flows related to our inter-company cash management program (discussed below). Taxes have been eliminated from the analysis due to a tax sharing agreement among our primary subsidiaries resulting in a modest effect on net cash flows at the holding company. Also excluded from this analysis is the modest amount of investment income on short-term investments of the holding company. See "Part IV – Item 15(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules – Schedule II – Condensed Financial Information of Registrant" for the parent company cash flow statement.

Dividends from Subsidiaries

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to certain insurance department regulatory restrictions as to the transfer of funds and payment of dividends to the holding company. Under Indiana laws and regulations, our Indiana insurance subsidiaries, including our primary insurance subsidiary, LNL, may pay dividends to LNC without prior approval of the Indiana Insurance Commissioner (the "Commissioner") only from unassigned surplus or must receive prior approval of the Commissioner to pay a dividend if such dividend, along with all other dividends paid within the preceding 12 consecutive months, would exceed the statutory limitation. The current statutory limitation is the greater of 10% of the insurer's contract holders' surplus, as shown on its last annual statement on file with the Commissioner or the insurer's statutory net gain from operations for the previous 12 months, but in no event to exceed statutory unassigned

surplus. As discussed in “Part I – Item 1. Business – Regulatory – Insurance Regulation” above, we may not consider the benefit from the statutory accounting principles relating to our insurance subsidiaries’ deferred tax assets in calculating available dividends. Indiana law gives the Commissioner broad discretion to disapprove requests for dividends in excess of these limits. New York, the state of domicile of our other major insurance subsidiary, Lincoln Life & Annuity Company of New York, has similar restrictions, except that in New York it is the lesser of 10% of surplus to contract holders as of the immediately preceding calendar year or net gain from operations for the immediately preceding calendar year, not including realized capital gains.

We expect our domestic insurance subsidiaries could pay dividends of approximately \$675 million in 2012 without prior approval from the respective state commissioners. The amount of surplus that our insurance subsidiaries could pay as dividends is

constrained by the amount of surplus we hold to maintain our ratings, to provide an additional layer of margin for risk protection and for future investment in our businesses.

We maintain an investment portfolio of various holdings, types and maturities. These investments are subject to general credit, liquidity, market and interest rate risks. An extended disruption in the credit and capital markets could adversely affect LNC and its subsidiaries' ability to access sources of liquidity, and there can be no assurance that additional financing will be available to us on favorable terms, or at all, in the current market environment. In addition, further OTTI could reduce our statutory surplus, leading to lower RBC ratios and potentially reducing future dividend capacity from our insurance subsidiaries.

Subsidiaries' Statutory Reserving and Surplus

The RBC ratio is an important factor in the determination of the credit and financial strength ratings of LNC and its subsidiaries, as a reduction in our insurance subsidiaries' surplus may affect their RBC ratios and dividend-paying capacity. For a discussion of RBC ratios, see "Part I – Item 1. Business – Regulatory – Insurance Regulation – Risk-Based Capital."

Statutory reserves established for variable annuity contracts and riders are sensitive to changes in the equity markets and are affected by the level of account values relative to the level of any guarantees, product design and reinsurance arrangements. As a result, the relationship between reserve changes and equity market performance is non-linear during any given reporting period. Market conditions greatly influence the ultimate capital required due to its effect on the valuation of reserves and derivative assets hedging these reserves. For example, if the level of the S&P 500 had been 10% lower as of December 31, 2011, we estimate that our RBC ratios would have declined by approximately 5% to 15% of RBC. Likewise, if the level of the S&P 500 had been 10% higher as of December 31, 2011, we estimate that our RBC ratios would have increased by approximately 1% to 10% of RBC. However, the magnitude of such sensitivities could vary significantly depending on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, contract holder activity, hedge positions, changes in interest rates and the rate or volatility of market movements.

Changes in equity markets may also affect the capital position of our captive reinsurance subsidiaries based on their hedge position at the time. We may decide to reallocate available capital between our insurance subsidiaries and captives, which would result in different RBC ratios for our insurance subsidiaries. In addition, changes in the equity markets can affect the value of our variable annuity separate accounts. When the market value of our separate account assets increases, the statutory surplus within our insurance subsidiaries also increases. Contrarily, when the market value of our separate account assets decreases, the statutory surplus within our insurance subsidiaries may also decrease, which may affect RBC ratios, and in the case of our separate account assets becoming less than the related product liabilities, we must allocate additional capital to fund the difference.

We continue to analyze the use of existing captive reinsurance structures, as well as additional third-party reinsurance arrangements, and our current hedging strategies relative to managing the effects of equity markets and interest rates on the statutory reserves, statutory capital and the dividend capacity of our life insurance subsidiaries.

For discussion of our strategies to lessen the burden of increased AG38 and XXX statutory reserves associated with certain UL products and other products with secondary guarantees on our insurance subsidiaries, see "Results of Life Insurance – Income (Loss) from Operations – Strategies to Address Statutory Reserve Strain."

Financing Activities

Although our subsidiaries currently generate adequate cash flow to meet the needs of our normal operations, periodically we may issue debt or equity securities to maintain ratings and increase liquidity, as well as to fund

internal growth, acquisitions and the retirement of our debt and equity securities.

We currently have an effective shelf registration statement, which allows us to issue, in unlimited amounts, securities, including debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, warrants, stock purchase contracts, stock purchase units, depository shares and trust preferred securities of our affiliated trusts.

Details underlying debt and financing activities (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2011					Ending Balance
	Beginning Balance	Issuance	Maturities and Repayments	Change in Fair Value Hedges	Other Changes (1)	
Short-Term Debt						
Commercial paper (2)	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (100)	\$ -
Current maturities of long-term debt (3)	250	-	(250)	-	300	300
Other short-term debt (4)	1	-	(1)	-	-	-
Total short-term debt	\$ 351	\$ -	\$ (251)	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 300
Long-Term Debt						
Senior notes	\$ 3,464	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 264	\$ (298)	\$ 3,730
Bank borrowing	200	-	-	-	-	200
Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis ("FHLBI") advance	250	-	-	-	-	250
Capital securities	1,485	-	(275)	-	1	1,211
Total long-term debt	\$ 5,399	\$ 300	\$ (275)	\$ 264	\$ (297)	\$ 5,391

- (1) Includes the net increase (decrease) in commercial paper, non-cash reclassification of long-term debt to current maturities of long-term debt, accretion of discounts and (amortization) of premiums, as applicable.
- (2) During 2011, we had an average of \$35 million outstanding, a maximum amount outstanding of \$103 million at any time and a weighted average interest rate of 0.20%.
- (3) Consisted of a \$300 million 5.65% fixed rate senior note that matures in less than one year. As of December 31, 2010, we reported \$250 million in short-term debt that consisted of a fixed rate senior note that matured on December 15, 2011.
- (4) Consisted of advances from the FHLBI with a maturity of less than one year when made.

For more information about our debt issuances, maturities and redemptions, see Note 12.

Within the next two years, we have a \$300 million 5.65% fixed rate senior note maturing on August 27, 2012, and a \$200 million floating rate senior note maturing on July 18, 2013. The specific resources or combination of resources that we will use to meet these maturities will depend upon, among other things, the financial market conditions present at the time of maturity. As of December 31, 2011, the holding company had \$622 million in cash and cash equivalents and \$25 million invested in fixed maturity corporate bonds; however, as discussed below, it had a \$58 million payable under the inter-company cash management program.

We have not accounted for repurchase agreements, securities lending transactions, or other transactions involving the transfer of financial assets with an obligation to repurchase the transferred assets as sales and do have any other transactions involving the transfer of financial assets with an obligation to repurchase the transferred assets. For information about our collateralized financing transactions on our investments, see "Payables for Collateral on Investments" in Note 5.

For information about our credit facilities and LOCs, see Note 12.

If current credit ratings and claims-paying ratings were downgraded in the future, terms in our derivative agreements may be triggered, which could negatively affect overall liquidity. For the majority of our counterparties, there is a termination event should the long-term senior debt ratings of LNC drop below BBB-/Baa3 (S&P/Moody's). Our long-term senior debt held a rating of A-/Baa2 (S&P/Moody's) as of December 31, 2011. In addition, contractual selling agreements with intermediaries could be negatively affected, which could have an adverse effect on overall sales of annuities, life insurance and investment products. See "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Liquidity and Capital Position – A decrease in the capital and surplus of our insurance subsidiaries may result in a downgrade to our credit and insurer financial strength ratings" and "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Covenants and Ratings – A downgrade in our financial strength or credit ratings could limit our ability to market products, increase the number or value of policies being surrendered and/or hurt our relationships with creditors" for more information. See "Part I – Item 1. Business – Financial Strength Ratings" for additional information on our current financial strength ratings.

Our indicative credit ratings published by the primary rating agencies are set forth below. Securities are rated at the time of issuance so actual ratings may differ from the indicative ratings. There may be other rating agencies that also provide credit ratings, which we do not disclose in our reports.

The long-term credit rating scales of A.M. Best, Fitch, Moody's and S&P are characterized as follows:

- A.M. Best – aaa to d
- Fitch – AAA to D
- Moody's – Aaa to C
- S&P – AAA to D

As of February 21, 2012, our indicative long-term credit ratings, as published by the principal rating agencies that rate our long-term credit, were as follows:

A.M.			
Best	Fitch	Moody's	S&P
a-	BBB+	Baa2	A-
(7th of 22)	(8th of 21)	(9th of 21)	(7th of 22)

The short-term credit rating scales of A.M. Best, Fitch, Moody's and S&P are characterized as follows:

- A.M. Best – AMB-1+ to d
- Fitch – F1+ to D
- Moody's – P-1 to NP
- S&P – A-1 to D

As of February 21, 2012, our indicative short-term credit ratings, as published by the principal rating agencies that rate our short-term credit, were as follows:

A.M.			
Best	Fitch	Moody's	S&P
AMB-1	F2	P-2	A-2
(2nd of 6)	(3rd of 8)	(2nd of 4)	(2nd of 9)

A downgrade of our debt ratings could affect our ability to raise additional debt with terms and conditions similar to our current debt, and accordingly, likely increase our cost of capital. In addition, a downgrade of these ratings could make it more difficult to raise capital to refinance any maturing debt obligations, to support business growth at our insurance subsidiaries and to maintain or improve the current financial strength ratings of our principal insurance subsidiaries described in "Part I – Item 1. Business – Financial Strength Ratings."

All ratings are on outlook stable, except Moody's ratings, which are on outlook positive. All of our ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the rating agencies, and therefore, no assurance can be given that we can maintain these ratings. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

Management monitors the covenants associated with LNC's capital securities. If we fail to meet capital adequacy or net income and stockholders' equity levels (also referred to as "trigger events"), terms in the agreements may be triggered, which would require us to make interest payments in accordance with an alternative coupon satisfaction mechanism ("ACSM"). This would require us to use commercially reasonable efforts to pay interest in full on the capital securities with the net proceeds from sales of our common stock and warrants to purchase our common stock with an exercise price greater than the market price. We would have to utilize the ACSM until the trigger events above no longer existed. If we were required to utilize the ACSM and were successful in selling sufficient shares of

common stock or warrants to satisfy the interest payment, we would dilute the current holders of our common stock. Furthermore, while a trigger event is occurring and if we do not pay accrued interest in full, we may not, among other things, pay dividends on or repurchase our capital stock. We have not triggered either the net income test or the overall stockholders' equity test looking forward to the quarters ending March 31, 2012, and June 30, 2012.

For more information, see "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Covenants and Ratings – We will be required to pay interest on our capital securities with proceeds from the issuance of qualifying securities if we fail to achieve capital adequacy or net income and stockholders' equity levels."

Alternative Sources of Liquidity

In order to manage our capital more efficiently, we have an inter-company cash management program where certain subsidiaries can lend to or borrow from the holding company to meet short-term borrowing needs. The cash management program is essentially a series of demand loans, which are permitted under applicable insurance laws, among LNC and its affiliates that reduces overall borrowing costs by allowing LNC and its subsidiaries to access internal resources instead of incurring third-party transaction costs. For our Indiana-domiciled insurance subsidiaries, the borrowing and lending limit is currently the lesser of 3%

of the insurance company's admitted assets and 25% of its surplus, in both cases, as of its most recent year end. The holding company did not borrow from the cash management program during 2011; however, it had an outstanding payable of \$58 million to certain subsidiaries resulting from amounts placed by the subsidiaries in the inter-company cash management account in excess of funds borrowed by those subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011. Any increase (decrease) in either of these holding company cash management program payable balances results in an immediate and equal increase (decrease) to holding company cash and cash equivalents.

Our insurance subsidiaries, by virtue of their general account fixed income investment holdings, can access liquidity through securities lending programs and repurchase agreements. As of December 31, 2011, our insurance subsidiaries had securities with a carrying value of \$200 million out on loan under the securities lending program and \$280 million carrying value subject to reverse-repurchase agreements. The cash received in our securities lending program is typically invested in cash equivalents, short-term investments or fixed maturity securities.

For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language" above.

Divestitures

For a discussion of our divestitures, see Note 3.

Uses of Capital

Our principal uses of cash are to pay policy claims and benefits, operating expenses, commissions and taxes, to purchase new investments, to purchase reinsurance, to fund policy surrenders and withdrawals, to pay dividends to our stockholders and to repurchase our stock and debt securities.

Return of Capital to Common Stockholders

One of the Company's primary goals is to provide a return to our common stockholders through share price accretion, dividends and stock repurchases. In determining dividends, the Board takes into consideration items such as current and expected earnings, capital needs, rating agency considerations and requirements for financial flexibility. The amount and timing of share repurchase depends on key capital ratios, rating agency expectations, the generation of free cash flow and an evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with alternative uses of capital.

Details underlying this activity (in millions, except per share data), were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December			Change Over	
	2011	31, 2010	2009	2011	2010
Common dividends to stockholders	\$ 62	\$ 12	\$ 62	NM	-81 %
Repurchase and cancellation of common stock warrants	-	48	-	-100%	NM
Repurchase of common stock	576	25	-	NM	NM
Total cash returned to stockholders	\$ 638	\$ 85	\$ 62	NM	37 %
Number of shares issued	-	14.138	46.000	-100%	-70 %
Average price per share	\$ -	\$ 26.09	\$ 14.34	-100%	86 %
Number of shares repurchased	24.661	1.048	-	NM	NM
Average price per share	\$ 23.33	\$ 23.87	\$ -	-4 %	NM

On November 10, 2011, our Board of Directors approved an increase of the dividend on our common stock from \$0.05 to \$0.08 per share. Additionally, we expect to repurchase additional shares of common stock during 2012 depending on market conditions and alternative uses of capital. For more information regarding share repurchases, see “Part II – Item 5(c)” above.

Other Uses of Capital

In addition to the amounts in the table above in “Return of Capital to Common Stockholders,” other uses of holding company cash flow (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended			Change Over	
	December 31,			Prior Year	
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010
Debt service (interest paid)	\$ 303	\$ 280	\$ 238	8 %	18 %
Capital contribution to subsidiaries	17	125	1,260	-86 %	-90 %
Total	\$ 320	\$ 405	\$ 1,498	-21 %	-73 %

The above table focuses on significant and recurring cash flow items and excludes the effects of certain financing activities, namely the periodic retirement of debt and cash flows related to our inter-company cash management account. Taxes have been eliminated from the analysis due to a tax sharing agreement among our primary subsidiaries resulting in a modest effect on net cash flows at the holding company.

Contractual Obligations

Details underlying our future estimated cash payments for our contractual obligations (in millions) as of December 31, 2011, were as follows:

Less Than 1 Year	1 - 3 Years	3 - 5 Years	More Than 5 Years	Total
\$ 14,598	\$ 26,257	\$ 22,501	\$ 68,543	\$ 131,899

Future contract benefits and other contract holder obligations (1)					
Short-term debt (2)	300	-	-	-	300
Long-term debt (2)	-	700	250	4,138	5,088
Payables for collateral on investments (3)	517	37	-	-	554
Operating leases	40	67	48	56	211
Football stadium naming rights (4)	7	14	14	46	81
Outsourcing arrangements (5)	13	21	17	-	51
Retirement and other plans (6)	94	184	185	466	929
Totals	\$ 15,569	\$ 27,280	\$ 23,015	\$ 73,249	\$ 139,113

- (1) We have made significant assumptions to determine the estimated undiscounted cash flows of these policies and contracts, which include mortality, morbidity, future lapse rates and interest crediting rates and assumed an 8% rate to arrive at discounted cash flows. Due to the significance of the assumptions used, the amounts presented could materially differ from actual results. See Note 1 for details of what these liabilities include and represent.
- (2) Represents principal amounts of debt only. See Note 12 for additional information.
- (3) Excludes collateral payable held for derivative investments. See Note 5 for additional information.
- (4) Includes a maximum annual increase related to the Consumer Price Index. See Note 13 for additional information.
- (5) Includes an information technology agreement and certain other outsourcing arrangements. See Note 13 for additional information.
- (6) Includes anticipated funding for benefit payments for our retirement and postretirement plans through 2021 and known payments under deferred compensation arrangements. See Note 17 for additional information.

In addition to the contractual commitments outlined in the table above, we periodically fund the employees' defined benefit plans, discussed in "Defined Benefit Contributions" below.

Due to the uncertainty with respect to the timing of future cash flows associated with our unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31, 2011, we are unable to make reasonably reliable estimates of the period of cash settlement with the respective taxing authority. Therefore, \$409 million of unrecognized tax benefits and its associated interest have been excluded from the contractual obligations table above. See Note 7 for additional information.

Contingencies and Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that are reasonably likely to have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations, liquidity or capital resources. Details underlying our contingent commitments and off-balance sheet arrangements (in millions) as of December 31, 2011, were as follows:

	Amount of Commitment Expiring				Total Amount Committed
	Less Than 1 Year	1 - 3 Years	3 - 5 Years	After 5 Years	
Bank lines of credit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,821	\$ 3,821
Investment commitments	345	124	72	-	541
Media commitments (1)	20	12	1	-	33
Total	\$ 365	\$ 136	\$ 2,073	\$ 1,821	\$ 4,395

- (1) Consists primarily of employment contracts, sports rights fees and rating service contracts.

Defined Benefit Contributions

We contributed \$36 million, \$31 million and \$11 million in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, to U.S. pension plans; \$1 million, less than \$1 million and \$44 million in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, to our U.K. pension plan; and \$15 million, \$15 million and \$16 million in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, to our postretirement plan that provides medical, dental and life insurance benefits. Our U.S. defined benefit pension plans were frozen as of December 31, 2007, or earlier; and our non-U.S. defined benefit pension plan was frozen as of September 30, 2009. For our frozen plans, there are no new participants and no future accruals of benefits from the date of the freeze.

Based on our calculations, we expect to be required to make a \$1 million contribution related to administrative expenses to our qualified pension plans in 2012 under applicable pension law. In addition, we analyze and review opportunities to make contributions in excess of those required under applicable pension law. Such excess contributions will be made from time to time if, based on our analysis, we believe that the excess contributions serve the best interests of both the Company and of plan participants.

We expect to fund approximately \$10 million to our nonqualified U.S. defined benefit plan and \$10 million to our postretirement benefit plans during 2012. These amounts include anticipated benefit payments for nonqualified plans.

The majority of contributions and benefit payments are made by our insurance subsidiaries with little holding company cash flow affects. See Note 17 for additional information.

Significant Trends in Sources and Uses of Cash Flow

As stated above, LNC's cash flow, as a holding company, is largely dependent upon the dividend capacity of its insurance company subsidiaries as well as their ability to advance funds to it through inter-company borrowing arrangements, which may be affected by factors influencing the insurance subsidiaries' RBC and statutory earnings performance. We currently expect to be able to meet the holding company's ongoing cash needs and to have sufficient capital to offer downside protection in the event that the capital and credit markets experience another period of extreme volatility and disruption. A decline in capital market conditions, which reduces our insurance subsidiaries' statutory surplus and RBC, may require them to retain more capital and may pressure our subsidiaries' dividends to the holding company, which may lead us to take steps to preserve or raise additional capital. For factors that could affect our expectations for liquidity and capital, see "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors."

OTHER MATTERS

Other Factors Affecting Our Business

In general, our businesses are subject to a changing social, economic, legal, legislative and regulatory environment. Some of the changes include initiatives to require more reserves to be carried by our insurance subsidiaries. Although the eventual effect on us of the changing environment in which we operate remains uncertain, these factors and others could have a material effect on our results of operations, liquidity and capital resources. For factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in this section, see "Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements – Cautionary Language" above.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Note 2 for a discussion of recent accounting pronouncements that have been implemented during the periods presented or that have been issued and are to be implemented in the future.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We analyze and manage the risks arising from market exposures of financial instruments, as well as other risks, in an integrated asset-liability management process that takes diversification into account. By aggregating the potential effect of market and other risks on the entire enterprise, we estimate, review and in some cases manage the risk to our earnings and shareholder value. We have exposures to several market risks including interest rate risk, equity market risk, default risk, basis risk, credit risk and, to a lesser extent, foreign currency exchange risk. The exposures of financial instruments to market risks, and the related risk management processes, are most important to our business where most of the invested assets support accumulation and investment-oriented insurance products. As an important element of our integrated asset-liability management processes, we use derivatives to minimize the effects of changes in interest levels, the shape of the yield curve, currency movements and volatility. In this context, derivatives are designated as a hedge and serve to minimize interest rate risk by mitigating the effect of significant increases in interest rates on our earnings. Additional market exposures exist in our other general account insurance products and in our debt structure and derivatives positions. Our primary sources of market risk are: substantial, relatively rapid and sustained increases or decreases in interest rates or a sharp drop in equity market values. These market risks are discussed in detail in the following pages and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements ("Notes") presented in "Part II – Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," as well as "Part II – Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ("MD&A")."

Interest Rate Risk

With respect to accumulation and investment-oriented products, we seek to earn a stable and profitable spread, or margin, between investment income we earn on our invested assets and interest credited to account values of our contract holders. If we have adverse experience on investments that cannot be passed on to customers, our spreads are reduced. The combination of a probable range of interest rate changes over the next 12 months, asset-liability management strategies, flexibility in adjusting policy crediting rate levels and protection afforded by policy surrender all work together to mitigate this risk. The interest rate scenarios of concern are those in which there is a substantial, relatively prolonged decrease in interest rates that is sustained over a long period or a rapid increase in interest rates.

Significant Interest Rate Exposures

The following provides a general measure of our significant interest rate risk; amounts are shown by year of maturity and include amortization of premiums and discounts; interest rate cap agreements notional amounts are shown by amount outstanding (dollars in millions) as of December 31, 2011:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Thereafter	Total	Estimated Fair Value
Rate Sensitive Assets								
Fixed interest rate securities	\$ 2,501	\$ 3,206	\$ 3,319	\$ 2,820	\$ 3,296	\$ 52,903	\$ 68,045	\$ 75,027
Average interest rate	5.9 %	5.8 %	6.2 %	5.4 %	5.4 %	5.6 %	5.6 %	
Variable interest rate securities	\$ 45	\$ 44	\$ 267	\$ 89	\$ 241	\$ 3,973	\$ 4,659	\$ 3,778
Average interest rate	7.8 %	5.6 %	2.7 %	7.3 %	10.2 %	4.6 %	4.8 %	
Mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 309	\$ 379	\$ 402	\$ 622	\$ 518	\$ 4,730	\$ 6,960	\$ 7,608
Average interest rate	7.2 %	6.2 %	6.1 %	6.0 %	6.1 %	6.0 %	6.1 %	
Rate Sensitive Liabilities								
Investment type insurance contracts (1)	\$ 1,410	\$ 1,863	\$ 2,276	\$ 1,863	\$ 2,141	\$ 22,624	\$ 32,177	\$ 34,542
Average interest rate (1)	5.9 %	5.9 %	5.9 %	5.4 %	5.1 %	5.4 %	5.5 %	
Debt	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 4,138	\$ 5,388	\$ 5,334
Average interest rate	5.7 %	2.0 %	4.8 %	4.3 %	0.0 %	6.3 %	5.9 %	
Rate Sensitive Derivative Financial Instruments								
Interest rate and foreign currency swaps:								
Pay variable/receive fixed	\$ 300	\$ 20	\$ 500	\$ 85	\$ -	\$ 9,824	\$ 10,729	\$ 1,362
Average pay rate	4.4 %	0.7 %	2.7 %	1.2 %	0.0 %	0.7 %	0.9 %	
Average receive rate	5.7 %	4.3 %	4.8 %	2.9 %	0.0 %	3.4 %	3.6 %	
Pay fixed/receive variable	\$ 583	\$ 473	\$ 503	\$ 214	\$ 418	\$ 2,253	\$ 4,444	\$ (713)
Average pay rate	3.4 %	2.8 %	3.4 %	4.4 %	2.9 %	4.8 %	4.1 %	
Average receive rate	0.4 %	0.5 %	0.4 %	0.5 %	0.4 %	0.8 %	0.6 %	
Interest rate cap agreements:								
Contractual notional	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,050	\$ 8,625	\$ 16,675	\$ 31
Average strike rate (2)	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	7.8 %	7.0 %	7.4 %	
Forward CMT curve (3)	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	3.0 %	3.1 %	3.1 %	
Interest rate futures:								
2-year treasury notes contractual notional	\$ 310	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310	\$ -
5-year treasury notes contractual notional	369	-	-	-	-	-	369	-
10-year treasury notes contractual notional	216	-	-	-	-	-	216	-
Treasury bonds contractual notional	76	-	-	-	-	-	76	-

(1)

The information shown is for our fixed maturity securities and mortgage loans on real estate that support these insurance contracts.

- (2) The indexes are the 7-year and 10-year constant maturity swap.
- (3) The constant maturity treasury (“CMT”) curve is the 7-year and 10-year CMT forward curve.

The following provides the principal amounts and estimated fair values of assets, liabilities and derivatives (in millions) having significant interest rate risks as of December 31, 2010:

	Principal Amount	Estimated Fair Value
Fixed interest rate securities	\$ 63,991	\$ 67,021
Variable interest rate securities	5,114	4,187
Mortgage loans on real estate	6,745	7,183
Investment type insurance contracts (1)	28,087	29,166
Debt	5,715	5,876
Interest rate and foreign currency swaps	10,706	(468)
Interest rate cap agreements	8,200	51
Interest rate futures	2,252	-

(1) The information shown is for our fixed maturity securities and mortgage loans on real estate that support these insurance contracts.

Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses – Falling Rates

In periods of declining interest rates, we have to reinvest the cash we receive as interest or return of principal on our investments in lower yielding instruments. Moreover, borrowers may prepay fixed income securities, commercial mortgages and mortgage-backed securities in our general accounts in order to borrow at lower market rates, which exacerbate this risk. Because we are entitled to reset the interest rates on our fixed rate annuities only at limited, pre-established intervals, and because many of our contracts have guaranteed minimum interest or crediting rates, our spreads could decrease and potentially become negative.

Prolonged historically low rates are not healthy for our business fundamentals. However, we have recognized this threat and have been proactive in our investment strategies, product designs, crediting rate strategies and overall asset-liability practices to mitigate the risk of unfavorable consequences in this type of environment. For some time now, new products have been sold with low minimum crediting floors, and we apply disciplined asset-liability management standards, such as locking in spreads on these products at the time of issue.

The following summarizes a hypothetical stress scenario related to the effect of continued low new money rates relative to our portfolio yields. The scenario assumes modest improvements in our new money rates from the current average of approximately 125 to 150 basis points below our portfolio yields, which would result in spreads in our businesses declining from 2011 levels.

- **Life Insurance** – The stress on earnings has been mitigated by proactive strategies to lock in long-dated and high-yielding assets to manage this risk. We executed on strategies which allowed us to effectively pre-buy assets in anticipation of future flows and maturing securities. We have also taken actions on crediting rates. We estimate that this scenario would have an approximate unfavorable earnings effect in a range of \$15 million to \$20 million during 2012, \$40 million to \$45 million during 2013 and \$65 million to \$70 million during 2014. Our deferred acquisition costs (“DAC”), value of business acquired (“VOBA”), and deferred front-end loads (“DFEL”) methodology assumes that new money rates grade from current levels to a long-term yield assumption over time.
- **Retirement Plan Services and Annuities** – The earnings drag from spread compression is modest and largely concentrated in our Retirement Plan Services segment, which is a function of this segment having higher guaranteed crediting rates and recurring premiums. We estimate that this scenario would have an approximate unfavorable earnings effect in a range of \$10 million to \$15 million during 2012, \$20 million to \$25 million during

2013 and \$30 million to \$35 million during 2014. Since we currently have the ability to manage spread compression through crediting rate actions, our Annuities segment is not currently sensitive to spread compression so there is very little effect estimated. The risk for our Annuities segment is sensitivity to sharp rising rates, and we manage this risk by selling market value adjusted products and purchasing derivative protection. The costs of our derivative instruments that we use to hedge our variable annuity products may increase as a result of the low interest rate environment.

- **Group Protection** – We reviewed the discount rate assumptions associated with our long-term disability claim reserves and life waiver claim incurrals during the fourth quarter of 2011, which resulted in no change to the discount rate. Spread compression would unfavorably affect annualized earnings by up to \$5 million during 2012, \$7 million during 2013 and \$10 million during 2014.
- **Other Operations** – We may also be affected by sensitivity to our exposures in our institutional pension and disability run-off blocks of business that are sensitive to interest rates and could contribute to an effect.

We believe that applying this same hypothetical scenario to statutory earnings would produce similar percentage changes to earnings effects to those disclosed above.

In isolation, we believe the effects to our balance sheet from sustained low interest rates under this scenario would be modest assuming no changes to our long-term yield assumption and also excluding the effects of the new DAC methodology discussed in “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Introduction – Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – New DAC Methodology.” With regard to our goodwill balance, low interest rates generally support a lower discount rate and therefore a higher goodwill implied fair value.

The estimates above are based upon a hypothetical stressed scenario and are only representative of the effects of new money rates remaining in place through 2013 keeping all else equal and does not give consideration to the aggregate effect of other factors, including but not limited to: contract holder activity; hedge positions; changing equity markets; shifts in implied volatilities; and changes in other capital market sectors. In addition, the scenario only illustrated the effect to spreads and certain unlocking and reserve changes. Minimum guaranteed rates on annuity and universal life (“UL”) policies generally range from 0.0% to 4.1%. Other potential effects of the scenario were not considered in the analysis. See “Part I – Item 1A. Risk Factors – Market Conditions – Changes in interest rates and sustained low interest rates may cause interest rate spreads to decrease and changes in interest rates may also result in increased contract withdrawals” for additional information on interest rates.

The following provides detail on the percentage differences between the December 31, 2011, interest rates being credited to contract holders based on fourth quarter of 2011 declared rates and the respective minimum guaranteed policy rate (in millions), broken out by contract holder account values reported within our segments:

	Account Values				% Account Values
	Retirement Plan	Life Insurance	Services	Total	
Excess of Crediting Rates over Contract Minimums					
Discretionary rate setting products (2)(3)					
No difference	\$ 6,465	\$ 9,223	\$ 24,047	\$ 39,735	65.0%
Up to 0.10%	64	207	12	283	0.5%
0.11% to 0.20%	75	-	-	75	0.1%
0.21% to 0.30%	113	75	455	643	1.1%
0.31% to 0.40%	80	1	-	81	0.1%
0.41% to 0.50%	95	52	629	776	1.3%
0.51% to 0.60%	109	-	25	134	0.2%
0.61% to 0.70%	115	10	258	383	0.6%
0.71% to 0.80%	101	-	140	241	0.4%
0.81% to 0.90%	78	-	127	205	0.3%
0.91% to 1.00%	46	156	245	447	0.7%
1.01% to 1.50%	223	25	52	300	0.5%
1.51% to 2.00%	23	158	-	181	0.3%
2.01% to 2.50%	1	61	-	62	0.1%
2.51% to 3.00%	10	-	113	123	0.2%
3.01% and above	-	1	-	1	0.0%
	7,598	9,969	26,103	43,670	71.4%

Total discretionary rate setting products					
Other contracts (4)	13,828	3,661	-	17,489	28.6%
Total account values	\$ 21,426	\$ 13,630	\$ 26,103	\$ 61,159	100.0%

Percentage of discretionary rate setting product account values at minimum

guaranteed rates	85.1%	92.5%	92.1%	91.0%
------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------

- (1) Excludes policy loans.
- (2) Contracts currently within new money rate bands are grouped according to the corresponding portfolio rate band in which they will fall upon their first anniversary.
- (3) The average crediting rates for discretionary rate setting products were 10 basis points, 7 basis points and 6 basis points in

excess of average minimum guaranteed rates for our Annuities, Retirement Plan Services and Life Insurance segments, respectively.

- (4) For Annuities, this amount relates primarily to multi-year guarantee and indexed renewal business. The average crediting rates were 193 basis points in excess of average minimum guaranteed rates for multi-year guarantee products; 23%, 8% and 69% of our total multi-year guarantee account values are scheduled to reset in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and beyond, respectively. Our indexed renewal business resets either annually or bi-annually. Upon reset, we are able to adjust product features to reflect changes in option prices. For Retirement Plan Services, this amount relates to indexed-based rate setting products in which the average crediting rates were 7 basis points in excess of average minimum guaranteed rates and 78% of account values were already at their minimum guaranteed rates.

The maturity structure and call provisions of the related portfolios are structured to afford protection against erosion of investment portfolio yields during periods of declining interest rates. We devote extensive effort to evaluating the risks associated with falling interest rates by simulating asset and liability cash flows for a wide range of interest rate scenarios. We seek to manage these exposures by maintaining a suitable maturity structure and by limiting our exposure to call risk in each respective investment portfolio.

Interest Rate Risk on Fixed Insurance Businesses – Rising Rates

For both annuities and UL, a rapid rise in interest rates poses risks of deteriorating spreads and high surrenders. The portfolios supporting these products have fixed-rate assets laddered over maturities generally ranging from 1 to 10 years or more. Accordingly, the earned rate on each portfolio lags behind changes in market yields. As rates rise, the lag may be increased by slowing mortgage-backed securities prepayments. The greater and faster the rise in interest rates, the more the earned rate will tend to lag behind market rates. If we set renewal crediting rates to earn the desired spread, the gap between our renewal crediting rates and competitors' new money rates may be wide enough to cause increased surrenders that could cause us to liquidate a portion of our portfolio to fund these surrenders. If we credit more competitive renewal rates to limit surrenders, our spreads will narrow. We devote extensive effort to evaluating these risks by simulating asset and liability cash flows for a wide range of interest rate scenarios. Such analysis has led to adjustments in the target maturity structure and to hedging the risk of rising rates by buying out-of-the-money interest rate cap agreements and swaptions. With these instruments in place, the potential adverse effect of a rapid and sustained rise in rates is kept within our risk tolerances.

Debt

We manage the timing of maturities and the mixture of fixed-rate and floating-rate debt as part of the process of integrated management of interest rate risk for the entire enterprise. See Note 13 for additional information on our debt.

Derivatives

See Note 6 for information on our derivatives used to hedge our exposure to changes in interest rates.

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

Foreign Currency Denominated Investments

We invest in foreign currency securities for incremental return and risk diversification relative to United States Dollar-Denominated securities. We use foreign currency swaps and foreign currency forwards to hedge some of the foreign exchange risk related to our investment in securities denominated in foreign currencies. The currency risk is

hedged using foreign currency derivatives of the same currency as the bonds. See Note 6 for additional information on our foreign currency swaps and foreign currency forwards used to hedge our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk.

The following provides our principal or notional amount in U.S. dollar equivalents (in millions) as of December 31, 2011, by expected maturity for our foreign currency denominated investments and foreign currency swaps:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Thereafter	Total	Estimated Fair Value
Currencies								
British pound	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66	\$ 66	\$ 81
Interest rate	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	4.2 %	4.2 %	
Canadian dollar	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ 43
Interest rate	0.0 %	0.0 %	6.1 %	0.0 %	5.6 %	0.0 %	6.0 %	
New Zealand dollar	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34	\$ 37
Interest rate	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	3.5 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	3.5 %	
Euro	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67	\$ -	\$ 22	\$ 67	\$ 156	\$ 162
Interest rate	0.0 %	0.0 %	4.8 %	0.0 %	4.8 %	5.1 %	4.9 %	
Australian dollar	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38	\$ 38	\$ 36
Interest rate	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	7.4 %	7.4 %	
Derivatives								
Foreign currency swaps	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 186	\$ 340	\$ 38

The following provides our principal or notional amount in U.S. dollar equivalents as of December 31, 2010, of our foreign currency denominated investments and foreign currency swaps (in millions):

	Principal/ Notional Amount	Estimated Fair Value
Currencies		
British pound	\$ 66	\$ 70
Canadian dollar	43	45
New Zealand dollar	34	35
Euro	162	163
Australian dollar	38	34
Total currencies	\$ 343	\$ 347
Derivatives		
Foreign currency swaps	\$ 340	\$ 30

Equity Market Risk

Our revenues, assets, liabilities and derivatives are exposed to equity market risk. Due to the use of our reversion to the mean (“RTM”) process and our hedging strategies, we expect that, in general, short-term fluctuations in the equity markets should not have a significant effect on our quarterly earnings from unlocking of assumptions for DAC, VOBA, deferred sales inducements (“DSI”) and DFEL. However, earnings are affected by equity market movements on account values and assets under management and the related fees we earn on those assets. Refer to “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Introduction – Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL” for further discussion on the effects of equity markets on our RTM.

Fee Revenues

The fees earned from variable annuities and variable life insurance products are exposed to the risk of a decline in equity market values. These fees are generally a fixed percentage of the market value of assets under management. In a severe equity market decline, fee income could be reduced by not only reduced market valuations but also by customer withdrawals and redemptions. Such withdrawals and redemptions from equity funds and accounts might be partially offset by transfers to our fixed-income accounts and the transfer of funds to us from our competitors' customers.

Assets

While we invest in equity assets with the expectation of achieving higher returns than would be available in our core fixed-income investments, the returns on and values of these equity investments are subject to somewhat greater market risk than our fixed-

income investments. These investments, however, add diversification benefits to our fixed-income investments. The following provides the sensitivity of price changes (in millions) to our equity assets owned and equity derivatives:

	As of December 31, 2011				As of December 31, 2010	
	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value	10% Fair Value Increase	10% Fair Value Decrease	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value
Equity Assets						
Domestic equities	\$ 94	\$ 94	\$ 9	\$ (9)	\$ 154	\$ 154
Foreign equities	47	47	5	(5)	45	45
Subtotal	141	141	14	(14)	199	199
Real estate	137	155	16	(16)	202	215
Other equity interests	978	988	99	(99)	935	945
Total	\$ 1,256	\$ 1,284	\$ 129	\$ (129)	\$ 1,336	\$ 1,359

	As of December 31, 2011				As of December 31, 2010	
	Notional Value	Estimated Fair Value	10% Fair Value Increase	10% Fair Value Decrease	Notional Value	Estimated Fair Value
Equity Derivatives (1)						
Equity futures	\$ 1,713	\$ -	\$ (170)	\$ 170	\$ 907	\$ -
Total return swaps	100	-	11	(11)	100	-
Put options	6,502	1,770	1,594	2,007	5,602	1,151
Call options (based on S&P 500)	4,881	183	266	83	4,083	301
Total	\$ 13,196	\$ 1,953	\$ 1,701	\$ 2,249	\$ 10,692	\$ 1,452

(1) Assumes a plus or minus 10% change in underlying indexes. Estimated fair value does not reflect daily settlement of futures or monthly settlement of total return swaps.

Liabilities

We have exposure to changes in our stock price through stock appreciation rights (“SARs”) issued in 2007 through 2011. See Notes 6 and 19 for additional information on our SARs and the related call options used to hedge the expected increase in liabilities from SARs granted on our stock.

Derivatives Hedging Equity Market Risk

We have entered into derivative transactions to hedge our exposure to equity market fluctuations. Such derivatives include over-the-counter equity call options, equity collars, variance swaps, total return swaps, put options, equity futures and call options. See Note 6 for additional information on our derivatives used to hedge our exposure to equity market fluctuations.

Effect of Equity Market Sensitivity

The following presents our estimate of the effect on income (loss) from operations (in millions), from the change in asset-based fees and related expenses, if the level of the Standard & Poor's ("S&P") 500 Index® ("S&P 500"), which ended at 1258 as of December 31, 2011, were to decrease to 1005 over six months after December 31, 2011, and remain at that level through the next six months or increase to 1510 over six months after December 31, 2011, and remain at that level through the next six months, excluding any effect related to sales, prospective unlocking, persistency, hedge program performance or customer behavior caused by the equity market change:

	S&P 500 at 1005 (1)	S&P 500 at 1510 (1)
Segment		
Annuities	\$ (80)	\$ 29
Retirement Plan Services	(14)	15

- (1) The baseline for these effects assumes a 4% annual equity market growth rate, depending on the block of business, beginning on January 1, 2012. The baseline is then compared to scenarios of S&P 500 at the 1005 and 1510 levels, which assume the index moves to those levels over six months, remains at those levels through the next six months and grows at 4% annually, depending on the block of business, thereafter. The difference between the baseline and S&P 500 at the 1005 and 1510 level scenarios is presented in the table.

Refer to “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Introduction – Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL – Reversion to the Mean” for discussion on the effects of equity markets on our RTM.

The effect on earnings summarized above is a hypothetical scenario for the next 12 months. The effect of quarterly equity market changes upon fee revenues and asset-based expenses is generally not fully recognized in the first quarter of the change because fee revenues are earned and related expenses are incurred based upon daily variable account values. The difference between the current period average daily variable account values compared to the end of period variable account values affects fee revenues in subsequent periods. Additionally, the effect on earnings may not necessarily be symmetrical with comparable increases in the equity markets. This discussion concerning the estimated effects of ongoing equity market volatility on the fees we earn from account values and assets under management is intended to be illustrative. Actual effects may vary depending on a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control, such as changing customer behaviors that might result in changes in the mix of our business between variable and fixed annuity contracts, switching among investment alternatives available within variable products, changes in sales production levels or changes in policy persistency. For purposes of this guidance, the change in account values is assumed to correlate with the change in the relevant index.

Default Risk

Our portfolio of invested assets was \$93.1 billion and \$83.3 billion as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Of this total, \$61.1 billion and \$53.5 billion consisted of corporate bonds and \$6.9 billion and \$6.8 billion consisted of mortgage loans on real estate as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. We manage the risk of adverse default experience on these investments by applying disciplined credit evaluation and underwriting standards, prudently limiting allocations to lower-quality, higher-yielding investments and diversifying exposures by issuer, industry, region and property type. For each counterparty or borrowing entity and its affiliates, our exposures from all transactions are aggregated and managed in relation to formal limits set by rating quality. Additional diversification limits, such as limits per industry, are also applied. We remain exposed to occasional adverse cyclical economic downturns during which default rates may be significantly higher than the long-term historical average used in pricing.

We depend on the ability of derivative product dealers and their guarantors to honor their obligations to pay the contract amounts under various derivatives agreements. In order to minimize the risk of default losses, we diversify our exposures among several dealers and limit the amount of exposure to each in accordance with the credit rating of each dealer or its guarantor. We generally limit our selection of counterparties that are obligated under these derivative contracts to those with an A credit rating or above.

Credit-Related Derivatives

We use credit-related derivatives to minimize our exposure to credit-related events and we also sell credit default swaps to offer credit protection to our contract holders and investors. See Note 6 for additional information.

Credit Risk

See Note 6 for information on our credit risk.

In addition to the information provided about our counterparty exposure in Note 6, the fair value of our exposure by rating (in millions) was as follows:

Rating	As of December	
	2011	2010
AAA	\$ -	\$ 7
AA	23	26
A	56	146
BBB	2	5
Total	\$ 81	\$ 184

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

MANAGEMENT REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting for Lincoln National Corporation to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that: (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with United States of America generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Projections of any evaluation of internal control over financial reporting effectiveness to future periods are subject to risks. Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures.

Management assessed our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, the end of our fiscal year. Management based its assessment on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Management's assessment included evaluation of such elements as the design and operating effectiveness of key financial reporting controls, process documentation, accounting policies, and our overall control environment.

Based on the assessment, management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of the end of the fiscal year to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with United States of America generally accepted accounting principles.

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included immediately below.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Lincoln National Corporation

We have audited Lincoln National Corporation's (the "Corporation") internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). The Corporation's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

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

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

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

In our opinion, Lincoln National Corporation maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Lincoln National Corporation as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related consolidated statements of income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011 and our report dated February 23, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 23, 2012

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Lincoln National Corporation

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Lincoln National Corporation (the "Corporation") as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related consolidated statements of income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011. Our audits also included the financial statement schedules listed in the Index at Item 15(a)(2). These financial statements and schedules are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedules based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Lincoln National Corporation at December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011, in conformity with United States of America generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, in 2010 the Corporation changed its method of accounting for the consolidation of variable interest entities. Also, as discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, in 2009 the Corporation changed its method of accounting for the recognition and presentation of other-than-temporary impairments.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Lincoln National Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 23, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 23, 2012

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in millions, except share data)

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Investments:		
Available-for-sale securities, at fair value:		
Fixed maturity securities (amortized cost: 2011 - \$68,988; 2010 - \$65,175)	\$ 75,433	\$ 68,030
Variable interest entities' fixed maturity securities (amortized cost: 2011 - \$673; 2010 - \$570)	700	584
Equity securities (cost: 2011 - \$135; 2010 - \$179)	139	197
Trading securities	2,675	2,596
Mortgage loans on real estate	6,942	6,752
Real estate	137	202
Policy loans	2,884	2,865
Derivative investments	3,151	1,076
Other investments	1,069	1,038
Total investments	93,130	83,340
Cash and invested cash	4,510	2,741
Deferred acquisition costs and value of business acquired	8,191	8,930
Premiums and fees receivable	408	335
Accrued investment income	981	933
Reinsurance recoverables	6,526	6,527
Funds withheld reinsurance assets	874	911
Goodwill	2,273	3,019
Other assets	2,536	2,458
Separate account assets	83,477	84,630
Total assets	\$ 202,906	\$ 193,824
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Future contract benefits	\$ 19,813	\$ 17,527
Other contract holder funds	69,466	66,407
Short-term debt	300	351
Long-term debt	5,391	5,399
Reinsurance related embedded derivatives	168	102
Funds withheld reinsurance liabilities	1,045	1,149
Deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance	394	468
Payables for collateral on investments	3,733	1,659
Variable interest entities' liabilities	193	132
Other liabilities	4,762	3,194
Separate account liabilities	83,477	84,630
Total liabilities	188,742	181,018

Contingencies and Commitments (See Note 13)

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

Stockholders' Equity

Preferred stock - 10,000,000 shares authorized; Series A - 10,072 and 10,914 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2011, and December 31, 2010, respectively	-	-
Common stock - 800,000,000 shares authorized; 291,319,222 and 315,718,554 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2011, and December 31, 2010, respectively	7,590	8,124
Retained earnings	4,126	3,934
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	2,448	748
Total stockholders' equity	14,164	12,806
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 202,906	\$ 193,824

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (LOSS)
(in millions, except per share data)

	For the Years Ended December		
	31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Revenues			
Insurance premiums	\$ 2,294	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,064
Insurance fees	3,437	3,234	2,922
Net investment income	4,652	4,541	4,178
Realized gain (loss):			
Total other-than-temporary impairment losses on securities	(165)	(240)	(667)
Portion of loss recognized in other comprehensive income	47	88	275
Net other-than-temporary impairment losses on securities recognized in earnings	(118)	(152)	(392)
Realized gain (loss), excluding other-than-temporary impairment losses on securities	(181)	75	(754)
Total realized gain (loss)	(299)	(77)	(1,146)
Amortization of deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance	75	75	76
Other revenues and fees	477	458	405
Total revenues	10,636	10,407	8,499
Benefits and Expenses			
Interest credited	2,488	2,488	2,465
Benefits	3,345	3,327	2,834
Underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses	3,163	3,067	2,794
Interest and debt expense	294	291	197
Impairment of intangibles	747	-	730
Total benefits and expenses	10,037	9,173	9,020
Income (loss) from continuing operations before taxes	599	1,234	(521)
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	297	283	(106)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	302	951	(415)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of federal income taxes	(8)	29	(70)
Net income (loss)	294	980	(485)
Preferred stock dividends and accretion of discount	-	(167)	(35)
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders	\$ 294	\$ 813	\$ (520)
Earnings (Loss) Per Common Share - Basic			
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 0.99	\$ 2.53	\$ (1.60)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	(0.03)	0.09	(0.25)
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.96	\$ 2.62	\$ (1.85)
Earnings (Loss) Per Common Share - Diluted			
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 0.95	\$ 2.45	\$ (1.60)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	(0.03)	0.09	(0.25)

Net income (loss)	\$	0.92	\$	2.54	\$	(1.85)
-------------------	----	------	----	------	----	--------

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(in millions, except per share data)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Preferred Stock			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ -	\$ 806	\$ -
Issuance (redemption) of Series B preferred stock	-	(950)	794
Accretion of discount on Series B preferred stock	-	144	12
Balance as of end-of-year	-	-	806
Common Stock			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	8,124	7,840	7,035
Issuance of common stock	-	368	652
Issuance (repurchase and cancellation) of common stock warrants	-	(48)	156
Stock compensation/issued for benefit plans	17	18	(8)
Deferred compensation payable in stock	-	-	5
Effect of amendment to deferred compensation plans	(6)	(29)	-
Retirement of common stock/cancellation of shares	(545)	(25)	-
Balance as of end-of-year	7,590	8,124	7,840
Retained Earnings			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	3,934	3,316	3,745
Cumulative effect from adoption of new accounting standards	-	(169)	102
Comprehensive income (loss)	1,994	1,809	2,158
Less other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	1,700	829	2,643
Net income (loss)	294	980	(485)
Retirement of common stock	(31)	-	-
Dividends declared: Common (2011 - \$0.230; 2010 - \$0.080; 2009 - \$0.040)	(71)	(26)	(11)
Dividends on preferred stock	-	(23)	(23)
Accretion of discount on Series B preferred stock	-	(144)	(12)
Balance as of end-of-year	4,126	3,934	3,316
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	748	(262)	(2,803)
Cumulative effect from adoption of new accounting standards	-	181	(102)
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	1,700	829	2,643
Balance as of end-of-year	2,448	748	(262)
Total stockholders' equity as of end-of-year	\$ 14,164	\$ 12,806	\$ 11,700

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in millions)

	For the Years Ended December		
	31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Net income (loss)	\$ 294	\$ 980	\$ (485)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Deferred acquisition costs, value of business acquired, deferred sales inducements and deferred front-end loads deferrals and interest, net of amortization	(252)	(246)	(316)
Trading securities purchases, sales and maturities, net	88	47	(3)
Change in premiums and fees receivable	(73)	(14)	128
Change in accrued investment income	(48)	(44)	(75)
Change in future contract benefits and other contract holder funds	125	643	(463)
Change in reinsurance related assets and liabilities	(66)	22	77
Change in federal income tax accruals	338	414	9
Realized (gain) loss	299	77	1,146
(Income) loss attributable to equity method investments	(90)	(93)	55
(Gain) loss on early extinguishment of debt	8	5	(64)
Amortization of deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance	(75)	(75)	(76)
Impairment of intangibles	747	-	730
(Gain) loss on disposal of discontinued operations	3	(66)	219
Other	(21)	70	55
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,277	1,720	937
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchases of available-for-sale securities	(10,702)	(13,057)	(13,532)
Sales of available-for-sale securities	1,497	3,118	3,818
Maturities of available-for-sale securities	5,324	4,652	3,330
Purchases of other investments	(3,282)	(3,581)	(4,261)
Sales or maturities of other investments	3,094	3,239	4,340
Increase (decrease) in payables for collateral on investments	2,074	(248)	(1,799)
Proceeds from sale of subsidiaries/businesses, net of cash disposed	-	321	327
Other	(130)	(74)	(75)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(2,125)	(5,630)	(7,852)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Payment of long-term debt, including current maturities	(525)	(405)	(522)
Issuance of long-term debt, net of issuance costs	298	749	788
Increase (decrease) in commercial paper, net	(100)	1	(216)
Deposits of fixed account values, including the fixed portion of variable	10,953	11,080	11,378
Withdrawals of fixed account values, including the fixed portion of variable	(5,050)	(5,305)	(5,530)

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

Transfers to and from separate accounts, net	(2,325)	(2,957)	(2,248)
Common stock issued for benefit plans and excess tax benefits	3	1	-
Issuance (redemption) of Series B preferred stock and issuance (repurchase and cancellation) of associated common stock warrants	-	(998)	950
Issuance of common stock	-	368	652
Repurchase of common stock	(576)	(25)	-
Dividends paid to common and preferred stockholders	(61)	(42)	(79)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	2,617	2,467	5,173
Net increase (decrease) in cash and invested cash, including discontinued operations	1,769	(1,443)	(1,742)
Cash and invested cash, including discontinued operations, as of beginning-of-year	2,741	4,184	5,926
Cash and invested cash, including discontinued operations, as of end-of-year	\$ 4,510	\$ 2,741	\$ 4,184

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Nature of Operations, Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

Lincoln National Corporation and its majority-owned subsidiaries (“LNC” or the “Company,” which also may be referred to as “we,” “our” or “us”) operate multiple insurance businesses through four business segments. See Note 22 for additional details. The collective group of businesses uses “Lincoln Financial Group” as its marketing identity. Through our business segments, we sell a wide range of wealth protection, accumulation and retirement income products. These products include institutional and/or retail fixed and indexed annuities, variable annuities, universal life insurance (“UL”), variable universal life insurance (“VUL”), linked-benefit UL, term life insurance, mutual funds and group life, disability and dental.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with United States of America generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). Certain GAAP policies, which significantly affect the determination of financial position, results of operations and cash flows, are summarized below.

Certain amounts reported in prior years’ consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the presentation adopted in the current year. These reclassifications had no effect on net income or stockholders’ equity of the prior years.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of LNC and all other entities in which we have a controlling financial interest and any variable interest entities (“VIEs”) in which we are the primary beneficiary. Entities in which we do not have a controlling financial interest and do not exercise significant management influence over the operating and financing decisions are reported using the equity method. The carrying value of our investments that we account for using the equity method on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and equity in earnings on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) is not material. All material inter-company accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Our involvement with VIEs is primarily to invest in assets that allow us to gain exposure to a broadly diversified portfolio of asset classes. A VIE is an entity which does not have sufficient equity to finance its own activities without additional financial support or where investors lack certain characteristics of a controlling financial interest. We assess our contractual, ownership or other interests in a VIE to determine if our interest participates in the variability the VIE was designed to absorb and pass onto variable interest holders. We perform an ongoing qualitative assessment of our variable interests in VIEs to determine whether we have a controlling financial interest and would therefore be considered the primary beneficiary of the VIE. If we determine we are the primary beneficiary of a VIE, we consolidate the assets and liabilities of the VIE in our consolidated financial statements.

Accounting Estimates and Assumptions

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions affecting the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses for the reporting period. Those estimates are inherently subject to change and actual results could differ from those estimates. Included among the material (or potentially material) reported amounts and disclosures that require extensive use of estimates are: fair value of certain invested assets and derivatives, asset valuation allowances, deferred acquisition costs (“DAC”), value of business acquired (“VOBA”), deferred sales inducements (“DSI”), goodwill, future contract benefits, other contract holder funds which includes deferred front-end loads (“DFEL”), pension plans, income taxes and the potential effects of resolving litigated matters.

Business Combinations

We use the acquisition method of accounting for all business combination transactions, and accordingly, recognize the fair values of assets acquired, liabilities assumed and any noncontrolling interests in our consolidated financial statements. The allocation of fair values may be subject to adjustment after the initial allocation for up to a one-year period as more information relative to the fair values as of the acquisition date becomes available. The consolidated financial statements include the results of operations of any acquired company since the acquisition date.

Fair Value Measurement

Our measurement of fair value is based on assumptions used by market participants in pricing the asset or liability, which may include inherent risk, restrictions on the sale or use of an asset or non-performance risk, which would include our own credit risk. Our estimate of an exchange price is the price in an orderly transaction between market participants to sell the asset or transfer the liability (“exit price”) in the principal market, or the most advantageous market in the absence of a principal market, for that asset or liability, as opposed to the price that would be paid to acquire the asset or receive a liability (“entry price”). Pursuant to the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification™ (“ASC”), we categorize our financial instruments carried at fair value into a three-level fair value hierarchy, based on the priority of inputs to the respective valuation technique. The three-level hierarchy for fair value measurement is defined as follows:

- Level 1 – inputs to the valuation methodology are quoted prices available in active markets for identical investments as of the reporting date, except for large holdings subject to “blockage discounts” that are excluded;
- Level 2 – inputs to the valuation methodology are other than quoted prices in active markets, that are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date, and fair value can be determined through the use of models or other valuation methodologies; and
- Level 3 – inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable inputs in situations where there is little or no market activity for the asset or liability, and we make estimates and assumptions related to the pricing of the asset or liability, including assumptions regarding risk.

In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, the level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the investment.

When a determination is made to classify an asset or liability within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, the determination is based upon the significance of the unobservable inputs to the overall fair value measurement. Because certain securities trade in less liquid or illiquid markets with limited or no pricing information, the determination of fair value for these securities is inherently more difficult. However, Level 3 fair value investments may include, in addition to the unobservable or Level 3 inputs, observable components, which are components that are actively quoted or can be validated to market-based sources.

Available-For-Sale Securities – Fair Valuation Methodologies and Associated Inputs

Securities classified as available-for-sale (“AFS”) consist of fixed maturity and equity securities and are stated at fair value with unrealized gains and losses included within accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (“AOCI”), net of associated DAC, VOBA, DSI, other contract holder funds and deferred income taxes.

We measure the fair value of our securities classified as AFS based on assumptions used by market participants in pricing the security. The most appropriate valuation methodology is selected based on the specific characteristics of the fixed maturity or equity security, and we consistently apply the valuation methodology to measure the security’s fair value. Our fair value measurement is based on a market approach that utilizes prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable securities. Sources of inputs to the market approach primarily include third-party pricing services, independent broker quotations or pricing matrices. We do not adjust prices received from third parties; however, we do analyze the third-party pricing services’ valuation methodologies and related inputs and perform additional evaluation to determine the appropriate level within the fair value hierarchy.

The observable and unobservable inputs to our valuation methodologies are based on a set of standard inputs that we generally use to evaluate all of our AFS securities. Observable inputs include benchmark yields, reported trades, broker-dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, bids, offers and reference data. In addition, market indicators, industry and economic events are monitored, and further market data is acquired if certain triggers are met. For certain security types, additional inputs may be used, or some of the inputs described above may not be applicable. For private placement securities, we use pricing matrices that utilize observable pricing inputs of similar public securities and Treasury yields as inputs to the fair value measurement. Depending on the type of security or the daily market activity, standard inputs may be prioritized differently or may not be available for all AFS securities on any given day. For broker-quoted only securities, non-binding quotes from market makers or broker-dealers are obtained from sources recognized as market participants. For securities trading in less liquid or illiquid markets with limited or no pricing information, we use unobservable inputs to measure fair value.

The following summarizes our fair valuation methodologies and associated inputs, which are particular to the specified security type and are in addition to the defined standard inputs to our valuation methodologies for all of our AFS securities discussed above:

- Corporate bonds and U.S. Government bonds – We also use Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine™ reported tables for our corporate bonds and vendor trading platform data for our U.S. Government bonds.
- Mortgage- and asset-backed securities – We also utilize additional inputs which include new issues data, monthly payment information and monthly collateral performance, including prepayments, severity, delinquencies, step-down features and over collateralization features for each of our mortgage-backed securities (“MBS”), which include collateralized mortgage obligations and mortgage pass through securities backed by residential mortgages (“RMBS”), commercial mortgage-backed securities (“CMBS”) and collateralized debt obligations (“CDOs”).
- State and municipal bonds – We also use additional inputs that include information from the Municipal Securities Rule Making Board, as well as material event notices, new issue data, issuer financial statements and Municipal Market Data benchmark yields for our state and municipal bonds.
- Hybrid and redeemable preferred and equity securities – We also utilize additional inputs of exchange prices (underlying and common stock of the same issuer) for our hybrid and redeemable preferred and equity securities, including banking, insurance, other financial services and other securities.

In order to validate the pricing information and broker-dealer quotes, we employ, where possible, procedures that include comparisons with similar observable positions, comparisons with subsequent sales and observations of general market movements for those security classes. We have policies and procedures in place to review the process that is utilized by our third-party pricing service and the output that is provided to us by the pricing service. On a periodic basis, we test the pricing for a sample of securities to evaluate the inputs and assumptions used by the pricing service, and we perform a comparison of the pricing service output to an alternative pricing source. We also evaluate prices provided by our primary pricing service to ensure that they are not stale or unreasonable by reviewing the prices for unusual changes from period to period based on certain parameters or for lack of change from one period to the next.

AFS Securities – Evaluation for Recovery of Amortized Cost

We regularly review our AFS securities for declines in fair value that we determine to be other-than-temporary. For an equity security, if we do not have the ability and intent to hold the security for a sufficient period of time to allow for a recovery in value, we conclude that an other-than-temporary impairment (“OTTI”) has occurred and the amortized cost of the equity security is written down to the current fair value, with a corresponding charge to realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). When assessing our ability and intent to hold the equity security to recovery, we consider, among other things, the severity and duration of the decline in fair value of the equity security as well as the cause of the decline, a fundamental analysis of the liquidity, and business prospects and overall financial condition of the issuer.

For our fixed maturity AFS securities, we generally consider the following to determine whether our unrealized losses are OTTI:

- The estimated range and average period until recovery;
- The estimated range and average holding period to maturity;
- Remaining payment terms of the security;
- Current delinquencies and nonperforming assets of underlying collateral;
- Expected future default rates;
- Collateral value by vintage, geographic region, industry concentration or property type;
- Subordination levels or other credit enhancements as of the balance sheet date as compared to origination; and

- Contractual and regulatory cash obligations.

For a debt security, if we intend to sell a security or it is more likely than not we will be required to sell a debt security before recovery of its amortized cost basis and the fair value of the debt security is below amortized cost, we conclude that an OTTI has occurred and the amortized cost is written down to current fair value, with a corresponding charge to realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). If we do not intend to sell a debt security or it is not more likely than not we will be required to sell a debt security before recovery of its amortized cost basis but the present value of the cash flows expected to be collected is less than the amortized cost of the debt security (referred to as the credit loss), we conclude that an OTTI has occurred and the amortized cost is written down to the estimated recovery value with a corresponding charge to realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss), as this amount is deemed the credit portion of the OTTI. The remainder of the decline to fair value is recorded in OCI to unrealized OTTI on AFS securities on our Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity, as this amount is considered a noncredit (i.e., recoverable) impairment.

When assessing our intent to sell a debt security or if it is more likely than not we will be required to sell a debt security before recovery of its cost basis, we evaluate facts and circumstances such as, but not limited to, decisions to reposition our security portfolio, sale of securities to meet cash flow needs and sales of securities to capitalize on favorable pricing. In order to determine the amount of the credit loss for a debt security, we calculate the recovery value by performing a discounted cash flow analysis based on the current cash flows and future cash flows we expect to recover. The discount rate is the effective interest rate implicit in the underlying debt security. The effective interest rate is the original yield or the coupon if the debt security was previously impaired. See the discussion below for additional information on the methodology and significant inputs, by security type, which we use to determine the amount of a credit loss.

Our conclusion that it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the fixed maturity AFS securities before recovery of their amortized cost basis, the estimated future cash flows are equal to or greater than the amortized cost basis of the debt securities, or we have the ability to hold the equity AFS securities for a period of time sufficient for recovery is based upon our asset-liability management process. Management considers the following as part of the evaluation:

- The current economic environment and market conditions;
- Our business strategy and current business plans;
- The nature and type of security, including expected maturities and exposure to general credit, liquidity, market and interest rate risk;
- Our analysis of data from financial models and other internal and industry sources to evaluate the current effectiveness of our hedging and overall risk management strategies;
- The current and expected timing of contractual maturities of our assets and liabilities, expectations of prepayments on investments and expectations for surrenders and withdrawals of life insurance policies and annuity contracts;
- The capital risk limits approved by management; and
- Our current financial condition and liquidity demands.

To determine the recovery period of a debt security, we consider the facts and circumstances surrounding the underlying issuer including, but not limited to, the following:

- Historic and implied volatility of the security;
- Length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than amortized cost;
- Adverse conditions specifically related to the security or to specific conditions in an industry or geographic area;
- Failure, if any, of the issuer of the security to make scheduled payments; and
- Recoveries or additional declines in fair value subsequent to the balance sheet date.

In periods subsequent to the recognition of an OTTI, the AFS security is accounted for as if it had been purchased on the measurement date of the OTTI. Therefore, for the fixed maturity AFS security, the original discount or reduced premium is reflected in net investment income over the contractual term of the investment in a manner that produces a constant effective yield.

To determine recovery value of a corporate bond or CDO, we perform additional analysis related to the underlying issuer including, but not limited to, the following:

- Fundamentals of the issuer to determine what we would recover if they were to file bankruptcy versus the price at which the market is trading;
- Fundamentals of the industry in which the issuer operates;
-

Each quarter we review the cash flows for the MBS to determine whether or not they are sufficient to provide for the recovery of our amortized cost. We revise our cash flow projections only for those securities that are at most risk for impairment based on current credit enhancement and trends in the underlying collateral performance. To determine recovery value of a MBS, we perform additional analysis related to the underlying issuer including, but not limited to, the following:

- Discounted cash flow analysis based on the current cash flows and future cash flows we expect to recover;
- Level of creditworthiness of the home equity loans or residential mortgages that back an RMBS or commercial mortgages that back a CMBS;
- Susceptibility to fair value fluctuations for changes in the interest rate environment;
- Susceptibility to reinvestment risks, in cases where market yields are lower than the securities' book yield earned;
- Susceptibility to reinvestment risks, in cases where market yields are higher than the book yields earned on a security;
- Expectations of sale of such a security where market yields are higher than the book yields earned on a security; and
- Susceptibility to variability of prepayments.

When evaluating MBS and mortgage-related asset-backed securities ("ABS"), we consider a number of pool-specific factors as well as market level factors when determining whether or not the impairment on the security is temporary or other-than-temporary. The most important factor is the performance of the underlying collateral in the security and the trends of that performance in the prior periods. We use this information about the collateral to forecast the timing and rate of mortgage loan defaults, including making projections for loans that are already delinquent and for those loans that are currently performing but may become delinquent in the future. Other factors used in this analysis include type of underlying collateral (e.g., prime, Alt-A or subprime), geographic distribution of underlying loans and timing of liquidations by state. Once default rates and timing assumptions are determined, we then make assumptions regarding the severity of a default if it were to occur. Factors that impact the severity assumption include expectations for future home price appreciation or depreciation, loan size, first lien versus second lien, existence of loan level private mortgage insurance, type of occupancy and geographic distribution of loans. Once default and severity assumptions are determined for the security in question, cash flows for the underlying collateral are projected including expected defaults and prepayments. These cash flows on the collateral are then translated to cash flows on our tranche based on the cash flow waterfall of the entire capital security structure. If this analysis indicates the entire principal on a particular security will not be returned, the security is reviewed for OTTI by comparing the expected cash flows to amortized cost. To the extent that the security has already been impaired or was purchased at a discount, such that the amortized cost of the security is less than or equal to the present value of cash flows expected to be collected, no impairment is required.

Otherwise, if the amortized cost of the security is greater than the present value of the cash flows expected to be collected, and the security was not purchased at a discount greater than the expected principal loss, then impairment is recognized.

We further monitor the cash flows of all of our AFS securities backed by pools on an ongoing basis. We also perform detailed analysis on all of our subprime, Alt-A, non-agency residential MBS and on a significant percentage of our AFS securities backed by pools of commercial mortgages. The detailed analysis includes revising projected cash flows by updating the cash flows for actual cash received and applying assumptions with respect to expected defaults, foreclosures and recoveries in the future. These revised projected cash flows are then compared to the amount of credit enhancement (subordination) in the structure to determine whether the amortized cost of the security is recoverable. If it is not recoverable, we record an impairment of the security.

Trading Securities

Trading securities consist of fixed maturity and equity securities in designated portfolios, some of which support modified coinsurance (“Modco”) and coinsurance with funds withheld (“CFW”) reinsurance arrangements. Investment results for the portfolios that support Modco and CFW reinsurance arrangements, including gains and losses from sales, are passed directly to the reinsurers pursuant to contractual terms of the reinsurance arrangements. Trading securities are carried at fair value and changes in fair value and changes in the fair value of embedded derivative liabilities associated with the underlying reinsurance arrangements, are recorded in realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) as they occur.

Alternative Investments

Alternative investments, which consist primarily of investments in Limited Partnerships (“LPs”), are included in other investments on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We account for our investments in LPs using the equity method to determine the carrying value. Recognition of alternative investment income is delayed due to the availability of the related financial statements, which are generally obtained from the partnerships’ general partners. As a result, our venture capital, real estate and oil and gas portfolios are generally on a three-month delay and our hedge funds are on a one-month delay. In addition, the impact of audit adjustments related to completion of calendar-year financial statement audits of the investees are typically received during the second quarter of each calendar year. Accordingly, our investment income from alternative investments for any calendar-year period may not include the complete impact of the change in the underlying net assets for the partnership for that calendar-year period.

Payables for Collateral on Investments

When we enter into collateralized financing transactions on our investments, a liability is recorded equal to the cash collateral received. This liability is included within payables for collateral on investments on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Income and expenses associated with these transactions are recorded as investment income and investment expenses within net investment income on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). Changes in payables for collateral on investments are reflected within cash flows from investing activities on our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

Mortgage Loans on Real Estate

Mortgage loans on real estate are carried at unpaid principal balances adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts and are net of valuation allowances. Interest income is accrued on the principal balance of the loan based on the loan's contractual interest rate. Premiums and discounts are amortized using the effective yield method over the life of the loan. Interest income and amortization of premiums and discounts are reported in net investment income on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) along with mortgage loan fees, which are recorded as they are incurred.

Our commercial loan portfolio is comprised of long-term loans secured by existing commercial real estate. As such, it does not exhibit risk characteristics unique to mezzanine, construction, residential, agricultural, land or other types of real estate loans. We believe all of the loans in our portfolio share three primary risks: borrower creditworthiness; sustainability of the cash flow of the property; and market risk; therefore, our methods for monitoring and assessing credit risk are consistent for our entire portfolio. Loans are considered impaired when it is probable that, based upon current information and events, we will be unable to collect all amounts due under the contractual terms of the loan agreement. When we determine that a loan is impaired, a valuation allowance is established for the excess carrying value of the loan over its estimated value. The loan's estimated value is based on: the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate; the loan's observable market price; or the fair value of the loan's collateral. Valuation allowances are maintained at a level we believe is adequate to absorb estimated probable credit losses of each specific loan. Our periodic evaluation of the adequacy of the allowance for losses is based on our past loan loss experience, known and inherent risks in the portfolio, adverse situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay (including the timing of future payments), the estimated value of the underlying collateral, composition of the loan portfolio, current economic conditions and other relevant factors. Trends in market vacancy and rental rates are incorporated into the analysis that we perform for monitored loans and may contribute to the establishment of (or an increase or decrease in) an allowance for credit losses. In addition, we review each loan individually in our commercial mortgage loan portfolio on an annual basis to identify emerging risks. We focus on properties that experienced a reduction in debt-service coverage or that have significant exposure to tenants with deteriorating credit profiles. Where warranted, we establish or increase loss reserves for a specific loan based upon this analysis. Our process for determining past due or delinquency status begins when a payment date is missed, at which time the borrower is contacted. After the grace period expiration that may last up to 10 days, we send a default notice. The default notice generally provides a short time period to cure the default. Our policy is to report loans that are 60 or more days past due, which equates to two or more payments missed, as delinquent. We do not accrue interest on loans 90 days past due, and any interest received on these loans is either applied to the principal or recorded in net investment income on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) when received, depending on the assessment of the collectibility of the loan. We resume accruing interest once a loan complies with all of its original terms or restructured terms. Mortgage loans deemed uncollectible are charged against the allowance for losses, and subsequent recoveries, if any, are credited to the allowance for losses. All mortgage loans that are impaired have an established allowance for credit losses. Changes in valuation allowances are reported in realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

We measure and assess the credit quality of our mortgage loans by using loan-to-value and debt-service coverage ratios. The loan-to-value ratio compares the principal amount of the loan to the fair value at origination of the underlying property collateralizing the loan and is commonly expressed as a percentage. Loan-to-value ratios greater than 100% indicate that the principal amount is greater than the collateral value. Therefore, all else being equal, a lower loan-to-value ratio generally indicates a higher quality loan. The debt-service coverage ratio compares a property's net operating income to its debt-service payments. Debt-service coverage ratios of less than 1.0 indicate that property operations do not generate enough income to cover its current debt payments. Therefore, all else being equal, a higher debt-service coverage ratio generally indicates a higher quality loan.

Policy Loans

Policy loans represent loans we issue to contract holders that use the cash surrender value of their life insurance policy as collateral. Policy loans are carried at unpaid principal balances.

Real Estate

Real estate includes both real estate held for the production of income and real estate held-for-sale. Real estate held for the production of income is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the

estimated useful life of the asset. We periodically review properties held for the production of income for impairment. Properties whose carrying values are greater than their projected undiscounted cash flows are written down to estimated fair value, with impairment losses reported in realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). The estimated fair value of real estate is generally computed using the present value of expected future cash flows from the real estate discounted at a rate commensurate with the underlying risks. Real estate classified as held-for-sale is stated at the lower of depreciated cost or fair value less expected disposition costs at the time classified as held-for-sale. Real estate is not depreciated while it is classified as held-for-sale. Also, valuation allowances for losses are established, as appropriate, for real estate held-for-sale and any changes to the valuation allowances are reported in realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). Real estate acquired through foreclosure proceedings is recorded at fair value at the settlement date.

Derivative Instruments

We hedge certain portions of our exposure to interest rate risk, foreign currency exchange risk, equity market risk and credit risk by entering into derivative transactions. All of our derivative instruments are recognized as either assets or liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets at estimated fair value. We categorized derivatives into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of the inputs to the respective valuation technique as discussed above in "Fair Value Measurement." The accounting for changes in the estimated fair value of a derivative instrument depends on whether it has been designated and qualifies as part of a hedging relationship, and further, on the type of hedging relationship. For those derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as hedging instruments, we must designate the hedging instrument based upon the exposure being hedged: as a cash flow hedge, a fair value hedge or a hedge of a net investment in a foreign subsidiary.

For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as a cash flow hedge, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative instrument is reported as a component of accumulated OCI and reclassified into net income in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects net income. The remaining gain or loss on the derivative instrument in excess of the cumulative change in the present value of designated future cash flows of the hedged item (hedge ineffectiveness), if any, is recognized in net income during the period of change. For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as a fair value hedge, the gain or loss on the derivative instrument, as well as the offsetting gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recognized in net income during the period of change in estimated fair values. For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as a hedge of a net investment in a foreign subsidiary, the gain or loss on the derivative instrument is reported as a component of accumulated OCI and reclassified into net income at the time of the sale of the foreign subsidiary. For derivative instruments not designated as hedging instruments but that are economic hedges, the gain or loss is recognized in net income.

We purchase and issue financial instruments and products that contain embedded derivative instruments. When it is determined that the embedded derivative possesses economic characteristics that are not clearly and closely related to the economic characteristics of the host contract, and a separate instrument with the same terms would qualify as a derivative instrument, the embedded derivative is bifurcated from the host for measurement purposes. The embedded derivative, which is reported with the host instrument in the Consolidated Balance Sheets, is carried at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income during the period of change.

We employ several different methods for determining the fair value of our derivative instruments. The fair value of our derivative contracts are measured based on current settlement values, which are based on quoted market prices, industry standard models that are commercially available and broker quotes. These techniques project cash flows of the derivatives using current and implied future market conditions. We calculate the present value of the cash flows to measure the current fair market value of the derivative.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and invested cash is carried at cost and includes all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less.

DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL

Commissions and other costs of acquiring UL insurance, VUL insurance, traditional life insurance, annuities and other investment contracts, which vary with and are related primarily to the production of new business, have been deferred (i.e., DAC) to the extent recoverable. VOBA is an intangible asset that reflects the estimated fair value of in-force contracts in a life insurance company acquisition and represents the portion of the purchase price that is allocated to the value of the right to receive future cash flows from the business in force at the acquisition date. Bonus credits and excess interest for dollar cost averaging contracts are considered DSI. Contract sales charges that are collected in the early years of an insurance contract are deferred (i.e., DFEL), and the unamortized balance is reported in other contract holder funds on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Both DAC and VOBA amortization, excluding amounts reported in realized gain (loss), is reported within underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). DSI amortization, excluding amounts reported in realized gain (loss), is reported in interest credited on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). The amortization of DFEL, excluding amounts reported in realized gain (loss), is reported within insurance fees on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). The methodology for determining the amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL varies by product type. For all insurance contracts, amortization is based on assumptions consistent with those used in the development of the underlying contract adjusted for emerging experience and expected trends.

Acquisition costs for UL and VUL insurance and investment-type products, which include fixed and variable deferred annuities, are generally amortized over the lives of the policies in relation to the incidence of estimated gross profits (“EGPs”) from surrender charges, investment, mortality net of reinsurance ceded and expense margins and actual realized gain (loss) on investments. Contract lives for UL and VUL policies are estimated to be 40 years and 30 years, respectively, based on the expected lives of the contracts. Contract lives for fixed and variable deferred annuities are generally between 12 and 30 years, while some of our fixed multi-year guarantee products have amortization periods equal to the guarantee period. The front-end load annuity product has an assumed life of 25 years. Longer lives are assigned to those blocks that have demonstrated favorable lapse experience.

Acquisition costs for all traditional contracts, including traditional life insurance, which include individual whole life, group business and term life insurance contracts, are amortized over periods of 7 to 30 years on either a straight-line basis or as a level percent of premium of the related policies depending on the block of business. There is currently no DAC, VOBA, DSI or DFEL balance or related amortization for fixed and variable payout annuities.

We account for modifications of insurance contracts that result in a substantially unchanged contract as a continuation of the replaced contract. We account for modifications of insurance contracts that result in a substantially changed contract as an extinguishment of the replaced contract.

The carrying amounts of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL are adjusted for the effects of realized and unrealized gains and losses on securities classified as AFS and certain derivatives and embedded derivatives. Amortization expense of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL reflects an assumption for an expected level of credit-related investment losses. When actual credit-related investment losses are realized, we recognize a true-up to our DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL amortization within realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) reflecting the incremental effect of actual versus expected credit-related investment losses. These actual to expected amortization adjustments can create volatility from period to period in realized gain (loss).

On a quarterly basis, we may record an adjustment to the amounts included within our Consolidated Balance Sheets for DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL with an offsetting benefit or charge to revenue or expense for the effect of the difference between future EGPs used in the prior quarter and the emergence of actual and updated future EGPs in the current quarter (“retrospective unlocking”). In addition, in the third quarter of each year, we conduct our annual comprehensive review of the assumptions and the projection models used for our estimates of future gross profits underlying the amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL and the calculations of the embedded derivatives and reserves for life insurance and annuity products with living benefit and death benefit guarantees. These assumptions include investment margins, mortality, retention, rider utilization and maintenance expenses (costs associated with maintaining records relating to insurance and individual and group annuity contracts and with the processing of premium collections, deposits, withdrawals and commissions). Based on our review, the cumulative balances of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL, included on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, are adjusted with an offsetting benefit or charge to revenue or amortization expense to reflect such change (“prospective unlocking – assumption changes”). We may have prospective unlocking in other quarters as we become aware of information that warrants updating

prospective assumptions outside of our annual comprehensive review. We may also identify and implement actuarial modeling refinements (“prospective unlocking – model refinements”) that result in increases or decreases to the carrying values of DAC, VOBA, DSI, DFEL, embedded derivatives and reserves for life insurance and annuity products with living benefit and death benefit guarantees. The primary distinction between retrospective and prospective unlocking is that retrospective unlocking is driven by the difference between actual gross profits compared to EGPs each period, while prospective unlocking is driven by changes in assumptions or projection models related to our expectations of future EGPs.

DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL are reviewed periodically to ensure that the unamortized portion does not exceed the expected recoverable amounts.

Reinsurance

Our insurance companies enter into reinsurance agreements with other companies in the normal course of business. Assets and liabilities and premiums and benefits from certain reinsurance contracts that grant statutory surplus relief to other insurance companies are netted on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss), respectively, because there is a right of offset. All other reinsurance agreements are reported on a gross basis on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as an

asset for amounts recoverable from reinsurers or as a component of other liabilities for amounts, such as premiums, owed to the reinsurers, with the exception of Modco agreements for which the right of offset also exists. Reinsurance premiums and benefits paid or provided are accounted for on bases consistent with those used in accounting for the original policies issued and the terms of the reinsurance contracts. Premiums, benefits and DAC are reported net of insurance ceded.

Goodwill

We recognize the excess of the purchase price, plus the fair value of any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree, over the fair value of identifiable net assets acquired as goodwill. Goodwill is not amortized, but is reviewed at least annually for indications of value impairment, with consideration given to financial performance and other relevant factors. In addition, certain events, including a significant adverse change in legal factors or the business climate, an adverse action or assessment by a regulator or unanticipated competition, would cause us to review the carrying amounts of goodwill for impairment. We are required to perform a two-step test in our evaluation of the carrying value of goodwill for impairment. In Step 1 of the evaluation, the fair value of each reporting unit is determined and compared to the carrying value of the reporting unit. If the fair value is greater than the carrying value, then the carrying value is deemed to be sufficient and Step 2 is not required. If the fair value estimate is less than the carrying value, it is an indicator that impairment may exist and Step 2 is required to be performed. In Step 2, the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill is determined by assigning the reporting unit's fair value as determined in Step 1 to all of its net assets (recognized and unrecognized) as if the reporting unit had been acquired in a business combination at the date of the impairment test. If the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill is lower than its carrying amount, goodwill is impaired and written down to its fair value, and a charge is reported in impairment of intangibles on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

Other Assets and Other Liabilities

Other assets consist primarily of DSI, specifically identifiable intangible assets, property and equipment owned by the company, balances associated with corporate-owned and bank-owned life insurance, certain reinsurance assets, receivables resulting from sales of securities that had not yet settled as of the balance sheet date, debt issue costs and other prepaid expenses. Other liabilities consist primarily of current and deferred taxes, pension and other employee benefit liabilities, certain reinsurance payables, payables resulting from purchases of securities that had not yet settled as of the balance sheet date, interest on borrowed funds and other accrued expenses.

The carrying values of specifically identifiable intangible assets are reviewed at least annually for indicators of impairment in value that are other-than-temporary, including unexpected or adverse changes in the following: the economic or competitive environments in which the company operates; profitability analyses; cash flow analyses; and the fair value of the relevant business operation. If there was an indication of impairment, then the discounted cash flow method would be used to measure the impairment, and the carrying value would be adjusted as necessary and reported in impairment of intangibles on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). Sales force intangibles are attributable to the value of the new business distribution system acquired through business combinations. These assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their useful life of 25 years. Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") licenses also acquired through business combinations are not amortized.

Property and equipment owned for company use is carried at cost less allowances for depreciation. Provisions for depreciation of investment real estate and property and equipment owned for company use are computed principally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which include buildings, computer hardware and software and other property and equipment. We periodically review the carrying value of our long-lived assets, including property and equipment, for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be fully recoverable. For long-lived assets to be held and used, impairments are recognized

when the carrying amount of a long-lived asset is not recoverable and exceeds its fair value. The carrying amount of a long-lived asset is not recoverable if it exceeds the sum of the undiscounted cash flows expected to result from the use and eventual disposition of the asset. An impairment loss is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of a long-lived asset exceeds its fair value.

Long-lived assets to be disposed of by abandonment or in an exchange for a similar productive long-lived asset are classified as held-for-use until they are disposed. Long-lived assets to be sold are classified as held-for-sale and are no longer depreciated. Certain criteria have to be met in order for the long-lived asset to be classified as held-for-sale, including that a sale is probable and expected to occur within one year. Long-lived assets classified as held-for-sale are recorded at the lower of their carrying amount or fair value less cost to sell.

Separate Account Assets and Liabilities

We maintain separate account assets, which are reported at fair value. The related liabilities are reported at an amount equivalent to the separate account assets. Investment risks associated with market value changes are borne by the contract holders, except to the extent of minimum guarantees made by the Company with respect to certain accounts.

We issue variable annuity contracts through our separate accounts for which investment income and investment gains and losses accrue directly to, and investment risk is borne by, the contract holder (traditional variable annuities). We also issue variable annuity and life contracts through separate accounts that include various types of guaranteed death benefit (“GDB”), guaranteed withdrawal benefit (“GWB”) and guaranteed income benefit (“GIB”) features. The GDB features include those where we contractually guarantee to the contract holder either: return of no less than total deposits made to the contract less any partial withdrawals (“return of net deposits”); total deposits made to the contract less any partial withdrawals plus a minimum return (“minimum return”); or the highest contract value on any contract anniversary date through age 80 minus any payments or withdrawals following the contract anniversary (“anniversary contract value”).

As discussed in Note 6, certain features of these guarantees are accounted for as embedded derivative reserves, whereas other guarantees are accounted for as benefit reserves. Other guarantees contain characteristics of both and are accounted for under an approach that calculates the value of the embedded derivative reserve and the benefit reserve based on the specific characteristics of each guaranteed living benefit (“GLB”) feature. We use derivative instruments to hedge our exposure to the risks and earnings volatility that result from the embedded derivatives for living benefits in certain of our variable annuity products. The change in fair value of these instruments tends to move in the opposite direction of the change in the value of the associated reserves. The net impact of these changes is reported as a component of realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

The “market consistent scenarios” used in the determination of the fair value of the GWB liability are similar to those used by an investment bank to value derivatives for which the pricing is not transparent and the aftermarket is nonexistent or illiquid. In our calculation, risk-neutral Monte-Carlo simulations resulting in over 35 million scenarios are utilized to value the entire block of guarantees. The market consistent scenario assumptions, as of each valuation date, are those we view to be appropriate for a hypothetical market participant. The market consistent inputs include assumptions for the capital markets (e.g., implied volatilities, correlation among indices, risk-free swap curve, etc.), policyholder behavior (e.g., policy lapse, benefit utilization, mortality, etc.), risk margins, administrative expenses and a margin for profit. We believe these assumptions are consistent with those that would be used by a market participant; however, as the related markets develop we will continue to reassess our assumptions. It is possible that different valuation techniques and assumptions could produce a materially different estimate of fair value.

Future Contract Benefits and Other Contract Holder Funds

Future contract benefits represent liability reserves that we have established and carry based on estimates of how much we will need to pay for future benefits and claims. Other contract holder funds represent liabilities for fixed account values, including the fixed portion of variable, dividends payable, premium deposit funds, undistributed earnings on participating business and other contract holder funds as well the carrying value of DFEL discussed above.

The liabilities for future contract benefits and claim reserves for UL and VUL insurance policies consist of contract account balances that accrue to the benefit of the contract holders, excluding surrender charges. The liabilities for future insurance contract benefits and claim reserves for traditional life policies are computed using assumptions for investment yields, mortality and withdrawals based principally on generally accepted actuarial methods and assumptions at the time of contract issue. Investment yield assumptions for traditional direct individual life reserves for all contracts range from 2.25% to 7.75% depending on the time of contract issue. The investment yield assumptions for immediate and deferred paid-up annuities range from 1.00% to 13.50%. These investment yield assumptions are intended to represent an estimation of the interest rate experience for the period that these contract benefits are payable.

The liabilities for future claim reserves for variable annuity products containing GDB features are calculated by estimating the present value of total expected benefit payments over the life of the contract divided by the present value of total expected assessments over the life of the contract (“benefit ratio”) multiplied by the cumulative assessments recorded from the contract inception through the balance sheet date less the cumulative GDB payments plus interest on the reserves. The change in the reserve for a period is the benefit ratio multiplied by the assessments recorded for the period less GDB claims paid in the period plus interest. If experience or assumption changes result in a new benefit ratio, the reserves are adjusted to reflect the changes in a manner similar to the unlocking of DAC, VOBA, DFEL and DSI.

With respect to our future contract benefits and other contract holder funds, we continually review: overall reserve position, reserving techniques and reinsurance arrangements. As experience develops and new information becomes known, liabilities are adjusted as deemed necessary. The effects of changes in estimates are included in the operating results for the period in which such changes occur.

The business written or assumed by us includes participating life insurance contracts, under which the contract holder is entitled to share in the earnings of such contracts via receipt of dividends. The dividend scale for participating policies is reviewed annually and may be adjusted to reflect recent experience and future expectations. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, participating policies

comprised approximately 1% of the face amount of insurance in force, and dividend expenses were \$79 million, \$82 million and \$89 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Liabilities for the secondary guarantees on UL-type products are calculated by multiplying the benefit ratio by the cumulative assessments recorded from contract inception through the balance sheet date less the cumulative secondary guarantee benefit payments plus interest. If experience or assumption changes result in a new benefit ratio, the reserves are adjusted to reflect the changes in a manner similar to the unlocking of DAC, VOBA, DFEL and DSI. The accounting for secondary guarantee benefits impacts, and is impacted by, EGPs used to calculate amortization of DAC, VOBA, DFEL and DSI.

Future contract benefits on our Consolidated Balance Sheets include GLB features and remaining guaranteed interest and similar contracts that are carried at fair value, which represents approximate surrender value including an estimate for our nonperformance risk. Certain of these features have elements of both insurance benefits and embedded derivatives. We weight these features and their associated reserves accordingly based on their hybrid nature. We classify these items in Level 3 within the hierarchy levels described above in "Fair Value Measurement."

The fair value of our indexed annuity contracts is based on their approximate surrender values.

Borrowed Funds

LNC's short-term borrowings are defined as borrowings with contractual or expected maturities of one year or less. Long-term borrowings have contractual or expected maturities greater than one year.

Deferred Gain on Business Sold Through Reinsurance

Our reinsurance operations were acquired by Swiss Re Life & Health America, Inc. ("Swiss Re") in December 2001 through a series of indemnity reinsurance transactions. We are recognizing the gain related to these transactions at the rate that earnings on the reinsured business are expected to emerge, over a period of 15 years from the date of sale.

Commitments and Contingencies

Contingencies arising from environmental remediation costs, regulatory judgments, claims, assessments, guarantees, litigation, recourse reserves, fines, penalties and other sources are recorded when deemed probable and reasonably estimable.

Insurance Fees

Insurance fees for investment and interest-sensitive life insurance contracts consist of asset-based fees, cost of insurance charges, percent of premium charges, contract administration charges and surrender charges that are assessed against contract holder account balances. Investment products consist primarily of individual and group variable and fixed deferred annuities. Interest-sensitive life insurance products include UL insurance, VUL insurance and other interest-sensitive life insurance policies. These products include life insurance sold to individuals, corporate-owned life insurance and bank-owned life insurance.

In bifurcating the embedded derivative of our GLB features on our variable annuity products, we attribute to the embedded derivative the portion of total fees collected from the contract holder that relate to the GLB riders (the "attributed fees"), which are not reported within insurance fees on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss). These attributed fees represent the present value of future claims expected to be paid for the GLB at the inception of the contract plus a margin that a theoretical market participant would include for risk/profit and are

reported within realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

The timing of revenue recognition as it relates to fees assessed on investment contracts is determined based on the nature of such fees. Asset-based fees, cost of insurance and contract administration charges are assessed on a daily or monthly basis and recognized as revenue when assessed and earned. Percent of premium charges are assessed at the time of premium payment and recognized as revenue when assessed and earned. Certain amounts assessed that represent compensation for services to be provided in future periods are reported as unearned revenue and recognized in income over the periods benefited. Surrender charges are recognized upon surrender of a contract by the contract holder in accordance with contractual terms.

For investment and interest-sensitive life insurance contracts, the amounts collected from contract holders are considered deposits and are not included in revenue.

Insurance Premiums

Our insurance premiums for traditional life insurance and group insurance products are recognized as revenue when due from the contract holder. Our traditional life insurance products include those products with fixed and guaranteed premiums and benefits and consist primarily of whole life insurance, limited-payment life insurance, term life insurance and certain annuities with life contingencies. Our group non-medical insurance products consist primarily of term life, disability and dental.

Net Investment Income

Dividends and interest income, recorded in net investment income, are recognized when earned. Amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts on investments in debt securities are reflected in net investment income over the contractual terms of the investments in a manner that produces a constant effective yield.

For CDOs and MBS, included in the trading and AFS fixed maturity securities portfolios, we recognize income using a constant effective yield based on anticipated prepayments and the estimated economic life of the securities. When actual prepayments differ significantly from originally anticipated prepayments, the retrospective effective yield is recalculated to reflect actual payments to date and a catch up adjustment is recorded in the current period. In addition, the new effective yield, which reflects anticipated future payments, is used prospectively. Any adjustments resulting from changes in effective yield are reflected in net investment income on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

Realized Gain (Loss)

Realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) includes realized gains and losses from the sale of investments, write-downs for other-than-temporary impairments of investments, certain derivative and embedded derivative gains and losses, gains and losses on the sale of subsidiaries and businesses and net gains and losses on reinsurance embedded derivative and trading securities. Realized gains and losses on the sale of investments are determined using the specific identification method. Realized gain (loss) is recognized in net income, net of associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL. Realized gain (loss) is also net of allocations of investment gains and losses to certain contract holders and certain funds withheld on reinsurance arrangements for which we have a contractual obligation.

Other Revenues and Fees

Other revenues and fees consists primarily of fees attributable to broker-dealer services recorded as earned at the time of sale, changes in the market value of our seed capital investments and communications sales recognized as earned, net of agency and representative commissions.

Interest Credited

Interest credited includes interest credited to contract holder account balances. Interest crediting rates associated with funds invested in the general account of LNC's insurance subsidiaries during 2009 through 2011 ranged from 3.00% to 9.00%.

Benefits

Benefits for UL and other interest-sensitive life insurance products include benefit claims incurred during the period in excess of contract account balances. Benefits also include the change in reserves for life insurance products with secondary guarantee benefits and annuity products with guaranteed death benefits. For traditional life, group health and disability income products, benefits are recognized when incurred in a manner consistent with the related premium recognition policies.

Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans

Pursuant to the accounting rules for our obligations to employees and agents under our various pension and other postretirement benefit plans, we are required to make a number of assumptions to estimate related liabilities and

expenses. We use assumptions for the weighted-average discount rate and expected return on plan assets to estimate pension expense. The discount rate assumptions are determined using an analysis of current market information and the projected benefit flows associated with these plans. The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is based on historical and projected future rates of return on the funds invested in the plan. The calculation of our accumulated postretirement benefit obligation also uses an assumption of weighted-average annual rate of increase in the per capita cost of covered benefits, which reflects a health care cost trend rate.

Stock-Based Compensation

In general, we expense the fair value of stock awards included in our incentive compensation plans. As of the date our stock awards are approved, the fair value of stock options is determined using a Black-Scholes options valuation methodology, and the fair value of other stock awards is based upon the market value of the stock. The fair value of the awards is expensed over the performance or service period, which generally corresponds to the vesting period, and is recognized as an increase to common stock in stockholders' equity. We classify certain stock awards as liabilities. For these awards, the settlement value is classified as a liability on our consolidated balance sheet and the liability is marked-to-market through net income at the end of each reporting period. Stock-based compensation expense is reflected in underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

Interest and Debt Expenses

Interest expense on our short-term and long-term debt is recognized as due and any associated premiums, discounts, and costs are amortized (accrued) over the term of the related borrowing utilizing the effective interest method. In addition, gains or losses related to certain derivative instruments associated with debt are recognized in interest expense during the period of the change.

Income Taxes

We file a U.S. consolidated income tax return that includes all of our eligible subsidiaries. Ineligible subsidiaries file separate individual corporate tax returns. Subsidiaries operating outside of the U.S. are taxed, and income tax expense is recorded based on applicable foreign statutes. Deferred income taxes are recognized, based on enacted rates, when assets and liabilities have different values for financial statement and tax reporting purposes. A valuation allowance is recorded to the extent required. Considerable judgment and the use of estimates are required in determining whether a valuation allowance is necessary and, if so, the amount of such valuation allowance. In evaluating the need for a valuation allowance, we consider many factors, including: the nature and character of the deferred tax assets and liabilities; taxable income in prior carryback years; future reversals of temporary differences; the length of time carryovers can be utilized; and any tax planning strategies we would employ to avoid a tax benefit from expiring unused.

Discontinued Operations

The results of operations of a component of the Company that either has been disposed of or is classified as held-for-sale are reported in income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of federal income taxes, for all periods presented if the operations and cash flows of the component have been or will be eliminated from our ongoing operations as a result of the disposal transaction and we will not have any significant continuing involvement in the operations.

Foreign Currency Translation

The balance sheet accounts and income statement items of foreign subsidiaries, reported in functional currencies other than the U.S. dollar are translated at the current and average exchange rates for the year, respectively. Resulting translation adjustments and other translation adjustments for foreign currency transactions that affect cash flows are reported in accumulated OCI, a component of stockholders' equity.

Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share ("EPS") is computed by dividing earnings available to common shareholders by the average common shares outstanding. Diluted EPS is computed assuming the conversion or exercise of dilutive convertible preferred securities, nonvested stock, stock options, performance share units, warrants and non-employee directors' deferred compensation shares outstanding during the year.

Our deferred compensation plans allow participants the option to diversify from LNC stock to other investment alternatives. When calculating our weighted-average dilutive shares, we presume the investment option will be settled in cash and exclude these shares from our calculation, unless the effect of settlement in shares would be more dilutive to our diluted EPS calculation.

For any period where a loss from continuing operations is experienced, shares used in the diluted EPS calculation represent basic shares because using diluted shares would be anti-dilutive to the calculation.

2. New Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Accounting Standards

Consolidations Topic

In June 2009, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2009-17, “Improvements to Financial Reporting by Enterprises Involved with Variable Interest Entities” (“ASU 2009-17”), which amended the consolidation guidance for VIEs. The Consolidations Topic of the FASB ASC was amended to require a qualitative approach for identifying the variable interest required to consolidate the VIE based on the entity that has the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the economic performance of the VIE and the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive returns that could potentially be significant to the VIE. In February 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-10, “Amendments for Certain Investment Funds” (“ASU 2010-10”), which deferred application of the guidance in ASU 2009-17 for reporting entities with interests in an entity that applies the specialized accounting guidance for investment companies.

Effective January 1, 2010, we adopted the amendments in ASU 2009-17 and ASU 2010-10, and accordingly reconsidered our involvement with all our VIEs and the primary beneficiary of the VIEs. We concluded we are the primary beneficiary of the VIEs associated with our investments in credit-linked notes (“CLNs”), and as such, consolidated all of the assets and liabilities of these VIEs and recorded a cumulative effect adjustment of \$169 million, after-tax, to the beginning balance of retained earnings as of January 1, 2010. In addition, we considered our investments in LPs and other alternative investments, and concluded these investments are within the scope of the deferral in ASU 2010-10, and as such they are not currently subject to the amended consolidation guidance in ASU 2009-17. As a result, we will continue to account for our alternative investments consistent with the accounting policy in Note 1. See Note 4 for more detail regarding the consolidation of our VIEs.

Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-06, “Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements” (“ASU 2010-06”), which required additional disclosure related to the three-level fair value hierarchy. We adopted the disclosure requirements related to significant transfers in and out of Levels 1 and 2 of the fair value hierarchy, and fair value disclosures related to pension and postretirement benefit plan assets effective January 1, 2010. Effective January 1, 2011, we adopted the remaining disclosure amendments in ASU 2010-06 requiring us to separately present information related to purchases, sales, issuances and settlements in the reconciliation of fair value measurements classified as Level 3, and have included the disclosure in Note 21 for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Financial Services – Insurance Industry Topic

In April 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-15, “How Investments Held through Separate Accounts Affect an Insurer’s Consolidation Analysis of Those Investments” (“ASU 2010-15”), to clarify a consolidation issue for insurance entities that hold a controlling interest in an investment fund either partially or completely through separate accounts. ASU 2010-15 concludes that an insurance entity would not be required to consider interests held in separate accounts when determining whether or not to consolidate an investment fund, unless the separate account interest is held for the benefit of a related party. If an investment fund is consolidated, the portion of the assets representing interests held in separate accounts would be recorded as a separate account asset with a corresponding separate account liability. The remaining investment fund assets would be consolidated in the insurance entity’s general accounts. We adopted the accounting guidance in ASU 2010-15 effective January 1, 2011, and applied the accounting guidance retrospectively to our separate accounts. The adoption did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations.

Intangibles – Goodwill and Other Topic

In December 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-28, “When to Perform Step 2 of the Goodwill Impairment Test for Reporting Units with Zero or Negative Carrying Amounts” (“ASU 2010-28”). Generally, reporting units with zero or negative carrying amounts will pass Step 1 of the goodwill impairment test as the fair value will exceed carrying value; therefore, goodwill impairment would not be assessed under Step 2. ASU 2010-28 modifies Step 1 of the goodwill impairment test for reporting units with zero or negative carrying amounts, and requires these reporting units perform Step 2 of the impairment test to determine if it is more likely than not that goodwill impairment exists. We adopted ASU 2010-28 effective January 1, 2011, and the adoption did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations.

Investments – Debt and Equity Securities Topic

In April 2009, the FASB replaced the guidance in the Investments – Debt and Equity Securities Topic of the FASB ASC related to OTTI. Our accounting policy for OTTI, included in Note 1, reflects these changes adopted by the FASB. As a result of adopting this accounting guidance, effective January 1, 2009, we recorded an increase of \$102 million to the opening balance of retained earnings with a corresponding decrease to accumulated OCI on our Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity to reclassify the noncredit portion of previously other-than-temporarily impaired debt securities held as of January 1, 2009. The cumulative effect adjustment was calculated for all debt securities held as of January 1, 2009, for which an OTTI was previously recognized, and for which we did not intend to sell the security and it was not more likely than not that we would be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost, by comparing the present value of cash flows expected to be received as of January 1, 2009, to the amortized cost basis of the debt securities. In addition, because the carrying amounts of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL are adjusted for the effects of realized and unrealized gains and losses on fixed maturity AFS securities, we recognized a true-up to our DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL balances for this cumulative effect adjustment. The impact of this adoption to both basic and diluted per share amounts for the year ended December 31, 2009, was an increase of \$0.98 per share.

Information regarding our calculation of OTTI is included in Note 5, and the amount of OTTI recognized in accumulated OCI is provided in Note 14.

Receivables Topic

In July 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-20, "Disclosures about the Credit Quality of Financing Receivables and the Allowance for Credit Losses" ("ASU 2010-20") to provide more information regarding the nature of the risk associated with financing receivables and how the assessment of the risk is used to estimate the allowance for credit losses. ASU 2010-20 was adopted over two reporting periods, and comparative disclosures were not required for earlier reporting periods ending prior to the initial adoption date. The remaining disclosure requirement related to the activity in our allowance for mortgage loans on real estate losses was effective January 1, 2011, and is provided in Note 5.

Future Adoption of New Accounting Standards

Balance Sheet Topic

In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-11, "Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities" ("ASU 2011-11"), to address certain comparability issues between financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP and those prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU 2011-11 will require an entity to provide enhanced disclosures about financial instruments and derivative instruments to enable users to understand the effects of offsetting in the financial statements as well as the effects of master netting arrangements on an entity's financial position. The disclosures required by ASU 2011-11 are effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, with respective disclosures required for all comparative periods presented. We will adopt the disclosure requirements in ASU 2011-11 beginning with our first quarter 2013 financial statements, and are currently evaluating the appropriate location for these disclosures in the notes to our financial statements.

Comprehensive Income Topic

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-05, "Presentation of Comprehensive Income" ("ASU 2011-05"), with an objective of increasing the prominence of items reported in other comprehensive income ("OCI"). The amendments in ASU 2011-05 provide entities with the option to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income and the components of OCI in either a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. In addition, ASU 2011-05 requires entities to present reclassification adjustments for each component of AOCI in both net income and OCI on the face of the financial statements; however, in December 2011, the FASB deferred this presentation requirement by issuing ASU No. 2011-12, "Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05" ("ASU 2011-12"). The FASB is considering operational concerns about the presentation requirements and the needs of financial statement users for additional information about reclassification adjustments. As noted in ASU 2011-12, the deferral does not affect the requirements in ASU 2011-5 to present the items of net income, OCI and total comprehensive income in a single continuous or two consecutive statements. In addition, entities will still be required to present amounts reclassified out of AOCI on the face of the financial statements or in the notes to the financial statements. ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is permitted, and the accounting guidance in ASU 2011-05 not subject to the deferral in ASU 2011-12 must be applied retrospectively. We will adopt the provisions of ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 with our first quarter 2012 financial statements and are currently evaluating our options for the presentation of comprehensive income.

Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, “Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards” (“ASU 2011-04”), which was issued to create a consistent framework for the application of fair value measurement across jurisdictions. The amendments include wording changes to GAAP in order to clarify the FASB’s intent about the application of existing fair value measurements and disclosure requirements, as well as to change a particular principle or existing requirement for measuring fair value or disclosing information about fair value measurements. There are no additional fair value measurements required upon the adoption of ASU 2011-04. The amendments are effective, prospectively, for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is prohibited. We will adopt the provisions of ASU 2011-04 effective January 1, 2012, and do not expect the adoption will have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations.

Financial Services – Insurance Industry Topic

In October 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-26, “Accounting for Costs Associated with Acquiring or Renewing Insurance Contracts” (“ASU 2010-26”), which clarifies the types of costs incurred by an insurance entity that can be capitalized in the acquisition of insurance contracts. Only those costs incurred which result directly from and are essential to the successful acquisition of new or renewal insurance contracts may be capitalized. Incremental costs related to unsuccessful attempts to acquire insurance contracts must be expensed as incurred. Under ASU 2010-26, the capitalization criteria in the direct-response advertising

guidance of the Other Assets and Deferred Costs Topic of the FASB ASC must be met in order to capitalize advertising costs. The amendments are effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is permitted and an entity may elect to apply the guidance prospectively or retrospectively. We will adopt the provisions of ASU 2010-26 effective January 1, 2012, and currently estimate that retrospective adoption will result in the restatement of all years presented with a cumulative effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings for the earliest period presented of approximately \$950 million to \$1.15 billion. In addition, the adoption of this accounting guidance will result in a lower DAC adjustment associated with unrealized gains and losses on AFS securities and certain derivatives; therefore, we will also adjust these DAC balances through a cumulative effect adjustment to the opening balance of AOCI. This adjustment is dependent on our unrealized position as of the date of adoption.

Intangibles – Goodwill and Other Topic

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08, “Testing Goodwill for Impairment” (“ASU 2011-08”), which provides an option to first assess qualitative factors to determine if it is necessary to complete the two-step goodwill impairment test. If an assessment of the relevant events and circumstances leads to a conclusion that it is not more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying value, then performing the two-step impairment test is unnecessary. However, if a conclusion is reached otherwise, the two-step impairment test, that is currently required under the FASB ASC, must be completed. An entity has an unconditional option to bypass the qualitative assessment for any reporting unit and proceed directly to the two-step goodwill impairment test, and resume qualitative assessment for the same reporting unit in a subsequent reporting period. The amendments in ASU 2011-08 will be effective for interim and annual goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011, with early adoption permitted. We will adopt the provisions of ASU 2011-08 effective January 1, 2012, and do not expect the adoption will have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations.

Transfers and Servicing Topic

In April 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-03, “Reconsideration of Effective Control for Repurchase Agreements” (“ASU 2011-03”), which revises the criteria for assessing effective control for repurchase agreements and other agreements that both entitle and obligate a transferor to repurchase or redeem financial assets before their maturity. The determination of whether the transfer of a financial asset subject to a repurchase agreement is a sale is based, in part, on whether the entity maintains effective control over the financial asset. ASU 2011-03 removes the following from the assessment of effective control: the criterion requiring the transferor to have the ability to repurchase or redeem the financial asset on substantially the agreed terms, even in the event of default by the transferee, and the related requirement to demonstrate that the transferor possesses adequate collateral to fund substantially all the cost of purchasing replacement financial assets. The amendments in ASU 2011-03 will be effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2011, early adoption is prohibited and the amendments will be applied prospectively to transactions or modifications of existing transactions that occur on or after the effective date. We will adopt the provisions of ASU 2011-03 effective January 1, 2012, and do not expect the adoption will have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations.

3. Dispositions

Newton County Loan & Savings, FSB (“NCLS”)

On January 8, 2009, the Office of Thrift Supervision approved our application to become a savings and loan holding company and our acquisition of NCLS, a federally regulated savings bank located in Indiana. On November 30, 2011, we completed the liquidation of NCLS, which did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition or

results of operations.

Discontinued Investment Management Operations

On January 4, 2010, we closed on the stock sale of our subsidiary Delaware Management Holdings, Inc. (“Delaware”), which provided investment products and services to individuals and institutions, to Macquarie Bank Limited.

In addition, certain of our subsidiaries, including The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company (“LNL”), our primary insurance subsidiary, entered into investment advisory agreements with Delaware, pursuant to which Delaware will continue to manage the majority of the general account insurance assets of the subsidiaries. The investment advisory agreements have 10-year terms, and we may terminate them without cause, subject to a purchase price adjustment of up to \$67 million, the amount of which is dependent on the timing of any termination and which agreements are terminated. The amount of the potential adjustment will decline on a pro rata basis over the 10-year term of the advisory agreements.

We reclassified the results of operations of Delaware into income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of federal income taxes, for all periods presented on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss), and selected amounts (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Revenues			
Investment advisory fees - external	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 207
Investment advisory fees - internal	-	-	84
Other revenues and fees	-	-	91
Gain (loss) on sale of business	-	4	9
Total revenues	\$ -	\$ 4	\$ 391
Discontinued Operations Before Disposal			
Income (loss) from discontinued operations before disposal, before federal income taxes	\$ -	\$ (13)	\$ 37
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	-	(2)	18
Income (loss) from discontinued operations before disposal	-	(11)	19
Disposal			
Gain (loss) on disposal, before federal income taxes	(3)	37	-
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	5	(13)	-
Gain (loss) on disposal	(8)	24	-
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$ (8)	\$ 13	\$ 19

The loss from discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2011, related to an unfavorable tax return true-up from the prior year. The income from discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2010, included final cash received toward the purchase price for certain institutional taxable fixed income business sold during the fourth quarter 2007, and also reflected stock compensation expense attributable to the acceleration of vesting of equity awards for certain Delaware employees upon the sale of Delaware.

Discontinued Lincoln UK Operations

On October 1, 2009, we closed on the stock sale of Lincoln National (UK) plc ("Lincoln UK"), our subsidiary, which focused primarily on providing life and retirement income products in the United Kingdom to SLF of Canada UK Limited, and we retained Lincoln UK's pension plan assets and liabilities.

We have reclassified the results of operations of Lincoln UK into income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of federal income taxes, for all periods presented on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss), and selected amounts (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31, 2010 2009	
Revenues		
Insurance premiums	\$ -	\$ 41
Insurance fees	-	99
Net investment income	-	43
Realized gain (loss)	-	(1)
Total revenues	\$ -	\$ 182
Discontinued Operations Before Disposal		
Income (loss) from discontinued operations before disposal, before federal income taxes	\$ -	\$ 38
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	-	13
Income (loss) from discontinued operations before disposal	-	25
Disposal		
Gain (loss) on disposal, before federal income taxes	29	(219)
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	13	(105)
Gain (loss) on disposal	16	(114)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$ 16	\$ (89)

The income from discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2010, related to an unfavorable tax return true-up from the prior year, partially offset by the estimated transaction cost being lower than anticipated. In addition, the income from discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2010, included additional consideration received attributable to a post-closing adjustment of the purchase price based upon a final actuarial appraisal of the value of the business as set forth in the share purchase agreement, partially offset by the items mentioned above.

4. Variable Interest Entities

Consolidated VIEs

CLNs

We have invested in the Class 1 notes of two CLN structures, which represent special purpose trusts combining asset-backed securities with credit default swaps to produce multi-class structured securities. The CLN structures also include subordinated Class 2 notes, which are held by third parties, and, together with the Class 1 notes, represent 100% of the outstanding notes of the CLN structures. The entities that issued the CLNs are financed by the note holders, and, as such, the note holders participate in the expected losses and residual returns of the entities.

Because the note holders do not have voting rights or similar rights, we determined the entities issuing the CLNs are VIEs, and as a note holder, our interest represented a variable interest. We have the power to direct the most significant activity affecting the performance of both CLN structures, as we have the ability to actively manage the reference portfolio underlying the credit default swaps. In addition, we receive returns from the CLN structures and may absorb losses that could potentially be significant to the CLN structures. As such, we concluded that we are the primary beneficiary of the VIEs associated with the CLNs. We reflected the assets and liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and recognized the results of operations of these VIEs on our Consolidated Statements of Income since adopting new accounting guidance in the first quarter of 2010. See “Consolidations Topic” in Note 2 for more detail regarding the effect of the adoption.

As a result of consolidating the CLNs, we also consolidate the derivative instruments in the CLN structures. The credit default swaps create variability in the CLN structures and expose the note holders to the credit risk of the referenced portfolio. The contingent forwards transfer a portion of the loss in the underlying fixed maturity corporate asset-backed credit card loan securities back to the counterparty after credit losses reach our attachment point.

The following summarizes information regarding the CLN structures (dollars in millions) as of December 31, 2011:

	Amount and Date of Issuance	
	\$400 December 2006	\$200 April 2007
Original attachment point (subordination)	5.50 %	2.05 %
Current attachment point (subordination)	4.17 %	1.48 %
Maturity	12/20/2016	3/20/2017
Current rating of tranche	B+	Ba2
Current rating of underlying collateral pool	Aa1-B3	Aaa-Caa1
Number of defaults in underlying collateral pool	2	2
Number of entities	123	99
Number of countries	19	22

There has been no event of default on the CLNs themselves. Based upon our analysis, the remaining subordination as represented by the attachment point should be sufficient to absorb future credit losses, subject to changing market conditions. Similar to other debt market instruments, our maximum principal loss is limited to our original investment.

The following summarizes the exposure of the CLN structures' underlying collateral by industry and rating as of December 31, 2011:

	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BB	B	CCC	Total
Industry								
Telecommunications	-%	-%	5.5%	4.8%	0.4%	0.5%	-%	11.2%
Financial intermediaries	0.3%	3.3%	6.4%	0.5%	-%	-%	-%	10.5%
Oil and gas	-%	0.7%	1.0%	4.6%	-%	-%	-%	6.3%
Utilities	-%	-%	3.1%	1.4%	-%	-%	-%	4.5%
Chemicals and plastics	-%	-%	2.3%	1.2%	0.4%	-%	-%	3.9%
Drugs	0.3%	2.2%	1.2%	-%	-%	-%	-%	3.7%
Retailers (except food and drug)	-%	-%	2.1%	0.9%	0.5%	-%	-%	3.5%
Industrial equipment	-%	-%	3.0%	0.3%	-%	-%	-%	3.3%
Sovereign	-%	0.7%	1.6%	1.0%	-%	-%	-%	3.3%
Food products	-%	0.3%	1.8%	1.1%	-%	-%	-%	3.2%
Conglomerates	-%	2.6%	0.5%	-%	-%	-%	-%	3.1%
Forest products	-%	-%	-%	1.6%	1.4%	-%	-%	3.0%
Other	-%	3.0%	14.9%	17.3%	3.5%	1.5%	0.3%	40.5%
Total	0.6%	12.8%	43.4%	34.7%	6.2%	2.0%	0.3%	100.0%

Statutory Trust Note

In August 2011, we purchased a \$100 million note issued by a statutory trust ("Issuer") in a private placement offering. The proceeds were used by the Issuer to purchase U.S. Treasury securities to be held as collateral assets supporting an excess mortality swap. Our maximum exposure to loss is limited to our original investment in the

notes. We have concluded that the Issuer of the note is a VIE as the entity does not have sufficient equity to support its activities without additional financial support, and as a note holder, our interest represents a variable interest. In our evaluation of the primary beneficiary, we concluded that our economic interest was greater than our stated power. As a result, we concluded that we are the primary beneficiary of the VIE and consolidated all of the assets and liabilities of the Issuer on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as of August 1, 2011.

Asset and liability information (dollars in millions) for these consolidated VIEs included on our Consolidated Balance Sheets was as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011			As of December 31, 2010		
	Number of Instruments	Notional Amounts	Carrying Value	Number of Instruments	Notional Amounts	Carrying Value
Assets						
Fixed maturity securities:						
Asset-backed credit card loan	N/A	\$ -	\$ 592	N/A	\$ -	\$ 584
U.S. Government bonds	N/A	-	108	N/A	-	-
Excess mortality swap	1	100	-	-	-	-
Total assets (1)	1	\$ 100	\$ 700	-	\$ -	\$ 584
Liabilities						
Non-qualifying hedges:						
Credit default swaps	2	\$ 600	\$ 295	2	\$ 600	\$ 215
Contingent forwards	2	-	(4)	2	-	(6)
Total non-qualifying hedges	4	600	291	4	600	209
Federal income tax	N/A	-	(98)	N/A	-	(77)
Total liabilities (2)	4	\$ 600	\$ 193	4	\$ 600	\$ 132

(1) Reported in VIEs' fixed maturity securities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(2) Reported in VIEs' liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

For details related to the fixed maturity AFS securities for these VIEs, see Note 5.

As described more fully in Note 1, we regularly review our investment holdings for OTTI. Based upon this review, we believe that the fixed maturity securities were not other-than-temporarily impaired as of December 31, 2011.

The gains (losses) for these consolidated VIEs (in millions) recorded on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010
Non-Qualifying Hedges		
Credit default swaps	\$ (80)	\$ 25
Contingent forwards	(2)	(9)
Total non-qualifying hedges (1)	\$ (82)	\$ 16

(1) Reported in realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

Unconsolidated VIEs

Effective December 31, 2010, we issued a \$500 million long-term senior note in exchange for a corporate bond AFS security of like principal and duration from a non-affiliated VIE whose primary activities are to acquire, hold and

issue notes and loans, as well as pay and collect interest on the notes and loans. We have concluded that we are not the primary beneficiary of this VIE because we do not have power over the activities that most significantly affect its economic performance. In addition, the terms of the senior note provide us with a set-off right to the corporate bond AFS security we purchased from the VIE; therefore, neither appears on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We assigned the corporate bond AFS security to one of our subsidiaries and issued a guarantee to our subsidiary for the timely payment of the corporate bond's principal.

Through our investment activities, we make passive investments in structured securities issued by VIEs for which we are not the manager. These structured securities include our RMBS, CMBS and CDOs. We have not provided financial or other support with

respect to these VIEs other than our original investment. We have determined that we are not the primary beneficiary of these VIEs due to the relative size of our investment in comparison to the principal amount of the structured securities issued by the VIEs and the level of credit subordination that reduces our obligation to absorb losses or right to receive benefits. Our maximum exposure to loss on these structured securities is limited to the amortized cost for these investments. We recognize our variable interest in these VIEs at fair value on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. For information about these structured securities, see Note 5.

5. Investments

AFS Securities

Pursuant to the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the FASB ASC, we have categorized AFS securities into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of the inputs to the respective valuation technique. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3), as described in Note 1, which also includes additional disclosures regarding our fair value measurements.

The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains, losses and OTTI and fair value of AFS securities (in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011				Fair Value
	Amortized Cost	Gross Gains	Unrealized Losses	OTTI	
Fixed maturity securities:					
Corporate bonds	\$ 53,661	\$ 6,185	\$ 517	\$ 68	\$ 59,261
U.S. Government bonds	439	55	-	-	494
Foreign government bonds	668	65	-	-	733
RMBS	7,690	548	73	126	8,039
CMBS	1,642	73	106	9	1,600
CDOs	121	-	19	-	102
State and municipal bonds	3,490	566	9	-	4,047
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	1,277	50	170	-	1,157
VIEs' fixed maturity securities	673	27	-	-	700
Total fixed maturity securities	69,661	7,569	894	203	76,133
Equity securities	135	16	12	-	139
Total AFS securities	\$ 69,796	\$ 7,585	\$ 906	\$ 203	\$ 76,272

	As of December 31, 2010				Fair Value
	Amortized Cost	Gross Gains	Unrealized Losses	OTTI	
Fixed maturity securities:					
Corporate bonds	\$ 48,863	\$ 3,571	\$ 607	\$ 87	\$ 51,740
U.S. Government bonds	150	17	2	-	165
Foreign government bonds	473	38	3	-	508
RMBS	8,673	430	119	146	8,838
CMBS	2,144	95	180	6	2,053
CDOs	174	22	13	9	174
State and municipal bonds	3,222	27	94	-	3,155
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	1,476	56	135	-	1,397

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

VIEs' fixed maturity securities	570	14	-	-	584
Total fixed maturity securities	65,745	4,270	1,153	248	68,614
Equity securities	179	25	7	-	197
Total AFS securities	\$ 65,924	\$ 4,295	\$ 1,160	\$ 248	\$ 68,811

146

The amortized cost and fair value of fixed maturity AFS securities by contractual maturities (in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 2,342	\$ 2,378
Due after one year through five years	12,418	13,288
Due after five years through ten years	22,456	24,593
Due after ten years	22,992	26,133
Subtotal	60,208	66,392
MBS	9,332	9,639
CDOs	121	102
Total fixed maturity AFS securities	\$ 69,661	\$ 76,133

Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because issuers may have the right to call or pre-pay obligations.

The fair value and gross unrealized losses, including the portion of OTTI recognized in OCI, of AFS securities (dollars in millions), aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position, were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011					
	Less Than or Equal to Twelve Months		Greater Than Twelve Months		Total	
	Gross Unrealized Losses		Gross Unrealized Losses		Gross Unrealized Losses	
	Fair Value	and OTTI	Fair Value	and OTTI	Fair Value	and OTTI
Fixed maturity securities:						
Corporate bonds	\$ 2,848	\$ 162	\$ 1,452	\$ 423	\$ 4,300	\$ 585
RMBS	565	125	429	74	994	199
CMBS	178	15	146	100	324	115
CDOs	9	1	80	18	89	19
State and municipal bonds	31	-	30	9	61	9
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	324	23	353	147	677	170
Total fixed maturity securities	3,955	326	2,490	771	6,445	1,097
Equity securities	38	12	-	-	38	12
Total AFS securities	\$ 3,993	\$ 338	\$ 2,490	\$ 771	\$ 6,483	\$ 1,109
Total number of AFS securities in an unrealized loss position						897

As of December 31, 2010

	Less Than or Equal to Twelve Months Gross Unrealized Losses Fair Value		Greater Than Twelve Months Gross Unrealized Losses Fair Value		Total Gross Unrealized Losses Fair Value	
	and OTTI		and OTTI		and OTTI	
Fixed maturity securities:						
Corporate bonds	\$ 5,271	\$ 297	\$ 2,007	\$ 397	\$ 7,278	\$ 694
U.S. Government bonds	28	2	2	-	30	2
Foreign government bonds	19	-	9	3	28	3
RMBS	655	126	750	139	1,405	265
CMBS	75	8	304	178	379	186
CDOs	-	-	147	22	147	22
State and municipal bonds	1,889	84	27	10	1,916	94
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	203	10	568	125	771	135
Total fixed maturity securities	8,140	527	3,814	874	11,954	1,401
Equity securities	60	7	-	-	60	7
Total AFS securities	\$ 8,200	\$ 534	\$ 3,814	\$ 874	\$ 12,014	\$ 1,408
Total number of AFS securities in an unrealized loss position						1,237

For information regarding our investments in VIEs, see Note 4.

We perform detailed analysis on the AFS securities backed by pools of residential and commercial mortgages that are most at risk of impairment based on factors discussed in Note 1. Selected information for these securities in a gross unrealized loss position (in millions) was as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011		
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss
Total			
AFS securities backed by pools of residential mortgages	\$ 2,023	\$ 1,553	\$ 470
AFS securities backed by pools of commercial mortgages	472	344	128
Total	\$ 2,495	\$ 1,897	\$ 598

Subject to Detailed Analysis

AFS securities backed by pools of residential mortgages	\$ 2,015	\$ 1,545	\$ 470
AFS securities backed by pools of commercial mortgages	126	61	65
Total	\$ 2,141	\$ 1,606	\$ 535

	As of December 31, 2010		
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss
Total			
AFS securities backed by pools of residential mortgages	\$ 2,539	\$ 2,006	\$ 533
AFS securities backed by pools of commercial mortgages	611	410	201
Total	\$ 3,150	\$ 2,416	\$ 734

Subject to Detailed Analysis

AFS securities backed by pools of residential mortgages	\$ 2,303	\$ 1,776	\$ 527
AFS securities backed by pools of commercial mortgages	185	76	109
Total	\$ 2,488	\$ 1,852	\$ 636

For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we recorded OTTI for AFS securities backed by pools of residential and commercial mortgages of \$135 million and \$163 million, pre-tax, respectively, and before associated amortization expense for DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL, of which \$(15) million and \$19 million, respectively, was recognized in OCI and \$150 million and \$144 million, respectively, was recognized in net income (loss).

The fair value, gross unrealized losses, the portion of OTTI recognized in OCI (in millions) and number of AFS securities where the fair value had declined and remained below amortized cost by greater than 20% were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011	
Fair	Number of	

	Value	Gross Unrealized		Securities(1)
		Losses	OTTI	
Less than six months	\$ 385	\$ 125	\$ 31	56
Six months or greater, but less than nine months	53	30	12	18
Nine months or greater, but less than twelve months	2	-	1	7
Twelve months or greater	615	470	111	175
Total	\$ 1,055	\$ 625	\$ 155	256

	As of December 31, 2010			Number of Securities(1)
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	OTTI	
Less than six months	\$ 170	\$ 73	\$ 5	41
Six months or greater, but less than nine months	60	22	-	13
Nine months or greater, but less than twelve months	42	17	1	13
Twelve months or greater	929	520	184	224
Total	\$ 1,201	\$ 632	\$ 190	291

(1) We may reflect a security in more than one aging category based on various purchase dates.

We regularly review our investment holdings for OTTI. Our gross unrealized losses on AFS securities as of December 31, 2011, decreased \$299 million in comparison to December 31, 2010. This change was attributable primarily to a decline in overall market yields, which was driven by market uncertainty and weakening economic activity. As discussed further below, we believe the unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2011, does not represent OTTI as we did not intend to sell these fixed maturity AFS securities, it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the fixed maturity AFS securities before recovery of their amortized cost basis, the estimated future cash flows were equal to or greater than the amortized cost basis of the debt securities, or we had the ability and intent to hold the equity AFS securities for a period of time sufficient for recovery.

Based upon this evaluation as of December 31, 2011, management believed we had the ability to generate adequate amounts of cash from our normal operations (e.g., insurance premiums and fees and investment income) to meet cash requirements with a prudent margin of safety without requiring the sale of our temporarily-impaired securities.

As of December 31, 2011, the unrealized losses associated with our corporate bond securities were attributable primarily to securities that were backed by commercial loans and individual issuer companies. For our corporate bond securities with commercial loans as the underlying collateral, we evaluated the projected credit losses in the underlying collateral and concluded that we had sufficient subordination or other credit enhancement when compared with our estimate of credit losses for the individual security and we expected to recover the entire amortized cost for each security. For individual issuers, we performed detailed analysis of the financial performance of the issuer and determined that we expected to recover the entire amortized cost for each security.

As of December 31, 2011, the unrealized losses associated with our MBS and CDOs were attributable primarily to collateral losses and credit spreads. We assessed for credit impairment using a cash flow model as discussed above. The key assumptions included default rates, severities and prepayment rates. We estimated losses for a security by forecasting the underlying loans in each transaction. The forecasted loan performance was used to project cash flows to the various tranches in the structure, as applicable. Our forecasted cash flows also considered, as applicable, independent industry analyst reports and forecasts, sector credit ratings and other independent market data. Based upon our assessment of the expected credit losses of the security given the performance of the underlying collateral compared to our subordination or other credit enhancement, we expected to recover the entire amortized cost basis of each security.

As of December 31, 2011, the unrealized losses associated with our hybrid and redeemable preferred securities were attributable primarily to wider credit spreads caused by illiquidity in the market and subordination within the capital structure, as well as credit risk of specific issuers. For our hybrid and redeemable preferred securities, we evaluated

the financial performance of the issuer based upon credit performance and investment ratings and determined we expected to recover the entire amortized cost of each security.

150

Changes in the amount of credit loss of OTTI recognized in net income (loss) where the portion related to other factors was recognized in OCI (in millions) on fixed maturity AFS securities were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 319	\$ 268	\$ -
Cumulative effect from adoption of new accounting standard	-	-	31
Increases attributable to:			
Credit losses on securities for which an OTTI was not previously recognized	55	14	267
Credit losses on securities for which an OTTI was previously recognized	71	65	-
Decreases attributable to:			
Securities sold	(55)	(28)	(30)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 390	\$ 319	\$ 268

During the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we recorded credit losses on securities for which an OTTI was not previously recognized as we determined the cash flows expected to be collected would not be sufficient to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the debt security. The credit losses we recorded on securities for which an OTTI was not previously recognized were attributable primarily to one or a combination of the following reasons:

- Failure of the issuer of the security to make scheduled payments;
- Deterioration of creditworthiness of the issuer;
- Deterioration of conditions specifically related to the security;
- Deterioration of fundamentals of the industry in which the issuer operates;
- Deterioration of fundamentals in the economy including, but not limited to, higher unemployment and lower housing prices; and
- Deterioration of the rating of the security by a rating agency.

We recognize the OTTI attributed to the noncredit portion as a separate component in OCI referred to as unrealized OTTI on AFS securities.

Details of the amount of credit loss of OTTI recognized in net income (loss) where the portion related to other factors was recognized in OCI (in millions), were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011				
	Amortized Cost	Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses and OTTI	Fair Value	OTTI in Credit Losses
Corporate bonds			\$ 169		\$ 1
RMBS	690	1	128	563	301
CMBS	17	-	10	7	38
Total	\$ 876	\$ 2	\$ 205	\$ 673	\$ 390

Trading Securities

Trading securities at fair value (in millions) consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Fixed maturity securities:		
Corporate bonds	\$ 1,908	\$ 1,801
U.S. Government bonds	376	362
Foreign government bonds	39	29
RMBS	244	255
CMBS	31	67
CDOs	4	5
State and municipal bonds	26	24
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	45	51
Total fixed maturity securities	2,673	2,594
Equity securities	2	2
Total trading securities	\$ 2,675	\$ 2,596

The portion of the market adjustment for losses that relate to trading securities still held as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, was \$118 million, \$93 million and \$137 million, respectively.

Mortgage Loans on Real Estate

Mortgage loans on real estate principally involve commercial real estate. The commercial loans are geographically diversified throughout the U.S. with the largest concentrations in California and Texas, which accounted for approximately 32% and 30% of mortgage loans on real estate as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

The following provides the current and past due composition of our mortgage loans on real estate (in millions):

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Current	\$ 6,858	\$ 6,697
60 to 90 days past due	26	8
Greater than 90 days past due	76	40
Valuation allowance associated with impaired mortgage loans on real estate	(31)	(13)
Unamortized premium (discount)	13	20
Total carrying value	\$ 6,942	\$ 6,752

The number of impaired mortgage loans on real estate, each of which had an associated specific valuation allowance, and the carrying value of impaired mortgage loans on real estate (dollars in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Number of impaired mortgage loans on real estate	12	9

Principal balance of impaired mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 100	\$ 75
Valuation allowance associated with impaired mortgage loans on real estate	(31)	(13)
Carrying value of impaired mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 69	\$ 62

The average carrying value on the impaired mortgage loans on real estate (in millions) was as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Average carrying value for impaired mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 57	\$ 54	\$ 33
Interest income recognized on impaired mortgage loans on real estate	2	3	1
Interest income collected on impaired mortgage loans on real estate	2	3	1

As described in Note 1, we use the loan-to-value and debt-service coverage ratios as credit quality indicators for our mortgage loans, which were as follows (dollars in millions):

	As of December 31, 2011			As of December 31, 2010		
	Principal Amount	% of Total	Debt-Service Coverage Ratio	Principal Amount	% of Total	Debt-Service Coverage Ratio
Loan-to-Value						
Less than 65%	\$ 5,338	76.7 %	1.61	4,863	72.1 %	1.62
65% to 74%	1,198	17.2 %	1.37	1,484	22.0 %	1.40
75% to 100%	308	4.4 %	0.92	179	2.7 %	0.85
Greater than 100%	116	1.7 %	0.36	219	3.2 %	1.06
Total mortgage loans on real estate	\$ 6,960	100.0%		6,745	100.0%	

Alternative Investments

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, alternative investments included investments in approximately 96 and 95 different partnerships, respectively, and the portfolio represented less than 1% of our overall invested assets.

Net Investment Income

The major categories of net investment income (in millions) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Fixed maturity AFS securities	\$ 3,842	\$ 3,694	\$ 3,474
VIEs' fixed maturity AFS securities	14	14	-
Equity AFS securities	5	6	8
Trading securities	154	157	159
Mortgage loans on real estate	408	424	462
Real estate	22	24	18
Standby real estate equity commitments	1	1	1
Policy loans	165	169	172
Invested cash	4	7	15

Commercial mortgage loan prepayment and bond makewhole premiums	82	67	24
Alternative investments	90	93	(55)
Consent fees	3	8	5
Other investments	(27)	(3)	9
Investment income	4,763	4,661	4,292
Investment expense	(111)	(120)	(114)
Net investment income	\$ 4,652	\$ 4,541	\$ 4,178

Realized Gain (Loss) Related to Certain Investments

The detail of the realized gain (loss) related to certain investments (in millions) was as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Fixed maturity AFS securities:			
Gross gains	\$ 86	\$ 107	\$ 161
Gross losses	(227)	(248)	(709)
Equity AFS securities:			
Gross gains	12	9	6
Gross losses	-	(3)	(27)
Gain (loss) on other investments	(9)	(53)	(130)
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL and changes in other contract holder funds	(13)	8	161
Total realized gain (loss) related to certain investments	\$ (151)	\$ (180)	\$ (538)

Details underlying write-downs taken as a result of OTTI (in millions) that were recognized in net income (loss) and included in realized gain (loss) on AFS securities above, and the portion of OTTI recognized in OCI (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
OTTI Recognized in Net Income (Loss)			
Fixed maturity securities:			
Corporate bonds	\$ (14)	\$ (90)	\$ (214)
RMBS	(79)	(65)	(250)
CMBS	(57)	(41)	-
CDOs	(1)	(1)	(39)
Hybrid and redeemable preferred securities	(2)	(5)	(67)
Total fixed maturity securities	(153)	(202)	(570)
Equity securities	-	(3)	(27)
Gross OTTI recognized in net income (loss)	(153)	(205)	(597)
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	35	53	205
Net OTTI recognized in net income (loss), pre-tax	\$ (118)	\$ (152)	\$ (392)
Portion of OTTI Recognized in OCI			
Gross OTTI recognized in OCI	\$ 58	\$ 98	\$ 357
Change in DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(11)	(10)	(82)
Net portion of OTTI recognized in OCI, pre-tax	\$ 47	\$ 88	\$ 275

Determination of Credit Losses on Corporate Bonds and CDOs

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, we reviewed our corporate bond and CDO portfolios for potential shortfall in contractual principal and interest based on numerous subjective and objective inputs. The factors used to determine the amount of credit loss for each individual security, include, but are not limited to, near term risk, substantial discrepancy between book and market value, sector or company-specific volatility, negative operating trends and trading levels wider than peers.

Credit ratings express opinions about the credit quality of a security. Securities rated investment grade, that is those rated BBB- or higher by Standard & Poor's ("S&P") Rating Services or Baa3 or higher by Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), are generally considered by the rating agencies and market participants to be low credit risk. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 96% and 95%, respectively, of the fair value of our corporate bond portfolio was rated investment grade. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the portion of our corporate bond portfolio rated below investment grade had an amortized cost of \$2.6 billion and a fair value of \$2.4 billion. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 97% and 91%, respectively, of the fair value of our CDO portfolio was rated investment grade. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the portion of our CDO portfolio rated below investment grade had an

amortized cost of \$3 million and \$24 million and fair value of \$3 million and \$16 million, respectively. Based upon the analysis discussed above, we believed as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, that we would recover the amortized cost of each investment grade corporate bond and CDO security.

For securities where we recorded an OTTI recognized in net income (loss) for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, the recovery as a percentage of amortized cost was 98% and 80% for corporate bonds, respectively, and 0% for CDOs.

Determination of Credit Losses on MBS

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, default rates were projected by considering underlying MBS loan performance and collateral type. Projected default rates on existing delinquencies vary between 25% to 100% depending on loan type and severity of delinquency status. In addition, we estimate the potential contributions of currently performing loans that may become delinquent in the future based on the change in delinquencies and loan liquidations experienced in the recent history. Finally, we develop a default rate timing curve by aggregating the defaults for all loans (delinquent loans, foreclosure and real estate owned and new delinquencies from currently performing loans) in the pool to project the future expected cash flows.

We use certain available loan characteristics such as lien status, loan sizes and occupancy to estimate the loss severity of loans. Second lien loans are assigned 100% severity, if defaulted. For first lien loans, we assume a minimum of 30% severity with higher severity assumed for investor properties and further housing price depreciation.

Payables for Collateral on Investments

The carrying values of the payables for collateral on investments (in millions) included on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and the fair value of the related investments or collateral consisted of the following:

	As of December 31, 2011		As of December 31, 2010	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Collateral payable held for derivative investments (1)	\$ 2,980	\$ 2,980	\$ 800	\$ 800
Securities pledged under securities lending agreements (2)	200	193	199	192
Securities pledged under reverse repurchase agreements (3)	280	294	280	294
Securities pledged for Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility ("TALF") (4)	173	199	280	318
Securities pledged for Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis Securities ("FHLBI") (5)	100	142	100	110
Total payables for collateral on investments	\$ 3,733	\$ 3,808	\$ 1,659	\$ 1,714

- (1) We obtain collateral based upon contractual provisions with our counterparties. These agreements take into consideration the counterparties' credit rating as compared to ours, the fair value of the derivative investments and specified thresholds that once exceeded result in the receipt of cash that is typically invested in cash and invested cash. See Note 6 for details about maximum collateral potentially required to post on our credit default swaps.
- (2) Our pledged securities under securities lending agreements are included in fixed maturity AFS securities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We generally obtain collateral in an amount equal to 102% and 105% of the fair value of the domestic and foreign securities, respectively. We value collateral daily and obtain additional collateral when deemed appropriate. The cash received in our securities lending program is typically invested in cash and invested cash or fixed maturity AFS securities.

- (3) Our pledged securities under reverse repurchase agreements are included in fixed maturity AFS securities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We obtain collateral in an amount equal to 95% of the fair value of the securities, and our agreements with third parties contain contractual provisions to allow for additional collateral to be obtained when necessary. The cash received in our reverse repurchase program is typically invested in fixed maturity AFS securities.
- (4) Our pledged securities for TALF are included in fixed maturity AFS securities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We obtain collateral in an amount that has typically averaged 90% of the fair value of the TALF securities. The cash received in these transactions is invested in fixed maturity AFS securities.
- (5) Our pledged securities for FHLBI are included in fixed maturity AFS securities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We generally obtain collateral in an amount equal to 85% to 95% of the fair value of the FHLBI securities. The cash received in these transactions is typically invested in cash and invested cash or fixed maturity AFS securities.

Increase (decrease) in payables for collateral on investments (in millions) included on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows consisted of the following:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Collateral payable held for derivative investments	\$ 2,180	\$ 183	\$ (2,192)
Securities pledged under securities lending agreements	1	(302)	74
Securities pledged under reverse repurchase agreements	-	(64)	(126)
Securities pledged for TALF	(107)	(65)	345
Securities pledged for FHLBI	-	-	100
Total increase (decrease) in payables for collateral on investments	\$ 2,074	\$ (248)	\$ (1,799)

Investment Commitments

As of December 31, 2011, our investment commitments were \$541 million, which included \$233 million of LPs, \$191 million of private placements and \$117 million of mortgage loans on real estate.

Concentrations of Financial Instruments

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, our most significant investments in one issuer were our investments in securities issued by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation with a fair value of \$5.0 billion, or 5% and 6% of our invested assets portfolio, respectively, and our investments in securities issued by Fannie Mae with a fair value of \$2.6 billion and \$2.9 billion, or 3% of our invested assets portfolio, respectively. These investments are included in corporate bonds in the tables above.

As of December 31, 2011, and December 31, 2010, our most significant investments in one industry were our investment securities in the electric industry with a fair value of \$7.7 billion and \$6.7 billion, or 8% of our invested assets portfolio, respectively, and our investment securities in the CMO industry with a fair value of \$5.6 billion and \$6.5 billion, or 6% and 8% of our invested assets portfolio, respectively. We utilized the industry classifications to obtain the concentration of financial instruments amount; as such, this amount will not agree to the AFS securities table above.

6. Derivative Instruments

We maintain an overall risk management strategy that incorporates the use of derivative instruments to minimize significant unplanned fluctuations in earnings that are caused by interest rate risk, foreign currency exchange risk, equity market risk, default risk, basis risk and credit risk. We assess these risks by continually identifying and monitoring changes in our exposures that may adversely affect expected future cash flows and by evaluating hedging opportunities.

Our derivative instruments are monitored by our Asset Liability Management Committee and our Equity Risk Management Committee as part of those committees' oversight of our derivative activities. Our committees are responsible for implementing various hedging strategies that are developed through their analysis of financial simulation models and other internal and industry sources. The resulting hedging strategies are incorporated into our overall risk management strategies.

See Note 1 for a detailed discussion of the accounting treatment for derivative instruments. See Note 21 for additional disclosures related to the fair value of our financial instruments and see Note 4 for derivative instruments related to our consolidated VIEs.

Interest Rate Contracts

We use derivative instruments as part of our interest rate risk management strategy. These instruments are economic hedges unless otherwise noted and include:

Consumer Price Index Swaps

We use consumer price index swaps to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in fixed/indexed annuity products. Consumer price index swaps are contracts entered into at no cost and whose payoff is the difference between the consumer price index inflation rate and the fixed rate determined as of inception.

Forward-Starting Interest Rate Swaps

We use forward-starting interest rate swaps designated and qualifying as cash flow hedges to hedge our exposure to interest rate fluctuations related to the forecasted purchase of certain assets and liabilities.

Interest Rate Cap Agreements

We use interest rate cap agreements to provide a level of protection from the effect of rising interest rates to economically hedge our annuity business. Interest rate cap agreements entitle us to receive quarterly payments from the counterparties on specified future reset dates, contingent on future interest rates. For each cap, the amount of such quarterly payments, if any, is determined by the excess of a market interest rate over a specified cap rate, multiplied by the notional amount divided by four.

Interest Rate Cap Corridors

We use interest rate cap corridors to provide a level of protection from the effect of rising interest rates for our annuity business. Interest rate cap corridors involve purchasing an interest rate cap at a specific cap rate and selling an interest rate cap with a higher cap rate. For each corridor, the amount of quarterly payments, if any, is determined by the rate at which the underlying index rate resets above the original capped rate. The corridor limits the benefit the purchaser can receive as the related interest rate index rises above the higher capped rate. There is no additional liability to us other than the purchase price associated with the interest rate cap corridor. Our interest rate cap corridors provide an economic hedge of our annuity business.

Interest Rate Futures

We use interest rate futures contracts to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in variable annuity products. These futures contracts require payment between our counterparty and us on a daily basis for changes in the futures index price.

Interest Rate Swap Agreements

We use interest rate swap agreements to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in variable annuity products.

We also use interest rate swap agreements designated and qualifying as cash flow hedges. These instruments either hedge the interest rate risk of floating rate bond coupon payments by replicating a fixed rate bond, or hedge our exposure to fixed rate bond coupon payments and the change in the underlying asset values as interest rates fluctuate.

Finally, we use interest rate swap agreements designated and qualifying as fair value hedges to hedge against changes in the value of anticipated transactions and commitments as interest rate fluctuate.

Treasury and Reverse Treasury Locks

We use treasury locks designated and qualifying as cash flow hedges to hedge the interest rate exposure related to our issuance of fixed rate securities or the anticipated future cash flows of floating rate fixed maturity securities due to changes in interest rates. In addition, we use reverse treasury locks designated and qualifying as cash flow hedges to hedge the interest rate exposure related to the purchase of fixed rate securities or the anticipated future cash flows of floating rate fixed maturity securities due to changes in interest rates. These derivatives are primarily structured to hedge interest rate risk inherent in the assumptions used to price certain liabilities.

Foreign Currency Contracts

We use derivative instruments as part of our foreign currency risk management strategy. These instruments are economic hedges unless otherwise noted and include:

Currency Futures

We use currency futures to hedge foreign exchange risk associated with certain options in variable annuity products. Currency futures exchange one currency for another at a specified date in the future at a specified exchange rate.

Foreign Currency Forwards

We used foreign currency forward contracts to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in the variable annuity products. The foreign currency forward contracts obligated us to deliver a specified amount of currency at a future date and a specified exchange rate.

Foreign Currency Swaps

We use foreign currency swaps designated and qualifying as cash flow hedges, which are traded over-the-counter, to hedge some of the foreign exchange risk of investments in fixed maturity securities denominated in foreign currencies. A foreign currency swap is a contractual agreement to exchange the currencies of two different countries at a specified rate of exchange in the future.

Equity Market Contracts

We use derivative instruments as part of our equity market risk management strategy that are economic hedges and include:

Call Options Based on the S&P 500 Index® (“S&P 500”)

We use indexed annuity contracts to permit the holder to elect an interest rate return or an equity market component, where interest credited to the contracts is linked to the performance of the S&P 500. Contract holders may elect to rebalance index options at renewal dates, either annually or biannually. As of each renewal date, we have the opportunity to re-price the indexed component by establishing participation rates, subject to minimum guarantees. We purchase call options that are highly correlated to the portfolio allocation decisions of our contract holders, such that we are economically hedged with respect to equity returns for the current reset period.

Equity Futures

We use equity futures contracts to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in variable annuity products. These futures contracts require payment between our counterparty and us on a daily basis for changes in the futures index price.

Put Options

We use put options to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in variable annuity products. Put options are contracts that require counterparties to pay us at a specified future date the amount, if any, by which a specified equity index is less than the strike rate stated in the agreement, applied to a notional amount.

Total Return Swaps

We use total return swaps to hedge a portion of the liability related to our deferred compensation plans. We receive the total return on a portfolio of indexes and pay a floating rate of interest.

In addition, we use total return swaps to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in variable annuity products. We receive the total return on a portfolio of indexes and pay a floating rate of interest.

Variance Swaps

We use variance swaps to hedge the liability exposure on certain options in variable annuity products. Variance swaps are contracts entered into at no cost and whose payoff is the difference between the realized variance rate of an underlying index and the fixed variance rate determined as of inception.

Credit Contracts

We use derivative instruments as part of our credit risk management strategy that are economic hedges and include:

Credit Default Swaps - Buying Protection

We buy credit default swaps to hedge against a drop in bond prices due to credit concerns of certain bond issuers. A credit default swap allows us to put the bond back to the counterparty at par upon a default event by the bond issuer. A default event is defined as bankruptcy, failure to pay, obligation acceleration or restructuring.

Credit Default Swaps - Selling Protection

We sell credit default swaps to offer credit protection to contract holders and investors. The credit default swaps hedge the contract holders and investors against a drop in bond prices due to credit concerns of certain bond issuers. A credit default swap allows the investor to put the bond back to us at par upon a default event by the bond issuer. A default event is defined as bankruptcy, failure to pay, obligation acceleration or restructuring.

Embedded Derivatives

We use embedded derivatives that are economic hedges that include:

Deferred Compensation Plans Embedded Derivatives

We have certain deferred compensation plans that have embedded derivative instruments. The liability related to these plans varies based on the investment options selected by the participants.

GLB Reserves Embedded Derivatives

We use a hedging strategy designed to mitigate the risk and income statement volatility caused by changes in the equity markets, interest rates and volatility associated with GLBs offered in our variable annuity products, including products with GWB and GIB features. The hedging strategy is designed such that changes in the value of the hedge contracts due to changes in equity markets, interest rates and implied volatilities move in the opposite direction of changes in embedded derivative GLB reserves caused by those same factors. We rebalance our hedge positions based upon changes in these factors as needed. While we actively manage our hedge positions, these hedge positions may not be totally effective in offsetting changes in the embedded derivative reserve due to, among other things, differences in timing between when a market exposure changes and corresponding changes to the hedge positions, extreme swings in the equity markets and interest rates, market volatility, contract holder behavior, divergence between the performance of the underlying funds and the hedging indices, divergence between the actual and expected performance of the hedge instruments and our ability to purchase hedging instruments at prices consistent with our desired risk and return trade-off.

Certain features of these guarantees have elements of both insurance benefits accounted for under the Financial Services – Insurance – Claim Costs and Liabilities for Future Policy Benefits Subtopic of the FASB ASC (“benefit reserves”) and embedded derivatives accounted for under the Derivatives and Hedging and the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topics of the FASB ASC (“embedded derivative reserves”). We calculate the value of the embedded derivative reserve and the benefit reserve based on the specific characteristics of each GLB feature.

Indexed Annuity Contracts Embedded Derivatives

We distribute indexed annuity contracts that permit the holder to elect an interest rate return or an equity market component, where interest credited to the contracts is linked to the performance of the S&P 500. Contract holders may elect to rebalance index options at renewal dates, either annually or biannually. As of each renewal date, we have the opportunity to re-price the indexed component by establishing participation rates, subject to minimum guarantees. We purchase S&P 500 call options that are highly correlated to the portfolio allocation decisions of our contract holders, such that we are economically hedged with respect to equity returns for the current reset period.

Reinsurance Related Embedded Derivatives

We have certain modified coinsurance arrangements and coinsurance with funds withheld reinsurance arrangements with embedded derivatives related to the withheld assets of the related funds. These derivatives are considered total return swaps with contractual returns that are attributable to various assets and liabilities associated with these reinsurance arrangements.

We have derivative instruments with off-balance-sheet risks whose notional or contract amounts exceed the credit exposure. Outstanding derivative instruments with off-balance-sheet risks (in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2011			As of December 31, 2010		
	Notional Amounts	Fair Value Asset	Fair Value Liability	Notional Amounts	Fair Value Asset	Fair Value Liability
Qualifying Hedges						
Cash flow hedges:						
Interest rate contracts (1)	\$ 2,512	\$ 130	\$ -	\$ 2,076	\$ (40)	\$ -
Foreign currency contracts (1)	340	38	-	340	30	-
Total cash flow hedges	2,852	168	-	2,416	(10)	-
Fair value hedges:						
Interest rate contracts (2)	1,675	319	319	1,675	55	55
Non-Qualifying Hedges						
Interest rate contracts (1)	30,232	568	-	18,406	(426)	-
Foreign currency contracts (1)	4	-	-	219	-	-
Equity market contracts (1)	16,401	2,096	-	11,577	1,442	-
Credit contracts (1)	48	-	-	-	-	-
Credit contracts (3)	148	-	16	145	-	16
Embedded derivatives:						
Deferred compensation plans (3)	-	-	354	-	-	363
Indexed annuity contracts (4)	-	-	399	-	-	497
GLB reserves (4)	-	-	2,217	-	-	408
Reinsurance related (5)	-	-	168	-	-	102
AFS securities (1)	-	-	-	-	15	-
Total derivative instruments	\$ 51,360	\$ 3,151	\$ 3,473	\$ 34,438	\$ 1,076	\$ 1,441

- (1) Reported in derivative investments on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.
(2) The asset is reported in derivative investments and the liability in long-term debt on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.
(3) Reported in other liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.
(4) Reported in future contract benefits on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.
(5) Reported in reinsurance related embedded derivatives on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The maturity of the notional amounts of derivative instruments (in millions) was as follows:

	Remaining Life as of December 31, 2011					Total
	Less Than 1 Year	1 – 5 Years	6 – 10 Years	11 – 30 Years	Over 30 Years	
Interest rate contracts (1)	\$ 2,154	\$ 11,353	\$ 11,349	\$ 9,556	\$ 7	\$ 34,419
Foreign currency contracts (2)	4	154	105	81	-	344
Equity market contracts	8,638	3,155	4,589	17	2	16,401
Credit contracts	40	116	40	-	-	196
Total derivative instruments with notional amounts	\$ 10,836	\$ 14,778	\$ 16,083	\$ 9,654	\$ 9	\$ 51,360

- (1) As of December 31, 2011, the latest maturity date for which we were hedging our exposure to the variability in future cash flows for these instruments was June 2042.

- (2) As of December 31, 2011, the latest maturity date for which we were hedging our exposure to the variability in future cash flows for these instruments was July 2022.

The change in our unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments in accumulated OCI (in millions) was as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivative Instruments			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ (15)	\$ 11	\$ 127
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the year:			
Cash flow hedges:			
Interest rate contracts	178	(47)	30
Foreign currency contracts	3	14	(52)
Fair value hedges:			
Interest rate contracts	4	4	4
Equity market contracts	-	-	(28)
Net investment in a foreign subsidiary	-	-	(74)
AFS securities embedded derivatives	-	2	-
Change in foreign currency exchange rate adjustment	7	4	-
Change in DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(1)	(4)	22
Income tax benefit (expense)	(66)	9	(13)
Less:			
Reclassification adjustment for gains (losses) included in net income (loss):			
Cash flow hedges:			
Interest rate contracts (1)	(15)	4	4
Interest rate contracts (2)	(1)	4	-
Foreign currency contracts (1)	2	2	-
Fair value hedges:			
Interest rate contracts (2)	4	4	4
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	-	(1)	-
Income tax benefit (expense)	4	(5)	(3)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 116	\$ (15)	\$ 11

(1) The OCI offset is reported within net investment income on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

(2) The OCI offset is reported within interest and debt expense on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

The gains (losses) on derivative instruments (in millions) recorded within income (loss) from continuing operations on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Qualifying Hedges			
Cash flow hedges:			
Interest rate contracts (1)	\$ (15)	\$ 3	\$ 3
Foreign currency contracts (1)	2	2	1
Total cash flow hedges	(13)	5	4
Fair value hedges:			
Interest rate contracts (2)	50	42	17
Equity market contracts (3)	-	15	1
Total fair value hedges	50	57	18
Non-Qualifying Hedges			
Interest rate contracts (1)	(44)	5	-
Interest rate contracts (3)	1,144	175	(1,553)
Foreign currency contracts (1)	-	43	(98)
Foreign currency contracts (3)	(12)	(13)	(7)
Equity market contracts (3)	316	(386)	(1,379)
Equity market contracts (4)	21	(118)	35
Credit contracts (1)	-	1	1
Credit contracts (3)	(7)	7	(37)
Embedded derivatives:			
Deferred compensation plans (4)	(11)	(34)	(63)
Indexed annuity contracts (3)	5	(81)	(75)
GLB reserves (3)	(1,809)	268	2,228
Reinsurance related (3)	(66)	(71)	(62)
AFS securities (1)	-	2	-
Total derivative instruments	\$ (426)	\$ (140)	\$ (988)

- (1) Reported in net investment income on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).
(2) Reported in interest and debt expense on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).
(3) Reported in realized gain (loss) on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).
(4) Reported in underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

Gains (losses) (in millions) on derivative instruments designated and qualifying as cash flow hedges were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Ineffective portion recognized in realized gain (loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1)
Gain (loss) recognized as a component of OCI with the offset to net investment income	(13)	6	4

As of December 31, 2011, \$20 million of the deferred net losses on derivative instruments in accumulated OCI were expected to be reclassified to earnings during the next 12 months. This reclassification would be due primarily to the interest rate variances related to the interest rate swap agreements.

For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, there were no material reclassifications to earnings due to hedged firm commitments no longer deemed probable or due to hedged forecasted transactions that had not occurred by the end of the originally specified time period.

Gains (losses) (in millions) on derivative instruments designated and qualifying as fair value hedges were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Ineffective portion recognized in realized gain (loss)	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1
Gain (loss) recognized as a component of OCI with the offset to interest expense	4	4	4

Information related to our open credit default swap liabilities for which we are the seller (dollars in millions) was as follows:

As of December 31, 2011						
	Reason for	Nature of	Credit Rating of Underlying Obligation	Number of Instruments	Fair Value	Maximum Potential Payout
Maturity	Entering	Recourse	(1)		(2)	
12/20/2012 (3)	(5)	(6)	BBB+	4	\$ -	\$ 40
12/20/2016 (4)	(5)	(6)	BBB+	3	(12)	68
03/20/2017 (4)	(5)	(6)	BBB	2	(4)	40
				9	\$ (16)	\$ 148

As of December 31, 2010						
	Reason for	Nature of	Credit Rating of Underlying Obligation	Number of Instruments	Fair Value	Maximum Potential Payout
Maturity	Entering	Recourse	(1)		(2)	
12/20/2012 (3)	(5)	(6)	BBB+	4	\$ -	\$ 40
12/20/2016 (4)	(5)	(6)	BBB	3	(12)	65
03/20/2017 (4)	(5)	(6)	BBB-	2	(4)	40
				9	\$ (16)	\$ 145

- (1) Represents average credit ratings based on the midpoint of the applicable ratings among Moody's, S&P and Fitch Ratings, as scaled to the corresponding S&P ratings.
- (2) Broker quotes are used to determine the market value of credit default swaps.
- (3) These credit default swaps were sold to our contract holders, prior to 2007, where we determined there was a spread versus premium mismatch.
- (4) These credit default swaps were sold to a counter-party of the consolidated VIEs discussed in Note 4.
- (5) Credit default swap was entered into in order to generate income by providing default protection in return for a quarterly payment.
- (6) Seller does not have the right to demand indemnification or compensation from third parties in case of a loss (payment) on the contract.

Details underlying the associated collateral of our open credit default swaps for which we are the seller, if credit risk related contingent features were triggered (in millions) are as follows:

As of
December 31,

	2011	2010
Maximum potential payout	\$ 148	\$ 145
Less:		
Counterparty thresholds	-	10
Maximum collateral potentially required to post	\$ 148	\$ 135

Certain of our credit default swap agreements contain contractual provisions that allow for the netting of collateral with our counterparties related to all of our collateralized financing transactions that we have outstanding. If these netting agreements were not in place, we would have been required to post approximately \$16 million as of December 31, 2011, after considering the fair values of the associated investments counterparties' credit ratings as compared to ours and specified thresholds that once exceeded result in the payment of cash.

Credit Risk

We are exposed to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by our counterparties on various derivative contracts and reflect assumptions regarding the credit or nonperformance risk. The nonperformance risk is based upon assumptions for each counterparty's credit spread over the estimated weighted average life of the counterparty exposure less collateral held. As of December 31, 2011, the nonperformance risk adjustment was \$16 million. The credit risk associated with such agreements is minimized by purchasing such agreements from financial institutions with long-standing, superior performance records. Additionally, we maintain a policy of requiring all derivative contracts to be governed by an International Swaps and Derivatives Association ("ISDA") Master Agreement. We are required to maintain minimum ratings as a matter of routine practice in negotiating ISDA agreements. Under some ISDA agreements, our insurance subsidiaries have agreed to maintain certain financial strength or claims-paying ratings. A downgrade below these levels could result in termination of the derivatives contract, at which time any amounts payable by us would be dependent on the market value of the underlying derivative contract. In certain transactions, we and the counterparty have entered into a collateral support agreement requiring either party to post collateral when net exposures exceed pre-determined thresholds. These thresholds vary by counterparty and credit rating. The amount of such exposure is essentially the net replacement cost or market value less collateral held for such agreements with each counterparty if the net market value is in our favor. As of December 31, 2011, the exposure was \$81 million.

The amounts recognized (in millions) by S&P credit rating of counterparty, for which we had the right to reclaim cash collateral or were obligated to return cash collateral, were as follows:

S&P Credit Rating of Counterparty	As of December 31, 2011		As of December 31, 2010	
	Collateral Posted by Counter- Party (Held by LNC)	Collateral Posted by LNC (Held by Counter- Party)	Collateral Posted by Counter- Party (Held by LNC)	Collateral Posted by LNC (Held by Counter- Party)
AAA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -
AA	35	-	99	-
AA-	219	-	65	-
A+	848	-	548	(76)
A	1,681	(120)	436	(223)
A-	387	-	-	-
	\$ 3,170	\$ (120)	\$ 1,149	\$ (299)

7. Federal Income Taxes

The federal income tax expense (benefit) on continuing operations (in millions) was as follows:

		For the Years Ended		
		December 31,		
		2011	2010	2009
Current		\$ 16	\$ (138)	\$ (751)
Deferred		281	421	645
	Federal income tax expense (benefit)	\$ 297	\$ 283	\$ (106)

A reconciliation of the effective tax rate differences (in millions) was as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Tax rate times pre-tax income	\$ 210	\$ 432	\$ (182)
Effect of:			
Tax-preferred investment income	(122)	(105)	(92)
Tax credits	(42)	(42)	(46)
Goodwill	261	-	238
Prior year tax return adjustment	(28)	(12)	(60)
Other items	18	10	36
Federal income tax expense (benefit)	\$ 297	\$ 283	\$ (106)
Effective tax rate	50 %	23 %	20 %

Included in tax-preferred investment income was a separate account dividends-received deduction benefit of \$112 million, \$94 million and \$77 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, exclusive of any prior years' tax return adjustment.

The federal income tax asset (liability) (in millions) was as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Current	\$ (241)	\$ (182)
Deferred	(2,432)	(1,221)
Total federal income tax asset (liability)	\$ (2,673)	\$ (1,403)

Significant components of our deferred tax assets and liabilities (in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Deferred Tax Assets		
Future contract benefits and other contract holder funds	\$ 909	\$ 1,400
Deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance	122	160
Reinsurance related embedded derivative asset	59	22
Investments	489	401
Compensation and benefit plans	304	272
Net operating loss	23	-
Net capital loss	59	97
Tax credits	208	105
VIE	98	77
Other	202	108
Total deferred tax assets	2,473	2,642
Deferred Tax Liabilities		
DAC	1,823	1,977
VOBA	370	483
Net unrealized gain on AFS securities	2,259	1,014

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

Net unrealized gain on trading securities	131	90
Intangibles	160	165
Other	162	134
Total deferred tax liabilities	4,905	3,863
Net deferred tax asset (liability)	\$ (2,432)	\$ (1,221)

165

Although realization is not assured, management believes as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, it is more likely than not that the deferred tax assets, including our capital loss deferred tax asset, will be realized.

As of December 31, 2011, LNC had net capital loss carryforwards of \$93 million and \$77 million which will expire in 2014 and 2015, respectively. LNC believes that it is more likely than not that the capital losses will be fully utilized within the allowable carryforward period.

As of December 31, 2011, LNC had net operating loss carryforwards of \$66 million which will expire in 2031. LNC believes that it is more likely than not that the operating losses will be fully utilized within the allowable carryforward period.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, \$234 million and \$223 million of our unrecognized tax benefits presented below, if recognized, would have affected our income tax expense and our effective tax rate. We anticipate a change to our unrecognized tax benefits during 2012 in the range of zero to \$131 million. A reconciliation of the unrecognized tax benefits (in millions) was as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 318	\$ 336
Increases for prior year tax positions	2	2
Decreases for prior year tax positions	(10)	(7)
Increases for current year tax positions	12	9
Decreases for current year tax positions	(6)	(8)
Decreases for settlements with taxing authorities	-	(10)
Decreases for lapse of statute of limitations	-	(4)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 316	\$ 318

We recognize interest and penalties accrued, if any, related to unrecognized tax benefits as a component of tax expense. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we recognized interest and penalty expense related to uncertain tax positions of \$10 million, \$7 million and \$12 million, respectively. We had accrued interest and penalty expense related to the unrecognized tax benefits of \$103 million and \$93 million as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

In the normal course of business, we are subject to examination by taxing authorities throughout the U.S. and the U.K. At any given time, we may be under examination by state, local or non-U.S. income tax authorities. During the second quarter of 2010, the IRS completed its examination for tax years 2005 and 2006 resulting in a proposed assessment. Also, during the second quarter of 2010, the IRS completed its examination of tax year 2006 for the former Jefferson-Pilot Corporation (“JP”) and its subsidiaries. We believe a portion of the assessments is inconsistent with the existing law and are protesting it through the established IRS appeals process. We do not anticipate that any adjustments that might result from such audits would be material to our consolidated results of operations or financial condition. We are currently under audit by the IRS for years 2007 and 2008. The JP subsidiaries acquired in the April 2006 merger are subject to a separate IRS examination cycle. For the former JP subsidiaries, JP Life Insurance Company and JP Financial Insurance Company, the IRS is examining the tax years ended April 1, 2007, and July 1, 2007, respectively.

8. DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL

Changes in DAC (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 7,552	\$ 7,424	\$ 7,640
Business acquired (sold) through reinsurance	-	-	(37)
Deferrals	1,681	1,641	1,621
Amortization, net of interest:			
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	(274)	(31)	(15)
Prospective unlocking - model refinements	114	145	-
Retrospective unlocking	96	41	19
Other amortization	(959)	(930)	(746)
Adjustment related to realized (gains) losses	(23)	(50)	148
Adjustment related to unrealized (gains) losses	(1,051)	(688)	(1,206)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 7,136	\$ 7,552	\$ 7,424

Changes in VOBA (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 1,378	\$ 2,086	\$ 3,762
Business acquired (sold) through reinsurance	12	-	(255)
Deferrals	20	26	30
Amortization:			
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	72	(41)	(20)
Prospective unlocking - model refinements	102	(7)	-
Retrospective unlocking	21	11	(44)
Other amortization	(300)	(361)	(349)
Accretion of interest (1)	78	89	102
Adjustment related to realized (gains) losses	(6)	(8)	43
Adjustment related to unrealized (gains) losses	(322)	(417)	(1,183)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 1,055	\$ 1,378	\$ 2,086

(1) The interest accrual rates utilized to calculate the accretion of interest ranged from 3.40% to 7.25%.

Estimated future amortization of VOBA, net of interest (in millions), as of December 31, 2011, was as follows:

2012	\$ 117
2013	101
2014	76

2015	68
2016	64

Changes in DSI (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 286	\$ 323	\$ 263
Deferrals	39	66	76
Amortization, net of interest:			
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	(2)	(3)	-
Retrospective unlocking	17	7	5
Other amortization	(55)	(58)	(33)
Adjustment related to realized (gains) losses	(1)	(8)	13
Adjustment related to unrealized (gains) losses	(13)	(41)	(1)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 271	\$ 286	\$ 323

Changes in DFEL (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 1,502	\$ 1,338	\$ 1,019
Business acquired (sold) through reinsurance	-	-	(11)
Deferrals	544	546	497
Amortization, net of interest:			
Prospective unlocking - assumption changes	5	(57)	(22)
Prospective unlocking - model refinements	26	56	-
Retrospective unlocking	15	(23)	(16)
Other amortization	(180)	(173)	(129)
Adjustment related to realized (gains) losses	(9)	(8)	(1)
Adjustment related to unrealized (gains) losses	(534)	(177)	1
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 1,369	\$ 1,502	\$ 1,338

9. Reinsurance

The following summarizes reinsurance amounts (in millions) recorded on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss), excluding amounts attributable to the indemnity reinsurance transaction with Swiss Re:

	For the Years Ended December		
	31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Direct insurance premiums and fees	\$ 6,997	\$ 6,599	\$ 6,124
Reinsurance assumed	10	13	10
Reinsurance ceded	(1,276)	(1,202)	(1,148)
Total insurance premiums and fees	\$ 5,731	\$ 5,410	\$ 4,986

Direct insurance benefits	\$ 4,897	\$ 4,547	\$ 3,891
Reinsurance recoveries netted against benefits	(1,552)	(1,220)	(1,057)
Total benefits	\$ 3,345	\$ 3,327	\$ 2,834

Our insurance companies cede insurance to other companies. The portion of risks exceeding each company's retention limit is reinsured with other insurers. We seek reinsurance coverage within the businesses that sell life insurance and annuities in order to limit our exposure to mortality losses and enhance our capital management.

Under our reinsurance program, we reinsure approximately 25% to 30% of the mortality risk on newly issued non-term life insurance contracts and approximately 30% to 35% of total mortality risk including term insurance contracts. Our policy for this program is to retain no more than \$11 million on a single insured life issued on fixed, VUL and term life insurance contracts. The

retention per single insured life for corporate-owned life insurance is less than \$1 million. Portions of our deferred annuity business have been reinsured on a Modco basis with other companies to limit our exposure to interest rate risks. As of December 31, 2011, the reserves associated with these reinsurance arrangements totaled \$878 million. To cover products other than life insurance, we acquire other reinsurance coverages with retentions and limits.

We obtain reinsurance from a diverse group of reinsurers, and we monitor concentration as well as financial strength ratings of our principal reinsurers. Our reinsurance operations were acquired by Swiss Re in December 2001, through a series of indemnity reinsurance transactions. Swiss Re represents our largest reinsurance exposure. Under the indemnity reinsurance agreements, Swiss Re reinsured certain of our liabilities and obligations. As we are not relieved of our legal liability to the ceding companies, the liabilities and obligations associated with the reinsured contracts remain on our Consolidated Balance Sheets with a corresponding reinsurance receivable from Swiss Re, which totaled \$2.8 billion and \$3.0 billion as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Swiss Re has funded a trust, with a balance of \$2.2 billion as of December 31, 2011, to support this business. In addition to various remedies that we would have in the event of a default by Swiss Re, we continue to hold assets in support of certain of the transferred reserves. These assets are reported within trading securities or mortgage loans on real estate on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Our liabilities for funds withheld and embedded derivatives as of December 31, 2011, included \$1.0 billion and \$142 million, respectively, related to the business reinsured by Swiss Re.

We recorded the gain related to the indemnity reinsurance transactions on the business sold to Swiss Re as a deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The deferred gain is being amortized into income at the rate that earnings on the reinsured business are expected to emerge, over a period of 15 years from the date of sale. During 2011, 2010 and 2009, we amortized \$49 million, \$49 million and \$50 million, after-tax, respectively, of deferred gain on business sold through reinsurance.

See Note 13 for discussion of the rescission of indemnity reinsurance for disability income business that occurred during the year ended December 31, 2009.

10. Goodwill and Specifically Identifiable Intangible Assets

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill (in millions) by reportable segment were as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2011					Balance as of End-of-Year
	Acquisition as of Beginning of-Year	Cumulative Balance as of End-of-Year	Impairment Adjustments	Accounting Impairment	Other	
Annuities	\$ 1,040	\$ (600)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 440
Retirement Plan Services	20	-	-	-	-	20
Life Insurance	2,188	-	-	(650)	1	1,539
Group Protection	274	-	-	-	-	274
Other Operations - Media	341	(244)	-	(97)	-	-
Total goodwill	\$ 3,863	\$ (844)	\$ -	\$ (747)	\$ 1	\$ 2,273

For the Year Ended December 31, 2010				
Acquisition	Cumulative Balance	Impairment	Accounting Impairment	Other

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

	as of	as of	Acquisition			Balance
	Beginning	Beginning	Accounting	Impairment	Other	as of
	of-Year	of-Year	Adjustments			End-
						of-Year
Annuities	\$ 1,040	\$ (600)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 440
Retirement Plan Services	20	-	-	-	-	20
Life Insurance	2,188	-	-	-	-	2,188
Group Protection	274	-	-	-	-	274
Other Operations - Media	335	(244)	6	-	-	97
Total goodwill	\$ 3,857	\$ (844)	\$ 6	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,019

Included in the other above were adjustments related to income tax deductions recognized when stock options attributable to mergers were exercised or the release of unrecognized tax benefits acquired through mergers.

We perform a Step 1 goodwill impairment analysis on all of our reporting units at least annually on October 1. To determine the implied fair value for our reporting units, we utilize primarily a discounted cash flow valuation technique (“income approach”), although limited available market data is also considered. In determining the estimated fair value, we consider discounted cash flow calculations, the level of our own share price and assumptions that market participants would make in valuing the reporting unit. This analysis requires us to make judgments about revenues, earnings projections, capital market assumptions and discount rates.

As of October 1, 2011, our Annuities, Retirement Plan Services and Group Protection reporting units passed the Step 1 analysis, and although the carrying value of the net assets for Group Protection was within the estimated fair value range, we deemed it prudent to validate the carrying value of goodwill through a Step 2 analysis. Given the Step 1 results, we also performed a Step 2 analysis for our Life Insurance and Media reporting units. Based upon our Step 2 analysis for Life Insurance, we recorded a goodwill impairment that was attributable primarily to marketplace dynamics and lower expectations associated with product changes that we have implemented or will implement shortly that we believe will have an unfavorable effect on our sales levels for a period of time. Based upon our Step 2 analysis for Group Protection, we determined that there was no impairment due to the implied fair value of goodwill being in excess of the carrying value of goodwill. Based upon our Step 2 analysis for Media, we recorded a goodwill impairment that was primarily a result of the deterioration in operating environment and outlook for the business.

As of October 1, 2010, all of our reporting units passed the Step 1 analysis, and although the carrying value of the net assets was within the estimated fair value range for our Life Insurance reporting unit, we deemed it prudent to validate the carrying value of goodwill through a Step 2 analysis. In our Step 2 analysis of the Life Insurance reporting unit, we determined there was no impairment due to the implied fair value of goodwill being in excess of the carrying value of goodwill.

As of October 1, 2009, all of our reporting units passed the Step 1 analysis, except for our Media reporting unit, which required a Step 2 analysis to be completed. As a result of this Step 2 analysis for our Media reporting unit, we recorded an \$80 million impairment of goodwill attributable primarily to declines in current and forecasted advertising revenue for the entire radio market. We also recorded a \$50 million impairment of our FCC license.

As of March 31, 2009, we performed a Step 1 goodwill impairment analysis on all of our reporting units as a result of our performing an interim test due to volatile capital markets that provided indicators that a potential impairment could be present. All of our reporting units passed the Step 1 analysis, except for our Annuities reporting unit, which required a Step 2 analysis to be completed. Based upon our Step 2 analysis, we recorded goodwill impairment for the Annuities reporting unit in the first quarter of 2009 for \$600 million, which was attributable primarily to higher discount rates driven by higher debt costs and equity market volatility, deterioration in sales and declines in equity markets.

For our acquisition of NCLS, during 2009, we impaired the estimated goodwill that arose from the acquisition after considering the expected financial performance and other relevant factors of this business.

The gross carrying amounts and accumulated amortization (in millions) for each major specifically identifiable intangible asset class by reportable segment were as follows:

As of December 31,	
2011	2010

	Gross		Gross	
	Carrying	Accumulated	Carrying	Accumulated
	Amount	Amortization	Amount	Amortization
Life Insurance:				
Sales force	\$ 100	\$ 23	\$ 100	\$ 19
Retirement Plan Services:				
Mutual fund contract rights (1)	2	-	2	-
Other Operations:				
FCC licenses (1)	118	-	118	-
Other	4	3	4	3
Total	\$ 224	\$ 26	\$ 224	\$ 22

(1) No amortization recorded as the intangible asset has indefinite life.

Future estimated amortization of specifically identifiable intangible assets (in millions) as of December 31, 2011, was as follows:

2012	\$	4
2013		4
2014		4
2015		4
2016		4

11. Guaranteed Benefit Features

Information on the GDB features outstanding (dollars in millions) was as follows (our variable contracts with guarantees may offer more than one type of guarantee in each contract; therefore, the amounts listed are not mutually exclusive):

	As of December 31,		
	2011	2010	
Return of Net Deposits			
Total account value	\$ 54,004	\$ 52,211	
Net amount at risk (1)	1,379	816	
	59	58	
Average attained age of contract holders	years	years	
Minimum Return			
Total account value	\$ 155	\$ 187	
Net amount at risk (1)	48	46	
	72	70	
Average attained age of contract holders	years	years	
Guaranteed minimum return	5%	5	%
Anniversary Contract Value			
Total account value	\$ 21,648	\$ 23,483	
Net amount at risk (1)	2,939	2,183	
	67	66	
Average attained age of contract holders	years	years	

(1) Represents the amount of death benefit in excess of the account balance. The increase in net amount at risk when comparing December 31, 2011, to December 31, 2010, was attributable primarily to the decline in international equity markets during 2011.

The determination of GDB liabilities is based on models that involve a range of scenarios and assumptions, including those regarding expected market rates of return and volatility, contract surrender rates and mortality experience. The following summarizes the balances of and changes in the liabilities for GDB (in millions), which were recorded in future contract benefits on our Consolidated Balance Sheets:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 44	\$ 71	\$ 277
Changes in reserves	93	57	(33)

Benefits paid	(53)	(84)	(173)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 84	\$ 44	\$ 71

Account balances of variable annuity contracts with guarantees (in millions) were invested in separate account investment options as follows:

Asset Type	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Domestic equity	\$ 34,286	\$ 35,659
International equity	13,095	14,172
Bonds	17,735	15,913
Money market	5,892	5,725
Total	\$ 71,008	\$ 71,469

Percent of total variable annuity separate account values	98	%	98	%
---	----	---	----	---

Future contract benefits also includes reserves for our products with secondary guarantees for our products sold through our Life Insurance segment. These UL and VUL products with secondary guarantees represented approximately 38% of permanent life insurance in force as of December 31, 2011, and approximately 43% of total sales for these products for the year ended December 31, 2011.

12. Short-Term and Long-Term Debt

Details underlying short-term and long-term debt (in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Short-Term Debt		
Commercial paper (1)	\$ -	\$ 100
Current maturities of long-term debt	300	250
Other short-term debt	-	1
Total short-term debt	\$ 300	\$ 351
Long-Term Debt, Excluding Current Portion		
Senior notes:		
5.65% notes, due 2012	\$ -	\$ 300
LIBOR + 175 bps loan, due 2013	200	200
4.75% notes, due 2014	300	300
4.75% notes, due 2014	200	200
4.30% notes, due 2015 (2)	250	250
LIBOR + 3 bps notes, due 2017	250	250
7.00% notes, due 2018	200	200
8.75% notes, due 2019 (2)	500	500
6.25% notes, due 2020 (2)	300	300
4.85% notes, due 2021 (2)	300	-
6.15% notes, due 2036	500	500
6.30% notes, due 2037	375	375
7.00% notes, due 2040 (2)	500	500
Total senior notes	3,875	3,875
Capital securities:		
6.75%, due 2066 (3)	-	275
7.00%, due 2066	722	722
6.05%, due 2067	491	491
Total capital securities	1,213	1,488
Unamortized premiums (discounts)	(16)	(19)
Fair value hedge on interest rate swap agreements	319	55
Total unamortized premiums (discounts) and fair value hedge on interest rate swap agreements	303	36
Total long-term debt	\$ 5,391	\$ 5,399

- (1) The weighted-average interest rate of commercial paper was 0.20% and 0.41% as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.
- (2) We have the option to repurchase the outstanding notes by paying the greater of 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed or the make-whole amount (as defined in each note agreement), plus in each case any accrued and unpaid interest as of the date of redemption.
- (3) During the third quarter of 2011, we redeemed all of our 6.75% capital securities due 2066. See below for the details of the loss on extinguishment of debt.

Details underlying the recognition of a gain (loss) on the extinguishment of debt (in millions) reported within interest and debt expense on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Principal balance outstanding prior to payoff	\$ 275	\$ 155	\$ 87
Unamortized debt issuance costs and discounts prior to payoff	(8)	(5)	(1)
Amount paid to retire	(275)	(155)	(22)
Gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt, pre-tax	\$ (8)	\$ (5)	\$ 64

Future principal payments due on long-term debt (in millions) as of December 31, 2011, were as follows:

2012	\$ 300
2013	200
2014	500
2015	250
2016	-
Thereafter	4,138
Total	\$ 5,388

For our long-term debt outstanding, unsecured senior debt, which consists of senior notes, fixed rate notes and other notes with varying interest rates, ranks highest in priority, followed by capital securities.

Credit Facilities and Letters of Credit (“LOCs”)

Credit facilities, which allow for borrowing or issuances of LOCs, and LOCs (in millions) were as follows:

	As of December 31,		
	2011		
	Expiration Date	Maximum Available	LOCs Issued
Credit Facilities			
Four-year revolving credit facility	Jun-2015	\$ 2,000	\$ 219
LOC facility	Mar-2023	828	828
LOC facility	Aug-2031	419	419
LOC facility	Oct-2031	574	574
Total		\$ 3,821	\$ 2,040

Effective as of June 10, 2011, we entered into a credit agreement with a syndicate of banks. This agreement (the “credit facility”) allows for any combination of issuance of LOCs and borrowing of up to \$2.0 billion; however, only \$1.0 billion of the borrowing is available to reimburse the banks for drawn LOCs. The credit facility is unsecured and has a commitment termination date of June 10, 2015. LOCs issued under the credit facility may remain outstanding for one year following the applicable commitment termination date of the agreement. The LOCs support

inter-company reinsurance transactions and specific treaties associated with our business sold through reinsurance. LOCs are used primarily to satisfy the U.S. regulatory requirements of our domestic insurance companies for which reserve credit is provided by our affiliated reinsurance companies, as discussed above in “Results of Life Insurance – Income (Loss) from Operations – Strategies to Address Statutory Reserve Strain,” and our domestic clients of the business sold through reinsurance.

The credit facility contains customary terms and conditions, including covenants restricting our ability to incur liens, merge or consolidate with another entity where we are not the surviving entity and dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. The credit facility also includes financial covenants including: maintenance of a minimum consolidated net worth (as defined in the facility) equal to the sum of \$9.2 billion plus fifty percent (50%) of the aggregate net proceeds of equity issuances received by us in accordance with the terms of the credit facility; and a debt-to-capital ratio as defined in accordance with the credit facility not to exceed 0.35 to 1.00. Further, the credit facility contains customary events of default, subject to certain materiality thresholds and grace periods for certain of those events of default. The events of default include payment defaults, covenant defaults, material

inaccuracies in representations and warranties, certain cross-defaults, bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings and other customary defaults. Upon an event of default, the credit facility provides that, among other things, the commitments may be terminated and the loans then outstanding may be declared due and payable. As of December 31, 2011, we were in compliance with all such covenants.

This credit facility replaced our existing four-year credit facility dated as of June 9, 2010, and set to expire June 9, 2014, and the commitments under the existing credit facility have been terminated. Our 364-day credit facility expired June 8, 2011, prior to entering into the new credit agreement.

On November 1, 2011, one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries entered into a credit facility agreement with a third-party lender. Under the agreement, the lender issued an irrevocable LOC effective November 1, 2011, with a maximum scheduled LOC amount of up to approximately \$690 million. The LOC supports an inter-company reinsurance agreement and expires October 1, 2031. On August 26, 2011, one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries entered into a credit facility agreement with a third-party lender. Under the agreement, the lender issued an irrevocable LOC effective August 26, 2011, with a maximum scheduled LOC amount of up to approximately \$520 million. The LOC supports an inter-company reinsurance agreement and expires August 26, 2031. On April 28, 2011, certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries amended and restated the reimbursement agreement entered into on December 31, 2009, with a third-party lender. Under the amended agreement, the lender issued an irrevocable LOC effective April 1, 2011, with a maximum scheduled LOC amount of up to approximately \$925 million. The LOC supports an inter-company reinsurance agreement and expires March 31, 2023.

These agreements each contain customary terms and conditions, including covenants restricting the ability of the subsidiaries to incur liens, merge or consolidate with another entity and dispose of all or substantially all of their assets. Further, the agreements contain customary events of default, subject to certain materiality thresholds and grace periods for certain of those events of default. The events of default include payment defaults, covenant defaults, material inaccuracies in representations and warranties, bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings and other customary defaults. Upon an event of default, the agreements provide that, among other things, obligations to issue, amend or increase the amount of any LOC shall be terminated and any obligations shall become immediately due and payable. As of December 31, 2011, we were in compliance with all such covenants.

Shelf Registration

We currently have an effective shelf registration statement, which allows us to issue, in unlimited amounts, securities, including debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, warrants, stock purchase contracts, stock purchase units and trust preferred securities of our affiliated trusts.

Certain Debt Covenants on Capital Securities

Our \$1.2 billion in principal amount of capital securities outstanding contain certain covenants that require us to make interest payments in accordance with an alternative coupon satisfaction mechanism (“ACSM”) if we determine that one of the following trigger events exists as of the 30th day prior to an interest payment date (“determination date”):

- LNL’s risk-based capital ratio is less than 175% (based on the most recent annual financial statement filed with the State of Indiana); or
- (i) The sum of our consolidated net income for the four trailing fiscal quarters ending on the quarter that is two quarters prior to the most recently completed quarter prior to the determination date is zero or negative; and (ii) our consolidated stockholders’ equity (excluding accumulated other comprehensive income and any increase in stockholders’ equity resulting from the issuance of preferred stock during a quarter), or “adjusted stockholders’ equity,” as of (x) the most recently completed quarter and (y) the end of the quarter that is two quarters before the most

recently completed quarter, has declined by 10% or more as compared to the quarter that is 10 fiscal quarters prior to the last completed quarter, or the “benchmark quarter.”

The ACSM would generally require us to use commercially reasonable efforts to satisfy our obligation to pay interest in full on the capital securities with the net proceeds from sales of our common stock and warrants to purchase our common stock with an exercise price greater than the market price. We would have to utilize the ACSM until the trigger events no longer existed. Our failure to pay interest pursuant to the ACSM will not result in an event of default with respect to the capital securities nor will a nonpayment of interest unless it lasts for 10 consecutive years, although such breaches may result in monetary damages to the holders of the capital securities.

13. Contingencies and Commitments

Contingencies

Regulatory and Litigation Matters

Regulatory bodies, such as state insurance departments, the SEC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and other regulatory bodies regularly make inquiries and conduct examinations or investigations concerning our compliance with, among other things, insurance laws, securities laws, laws governing the activities of broker-dealers and unclaimed property laws.

LNC and its subsidiaries are involved in various pending or threatened legal proceedings, including purported class actions, arising from the conduct of business both in the ordinary course and otherwise. In some of the matters, very large and/or indeterminate amounts, including punitive and treble damages, are sought. Modern pleading practice in the U.S. permits considerable variation in the assertion of monetary damages or other relief. Jurisdictions may permit claimants not to specify the monetary damages sought or may permit claimants to state only that the amount sought is sufficient to invoke the jurisdiction of the trial court. In addition, jurisdictions may permit plaintiffs to allege monetary damages in amounts well exceeding reasonably possible verdicts in the jurisdiction for similar matters. This variability in pleadings, together with the actual experiences of LNC in litigating or resolving through settlement numerous claims over an extended period of time, demonstrates to management that the monetary relief which may be specified in a lawsuit or claim bears little relevance to its merits or disposition value.

Due to the unpredictable nature of litigation, the outcome of a litigation matter and the amount or range of potential loss at particular points in time is normally difficult to ascertain. Uncertainties can include how fact finders will evaluate documentary evidence and the credibility and effectiveness of witness testimony, and how trial and appellate courts will apply the law in the context of the pleadings or evidence presented, whether by motion practice, or at trial or on appeal. Disposition valuations are also subject to the uncertainty of how opposing parties and their counsel will themselves view the relevant evidence and applicable law.

We establish liabilities for litigation and regulatory loss contingencies when information related to the loss contingencies shows both that it is probable that a loss has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. It is possible that some matters could require us to pay damages or make other expenditures or establish accruals in amounts that could not be estimated as of December 31, 2011. While the potential future charges could be material in the particular quarterly or annual periods in which they are recorded, based on information currently known by management, management does not believe any such charges are likely to have a material adverse effect on LNC's financial position.

For some matters, the Company is able to estimate a reasonably possible range of loss. For such matters in which a loss is probable, an accrual has been made. For such matters where a loss is believed to be reasonably possible, but not probable, no accrual has been made. Accordingly, the estimate contained in this paragraph reflects two types of matters. For some matters included within this estimate, an accrual has been made, but there is a reasonable possibility that an exposure exists in excess of the amount accrued. In these cases, the estimate reflects the reasonably possible range of loss in excess of the accrued amount. For other matters included within this estimation, no accrual has been made because a loss, while potentially estimable, is believed to be reasonably possible but not probable. In these cases, the estimate reflects the reasonably possible loss or range of loss. As of December 31, 2011, we estimate the aggregate range of reasonably possible losses, including amounts in excess of amounts accrued for these matters as of such date, to be up to approximately \$100 million.

For other matters, we are not currently able to estimate the reasonably possible loss or range of loss. We are often unable to estimate the possible loss or range of loss until developments in such matters have provided sufficient information to support an assessment of the range of possible loss, such as quantification of a damage demand from plaintiffs, discovery from other parties and investigation of factual allegations, rulings by the court on motions or appeals, analysis by experts, and the progress of settlement negotiations. On a quarterly and annual basis, we review relevant information with respect to litigation contingencies and update our accruals, disclosures and estimates of reasonably possible losses or ranges of loss based on such reviews.

Our life insurance subsidiaries are currently being audited on behalf of multiple states' treasury and controllers' offices for compliance with laws and regulations concerning the identification, reporting and escheatment of unclaimed contract benefits or abandoned funds. The audits focus on insurance company processes and procedures for identifying unreported death claims, and their use of the Social Security Master Death File to identify deceased policy and contract holders. In addition, our life insurance subsidiaries are the subject of multiple state Insurance Department inquiries and market conduct examinations with a similar focus on the handling of unreported claims and abandoned property. The audits and related examination activity may result in additional payments to beneficiaries, escheatment of funds deemed abandoned under state laws, administrative penalties and changes in our procedures for the identification of unreported claims and handling of escheatable property.

On June 13, 2009, a single named plaintiff filed a putative national class action in the Circuit Court of Allen County, Indiana, captioned Peter S. Bezich v. LNL, No. 02C01-0906-PL73, asserting he was charged a cost-of-insurance fee that exceeded the

applicable mortality charge, and that this fee breached the terms of the insurance contract. The parties are conducting fact discovery, and no class certification motion has yet been filed. We dispute the allegations and are vigorously defending this matter.

Commitments

Rescission of Indemnity Reinsurance for Disability Income Business

Included in the business sold to Swiss Re through indemnity reinsurance in 2001 was disability income business. In response to the rescission award of a panel of arbitrators on January 24, 2009, of the underlying reinsurance agreement with Swiss Re, we recorded an adjustment to write down our reinsurance recoverable and the corresponding funds withheld liability, and we released the embedded derivative liability related to the funds withheld nature of the reinsurance agreement, as discussed below. The rescission resulted in our being responsible for paying claims on the business and maintaining sufficient reserves to support the liabilities.

For the year ended December 31, 2009, an unfavorable adjustment of \$97 million, after-tax, was reflected in segment income from operations within Other Operations, comprised of increases of \$129 million to benefits, \$15 million to interest credited and \$5 million to underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses, partially offset by a tax benefit of \$52 million. In addition, during 2009 the embedded derivative liability release discussed above increased net income by approximately \$31 million. The combined adjustments reduced net income by approximately \$66 million, after-tax. As a result of the rescission, we reduced our reinsurance recoverables by approximately \$900 million related to the reserves for the disability income business and reduced our funds withheld liability by approximately \$840 million.

Leases

Certain subsidiaries of ours lease their home office properties. In 2006, we exercised the right and option to extend the Fort Wayne lease for two extended terms such that the lease shall expire in 2019. We retain our right and option to exercise the remaining four extended terms of five years each in accordance with the lease agreement. These agreements also provide us with the right of first refusal to purchase the properties at a price defined in the agreements and the option to purchase the leased properties at fair market value on the last day of any renewal period. In 2007, we exercised the right and option to extend the Hartford lease for one extended term such that the lease shall expire in 2013. During 2007, we moved our corporate headquarters to Radnor, Pennsylvania from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and entered into a new 13-year lease for office space.

Total rental expense on operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, was \$42 million, \$46 million and \$55 million, respectively. Future minimum rental commitments (in millions) as of December 31, 2011, were as follows:

2012	\$	40
2013		35
2014		31
2015		26
2016		22

Information Technology Commitment

Effective January 1, 2012, we renewed our contract with IBM Global Services for information technology services. Annual costs are dependent on usage but are expected to be approximately \$9 million for this new five-year commitment.

Football Stadium Naming Rights Commitment

In 2002, we entered into an agreement with the Philadelphia Eagles to name the Eagles' new stadium Lincoln Financial Field. In exchange for the naming rights, we agreed to pay \$140 million over a 20-year period through annual payments to the Philadelphia Eagles, which average approximately \$7 million per year. The total amount includes a maximum annual increase related to the Consumer Price Index. This future commitment has not been recorded as a liability on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as it is being accounted for in a manner consistent with the accounting for operating leases under the Leases Topic of the FASB ASC.

Vulnerability from Concentrations

As of December 31, 2011, we did not have a concentration of: business transactions with a particular customer or lender; sources of supply of labor or services used in the business; or a market or geographic area in which business is conducted that makes us vulnerable to an event that is at least reasonably possible to occur in the near term and which could cause a severe impact to our financial position.

Although we do not have any significant concentration of customers, our American Legacy Variable Annuity (“ALVA”) product offered in our Annuities segment is significant to this segment. The ALVA product accounted for 22%, 25% and 28% of Annuities’ variable annuity product deposits in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, and represented approximately 54%, 58% and 61% of the segment’s total variable annuity product account values as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. In addition, fund choices for certain of our other variable annuity products offered in our Annuities segment include American Fund Insurance SeriesSM (“AFIS”) funds. For the Annuities segment, AFIS funds accounted for 27%, 29% and 33% of variable annuity product deposits in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, and represented 63%, 66% and 69% of the segment’s total variable annuity product account values as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Other Contingency Matters

State guaranty funds assess insurance companies to cover losses to contract holders of insolvent or rehabilitated companies. Mandatory assessments may be partially recovered through a reduction in future premium taxes in some states. We have accrued for expected assessments net of estimated future premium tax deductions of \$31 million and \$10 million as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

14. Shares and Stockholders’ Equity

Common and Preferred Shares

The changes in our preferred and common stock (number of shares) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Series A Preferred Stock			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	10,914	11,497	11,565
Conversion of convertible preferred stock (1)	(842)	(583)	(68)
Balance as of end-of-year	10,072	10,914	11,497
Series B Preferred Stock			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	-	950,000	-
Issuance (redemption) of Series B preferred stock	-	(950,000)	950,000
Balance as of end-of-year	-	-	950,000
Common Stock			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	315,718,554	302,223,281	255,869,859
Stock issued	-	14,137,615	46,000,000
Conversion of convertible preferred stock (1)	13,472	9,328	1,088
Stock compensation/issued for benefit plans	248,553	414,712	436,100
Retirement/cancellation of shares	(24,661,357)	(1,066,382)	(83,766)
Balance as of end-of-year	291,319,222	315,718,554	302,223,281
Common Stock as of End-of-Year	291,480,374	315,893,178	302,407,233

Assuming conversion of preferred
stock

Diluted basis	298,225,244	324,043,137	311,846,021
---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

(1) Represents the conversion of Series A preferred stock into common stock.

Our common, Series A and Series B preferred stocks are without par value.

Average Shares

A reconciliation of the denominator (number of shares) in the calculations of basic and diluted earnings (loss) per common share was as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Weighted-average shares, as used in basic calculation	307,216,181	310,005,264	280,031,363
Shares to cover exercise of outstanding warrants	10,150,292	12,260,236	6,209,013
Shares to cover conversion of preferred stock	173,289	178,720	184,687
Shares to cover non-vested stock	813,905	616,314	550,700
Average stock options outstanding during the year	636,989	707,704	401,369
Assumed acquisition of shares with assumed proceeds from exercising outstanding warrants	(4,658,020)	(5,148,473)	(2,945,429)
Assumed acquisition of shares with assumed proceeds and benefits from exercising stock options (at average market price for the year)	(427,425)	(464,813)	(275,543)
Shares repurchaseable from measured but unrecognized stock option expense	(65,882)	(139,673)	(85,511)
Average deferred compensation shares	1,110,722	1,198,468	1,564,954
Weighted-average shares, as used in diluted calculation	314,950,051	319,213,747	285,635,603

In the event the average market price of LNC common stock exceeds the issue price of stock options and the options have a dilutive effect to our EPS, such options will be shown in the table above. As a result of a loss from continuing operations for the year ended December 31, 2009, shares used in the EPS calculation represent basic shares, since using diluted shares would have been anti-dilutive to the calculation.

The income used in the calculation of our diluted EPS is our net income (loss), reduced by preferred stock dividends and accretion of discount. These amounts are presented on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss).

We have participants in our deferred compensation plans who selected LNC stock as the measure for the investment return attributable to their deferral amounts. For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, the effect of settling this obligation in LNC stock (“equity classification”) was more dilutive than the scenario of settling it in cash (“liability classification”). Therefore, for our EPS calculation for these periods, we added these shares to the denominator and adjusted the numerator to present net income as if the shares had been accounted for under equity classification by removing the mark-to-market adjustment included in net income attributable to these deferred units of LNC stock. The amount of this adjustment was \$4 million and \$1 million for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

As of December 31, 2011, we had 10,150,292 outstanding warrants. The warrants, each representing the right to purchase one share of our common stock, no par value per share, have an exercise price of \$10.85, and expire on July 10, 2019, and are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “LNC WS.”

Accumulated OCI

The following summarizes the components and changes in accumulated OCI (in millions):

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on AFS Securities			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 1,072	\$ 49	\$ (2,654)
Cumulative effect from adoption of new accounting standards	-	181	(84)
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the year	3,414	2,528	6,204
Change in foreign currency exchange rate adjustment	(5)	(6)	26
Change in DAC, VOBA, DSI and other contract holder funds	(993)	(1,196)	(2,371)
Income tax benefit (expense)	(864)	(478)	(1,366)
Less:			
Reclassification adjustment for gains (losses) included in net income (loss)	(129)	(135)	(569)
Reclassification adjustment for gains (losses) on derivatives included in net income (loss)	-	135	(45)
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(13)	9	161
Income tax benefit (expense)	50	(3)	159
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 2,716	\$ 1,072	\$ 49
Unrealized OTTI on AFS Securities			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ (129)	\$ (115)	\$ -
(Increases) attributable to:			
Cumulative effect from adoption of new accounting standards	-	-	(18)
Gross OTTI recognized in OCI during the year	(58)	(98)	(357)
Change in DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	11	10	82
Income tax benefit (expense)	16	30	96
Decreases attributable to:			
Sales, maturities or other settlements of AFS securities	103	87	154
Change in DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(22)	(20)	(29)
Income tax benefit (expense)	(28)	(23)	(43)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ (107)	\$ (129)	\$ (115)
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivative Instruments			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ (15)	\$ 11	\$ 127
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the year	185	(27)	(89)
Change in foreign currency exchange rate adjustment	7	4	(31)

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

Change in DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(1)	(4)	22
Income tax benefit (expense)	(66)	9	(13)
Less:			
Reclassification adjustment for gains (losses) included in net income (loss)	(10)	14	8
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	-	(1)	-
Income tax benefit (expense)	4	(5)	(3)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 116	\$ (15)	\$ 11
Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ 1	\$ 3	\$ 6
Foreign currency translation adjustment arising during the year	-	(3)	(2)
Income tax benefit (expense)	-	1	(1)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 3
Funded Status of Employee Benefit Plans			
Balance as of beginning-of-year	\$ (181)	\$ (210)	\$ (282)
Adjustment arising during the year	(149)	45	111
Income tax benefit (expense)	52	(16)	(39)
Balance as of end-of-year	\$ (278)	\$ (181)	\$ (210)

15. Realized (Gain) Loss

Details underlying realized gain (loss) (in millions) reported on our Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Total realized gain (loss) related to certain investments (1)	\$ (151)	\$ (180)	\$ (538)
Realized gain (loss) on the mark-to-market on certain instruments (2)	(83)	75	36
Indexed annuity net derivative results: (3)			
Gross gain (loss)	2	34	8
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(2)	(15)	(4)
Variable annuity net derivatives results: (4)			
Gross gain (loss)	(60)	56	(710)
Associated amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL	(5)	(47)	61
Realized gain (loss) on sale of subsidiaries/businesses	-	-	1
Total realized gain (loss)	\$ (299)	\$ (77)	\$ (1,146)

- (1) See “Realized Gain (Loss) Related to Certain Investments” section in Note 5.
- (2) Represents changes in the fair values of certain derivative investments (including those associated with our consolidated VIEs), total return swaps (embedded derivatives that are theoretically included in our various modified coinsurance and coinsurance with funds withheld reinsurance arrangements that have contractual returns related to various assets and liabilities associated with these arrangements) and trading securities.
- (3) Represents the net difference between the change in the fair value of the S&P 500 call options that we hold and the change in the fair value of the embedded derivative liabilities of our indexed annuity products along with changes in the fair value of embedded derivative liabilities related to index call options we may purchase in the future to hedge contract holder index allocations applicable to future reset periods for our indexed annuity products.
- (4) Includes the net difference in the change in embedded derivative reserves of our GLB products and the change in the fair value of the derivative instruments we own to hedge GDB and GLB products, including the cost of purchasing the hedging instruments.

16. Underwriting, Acquisition, Insurance, Restructuring and Other Expenses

Details underlying underwriting, acquisition, insurance and other expenses (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Commissions	\$ 1,672	\$ 1,616	\$ 1,543
General and administrative expenses	1,422	1,412	1,284
Expenses associated with reserve financing and unrelated LOCs	47	34	7

DAC and VOBA deferrals and interest, net of amortization	(651)	(583)	(598)
Broker-dealer expenses	353	320	290
Other intangibles amortization	4	4	4
Media expenses	69	59	53
Taxes, licenses and fees	247	197	160
Merger-related expenses	-	9	17
Restructuring charges (recoveries) for expense initiatives	-	(1)	34
Total	\$ 3,163	\$ 3,067	\$ 2,794

17. Pension, Postretirement Health Care and Life Insurance Benefit Plans

We maintain U.S. qualified funded defined benefit pension plans in which many of our U.S. employees and agents are participants, and we retained the Lincoln UK pension plan after the sale of this business. We also maintain non-qualified, unfunded defined benefit pension plans for certain employees and agents. In addition, for certain former employees we have supplemental retirement plans that provide defined benefit pension benefits in excess of limits imposed by federal tax law. All of our defined benefit pension plans are frozen, including the defined benefit pension plan that was retained after the sale of Lincoln UK, and there are no new participants and no future accruals of benefits from the date of the freeze.

The eligibility requirements for each plan are described in each plan document and vary for each plan based on completion of a specified period of continuous service and date of hire, subject to age limitations. The frozen pension plan benefits are calculated either on a traditional or cash balance formula. Those formulas are based upon years of credited service and eligible earnings as defined in each plan document. The traditional formula provides benefits stated in terms of a single life annuity payable at age 65. The cash balance formula provides benefits stated as a lump sum hypothetical account balance. That account balance equals the sum of the employee's accumulated annual benefit credits plus interest credits. Benefit credits, which are based on years of service and base salary plus bonus, ceased as of the date the plan was frozen. Interest credits continue until the participant's benefit is paid.

We also sponsor a voluntary employees' beneficiary association ("VEBA") trust that provides postretirement medical, dental and life insurance benefits to retired full-time U.S. employees and agents who, depending on the plan, have worked for us for 10 years and attained age 55 (age 60 for agents). VEBAs are a special type of tax-exempt trust used to provide benefits that are subject to preferential tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code. Medical and dental benefits are available to spouses and other eligible dependents of retired employees and agents. Retirees may be required to contribute toward the cost of these benefits. Eligibility and the amount of required contribution for these benefits varies based upon a variety of factors including years of service and year of retirement.

Obligations, Funded Status and Assumptions

Information (in millions) with respect to our benefit plans' assets and obligations was as follows:

	As of or for the Years Ended December 31,					
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
	U.S.		Non-U.S.		Other	
	Pension Benefits		Pension Benefits		Postretirement Benefits	
Change in Plan Assets						
Fair value as of beginning-of-year	\$ 918	\$ 842	\$ 314	\$ 307	\$ 37	\$ 34
Actual return on plan assets	72	118	49	29	3	2
Company and participant contributions	36	31	1	-	15	15
Benefits paid	(70)	(73)	(12)	(12)	(17)	(15)
Medicare Part D subsidy	-	-	-	-	1	1
Foreign exchange translation	-	-	(2)	(10)	-	-
Fair value as of end-of-year	956	918	350	314	39	37
Change in Benefit Obligation						
Balance as of beginning-of-year	1,093	1,050	271	289	155	151
Service cost (1)	3	3	-	-	4	3
Interest cost	58	61	15	16	7	9
Company and participant contributions	-	-	-	-	6	6
Curtailments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial (gains) losses	154	52	38	(12)	5	-
Benefits paid	(70)	(73)	(12)	(12)	(17)	(15)
Medicare Part D subsidy	-	-	-	-	1	1
Foreign exchange translation	-	-	(1)	(10)	-	-
Balance as of end-of-year	1,238	1,093	311	271	161	155
Funded status of the plans	\$ (282)	\$ (175)	\$ 39	\$ 43	\$ (122)	\$ (118)
Amounts Recognized on the Consolidated Balance Sheets						
Other assets	\$ 18	\$ 15	\$ 39	\$ 43	\$ -	\$ -
Other liabilities	(300)	(190)	-	-	(122)	(118)
Net amount recognized	\$ (282)	\$ (175)	\$ 39	\$ 43	\$ (122)	\$ (118)
Amounts Recognized in Accumulated OCI, Net of Tax						
Net (gain) loss	\$ 243	\$ 153	\$ 33	\$ 30	\$ 5	\$ 2
Prior service credit	-	-	-	-	(3)	(4)
Net amount recognized	\$ 243	\$ 153	\$ 33	\$ 30	\$ 2	\$ (2)
Rate of Increase in Compensation						
Retiree Life Insurance Plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.00 %	4.00 %
All other plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Weighted-Average Assumptions						
Benefit obligations:						

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

Weighted-average discount rate	4.45 %	5.50 %	5.00 %	5.70 %	4.25 %	5.00 %
Expected return on plan assets	7.78 %	8.00 %	5.40 %	5.40 %	6.50 %	6.50 %
Net periodic benefit cost:						
Weighted-average discount rate	5.45 %	6.00 %	5.70 %	5.80 %	5.00 %	6.00 %
Expected return on plan assets	7.78 %	8.00 %	5.40 %	5.80 %	6.50 %	6.50 %

(1) Amounts for our U.S. pension plans represent general and administrative expenses.

Consistent with our benefit plans' year end, we use December 31 as the measurement date.

The discount rate was determined based on a corporate yield curve as of December 31, 2011, and projected benefit obligation cash flows for the U.S. pension plans. We reevaluate this assumption each plan year. For 2012, our discount rate for the U.S. pension plans will be 4.45%, and 5.00% for the non-U.S. plan.

The expected return on plan assets was determined based on historical and expected future returns of the various asset categories, using the plans' target plan allocation. We reevaluate this assumption each plan year. For 2012, our expected return on plan assets is 7.78% for the U.S. plans and 5.40% for the non-U.S. plan.

The calculation of the accumulated other postretirement benefit obligation assumes a weighted-average annual rate of increase in the per capita cost of covered benefits (i.e., health care cost trend rate) as follows:

	As of or for the		
	Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Pre-65 health care cost trend rate	8.50%	9.50%	10.00%
Post-65 health care cost trend rate	8.50%	9.50%	13.00%
Ultimate trend rate	4.50%	5.00%	5.00%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate	2021	2020	2020

We expect the health care cost trend rate for 2012 to be 8.50% for both the pre-65 and the post-65 population. A one-percentage point increase in assumed health care cost trend rates would have increased the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation by \$5 million and total service and interest cost components by \$1 million. A one-percentage point decrease in assumed health care cost trend rates would have decreased the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation by \$8 million and total service and interest cost components by \$1 million.

Information for our pension plans with an accumulated benefit obligation in excess of plan assets (in millions) was as follows:

	As of December	
	31,	
	2011	2010
U.S. Plan		
Accumulated benefit obligation	\$ 1,118	\$ 1,072
Projected benefit obligation	1,118	1,072
Fair value of plan assets	818	881

Components of Net Periodic Benefit Cost

The components of net periodic benefit cost for our pension plans' and other postretirement plans' expense (recovery) (in millions) were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,					
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2009
	Pension Benefits			Other Postretirement Benefits		
U.S. Plans						
Service cost (1)	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 4	\$ 3	\$ 3
Interest cost	58	61	62	7	9	8
Expected return on plan assets	(71)	(65)	(55)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Amortization of prior service cost	-	-	-	(1)	(1)	(1)
Recognized net actuarial loss (gain)	13	15	28	1	1	(2)
Net periodic benefit expense (recovery)	\$ 3	\$ 14	\$ 38	\$ 9	\$ 10	\$ 6
Non-U.S. Plans						
Service cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1			
Interest cost	15	16	16			
Expected return on plan assets	(16)	(16)	(15)			
Amortization of prior service cost	-	-	1			
Recognized net actuarial loss (gain)	-	1	1			
Net periodic benefit expense (recovery)	\$ (1)	\$ 1	\$ 4			

(1) Amounts for our pension plans represent general and administrative expenses.

We expect our 2012 U.S. pension plans' expense to be approximately \$13 million. In addition, we expect our non-U.S. pension plan income for 2012 to be approximately \$2 million when assuming an average exchange rate of 1.56 pounds sterling to U.S. dollars.

For 2012, the estimated amount of amortization from accumulated OCI into net periodic benefit expense related to net actuarial loss or gain is expected to be an approximate \$26 million loss for our pension plans and less than \$1 million loss for our other postretirement plans.

Plan Assets

Our pension plans' asset target allocations by asset category based on estimated fair values were as follows:

Asset Class	For the Years Ended December 31,							
	2011		2010		2011		2010	
	U.S. Plan - Employees				U.S. Plan - Agents			
					Non-U.S. Plan			
Fixed maturity securities	50 %	50 %	80 %	50 %	56 %	65 %		
Common stock:								
Domestic equity	35 %	35 %	14 %	35 %	- %	- %		

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN NATIONAL CORP - Form 10-K

International equity	15	%	15	%	6	%	15	%	-	%	-	%
Equity securities	-	%	-	%	-	%	-	%	43	%	15	%
Cash and invested cash	-	%	-	%	-	%	-	%	1	%	20	%

The investment objectives for the assets related to our pension plans are to:

- Maintain sufficient liquidity to pay obligations of the plans as they come due;
- Minimize the effect of a single investment loss and large losses to the plans through prudent risk/reward diversification consistent with sound fiduciary standards;
- Maintain an appropriate asset allocation policy;

- Earn a return commensurate with the level of risk assumed through the asset allocation policy; and
- Control costs of administering and managing the plans' investment operations.

Investments can be made in various asset classes and styles, including, but not limited to: domestic and international equity, fixed income securities, derivatives and other asset classes the investment managers deem prudent. Our plans follow a strategic asset allocation policy that strives to systemically increase the percentage of assets in liability-matching fixed income investments as funding levels increase.

We currently target asset weightings as follows: for the U.S. Plan – Employees, domestic equity allocations (35%) are split into large cap (25%), small cap (5%) and hedge funds (5%), and for the U.S. Plan – Agents, domestic equity allocations (14%) are split into large cap (10%), small cap (2%) and hedge funds (2%). Fixed maturity securities represent core fixed income investments. The performance of the pension trust assets are monitored on a quarterly basis relative to the plans' objectives.

Our U.S. pension plans' assets have been combined into a master retirement trust where a variety of qualified managers, including manager of managers, are expected to have returns that exceed the median of similar funds over three-year periods, above an appropriate index over five-year periods and meet real return standards over ten-year periods. Managers are monitored for adherence to approved investment policy guidelines and managers not meeting these criteria are subject to additional due diligence review, corrective action or possible termination.

Fair Value of Plan Assets

See "Fair Value Measurement" in Note 1 for discussion of how we categorize our pension plans' assets into the three-level fair value hierarchy. See "Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value" in Note 21 for a summary of our fair value measurements of our pension plans' assets by the three-level fair value hierarchy.

The following summarizes our fair value measurements of benefit plans' assets (in millions) on a recurring basis by asset category:

	As of December 31,					
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
	U.S.		Non-U.S.		Other Postretirement Benefits	
	Pension Plans		Pension Plans			
Fixed maturity securities:						
Corporate bonds	\$ 370	\$ 266	\$ 34	\$ 22	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Government bonds	114	103	13	2	-	-
Foreign government bonds	24	39	206	166	-	-
RMBS	1	2	-	-	-	-
CMBS	4	5	-	-	-	-
CDOs	1	1	1	2	-	-
Common stock	418	444	57	101	-	-
Cash and invested cash	24	58	39	21	39	37
Total	\$ 956	\$ 918	\$ 350	\$ 314	\$ 39	\$ 37

Valuation Methodologies and Associated Inputs for Pension Plans' Assets

The fair value measurements of our pension plans' assets are based on assumptions used by market participants in pricing the security. The most appropriate valuation methodology is selected based on the specific characteristics of the security, and the valuation methodology is consistently applied to measure the security's fair value. The fair value measurement is based on a market approach, which utilizes prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable securities. Sources of inputs to the market approach include third-party pricing services, independent broker quotations or pricing matrices. Both observable and unobservable inputs are used in the valuation methodologies. Observable inputs include benchmark yields, reported trades, broker-dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, bids, offers and reference data. In addition, market indicators, industry and economic events are monitored and further market data is acquired if certain triggers are met. For certain security types, additional inputs may be used, or some of the inputs described above may not be applicable. For broker-quoted only securities, quotes from market makers or broker-dealers are obtained from sources recognized to be market participants. In order to validate the pricing information and broker-dealer quotes, procedures are

employed, where possible, that include comparisons with similar observable positions, comparisons with subsequent sales, discussions with brokers and observations of general market movements for those security classes. For those securities trading in less liquid or illiquid markets with limited or no pricing information, unobservable inputs are used in order to measure the fair value of these securities. In cases where this information is not available, such as for privately placed securities, fair value is estimated using an internal pricing matrix. This matrix relies on judgment concerning the discount rate used in calculating expected future cash flows, credit quality, industry sector performance and expected maturity.

Prices received from third parties are not adjusted; however, the third-party pricing services' valuation methodologies and related inputs are evaluated and additional evaluation is performed to determine the appropriate level within the fair value hierarchy.

The observable and unobservable inputs to the valuation methodologies are based on general standard inputs. The standard inputs used in order of priority are benchmark yields, reported trades, broker/dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, bids, offers and reference data. Depending on the type of security or the daily market activity, standard inputs may be prioritized differently or may not be available for all securities on any given day.

Cash and invested cash is carried at cost, which approximates fair value. This category includes highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less. Due to the nature of these assets, we believe these assets should be classified as Level 2.

Plan Cash Flows

It is our practice to make contributions to the qualified pension plans to comply with minimum funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended and with guidance issued there under. In accordance with such practice, no contributions were required for the years ended December 31, 2011 or 2010; however, we elected to contribute \$25 million on December 1, 2011. Based on our calculations, we do not expect to be required to make any contributions to our qualified pension plans in 2012 under applicable pension law.

For our nonqualified pension plans, we fund the benefits as they become due to retirees. The amount expected to be contributed to the nonqualified pension plans during 2012 is approximately \$10 million.

We expect the following benefit payments (in millions):

	Pension Plans		U.S. Other Postretirement Plans			
	Qualified U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Nonqualified U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Qualified Non-U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Reflecting Medicare Part D Subsidy	Not Reflecting Medicare Part D Subsidy	Reflecting Medicare Part D Subsidy
2012	\$ 72	\$ 10	\$ 12	\$ 10	\$ (2)	\$ 12
2013	70	10	13	10	(2)	12
2014	68	9	14	11	(2)	13
2015	67	11	14	11	(2)	13
2016	69	9	15	12	(2)	14
	336	44	86	59	(12)	71

Following five
years thereafter

18. Defined Contribution and Deferred Compensation Plans

Defined Contribution Plans

We sponsor defined contribution plans, which include money purchase plans, for eligible employees and agents. We make contributions and matching contributions to each of the active plans in accordance with the plan documents and various limitations under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, expenses (income) for these plans were \$67 million, \$62 million and \$63 million, respectively.

Deferred Compensation Plans

We sponsor six separate non-qualified, unfunded, deferred compensation plans for employees, agents and non-employee directors.

187

The results for certain investment options within the plans are hedged by total return swaps. Participants' account values change due primarily to investment earnings driven by market fluctuations. Our expenses increase or decrease in direct proportion to the change in market value of the participants' investment options. Participants are able to select our stock as an investment option; however, it is not hedged by the total return swaps and is a primary source of expense volatility related to these plans. For further discussion of total return swaps related to our deferred compensation plans, see Note 6.

Information (in millions) with respect to these plans was as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
Total liabilities (1)	\$ 354	\$ 363
Investments held to fund liabilities (2)	133	130

(1) Reported in other liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(2) Reported in other assets on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Deferred Compensation Plan for Employees

Participants may elect to defer a portion of their compensation as defined by the plan. Participants may select from prescribed "phantom" investment options that are used as measures for calculating the returns that are notionally credited to their accounts. Under the terms of the plan, we agree to pay out amounts based upon the aggregate performance of the investment measures selected by the participants. We make matching contributions based upon amounts placed into the plan by individuals after participants have exceeded applicable limits of the Internal Revenue Code. The amount of our contribution is calculated in accordance with the plan document. Expenses (income) (in millions) for this plan were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Employer matching contributions	\$ 6	\$ 6	\$ 4
Increase (decrease) in measurement of liabilities, net of total return swap	1	1	(5)
Total plan expenses (income)	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ (1)

Deferred Compensation Plans for Agents

We sponsor three deferred compensation plans for certain eligible agents. Participants may elect to defer a portion of their compensation as defined by the respective plan. Participants may select from prescribed "phantom" investment options that are used as measures for calculating the returns that are notionally credited to their accounts. Under the terms of these plans, we agree to pay out amounts based upon the aggregate performance of the investment measures selected by the participants. We make matching contributions based upon amounts placed into the plans by individuals after participants have exceeded applicable limits of the Internal Revenue Code. The amounts of our contributions are calculated in accordance with the plans' documents. Expenses (income) (in millions) for these plans were as follows:

	For the Years Ended		
	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Employer matching contributions	\$ 1	\$ 3	\$ 1
Increase (decrease) in measurement of liabilities, net of total return swap	-	3	3
Total plan expenses (income)	\$ 1	\$ 6	\$ 4

Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors

Non-employee directors may defer a portion of their annual retainers, and we credit deferred stock units annually to their accounts. The prescribed “phantom” investment options are identical to those offered in the employees’ plan. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, expenses (income) for this plan were less than (\$1) million, \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively.

Deferred Compensation Plan for Former JP Agents

Eligible former agents of JP may participate in this deferred compensation plan. Participants may elect to defer commissions and bonuses and specify where this deferred compensation will be invested in selected notional mutual funds. Participants may not receive the returns on these funds until attaining a specified age or in the event of a significant lifestyle change. The funded amount is rebalanced to match the funds that have been elected under the deferred compensation plan. The plan obligation increases with contributions, deferrals and investment gains, and decreases with withdrawals and investment losses. The plan assets increase with investment gains and decrease with investment losses and payouts of benefits. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, expenses (income) for this plan were \$4 million, \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively.

19. Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plans

LNC Stock-Based Incentive Plans

We sponsor various incentive plans for our employees and directors, and for the employees and agents of our subsidiaries that provide for the issuance of stock options, performance shares (performance-vested shares as opposed to time-vested shares), stock appreciation rights (“SARs”), restricted stock units, and restricted stock awards (“nonvested stock”). We have a policy of issuing new shares to satisfy option exercises.

Total compensation expense (in millions) for all of our stock-based incentive compensation plans was as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Stock options	\$ 8	\$ 5	\$ 6
Performance shares	2	(1)	(2)
Restricted stock units and nonvested stock	12	12	9
Total	\$ 22	\$ 16	\$ 13
Recognized tax benefit	\$ 8	\$ 6	\$ 5

Total unrecognized compensation expense (in millions) for all of our stock-based incentive compensation plans was as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	Weighted- Average	Weighted-	Weighted-