

AMERISAFE INC
Form 10-Q
November 09, 2007
[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

Commission file number: 000-51520

AMERISAFE, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Texas
(State of Incorporation)

75-2069407
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

2301 Highway 190 West, DeRidder, Louisiana
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

70634
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (337) 463-9052

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

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

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Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☒ Non-accelerated filer ☐

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

As of November 1, 2007, there were 18,806,240 shares of the Registrant's common stock, par value \$.01 per share, outstanding.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
	No.
<u>PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
Forward-Looking Statements	3
Item 1 Financial Statements	4
Item 2 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	12
Item 3 Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	18
Item 4 Controls and Procedures	18
<u>PART II - OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
Item 1 Legal Proceedings	18
Item 1A Risk Factors	18
Item 2 Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	18
Item 3 Defaults Upon Senior Securities	18
Item 4 Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders	18
Item 5 Other Information	18
Item 6 Exhibits	19

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. These forward-looking statements include statements that reflect the current views of our senior management with respect to our financial performance and future events with respect to our business and the insurance industry in general. Statements that include the words expect, intend, plan, believe, project, forecast, estimate, may, anticipate and similar statements of a future or forward-looking nature identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements address matters that involve risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated in these statements. We believe that these factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

the cyclical nature of the workers' compensation insurance industry;

greater frequency or severity of claims and loss activity, including as a result of natural or man-made catastrophic events, than our underwriting, reserving or investment practices anticipate based on historical experience or industry data;

changes in the availability, cost or quality of reinsurance and the failure of our reinsurers to pay claims in a timely manner or at all;

decreased level of business activity of our policyholders;

increased competition on the basis of coverage availability, claims management, safety services, payment terms, premium rates, policy terms, types of insurance offered, overall financial strength, financial ratings and reputation;

changes in rating agency policies or practices;

negative developments in the workers' compensation insurance industry;

decreased demand for our insurance;

changes in regulations or laws applicable to us, our policyholders or the agencies that sell our insurance;

changes in legal theories of liability under our insurance policies;

developments in capital markets that adversely affect the performance of our investments;

loss of the services of any of our senior management or other key employees;

the effects of U.S. involvement in hostilities with other countries and large-scale acts of terrorism, or the threat of hostilities or terrorist acts; and

changes in general economic conditions, including interest rates, inflation and other factors.

The foregoing factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read together with the other cautionary statements included in this report, including under the caption **Risk Factors** in Item 1A, **Risk Factors** of Part I to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. If one or more events related to these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may differ materially from what we anticipate.

Table of Contents**PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements.****AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands, except share and per share data)

(unaudited)

	September 30, 2007	December 31, 2006
Assets		
Investments:		
Fixed maturity securities held-to-maturity, at amortized cost (fair value \$636,891 and \$609,268 in 2007 and 2006, respectively)	\$ 642,492	\$ 615,114
Fixed maturity securities available-for-sale, at fair value (cost \$19,100 and \$0 in 2007 and 2006, respectively)	19,100	
Equity securities available-for-sale, at fair value (cost \$27,273 and \$22,157 in 2007 and 2006, respectively)	29,798	23,666
Total investments	691,390	638,780
Cash and cash equivalents	45,724	26,748
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers	90,728	109,603
Premiums receivable, net	174,379	144,384
Deferred income taxes	29,656	29,466
Accrued interest receivable	7,350	5,921
Property and equipment, net	4,450	5,687
Deferred policy acquisition costs	19,973	18,486
Deferred charges	4,167	3,548
Other assets	13,374	11,523
	\$ 1,081,191	\$ 994,146
Liabilities, redeemable preferred stock and shareholders equity		
Liabilities:		
Reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 556,050	\$ 519,178
Unearned premiums	155,839	137,761
Reinsurance premiums payable		1,378
Amounts held for others	2,395	1,827
Policyholder deposits	40,646	39,141
Insurance-related assessments	42,513	40,886
Federal income tax payable		3,631
Accounts payable and other liabilities	30,658	30,470
Subordinated debt securities	36,090	36,090
	864,191	810,362
Redeemable preferred stock	25,000	25,000
Shareholders equity:		

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Common stock:

Voting \$0.01 par value authorized shares 50,000,000 in 2007 and 2006; issued and outstanding shares 18,806,240 in 2007 and 18,705,098 in 2006

	188	187
Additional paid-in capital	173,266	171,557
Accumulated earnings (deficit)	14,609	(16,988)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	3,937	4,028

192,000 158,784

\$ 1,081,191 \$ 994,146

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents**AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(in thousands, except share and per share data)

(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Revenues				
Gross premiums written	\$ 81,138	\$ 82,951	\$ 265,913	\$ 255,920
Ceded premiums written	(5,352)	(4,894)	(15,212)	(14,069)
Net premiums written	\$ 75,786	\$ 78,057	\$ 250,701	\$ 241,851
Net premiums earned	\$ 79,637	\$ 74,991	\$ 232,624	\$ 214,972
Net investment income	7,924	6,316	22,282	18,132
Net realized gains on investments	91	346	127	2,581
Fee and other income	641	195	918	550
Total revenues	88,293	81,848	255,951	236,235
Expenses				
Loss and loss adjustment expenses incurred	54,917	51,743	160,623	149,989
Underwriting and certain other operating costs	5,947	9,089	18,614	26,524
Commissions	5,242	4,925	15,251	13,811
Salaries and benefits	4,664	4,195	13,975	12,404
Interest expense	900	923	2,664	2,579
Policyholder dividends	276	216	963	563
Total expenses	71,946	71,091	212,090	205,870
Income before income taxes	16,347	10,757	43,861	30,365
Income tax expense	4,528	2,492	12,262	7,046
Net income	11,819	8,265	31,599	23,319
Preferred stock dividends				
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 11,819	\$ 8,265	\$ 31,599	\$ 23,319
Earnings per share				
Basic	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.42	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.17
Diluted	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.42	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.17
Shares used in computing earnings per share				
Basic	18,787,598	17,424,054	18,759,235	17,422,413
Diluted	19,091,800	17,432,597	19,074,226	17,431,263

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents**AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Operating Activities				
Net income	\$ 11,819	\$ 8,265	\$ 31,599	\$ 23,319
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation	383	514	1,342	1,443
Net amortization of investments	652	600	2,123	1,910
Deferred income taxes	1,548	(1,547)	(141)	(4,463)
Net realized gains on investments	(91)	(346)	(127)	(2,581)
Gain on sale of asset		(39)		(82)
Share-based compensation	236	193	790	651
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:				
Premiums receivable	3,836	(1,782)	(29,995)	(21,687)
Accrued interest receivable	(926)	(768)	(1,429)	(1,603)
Deferred policy acquisition costs and deferred charges	648	(57)	(2,106)	(3,633)
Other assets	789	1,574	(1,851)	(4,935)
Reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses	10,910	15,783	36,872	36,358
Unearned premiums	(3,850)	3,066	18,078	26,879
Reinsurance balances	541	(3,199)	17,497	(230)
Amounts held for others and policyholder deposits	(595)	(63)	2,073	378
Accounts payable and other liabilities	(2,995)	253	(1,816)	4,779
Net cash provided by operating activities	22,905	22,447	72,909	56,503
Investing Activities				
Purchases of investments held-to-maturity	(25,305)	(15,320)	(103,511)	(113,312)
Purchases of investments available-for-sale	(59,630)	(1,782)	(367,716)	(20,905)
Proceeds from maturities of investments held-to-maturity	8,679	6,008	36,466	51,717
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments available-for-sale	50,415	19,706	380,015	39,547
Purchases of property and equipment	(56)	(509)	(106)	(1,147)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment		41		86
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(25,897)	8,144	(54,852)	(44,014)
Financing Activities				
Proceeds from stock option exercises	18		748	
Tax benefit from share-based payments	1		171	3
Net cash provided by financing activities	19		919	3
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(2,973)	30,591	18,976	12,492
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	48,697	31,187	26,748	49,286
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 45,724	\$ 61,778	\$ 45,724	\$ 61,778

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

Note 1. Basis of Presentation

AMERISAFE, Inc. (the Company) is an insurance holding company incorporated in the state of Texas. The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries: American Interstate Insurance Company (AIIC), Silver Oak Casualty, Inc. (SOCI), American Interstate Insurance Company of Texas (AIICTX), Amerisafe Risk Services, Inc. (RISK) and Amerisafe General Agency, Inc. (AGAI). AIIC and SOCI are property and casualty insurance companies organized under the laws of the state of Louisiana. AIICTX is a property and casualty insurance company organized under the laws of the state of Texas. RISK, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, is a claims and safety services company, currently servicing only affiliate insurance companies. AGAI, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, is a general agent for the Company. AGAI sells insurance, which is underwritten by AIIC, SOCI and AIICTX, as well as by nonaffiliated insurance carriers. The assets and operations of AGAI are not significant to that of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries. The terms AMERISAFE, the Company, we, us, or our refer to AMERISAFE, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries in the context requires.

The Company provides workers' compensation and general liability insurance for small to mid-sized employers engaged in hazardous industries, principally construction, trucking and logging. Assets and revenues of AIIC represent more than 99% of comparable consolidated amounts of the Company for each of 2007 and 2006.

In the opinion of the management of the Company, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) necessary to present fairly the financial position, the results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and therefore do not include all information and footnotes to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP). The results for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations that may be expected for the year. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contained herein should be read in conjunction with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Note 2. Stock Options and Restricted Stock

In connection with the initial public offering of shares of the Company's common stock in November 2005, the Company's shareholders approved the AMERISAFE 2005 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2005 Incentive Plan) and the AMERISAFE 2005 Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Plan (the 2005 Restricted Stock Plan). See Note 13 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 for additional information regarding the Company's incentive plans.

Table of Contents

AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

On March 10, 2006, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved incentive compensation awards to each of the Company's executive officers for services rendered in 2005. The awards were composed of cash bonuses and grants of restricted common stock. The restricted stock awards were made pursuant to the Company's 2005 Incentive Plan. Vesting of those restricted shares that were not forfeited took place on March 10, 2007, the first anniversary of the date of grant.

On March 2, 2007, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved incentive compensation awards to each of the Company's executive officers for services rendered in 2006. The awards were composed of cash bonuses, grants of restricted common stock and stock options, and all were made pursuant to the Company's 2005 Incentive Plan. The fair value of the 13,030 restricted shares granted was \$230,000 and those restricted shares will vest on March 2, 2008, the first anniversary of the date of grant. The options, totaling 50,000 shares, will vest at a rate of 20% each year commencing on the first anniversary of the grant date.

On March 1, 2007, 142 shares of restricted common stock were issued to a new non-employee director pursuant to the 2005 Restricted Stock Plan. The fair value of the restricted shares granted was \$2,500, and those restricted shares vested June 14, 2007, the date of the annual shareholders' meeting.

Pursuant to the 2005 Restricted Stock Plan, 4,888 shares of restricted common stock granted to non-employee directors in May 2006 vested on June 14, 2007, the date of the annual shareholders' meeting. Also on June 14, 2007, non-employee directors were issued restricted common stock totaling 5,943 shares in accordance with the 2005 Restricted Stock Plan. The fair value of the restricted shares granted was \$105,000, and those restricted shares will vest at the next annual shareholders' meeting.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2007, there were 83,249 stock options exercised. Related to these exercises, the Company received \$748,000 of stock option proceeds.

The Company recognized share-based compensation expense of \$236,000 in the quarter ended September 30, 2007, compared to \$193,000 for the same period in 2006. The Company recognized share-based compensation expense of \$790,000 in the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to \$651,000 for the same period in 2006.

Note 3. Earnings Per Share

We compute earnings per share in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 128, Earnings per Share. Additionally, we apply the two-class method in computing basic and diluted earnings per share. The two-class method was introduced in SFAS 128, and further clarified in Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) No. 03-06, Participating Securities and the Two-Class Method under FASB Statement No. 128, Earnings Per Share, (Issue 03-6). Under the two-class method, net income is allocated between common stock and any securities other than common stock that are eligible to participate in dividends with common stock. Our redeemable preferred stock qualifies as participating securities under SFAS 128 and EITF 03-06.

The two-class method allocates net income available to common shareholders and participating securities to the extent that each security shares in earnings as if all earnings for the period had been distributed. The amount of earnings allocable to common shareholders is divided by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Participating securities that are convertible into common stock are included in the computation of basic earnings per share if the effect is dilutive.

Table of Contents**AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(unaudited)**

Diluted earnings per share includes potential common shares assumed issued under the treasury stock method, which reflects the potential dilution that would occur if any outstanding options are exercised. Diluted earnings per share also includes the if converted method for participating securities if the effect is dilutive. The two-class method of calculating diluted earnings per share is used whether the if converted result is dilutive or anti-dilutive.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
<u>Basic EPS:</u>				
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 11,819	\$ 8,265	\$ 31,599	\$ 23,319
Portion allocable to common shareholders	94.0%	87.8%	94.0%	87.8%
Net income allocable to common shareholders	\$ 11,112	\$ 7,257	\$ 29,706	\$ 20,474
Basic weighted average common shares	18,787,598	17,424,054	18,759,235	17,422,413
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.42	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.17
<u>Diluted EPS:</u>				
Net income allocable to common shareholders	\$ 11,112	\$ 7,257	\$ 29,706	\$ 20,474
<u>Diluted weighted average common shares:</u>				
Weighted average common shares	18,787,598	17,424,054	18,759,235	17,422,413
Stock options	294,165		302,799	
Restricted stock	10,037	8,543	12,192	8,850
Diluted weighted average common shares	19,091,800	17,432,597	19,074,226	17,431,263
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.42	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.17

Table of Contents**AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(unaudited)**

The table below sets forth the calculation of the percentage of net income allocable to common shareholders, or the portion allocable to common shareholders. Under the two-class method, unvested stock options, and out-of-the-money vested stock options are not considered to be participating securities.

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2007		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007	
Numerator:				
Basic weighted average common shares	18,787,598	17,424,054	18,759,235	17,422,413
Add: Other common shares eligible for common dividends:				
Weighted average restricted shares and stock options (including tax benefit component)	304,202	8,543	314,991	8,850
Weighted average participating common shares	19,091,800	17,432,597	19,074,226	17,431,263
Denominator:				
Weighted average participating common shares	19,091,800	17,432,597	19,074,226	17,431,263
Add: Other classes of securities, including contingently issuable common shares and convertible preferred shares:				
Weighted average common shares issuable upon conversion of Series C preferred shares	242,953	1,457,724	242,953	1,457,724
Weighted average common shares issuable upon conversion of Series D preferred shares	971,817	971,817	971,817	971,817
Weighted average participating shares	20,306,570	19,862,138	20,288,996	19,860,804

Portion allocable to common shareholders for the third quarter of 2007 was 94.0%, or 19,091,800 divided by 20,306,570. Portion allocable to common shareholders for the third quarter of 2006 was 87.8%, or 17,432,597 divided by 19,862,138. Portion allocable to common shareholders for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was 94.0%, or 19,074,226 divided by 20,288,996. Portion allocable to common shareholders for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 was 87.8%, or 17,431,263 divided by 19,860,804.

Note 4. Income Taxes

The Company adopted the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 (FIN 48), on January 1, 2007. At the adoption date and as of September 30, 2007, the Company had no material unrecognized tax benefits and no adjustments to liabilities or operations were required.

The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense, which were zero for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

Tax years 2003 through 2006 are subject to examination by the federal and state taxing authorities. There are no income tax examinations currently in process.

Note 5. Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income was \$11.6 million for the three months ended and \$31.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The difference between net income as reported and comprehensive income was changes in unrealized gains and losses, net of tax.

Table of Contents

AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

Note 6. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2005, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) released Statement of Position 05-1, Accounting by Insurance Enterprises for Deferred Acquisition Costs in Connection With Modifications or Exchanges of Insurance Contracts (SOP 05-1). SOP 05-1 requires identification of transactions that result in a substantial change in an insurance contract. If it is determined that a substantial change to an insurance contract has occurred, the related unamortized deferred policy acquisition costs, unearned premiums and other related balances must be written off. The Company adopted SOP 05-1 on January 1, 2007. SOP 05-1 did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements (FAS 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. FAS 157 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. We do not expect the adoption of FAS 157 to have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (FAS 159), which permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value, and establishes presentation and disclosure requirements for similar assets and liabilities measured at fair value. FAS 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The effect of the adoption of FAS 159 on our consolidated financial condition and results of operations will depend on the nature and extent of items elected to be measured at fair value when we initially apply the standard in the first quarter of 2008. We are currently in the process of making those determinations.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the related notes included in Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, together with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

We begin our discussion with an overview of our Company to give you an understanding of our business and the markets we serve. We then discuss our critical accounting policies. This is followed with a discussion of our results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006. This discussion includes an analysis of certain significant period-to-period variances in our consolidated statements of operations. Our cash flows and financial condition are discussed under the caption Liquidity and Capital Resources.

Business Overview

AMERISAFE is a holding company that markets and underwrites workers' compensation insurance through its subsidiaries. Workers' compensation insurance covers statutorily prescribed benefits that employers are obligated to provide to their employees who are injured in the course and scope of their employment. Our business strategy is focused on providing this coverage to small to mid-sized employers engaged in hazardous industries, principally construction, trucking and logging. Employers engaged in hazardous industries pay substantially higher than average rates for workers' compensation insurance compared to employers in other industries, as measured per payroll dollar. The higher premium rates are due to the nature of the work performed and the inherent workplace danger of our target employers. Hazardous industry employers also tend to have less frequent but more severe claims as compared to employers in other industries due to the nature of their businesses. We provide proactive safety reviews of employers' workplaces. These safety reviews are a vital component of our underwriting process and also promote safer workplaces. We utilize intensive claims management practices that we believe permit us to reduce the overall cost of our claims. In addition, our audit services ensure that our policyholders pay the appropriate premiums required under the terms of their policies and enable us to monitor payroll patterns or aberrations that cause underwriting, safety or fraud concerns. We believe that the higher premiums typically paid by our policyholders, together with our disciplined underwriting and safety, claims and audit services, provide us with the opportunity to earn attractive returns on equity.

We market our insurance in 31 states and the District of Columbia through independent agencies, as well as through our wholly owned insurance agency subsidiary. We are also licensed in an additional 14 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Critical Accounting Policies

It is important to understand our accounting policies in order to understand our financial statements. Management considers some of these policies to be critically important to the presentation of our financial results because they require us to make estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of our assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the related disclosures. Some of the estimates result from judgments that can be subjective and complex and, consequently, actual results in future periods might differ from these estimates.

Management believes that the most critical accounting policies relate to the reporting of reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses, including losses that have occurred but have not been reported prior to the reporting date, amounts recoverable from reinsurers, assessments, deferred policy acquisition costs, deferred income taxes and the impairment of investment securities. These critical accounting policies are more fully described in Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Part II to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

The following table summarizes our consolidated financial results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and September 30, 2006.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	(dollars in thousands, except per share data)			
	(unaudited)			
Gross premiums written	\$ 81,138	\$ 82,951	\$ 265,913	\$ 255,920
Net premiums earned	79,637	74,991	232,624	214,972
Net investment income	7,924	6,316	22,282	18,132
Total revenues	88,293	81,848	255,951	236,235
Total expenses	71,946	71,091	212,090	205,870
Net income	11,819	8,265	31,599	23,319
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.42	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.17
Other Key Measures				
Net combined ratio (1)	89.2%	93.6%	90.0%	94.6%
Return on average equity (2)	22.4%	19.8%	21.0%	19.5%

- (1) The net combined ratio is calculated by dividing the sum of loss and loss adjustment expenses incurred, underwriting and certain other operating costs, commissions, salaries and benefits, and policyholder dividends by the current year's net premiums earned.
- (2) Return on average equity is calculated by dividing the annualized net income by the average shareholders' equity, including redeemable preferred stock, for the applicable period.

Consolidated Results of Operations for Three Months Ended September 30, 2007 Compared to September 30, 2006

Gross Premiums Written. Gross premiums written for the three months ended September 30, 2007 were \$81.1 million, compared to \$83.0 million for the same period in 2006, a decrease of 2.2%. The decrease was attributable to a \$2.0 million decrease in premiums resulting from payroll audits and related premium adjustments, a \$414,000 decrease in direct assigned risk premiums and an \$182,000 decrease in assumed premiums from mandatory pooling arrangements. These decreases were offset by a \$764,000 increase in annual premiums on voluntary policies written during the period.

Net Premiums Written. Net premiums written for the three months ended September 30, 2007 were \$75.8 million, compared to \$78.1 million for the same period in 2006, a decrease of 2.9%. The decrease was attributable to the decline in gross premiums written and a \$458,000 increase in premiums ceded to reinsurers for the third quarter of 2007, as compared to the prior-year period. As a percentage of gross premiums written, ceded premiums were 6.6% for the third quarter of 2007, compared to 5.9% for the third quarter of 2006.

Net Premiums Earned. Net premiums earned for the three months ended September 30, 2007 were \$79.6 million, compared to \$75.0 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of 6.2%. The increase was attributable to growth in net premiums written in the previous four quarters.

Table of Contents

Net Investment Income. Net investment income for the third quarter of 2007 was \$7.9 million, compared to \$6.3 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of 25.5%. The change was attributable to a \$101.4 million increase in our average invested assets, including cash and cash equivalents, from an average of \$631.8 million in the third quarter of 2006 to an average of \$733.2 million for the same period of 2007. Also contributing to this growth was an increase in the tax-equivalent yield on our investment portfolio, from 5.4% per annum as of September 30, 2006, to 5.5% per annum as of September 30, 2007. The pre-tax investment yield on our investment portfolio increased from 4.0% per annum during the quarter ended September 30, 2006, to 4.4% per annum during the quarter ended September 30, 2007.

Net Realized Gains on Investments. Net realized gains on investments for the three months ended September 30, 2007 totaled \$91,000, compared to \$346,000 for the same period in 2006. Net realized gains in the current period are primarily from called fixed maturity securities. The net realized gains in the third quarter of 2006 were attributable to the timing of the sale of equity securities in accordance with our then-existing investment guidelines and practices.

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses Incurred. Loss and loss adjustment expenses (LAE) incurred totaled \$54.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007, compared to \$51.7 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of \$3.2 million, or 6.1%. This increase was due to higher current accident year loss and loss adjustment expenses incurred, resulting from increased premiums earned in the three months ended September 30, 2007, as compared to the same period in 2006. We experienced no loss development for prior accident years in either three-month periods.

Underwriting and Certain Other Operating Costs, Commissions and Salaries and Benefits. Underwriting and certain other operating costs, commissions and salaries and benefits for the third quarter of 2007 were \$15.9 million, compared to \$18.2 million for the same period in 2006, a decrease of 12.9%. This decrease was primarily due to \$990,000 from the commutation of reinsurance agreements, as discussed below in

Liquidity and Capital Resources. In addition, insurance-related assessments decreased \$882,000 and professional fees decreased \$635,000. Offsetting these decreases, salary and benefits increased \$469,000 and commissions increased \$317,000, due to an increase in gross premiums earned of \$5.1 million.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the third quarter of 2007 was \$900,000, compared to \$923,000 for the comparable period of 2006. Our weighted average borrowings for both periods were \$36.1 million. The weighted average interest rate increased to 9.5% per annum for the third quarter of 2007 from 9.4% per annum for the third quarter of 2006. The increased costs associated with the interest rate change were slightly offset by decreased capital lease costs.

Income tax expense. Income tax expense for the three months ended September 30, 2007 was \$4.5 million, compared to \$2.5 million for the same period in 2006. The increase was primarily attributable to a \$5.6 million increase in our pre-tax income, from \$10.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2006, to \$16.3 million for the same period in 2007. Our effective tax rate for the quarter ended September 30, 2007 was 27.7%, compared to 23.2% for the same period in 2006.

Consolidated Results of Operations for Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007 Compared to September 30, 2006

Gross Premiums Written. Gross premiums written for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 were \$265.9 million, compared to \$255.9 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of 3.9%. The increase was attributable to a \$12.1 million increase in annual premiums on voluntary policies written during the period. This increase was offset by a \$1.1 million decrease in direct assigned risk premiums and a \$960,000 decrease in premiums resulting from payroll audits and related premium adjustments.

Net Premiums Written. Net premiums written for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 were \$250.7 million, compared to \$241.9 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of 3.7%. The increase was attributable to the growth in gross premiums written and a \$1.1 million increase in premiums ceded to reinsurers for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. As a percentage of gross premiums written, ceded premiums were 5.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to 5.5% for the same period of 2006.

Table of Contents

Net Premiums Earned. Net premiums earned for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 were \$232.6 million, compared to \$215.0 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of 8.2%. This increase was attributable to the increase in net premiums written in the previous four quarters.

Net Investment Income. Net investment income for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$22.3 million, compared to \$18.1 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of 22.9%. The change was primarily attributable to an increase in our average investment assets, including cash and cash equivalents, from a monthly average of \$615.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2006 to a monthly average of \$704.8 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2007, an increase of 14.5%. Also contributing to this growth was an increase in the pre-tax yield on our investment portfolio from 4.0% per annum during the period ended September 30, 2006, to 4.2% per annum during the period ended September 30, 2007. The tax-equivalent yield on our investment portfolio was 5.4% per annum for the period ended September 30, 2007, compared to 5.5% for the same period in 2006.

Net Realized Gains on Investments. Net realized gains on investments for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 totaled \$127,000, compared to \$2.6 million for the same period in 2006. Net realized gains in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 are primarily from called fixed maturity securities. The net realized gains in the nine months ended September 30, 2006 was attributable to a strategic assessment of our investment guidelines as discussed below under Investment Portfolio.

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses Incurred. Loss and loss adjustment expenses incurred were \$160.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to \$150.0 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of \$10.6 million, or 7.1%. This increase was due to higher current accident year loss and loss adjustment expenses incurred resulting from increased net premiums earned in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 as compared to the same period in 2006. This increase was offset by a decrease in the net loss ratio for the current accident year, which was 69.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to 69.8% for the same period in 2006. We experienced no loss development for prior accident years in either nine-month period.

Underwriting and Certain Other Operating Costs, Commissions and Salaries and Benefits. Underwriting and certain other operating costs, commissions and salaries and benefits for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 were \$47.8 million, compared to \$52.7 million for the same period in 2006, a decrease of 9.3%. This decrease was due to \$3.7 million from the commutation of several reinsurance agreements, as discussed below in Liquidity and Capital Resources. In addition, insurance-related assessments decreased \$1.8 million, professional fees decreased \$820,000 and premium charge-offs decreased \$361,000. Ceding commissions from reinsurers increased \$638,000, which acts to reduce underwriting expenses. Offsetting these decreases, salary and benefits increased \$1.6 million and commissions increased \$1.4 million, due to the increase in gross premiums earned. Our underwriting expense ratio declined from 24.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2006, to 20.6% for the same period in 2007.

Interest Expense. Interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$2.7 million compared to \$2.6 million for the same period in 2006, an increase of 3.3%. This increase was primarily due to an increase in our weighted average interest rate from 9.0% per annum for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 to 9.3% per annum for the same period in 2007. Our weighted average borrowings for both nine-month periods were \$36.1 million.

Policyholder Dividend Expense. Policyholder dividend expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$963,000, compared to \$563,000 for the same period in 2006. The increase was mainly attributable to an aggregate dividend accrual of \$241,000 for Florida policyholders. The dividend was calculated pursuant to a statutory formula based on our underwriting results on policies written in Florida over a consecutive three-year period.

Income Tax Expense. Income tax expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$12.3 million, compared to \$7.0 million for the same period in 2006. The increase was primarily attributable to a \$13.5 million increase in our pre-tax income, from \$30.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 to \$43.9 million for the same period in 2007. Our effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was 28.0%, compared to 23.2% for the same period in 2006. In the nine months ended September 30, 2006, income tax expense was reduced by \$571,000 as a result of the release of an accrual for a prior year tax that had been resolved.

Table of Contents

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal sources of operating funds are premiums, investment income and proceeds from sales and maturities of investments. Our primary uses of operating funds include payments of claims and operating expenses. Currently, we pay claims using cash flow from operations and invest our excess cash in fixed maturity and equity securities.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$72.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, which represented a \$16.4 million increase in cash provided by operating activities, from \$56.5 million in net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. Premiums collected for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 decreased \$124,000 compared to the same period in 2006 and claim payments increased \$16.2 million. These decreases in cash were offset by a \$25.2 million increase in recoveries from reinsurers, a \$7.1 million decrease in expense disbursements and a \$516,000 decrease in federal income taxes paid. As discussed below, the increase in recoveries from reinsurers and the decrease in expense disbursements were impacted by the commutations of several reinsurance agreements.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$54.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to \$44.0 million for the same period in 2006. Cash provided by sales and maturities of investments totaled \$416.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 compared to \$91.3 million for the same period in 2006. A total of \$471.2 million in cash was used to purchase investments in the nine months ended September 30, 2007, compared to \$134.2 million in purchases for the same period in 2006. The increase in sales and purchases of investments in 2007 was due to increased use of variable rate demand obligations (sometimes referred to as floaters), which we buy and sell regularly, and which are recorded on a gross basis.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$919,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. This increase, from \$3,000 in the nine months ended September 30, 2006, was attributable to proceeds of \$748,000 from stock option exercises and a \$168,000 increase in tax benefits from share-based compensation.

On May 23, 2007, we commuted reinsurance agreements with Munich Reinsurance America, Inc. (formerly known as American Reinsurance Company), covering portions of accident years 2002, 2003, and 2004. We received cash of approximately \$24.5 million in exchange for releasing Munich Reinsurance America from its reinsurance obligations under the commuted agreements. As a result of these commutations, we recognized \$1.7 million of pre-tax income in the second quarter of 2007. At March 31, 2007, the Company's reinsurance recoverables from Munich Reinsurance America was \$23.0 million. As of September 30, 2007, we had no remaining reinsurance recoverables from Munich Reinsurance America.

On June 8, 2007, we commuted our First Casualty Excess of Loss Reinsurance Contract with Hannover Ruckversicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft (Hannover) and Lloyd's Underwriters and Companies (Lloyd's) covering excess of loss layers for the 2006 accident year. As a result of this commutation, we recorded pre-tax income of \$1.0 million in the second quarter of 2007. Hannover and Lloyd's remain obligated to the Company's insurance subsidiaries under other reinsurance agreements.

On July 25, 2007, we commuted our Second Casualty Excess of Loss Reinsurance Contract with Hannover and Lloyd's covering excess of loss layers for the 2006 accident year. As a result of this commutation, we recorded pre-tax income of \$990,000 in the third quarter of 2007.

In total, we have received \$26.5 million in cash from commutations in the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The majority of that cash has been invested in tax-exempt fixed maturity securities.

Table of Contents**Investment Portfolio**

As of September 30, 2007, our investment portfolio, including cash and cash equivalents, totaled \$737.1 million, an increase of 15.3% from September 30, 2006. The majority of our fixed maturity securities are classified as held-to-maturity, as defined by SFAS No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities. As such, the reported value of those securities is equal to their amortized cost, and is not impacted by changing interest rates. We also invest in variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs), which are long-term bonds that bear floating interest rates and provide investors with the option to tender or put the bonds at par, generally on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Due to the fact that we purchase these securities with the intent to hold less than thirty days, we classify VRDOs as available-for-sale, as defined by SFAS No. 115. As such, VRDOs are reported at fair value on our balance sheet. Our equity securities are also classified as available-for-sale and reported at fair value.

The composition of our investment portfolio, including cash and cash equivalents, as of September 30, 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Carrying Value (in thousands)	Percentage of Portfolio
Fixed maturity securities:		
State and political subdivisions	\$ 390,885	53.0%
Mortgage-backed securities	103,213	14.0%
Asset-backed securities	66,349	9.0%
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies	61,383	8.4%
Corporate bonds	20,662	2.8%
Variable rate demand obligations	19,100	2.6%
Total fixed maturity securities	661,592	89.8%
Equity securities	29,798	4.0%
Cash and cash equivalents	45,724	6.2%
Total investments, including cash and cash equivalents	\$ 737,114	100.0%

We regularly evaluate our investment portfolio to identify other-than-temporary impairments in the fair values of the securities held in our investment portfolio. As of September 30, 2007, there were no other-than-temporary declines in the fair values of the securities held in our investment portfolio. The tax-equivalent investment yield on our investment portfolio was 5.5% per annum for the period ended September 30, 2007, compared to 5.4% for the same period in 2006.

In 2006, we began a strategic review of our investment management and related policies. In connection with the review, we retained Prudential Investment Management, Inc., a registered investment advisory firm and a wholly owned subsidiary of Prudential Financial Inc., to manage our portfolio of fixed maturity securities, effective November 1, 2006. Additionally, our strategic investment review resulted in two changes regarding our equity investments. First, we changed the benchmark for the fair value of our holdings of equity securities, from not more than 15% of our total investment portfolio, to a range from 20% to 30% of shareholders' equity, plus redeemable preferred stock, at the end of the most recently completed fiscal year. Our second change was to restructure our equity portfolio such that it would be composed of passively managed investments in equity indexes along with a portion of actively managed equity positions. As a result of this second change, we sold all of the securities in our equity portfolio in September and October of 2006. We then purchased \$21.1 million of value-based exchange traded funds in late 2006. As of September 30, 2007, the carrying value of our equity portfolio was \$29.8 million, or 16.2% of shareholders' equity plus redeemable preferred stock at year end 2006.

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

Market risk is the risk of potential economic loss principally arising from adverse changes in the fair value of financial instruments. The major components of market risk affecting us are credit risk, interest rate risk and equity price risk. We currently have no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Since December 31, 2006, there have been no material changes in the quantitative or qualitative aspect of our market risk profile. For additional information regarding the Company's exposure to certain market risks, see Item 7A, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, we have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report to provide reasonable assurance that information we are required to disclose in reports that are filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms. We note that the design of any system of controls is based in part upon assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving the stated goals under all potential future conditions.

There have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

None.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

None.

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

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

None.

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

None.

Item 5. Other Information.
None.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
31.1	Certification of C. Allen Bradley, Jr. filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of Geoffrey R. Banta filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	Certification of C. Allen Bradley, Jr. and Geoffrey R. Banta filed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

AMERISAFE, INC.

November 8, 2007

/s/ C. Allen Bradley, Jr.
C. Allen Bradley, Jr.
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

November 8, 2007

/s/ Geoffrey R. Banta
Geoffrey R. Banta
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Table of Contents

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