

National Interstate CORP
Form 10-Q
May 03, 2013
[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 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 March 31, 2013

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 000-51130

National Interstate Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Ohio
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

34-1607394
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

3250 Interstate Drive

Richfield, Ohio 44286-9000

(330) 659-8900

(Address and telephone number of principal executive offices)

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 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer
Non-Accelerated Filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller Reporting Company

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

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's sole class of common shares as of April 30, 2013 was 19,717,087.

Table of Contents

National Interstate Corporation

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Part I – Financial Information</u>	
<u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income</u>	4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</u>	5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity</u>	6
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>	7
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	8
<u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	19
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	30
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	30
<u>Part II – Other Information</u>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	30
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	30
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	31

Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. Financial Statements****National Interstate Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Balance Sheets****(In thousands, except per share data)**

	March 31, 2013 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2012
ASSETS		
Investments:		
Fixed maturities available-for-sale, at fair value (amortized cost \$916,699 and \$900,052, respectively)	\$ 962,493	\$ 944,752
Equity securities available-for-sale, at fair value (amortized cost \$31,190 and \$27,210, respectively)	38,064	31,177
Other invested assets	38,350	36,882
Total investments	1,038,907	1,012,811
Cash and cash equivalents	43,791	41,981
Accrued investment income	8,570	8,937
Premiums receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,657 and \$2,809, respectively	216,746	215,690
Reinsurance recoverable on paid and unpaid losses	168,170	174,345
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	38,590	32,570
Deferred policy acquisition costs	25,167	25,246
Deferred federal income taxes	17,058	19,883
Property and equipment, net	24,192	24,539
Funds held by reinsurer	2,522	3,710
Intangible assets, net	8,285	8,355
Prepaid expenses and other assets	2,369	2,157
Total assets	\$ 1,594,367	\$ 1,570,224
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 785,439	\$ 775,305
Unearned premiums and service fees	269,948	266,126
Long-term debt	12,000	12,000
Amounts withheld or retained for accounts of others	69,111	67,002
Reinsurance balances payable	24,830	19,473
Accounts payable and other liabilities	52,179	59,055
Commissions payable	12,271	11,838
Assessments and fees payable	5,257	5,477
Total liabilities	1,231,035	1,216,276
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred shares - no par value		
Authorized - 10,000 shares		
Issued - 0 shares		
Common shares - \$0.01 par value		
Authorized - 50,000 shares		
Issued - 23,350 shares, including 3,715 and 3,759 shares, respectively, in treasury	234	234
Additional paid-in capital	55,660	54,788

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Retained earnings	278,469	272,618
Accumulated other comprehensive income	34,234	31,634
Treasury shares	(5,265)	(5,326)
Total shareholders' equity	363,332	353,948
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 1,594,367	\$ 1,570,224

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**National Interstate Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Income****(Unaudited)****(In thousands, except per share data)**

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
Revenues:		
Premiums earned	\$ 126,907	\$ 110,125
Net investment income	7,963	9,183
Net realized gains on investments (*)	1,546	1,742
Other	833	829
Total revenues	137,249	121,879
Expenses:		
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	96,611	80,553
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	22,860	21,534
Other operating and general expenses	5,425	4,930
Expense on amounts withheld	1,203	1,040
Interest expense	75	62
Total expenses	126,174	108,119
Income before income taxes	11,075	13,760
Provision for income taxes	3,058	4,014
Net income	\$ 8,017	\$ 9,746
Net income per share basic	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.50
Net income per share diluted	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.50
Weighted average of common shares outstanding basic	19,610	19,409
Weighted average of common shares outstanding diluted	19,770	19,543
Cash dividends per common share	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.10

(*) Consists of the following:

Net realized gains before impairment losses	\$ 1,563	\$ 1,822
Total losses on securities with impairment charges	(17)	(80)
Non-credit portion recognized in other comprehensive income		
Net impairment charges recognized in earnings	(17)	(80)
Net realized gains on investments	\$ 1,546	\$ 1,742

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**National Interstate Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income****(Unaudited)****(Dollars in thousands)**

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
Net Income	\$ 8,017	\$ 9,746
Other comprehensive income, before tax:		
Net unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities:		
Net unrealized holding gains on securities arising during the period	4,393	9,901
Reclassification adjustment for net realized gains included in net income	(392)	(332)
Total other comprehensive income, before tax	4,001	9,569
Deferred income taxes on other comprehensive income	1,401	3,349
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	2,600	6,220
Total comprehensive income	\$ 10,617	\$ 15,966

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**National Interstate Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity****(Unaudited)****(Dollars in thousands)**

	Common Stock	Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Treasury Stock	Total
Balance at January 1, 2013	\$ 234	\$ 54,788	\$ 272,618	\$ 31,634	\$ (5,326)	\$ 353,948
Net income			8,017			8,017
Other comprehensive income, net of tax				2,600		2,600
Dividends on common stock			(2,166)			(2,166)
Issuance of 44,395 treasury shares upon exercise of options and restricted stock issued, net of forfeitures		657			61	718
Net tax effect from exercise/vesting of stock-based compensation		24				24
Stock compensation expense		191				191
Balance at March 31, 2013	\$ 234	\$ 55,660	\$ 278,469	\$ 34,234	\$ (5,265)	\$ 363,332
Balance at January 1, 2012	\$ 234	\$ 51,295	\$ 285,403	\$ 17,561	\$ (5,594)	\$ 348,899
Net income			9,746			9,746
Other comprehensive income, net of tax				6,220		6,220
Dividends on common stock			(1,948)			(1,948)
Issuance of 15,629 treasury shares upon exercise of options and restricted stock issued, net of forfeitures		(139)			21	(118)
Net tax effect from exercise/vesting of stock-based compensation		46				46
Stock compensation expense		201				201
Balance at March 31, 2012	\$ 234	\$ 51,403	\$ 293,201	\$ 23,781	\$ (5,573)	\$ 363,046

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**National Interstate Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(Unaudited)****(Dollars in thousands)**

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
Operating activities		
Net income	\$ 8,017	\$ 9,746
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Net amortization of bond premiums and discounts	1,865	1,624
Provision for depreciation and amortization	1,391	1,063
Net realized gains on investment securities	(1,546)	(1,742)
Deferred federal income taxes	1,425	1,774
Stock compensation expense	191	201
Decrease (increase) in deferred policy acquisition costs, net	79	(825)
Increase in reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses	10,134	5,269
Increase in premiums receivable	(1,056)	(812)
Increase (decrease) in unearned premiums and service fees	3,822	(178)
Decrease in interest receivable and other assets	1,343	671
Increase in prepaid reinsurance premiums	(6,020)	(3,268)
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable, commissions and other liabilities and assessments and fees payable	(6,663)	1,224
Increase in amounts withheld or retained for accounts of others	2,109	60
Decrease in reinsurance recoverable	6,175	6,088
Increase (decrease) in reinsurance balances payable	5,357	(900)
Other		(14)
Net cash provided by operating activities	26,623	19,981
Investing activities		
Purchases of fixed maturities	(67,272)	(56,182)
Purchases of equity securities	(5,322)	(580)
Proceeds from sale of fixed maturities	3,608	8,618
Proceeds from sale of equity securities	1,690	557
Proceeds from maturities and redemptions of investments	45,507	35,834
Change in other investments, net	(625)	(1,100)
Capital expenditures	(975)	(1,223)
Net cash used in investing activities	(23,389)	(14,076)
Financing activities		
Net tax effect from exercise/vesting of stock-based compensation	24	46
Issuance of common shares from treasury upon exercise of stock options or stock award grants	718	(118)
Cash dividends paid on common shares	(2,166)	(1,948)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,424)	(2,020)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,810	3,885
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	41,981	23,674
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 43,791	\$ 27,559

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

NATIONAL INTERSTATE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of National Interstate Corporation (the Company) and its subsidiaries have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and the instructions to Form 10-Q.

The unaudited consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries, National Interstate Insurance Company (NIIC), Hudson Indemnity, Ltd., National Interstate Insurance Company of Hawaii, Inc. (NIIC-HI), Triumpher Casualty Company (TCC), National Interstate Insurance Agency, Inc. (NIIA), Hudson Management Group, Ltd., Vanliner Group, Inc., Vanliner Insurance Company (VIC), Vanliner Reinsurance Limited, American Highways Insurance Agency, Inc., Explorer RV Insurance Agency, Inc., Safety, Claims and Litigation Services, LLC and TransProtection Service Company. Significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated.

These interim unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012. The interim financial statements reflect all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for the fair presentation of the results for the periods presented. Such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. Operating results for the three month period ended March 31, 2013 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year ending December 31, 2013.

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Changes in circumstances could cause actual results to differ materially from those estimates.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Effective January 1, 2013, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2012-02, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment* (ASU 2012-02). ASU 2012-02 provides additional guidance in performing impairment tests for indefinite-lived intangible assets by simplifying how an entity tests those assets for impairment. The update allows an entity to make a qualitative assessment about the likelihood that an indefinite-lived intangible asset is impaired to determine whether it should perform a quantitative impairment test. The adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's results of operations or financial position.

Effective January 1, 2013, the Company prospectively adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2013-02, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income* (ASU 2013-02). ASU 2013-02 requires an entity to present, either on the face of the statement where net income is presented or in the notes, significant amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items of net income but only if the amount reclassified is required under U.S. GAAP to be reclassified to net income in its entirety in the same reporting period. As the updated guidance only required a change in the format of information already disclosed, the adoption did not have an impact on the Company's cash flows, financial condition, net income or comprehensive income.

3. Fair Value Measurements

The Company must determine the appropriate level in the fair value hierarchy for each applicable measurement. The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs, which refer broadly to assumptions market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability, into three levels. It gives the highest priority to quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs. The level in the fair value hierarchy within which a fair value measurement in its entirety falls is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The Company's management is responsible for the valuation process and uses data from outside sources (including nationally recognized pricing services and broker/dealers) in establishing fair value.

Pricing services use a variety of observable inputs to estimate the fair value of fixed maturities that do not trade on a daily basis. These inputs include, but are not limited to, recent reported trades, benchmark yields, issuer spreads, bids or offers, reference data

Table of Contents

and measures of volatility. Included in the pricing of mortgage-backed securities are estimates of the rate of future prepayments and defaults of principal over the remaining life of the underlying collateral. Inputs from brokers and independent financial institutions include, but are not limited to, yields or spreads of comparable investments which have recent trading activity, credit quality, duration, credit enhancements, collateral value and estimated cash flows based on inputs including delinquency rates, estimated defaults and losses and estimates of the rate of future prepayments. Valuation techniques utilized by pricing services and prices obtained from external sources are reviewed by the Company's internal investment professionals who are familiar with the securities being priced and the markets in which they trade to ensure the fair value determination is representative of an exit price. To validate the appropriateness of the prices obtained, the Company's internal investment professionals, as well as investment professionals affiliated with American Financial Group, Inc. (AFG), who report to the Chief Investment Officer, compare the valuation received to independent third party pricing sources and consider widely published indices (as benchmarks), recent trades, changes in interest rates, general economic conditions and the credit quality of the specific issuers. If the Company believes that significant discrepancies exist, the Company will perform additional procedures, which may include specific inquiry of the pricing service, to resolve the discrepancies.

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical securities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1 that are observable for the security, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar securities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar securities that are not active and observable inputs other than quoted prices, such as interest rate and yield curves. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Level 1 consists of publicly traded equity securities and highly liquid, direct obligations of the U.S. Government whose fair value is based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market. Level 2 primarily consists of financial instruments whose fair value is based on quoted prices in markets that are not active and include U.S. government agency securities, fixed maturity investments and perpetual preferred stocks that are not actively traded. Included in Level 2 are \$70.9 million of securities, which are valued based upon a non-binding broker quote and validated with other observable market data by management. Level 3 consists of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market, whose fair value is estimated by management based on inputs from independent financial institutions, which include non-binding broker quotes, which the Company believes reflects fair value, but for which the Company is unable to verify inputs to the valuation methodology. The Company obtained at least one quote or price per instrument from its brokers and pricing services for all Level 3 securities and did not adjust any quotes or prices that it obtained. The Company's internal and affiliated investment professionals review these broker quotes using any recent trades, if such information is available, or market prices of similar investments. The Company primarily uses the market approach valuation technique for all investments.

The following table presents the Company's investment portfolio, categorized by the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall as of March 31, 2013:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Fixed maturities:				
U.S. Government and government agency obligations	\$ 1,495	\$ 112,649	\$	\$ 114,144
Foreign government obligations		5,617		5,617
State and local government obligations		355,951	844	356,795
Residential mortgage-backed securities		202,586		202,586
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		43,827		43,827
Corporate obligations		199,895	8,707	208,602
Other debt obligations		26,011		26,011
Redeemable preferred stocks	3,427	1,000	484	4,911
Total fixed maturities	4,922	947,536	10,035	962,493
Equity securities:				
Common stocks	29,787	875		30,662
Perpetual preferred stocks	3,067	3,372	963	7,402
Total equity securities	32,854	4,247	963	38,064
Total fixed maturities and equity securities	37,776	951,783	10,998	1,000,557

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Cash and cash equivalents	43,791			43,791
Total fixed maturities, equity securities and cash and cash equivalents at fair value	\$ 81,567	\$ 951,783	\$ 10,998	\$ 1,044,348

Table of Contents

The following table presents the Company's investment portfolio, categorized by the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fell as of December 31, 2012:

	Level 1	Level 2 (Dollars in thousands)	Level 3	Total
Fixed maturities:				
U.S. Government and government agency obligations	\$ 2,056	\$ 110,041	\$	\$ 112,097
Foreign government obligations		5,660		5,660
State and local government obligations		360,989	837	361,826
Residential mortgage-backed securities		194,695		194,695
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		47,604		47,604
Corporate obligations		199,553	7,658	207,211
Other debt obligations		11,428		11,428
Redeemable preferred stocks	3,748		483	4,231
Total fixed maturities	5,804	929,970	8,978	944,752
Equity securities:				
Common stocks	24,219	755		24,974
Perpetual preferred stocks	2,936	3,267		6,203
Total equity securities	27,155	4,022		31,177
Total fixed maturities and equity securities	32,959	933,992	8,978	975,929
Cash and cash equivalents	41,981			41,981
Total fixed maturities, equity securities and cash and cash equivalents at fair value	\$ 74,940	\$ 933,992	\$ 8,978	\$ 1,017,910

The tables above exclude investments in limited partnerships, which are reported as other invested assets and accounted for under the equity method, of \$38.4 million and \$36.9 million (included in other invested assets) at March 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. Equity method investments are not reported at fair value.

The Company uses the end of the reporting period as its policy for determining transfers into and out of each level. During the three month period ended March 31, 2013 there were no securities transferred between Level 1 and Level 2. During the three months ended March 31, 2012, there was a \$0.2 million redeemable preferred stock that transferred from Level 2 to Level 1 due to increased trading activity. The following table presents a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for all investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis using Level 3 inputs for the three month period ended March 31, 2013.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2013			
	State and Local Government Obligations	Corporate Obligations	Redeemable Preferred Stock	Perpetual Preferred Stock
Beginning balance at January 1, 2013	\$ 837	\$ 7,658	\$ 483	\$
Total gains or (losses):				
Included in earnings				
Included in other comprehensive income	7	98	1	(6)
Purchases and issuances		1,000		969
Sales, settlements and redemptions		(49)		
Transfers in and/or (out) of Level 3				

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Ending balance at March 31, 2013	\$ 844	\$ 8,707	\$ 484	\$ 963
The amount of total gains or (losses) for the period included in earnings and attributable to the change in unrealized gains or (losses) relating to assets still held at the reporting date	\$	\$	\$	\$

Table of Contents

The following table presents a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for all investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis using Level 3 inputs for the three month period ended March 31, 2012.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012			
	State and Local Government Obligations	Corporate Obligations	Redeemable Preferred Stock	Perpetual Preferred Stock
Beginning balance at January 1, 2012	\$ 1,572	\$ 7,256	\$ 472	\$ 396
Total gains or (losses):				
Included in earnings				
Included in other comprehensive income	93	(87)	(2)	
Purchases and issuances				
Sales, settlements and redemptions		(48)		
Transfers in and/or (out) of Level 3				
Ending balance at March 31, 2012	\$ 1,665	\$ 7,121	\$ 470	\$ 396
The amount of total gains or (losses) for the period included in earnings and attributable to the change in unrealized gains or (losses) relating to assets still held at the reporting date	\$	\$	\$	\$

At March 31, 2013 the Company had 10 securities with a fair value of \$11.0 million that are included in Level 3, which represented 1.1% of its total investments reported at fair value. The significant unobservable inputs used by the brokers and pricing services in establishing fair values of the Company's Level 3 securities are primarily spreads to U.S. Treasury rates and discounts to comparable securities. The specifics of such spreads and discounts were not made available to the Company. Significant increases (decreases) on spreads to U.S. Treasury rates and discount spreads to comparable securities would result in lower (higher) fair value measurements. Generally, a change in the assumption used for determining a spread is accompanied by market factors that warrant an adjustment for the credit risk and liquidity premium of the security. As the total fair value of Level 3 securities is approximately 3.0% of the Company's shareholders' equity at March 31, 2013, any change in unobservable inputs would not have a material impact on the Company's financial position.

4. Investments

Under other-than-temporary impairment accounting guidance, if management can assert that it does not intend to sell an impaired fixed maturity security and it is not more likely than not that it will have to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis, then an entity may separate the other-than-temporary impairments into two components: 1) the amount related to credit losses (recorded in earnings) and 2) the amount related to all other factors (recorded in other comprehensive income (loss)). The credit related portion of an other-than-temporary impairment is measured by comparing a security's amortized cost to the present value of its current expected cash flows discounted at its effective yield prior to the impairment charge. If management intends to sell an impaired security, or it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security before recovery, an impairment charge recorded in earnings is required to reduce the amortized cost of that security to fair value.

Table of Contents

The cost or amortized cost and fair value of investments in fixed maturities and equity securities are as follows:

	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
	(Dollars in thousands)			
March 31, 2013:				
Fixed Maturities:				
U.S. Government and government agency obligations	\$ 107,541	\$ 6,610	\$ (7)	\$ 114,144
Foreign government obligations	5,568	49		5,617
State and local government obligations	340,855	16,186	(246)	356,795
Residential mortgage-backed securities	194,135	9,646	(1,195)	202,586
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	41,771	2,056		43,827
Corporate obligations	196,324	12,393	(115)	208,602
Other debt obligations	25,745	281	(15)	26,011
Redeemable preferred stocks	4,760	166	(15)	4,911
Total fixed maturities	916,699	47,387	(1,593)	962,493
Equity securities:				
Common stocks	24,400	6,381	(119)	30,662
Perpetual preferred stocks	6,790	619	(7)	7,402
Total equity securities	31,190	7,000	(126)	38,064
Total fixed maturities and equity securities	\$ 947,889	\$ 54,387	\$ (1,719)	\$ 1,000,557
December 31, 2012:				
Fixed Maturities:				
U.S. Government and government agency obligations	\$ 104,958	\$ 7,141	\$ (2)	\$ 112,097
Foreign government obligations	5,587	73		5,660
State and local government obligations	344,660	17,339	(173)	361,826
Residential mortgage-backed securities	188,498	7,835	(1,638)	194,695
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	45,632	1,974	(2)	47,604
Corporate obligations	195,261	12,134	(184)	207,211
Other debt obligations	11,321	107		11,428
Redeemable preferred stocks	4,135	113	(17)	4,231
Total fixed maturities	900,052	46,716	(2,016)	944,752
Equity securities:				
Common stocks	21,376	3,669	(71)	24,974
Perpetual preferred stocks	5,834	369		6,203
Total equity securities	27,210	4,038	(71)	31,177
Total fixed maturities and equity securities	\$ 927,262	\$ 50,754	\$ (2,087)	\$ 975,929

The table above excludes investments in limited partnerships, which are reported as other invested assets and accounted for under the equity method, of \$38.4 million and \$36.9 million (included in other invested assets) at March 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. Equity method investments are not reported at fair value.

State and local government obligations represented approximately 37.1% of the Company's fixed maturity portfolio at March 31, 2013, with approximately \$281.8 million, or 79.0%, of the Company's state and local government obligations held in special revenue obligations, and the remaining amount held in general obligations. The Company's state and local government obligations portfolio is high quality, as 99.5% of such securities were rated investment grade (as determined by nationally recognized agencies) at March 31, 2013. The Company had no state and

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

local government obligations for any state, municipality or political subdivision that comprised 10% or more of the total amortized cost or fair value of such obligations at March 31, 2013.

The amortized cost and fair value of fixed maturities at March 31, 2013, by contractual maturity, are shown below. Other debt obligations, which are primarily comprised of asset-backed securities other than those related to mortgages, are categorized based on their average maturity. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. The average life of mortgage-backed securities is 3.3 years in the Company's investment portfolio.

Table of Contents

Amortized cost and fair value of the fixed maturities in the Company's investment portfolio were as follows:

	Amortized Cost (Dollars in thousands)	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 22,404	\$ 22,679
Due after one year through five years	269,559	285,816
Due after five years through ten years	272,345	287,508
Due after ten years	116,485	120,077
	680,793	716,080
Mortgage-backed securities	235,906	246,413
Total	\$ 916,699	\$ 962,493

Gains and losses on the sale of investments, including other-than-temporary impairment charges and other investments' gains or losses, were as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2013 2012 (Dollars in thousands)	
Fixed maturity gains	\$ 342	\$ 443
Fixed maturity losses		(34)
Equity security gains	415	89
Equity security losses	(54)	(107)
Other investments, net gains	843	1,351
 Net realized gains on investments	 \$ 1,546	 \$ 1,742

Net realized gains on investments of \$1.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 were generated from net realized gains associated with equity partnership investments of \$0.8 million and net realized gains associated with sales or redemptions of securities of \$0.7 million. The gains on equity and fixed maturity securities were primarily due to favorable market conditions that increased the value of securities over book value. Net realized gains on investments of \$1.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012 were primarily generated from net gains associated with equity partnership investments of \$1.4 million and net realized gains associated with the sales of securities of \$0.4 million. Offsetting these gains were other-than-temporary impairment charges of \$0.1 million on two equity securities.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the Company's gross unrealized losses on fixed maturities and equity securities and the length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position:

	Less than Twelve Months				Twelve Months or More			
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value as % of Cost	Number of Holdings (Dollars in thousands)	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value as % of Cost	Number of Holdings
March 31, 2013:								
Fixed maturities:								
U.S. Government and government agency obligations	\$ 10,935	\$ (7)	99.9%	3	\$	\$	0.0%	
Foreign government obligations			0.0%				0.0%	
State and local government obligations	5,631	(90)	98.4%	4	844	(156)	84.4%	1
Residential mortgage-backed securities	28,111	(159)	99.4%	16	7,772	(1,036)	88.2%	6
Commercial mortgage-backed securities			0.0%				0.0%	
Corporate obligations	15,222	(115)	99.3%	14			0.0%	
Other debt obligations	6,814	(15)	99.8%	5			0.0%	
Redeemable preferred stocks			0.0%		484	(15)	97.0%	1
Total fixed maturities	66,713	(386)	99.4%	42	9,100	(1,207)	88.3%	8
Equity securities:								
Common stocks	2,522	(119)	95.5%	10			0.0%	
Perpetual preferred stocks	962	(7)	99.3%	1			0.0%	
Total equity securities	3,484	(126)	96.5%	11			0.0%	
Total fixed maturities and equity securities	\$ 70,197	\$ (512)	99.3%	53	\$ 9,100	\$ (1,207)	88.3%	8
December 31, 2012:								
Fixed maturities:								
U.S. Government and government agency obligations	\$ 6,195	\$ (2)	100.0%	3	\$	\$	0.0%	
Foreign government obligations			0.0%				0.0%	
State and local government obligations	1,048	(10)	99.1%	1	837	(163)	83.7%	1
Residential mortgage-backed securities	19,541	(135)	99.3%	9	12,194	(1,503)	89.0%	7
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	2,000	(2)	99.9%	1			0.0%	
Corporate obligations	12,001	(184)	98.5%	19			0.0%	
Other debt obligations			0.0%				0.0%	
Redeemable preferred stocks			0.0%		483	(17)	96.6%	1
Total fixed maturities	40,785	(333)	99.2%	33	13,514	(1,683)	88.9%	9
Equity securities:								
Common stocks	1,110	(71)	94.0%	9			0.0%	
Perpetual preferred stocks			0.0%				0.0%	
Total equity securities	1,110	(71)	94.0%	9			0.0%	
Total fixed maturities and equity securities	\$ 41,895	\$ (404)	99.0%	42	\$ 13,514	\$ (1,683)	88.9%	9

The gross unrealized losses on the Company's fixed maturities and equity securities portfolios decreased slightly from \$2.1 million at December 31, 2012 to \$1.7 million at March 31, 2013. The \$1.7 million in gross unrealized losses at March 31, 2013 was primarily on fixed maturity holdings in residential mortgage-backed securities. The gross unrealized losses on equity securities were \$126 thousand and have been in an unrealized loss position for less than twelve months and are considered to be temporary. Investment grade securities represented 83.1% of

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

all fixed maturity securities with unrealized losses.

At March 31, 2013, gross unrealized losses on residential mortgage-backed securities were \$1.2 million and represented 75.0% of the total gross unrealized losses on fixed maturities. There were 16 securities with gross unrealized losses of \$0.2 million that were in an unrealized loss position for less than 12 months and six securities with gross unrealized losses of \$1.0 million that were in an unrealized loss position for 12 months or more. Four of these securities previously had both credit and non-credit other-than-temporary impairment charges and were in a gross unrealized loss position of \$1.0 million at March 31, 2013. Based on historical payment data and analysis of expected future cash flows of the underlying collateral, independent credit ratings and other facts and analysis, including management's current intent and ability to hold these securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for anticipated recovery, management believes that, based upon information currently available, the Company will recover its cost basis in all of these securities and no additional charges for other-than-temporary impairments will be required.

Table of Contents

At March 31, 2013, the state and local government obligations, with gross unrealized losses of \$0.2 million, primarily consisted of one holding that was in an unrealized loss position for more than 12 months. Investment grade securities represented 100% of fixed maturity securities with unrealized losses in state and local government obligations.

Management concluded that no additional charges for other-than-temporary impairment were required on the fixed maturity holdings in the first quarter of 2013 based on several factors, including the Company's ability and current intent to hold these investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for anticipated recovery of its amortized cost, the length of time and the extent to which fair value has been below cost, analysis of company-specific financial data and the outlook for industry sectors and credit ratings. The Company believes these unrealized losses are primarily due to temporary market and sector-related factors and does not consider these securities to be other-than-temporarily impaired. If the Company's strategy was to change or these securities were determined to be other-than-temporarily impaired, the Company would recognize a write-down in accordance with its stated policy.

The following table is a progression of the amount related to credit losses on fixed maturity securities for which the non-credit portion of an other-than-temporary impairment has been recognized in other comprehensive income.

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Beginning balance	\$ 2,282	\$ 2,258
Additional credit impairments on:		
Previously impaired securities		
Securities without prior impairments		
Reductions		
Ending balance	\$ 2,282	\$ 2,258

5. Income Taxes

A reconciliation of the provision for income taxes for financial reporting purposes and the provision for income taxes calculated at the statutory rate of 35% is as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Federal income tax expense at statutory rate	\$ 3,876	\$ 4,816
Effect of:		
Tax-exempt investment income	(929)	(913)
Other items, net	111	111
	\$ 3,058	\$ 4,014

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the net deferred tax assets and liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets were as follows:

	March 31, 2013 December 31, 2012	
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Deferred Tax Assets:		
Unearned premiums	\$ 16,217	\$ 16,341
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	20,100	19,630
Assessments and fees payable	1,727	1,801

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Realized losses on investments, primarily impairments	5,521	5,376
Accrued compensation	1,957	3,216
Limited partnership investments	529	827
Other, net	2,074	2,406
	48,125	49,597
Deferred Tax Liabilities:		
Deferred policy acquisition costs	(8,808)	(8,836)
Unrealized gains on investments	(18,434)	(17,034)
Intangible assets	(2,900)	(2,924)
Other, net	(925)	(920)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(31,067)	(29,714)
Net deferred income tax assets	\$ 17,058	\$ 19,883

Management has reviewed the recoverability of the deferred tax assets and believes that the amount will be recoverable against future earnings.

Table of Contents**6. Shareholders Equity and Stock-Based Compensation**

The Company grants options and other stock awards to officers and key employees of the Company under the Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP). At March 31, 2013, there were options for 459,638 shares outstanding and 522,401 of the Company s common shares reserved for issuance under the LTIP. Treasury shares are used to fulfill the options exercised and other awards granted. Options and restricted shares vest pursuant to the terms of a written grant agreement. Options must be exercised no later than the tenth anniversary of the date of grant. As set forth in the LTIP, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors may accelerate vesting and exercisability of options. At the Company s May 2, 2013 annual meeting of shareholders, the Company s shareholders approved the proposal to increase the number of shares reserved for issuance under the LTIP by 500,000 shares.

For both the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012, the Company recognized stock-based compensation expense of \$0.2 million with related income tax benefits of approximately \$0.1 million.

7. Earnings Per Common Share

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per share:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
	(In thousands, except per share data)	
Net income	\$ 8,017	\$ 9,746
Weighted average shares outstanding during period	19,610	19,409
Additional shares issuable under employee common stock option plans using treasury stock method	160	134
Weighted average shares outstanding assuming exercise of stock options	19,770	19,543
Net income per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.50
Diluted	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.50

For the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012, there were zero and 204,110, respectively, outstanding options and restricted shares excluded from diluted earnings per share because they were anti-dilutive.

8. Transactions with Related Parties

The Company s principal insurance subsidiary, NIIC, is involved in both the cession and assumption of reinsurance. NIIC is a party to a reinsurance agreement, and NIIA, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, is a party to an underwriting management agreement with Great American Insurance Company (Great American). As of March 31, 2013, Great American owned 51.8% of the outstanding shares of the Company. The reinsurance agreement calls for the assumption by NIIC of all of the risk on Great American s net premiums written for public transportation and recreational vehicle risks underwritten pursuant to the reinsurance agreement. NIIA provides administrative services to Great American in connection with Great American s underwriting of these risks. The Company also cedes premium through reinsurance agreements with Great American to reduce exposure in certain of its property and casualty insurance programs.

The table below summarizes the reinsurance balance and activity with Great American:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Assumed premiums written	\$ 618	\$ 683

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Assumed premiums earned	584	859
Assumed losses and loss adjustment expense incurred	487	728
Ceded premiums written	15	19
Ceded premiums earned	18	68
Ceded losses and loss adjustment expense recoveries	98	395
(Payable to) receivable from Great American as of period end	(78)	12

Table of Contents

Effective October 1, 2012, the Company entered into an agreement with American Money Management Corporation (AMMC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of AFG, whereby AMMC manages a portion of the Company's investment portfolio at an annual cost of 15 basis points of the fair value of the assets under management. AMMC's management of this portion of the Company's portfolio commenced during the fourth quarter of 2012, with fees accrued for such services approximating \$0.3 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2013.

Great American or its parent, AFG, perform certain services for the Company without charge including, without limitation, actuarial services and on a consultative basis, as needed, internal audit, legal, accounting and other support services. If Great American no longer controlled a majority of the Company's common shares, it is possible that many of these services would cease or, alternatively, be provided at an increased cost to the Company. This could impact the Company's personnel resources, require the Company to hire additional professional staff and generally increase the Company's operating expenses. Management believes, based on discussions with Great American, that these services will continue to be provided by the affiliated entity in future periods and the relative impact on operating results is not material.

In addition, NIIC, NIIC-HI and VIC are parties to reinsurance agreements with Validus Reinsurance, Ltd. (Validus), whereby Validus participates on the Company's Hawaii property quota share, Hawaii property catastrophe and workers' compensation excess of loss reinsurance treaties. During the first three months of 2013, the Company's ceded premiums written and ceding commissions associated with Validus participation on these treaties were \$0.2 million and \$0.1 million, respectively. These treaties were negotiated at arm's length through an independent reinsurance broker in the ordinary course of business as part of the Company's customary reinsurance evaluation and placement process. The Company's Chairman of the Board is also on the Board of Directors of Validus Holdings, Ltd., the parent of Validus.

The Company is not substantially dependent on any individual reinsurance agreements, including the agreements with Great American and Validus. The Company does not depend on these specific reinsurers to a material extent, as other reinsurers could be obtained for those treaties or the business could be retained.

9. Reinsurance

Premiums and reinsurance activity consisted of the following:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Direct premiums written	\$ 149,464	\$ 127,961
Reinsurance assumed	2,404	2,264
Reinsurance ceded	(27,111)	(23,510)
Net premiums written	\$ 124,757	\$ 106,715
Direct premiums earned	\$ 145,670	\$ 128,102
Reinsurance assumed	2,329	2,263
Reinsurance ceded	(21,092)	(20,240)
Premiums earned	\$ 126,907	\$ 110,125

The Company cedes premiums through reinsurance agreements with reinsurers to reduce exposure in certain of its property-casualty insurance programs. Ceded losses and loss adjustment expense recoveries recorded for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012 were \$9.6 million and \$12.4 million, respectively. The Company remains primarily liable as the direct insurer on all risks reinsured and a contingent liability exists to the extent that the reinsurance companies are unable to meet their obligations for losses assumed. To minimize its exposure to significant losses from reinsurer insolvencies, the Company seeks to do business with only reinsurers rated 'Excellent' or better by A.M. Best Company and regularly evaluates the financial condition of its reinsurers.

10. Commitments and Contingencies

The Company and its subsidiaries are subject at times to various claims, lawsuits and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. All legal actions relating to claims made under insurance policies are considered in the establishment of the Company's loss and loss adjustment expense (LAE) reserves. In addition, regulatory bodies, such as state insurance departments, the Securities and Exchange

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Commission, the Department of Labor and other regulatory bodies may make inquiries and conduct examinations or investigations concerning the Company's compliance with insurance laws, securities laws, labor laws and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

Table of Contents

The Company's subsidiaries also have lawsuits pending in which the plaintiff seeks extra-contractual damages from the Company in addition to damages claimed or in excess of the available limits under an insurance policy. These lawsuits, which are in various stages, generally mirror similar lawsuits filed against other carriers in the industry. Although the Company is vigorously defending these lawsuits, the outcomes of these cases cannot be determined at this time. In accordance with current accounting standards for loss contingencies and based upon information currently known to the Company, reserves are established for litigation when it is probable that a loss associated with a claim or proceeding has been incurred and the amount of the loss or range of loss can be reasonably estimated. As such, the Company has established loss and LAE reserves for lawsuits as to which the Company has determined that a loss is both probable and estimable. In addition to these case reserves, the Company also establishes reserves for claims incurred but not reported to cover unknown exposures and adverse development on known exposures. Based on currently available information, the Company believes that reserves for these lawsuits are reasonable and that the amounts reserved did not have a material effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations. However, if any one or more of these cases results in a judgment against or settlement by the Company for an amount that is significantly greater than the amount so reserved, the resulting liability could have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, cash flows and results of operations.

As a direct writer of insurance, the Company receives assessments by state funds to cover losses to policyholders of insolvent or rehabilitated companies and other authorized fees. These mandatory assessments may be partially recovered through a reduction in future premium taxes in some states over several years. At March 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the liability for such assessments was \$5.3 million and \$5.5 million, respectively, and will be paid over several years as assessed by the various state funds.

11. Segment Information

The Company operates its business as one segment, property and casualty insurance. The Company manages this segment through a product management structure. The following table shows revenues summarized by the broader business component description, which were determined based primarily on similar economic characteristics, products and services.

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Revenue:		
Premiums Earned:		
Alternative Risk Transfer	\$ 71,308	\$ 58,210
Transportation	38,632	35,137
Specialty Personal Lines	11,331	11,817
Hawaii and Alaska	3,561	3,384
Other	2,075	1,577
Total premiums earned	126,907	110,125
Net investment income	7,963	9,183
Net realized gains on investments	1,546	1,742
Other	833	829
Total revenues	\$ 137,249	\$ 121,879

12. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income is defined as all changes in Shareholders' Equity except those arising from transactions with shareholders. Comprehensive income includes net earnings and other comprehensive income, which consists entirely of changes in net unrealized gains or losses on our investment portfolio, which is classified as available for sale. The following table shows the progression of the components of accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI) during the three months ended March 31, 2013.

**Accumulated Other
Comprehensive Income**

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

		(Dollars in thousands)
Balance at January 1, 2013	\$	31,634
Net unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities:		
Net unrealized holding gains on securities arising during the period, net of tax		2,855
Reclassification adjustment for net realized gains included in net income, net of tax		(255)
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		2,600
Ending balance at March 31, 2013	\$	34,234

Table of Contents

The following table presents amounts related to unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities which were reclassified out of AOCI during the three months ended March 31, 2013, categorized by the respective affected line items in the Consolidated Statement of Income:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2013 (Dollars in thousands)	
Increase to net realized gains on investments	\$	392
Increase to income before income taxes		392
Increase to provision for income taxes		137
Increase to net income	\$	255

ITEM 2. *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations***Forward-Looking Statements**

This document, including information incorporated by reference, contains forward-looking statements (within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995). All statements, trend analyses and other information contained in this Form 10-Q relative to markets for our products and trends in our operations or financial results, as well as other statements including words such as may, target, anticipate, believe, plan, estimate, expect, intend, project, and other similar expressions, constitute forward-looking statements. We made these statements based on our plans and current analyses of our business and the insurance industry as a whole. We caution that these statements may and often do vary from actual results and the differences between these statements and actual results can be material. Factors that could contribute to these differences include, among other things:

general economic conditions, weakness of the financial markets and other factors, including prevailing interest rate levels and stock and credit market performance, which may affect or continue to affect (among other things) our ability to sell our products and to collect amounts due to us, our ability to access capital resources and the costs associated with such access to capital and the market value of our investments;

our ability to manage our growth strategy;

performance of securities markets;

our ability to attract and retain independent agents and brokers;

customer response to new products and marketing initiatives;

tax law and accounting changes;

increasing competition in the sale of our insurance products and services and the retention of existing customers;

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

changes in legal environment;

regulatory changes or actions, including those relating to the regulation of the sale, underwriting and pricing of insurance products and services and capital requirements;

levels of natural catastrophes, terrorist events, incidents of war and other major losses;

adequacy of insurance reserves; and

availability of reinsurance and ability of reinsurers to pay their obligations.

The forward-looking statements herein are made only as of the date of this report. We assume no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

General

We underwrite and sell traditional and alternative risk transfer (ART) property and casualty insurance products primarily to the passenger transportation industry, the trucking industry and moving and storage transportation companies, general commercial insurance to small businesses in Hawaii and Alaska and personal insurance to owners of recreational vehicles and commercial vehicles throughout the United States.

We have five property and casualty insurance subsidiaries: National Interstate Insurance Company (NIIC), Vanliner Insurance Company (VIC or Vanliner), National Interstate Insurance Company of Hawaii, Inc. (NIIC-HI), Triumphe Casualty Company (TCC) and Hudson Indemnity, Ltd. (HIL) and five active agency and service subsidiaries. We write our insurance policies on a direct basis through NIIC, VIC, NIIC-HI and TCC. NIIC and VIC are licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. NIIC-HI is licensed in Ohio, Hawaii, Michigan and New Jersey. TCC holds licenses for multiple lines of authority, including auto-related lines, in 31 states and the District of Columbia. HIL is domiciled in the Cayman Islands and provides reinsurance for NIIC, VIC, NIIC-HI and TCC, primarily for the ART component. Insurance products are marketed through multiple distribution channels, including independent agents and brokers, program administrators, affiliated agencies and agent internet initiatives. We use our five active agency and service subsidiaries to sell and service our insurance business.

As of March 31, 2013, Great American Insurance Company (Great American) owned 51.8% of our outstanding common shares. Great American is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Financial Group, Inc.

Results of Operations

Overview

Through the operations of our subsidiaries, we are engaged in property and casualty insurance operations. We generate underwriting profits by providing what we view as specialized insurance products, services and programs not generally available in the marketplace. We focus on niche insurance markets where we offer insurance products designed to meet the unique needs of targeted insurance buyers that we believe are underserved by the insurance industry.

We derive our revenues primarily from premiums generated by our insurance policies and income from our investment portfolio. Our expenses consist primarily of losses and loss adjustment expenses (LAE), commissions and other underwriting expenses and other operating and general expenses.

Our net income, determined in accordance with GAAP, includes after-tax net realized gains from investments that may not be indicative of our ongoing operations. The following table reconciles net income to net income from operations, a non-GAAP financial measure that we believe is a useful tool for investors and analysts in analyzing ongoing operating trends.

	Three Months Ended March 31,			
	2013		2012	
	Amount	Per Share	Amount	Per Share
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)			
Net income from operations	\$ 7,012	\$ 0.36	\$ 8,614	\$ 0.44
After-tax net realized gains from investments	1,005	0.05	1,132	0.06
Net income	\$ 8,017	\$ 0.41	\$ 9,746	\$ 0.50

Our net income for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$8.0 million (\$0.41 per share diluted) compared to \$9.7 million (\$0.50 per share diluted) for the same period in 2012. This decrease was driven by the higher loss and LAE ratio of 76.1% for the three months ended March 31, 2013 as compared to 73.1% for the same period in 2012. This 3.0 percentage point increase was primarily attributable to elevated claim severity in certain of our ART products during the three months ended March 31, 2013, partially offset by improvement in the loss and LAE results of two products which we have previously reported as having underperformed in recent periods, one of our Hawaii and Alaska products and our recreational vehicle product. Also contributing to the decline in net income for the first quarter of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012 was a decrease in net investment income, as yields available in the financial markets on fixed maturity securities have generally declined in recent years, placing downward pressure on our investment portfolio yield. Net investment income was also impacted by our average invested asset balances being slightly lower in the first quarter of 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012 due to our one-time special dividend payment

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

in December 2012.

We recorded after-tax net realized gains from investments of \$1.0 million (\$0.05 per share diluted) for the first quarter of 2013, compared to \$1.1 million (\$0.06 per share diluted) for the comparative period in 2012. Our after-tax net realized gains for the three months ended March 31, 2013 were primarily generated by net gains associated with equity partnership investments and

Table of Contents

sales or redemptions of securities, while the after-tax net realized gains for the comparable period in 2012 related primarily to net gains associated with equity partnership investments.

Our net income from operations for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$7.0 million (\$0.36 per share diluted) compared to \$8.6 million (\$0.44 per share diluted) for the same periods in 2012. The primary drivers for this period-over-period fluctuation are the same as those discussed above for the change in net income for the respective periods.

Gross Premiums Written

Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012. We operate our business as one segment, property and casualty insurance. We manage this segment through a product management structure. The following table sets forth an analysis of gross premiums written by business component during the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2013		Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Alternative Risk Transfer	\$ 85,568	56.3%	\$ 76,438	58.7%
Transportation	46,770	30.8%	35,207	27.0%
Specialty Personal Lines	13,542	8.9%	13,053	10.0%
Hawaii and Alaska	3,890	2.6%	3,880	3.0%
Other	2,098	1.4%	1,647	1.3%
Gross premiums written	\$ 151,868	100.0%	\$ 130,225	100.0%

Gross premiums written includes both direct and assumed premium. During the first quarter of 2013, our gross premiums written increased \$21.6 million, or 16.6%, compared to the same period in 2012, primarily attributable to the growth experienced in our transportation and ART components. Gross premiums written in our transportation component increased by \$11.6 million, or 32.8%, in the first quarter of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012, primarily driven by Vanliner's moving and storage products, which grew due to a combination of new customers, rate increases and growth in the exposure base among its existing customers. Also contributing to the transportation component's growth was the impact of premiums produced by the trucking product extension introduced in 2012, as well as rate increases on all transportation component products and high renewal retention in our traditional passenger transportation business. Our ART component's gross premiums written increased \$9.1 million, or 11.9%, during the first quarter of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012 due to growth in existing ART programs including the addition of a new customer to our large account ART product, rate increases, growth in exposures on renewal business and the addition of new customers in many of our other ART programs. Additionally, we continued to experience high levels of member retention in group ART programs renewing during the period. The ART growth was partially offset by reductions in premium primarily associated with the impact of ending the business relationship with the agent for one of the products in the program business portion of our ART component. This product, which is in runoff, comprised 4.7% of our gross premiums written during the first quarter of 2012. The increase of \$0.5 million, or 3.7%, in our specialty personal lines component was primarily related to the growth in our commercial vehicle product, which is mainly attributable to the impact of having appointed hundreds of new independent agents over the past several months and increased rates. This growth was partially offset by a decline in our recreational vehicle product primarily driven by the impact on quote volume and conversion rates associated with significantly increasing our premium rates.

Our group ART programs, which focus on specialty or niche businesses, provide various services and coverages tailored to meet specific requirements of defined client groups and their members. These services include risk management consulting, claims administration and handling, loss control and prevention and reinsurance placement, along with providing various types of property and casualty insurance coverage. Insurance coverage is provided primarily to companies with similar risk profiles and to specified classes of business of our agent partners.

As part of our ART programs, we have analyzed, on a quarterly basis, members' loss performance on a policy year basis to determine if there would be a premium assessment to participants or if there would be a return of premium to participants as a result of less-than-expected losses. Assessment premium and return of premium are recorded as adjustments to premiums written (assessments increase premiums written; returns of premium reduce premiums written). For the first quarter of 2013 and 2012, we recorded premium assessments of \$3.2 and \$1.5 million premium, respectively.

Table of Contents**Premiums Earned**

Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012. The following table shows premiums earned summarized by the broader business component description, which were determined based primarily on similar economic characteristics, products and services:

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Change	
	2013	2012	Amount	Percent
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Premiums earned:				
Alternative Risk Transfer	\$ 71,308	\$ 58,210	\$ 13,098	22.5%
Transportation	38,632	35,137	3,495	9.9%
Specialty Personal Lines	11,331	11,817	(486)	(4.1%)
Hawaii and Alaska	3,561	3,384	177	5.2%
Other	2,075	1,577	498	31.6%
Total premiums earned	\$ 126,907	\$ 110,125	\$ 16,782	15.2%

Our premiums earned increased \$16.8 million, or 15.2%, to \$126.9 million during the three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to \$110.1 million for the same period in 2012. The increase is primarily attributable to our ART component, which grew \$13.1 million, or 22.5%, over 2012 mainly due to the gross premiums written growth from new and existing programs experienced throughout 2012. Our transportation component increased \$3.5 million, or 9.9%, during the first quarter of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012 mainly due to the gross premiums written growth in 2012 among Vanliner's moving and storage products and our traditional trucking business. Partially offsetting these increases was a decrease in our specialty personal lines component of \$0.5 million, or 4.1%, due to the decline in premiums written in our recreational vehicle product experienced throughout 2012.

Underwriting and Loss Ratio Analysis

Underwriting profitability, as opposed to overall profitability or net earnings, is measured by the combined ratio. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss and LAE ratio and the underwriting expense ratio. A combined ratio under 100% is indicative of an underwriting profit.

Losses and LAE are a function of the amount and type of insurance contracts we write and of the loss experience of the underlying risks. We seek to establish case reserves at the maximum probable exposure based on our historical claims experience. Our ability to accurately estimate losses and LAE at the time of pricing our contracts is a critical factor in determining our profitability. The amount reported under losses and LAE in any period includes payments in the period net of the change in reserves for unpaid losses and LAE between the beginning and the end of the period.

Our underwriting expense ratio includes commissions and other underwriting expenses and other operating and general expenses, offset by other income. Commissions and other underwriting expenses consist principally of brokerage and agent commissions reduced by ceding commissions received from assuming reinsurers, and vary depending upon the amount and types of contracts written and, to a lesser extent, premium taxes.

Our underwriting approach is to price our products to achieve an underwriting profit even if we forgo volume as a result. After several years of modest single digit decreases in rate levels on our renewal business as a whole, since 2011 we have seen rate levels gradually stabilize on renewal business, with a number of our products experiencing single digit rate level increases on renewal business. This positive trend has continued into the first quarter of 2013, with many of our products taking rate increases of over 5% and, in some instances, exceeding 10%.

Table of Contents

The table below presents our net premiums earned and combined ratios for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Gross premiums written	\$ 151,868	\$ 130,225
Ceded reinsurance	(27,111)	(23,510)
Net premiums written	124,757	106,715
Change in unearned premiums, net of ceded	2,150	3,410
Total premiums earned	\$ 126,907	\$ 110,125
Combined Ratios:		
Loss and LAE ratio ⁽¹⁾	76.1%	73.1%
Underwriting expense ratio ⁽²⁾	21.7%	23.3%
Combined ratio	97.8%	96.4%

⁽¹⁾ The ratio of losses and LAE to premiums earned.

⁽²⁾ The ratio of the sum of commissions and other underwriting expenses, other operating expenses less other income to premiums earned. *Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012.* Our loss and LAE ratio for the first quarter of 2013 increased 3.0 percentage points to 76.1% compared to 73.1% for the same period in 2012. This increase over the prior period is primarily attributable to higher claim severity in certain of our ART products during the three months ended March 31, 2013. Accordingly, we have non-renewed certain underperforming accounts and have increased rate levels, as previously discussed. Partially offsetting this increased claim severity was improvement in the loss and LAE results of two products which we have previously reported as having underperformed in recent periods, one of our Hawaii and Alaska products and our recreational vehicle product. For the first quarter of 2013, we had unfavorable development from prior years' loss reserves of \$2.4 million, or 1.9 percentage points compared to unfavorable development of \$1.9 million, or 1.8 percentage points, in the first quarter of 2012. This unfavorable development was primarily related to settlements above the established case reserves and revisions to our estimated future settlements on an individual case by case basis. The prior years' loss reserve development is not considered to be unusual or significant to prior years' reserves based on the history of our business and the timing of events in the claims adjustment process.

The underwriting expense ratio for the first quarter of 2013 decreased 1.6 percentage points to 21.7% compared to 23.3% for the same period in 2012, which was primarily attributable to leveraging our fixed operating costs while increasing our premium base in the first quarter of 2013 compared to the same period in the prior year. Specifically, operating costs associated with our insurance operations, such as product management, underwriting, sales and marketing costs, have remained flat during the first three months of 2013 as compared to the first three months of 2012.

Net Investment Income

Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012. Net investment income decreased \$1.2 million, or 13.3%, to \$8.0 million in the first quarter of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. Yields available in the financial markets on fixed maturity securities remain low, placing downward pressure on our net investment income. While we have normally had higher average invested assets period over period to help offset the declining yields, average fixed income holdings were slightly lower in the first quarter of 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012 primarily due to our one-time special shareholder dividend paid in December 2012.

Net Realized Gains on Investments

Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012. Net realized gains on investments were \$1.5 million for the first quarter of 2013 compared to \$1.7 million for the first quarter of 2012. The net realized gains for the three months ended March 31, 2013 were primarily generated from net realized gains associated with equity partnerships totaling \$0.8 million and sales or redemptions of securities, which

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

produced net gains of \$0.7 million. The net realized gains for the first quarter of 2012 were primarily generated from net gains associated with equity partnership investments of \$1.4 million and net realized gains associated with sales of securities totaling \$0.4 million.

Commissions and Other Underwriting Expenses

Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012. During the first quarter of 2013, commissions and other underwriting expenses of \$22.9 million increased \$1.4 million, or 6.2%, from \$21.5 million in the comparable period in 2012. As a percentage of premiums earned, commissions and other underwriting expenses decreased to 18.0% for the three months ended

Table of Contents

March 31, 2013 as compared to 19.6% for the same period in 2012, primarily attributable to increasing our premium base while maintaining relatively flat fixed operating costs associated with our insurance operations.

Other Operating and General Expenses

Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012. Other operating and general expenses increased \$0.5 million, or 10.0%, to \$5.4 million during the quarter ended March 31, 2013 compared to \$4.9 million for the same period in 2012, primarily due to growth in our employee headcount and other expenses necessary to support the growth in our business. As a percentage of premiums earned, such expenses were relatively flat at 4.3% and 4.5% for the three months ended March 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Income Taxes

Three months ended March 31, 2013 compared to March 31, 2012. The effective tax rate of 27.6% for the three month period ended March 31, 2013 decreased 1.6 percentage points, from 29.2%, as compared to the same period in 2012, primarily attributable to the impact of tax-exempt investment income. While our tax-exempt investment income was relatively flat in the first quarter of 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012, its impact on our effective tax rate was greater in the first quarter of 2013 due to having lower income before income taxes as compared to the prior period.

Financial Condition

Investments

At March 31, 2013, our investment portfolio contained \$962.5 million in fixed maturity securities and \$38.1 million in equity securities, all carried at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses reported as a separate component of shareholders' equity, and \$38.4 million in other investments, which are limited partnership investments accounted for in accordance with the equity method. At March 31, 2013, we had pre-tax net unrealized gains of \$45.8 million on fixed maturities and \$6.9 million on equity securities. Our investment portfolio allocation is based on diversification among primarily high quality fixed maturity investments and guidelines in our investment policy.

At March 31, 2013, 90.1% of the fixed maturities in our portfolio were rated investment grade (credit rating of AAA to BBB-) by nationally recognized rating agencies. Investment grade securities generally bear lower degrees of risk and corresponding lower yields than those that are unrated or non-investment grade.

State and local government obligations represented approximately 37.1% of our fixed maturity portfolio at March 31, 2013, with approximately \$281.8 million, or 79.0%, of our state and local government obligations held in special revenue obligations, and the remaining amount held in general obligations. Our state and local government obligations portfolio is high quality, as 99.5% of such securities were rated investment grade at March 31, 2013. We had no state and local government obligations for any state, municipality or political subdivision that comprised 10% or more of the total amortized cost or fair value of such obligations at March 31, 2013.

Table of Contents

Summary information for securities with unrealized gains or losses at March 31, 2013 is shown in the following table. Approximately \$1.0 million of fixed maturities and \$27 thousand of equity securities had no unrealized gains or losses at March 31, 2013.

	Securities with Unrealized Gains	Securities with Unrealized Losses
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Fixed Maturities:		
Fair value of securities	\$ 885,680	\$ 75,813
Amortized cost of securities	838,293	77,406
Gross unrealized gain or (loss)	\$ 47,387	\$ (1,593)
Fair value as a % of amortized cost	105.7%	97.9%
Number of security positions held	714	50
Number individually exceeding \$50,000 gain or (loss)	284	6
Concentration of gains or losses by type or industry:		
U.S. Government and government agencies	\$ 6,610	\$ (7)
Foreign governments	49	
State, municipalities and political subdivisions	16,186	(246)
Residential mortgage-backed securities	9,646	(1,195)
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	2,056	
Other debt obligations	281	(15)
Financial institutions, insurance and real estate	4,133	(49)
Industrial and other	8,426	(81)
Percent rated investment grade (a)	90.7%	83.1%
Equity Securities:		
Fair value of securities	\$ 34,553	\$ 3,484
Cost of securities	27,553	3,610
Gross unrealized gain or (loss)	\$ 7,000	\$ (126)
Fair value as a % of cost	125.4%	96.5%
Number individually exceeding \$50,000 gain or (loss)	37	1

(a) Investment grade of AAA to BBB- by nationally recognized rating agencies.

The table below sets forth the scheduled maturities of available for sale fixed maturity securities at March 31, 2013, based on their fair values. Other debt obligations, which are primarily comprised of asset-backed securities other than those related to mortgages, are categorized based on their average maturity. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because certain securities may be called or prepaid by the issuers.

	Securities with Unrealized Gains	Securities with Unrealized Losses
Maturity:		
One year or less	2.4%	1.3%
After one year through five years	31.0%	15.2%
After five years through ten years	30.6%	20.2%
After ten years	12.2%	16.0%
	76.2%	52.7%
Mortgage-backed securities	23.8%	47.3%
	100.0%	100.0%

Table of Contents

The table below summarizes the unrealized gains and losses on fixed maturities and equity securities by dollar amount.

	Aggregate Fair Value	At March 31, 2013 Aggregate Unrealized Gain (Loss) (Dollars in thousands)	Fair Value as % of Cost Basis
Fixed Maturities:			
Securities with unrealized gains:			
Exceeding \$50,000 and for:			
Less than one year (95 issues)	\$ 169,397	\$ 11,518	107.3%
More than one year (189 issues)	367,924	28,226	108.3%
Less than \$50,000 (430 issues)	348,359	7,643	102.2%
	\$ 885,680	\$ 47,387	
Securities with unrealized losses:			
Exceeding \$50,000 and for:			
Less than one year (1 issue)	\$ 2,595	\$ (51)	98.1%
More than one year (5 issues)	4,907	(1,111)	81.5%
Less than \$50,000 (44 issues)	68,311	(431)	99.4%
	\$ 75,813	\$ (1,593)	
Equity Securities:			
Securities with unrealized gains:			
Exceeding \$50,000 and for:			
Less than one year (30 issues)	\$ 14,892	\$ 2,976	125.0%
More than one year (7 issues)	6,977	2,770	165.8%
Less than \$50,000 (55 issues)	12,684	1,254	111.0%
	\$ 34,553	\$ 7,000	
Securities with unrealized losses:			
Exceeding \$50,000 and for:			
Less than one year (1 issue)	\$ 664	\$ (71)	90.3%
More than one year (0 issues)			0.0%
Less than \$50,000 (10 issues)	2,820	(55)	98.1%
	\$ 3,484	\$ (126)	

When a decline in the value of a specific investment is considered to be other-than-temporary, a provision for impairment is charged to earnings (accounted for as a realized loss) and the cost basis of that investment is reduced. The determination of whether unrealized losses are other-than-temporary requires judgment based on subjective as well as objective factors. Factors considered and resources used by management include those discussed in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Other-Than-Temporary Impairment.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The liquidity requirements of our insurance subsidiaries relate primarily to the liabilities associated with their products as well as operating costs and payments of dividends and taxes to us from insurance subsidiaries. Historically and during the first three months of 2013, cash flows from premiums and investment income have provided sufficient funds to meet these requirements, without requiring significant liquidation of investments. If our cash flows change dramatically from historical patterns, for example as a result of a decrease in premiums, an increase in claims paid or operating expenses, or financing an acquisition, we may be required to sell securities before their maturity and possibly at a loss.

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

Our insurance subsidiaries generally hold a significant amount of highly liquid, short-term investments or cash and cash equivalents to meet their liquidity needs. Our historic pattern of using receipts from current premium writings for the payment of liabilities incurred in prior periods provides us with the option to extend the maturities of our investment portfolio beyond the estimated settlement date of our loss reserves. Funds received in excess of cash requirements are generally invested in additional marketable securities.

We believe that our insurance subsidiaries maintain sufficient liquidity to pay claims and operating expenses, as well as meet commitments in the event of unforeseen events such as reserve deficiencies, inadequate premium rates or reinsurer insolvencies. Our principal sources of liquidity are our existing cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. Cash and cash equivalents increased \$1.8 million from \$42.0 million at December 31, 2012 to \$43.8 million at March 31, 2013. We generated net cash from operations of \$26.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013, compared to \$20.0 million during the comparable period in 2012. The growth we experienced in our gross premiums written in the first three months of 2013 compared to the same period

Table of Contents

in 2012 drove the \$6.6 million increase in net cash from operations, as reflected in the various line items within this section of our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$23.4 million and \$14.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Contributing to the \$9.3 million increase in cash used in investing activities were increases of \$11.1 million and \$4.7 million from the purchases of fixed maturities and equity securities, respectively, as well as a \$5.0 million decrease in the proceeds from the sale of fixed maturities, partially offset by a \$9.7 million increase in the proceeds from maturities and redemptions of fixed maturity investments. The increase in the purchases of investment securities during the first quarter of 2013 was primarily attributable to reinvesting the proceeds from matured and redeemed fixed maturity securities. The increase in maturities and redemptions of fixed maturity investments in the first quarter of 2013 was due to an increase in scheduled maturities as compared to the first quarter of 2012. The net purchases of fixed maturities during the first three months of 2013 were primarily concentrated in other debt obligations, which are primarily comprised of asset-backed securities excluding those related to mortgages, while the net purchases of equity securities during the period were mainly concentrated in dividend yielding stocks.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$1.4 million and \$2.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Our financing activities include those related to stock option activity and dividends paid on our common shares.

We have continuing cash needs for administrative expenses, the payment of principal and interest on borrowings, shareholder dividends and taxes. Funds to meet these obligations will come primarily from parent company cash, dividends and other payments from our insurance company subsidiaries.

On November 19, 2012, we replaced our \$50.0 million credit agreement with a \$100.0 million unsecured credit agreement (the Credit Agreement) that terminates in November 2017, which includes a sublimit of \$10.0 million for letters of credit. We have the ability to increase the line of credit to \$125.0 million subject to the Credit Agreement's accordion feature. Amounts borrowed bear interest at either (1) a LIBOR rate plus an applicable margin ranging from 0.75% to 1.00% based on our A.M. Best insurance group rating, or (2) a rate per annum equal to the greater of (a) the administrative agent's prime rate, (b) 0.50% in excess of the federal funds effective rate, or (c) 1.00% in excess of the one-month LIBOR rate. Based on our A.M. Best insurance group rating of A at March 31, 2013, we would pay interest at the LIBOR rate plus 0.875%. At March 31, 2013, we had \$12.0 million outstanding under the Credit Agreement, with the interest rate on this debt equal to the six-month LIBOR (0.4649% at March 31, 2013) plus 87.5 basis points, with interest payments due throughout the year at each interest rate repricing date.

The Credit Agreement requires us to maintain specified financial covenants measured on a quarterly basis, including minimum consolidated net worth and a maximum debt to capital ratio. In addition, the Credit Agreement contains certain affirmative and negative covenants customary for facilities of this type, including negative covenants that limit or restrict our ability to, among other things, pay dividends, incur additional indebtedness, effect mergers or consolidations, make investments, enter into asset sales, create liens, enter into transactions with affiliates and other restrictions customarily contained in such agreements. As of March 31, 2013, we were in compliance with all covenants.

We believe that funds generated from operations, including dividends from insurance subsidiaries, parent company cash and funds available under our Credit Agreement, will provide sufficient resources to meet our liquidity requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, if these funds are insufficient to meet fixed charges in any period, we would be required to generate cash through sale of assets, sale of portfolio securities or similar transactions. If we were required to sell portfolio securities early for liquidity purposes rather than holding them to maturity, we would recognize gains or losses on those securities earlier than anticipated. Our ongoing corporate initiatives include actively evaluating potential acquisitions. At such time that we would execute an agreement to enter into an acquisition, such a transaction, depending upon the structure and size, could have an impact on our liquidity. If we were forced to borrow additional funds in order to meet liquidity needs, we would incur additional interest expense, which could have a negative impact on our earnings. Since our ability to meet our obligations in the long-term (beyond a 12-month period) is dependent upon factors such as market changes, insurance regulatory changes and economic conditions, no assurance can be given that the available net cash flow will be sufficient to meet our long-term operating needs. We are not aware of any trends or uncertainties affecting our liquidity, including any significant future reliance on short-term financing arrangements.

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements. As more information becomes known, these estimates and assumptions could change and thus impact amounts reported in the future. Management believes that the establishment of losses and LAE reserves and the determination of other-than-temporary impairment on investments are the two areas where the degree of judgment required in determining amounts recorded in the financial statements

Table of Contents

make the accounting policies critical. For a more detailed discussion of these policies, see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Losses and LAE Reserves

Significant periods of time can elapse between the occurrence of an insured loss, the reporting of that loss to us and our final payment of that loss and its related LAE. To recognize liabilities for unpaid losses, we establish reserves as balance sheet liabilities. At March 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, we had \$785.4 million and \$775.3 million, respectively, of gross loss and LAE reserves, representing management's best estimate of the ultimate loss. Management records, on a monthly and quarterly basis, its best estimate of loss reserves. For purposes of computing the recorded reserves, management utilizes various data inputs, including analysis that is derived from a review of prior quarter results performed by actuaries employed by Great American. In addition, on an annual basis, actuaries from Great American review our recorded reserves for NIIC, VIC, NIIC-HI and TCC utilizing current period data and provide a Statement of Actuarial Opinion, required annually in accordance with state insurance regulations, on the statutory reserves recorded by these U.S. insurance subsidiaries. The actuarial analysis of NIICs, VICs, NIIC-HIs and TCCs combined net reserves for the year ending December 31, 2012 reflected point estimates that were within 2% of management's recorded net reserves as of such dates. Using this actuarial data along with its other data inputs, management concluded that the recorded reserves appropriately reflect management's best estimates of the liability as of March 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012.

The quarterly reviews of unpaid loss and LAE reserves by Great American actuaries are prepared using standard actuarial techniques. These may include (but may not be limited to):

the Case Incurred Development Method;

the Paid Development Method;

the Bornhuetter-Ferguson Method; and

the Incremental Paid LAE to Paid Loss Methods.

The period of time from the occurrence of a loss through the settlement of the liability is referred to as the tail. Generally, the same actuarial methods are considered for both short-tail and long-tail lines of business because most of them work properly for both. The methods are designed to incorporate the effects of the differing length of time to settle particular claims. For short-tail lines, management tends to give more weight to the Case Incurred and Paid Development methods, although the various methods tend to produce similar results. For long-tail lines, more judgment is involved and more weight may be given to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson method. Liability claims for long-tail lines are more susceptible to litigation and can be significantly affected by changing contract interpretation and the legal environment. Therefore, the estimation of loss reserves for these classes is more complex and subject to a higher degree of variability.

Supplementary statistical information is reviewed to determine which methods are most appropriate and whether adjustments are needed to particular methods. This information includes:

open and closed claim counts;

average case reserves and average incurred on open claims;

closure rates and statistics related to closed and open claim percentages;

average closed claim severity;

ultimate claim severity;

reported loss ratios;

projected ultimate loss ratios; and

loss payment patterns.

Table of Contents

Other-Than-Temporary Impairment

Our investments are exposed to at least one of three primary sources of investment risk: credit, interest rate and market valuation risks. The financial statement risks are those associated with the recognition of impairments and income, as well as the determination of fair values. We evaluate whether impairments have occurred on a case-by-case basis. Management considers a wide range of factors about the security issuer and uses its best judgment in evaluating the cause and amount of decline in the estimated fair value of the security and in assessing the prospects for near-term recovery. Inherent in management's evaluation of the security are assumptions and estimates about the operations of the issuer and its future earnings potential. Considerations we use in the impairment evaluation process include, but are not limited to:

the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been below amortized cost;

whether the issuer is experiencing significant financial difficulties;

economic stability of an entire industry sector or subsection;

whether the issuer, series of issuers or industry has a catastrophic type of loss;

the extent to which the unrealized loss is credit-driven or a result of changes in market interest rates;

historical operating, balance sheet and cash flow data;

internally and externally generated financial models and forecasts;

our ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value; and

other subjective factors, including concentrations and information obtained from regulators and rating agencies.

Under current other-than-temporary impairment accounting guidance, if management can assert that it does not intend to sell an impaired fixed maturity security and it is not more likely than not that it will have to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis, then an entity may separate the other-than-temporary impairments into two components: 1) the amount related to credit losses (recorded in earnings) and 2) the amount related to all other factors (recorded in other comprehensive income (loss)). The credit related portion of an other-than-temporary impairment is measured by comparing a security's amortized cost to the present value of its current expected cash flows discounted at its effective yield prior to the impairment charge. Both components are required to be shown in the Consolidated Statements of Income. If management intends to sell an impaired security, or it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security before recovery, an impairment charge is required to reduce the amortized cost of that security to fair value. Additional disclosures required by this guidance are contained in Note 4 Investments.

We closely monitor each investment that has a fair value that is below its amortized cost and make a determination each quarter for other-than-temporary impairment for each of those investments. There were no material other-than-temporary charges recorded during the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012. While it is not possible to accurately predict if or when a specific security will become impaired, given the inherent uncertainty in the market, charges for other-than-temporary impairment could be material to net income in subsequent quarters. Management believes it is not likely that future impairment charges will have a significant effect on our liquidity. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition Investments.

Contractual Obligations/Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Edgar Filing: National Interstate CORP - Form 10-Q

During the first three months of 2013, our contractual obligations did not change materially from those discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

We do not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities of financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes.

Table of Contents

ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

As of March 31, 2013, there were no material changes to the information provided in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 under Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective disclosure controls and procedures, as defined under Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Our management, with participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e)) as of March 31, 2013. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of March 31, 2013, to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There have been no significant changes in our internal controls over financial reporting or in other factors that have occurred during the quarter ended March 31, 2013 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. Legal Proceedings

There are no material changes from the legal proceedings previously reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012. For more information regarding such legal matters please refer to Item 3 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, Note 16 Commitments and Contingencies to the Consolidated Financial Statements included therein and Note 10 Commitments and Contingencies to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in this quarterly report.

ITEM 1A. Risk Factors

There are no material changes to the risk factors previously reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012. For more information regarding such risk factors, please refer to Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Table of Contents

ITEM 6. Exhibits

3.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation ⁽¹⁾
3.2	Amended and Restated Code of Regulations ⁽¹⁾
*10.1	Form of Award Agreement for Restricted Shares and Performance Shares ⁽²⁾
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document ⁽³⁾
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document ⁽³⁾
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document ⁽³⁾
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document ⁽³⁾
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document ⁽³⁾
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document ⁽³⁾

* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

⁽¹⁾ These exhibits are incorporated by reference to our Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-119270).

⁽²⁾ This exhibit is incorporated by reference to our Form 8-K filed February 25, 2013.

⁽³⁾ In accordance with Regulation S-T, the XBRL-related information in Exhibit 101 to this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q shall be deemed furnished not filed.

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.

NATIONAL INTERSTATE CORPORATION

Date: May 3, 2013

/s/ David W. Michelson
David W. Michelson
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Duly Authorized Officer and Principal Executive Officer)

Date: May 3, 2013

/s/ Julie A. McGraw
Julie A. McGraw
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(Duly Authorized Officer and Principal Financial Officer)