

ASSURED GUARANTY LTD  
Form 10-Q  
August 10, 2009  
Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

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

**For the Quarterly Period Ended June 30, 2009**

**OR**

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

**transition Period from                      to**

**Commission File No. 001-32141**

**ASSURED GUARANTY LTD.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

**Bermuda**  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

**98-0429991**  
(I.R.S. employer identification no.)

**30 Woodbourne Avenue**

**Hamilton HM 08**

**Bermuda**

(address of principal executive office)

**(441) 299-9375**

(Registrants telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

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

The number of registrant's Common Shares (\$0.01 par value) outstanding as of July 31, 2009 was 156,599,838 (excludes 455,234 unvested restricted shares).



Table of Contents

**ASSURED GUARANTY LTD.**

**INDEX TO FORM 10-Q**

	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u></b>	
<u>Item 1.</u>	
	<b><u>Financial Statements:</u></b>
	<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets (unaudited) as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008</u>
	3
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (unaudited) for the</u>
	<u>Three and Six Months Ended June 30, 2009 and 2008</u>
	4
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity (unaudited) for Six Months Ended</u>
	<u>June 30, 2009</u>
	5
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited) for Six Months Ended June 30,</u>
	<u>2009 and 2008</u>
	6
	<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u>
	7
<u>Item 2.</u>	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of</u>
	<u>Operations</u>
	68
<u>Item 3.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>
	130
<u>Item 4.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>
	131
<b><u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	
<u>Item 1.</u>	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>
	132
<u>Item 1A.</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u>
	135
<u>Item 2.</u>	<u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>
	137
<u>Item 6.</u>	<u>Exhibits</u>
	137

Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****Assured Guaranty Ltd.****Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
(in thousands of U.S. dollars except per share and share amounts)

(Unaudited)

	June 30, 2009	December 31, 2008
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed maturity securities, at fair value (amortized cost: \$3,418,383 in 2009 and \$3,162,308 in 2008)	\$ 3,413,257	\$ 3,154,137
Short-term investments, at cost which approximates fair value	1,170,970	477,197
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>4,584,227</b>	<b>3,631,334</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	8,507	12,305
Accrued investment income	31,477	32,846
Deferred acquisition costs	374,087	288,616
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	23,121	18,856
Reinsurance recoverable on ceded losses	4,533	6,528
Premiums receivable	752,892	15,743
Goodwill	85,417	85,417
Credit derivative assets	146,350	146,959
Deferred tax asset	209,109	129,118
Current income taxes receivable	26,351	21,427
Salvage recoverable	199,828	80,207
Committed capital securities, at fair value	10,158	51,062
Other assets	39,682	35,289
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,495,739</b>	<b>\$ 4,555,707</b>
<b>Liabilities and shareholders equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Unearned premium reserves	\$ 2,222,717	\$ 1,233,714
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses	200,287	196,798
Profit commissions payable	10,220	8,584
Reinsurance balances payable	33,754	17,957
Funds held by Company under reinsurance contracts	30,000	30,683
Credit derivative liabilities	957,752	733,766
Long-term debt	516,974	347,210
Other liabilities	169,116	60,773
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4,140,820</b>	<b>2,629,485</b>
<b>Commitments and contingencies</b>		
<b>Shareholders equity</b>		
Common stock (\$0.01 par value, 500,000,000 shares authorized; 134,445,139 and 90,955,703 shares issued and outstanding in 2009 and 2008)	1,344	910
Additional paid-in capital	1,733,997	1,284,370
Retained earnings	622,369	638,055

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(2,791)	2,887
<b>Total shareholders' equity</b>	<b>2,354,919</b>	<b>1,926,222</b>
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 6,495,739</b>	<b>\$ 4,555,707</b>

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

## Table of Contents

## Assured Guaranty Ltd.

Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income  
(in thousands of U.S. dollars except per share amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,				June 30,			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
<b>Revenues</b>								
Net earned premiums	\$	78,634	\$	51,685	\$	227,080	\$	98,518
Net investment income		43,300		40,232		86,901		76,806
Net realized investment (losses) gains (includes impairment losses of \$14,833, consisting of \$36,466 of total other-than-temporary impairment losses, net of \$21,633 recognized in other comprehensive income, for the quarter ended June 30, 2009)		(4,888)		1,453		(21,998)		2,080
Change in fair value of credit derivatives								
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives		27,816		31,793		48,395		59,410
Unrealized (losses) gains on credit derivatives		(254,284)		708,502		(227,302)		448,881
Net change in fair value of credit derivatives		(226,468)		740,295		(178,907)		508,291
Fair value (loss) gain on committed capital securities		(60,570)		8,896		(40,904)		17,407
Other income		492		153		1,394		178
<b>Total revenues</b>		<b>(169,500)</b>		<b>842,714</b>		<b>73,566</b>		<b>703,280</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		38,030		38,125		117,784		93,263
Profit commission expense		2,071		1,022		2,326		2,202
Acquisition costs		16,548		11,825		39,969		23,708
Other operating expenses		22,594		19,665		50,291		48,303
FSAH acquisition-related expenses		24,225				28,846		
Interest expense		6,484		5,820		12,305		11,641
Other expenses		1,868		1,715		3,268		2,450
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>111,820</b>		<b>78,172</b>		<b>254,789</b>		<b>181,567</b>
<b>(Loss) income before (benefit) provision for income taxes</b>		<b>(281,320)</b>		<b>764,542</b>		<b>(181,223)</b>		<b>521,713</b>
(Benefit) provision for income taxes								
Current		(9,874)		7,212		1,701		17,325
Deferred		(101,442)		212,114		(98,409)		128,381
<b>Total (benefit) provision for income taxes</b>		<b>(111,316)</b>		<b>219,326</b>		<b>(96,708)</b>		<b>145,706</b>
<b>Net (loss) income</b>		<b>(170,004)</b>		<b>545,216</b>		<b>(84,515)</b>		<b>376,007</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income (loss), net of taxes</b>								
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on fixed maturity securities arising during the year		59,667		(41,289)		49,965		(46,186)
		7,114		(895)		24,189		(1,289)

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Reclassification adjustment for realized losses (gains) included in net (loss) income							
Change in net unrealized gains on fixed maturity securities	66,781	(42,184)	74,154	(47,475)			
Unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities related to factors other than credit	(19,968)		(19,968)				
Change in cumulative translation adjustment	6,384	(458)	(2,003)	(101)			
Cash flow hedge	(104)	(104)	(209)	(209)			
<b>Other comprehensive income (loss), net of taxes</b>	<b>53,093</b>	<b>(42,746)</b>	<b>51,974</b>	<b>(47,785)</b>			
<b>Comprehensive (loss) income</b>	<b>\$ (116,911)</b>	<b>\$ 502,470</b>	<b>\$ (32,541)</b>	<b>\$ 328,222</b>			
Earnings per share:							
Basic	\$ (1.82)	\$ 6.01	\$ (0.91)	\$ 4.38			
Diluted	\$ (1.82)	\$ 5.96	\$ (0.91)	\$ 4.35			
Dividends per share	\$ 0.045	\$ 0.045	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.09			

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



Table of Contents

## Assured Guaranty Ltd.

**Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity**  
**For Six Months Ended June 30, 2009**  
(in thousands of U.S. dollars except per share amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital		Retained Earnings		Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)		Total Shareholders' Equity	
<b>Balance, December 31, 2008</b>	\$	910	\$	1,284,370	\$	638,055	\$	2,887	\$	1,926,222
Cumulative effect of accounting change - Adoption of FAS 163 effective January 1, 2009						19,443				19,443
Cumulative effect of accounting change - Adoption of FSP 115-2 effective April 1, 2009						57,652	(57,652)			
Net loss						(84,515)				(84,515)
Dividends (\$0.09 per share)						(8,199)				(8,199)
Dividends on restricted stock units				67		(67)				
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock		443		447,647						448,090
Common stock repurchases		(10)		(3,666)						(3,676)
Shares cancelled to pay withholding taxes		(1)		(982)						(983)
Shares issued under ESPP				205						205
Share-based compensation and other		2		6,356						6,358
Change in cash flow hedge, net of tax of \$(113)							(209)			(209)
Change in cumulative translation adjustment							(2,003)			(2,003)
Unrealized losses related to factors other than credit, net of tax of \$(1,665)							(19,968)			(19,968)
All other unrealized gains on fixed maturity securities, net of tax of \$12,739							74,154			74,154
<b>Balance, June 30, 2009</b>	\$	1,344	\$	1,733,997	\$	622,369	\$	(2,791)	\$	2,354,919

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

## Table of Contents

## Assured Guaranty Ltd.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
(in thousands of U.S. dollars)

(Unaudited)

	Six Months Ended	
	June 30,	
	2009	2008
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net (loss) income	\$ (84,515)	\$ 376,007
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) income to net cash flows provided by operating activities:		
Non-cash interest and operating expenses	8,542	10,771
Net amortization of (discount) premium on fixed maturity securities	(4,810)	2,295
Accretion of discount on premium receivable	(10,812)	
(Benefit) provision for deferred income taxes	(98,409)	128,381
Net realized investment losses (gains)	21,998	(2,080)
Unrealized losses (gains) on credit derivatives	227,302	(448,881)
Fair value loss (gain) on committed capital securities	40,904	(17,407)
Change in deferred acquisition costs	16,365	(25,282)
Change in accrued investment income	1,369	(5,451)
Change in premiums receivable	(4,899)	1,962
Change in prepaid reinsurance premiums	2,360	(7,121)
Change in unearned premium reserves	161,350	320,214
Change in reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses, net	(73,400)	19,843
Change in profit commissions payable	1,636	(11,583)
Change in funds held by Company under reinsurance contracts	(683)	3,852
Change in current income taxes	(4,924)	(3,372)
Tax benefit for stock options exercised		(10)
Other changes in credit derivatives assets and liabilities, net	(2,707)	(2,820)
Other	6,113	(7,956)
<b>Net cash flows provided by operating activities</b>	<b>202,780</b>	<b>331,362</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Fixed maturity securities:		
Purchases	(827,862)	(840,455)
Sales	705,004	252,503
Maturities	5,500	3,350
(Purchases) sales of short-term investments, net	(693,637)	17,807
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>	<b>(810,995)</b>	<b>(566,795)</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	448,495	248,978
Net proceeds from issuance of equity units	167,972	
Dividends paid	(8,199)	(7,769)
Repurchases of common stock	(3,676)	

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Share activity under option and incentive plans		(778)		(3,833)
Tax benefit for stock options exercised				10
<b>Net cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>603,814</b>		<b>237,386</b>
Effect of exchange rate changes		603		123
(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents		(3,798)		2,076
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		12,305		8,048
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	\$	<b>8,507</b>	\$	<b>10,124</b>
<b>Supplementary cash flow information</b>				
Cash paid during the period for:				
Income taxes	\$	6,836	\$	20,700
Interest	\$	11,800	\$	11,800

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

Table of Contents

**Assured Guaranty Ltd.  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**June 30, 2009**

**(Unaudited)**

**1. Business and Organization**

Assured Guaranty Ltd. is a Bermuda-based holding company which provides, through its operating subsidiaries, credit enhancement products to the public finance, structured finance and mortgage markets (together with its subsidiaries, the Company). Credit enhancement products are financial guarantees or other types of support, including credit derivatives, which improve the credit of underlying debt obligations. The Company issues policies in both financial guaranty and credit derivative form. Assured Guaranty Ltd. applies its credit expertise, risk management skills and capital markets experience to develop insurance, reinsurance and derivative products that meet the credit enhancement needs of its customers. Under a reinsurance agreement, the reinsurer, in consideration of a premium paid to it, agrees to indemnify another insurer, called the ceding company, for part or all of the liability of the ceding company under one or more insurance policies that the ceding company has issued. A derivative is a financial instrument whose characteristics and value depend upon the characteristics and value of an underlying security. Assured Guaranty Ltd. markets its products directly to and through financial institutions, serving the U.S. and international markets. Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s financial results include four principal business segments: financial guaranty direct, financial guaranty reinsurance, mortgage guaranty and other. These segments are further discussed in Note 14.

Financial guaranty insurance provides an unconditional and irrevocable guaranty that protects the holder of a financial obligation against non-payment of principal and interest when due. Financial guaranty insurance may be issued to the holders of the insured obligations at the time of issuance of those obligations, or may be issued in the secondary market to holders of public bonds and structured securities. A loss event occurs upon existing or anticipated credit deterioration, while a payment under a policy occurs when the insured obligation defaults. This requires the Company to pay the required principal and interest when due in accordance with the underlying contract. The principal types of obligations covered by the Company's financial guaranty direct and financial guaranty assumed reinsurance businesses are structured finance obligations and public finance obligations. Because both businesses involve similar risks, the Company analyzes and monitors its financial guaranty direct portfolio and financial guaranty assumed reinsurance portfolio on a unified process and procedure basis.

Mortgage guaranty insurance is a specialized class of credit insurance that provides protection to mortgage lending institutions against the default of borrowers on mortgage loans that, at the time of the advance, had a loan to value in excess of a specified ratio. Reinsurance in the mortgage guaranty insurance industry is used to increase the insurance capacity of the ceding company, to assist the ceding company in meeting applicable regulatory and rating agency requirements, to augment the financial strength of the ceding company, and to manage the ceding company's risk profile. The Company provides mortgage guaranty protection on an excess of loss basis.

The Company has participated in several lines of business that are reflected in its historical financial statements but that the Company exited in connection with its 2004 initial public offering (IPO). The results from these lines of business make up the Company's Other segment discussed in Note 14.



Table of Contents

The Company's subsidiaries have been assigned the following insurance financial strength ratings as of the date of this filing. These ratings are subject to continuous review:

	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
Assured Guaranty Corp. ( AGC )	Aa2(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty Re Ltd. ( AG Re )	Aa3(Excellent)	AA(Very Strong)	AA-(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty Re Overseas Ltd. ( AGRO )	Aa3(Excellent)	AA(Very Strong)	AA-(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company	Aa3(Excellent)	AA(Very Strong)	AA-(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty (UK) Ltd. ( AG(UK) )	Aa2(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA(Very Strong)
Financial Security Assurance Inc. ( FSA )	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)
FSA Insurance Company	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)
Financial Security Assurance International Ltd.	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)
Financial Security Assurance (U.K.) Ltd	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)

On May 4, 2009, Fitch Inc. ( Fitch ) downgraded the debt and insurer financial strength ratings of Assured Guaranty Ltd. and its subsidiaries, as applicable, based on Fitch's concerns that Assured Guaranty Ltd. continued to face negative credit migration within the combined insured portfolio, primarily related to structured finance, outpacing its ability to build capital resources through earnings retention. It cited mortgage-related exposures as a particular area of concern, as well as exposures to trust preferred securities collateralized debt obligations ( TruPS CDOs ) and other structured finance transactions which have been subject to ratings downgrades. Fitch downgraded the insurer financial strength ratings of AGC and AG(UK) to AA- from AAA, downgraded the insurer financial strength ratings of AG Re, AGRO and Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company to AA- from AA and the debt ratings of Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. ( AGUS ). All such ratings were placed on Rating Watch Evolving. On May 11, 2009, Fitch downgraded the insurer financial strength relating of FSA and certain other affiliates to AA+ from AAA and the long term rating of Financial Security Assurance Holding Ltd. ( FSAH ) to A+ from AA. All such ratings remain on Rating Watch Negative. Fitch cited as the primary reason for this action Fitch's view of the residual risks retained by FSA following the transfer of its financial products business to Dexia S.A. ( Dexia ), which transfer is described in greater detail below. On August 10, 2009, Fitch placed the debt and insurer financial strength ratings of the Company and its subsidiaries on Rating Watch Negative, a change from Rating Watch Evolving. It confirmed that the ratings of FSAH and its subsidiaries remained on Rating Watch Negative. Fitch reported that it is currently in the process of analyzing the insured portfolios and overall capital adequacy of AGC, AG Re and FSA, and that the Rating Watch Negative reflects concerns with respect to further credit deterioration in mortgage-related exposures, which could negatively impact the capital positions of the companies. It noted that credit deterioration in other areas of the insured portfolios, including TruPS CDOs and public finance exposures, could also place additional pressure on claims paying resources, as could ratings-based triggers which could force termination or collateralization of insured exposures at AGC or the claw-back of certain businesses underwritten by AG Re. Fitch notes that it expects to complete its rating review over the next four to six weeks. There is no assurance that Fitch will not take further action on our ratings.

On May 20, 2009, Moody's Investors Service ( Moody's ) placed under review for possible downgrade the Aa2 insurance financial strength rating of AGC, as well as the ratings of other entities within the Assured group. In its public announcement of the rating action, Moody's stated that this action reflects its view that despite recent improvements in the Company's market position, the expected performance of its insured portfolio particularly the mortgage-related risks has substantially worsened. At the same time, Moody's also placed the Aa3 insurance financial strength ratings of FSA and its affiliated insurance operating companies on review for possible downgrade. In its public announcement of the rating action, Moody's cited its growing concerns about FSA's business and financial profile as a result of further deterioration in FSA's U.S. mortgage portfolio and the related adverse effect on its capital adequacy, profitability, and market traction. In both press releases, Moody's noted that it has taken a more negative view of mortgage-related exposures and Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s pooled corporate exposures in light of worse-than-expected performance trends, and recognized the continued susceptibility of the insured portfolio to the weak economic environment. Moody's also commented that the deterioration in the insured portfolios could have negative implications for the companies' franchise values, profitability and financial flexibility given the likely sensitivity of those business attributes to its capital position. Moody's also noted that the market dislocation caused by the declining financial strength of financial guaranty insurers may alter the competitive dynamics of the industry by encouraging the entry of new participants or the growth of alternative forms of execution. There can be no assurance as to the outcome of Moody's review. Moody's did note on June 17, 2009, in respect of the securities of AGUS, that in light of the high sensitivity of the Company's financial profile to RMBS and CDOs, meaningful increases in Moody's stress loss estimates for these exposures, which are possible, combined with the subordination of the AGUS securities, could result in a multiple-notch downgrade of the AGUS securities, perhaps below

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

investment grade. On July 24, 2009, Moody's announced that it expects to conclude its ratings review of the companies by mid-August 2009.

On July 1, 2009, Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (S&P) published a Research Update in which it affirmed its AAA counterparty credit and financial strength ratings on AGC and FSA. At the same time, S&P revised its outlook on AGC and AG(UK) to negative from stable and continued its negative outlook on FSA. S&P cited as a rationale for its actions the large single risk concentration exposure that Assured Guaranty Ltd. and FSA retain to Belgium and France prior to the posting of collateral by Dexia in October 2011, all in connection with the acquisition of FSAH by a subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Ltd., which

Table of Contents

acquisition is described in greater detail below. In addition, the outlook also reflects S&P's view that the change in the competitive dynamics of the industry with the potential entrance of new competitors, alternative forms of credit enhancement and limited insurance penetration in the U.S. public finance market could hurt the companies' business prospects. There can be no assurance that S&P will not take further action on our ratings.

**Acquisition of Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd.**

On July 1, 2009, the Company, through its fully-owned subsidiary, AGUS, purchased FSAH and, indirectly, all of its subsidiaries other than those involved in its financial products business, including its principal operating subsidiary, the financial guaranty insurance company Financial Security Assurance, Inc. from Dexia Holdings, Inc. (Dexia Holdings), which is a subsidiary of Dexia. The former FSAH subsidiaries that were involved in the financial products business were transferred to Dexia at closing and the Company is indemnified, through guarantees issued by Dexia and affiliated entities and the French and Belgian governments, against exposure to FSAH's financial products segment, which includes its guaranteed investment contract business, medium term note business and leveraged tax lease business.

The purchase price paid by the Company was approximately \$546 million in cash and approximately 22.3 million common shares of the Company for a total purchase price of approximately \$822 million. The issuance of these 22.3 million common shares is in addition to the common shares issued by the Company on June 24, 2009 as discussed below. Dexia Holdings owns approximately 14.0% of Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s issued common shares as a result of this transaction. Dexia Holdings has agreed that the voting rights with respect to all Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares issued pursuant to the Purchase Agreement will constitute less than 9.5% of the voting power of all issued and outstanding Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares. Dexia Holdings has also agreed to a standstill arrangement until the date on which it and its affiliates beneficially own Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares in an amount less than 10% of the outstanding Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares. In addition, Dexia Holdings has agreed that, until November 14, 2009, the first anniversary of the date of the Purchase Agreement, it will not transfer any of the Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares issued pursuant to the Purchase Agreement without the consent of the Company, other than to one or more of its affiliates that agrees to abide by the voting and other restrictions described above.

The Company financed the cash portion of the acquisition with the proceeds of the public equity offering discussed below.

**Common Share and Equity Units Offerings**

On June 24, 2009, the Company completed the sale of 44,275,000 of its common shares (including 5,775,000 common shares allocable to the underwriters pursuant to the overallotment option) at a price of \$11.00 per share. Concurrent with the common share offering, the Company along with AGUS sold 3,450,000 equity units (including 450,000 equity units allocable to the underwriters) at a stated amount of \$50 per unit. The equity units initially consist of a forward purchase contract and a 5% undivided beneficial ownership interest in \$1,000 principal amount 8.50% senior notes due 2014 issued by AGUS (8.50% Senior Notes). Under the purchase contract, holders are required to purchase the Company's common shares no later than June 1, 2012. The threshold appreciation price of the equity units is \$12.93, which represents a premium of 17.5% over the public offering price in the common share offering. The 8.50% Senior Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Assured Guaranty Ltd. The net proceeds after underwriting expenses and offering costs for these two offerings totaled approximately \$616.5 million. Of that amount, the net proceeds from the equity offering were \$170.8 million, which was allocated between \$168.0 million recognized as long-term debt and \$2.8 million of the purchase contract recognized in additional paid-in-capital in shareholders' equity in the consolidated balance sheets.



## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

In conjunction with the acquisition, the Company entered into an Amendment to the Investment Agreement dated as of November 13, 2008 with investment funds affiliated with WL Ross Group, L.P. ( WLR Funds ), which amended the Investment Agreement (the Investment Agreement ) dated as of February 28, 2008 between the Company and WLR Funds, which provided a back up funding commitment to finance the acquisition. Pursuant to pre-emptive rights set forth in the Investment Agreement, WLR Funds, which are affiliated with Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., who is one of the Company s directors, purchased 3,850,000 common shares of the

Table of Contents

Company in the Company's June 2009 public common share offering at \$11.00 per common share, the public offering price in the public offering. As of the date of this filing the WLR Funds own approximately 10.2% of the outstanding common stock of the Company.

**2. Basis of Presentation**

The unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, which include the accounts of the Company, have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( GAAP ) and, in the opinion of management, reflect all adjustments, which are of a normal recurring nature, necessary for a fair statement of the Company's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. These unaudited interim consolidated financial statements cover the three-month period ended June 30, 2009 ( Second Quarter 2009 ), the three-month period ended June 30, 2008 ( Second Quarter 2008 ), the six-month period ended June 30, 2009 ( Six Months 2009 ) and the six-month period ended June 30, 2008 ( Six Months 2008 ). Operating results for the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2009 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for a full year. These financial statements include the effects of the Company's common share and equity units offering that took place on June 24, 2009 but do not include the effects of the acquisition of FSAH, which occurred effective July 1, 2009. The Company's financial statements as of September 30, 2009 will include the effects of the FSAH acquisition, including three months of operating results attributable to FSAH entities.

Certain prior year items have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. These unaudited interim consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated. The Company has evaluated all subsequent events through August 10, 2009, the date the financial statements were issued.

Certain of the Company's subsidiaries are subject to U.S. and U.K. income tax. The provision for income taxes is calculated in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( FAS ) No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes . The Company's provision for income taxes for interim financial periods is not based on an estimated annual effective rate due to the variability in changes in fair value of its credit derivatives, which prevents the Company from projecting a reliable estimated annual effective tax rate and pre-tax income for the full year of 2009. A discrete calculation of the provision is calculated for each interim period.

Volatility and disruption in the global financial markets including depressed home prices and increasing foreclosures, falling equity market values, rising unemployment, declining business and consumer confidence and the risk of increased inflation, have precipitated an economic slowdown. The conditions may adversely affect the Company's future profitability, financial position, investment portfolio, cash flow, statutory capital, financial strength ratings and stock price. Additionally, future legislative, regulatory or judicial changes in the jurisdictions regulating the Company may adversely affect its ability to pursue its current mix of business, materially impacting its financial results.

*Adoption of FAS 163*

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Effective January 1, 2009, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 163, Accounting for Financial Guarantee Insurance Contracts ( FAS 163 ). FAS 163 requires that an insurance enterprise recognize a claim liability prior to an event of default (insured event) when there is evidence that credit deterioration has occurred in an insured financial obligation. FAS 163 also clarifies the methodology to be used for financial guaranty premium revenue recognition and claim liability measurement, as well as requiring expanded disclosures about the insurance enterprise's risk management activities. FAS 163 has been applied to all existing and future financial guaranty insurance contracts written by the Company.

Table of Contents

The accounting changes prescribed by the statement were recognized by the Company as a cumulative effect adjustment to retained earnings as of January 1, 2009.

***Premium Revenue Recognition***

Premiums are received either upfront or in installments.

*Upon Adoption of FAS 163*

The Company recognizes a liability for the unearned premium revenue at the inception of a financial guarantee contract equal to the present value of the premiums due or expected to be collected over the period of the contract. If the premium is a single premium received at the inception of the financial guarantee contract, the Company measures the unearned premium revenue as the amount received. The period of the contract is the expected period of risk that generally equates to the contract period. However, in some instances, the expected period of risk is significantly shorter than the full contract period due to expected prepayments. In those instances where the financial guarantee contract insures a homogeneous pool of assets that are contractually prepayable and where those prepayments are probable and the timing and amount of prepayments can be reasonably estimated the Company uses the expected period of risk to recognize premium revenues. The Company adjusts prepayment assumptions when those assumptions change and recognizes a prospective change in premium revenues as a result. The adjustment to the unearned premium revenue is equal the adjustment to the premium receivable with no effect on earnings at the time of the adjustment.

The Company recognizes the premium from a financial guarantee insurance contract as revenue over the period of the contract in proportion to the amount of insurance protection provided. As premium revenue is recognized, a corresponding decrease in the unearned premium revenue occurs. The amount of insurance protection provided is a function of the insured principal amount outstanding. Therefore, the proportionate share of premium revenue to be recognized in a given reporting period is a constant rate calculated based on the relationship between the insured principal amount outstanding in a given reporting period compared with the sum of each of the insured principal amounts outstanding for all periods. When the issuer of an insured financial obligation retires the insured financial obligation before its maturity and replaces it with a new financial obligation, referred to as a refunding, the financial guarantee insurance contract on the retired financial obligation is extinguished. The Company immediately recognizes any nonrefundable unearned premium revenue related to that contract as premium revenue and any associated acquisition costs previously deferred as an expense.

The following table provides information for financial guaranty insurance contracts where premiums are received on an installment basis as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2009 (dollars in thousands):

Premiums receivable, net of ceding commissions (end of period)(1)	\$	732,504
Unearned premium reserves (end of period)(2)	\$	933,771
Accretion of discount on premium receivable	\$	10,812
Weighted-average risk-free rate to discount premiums		2.7%
Weighted-average period of premiums receivable (in years)		10.4

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

- (1) Includes \$94.8 million of ceding commissions due on future installment premium receivable.
- (2) Includes unearned premium related to the upfront portion of premiums received on bi-furcated deals.

Table of Contents

The premiums receivable expected to be collected are:

**(dollars in thousands)**

2009 (July 1 - September 30)	\$	36,605
2009 (October 1 - December 31)		17,546
2010 (January 1 - March 31)		17,512
2010 (April 1 - June 30)		15,181
2010 (July 1 - December 31)		27,635
2011		50,112
2012		47,845
2013		41,259
2014 - 2018		164,027
2019 - 2023		119,010
2024 - 2028		93,285
2029 - 2033		73,087
2034 - 2038		32,754
2039 - 2043		12,577
2044 - 2048		3,970
2049 - 2053		460
2054 - 2056		27
Total premiums receivable, net of ceding commissions	\$	752,892

The following table provides a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of premium receivable:

**(dollars in thousands)**

Balance as of January 1, 2009	\$	737,181
Add: premiums written - net		376,799
Add: accretion of premium receivable discount		10,812
Less: premium payments received		(371,900)
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$	752,892

The accretion of premium receivable discount is included in earned premium in the Company's statement of operations. The above amounts are presented net of applicable ceding commissions.

The future expected financial guarantee premium revenue that the Company expects to recognize are:

**(dollars in thousands)**

2009 (July 1 - September 30)	\$	49,750
2009 (October 1 - December 31)		48,713
2010 (January 1 - March 31)		45,654
2010 (April 1 - June 30)		46,001
2010 (July 1 - December 31)		88,639
2011		165,333
2012		150,753

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

2013	136,441
2014 - 2018	538,190
2019 - 2023	374,382
2024 - 2028	260,215
After 2028	305,678
Total future expected financial guarantee premium revenue	\$ 2,209,749

Table of Contents

In the Company's reinsurance businesses, the Company estimates the ultimate written and earned premiums to be received from a ceding company at the end of each quarter and the end of each year because some of the Company's ceding companies report premium data anywhere from 30 to 90 days after the end of the relevant period. Written premiums reported in the Company's statement of operations are based upon reports received from ceding companies supplemented by the Company's own estimates of premium for which ceding company reports have not yet been received. Differences between such estimates and actual amounts are recorded in the period in which the actual amounts are determined.

Prior to Adoption of FAS 163

Prior to January 1, 2009, upfront premiums were earned in proportion to the expiration of the amount at risk. Each installment premium was earned ratably over its installment period, generally one year or less. Premium earnings under both the upfront and installment revenue recognition methods were based upon and were in proportion to the principal amount guaranteed and therefore resulted in higher premium earnings during periods where guaranteed principal was higher. For insured bonds for which the par value outstanding was declining during the insurance period, upfront premium earnings were greater in the earlier periods thus matching revenue recognition with the underlying risk. The premiums were allocated in accordance with the principal amortization schedule of the related bond issue and were earned ratably over the amortization period. When an insured issue was retired early, was called by the issuer, or was in substance paid in advance through a refunding accomplished by placing U.S. Government securities in escrow, the remaining unearned premium reserves were earned at that time. Unearned premium reserves represented the portion of premiums written that were applicable to the unexpired amount at risk of insured bonds.

*Deferred Acquisition Costs*

Acquisition costs incurred, other than those associated with financial guarantees written in credit derivative form, that vary with and are directly related to the production of new business are deferred in proportion to written premium and amortized in relation to earned premiums. These costs include direct and indirect expenses such as ceding commissions, brokerage expenses and the cost of underwriting and marketing personnel. Management uses its judgment in determining what types of costs should be deferred, as well as what percentage of these costs should be deferred. The Company annually conducts a study to determine which operating costs vary with, and are directly related to, the acquisition of new business and qualify for deferral. Ceding commissions received on premiums the Company cedes to other reinsurers reduce acquisition costs. Anticipated losses, loss adjustment expenses and the remaining costs of servicing the insured or reinsured business are considered in determining the recoverability of acquisition costs. Acquisition costs associated with credit derivative products are expensed as incurred. When an insured issue is retired early, as discussed above in the Premium Revenue Recognition section, the remaining related deferred acquisition cost is expensed at that time. Ceding commissions, calculated at their contractually defined rate, associated with future installment premiums on assumed and ceded reinsurance business were recorded in deferred acquisition costs upon the adoption of FAS 163 with a corresponding offset to premium receivable.

*Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses*

The Company's financial guarantees written in credit derivative form have substantially the same terms and conditions in respect of the obligation to make payments upon the failure of an obligor to pay as its financial guaranty contracts written in insurance form. Under GAAP, however, the former are subject to derivative accounting rules and the latter are subject to insurance accounting rules.



Financial Guaranty Contracts Upon Adoption of FAS 163

The Company recognizes a reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses on a financial guarantee insurance contract when the Company expects that a claim loss will exceed the unearned premium revenue for that contract based on the present value of expected net cash outflows to be paid under the insurance contract. The unearned premium revenue represents the insurance enterprise's stand-ready obligation under a financial guarantee insurance contract at initial recognition. Subsequently, if the likelihood of a default (insured event) increases so that the present value of the expected net cash outflows expected to be paid under the insurance contract exceeds the

Table of Contents

unearned premium revenue, the Company recognizes a reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses in addition to the unearned premium revenue.

A reserve for losses is equal to the present value of expected net cash outflows to be paid under the insurance contract discounted using a current risk-free rate. That current risk-free rate is based on the remaining period (contract or expected, as applicable) of the insurance contract. Expected net cash outflows (cash outflows, net of potential recoveries, expected to be paid to the holder of the insured financial obligation, excluding reinsurance) are probability-weighted cash flows that reflect the likelihood of possible outcomes. The Company estimates the expected net cash outflows using the internal assumptions about the likelihood of possible outcomes based on all information available. Those assumptions consider all relevant facts and circumstances and are consistent with the information tracked and monitored through the Company's risk-management activities.

The Company updates the discount rate each reporting period and revises expected net cash outflows when increases (or decreases) in the likelihood of a default (insured event) and potential recoveries occur. The discount amount is accreted on the reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses through earnings in incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries). Revisions to a reserve for loss and loss adjustment expenses in periods after initial recognition are recognized as incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries) in the period of the change.

Financial Guaranty Contracts Prior to Adoption of FAS 163

Prior to January 1, 2009, reserves for losses for non-derivative transactions in the Company's financial guaranty direct and financial guaranty assumed reinsurance included case reserves and portfolio reserves. Case reserves were established when there was significant credit deterioration on specific insured obligations and the obligations were in default or default was probable, not necessarily upon non-payment of principal or interest by an insured. Case reserves represented the present value of expected future loss payments and loss adjustment expenses, net of estimated recoveries, but before considering ceded reinsurance. This reserving method was different from case reserves established by traditional property and casualty insurance companies, which establish case reserves upon notification of a claim and establish incurred but not reported reserves (IBNR) for the difference between actuarially estimated ultimate losses and recorded case reserves. Financial guaranty insurance and assumed reinsurance case reserves and related salvage and subrogation, if any, were discounted at the taxable equivalent yield on the Company's investment portfolio, which was approximately 6%, during 2008.

The Company recorded portfolio reserves in its financial guaranty direct and financial guaranty assumed reinsurance business. Portfolio reserves were established with respect to the portion of the Company's business for which case reserves were not established.

Portfolio reserves were not established based on a specific event, rather they were calculated by aggregating the portfolio reserve calculated for each individual transaction. Individual transaction reserves were calculated on a quarterly basis by multiplying the par in-force by the product of the ultimate loss and earning factors without regard to discounting. The ultimate loss factor was defined as the frequency of loss multiplied by the severity of loss, where the frequency was defined as the probability of default for each individual issue. The earning factor was inception to date earned premium divided by the estimated ultimate written premium for each transaction. The probability of default was estimated from rating agency data and was based on the transaction's credit rating, industry sector and time until maturity. The severity was defined as the complement of recovery/salvage rates gathered by the rating agencies of defaulting issues and was based on the industry sector.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Portfolio reserves were recorded gross of reinsurance. The Company did not cede any amounts under these reinsurance contracts, as the Company's recorded portfolio reserves did not exceed the Company's contractual retentions, required by said contracts.

The Company recorded an incurred loss that was reflected in the statement of operations upon the establishment of portfolio reserves. When the Company initially recorded a case reserve, the Company reclassified the corresponding portfolio reserve already recorded for that credit within the balance sheet. The difference between the initially recorded case reserve and the reclassified portfolio reserve was recorded as a charge in the Company's

Table of Contents

statement of operations. Any subsequent change in portfolio reserves or the initial case reserves were recorded quarterly as a charge or credit in the Company's statement of operations in the period such estimates changed.

Mortgage Guaranty and Other Lines of Business

Mortgage guaranty and other lines of business are not in the scope of FAS 163. Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses in the Company's mortgage guaranty line of business include case reserves and portfolio reserves. Case reserves are established when there is significant credit deterioration on specific insured obligations and the obligations are in default or default is probable, not necessarily upon non-payment of principal or interest by an insured. Case reserves represent the present value of expected future loss payments and loss adjustment expenses (LAE), net of estimated recoveries, but before considering ceded reinsurance. This reserving method is different from case reserves established by traditional property and casualty insurance companies, which establish case reserves upon notification of a claim and establish IBNR reserves for the difference between actuarially estimated ultimate losses and recorded case reserves.

The Company also records portfolio reserves for mortgage guaranty line of business in a manner consistent with its financial guaranty business prior to the adoption of FAS 163. While other mortgage guaranty insurance companies do not record portfolio reserves, rather just case and IBNR reserves, the Company records portfolio reserves because the Company writes business on an excess of loss basis, while other industry participants write quota share or first layer loss business. The Company manages and underwrites this business in the same manner as its financial guaranty insurance and reinsurance business because management believes they have similar characteristics as insured obligations of mortgage backed securities.

The Company also records IBNR reserves for its other line of business. IBNR is an estimate of losses for which the insured event has occurred but the claim has not yet been reported to the Company. In establishing IBNR, the Company uses traditional actuarial methods to estimate the reporting lag of such claims based on historical experience, claim reviews and information reported by ceding companies. The Company records IBNR for trade credit reinsurance within its other segment, which is 100% reinsured. The other segment represents lines of business that the Company exited or sold as part of the Company's IPO.

Due to the inherent uncertainties of estimating loss and LAE reserves, actual experience may differ from the estimates reflected in the Company's consolidated financial statements, and the differences may be material.

***Reinsurance***

In the ordinary course of business, the Company's insurance subsidiaries assume and retrocede business with other insurance and reinsurance companies. These agreements provide greater diversification of business and may reduce the net potential loss from large risks. Retrocessional contracts do not relieve the Company of its obligation to the reinsured. Reinsurance recoverable on ceded losses includes balances due from reinsurance companies for paid and unpaid losses and LAE that will be recovered from reinsurers, based on contracts in force, and is presented net of any provision for estimated uncollectible reinsurance. Any change in the provision for uncollectible reinsurance is included in loss and loss adjustment expenses. Prepaid reinsurance premiums represent the portion of premiums ceded to reinsurers relating to the unexpired terms of the reinsurance contracts in force.

Certain of the Company's assumed and ceded reinsurance contracts are funds held arrangements. In a funds held arrangement, the ceding company retains the premiums instead of paying them to the reinsurer and losses are offset against these funds in an experience account. Because the reinsurer is not in receipt of the funds, the reinsurer earns interest on the experience account balance at a predetermined credited rate of interest. The Company generally earns interest at fixed rates of between 4% and 6% on its assumed funds held arrangements and generally pays interest at fixed rates of between 4% and 6% on its ceded funds held arrangements. The interest earned or credited on funds held arrangements is included in net investment income. In addition, interest on funds held arrangements will continue to be earned or credited until the experience account is fully depleted, which can extend many years beyond the expiration of the coverage period.

Table of Contents

***Salvage Recoverable***

When the Company becomes entitled to the underlying collateral (generally a future stream of cash flows or pool assets) of an insured credit under salvage and subrogation rights as a result of a claim payment or estimates recoveries from disputed claim payments on contractual grounds, it reduces the corresponding loss reserve for a particular financial guaranty insurance policy for the estimated salvage and subrogation, in accordance with FAS No. 60, Accounting and Reporting by Insurance Enterprises. If the expected salvage and subrogation exceeds the estimated loss reserve for a policy, such amounts are recorded as a salvage recoverable asset in the Company's balances sheets.

***Goodwill***

In connection with FAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets, the Company does not amortize goodwill, but instead is required to perform an impairment test annually or more frequently should circumstances warrant. The impairment test evaluates goodwill for recoverability by comparing the fair value of the Company's direct and reinsurance lines of business to their carrying value. If fair value is greater than carrying value then goodwill is deemed to be recoverable and there is no impairment. If fair value is less than carrying value then goodwill is deemed to be impaired and written down an amount such that the fair value of the reporting unit is equal to the carrying value, but not less than \$0. No such impairment to goodwill was recognized in the year ended December 31, 2008.

As part of the impairment test of goodwill, there are inherent assumptions and estimates used by management in developing discounted future cash flows related to our direct and reinsurance lines of business that are subject to change based on future events. Management's estimates include projecting earned premium, incurred losses, expenses, interest rates, cost of capital and tax rates. Many of the factors used in assessing fair value are outside the control of management and it is reasonably likely that assumptions and estimates will change in future periods. These changes can result in future impairments.

The Company has concluded that it is reasonably likely that the goodwill associated with our reinsurance line of business could become impaired in future periods if the volume of new business in the financial guaranty reinsurance market does not return to levels experienced in prior years or if the Company is not able to continue to execute portfolio based reinsurance contracts on blocks of business for other financial guarantors in financial distress. The FSAH transaction, completed on July 1, 2009, will cause management to reassess its goodwill amounts related to its reinsurance line of business during the Third Quarter 2009 due to its impact on the volume of third party reinsurance business that the Company is expected to assume going forward. If management determines in a future reporting period that goodwill is impaired, the Company would recognize a non-cash impairment charge in its statement of operations and comprehensive income in an amount up to \$85.4 million, the current carrying value of goodwill. This charge would not have any adverse effect on the Company's debt agreements or its overall compliance with the covenants of its debt agreements.

**3. Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 141 (revised), Business Combinations (FAS 141R). FAS 141R establishes principles and requirements for how the acquirer of a business recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree. FAS 141R also provides guidance for recognizing and measuring the goodwill acquired in the business combination and determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statement to evaluate the

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

nature and financial effects of the business combination. FAS 141R is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and interim statements within those fiscal years. Since FAS 141R applies prospectively to business combinations whose acquisition date is subsequent to the statement's adoption. The Company is applying the provisions of FAS 141R to account for its acquisition of FSAH, which closed on July 1, 2009.

In October 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ( FSP ) No. FAS 157-3, Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active ( FSP 157-3 ). FSP 157-3 clarified the

Table of Contents

application of FAS 157, Fair Value Measurements ( FAS 157 ), in a market that is not active. FSP 157-3 was effective when issued. It did not have an impact on the Company's current results of operations or financial position.

In September 2008, the FASB issued FSP FAS 133-1 and FIN 45-4, Disclosures About Credit Derivatives and Certain Guarantees ( FSP 133-1 ) and FAS 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities ( FAS 161 ) to address concerns that current derivative disclosure requirements did not adequately address the potential adverse effects that these instruments can have on the financial performance and operations of an entity. Companies are required to provide enhanced disclosures about their derivative activities to enable users to better understand: (1) how and why a company uses derivatives, (2) how it accounts for derivatives and related hedged items, and (3) how derivatives affect its financial statements. These should include the terms of the derivatives, collateral posting requirements and triggers, and other significant provisions that could be detrimental to earnings or liquidity. Management believes that the Company's current derivatives disclosures are in compliance with the requirements of FSP 133-1 and FAS 161.

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP FAS No. 157-4, Determining Fair Value When the Volume and Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly ( FSP 157-4 ). FSP 157-4 amends FAS 157 to provide additional guidance on estimating fair value when the volume and level of activity for an asset or liability have significantly decreased in relation to normal market activity for the asset or liability. FSP 157-4 also provides additional guidance on circumstances that may indicate that a transaction is not orderly. FSP 157-4 supersedes FSP 157-3. FSP 157-4 amends FAS 157 to require additional disclosures about fair value measurements in annual and interim reporting periods. The Company adopted FSP 157-4 effective with Company's financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2009. The prospective application of FSP 157-4 does not require disclosures for earlier periods presented for comparative purposes at initial adoption. FSP 157-4 did not have an impact on the Company's current results of operations or financial position. The disclosures related to FSP 157-4 are included in Note 5.

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 107-1 and APB 28-1, Interim Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments ( FSP 107-1 ). FSP 107-1 extends the disclosure requirements of FAS No. 107, Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments, to interim financial statements of publicly traded companies. The Company adopted FSP 107-1 effective with Company's financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2009. FSP 107-1 did not have an impact on the Company's current results of operations or financial position. The disclosures related to FSP 107-1 are included in Note 5.

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 115-2 and FAS 124-2, Recognition and Presentation of Other-Than-Temporary Impairments ( FSP 115-2 ). FSP 115-2 provides new guidance on the recognition and presentation of an other than temporary impairment ( OTTI ) for debt securities classified as available-for-sale and held-to-maturity and provides some new disclosure requirements for both debt and equity securities. FSP 115-2 mandates new disclosure requirements that affect both debt and equity securities and extend the disclosure requirements (both new and existing) to interim periods. The Company adopted FSP 115-2 effective with Company's financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2009 and increased the April 1, 2009 balance of retained earnings by \$62.2 million (\$57.7 million after tax) with a corresponding adjustment to accumulated other comprehensive income for OTTI recorded in previous periods on securities in the Company's portfolio at April 1, 2009, that would not have been required had the FSP been effective for those periods. See Note 6.

In May 2009, the FASB issued FAS No. 165, Subsequent Events ( FAS 165 ). FAS 165 establishes general standards of accounting and disclosure for events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued. FAS 165 is effective for reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009. The Company adopted FAS 165 for the quarter ended June 30, 2009. FAS 165 did not have an impact on the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations, as its requirements are disclosure-only in nature. See Note 2 for the related disclosures.



## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

In June 2009, the FASB issued FAS No. 167, Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R) ( FAS 167 ). FAS 167 changes how a company determines when an entity that is insufficiently capitalized or is not controlled through voting (or similar rights) should be consolidated. FAS 167 will require a company to provide additional disclosures about its involvement with variable interest entities and any significant changes in risk

Table of Contents

exposure due to that involvement. FAS 167 will become effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2010. The Company is currently evaluating the effect, if any, the adoption of FAS 167 will have on its consolidated financial statements.

**4. Credit Derivatives**

Financial guarantees written in credit derivative form issued by the Company, principally in the form of insured credit default swap ( CDS ) contracts, have been deemed to meet the definition of a derivative under FAS No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities ( FAS 133 ), FAS No. 149, Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities ( FAS 149 ) and FAS No. 155, Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments ( FAS 155 ). FAS 133 and FAS 149 require that an entity recognize all derivatives as either assets or liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets and measure those instruments at fair value. If certain conditions are met, a derivative may be specifically designated as a fair value, cash flow or foreign currency hedge. FAS 155 requires companies to recognize freestanding or embedded derivatives relating to beneficial interests in securitized financial instruments. This recognition was not required prior to January 1, 2007. The accounting for changes in the fair value of a derivative depends on the intended use of the derivative and the resulting designation.

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives include credit derivative premiums received and receivable for credit protection the Company has sold under its insured CDS contracts as well as any contractual claim losses paid and payable related to insured credit events under these contracts, ceding commissions (expense) income and realized gains or losses related to their early termination. The Company generally holds credit derivative contracts to maturity. However, if events of default or termination events specified in the documentation were to occur, the non-defaulting or the non-affected party, which may be either the Company or the counterparty, depending upon the circumstances may decide to terminate a credit derivative prior to maturity.

The following table disaggregates realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives into its component parts for the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 (dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30,				Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
<b>Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives</b>								
Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable	\$	27,953	\$	31,486	\$	57,468	\$	59,308
Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable		15		366		(9,043)		380
Ceding commissions received/receivable (paid/payable), net		(152)		(59)		(30)		(278)
Total realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	\$	27,816	\$	31,793	\$	48,395	\$	59,410

Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives represent the adjustments for changes in fair value that are recorded in each reporting period, under FAS 133. Changes in unrealized gains and losses on credit derivatives are reflected in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income in unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives. Cumulative unrealized losses, determined on a contract by contract

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

basis, are reflected as either net assets or net liabilities in the Company's balance sheets. Unrealized gains and losses resulting from changes in the fair value of credit derivatives occur because of changes in interest rates, credit spreads, the credit ratings of the referenced entities and the issuing company's own credit rating and other market factors. The unrealized gains and losses on credit derivatives will reduce to zero as the exposure approaches its maturity date, unless there is a payment default on the exposure or early termination. Changes in the fair value of the Company's credit derivative contracts do not generally reflect actual claims or credit losses, and have no impact on the Company's claims paying resources, rating agency capital or regulatory capital positions.

The Company determines the fair value of its credit derivative contracts primarily through modeling that uses various inputs such as credit spreads, based on observable market indices and on recent pricing for similar

Table of Contents

contracts, and expected contractual life to derive an estimate of the value of our contracts in our principal market (see Note 5). Credit spreads capture the impact of recovery rates and performance of underlying assets, among other factors, on these contracts. The Company's pricing model takes into account not only how credit spreads on risks that it assumes affects pricing, but also how the Company's own credit spread affects the pricing of its deals. If credit spreads of the underlying obligations change, the fair value of the related credit derivative changes. Market liquidity could also impact valuations of the underlying obligations.

The impact of changes in credit spreads will vary based upon the volume, tenor, interest rates, and other market conditions at the time these fair values are determined. In addition, since each transaction has unique collateral and structure terms, the underlying change in fair value of each transaction may vary considerably. The fair value of credit derivative contracts also reflects the change in the Company's own credit cost based on the price to purchase credit protection on AGC. During Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, the Company incurred net pre-tax unrealized losses on credit derivatives of \$(254.3) million and \$(227.3) million, respectively. As of June 30, 2009 the net credit liability includes a reduction in the liability of \$4,240.5 million representing AGC's credit value adjustment, which is based on the market cost of AGC's credit protection of 1,544 basis points. Management believes that the trading level of AGC's credit spread is due to the correlation between AGC's risk profile and that experienced currently by the broader financial markets and increased demand for credit protection against AGC as the result of its direct segment financial guarantee volume as well as the overall lack of liquidity in the CDS market. Offsetting the benefit attributable to AGC's credit spread were declines in fixed income security market prices primarily attributable to widening spreads in certain markets as a result of the continued deterioration in credit markets and some credit rating downgrades. The higher credit spreads in the fixed income security market are primarily due to the recent lack of liquidity in the high yield collateralized debt obligation and collateralized loan obligation markets as well as continuing market concerns over the most recent vintages of subprime residential mortgage backed securities and commercial mortgage backed securities.

During Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008, the Company incurred net pre-tax unrealized gains on credit derivatives of \$708.5 million and \$448.9 million, respectively. The Second Quarter gain included a gain of \$958.7 million associated with the change in AGC's credit spread, which widened substantially from 540 basis points at March 31, 2008 to 900 basis points at June 30, 2008.

The total notional amount of credit derivative exposure outstanding as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 and included in the Company's financial guaranty exposure was \$73.5 billion and \$75.1 billion, respectively.

The components of the Company's unrealized gain (loss) on credit derivatives as of June 30, 2009 are:

Asset Type	As of June 30, 2009			
	Net Par Outstanding (in billions)	Weighted Average Credit Rating(1)	Second Quarter 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)	Six Months 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)
Corporate collateralized loan obligations	\$ 25.8	AAA	\$ 3.6	\$ (75.3)
Market value CDOs of corporate obligations	3.8	AAA	(0.3)	(7.3)
Trust preferred securities	6.0	A-	(75.7)	(0.4)
<b>Total pooled corporate obligations</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>AA+</b>	<b>(72.4)</b>	<b>(82.9)</b>
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	5.8	AAA	1.0	(30.2)
Residential mortgage-backed securities	18.7	A+	(191.0)	(280.8)
Other	10.1	AA-	12.4	154.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>(250.0)</b>	<b>(239.1)</b>
Reinsurance exposures written in CDS form	3.2	AA	(4.3)	11.9

<b>Grand Total</b>	\$	73.5	AA	\$	(254.3)	\$	(227.3)
--------------------	----	------	----	----	---------	----	---------

---

(1) Based on the Company's internal rating, which is on a comparable scale to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies.

Corporate collateralized loan obligations, market value collateralized debt obligations ( CDOs ), and trust preferred securities, which comprise the Company's pooled corporate exposures, include all U.S. structured finance pooled corporate obligations and international pooled corporate obligations. Commercial mortgage-backed

Table of Contents

securities are comprised of commercial U.S. structured finance and commercial international mortgage backed securities. Residential mortgage-backed securities are comprised of prime and subprime U.S. mortgage-backed and home equity securities, international residential mortgage-backed and international home equity securities. Other includes all other U.S. and international asset classes, such as commercial receivables, and international infrastructure and pooled infrastructure securities.

The Company's exposure to pooled corporate obligations is highly diversified in terms of obligors and industries. Most pooled corporate transactions are structured to limit exposure to any given obligor and industry. The majority of the Company's pooled corporate exposure in the direct segment consists of collateralized loan obligations (CLOs). Most of these direct CLOs have an average obligor size of less than 1% and typically restrict the maximum exposure to any one industry to approximately 10%. The Company's exposure also benefits from embedded credit enhancement in the transactions which allows a transaction to sustain a certain level of losses in the underlying collateral, further insulating the Company from industry specific concentrations of credit risk on these deals.

The Company's \$10.1 billion exposure to Other CDS contracts is also highly diversified. It includes \$4.3 billion of exposure to four pooled infrastructure transactions comprised of diversified pools of international infrastructure project transactions and loans to regulated utilities. These pools were all structured with underlying credit enhancement sufficient for the Company to attach at super senior AAA levels. The remaining \$5.8 billion of exposure in Other CDS contracts is comprised of numerous deals typically structured with significant underlying credit enhancement and spread across various asset classes, such as commercial receivables, infrastructure, regulated utilities and consumer receivables. Substantially all of this \$10.1 billion of exposure is rated investment grade and the weighted average credit rating is AA-.

The unrealized gain of \$12.4 million in Second Quarter 2009 and \$154.8 million in Six Months 2009 on Other CDS contracts is primarily attributable to implied spread narrowing during Six Months 2009 on several UK public finance infrastructure transactions and a film securitization transaction.

With considerable volatility continuing in the market, unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives may fluctuate significantly in future periods.

The Company's exposure to the mortgage industry is discussed in Note 7.

The following table presents additional details about the Company's unrealized loss on pooled corporate obligation credit derivatives, which includes collateralized loan obligations, market value CDOs and trust preferred securities, by asset type as of June 30, 2009:

Asset Type	Original Subordination(2)	Current Subordination(2)	Net Par Outstanding (in billions)	Weighted Average Credit Rating(1)	Second Quarter 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)		Six Months 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)	
High yield corporate obligations	35.5%	29.3%	\$ 22.7	AAA	\$	1.6	\$	(75.8)
Trust preferred	46.6%	38.7%	6.0	A-		(75.7)		(0.4)

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Market value CDOs of corporate obligations	41.3%	34.9%	3.8	AAA	(0.3)	(7.3)
Investment grade corporate obligations	28.7%	29.8%	2.3	AAA	1.3	2.9
Commercial real estate	49.2%	48.0%	0.8	AAA	0.1	(2.1)
CDO of CDOs (corporate obligations)	1.7%	5.5%	0.1	AAA	0.6	(0.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>37.8%</b>	<b>31.9%</b>	<b>\$ 35.6</b>	<b>AA+</b>	<b>\$ (72.4)</b>	<b>\$ (82.9)</b>

(1) Based on the Company's internal rating, which is on a comparable scale to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies.

(2) Represents the sum of subordinate tranches and over-collateralization and does not include any benefit from excess interest collections that may be used to absorb losses

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

The following table presents additional details about the Company's unrealized gain (loss) on credit derivatives associated with commercial mortgage-backed securities by vintage as of June 30, 2009:

Vintage	Original Subordination(2)	Current Subordination(2)	Net Par Outstanding (in billions)	Weighted Average Credit Rating(1)	Second Quarter 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)	Six Months 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)
2004 and Prior	19.8%	22.0%	\$ 0.3	AAA	\$	\$ (0.6)
2005	27.8%	29.0%	3.4	AAA	0.8	(18.9)
2006	27.5%	28.3%	1.9	AAA	0.3	(9.3)
2007	35.8%	36.0%	0.2	AAA	(0.1)	(1.5)
2008						
2009						
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>\$ 5.8</b>	<b>AAA</b>	<b>\$ 1.0</b>	<b>\$ (30.2)</b>

The following tables present additional details about the Company's unrealized loss on credit derivatives associated with residential mortgage-backed securities by vintage and asset type as of June 30, 2009:

Vintage	Original Subordination(2)	Current Subordination(2)	Net Par Outstanding (in billions)	Weighted Average Credit Rating(1)	Second Quarter 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)	Six Months 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)
2004 and Prior	5.6%	15.7%	\$ 0.3	BBB+	\$ 28.4	\$ 33.0
2005	26.5%	59.8%	3.9	AA-	(1.2)	0.1
2006	16.2%	22.8%	5.9	AA	(1.9)	(0.7)
2007	16.3%	18.2%	8.6	A	(216.4)	(313.3)
2008						
2009						
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>\$ 18.7</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>\$ (191.0)</b>	<b>\$ (280.8)</b>

Asset Type	Original Subordination(2)	Current Subordination(2)	Net Par Outstanding (in billions)	Weighted Average Credit Rating(1)	Second Quarter 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)	Six Months 2009 Unrealized Gain (Loss) (in millions)
Alt-A loans	20.3%	22.9%	\$ 6.0	BBB+	\$ (201.8)	\$ (245.9)
Prime first lien	9.6%	12.1%	7.2	AA+	10.0	(38.7)
Subprime lien	26.9%	54.8%	5.5	A+	0.7	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>\$ 18.7</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>\$ (191.0)</b>	<b>\$ (280.8)</b>

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the Company considered the impact of its own credit risk, in combination with credit spreads on risk that it assumes through CDS contracts, in determining the fair value of its credit derivatives. The Company determines its own credit risk based on quoted CDS prices traded on the Company at each balance sheet date. The quoted price of CDS contracts traded on AGC at June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 was 1,544 basis points and 1,775 basis points, respectively. Historically, the price of CDS traded on AGC moves directionally the same as general market spreads. Generally, a widening of the CDS prices traded on AGC has an effect of offsetting unrealized losses that result from widening general market credit spreads, while a narrowing of the CDS prices traded on AGC has an effect of offsetting unrealized gains that result from narrowing general market credit spreads. An overall narrowing of spreads generally results in an unrealized gain on credit derivatives for the Company and an overall widening of spreads generally results in an unrealized loss for the Company. At



## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

June 30, 2009, the values of our CDS contracts before and after considering implications of our credit spreads were \$(4,979.9) million and \$(739.4) million, respectively. At December 31, 2008, the values of our CDS contracts before and after considering implications of our credit spreads were \$(4,686.8) million and \$(539.2) million, respectively.

Table of Contents

In general, the Company structures credit derivative transactions such that the circumstances giving rise to our obligation to make loss payments is similar to that for financial guaranty insurance policies and only occurs as losses are realized on the underlying reference obligation. Nonetheless, credit derivative transactions are governed by International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. ( ISDA ) documentation and operate differently from financial guaranty insurance policies. For example, our control rights with respect to a reference obligation under a credit derivative may be more limited than when we issue a financial guaranty policy on a direct primary basis. In addition, while our exposure under credit derivatives, like our exposure under financial guaranty policies, has been generally for as long as the reference obligation remains outstanding, unlike financial guaranty insurance policies, a credit derivative may be terminated for a breach of the ISDA documentation or other specific events.

If certain of its credit derivative contracts are terminated the Company could be required to make a termination payment as determined under the relevant documentation. Under certain documents, the Company may have the right to cure the termination event by posting collateral, assigning its rights and obligations in respect of the transactions to a third party or seeking a third party guaranty of the obligations of the Company. As of the date of this filing, if AGC's ratings are downgraded to levels between BBB or Baa2 and BB+ or Ba1, certain CDS counterparties could terminate certain CDS contracts covering approximately \$7.7 billion par insured, compared to \$16.6 billion as of March 31, 2009. As of the date of this filing, if AGRO's ratings are downgraded to BBB- or Baa3, certain CDS counterparties could terminate certain CDS contracts covering approximately \$3.2 million par insured. As of the date of this filing, AG Re has no exposure subject to termination based on its rating. Given current market conditions, the Company does not believe that it can accurately estimate the termination payments it could be required to make if, as a result of any such downgrade, a CDS counterparty terminated its CDS contracts with the Company. These payments could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity and financial condition.

During Second Quarter 2009, the Company entered into agreements with two CDS counterparties which previously had the right to terminate certain CDS contracts in the event that AGC was downgraded to below AA- or Aa3, in one case, or below A- or A3, in the other case. These agreements eliminated the ability of those CDS counterparties to receive a termination payment. In return, the Company agreed to post \$325 million in collateral to secure its potential payment obligations under those CDS contracts, which cover approximately \$18.6 billion of par insured. The collateral posting requirement would increase to \$375 million if AGC were downgraded to below AA- or A2. The posting of this collateral has no impact on the Company's net income or shareholders' equity under U.S. GAAP nor does it impact AGC's statutory surplus or net income. In addition, in July 2009, we terminated an ISDA master agreement with Lehman Brothers International (Europe) ( LBIE ) due to its default under the agreement. The Company has discussed with several other CDS counterparties the reduction of its exposure to possible termination payments. The Company can give no assurance that any agreement will be reached with any such CDS counterparty.

In addition to the collateral posting described in the previous paragraph, under a limited number of other CDS contracts, the Company may be required to post eligible securities as collateral -- generally cash or U.S. government or agency securities. This requirement is based generally on a mark-to-market valuation in excess of contractual thresholds which decline if the Company's ratings decline. As of the date of this filing, the Company is posting approximately \$160.2 million of collateral in respect of approximately \$1.5 billion of par insured. Any amounts required to be posted as collateral in the future will depend on changes in the market values of these transactions. The amount that the Company could be required to post upon any downgrade cannot be quantified at this time, but could be substantial and could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity. If AGC were downgraded below A- or A3, certain of the contractual thresholds would be reduced or eliminated and the amount of par that could be subject to collateral posting requirements would be approximately \$1.8 billion. If AG Re or AGRO were downgraded below BBB or Baa2, certain of the contractual thresholds would be reduced or eliminated and the amount of par that could be subject to collateral posting requirements would be \$11.5 million in the case of AG Re and \$290.7 million in the case of AGRO.

The following table summarizes the estimated change in fair values on the net balance of the Company's credit derivative positions assuming immediate parallel shifts in credit spreads on AGC and on the risks that it assumes at June 30, 2009:

(Dollars in millions)

Credit Spreads(1)	Estimated Net Fair Value (Pre-Tax)		Estimated Pre-Tax Change in Gain / (Loss)	
<b>June 30, 2009:</b>				
100% widening in spreads	\$	(1,973.4)	\$	(1,234.0)
50% widening in spreads		(1,376.2)		(636.8)
25% widening in spreads		(1,061.3)		(321.9)
10% widening in spreads		(869.0)		(129.6)
Base Scenario		(739.4)		
10% narrowing in spreads		(657.3)		82.1
25% narrowing in spreads		(532.4)		207.0
50% narrowing in spreads		(318.8)		420.6

---

(1) Includes the effects of spreads on both the underlying asset classes and the Company's own credit spread.

Table of Contents

The Company had no derivatives designated as hedges during 2009 and 2008.

**5. Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The carrying amount and estimated fair value of financial instruments are presented in the following table:

	As of June 30, 2009				As of December 31, 2008			
	Carrying Amount		Estimated Fair Value		Carrying Amount		Estimated Fair Value	
(in thousands of U.S. dollars)								
<i>Assets:</i>								
Fixed maturity securities	\$	3,413,257	\$	3,413,257	\$	3,154,137	\$	3,154,137
Cash and short-term investments		1,179,477		1,179,477		489,502		489,502
Credit derivative assets		146,350		146,350		146,959		146,959
<i>Liabilities:</i>								
Unearned premium reserves		2,222,717		2,883,665		1,233,714		1,785,769
<i>Long-term debt:</i>								
7.0% Senior Notes		197,461		147,420		197,443		105,560
8.50 % Senior Notes		169,732		169,732				
Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures		149,781		75,000		149,767		37,500
Credit derivative liabilities		957,752		957,752		733,766		733,766
<i>Off-Balance Sheet Instruments:</i>								
Future installment premiums								463,407

**Background**

Effective January 1, 2008, the Company adopted FAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements ( FAS 157 ). FAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. FAS 157 applies to other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements, but does not require any new fair value measurements.

FAS 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The price represents that available in the principal market for the asset or liability. If there is no principal market, then the price is based on the market that maximizes the value received for an asset or minimizes the amount paid for a liability (i.e. the most advantageous market).

FAS 157 specifies a fair value hierarchy based on whether the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect Company estimates of market assumptions. In accordance with FAS 157, the fair value hierarchy prioritizes model inputs into three broad levels as follows:

- Level 1 Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.
- Level 2 Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and observable inputs other than quoted prices, such as interest rates or yield curves and other inputs derived from or corroborated by observable market inputs.
- Level 3 Model derived valuations in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable. This hierarchy requires the use of observable market data when available.

An asset or liability's categorization within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of significant input to its valuation.

Table of Contents*Effect on the Company's financial statements*

FAS 157 applies to both amounts recorded in the Company's financial statements and to disclosures. Amounts recorded at fair value in the Company's financial statements on a recurring basis are fixed maturity securities available for sale, short-term investments, credit derivative assets and liabilities relating to the Company's CDS contracts and CCS Securities. The fair value of these items as of June 30, 2009 is summarized in the following table.

	Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<b>(Dollars in millions)</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Fixed maturity securities:				
U.S. government and agencies	\$ 796.1	\$ 796.1	\$ 796.1	\$
Obligations of state and political subdivisions	1,093.6		1,093.6	
Corporate securities	339.8		339.8	
Mortgage-backed securities:				
Residential mortgage-backed securities	790.8		790.8	
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	233.0		233.0	
Asset-backed securities	71.5		71.5	
Foreign government securities	88.4		88.4	
Short-term investments	1,171.0	165.8	1,005.2	
Credit derivative assets	146.4			146.4
CCS Securities	10.2		10.2	
<b>Total assets</b>	\$ 4,740.8	\$ 165.8	\$ 4,428.6	\$ 146.4
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Credit derivative liabilities	\$ 957.8	\$	\$	\$ 957.8
<b>Total liabilities</b>	\$ 957.8	\$	\$	\$ 957.8

Table of Contents

The fair value of these items as of December 31, 2008 is summarized in the following table(1).

	Fair Value Measurements Using					
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)		
<b>(Dollars in millions)</b>						
<b>Assets</b>						
Fixed maturity securities:						
U.S. government and agencies	\$ 475.9	\$	\$ 475.9	\$	\$	
Obligations of state and political subdivisions	1,217.7		1,217.7			
Corporate securities	268.2		268.2			
Mortgage-backed securities:						
Residential mortgage-backed securities	830.3		830.3			
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	221.5		221.5			
Asset-backed securities	73.6		73.6			
Foreign government securities	54.5		54.5			
Preferred stock	12.4		12.4			
Short-term investments	477.2	47.8	429.4			
Credit derivative assets	147.0					147.0
CCS Securities	51.1		51.1			
<b>Total assets</b>	\$ 3,829.4	\$ 47.8	\$ 3,634.6	\$	\$	147.0
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Credit derivative liabilities	\$ 733.8	\$	\$	\$	\$	733.8
<b>Total liabilities</b>	\$ 733.8	\$	\$	\$	\$	733.8

(1) Reclassified to conform to the current period's presentation.

***Fixed Maturity Securities and Short-term Investments***

The fair value of fixed maturity securities and short-term investments is determined using one of three different pricing services: pricing vendors, index providers or broker-dealer quotations. Pricing services for each sector of the market are determined based upon the provider's expertise.

Typical inputs used by these three pricing methods include, but are not limited to, reported trades, benchmark yields, issuer spreads, bids, offers, and/or estimated cash flows and prepayments speeds. Based on the typical trading volumes and the lack of quoted market prices for fixed maturities, third party pricing services will normally derive the security prices through recent reported trades for identical or similar securities making adjustments through the reporting date based upon available market observable information as outlined above. If there are no recent reported trades, the third party pricing services and brokers may use matrix or model processes to develop a security price where future cash flow expectations are developed based upon collateral performance and discounted at an estimated market rate. Included in the pricing of asset backed securities are estimates of the rate of future prepayments of principal over the remaining life of the securities. Such estimates are derived based on the characteristics of the underlying structure and prepayment speeds previously experienced at the interest rate levels projected for the

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

underlying collateral. The Company does not make any internal adjustments to prices provided by its third party pricing service.

The Company has analyzed the third party pricing services' valuation methodologies and related inputs, and has also evaluated the various types of securities in its investment portfolio to determine an appropriate FAS 157 fair value hierarchy level based upon trading activity and observability of market inputs. Based on this evaluation, each price was classified as Level 1, 2 or 3. Prices provided by third party pricing services with market



Table of Contents

observable inputs are classified as Level 2. Prices on the money fund portion of short-term investments are classified as Level 1. No investments were classified as Level 3 as of or for the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2009.

*Committed Capital Securities ( CCS Securities )*

The fair value of CCS Securities represents the present value of remaining expected put option premium payments under the CCS Securities agreements and the value of such estimated payments based upon the quoted price for such premium payments as of June 30, 2009 (see Note 10). The \$10.2 million fair value asset for CCS Securities is included in the consolidated balance sheet. Changes in fair value of this asset are included in other income in the consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive income. The significant market inputs used are observable, therefore, the Company classified this fair value measurement as Level 2.

*Level 3 Valuation Techniques*

Financial instruments are considered Level 3 when their values are determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies or similar techniques and at least one significant model assumption or input is unobservable. Level 3 financial instruments also include those for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation. A brief description of the valuation techniques used for Level 3 assets and liabilities is provided below.

*Credit Derivatives*

The Company's credit derivatives consist of insured CDS contracts (see Note 4). As discussed in Note 4, the Company does not typically exit its credit derivative contracts, and there are no quoted prices for its instruments or for similar instruments. Observable inputs other than quoted market prices exist; however, these inputs reflect contracts that do not contain terms and conditions similar to the credit derivative contracts issued by the Company. Therefore, the valuation of credit derivative contracts requires the use of models that contain significant, unobservable inputs. Thus, we believe the credit derivative valuations are in Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy discussed above.

The fair value of the Company's credit derivative contracts represents the difference between the present value of remaining expected premiums the Company receives for the credit protection and the estimated present value of premiums that a comparable financial guarantor would hypothetically charge the Company for the same protection at the balance sheet date. The fair value of the Company's credit derivatives depends on a number of factors including notional amount of the contract, expected term, credit spreads, changes in interest rates, the credit ratings of referenced entities, the Company's own credit risk and remaining contractual cash flows. Contractual cash flows, which are included in the

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives' fair value component of credit derivatives, are the most readily observable variables of the fair value of credit derivative contracts since they are based on contractual terms. These variables include (i) net premiums received and receivable on written credit derivative contracts, (ii) net premiums paid and payable on purchased contracts, (iii) losses paid and payable to credit derivative contract counterparties and (iv) losses recovered and recoverable on purchased contracts. The remaining key variables described above impact Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives .

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Market conditions at June 30, 2009 were such that market prices of the Company's CDS contracts were not generally available. Where market prices were not available, the Company used a combination of observable market data and valuation models, using various market indices, credit spreads, the Company's own credit risk, and estimated contractual payments to estimate the Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives portion of the fair value of its credit derivatives. These models are primarily developed internally based on market conventions for similar transactions.

Management considers the non-standard terms of its credit derivative contracts in determining the fair value of these contracts. These terms differ from credit derivatives sold by companies outside the financial guaranty industry. The non-standard terms include the absence of collateral support agreements or immediate settlement provisions, relatively high attachment points and the fact that the Company does not exit derivatives it sells for credit protection purposes, except under specific circumstances such as exiting a line of business. Because of these terms and conditions, the fair value of the Company's credit derivatives may not reflect the same prices observed in an actively traded market of credit derivatives that do not contain terms and conditions similar to those observed in

Table of Contents

the financial guaranty market. These models and the related assumptions are continuously reevaluated by management and enhanced, as appropriate, based upon improvements in modeling techniques and availability of more timely market information.

Valuation models include the use of management estimates and current market information. Management is also required to make assumptions on how the fair value of credit derivative instruments is affected by current market conditions. Management considers factors such as current prices charged for similar agreements, performance of underlying assets, life of the instrument, and the extent of credit derivative exposure the Company ceded under reinsurance agreements, and the nature and extent of activity in the financial guaranty credit derivative marketplace. The assumptions that management uses to determine its fair value may change in the future due to market conditions. Due to the inherent uncertainties of the assumptions used in the valuation models to determine the fair value of these credit derivative products, actual experience may differ from the estimates reflected in the Company's consolidated financial statements and the differences may be material.

Listed below are various inputs and assumptions that are key to the establishment of our fair value for CDS contracts.

*Assumptions*

The key assumptions of our internally developed model include:

- Gross spread is the difference between the yield of a security paid by an issuer on an insured versus uninsured basis or, in the case of a CDS transaction, the difference between the yield and an index such as LIBOR. Such pricing is well established by historical financial guarantee fees relative to capital market spreads as observed and executed in competitive markets, including in financial guarantee reinsurance and secondary market transactions.
- Gross spread on a financial guarantee written in CDS form is allocated among 1) profit the originator, usually an investment bank, realizes for putting the deal together and funding the transaction, 2) premiums paid to us for our credit protection provided and 3) the cost of CDS protection purchased on us by the originator to hedge their counterparty credit risk exposure to the Company. The premium the Company receives is referred to as the net spread. The Company's own credit risk is factored into the determination of net spread based on the impact of changes in the quoted market price for credit protection bought on the Company, as reflected by quoted market prices on CDS sold on Assured Guaranty Corp. The cost to acquire CDS protection sold on AGC affects the amount of spread on CDS deals that the Company captures and, hence, their fair value. As the cost to acquire CDS protection sold on AGC increases the amount of premium we capture on a deal generally decreases. As the cost to acquire CDS protection sold on AGC decreases the amount of premium we capture on a deal generally increases. In our model, the premium we capture is not permitted to go below the minimum rate that we would currently charge to assume similar risks. This has the effect of mitigating the amount of unrealized gains that are recognized on certain CDS contracts.
- The Company determines the fair value of its CDS contracts by applying the net spread for the remaining duration of each contract to the notional value of its CDS contracts.
- Actual transactions are used to validate the model results and to explain the correlation between various market indices and indicative CDS market prices.

*Inputs*

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

The specific model inputs are listed below, including how we derive inputs for market credit spreads on the underlying transaction collateral.

- **Gross spread** This is an input into the Company's fair value model that is used to ultimately determine the net spread a comparable financial guarantor would charge the Company to transfer risk at the reporting date. The Company's estimate of fair value represents the difference between the estimated present value of premiums that a comparable financial guarantor would accept to assume the risk from the Company on the current reporting date, on terms identical to the original contracts written by the Company and at the contractual premium for each individual credit derivative contract. This is an observable input that the Company obtains for deals it has closed or bid on in the market place.

Table of Contents

- **Credit spreads on risks assumed** These are obtained from market data sources published by third parties (e.g. dealer spread tables for the collateral similar to assets within our transactions) as well as collateral-specific spreads provided by trustees or obtained from market sources. If observable market credit spreads are not available or reliable for the underlying reference obligations, then market indices are used that most closely resembles the underlying reference obligations, considering asset class, credit quality rating and maturity of the underlying reference obligations. As discussed previously, these indices are adjusted to reflect the non-standard terms of the Company's CDS contracts. As of June 30, 2009, the Company obtained approximately 20% of its credit spread data, based on notional par outstanding, from sources published by third parties, while 80% was obtained from market sources or similar market indices. Market sources determine credit spreads by reviewing new issuance pricing for specific asset classes and receiving price quotes from their trading desks for the specific asset in question. Management validates these quotes by cross-referencing quotes received from one market source against quotes received from another market source to ensure reasonableness. In addition, we compare the relative change in price quotes received from one quarter to another, with the relative change experienced by published market indices for a specific asset class. Collateral specific spreads obtained from third-party, independent market sources are un-published spread quotes from market participants and or market traders whom are not trustees. Management obtains this information as the result of direct communication with these sources as part of the valuation process.
- **Credit spreads on the Company's name** The Company obtains the quoted price of CDS contracts traded on AGC from market data sources published by third parties.

The following is an example of how changes in gross spreads, the Company's own credit spread and the cost to buy protection on the Company affect the amount of premium the Company can demand for its credit protection. Scenario 1 represents the market conditions in effect on the transaction date and Scenario 2 represents market conditions at a subsequent reporting date.

	Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
	bps	% of Total	bps	% of Total
Original Gross Spread / Cash Bond Price (in Bps)	185		500	
Bank Profit (in Bps)	115	62%	50	10%
Hedge Cost (in Bps)	30	16%	440	88%
AGC Premium Received Per Annum (in Bps)	40	22%	10	2%

In Scenario 1, the gross spread is 185bps. The bank or deal originator captures 115bps of the original gross spread and hedges 10% of its exposure to AGC, when the CDS spread on AGC was 300bps ( $300\text{bps} \times 10\% = 30\text{bps}$ ). Under this scenario AGC received premium of 40bps, or 22% of the gross spread.

In Scenario 2, the gross spread is 500bps. The bank or deal originator captures 50bps of the original gross spread and hedges 25% of its exposure to AGC, when the CDS spread on AGC was 1,760bps ( $1,760\text{bps} \times 25\% = 440\text{bps}$ ). Under this scenario AGC would receive premium of 10bps, or 2% of the gross spread.

In this example, the contractual cash flows (the AGC premium above) exceed the amount a market participant would require AGC to pay in today's market to accept its obligations under the credit default swap contract, thus resulting in an asset. This credit derivative asset is equal to the difference in premium rate discounted at a risk adjusted rate over the weighted average remaining life of the contract. The expected future cash flows for the Company's credit derivatives were discounted at rates ranging from 1.0% to 7.0% over LIBOR at June 30, 2009, with over 99% of the transactions ranging from 1.0% to 6.0% over LIBOR.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

The Company corroborates the assumptions in its fair value model, including the amount of exposure to the Company hedged by its counterparties, with independent third parties each reporting period. Recent increases in the CDS spread on AGC have resulted in the bank or deal originator hedging a greater portion of its exposure to AGC. This has the effect of reducing the amount of contractual cash flows AGC can capture for selling our protection.

The amount of premium a financial guaranty insurance market participant can demand is inversely related to the cost of credit protection on the insurance company as measured by market credit spreads. This is because the buyers of credit protection typically hedge a portion of their risk to the financial guarantor, due to the fact that contractual terms of financial guaranty insurance contracts typically do not require the posting of collateral by the guarantor. The widening of a financial guarantor's own credit spread increases the cost to buy credit protection on

Table of Contents

the guarantor, thereby, reducing the amount of premium the guarantor can capture out of the gross spread on the deal. The extent of the hedge depends on the types of instruments insured and the current market conditions.

A credit derivative asset under FAS 157 is the result of contractual cash flows on in-force deals in excess of what a hypothetical financial guarantor could receive if it sold protection on the same risk as of the current reporting date. If the Company were able to freely exchange these contracts (i.e., assuming its contracts did not contain proscriptions on transfer and there was a viable exchange market), it would be able to realize an asset representing the difference between the higher contractual premiums to which it is entitled and the current market premiums for a similar contract.

To clarify, management does not believe there is an established market where financial guaranty insured credit derivatives are actively traded. The terms of the protection under an insured financial guaranty credit derivative do not, except for certain rare circumstances, allow the Company to exit its contracts. Management has determined that the exit market for the Company's credit derivatives is a hypothetical one based on its entry market. Management has tracked the historical pricing of the Company's deals to establish historical price points in the hypothetical market that are used in the fair value calculation.

The following spread hierarchy is utilized in determining which source of spread to use, with the rule being to use CDS spreads where available. If not available, the Company either interpolates or extrapolates CDS spreads based on similar transactions or market indices.

1. Actual collateral specific credit spreads (if up-to-date and reliable market-based spreads are available, they are used).
2. Credit spreads are interpolated based upon market indices or deals priced or closed during a specific quarter within a specific asset class and specific rating.
3. Credit spreads provided by the counterparty of the credit default swap.
4. Credit spreads are extrapolated based upon transactions of similar asset classes, similar ratings, and similar time to maturity.

Over time the data inputs can change as new sources become available or existing sources are discontinued or are no longer considered to be the most appropriate. It is the Company's objective to move to higher levels on the hierarchy whenever possible, but it is sometimes necessary to move to lower priority inputs because of discontinued data sources or management's assessment that the higher priority inputs are no longer considered to be representative of market spreads for a given type of collateral. This can happen, for example, if transaction volume changes such that a previously used spread index is no longer viewed as being reflective of current market levels.

As of June 30, 2009, the Company obtained approximately 8% of its credit spread information, based on notional par outstanding, from actual collateral specific credit spreads, while 80% was based on market indices and 12% was based on spreads provided by the CDS counterparty. The Company interpolates a curve based on the historical relationship between premium the Company receives when a financial guarantee written in CDS form closes to the daily closing price of the market index related to the specific asset class and rating of the deal. This curve indicates expected credit spreads at each indicative level on the related market index. For specific transactions where no price quotes are available and credit spreads need to be extrapolated, an alternative transaction for which the Company has received a spread quote from one of the first three sources within the Company's spread hierarchy is chosen. This alternative transaction will be within the same asset class, have similar underlying

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

assets, similar credit ratings, and similar time to maturity. The Company then calculates the percentage of relative spread change quarter over quarter for the alternative transaction. This percentage change is then applied to the historical credit spread of the transaction for which no price quote was received in order to calculate the transactions current spread. Counterparties determine credit spreads by reviewing new issuance pricing for specific asset classes and receiving price quotes from their trading desks for the specific asset in question. These quotes are validated by cross-referencing quotes received from one market source with those quotes received from another market source to ensure reasonableness. In addition, management compares the relative change experienced on published market indices for a specific asset class for reasonableness and accuracy.

The Company's credit derivative valuation model, like any financial model, has certain strengths and weaknesses.

The primary strengths of the Company's CDS modeling techniques are:



Table of Contents

- The model takes account of transaction structure and the key drivers of market value. The transaction structure includes par insured, weighted average life, level of subordination and composition of collateral.
- The model maximizes the use of market-driven inputs whenever they are available. The key inputs to the model are market-based spreads for the collateral, and the credit rating of referenced entities. These are viewed by us to be the key parameters that affect fair value of the transaction.
- The Company is able to use actual transactions to validate its model results and to explain the correlation between various market indices and indicative CDS market prices.
- The model is a well-documented, consistent approach to valuing positions that minimizes subjectivity. The Company has developed a hierarchy for market-based spread inputs that helps mitigate the degree of subjectivity during periods of high illiquidity.

The primary weaknesses of the Company's CDS modeling techniques are:

- There is no exit market or actual exit transactions. Thus our exit market is a hypothetical one based on our entry market.
- There is a very limited market in which to verify the fair values developed by the Company's model.
- At June 30, 2009, the markets for the inputs to the model were highly illiquid, which impacts their reliability. However, the Company employs various procedures to corroborate the reasonableness of quotes received and calculated by our internal valuation model, including comparing to other quotes received on similarly structured transactions, observed spreads on structured products with comparable underlying assets and, on a selective basis when possible, through second independent quotes on the same reference obligation.
- Due to the non-standard terms under which the Company enters into derivative contracts, the fair value of its credit derivatives may not reflect the same prices observed in an actively traded market of credit derivatives that do not contain terms and conditions similar to those observed in the financial guaranty market.

As discussed above, the Company does not trade or exit its credit derivative contracts in the normal course of business. As such, the ability to test modeled results is limited by the absence of actual exit transactions. However, management does compare modeled results to actual data that is available. Management first attempts to compare modeled values to premiums on deals the Company received on new deals written within the reporting period. If no new transactions were written for a particular asset type in the period or if the number of transactions is not reflective of a representative sample, management compares modeled results to premium bids offered by the Company to provide credit protection on new transactions within the reporting period, the premium the Company has received on historical transactions to provide credit protection in net tight and wide credit environments and/or the premium on transactions closed by other financial guaranty insurance companies during the reporting period.

The net par outstanding of the Company's credit derivative contracts was \$73.5 billion and \$75.1 billion at June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively. The estimated remaining average life of these contracts at June 30, 2009 was 8.2 years.

As required by FAS 157, financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. As of June 30, 2009, these contracts are classified as Level 3 in the FAS 157 hierarchy since there is reliance on at least one unobservable input deemed significant to the valuation model, most significantly the Company's estimate of the value of the non-standard

terms and conditions of its credit derivative contracts and of the Company's current credit standing.

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

The table below presents a reconciliation of the Company's credit derivatives whose fair value included significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the three months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008.

(Dollars in millions)	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
	Second Quarter 2009 Credit Derivative Liability (Asset), net	Second Quarter 2008 Credit Derivative Liability (Asset), net
Beginning Balance	\$ 556,970	\$ 881,637
Total gains or losses realized and unrealized		
Unrealized losses (gains) on credit derivatives	254,284	(708,502)
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	(27,816)	(31,793)
Current period net effect of purchases, settlements and other activity included in unrealized portion of beginning balance	27,964	24,601
Transfers in and/or out of Level 3		
Ending Balance	\$ 811,402	\$ 165,943
Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in earnings for the period are reported as follows:		
Total realized and unrealized (gains) losses included in earnings for the period	\$ 226,468	\$ 740,295
Change in unrealized (gains) losses on credit derivatives still held at the reporting date	\$ 282,727	\$ 705,029

The table below presents a reconciliation of the Company's credit derivatives whose fair value included significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008.

(Dollars in millions)	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
	Six Months 2009 Credit Derivative Liability (Asset), net	Six Months 2008 Credit Derivative Liability (Asset), net
Beginning Balance	\$ 586,807	\$ 617,644
Total gains or losses realized and unrealized		
Unrealized losses (gains) on credit derivatives	227,302	(448,881)
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	(48,395)	(59,410)
Current period net effect of purchases, settlements and other activity included in unrealized portion of beginning balance	45,688	56,590
Transfers in and/or out of Level 3		
Ending Balance	\$ 811,402	\$ 165,943
Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in earnings for the period are reported as follows:		
Total realized and unrealized (gains) losses included in earnings for the period	\$ 178,907	\$ 508,291
Change in unrealized (gains) losses on credit derivatives still held at the reporting date	\$ 255,545	\$ 442,567



Table of Contents

Items in the Company's financial statements measured at fair value but carried at historical cost are unearned premiums reserve, 7.0% Senior Notes, 8.5% Senior Notes, Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures and financial guaranty installment premiums (prior to adoption of FAS 163). The fair values of these items as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 are summarized in the following table.

As of June 30, 2009

	Fair Value Measurements Using					
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Gains (Losses)	
<b>(Dollars in millions)</b>						
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Unearned premium reserves	\$ 2,883.7	\$	\$	\$ 2,883.7	\$	(660.9)
7.0% Senior Notes	147.4		147.4			50.0
8.5% Senior Notes	169.7		169.7			
Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures	75.0		75.0			74.8
<b>Total liabilities</b>	\$ 3,275.8	\$	\$ 392.1	\$ 2,883.7	\$	(536.1)
<b>Off-Balance Sheet Instruments</b>						
Future installment premiums	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	

As of December 31, 2008

	Fair Value Measurements Using					
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Gains (Losses)	
<b>(Dollars in millions)</b>						
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Unearned premium reserves	\$ 1,785.8	\$	\$	\$ 1,785.8	\$	(552.1)
7.0% Senior Notes	106.6		106.6			90.9
Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures	37.5		37.5			112.5
<b>Total liabilities</b>	\$ 1,929.9	\$	\$ 144.1	\$ 1,785.8	\$	(345.2)
<b>Off-Balance Sheet Instruments</b>						
Future installment premiums	\$ 463.4	\$	\$ 463.4	\$	\$	

*Unearned Premium Reserves*

The fair value of the Company's unearned premium reserves was based on the estimated cost of entering into a cession of entire financial guaranty insurance portfolio with third party reinsurers under current market conditions. This figure was based on management's estimate of what a similarly rated financial guaranty insurance company would demand to assume the Company's in-force book of financial guaranty insurance business. This amount was based on the pricing assumptions we have observed in recent portfolio transfers that have occurred in the financial guaranty market and included adjustments to the carrying value of unearned premiums reserves for stressed losses and ceding commissions. The significant inputs for stressed losses

Table of Contents

and ceding commissions were not readily observable inputs, therefore, the Company classified this fair value measurement as Level 3.

**7.0% Senior Notes and Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures**

The fair value of the Company's \$200.0 million of Senior Notes ( 7.0% Senior Notes ) and \$150.0 million of Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures are determined by calculating the midpoint of quoted bid/ask prices over the U.S. Treasury yield at the year-end date and the appropriate credit spread for similar debt instruments. The significant market inputs used are observable, therefore, the Company classified this fair value measurement as Level 2.

**8.50 % Senior Notes**

The Company's subsidiary, AGUS, issued \$172.5 million par, 8.50% Senior Notes on June 24, 2009. The fair value of the 8.50% Senior Notes approximates the carrying value, which is based on the net cash proceeds received and adjusted for the accrued interest for the remaining 6 days through June 30, 2009.

**Future Installment Premiums**

As described in Note 2, with the adoption of FAS 163 effective January 1, 2009, future installment premiums are included in the unearned premium reserves. See "Unearned Premium Reserves" section above for additional information.

Prior to adoption of FAS 163, future installment premiums were not recorded in the Company's financial statements. The fair value of the Company's installment premiums was derived by calculating the present value of the estimated future cash flow stream for financial guaranty installment premiums discounted at 6.0%. The significant inputs used to fair value this item were observable, therefore, the Company classified this fair value measurement as Level 2.

**6. Investments**

The following table summarizes the Company's aggregate investment portfolio as of June 30, 2009:

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	OTTI in OCI

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

	(in thousands of U.S. dollars)									
<i>Fixed maturity securities</i>										
U.S. government and agencies	\$	771,056	\$	27,581	\$	(2,540)	\$	796,097	\$	
Obligations of state and political subdivisions		1,083,315		31,582		(21,303)		1,093,594		
Corporate securities		342,820		7,839		(10,854)		339,805		2,009
Mortgage-backed securities:										
Residential mortgage-backed securities		801,748		23,837		(34,786)		790,799		67,666
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		262,876		728		(30,629)		232,975		14,173
Asset-backed securities		71,656		303		(444)		71,515		
Foreign government securities		84,912		3,730		(170)		88,472		
Preferred stock										
Total fixed maturity securities		3,418,383		95,600		(100,726)		3,413,257		83,848
Short-term investments		1,170,970						1,170,970		
Total investments	\$	4,589,353	\$	95,600	\$	(100,726)	\$	4,584,227	\$	83,848



Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the Company's aggregate investment portfolio as of December 31, 2008(1):

	Amortized Cost		Gross Unrealized Gains		Gross Unrealized Losses		Estimated Fair Value	
	(in thousands of U.S. dollars)							
<i>Fixed maturity securities</i>								
U.S. government and agencies	\$	426,592	\$	49,370	\$	(36)	\$	475,926
Obligations of state and political subdivisions		1,235,942		33,196		(51,427)		1,217,711
Corporate securities		274,237		5,793		(11,793)		268,237
Mortgage-backed securities:								
Residential mortgage-backed securities		829,091		21,717		(20,470)		830,338
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		252,788		55		(31,347)		221,496
Asset-backed securities		80,710				(7,144)		73,566
Foreign government securities		50,323		4,173				54,496
Preferred stock		12,625				(258)		12,367
Total fixed maturity securities		3,162,308		114,304		(122,475)		3,154,137
Short-term investments		477,197						477,197
Total investments	\$	3,639,505	\$	114,304	\$	(122,475)	\$	3,631,334

(1) Reclassified to conform to the current period's presentation.

Approximately 22% and 29% of the Company's total investment portfolio as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, was composed of mortgage backed securities, including collateralized mortgage obligations and commercial mortgage backed securities. As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, approximately 66% and 69% of the Company's total mortgage backed securities were government agency obligations. As of both June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the weighted average credit quality of the Company's entire investment portfolio was AA+. The Company's portfolio is comprised primarily of high-quality, liquid instruments. The Company continues to receive sufficient information to value its investments and has not had to modify its approach due to the current market conditions.

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of available-for-sale fixed maturity securities as of June 30, 2009, by contractual maturity, are shown below. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

	Amortized Cost		Estimated Fair Value	
	(in thousands of U.S. dollars)			
Due within one year	\$	53,871	\$	55,569
Due after one year through five years		724,468		738,542
Due after five years through ten years		537,758		552,951
Due after ten years		1,037,662		1,042,421
Mortgage-backed securities:				

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Residential mortgage-backed securities		801,748		790,799
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		262,876		232,975
Total	\$	3,418,383	\$	3,413,257

Proceeds from the sale of available-for-sale fixed maturity securities were \$705.0 million and \$252.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Table of Contents

Net realized investment gains (losses) consisted of the following:

	Three Months Ended June 30,				Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
(in thousands of U.S. dollars)								
Gains	\$	10,320	\$	2,235	\$	19,588	\$	3,274
Losses		(375)		(519)		(8,307)		(931)
Other than temporary impairments		(14,833)		(263)		(33,279)		(263)
Net realized investment (losses) gains	\$	(4,888)	\$	1,453	\$	(21,998)	\$	2,080

The change in net unrealized gains (losses) of un-impaired available-for-sale fixed maturity securities consists of:

	Three Months Ended June 30,				Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
(in thousands of U.S. dollars)								
Fixed maturity securities	\$	74,970	\$	(49,280)	\$	86,893	\$	(60,635)
Less: Deferred income tax expense (benefit)		8,189		(7,096)		12,739		(13,160)
Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on fixed maturity securities	\$	66,781	\$	(42,184)	\$	74,154	\$	(47,475)

Net investment income is derived from the following sources:

	Three Months Ended June 30,				Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
(in thousands of U.S. dollars)								
Income from fixed maturity securities	\$	43,827	\$	37,398	\$	87,306	\$	69,927
Income from short-term investments		437		3,507		1,512		8,230
Gross investment income		44,264		40,905		88,818		78,157
Less: investment expenses		964		673		1,917		1,351
Net investment income	\$	43,300	\$	40,232	\$	86,901	\$	76,806

Under agreements with its cedants and in accordance with statutory requirements, the Company maintains fixed maturity securities in trust accounts of \$1,346.7 million and \$1,233.4 million as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, for the benefit of reinsured companies and for the protection of policyholders, generally in states in which the Company or its subsidiaries, as applicable, are not licensed or accredited.

Under certain derivative contracts, the Company is required to post eligible securities as collateral, generally cash or U.S. government or agency securities. The need to post collateral under these transactions is generally based on mark-to-market valuation in excess of contractual

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

thresholds. The fair market value of the Company's pledged securities totaled \$547.7 million and \$157.7 million as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively.

The Company is not exposed to significant concentrations of credit risk within its investment portfolio.

No material investments of the Company were non-income producing for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008.

Table of Contents

***Other-Than Temporary Impairment ( OTTI ) Methodology***

The Company has a formal review process for all securities in its investment portfolio, including a review for impairment losses. Factors considered when assessing impairment include:

- a decline in the market value of a security by 20% or more below amortized cost for a continuous period of at least six months;
- a decline in the market value of a security for a continuous period of 12 months;
- recent credit downgrades of the applicable security or the issuer by rating agencies;
- the financial condition of the applicable issuer;
- whether loss of investment principal is anticipated;
- whether scheduled interest payments are past due; and
- whether the Company has the intent to sell a security prior to its recovery in fair value.

If the Company believes a decline in the value of a particular investment is temporary, the decline is recorded as an unrealized loss on the balance sheet in accumulated other comprehensive income in shareholders' equity.

As discussed in more detail below, prior to April 1, 2009, the reviews for impairment of investments were conducted pursuant to FSP No. 115-1, *The Meaning of Other-Than-Temporary Impairment and Its Application to Certain Investments* ( FSP 115-1 ) and accordingly, any unrealized loss identified as other than temporary was recorded directly in the consolidated statement of income. As of April 1, 2009, the Company adopted FSP 115-2. Accordingly, any credit-related impairment related to debt securities the Company does not plan to sell and is more-likely-than-not not to be required to sell is recognized in the consolidated statement of income, with the non-credit-related impairment recognized in other comprehensive income ( OCI ). For other impaired debt securities, where the Company has the intent to sell the security or where the entire impairment is deemed by the Company to be credit-related, the entire impairment is recognized in the consolidated statement of income.

Effective with the adoption of FSP 115-2 the Company recognizes an OTTI loss in earnings for a debt security in an unrealized loss position when either (a) the Company has the intent to sell the debt security or (b) it is more likely than not the Company will be required to sell the debt security before its anticipated recovery. For all debt securities in unrealized loss positions that do not meet either of these two criteria, the Company analyzes the ability to recover the amortized cost by comparing the net present value of projected future cash flows with the amortized cost of the security. If the net present value is less than the amortized cost of the investment, an OTTI loss is recorded. The net present value is calculated by discounting the Company's best estimate of projected future cash flows at the effective interest rate implicit in the debt security prior to impairment. The Company's estimates of projected future cash flows are driven by assumptions regarding probability of default and estimates regarding timing and amount of recoveries associated with a default. The Company develops these estimates using information based on historical experience, credit analysis of an investment, as mentioned above, and market observable data, such as industry analyst reports and forecasts, sector credit ratings and other data relevant to the collectability of the security. For mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, cash flow estimates also include prepayment assumptions and other assumptions regarding the underlying collateral including default rates, recoveries and changes in value. The determination of the assumptions used in these projections requires the use of significant management judgment.

Prior to adoption of FSP 115-2 on April 1, 2009, if the Company believed the decline was other than temporary, the Company would write down the carrying value of the investment and record a realized loss in its consolidated statement of operations equal to the total difference between amortized cost and fair value at the impairment measurement date.

In periods subsequent to the recognition of an OTTI loss, the impaired debt security is accounted for as if it had been purchased on the measurement date of the impairment. Accordingly, the discount (or reduced premium) based on the new cost basis is accreted into net investment income in future periods based upon the amount and timing of expected future cash flows of the security, if the recoverable value of the investment based upon those cash flows is greater than the carrying value of the investment after the impairment.

The Company's assessment of a decline in value includes management's current assessment of the factors noted above. The Company also seeks advice from its outside investment managers. If that assessment changes in

Table of Contents

the future, the Company may ultimately record a loss after having originally concluded that the decline in value was temporary.

As part of its OTTI review process, management considers the nature of the investment, the cause for the impairment (interest or credit related), the severity (both as a percentage of book value and absolute dollars) and duration of the impairment, the severity of the impairment regardless of duration, and any other available evidence, such as discussions with investment advisors, volatility of the securities fair value and recent news reports when performing its assessment.

During the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, the Company recorded OTTI losses on fixed maturity securities as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	June 30, 2009			
	(in thousands of U.S. dollars)			
Total OTTI impairment losses	\$	(36,466)	\$	(54,912)
Less: Portion of OTTI loss recognized in OCI (before taxes)		(21,633)		(21,633)
Net impairment losses recognized in statements of operations	\$	(14,833)	\$	(33,279)

The following table presents a roll-forward of the credit loss component of the amortized cost of fixed maturity securities that the Company has written down for OTTI where the portion related to other factors was recognized in OCI.

(in thousands of U.S. dollars)	Three Months Ended June 30, 2009	
Balance, beginning of period	\$	582
Additions for credit losses on securities for which an OTTI was not previously recognized:		14,833
Balance, end of period	\$	15,415

As of June 30, 2009, amounts, net of tax, in AOCI include \$(37.6) million for securities for which we have recognized OTTI and \$41.2 million for securities for which we have not recognized OTTI. As of December 31, 2008, substantially all of AOCI related to unrealized gains and losses on securities.

The following tables summarize, for all securities in an unrealized loss position as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the aggregate fair value and gross unrealized loss by length of time the amounts have continuously been in an unrealized loss position.

	As of June 30, 2009					
	Less than 12 months		12 months or more		Total	
	Fair value	Unrealized loss	Fair value	Unrealized loss	Fair value	Unrealized loss

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

	(in millions of U.S. dollars)											
U.S. government and agencies	\$	277.6	\$	(2.5)	\$		\$	277.6	\$	(2.5)		
Obligations of state and political subdivisions		94.9		(1.2)		332.3		(20.1)		427.2		(21.3)
Corporate securities		44.6		(4.7)		84.4		(6.1)		129.0		(10.8)
Mortgage-backed securities:												
Residential mortgage-backed securities		140.2		(29.8)		17.2		(5.0)		157.4		(34.8)
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		74.3		(13.1)		104.6		(17.6)		178.9		(30.7)
Asset-backed securities		26.4		(0.4)						26.4		(0.4)
Foreign government securities		25.0		(0.2)						25.0		(0.2)
Preferred stock												
Total	\$	683.0	\$	(51.9)	\$	538.5	\$	(48.8)	\$	1,221.5	\$	(100.7)



Table of Contents

	Less than 12 months		As of December 31, 2008(1) 12 months or more		Total	
	Fair value	Unrealized loss	Fair value	Unrealized loss	Fair value	Unrealized loss
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)					
U.S. government and agencies	\$ 8.0	\$	\$	\$	\$ 8.0	\$
Obligations of state and political subdivisions	479.4	(28.7)	137.9	(22.7)	617.3	(51.4)
Corporate securities	105.6	(10.2)	14.2	(1.6)	119.8	(11.8)
Mortgage-backed securities						
Residential mortgage-backed securities	46.4	(17.7)	38.2	(2.8)	84.6	(20.5)
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	135.0	(26.8)	36.2	(4.5)	171.2	(31.3)
Asset-backed securities	73.2	(7.2)			73.2	(7.2)
Foreign government securities						
Preferred stock	12.4	(0.3)			12.4	(0.3)
Total	\$ 860.0	\$ (90.9)	\$ 226.5	\$ (31.6)	\$ 1,086.5	\$ (122.5)

(1) Reclassified to conform to the current period's presentation.

The above unrealized loss balances are comprised of 175 and 218 fixed maturity securities as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively. As of June 30, 2009, the Company's gross unrealized loss position stood at \$100.7 million compared to \$122.5 million at December 31, 2008. The \$21.8 million decrease in gross unrealized losses was primarily attributable to municipal securities, \$30.1 million, and partially offset by an increase in gross unrealized losses in mortgage- and asset-backed securities, \$6.9 million. The decrease in gross unrealized losses during the six months ended June 30, 2009 was related to the recovery of liquidity in the financial markets offset in part by a \$62.2 million transition adjustment for adoption of FSP 115-2.

As of June 30, 2009, the Company had 95 securities in an unrealized loss position for greater than 12 months, representing a gross unrealized loss of \$48.8 million. Of these securities, 27 securities had unrealized losses greater than 10% of book value. The total unrealized loss for these securities as of June 30, 2009 was \$31.1 million. This unrealized loss is primarily attributable to the market illiquidity and volatility in the U.S. economy mentioned above and not specific to individual issuer credit. Except as noted below, the Company has recognized no other than temporary impairment losses.

The Company recognized \$14.8 million and \$33.3 million of other than temporary impairment losses substantially related to mortgage backed and corporate securities for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, respectively. The 2009 OTTI represents the credit component of the changes in unrealized losses for impaired securities. The Company intends to hold these securities until there is a recovery in their value. The Company continues to monitor the value of these investments. Future events may result in further impairment of the Company's investments. The Company continues to monitor the value of these investments. Future events may result in further impairment of the Company's investments. The Company wrote down \$0.3 million of investments for other than temporary impairment losses for the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2008.

## 7. Significant Risk Management Activities

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

The Risk Oversight and Audit Committees of the Board of Directors oversees our risk management policies and procedures. Within the limits established by the board committees, specific risk policies and limits are set by the Portfolio Risk Management Committee, which includes members of senior management and senior Credit and Surveillance officers. As part of its risk management strategy, the Company may seek to obtain third party

Table of Contents

reinsurance or retrocessions and may also periodically enter into other arrangements to alleviate all or a portion of this risk.

Risk Management and Surveillance personnel are responsible for monitoring and reporting on all transactions in the insured portfolio, including exposures in both the Direct and Reinsurance segments. The primary objective of the surveillance process is to monitor trends and changes in transaction credit quality, detect any deterioration in credit quality, and recommend to management such remedial actions as may be necessary or appropriate. All transactions in the insured portfolio are risk rated, and surveillance personnel are responsible for adjusting those ratings to reflect changes in transaction credit quality. Surveillance personnel are also responsible for managing work-out and loss situations when necessary. For transactions where a loss is considered probable, surveillance personnel present analysis related to potential loss situations to a Reserve Committee. The Reserve Committee is made up of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, President and Chief Operating Officer, Chief Actuary, Chief Surveillance Officer, General Counsel and Chief Accounting Officer. The Reserve Committee considers the information provided by surveillance personnel when setting reserves.

***Direct Businesses***

We conduct surveillance procedures to track risk aggregations and monitor performance of each risk. The review cycle and scope vary based upon transaction type and credit quality. In general, the review process includes the collection and analysis of information from various sources, including trustee and servicer reports, financial statements and reports, general industry or sector news and analyses, and rating agency reports. For Public Finance risks, the surveillance process includes monitoring general economic trends, developments with respect to state and municipal finances, and the financial situation of the issuers. For structured finance transactions, the surveillance process can include monitoring transaction performance data and cash flows, compliance with transaction terms and conditions, and evaluation of servicer or collateral manager performance and financial condition. Additionally, the Company uses various quantitative tools and models to assess transaction performance and identify situations where there may have been a change in credit quality. For all transactions, surveillance activities may include discussions with or site visits to issuers, servicers or other parties to a transaction.

***Reinsurance Businesses***

For transactions in the Company's Reinsurance segment, the primary insurers are responsible for conducting ongoing surveillance, and our surveillance personnel monitor the activities of the primary insurers through a variety of means, such as review of surveillance reports provided by the primary insurers, and meetings and discussions with their analysts. Our surveillance personnel take steps to ensure that the primary insurer is managing risk pursuant to the terms of the applicable reinsurance agreement. To this end, we conduct periodic reviews of ceding companies' surveillance activities and capabilities. That process may include the review of the primary insurer's underwriting, surveillance, and claim files for certain transactions. In the event of credit deterioration of a particular exposure, more frequent reviews of the ceding company's risk mitigation activities are conducted. Our surveillance personnel also monitor general news and information, industry trends, and rating agency reports to help focus surveillance activities on sectors or credits of particular concern. For certain exposures, we also will undertake an independent analysis and remodeling of the transaction.

***Below Investment Grade Credits***

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

The Company's surveillance department is responsible for monitoring our portfolio of credits and maintains a list of below investment grade (BIG) credits. The BIG credits are divided into three categories:

- Category 1 (below investment grade credit with no expected losses);
- Category 2 (below investment grade credit with a loss reserve established prior to an event of default);
- Category 3 (below investment grade credit with a loss reserve established and where an event of default has occurred or is imminent).

The BIG credit list includes all credits rated lower than BBB- where there is a material amount of exposure (generally greater than \$10.0 million) or a material risk of the Company incurring a loss greater than \$0.5 million. Credit ratings are based on the Company's internal assessment of the likelihood of default. The Company's internal credit ratings are generally in line or lower than those of the ratings agencies.

Table of Contents

As part of our surveillance process, we continually monitor all of our investment grade credits to determine whether they have suffered any credit impairments. Our quarterly procedures included qualitative and quantitative analysis on all of our insured credits to ensure that all potential BIG credits have been identified. Credits we identified through this process as having future credit impairments are subjected to further review by surveillance personnel to ensure that they have an appropriate ratings assigned to them.

The following table provides financial guaranty net par outstanding by BIG category as of June 30, 2009 (dollars in millions):

	BIG Credits			
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Total
Number of policies	35	188	160	383
Remaining weighted-average contract period (in years)	17.3	13.3	11.3	12.5
Insured contractual payments outstanding:				
Principal	\$ 573.9	\$ 1,604.8	\$ 3,409.2	\$ 5,588.0
Interest	197.9	918.4	1,365.9	2,482.2
Total	\$ 771.9	\$ 2,523.3	\$ 4,775.1	\$ 8,070.2
Gross reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 0.1	\$ 25.1	\$ 326.7	\$ 351.9
Less:				
Gross potential recoveries		1.2	198.6	199.8
Discount, net		10.4	123.3	133.7
Net reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 0.1	\$ 13.4	\$ 4.9	\$ 18.4
Unearned premium reserves	\$	\$ 4.6	\$ 18.4	\$ 23.0
Net reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses reported in the balance sheet	\$ 0.1	\$ 8.8	\$ (13.5)	\$ (4.6)
Reinsurance recoverable	\$	\$	\$ (4.4)	\$ (4.4)

The Company's loss adjustment expense reserves for mitigating claim liabilities were \$1.7 million as of June 30, 2009.

In accordance with FAS 163, the above table includes financial guaranty contracts written in insurance form. It does not include financial guaranty contracts written in CDS form, mortgage guaranty insurance or the Company's other lines of insurance.

The Company used weighted-average risk free discount rate of 2.3% to discount reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses.

***Overview of Significant Risk Management Activities***

The Company insures various types of residential mortgage backed securitizations ( RMBS ). Such transactions may include obligations backed by closed-end first mortgage loans and closed and open-end second mortgage loans or home equity loans on one-to-four family residential properties, including condominiums and cooperative apartments. An RMBS transaction where the underlying collateral is comprised of revolving home equity lines of credit is generally referred to as a HELOC transaction. In general, the collateral supporting HELOC

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

securitizations are second lien loans made to prime borrowers. As of June 30, 2009, Company had net par outstanding of \$1.5 billion related to HELOC securitizations, of which \$1.1 billion were written in the Company's financial guaranty direct segment. As of June 30, 2009, of the \$1.5 billion related to HELOC securitizations, the Company had net par outstanding of \$1.3 billion for transactions with Countrywide, of which \$1.0 billion were written in the Company's financial guaranty direct segment ( direct Countrywide transactions or Countrywide 2005-J and Countrywide 2007-D ). As of December 31, 2008, the Company had net par outstanding of \$1.7 billion related to HELOC securitizations, of which \$1.5 billion were transactions with Countrywide.

The performance of our HELOC exposures deteriorated during 2007 and 2008 and the first six months of 2009 and transactions, particularly those originated in the period from 2005 through 2007, continue to perform below

Table of Contents

our original underwriting expectations. In accordance with our standard practices, during Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, the Company evaluated the most currently available information, including trends in delinquencies and charge-offs on the underlying loans, draw rates on the lines of credit, and the servicer's ability to fulfill its contractual obligations including its obligation to fund additional draws. The key assumptions used in our analysis of potential case loss reserves on the direct Countrywide transactions are presented in the following table:

<b>Key Variables</b>	
Constant payment rate (CPR)	3-month average, 6.83 - 10.92% as of June 30, 2009
Constant default rate (CDR)	6-month average CDR of approximately 17 - 21% used for our initial default projections, ramping down to a steady state CDR of 1.0%
Draw rate	3-month average, 0.76 - 1% as of June 30, 2009
Excess spread	250 bps per annum
Repurchases of Ineligible loans by Countrywide	\$195.0 million; or approximately 8.1% of original pool balance of \$2.4 billion
Loss Severity	100%

In recent periods, CDR, CPR, Draw Rates and delinquency percentages have fluctuated within ranges that we believe make it appropriate to use rolling averages to project future performance. Accordingly, the Company is using modeling assumptions that are based upon or which approximate recent actual historical performance to project future performance and potential losses. In the Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, consistent with FAS 163, the Company modeled and probability weighted a variety of potential time periods over which an elevated CDR may potentially occur. Further, the Company also incorporated in its loss reserve estimates the possibility that in some of those scenarios the prepayment rates increase after the stressed CDR period, leading to lower recoveries through excess spread. The Company continues to model sensitivities around the results booked using a variety of CDR rates and stress periods as well as other modeling approaches including roll rates and hybrid roll rate/CDR methods. Additionally, the Company continues to perform a detailed review of the performing and non-performing loans in the securitizations to determine their compliance with the originators stated underwriting criteria.

As a result of this modeling and analysis, the Company incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses of \$0.5 million and \$(4.4) million for its direct Countrywide transactions during Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, respectively. The Company's cumulative incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses on the direct Countrywide transactions as of June 30, 2009 were \$93.8 million (\$73.0 million after-tax). During 2009, the Company paid losses and loss adjustment expenses for its direct Countrywide transactions of \$83.6 million, compared to \$65.4 million paid during 2008. The Company's cumulative paid losses and loss adjustment expenses for its direct Countrywide transactions are \$253.6 million as of June 30, 2009. The Company expects to recover a significant amount of these paid losses through excess spread from future cash flows as well as funding of future draws and recoverables from breaches of representations and warranties with respect to the underlying collateral inappropriately included in the pool by the originator. The excess of paid losses and loss adjustment expenses over expected losses, including amounts related to these recoveries above, results in a net recovery of \$159.7 million, which is included in salvage recoverable on the balance sheet as of June 30, 2009.

For the three months ended June 30, 2009, the Company incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses of \$18.7 million for its HELOC exposures. Of this amount, \$2.5 million related to the Company's financial guaranty direct segment. The remaining \$16.2 million of incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses related to the Company's assumed HELOC exposures in its financial guaranty reinsurance segment.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

For the six months ended June 30, 2009, the Company incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses of \$37.4 million for its HELOC exposures. Of this amount, \$2.4 million related to the Company's financial guaranty direct segment. The remaining \$34.9 million of incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses related to the Company's assumed HELOC exposures in its financial guaranty reinsurance segment.

The ultimate performance of the Company's HELOC transactions will depend on many factors, such as the level and timing of loan defaults, interest proceeds generated by the securitized loans, repayment speeds and changes in home prices, as well as the levels of credit support built into each transaction. Other factors also may have a material



Table of Contents

impact upon the ultimate performance of each transaction, including the ability of the seller and servicer to fulfill all of their contractual obligations including its obligation to fund future draws on lines of credit as well as the amount of benefit received from repurchases of ineligible loans by Countrywide. The variables affecting transaction performance are interrelated, difficult to predict and subject to considerable volatility. If actual results differ materially from any of our assumptions, the losses incurred could be materially different from our estimate. We continue to update our evaluation of these exposures as new information becomes available.

A summary of the Company's exposure to these two transactions and their actual performance statistics through June 30, 2009 are as follows:

(\$ in millions)

	Countrywide 2005J	Countrywide 2007D
Original principal balance	\$ 1,500	\$ 900
Remaining principal balance	\$ 461.0	\$ 527.5
Cumulative losses (% of original principal balance)(1)	13.7%	21.2%
Total delinquencies (% of current balance)(2)	19.2%	15.2%
Average initial FICO score of borrowers(3)	709	712
Interest margin over prime(4)	2.0%	1.8%
Revolving period(5)	10	10
Repayment period(6)	15	15
Average draw rate(7)	1.0%	0.8%
Average constant payment rate(8)	6.8%	10.9%
Excess spread(9)	286bps	275bps
Expected collateral loss(10)	20.4%	36.0%

- 
- (1) Cumulative collateral losses expressed as a percentage of the original deal balance.
  - (2) Total delinquencies (includes bankruptcies, foreclosures and real estate owned by Countrywide) as a percentage of the current deal balance.
  - (3) Fair Isaacs and Company score is a measurement designed to indicate the credit quality of a borrower.
  - (4) Floating rate charged to borrowers above the prime rate.
  - (5) Time period (usually 5-10 years) in which the borrower may draw funds from their HELOC.
  - (6) Time period (usually 10-20 years) in which the borrower must repay the funds withdrawn from the HELOC.
  - (7) Represents the three-month average draw rate as of June 2009.
  - (8) Represents the three-month average constant payment rate as of June 2009.
  - (9) Excess spread during June 2009.
  - (10) Calculated using a weighted average basis.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Another type of RMBS transaction is generally referred to as Subprime RMBS. The collateral supporting such transactions is comprised of first-lien residential mortgage loans made to subprime borrowers. A subprime borrower is one considered to be a higher risk credit based on credit scores or other risk characteristics. As of June 30, 2009, we had net par outstanding of \$918 million related to Subprime RMBS securitizations, of which \$201 million is classified by us as Below Investment Grade risk. Of the total U.S. Subprime RMBS exposure of \$918 million, \$430 million is from transactions issued in the period from 2005 through 2007 and written in our direct financial guaranty segment. As of June 30, 2009, we had case reserves of \$14.3 million related to our \$918 million U.S. Subprime RMBS exposure, of which \$3.7 million were related to our \$430 million exposure in the direct financial guaranty segment for transactions issued from 2005 through 2007.

The problems affecting the subprime mortgage market have been widely reported, with rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures negatively impacting the performance of Subprime RMBS transactions. Those concerns relate primarily to Subprime RMBS issued in the period from 2005 through 2007. The \$430 million exposure that we have to such transactions in our direct financial guaranty segment benefits from various structural protections, including credit enhancement that on average currently equals approximately 42% of the remaining principal balance of the transactions.

We also have exposure of \$380 million to Closed-End Second (CES) RMBS transactions, of which \$371 million is in the direct segment. The collateral supporting such transactions is comprised of second-lien residential mortgage loans that generally accrue interest at a fixed rate and can be amortized for periods usually up to 15 years; at the end of a loan's term, a balloon payment is typically due. As with other types of RMBS, we have seen significant deterioration in the performance of our CES transactions. On four transactions that had exposure of \$320 million, as of June 30, 2009, we have seen a significant increase in delinquencies and collateral losses, which resulted in erosion of the Company's

Table of Contents

credit enhancement and the payment of claims totaling \$24.0 million. Based on the Company's analysis of these transaction and their projected collateral losses, the Company had case reserves of \$36.4 million as of June 30, 2009.

Another type of RMBS transaction is generally referred to as Alt-A RMBS. The collateral supporting such transactions is comprised of first-lien residential mortgage loans made to prime quality borrowers that lack certain ancillary characteristics that would make them prime. Included in this category is Alt-A Option ARMs, which include transactions where 66% or more of the collateral is comprised of mortgage loans that have the potential to negatively amortize. As of June 30, 2009, the Company had net par outstanding of \$1.4 billion related to Alt-A RMBS securitizations. Of that amount, \$1.3 billion is from transactions issued in the period from 2005 through 2007 and written in the Company's financial guaranty direct segment. As of June 30, 2009, the Company had case reserves of \$16.2 million for Alt-A and \$19.3 million for Option-ARM related to its \$1.4 billion Alt-A/Option ARM RMBS exposure, in the financial guaranty direct and reinsurance segments.

The ultimate performance of the Company's RMBS transactions remains highly uncertain and may be subject to considerable volatility due to the influence of many factors, including the level and timing of loan defaults, changes in housing prices and other variables. The Company will continue to monitor the performance of its RMBS exposures and will adjust the risk ratings of those transactions based on actual performance and management's estimates of future performance.

The Company has exposure on two life insurance reserve securitization transactions based on two discrete blocks of individual life insurance business reinsured by Scottish Re (U.S.) Inc. (Scottish Re). The two transactions relate to Ballantyne Re p.l.c. (Ballantyne) (gross exposure of \$500 million) and Orkney Re II, p.l.c. (Orkney II) (gross exposure of \$423 million). Under both transactions, monies raised through the issuance of the insured notes support present and future U.S. statutory life insurance reserve requirements. The monies were invested at inception of each transaction in accounts managed by a large, well-known investment manager. However, those investment accounts have incurred substantial mark-to-market losses since mid-year 2007, principally as a result of their exposure to subprime and Alt-A RMBS transactions. Largely as a result of these mark-to-market losses, both we and the rating agencies have downgraded our exposure to both Ballantyne and Orkney II to below investment grade. As regards the Ballantyne transaction, the Company is working with the directing guarantor, who has insured exposure of \$900 million, to remediate the risk. On the Orkney Re II transaction, the Company, as the directing financial guarantor, is taking remedial action. There can be no assurance that any such remedial action will be effective.

Some credit losses have been realized on the securities in the Ballantyne and Orkney Re II portfolios and significant additional credit losses are expected to occur. Performance of the underlying blocks of life insurance business thus far generally has been in accordance with expectations. Adverse investment experience has led the Company to fund interest shortfalls which, except under its most severe loss projections, it expects to be repaid. Additionally, the transactions also contain features linked to the market values of the invested assets, reserve funding requirements on the underlying blocks of life insurance business, and minimum capital requirements for the transactions themselves that may trigger a shut off of interest payments to the insured notes and thereby result in claim payments by the Company.

Another key risk is that the occurrence of certain events may result in a situation where either Ballantyne and/or Orkney Re II are required to sell assets and potentially realize substantial investment losses and for Assured Guaranty Ltd. to incur corresponding insured losses ahead of the scheduled final maturity date. For example, cedants to Scottish Re may have the right to recapture blocks of life insurance business which Scottish Re has ceded to Orkney Re II. Such recaptures could require Orkney Re II to sell assets and realize investment losses. In the Ballantyne transaction, further declines in the market value of the invested assets and/or an increase in the reserve funding requirements could lead to a similar mandatory realization of investment losses and for Assured Guaranty Ltd. to incur corresponding insured losses ahead of the scheduled final maturity date.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

In order for the Company to incur an ultimate net loss on these transactions, adverse experience on the underlying block of life insurance policies and/or credit losses in the investment portfolio would need to exceed the level of credit enhancement built into the transaction structures. Based on its analysis of the information currently available, including estimates of future investment performance, projected credit impairments on the invested assets

Table of Contents

and performance of the blocks of life insurance business at June 30, 2009, the Company's case reserve is now \$30.9 million for the Ballantyne transaction. The Company has not established a case loss reserve for the Orkney Re II transaction due to the fact that modeled loss scenarios project sufficient cash flows from the investment and life insurance activities so that the Company does not suffer an ultimate loss in excess of its unearned premium reserve as of June 30, 2009.

On December 19, 2008, the Company sued J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. ( JPMIM ), the investment manager in the Orkney II transaction, in New York Supreme Court alleging that JPMIM engaged in breaches of fiduciary duty, gross negligence and breaches of contract based upon its handling of the investments of Orkney Re II. On May 13, 2009, the Company filed a First Amended Complaint, additionally asserting the same claims in the name of Orkney II. JPMIM has filed a motion to dismiss the First Amended Complaint. The court has not yet acted upon the motion.

The Company has exposure to a public finance transaction for sewer service in Jefferson County, Alabama through several reinsurance treaties. The Company's total exposure to this transaction is approximately \$455 million as of June 30, 2009. The Company has made debt service payments during the year and expects to make additional payments in the near term. Through our cedants, the Company is currently in discussions with the bond issuer to structure a solution, which may result in some or all of these payments being recoverable. The Company's loss and loss adjustment expense reserve as of June 30, 2009 is \$0.9 million and the Company has incurred cumulative loss and loss adjustment expenses of \$26.3 million through June 30, 2009.

**8. Analysis of premiums written, premiums earned and loss and loss adjustment expenses**

The Company enters into reinsurance agreements with non-affiliated companies to limit its exposure to risk on an on-going basis. In the event that any or all of the reinsurers are unable to meet their obligations, the Company would be liable for such defaulted amounts. Direct, assumed, and ceded premium and loss and loss adjustment expense amounts for three and six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30,				Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(in thousands of U.S. dollars)							
<b>Premiums Written</b>								
Direct	\$	137,560	\$	197,766	\$	277,640	\$	344,175
Assumed		3,504		48,010		98,182		77,403
Ceded		939		(5,107)		977		(11,217)
Net	\$	142,003	\$	240,669	\$	376,799	\$	410,361
<b>Premiums Earned</b>								
Direct	\$	30,883	\$	21,681	\$	137,346	\$	39,648
Assumed		47,380		31,990		94,308		62,917
Ceded		371		(1,986)		(4,574)		(4,047)
Net	\$	78,634	\$	51,685	\$	227,080	\$	98,518
<b>Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses</b>								

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Direct	\$	28,932	\$	28,216	\$	43,998	\$	64,131
Assumed		6,559		9,838		73,787		28,866
Ceded		2,539		71		(1)		266
Net	\$	38,030	\$	38,125	\$	117,784	\$	93,263

Total net written premiums for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 were \$142.0 million and \$376.8 million, respectively, compared with \$240.7 million and \$410.4 million for Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008, respectively.

Table of Contents

Direct written premiums decreased \$60.2 million in Second Quarter 2009 compared with Second Quarter 2008 primarily attributable to our U.S. public finance business, which generated \$120.9 million of direct written premium in Second Quarter 2009 compared with \$183.2 million during Second Quarter 2008. Partially offsetting this decrease was a \$3.4 million increase in U.S. structured finance business premium. Direct written premiums decreased \$66.5 million in Six Months 2009 compared with Six Months 2008 primarily due to a \$47.2 million decrease in U.S. public finance business. Additionally, there was a reduction of our U.S. structured finance and international business of \$9.3 million and \$10.0 million for Six Months 2009 compared with Six Months 2008, as a result of changes in market conditions.

Assumed written premiums decreased to \$3.5 million in Second Quarter 2009 compared with \$48.0 million in Second Quarter 2008, as the prior year included large facultative cessions, mainly as a result of a portfolio assumption of \$14.8 million in premium from one of our cedants. We did not have any portfolio assumptions in Second Quarter 2009.

Total net premiums earned for Second Quarter 2009 were \$78.6 million compared with \$51.7 million for Second Quarter 2008, while net premiums earned for Six Months 2009 were \$227.1 million compared with \$98.5 million for Six Months 2008.

Direct earned premiums increased \$9.2 million, to \$30.9 million for Second Quarter 2009 compared with \$21.7 million for Second Quarter 2008, reflecting the continued growth of our direct book of business. Direct earned premiums increased \$97.7 million to \$137.3 million for Six Months 2009 compared with \$39.6 million for Second Quarter 2008. This increase is principally attributable to accelerated premiums earned of \$73.6 million during the three months ended March 31, 2009 resulting from early contract terminations in the financial guaranty direct segment and to the continued growth of the Company's in-force book of business. Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months earned premiums include \$5.5 million and \$10.8 million, respectively, related to the accretion of discount on future financial guaranty installment premiums as the result of the implementation of FAS 163 effective January 1, 2009. The Second Quarter 2009, Six Months 2009, Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 did not have any direct earned premiums from public finance refundings. Public finance refundings reflect the unscheduled pre-payment or refundings of underlying municipal bonds. Also contributing to the Company's increase in net premiums earned was the financial guaranty reinsurance segment, which increased \$17.8 million in Second Quarter 2009 compared to Second Quarter 2008. This increase was mainly due to an increase in refundings of \$6.2 million, as well as \$11.8 million of accelerated premiums earned related to an assumed exposure that was extinguished. Offsetting these increases were decreases of \$0.5 million and \$1.5 million for the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2009, respectively, in net premiums earned in the mortgage segment due to run-off.

Assumed premiums earned increased \$31.4 million (\$0.9 million decrease excluding refundings) in Six Months 2009 compared with Six Months 2008 primarily due to \$6.5 million generated in Six Months 2009 from the portfolio assumed from CIFG in January 2009.

Total loss and loss adjustment expenses were \$38.0 million and \$38.1 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. Second Quarter 2009 loss and LAE was primarily related to reserve increase for RMBS transactions in both the financial guaranty direct and reinsurance segments. Second Quarter 2008 included an increase in case reserves in the financial guaranty direct segment of \$31.2 million, related to the Company's CES and HELOC exposures. Additionally, loss and loss adjustment expenses in the financial guaranty reinsurance segment were \$11.3 million, including a \$7.7 million increase in case reserves and \$9.9 million of paid losses related predominantly to our HELOC exposures. The Second Quarter 2008 also included a decrease in portfolio reserves of \$5.9 million, associated with exposures where a case reserve was established.

Total loss and LAE were \$117.8 million and \$93.3 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Loss and LAE for Six Months 2009 was primarily related to reserve increase for RMBS transactions in both the financial guaranty direct and reinsurance segments. In addition to Second Quarter 2008 activity, assumed loss and LAE for Six Months 2008 in the financial guaranty direct segment included an

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

increase in portfolio reserves of \$35.7 million mainly attributable to our HELOC and other RMBS exposures driven by internal ratings downgrades. In the financial guaranty reinsurance segment, Six Months 2008 included the Second Quarter 2008 activity discussed above, as well as increases to case and portfolio reserves of \$9.7 million and \$7.4 million, respectively, mainly related to our U.S. RMBS and HELOC exposures.



Table of Contents

To limit its exposure on assumed risks, the Company entered into certain proportional and non-proportional retrocessional agreements with other insurance companies, primarily subsidiaries of ACE Limited ( ACE ), the Company's former parent, to cede a portion of the risk underwritten by the Company, prior to the IPO. In addition, the Company enters into reinsurance agreements with non-affiliated companies to limit its exposure to risk on an on-going basis.

Reinsurance recoverable on ceded losses and LAE as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 were \$4.5 million and \$6.5 million, respectively and are mainly related to the Company's other segment. In the event that any or all of the reinsurers are unable to meet their obligations, the Company would be liable for such defaulted amounts.

***Agreement with CIFG Assurance North America, Inc.***

AGC entered into an agreement with CIFG Assurance North America, Inc. ( CIFG ) to assume a diversified portfolio of financial guaranty contracts totaling approximately \$13.3 billion of net par outstanding. The Company closed the transaction in January 2009 and received \$75.6 million (\$85.7 million of upfront premiums net of ceding commissions) and will receive approximately \$12.2 million of future installments premiums.

**9. Commitments and Contingencies**

***Litigation***

In the ordinary course of their respective businesses, certain of the Company's subsidiaries assert claims in legal proceedings against third parties to recover losses paid in prior periods. The amounts, if any, the Company will recover in these proceedings are uncertain, although recoveries in any one or more of these proceedings during any quarter or fiscal year could be material to the Company's results of operations in that particular quarter or fiscal year.

It is the opinion of the Company's management, based upon the information available, that the expected outcome of litigation against the Company, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or liquidity, although an adverse resolution of litigation against the Company could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations in a particular quarter or fiscal year.

***Litigation Involving Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company***

Effective January 1, 2004, Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company ( AGMIC ) reinsured a private mortgage insurer (the Reinsured ) under a Mortgage Insurance Stop Loss Excess of Loss Reinsurance Agreement (the Agreement ). Under the Agreement, AGMIC agreed to cover

the Reinsured's aggregate mortgage guaranty insurance losses in excess of a \$25 million retention and subject to a \$95 million limit. Coverage under the Agreement was triggered only when the Reinsured's: (1) combined loss ratio exceeded 100%; and (2) risk to capital ratio exceeded 25 to 1, according to insurance statutory accounting. In April 2008, AGMIC notified the Reinsured it was terminating the Agreement because of the Reinsured's breach of the terms of the Agreement. This matter went to arbitration and on June 4, 2009, the arbitration panel issued a Final Interim Award with respect to this Agreement in which the majority of the panel concluded that the Reinsured breached a covenant in the Agreement. AGMIC and the Reinsured executed a final settlement agreement on June 17, 2009 to settle the matter in full in exchange for a payment by AGMIC to the reinsured of \$10 million. The final settlement agreement resolves all disputes between the parties and concludes all remaining rights and obligations of the parties under the Agreement.

*Litigation Involving FSAH and its Subsidiaries*

As noted above, on July 1, 2009 the Company completed the acquisition of FSAH pursuant to the purchase agreement, dated as of November 14, 2008, between the Company, Dexia Holdings and DCL. FSAH is the parent of FSA.

The following is a description of legal proceedings involving FSAH and its subsidiaries. Although the Company did not acquire FSAH's former financial products business, which included FSAH's former guaranteed investment contract business and medium-term note and leveraged tax lease businesses, certain legal proceedings relating to those businesses are against entities which the Company did acquire. Pursuant to an indemnification agreement entered into among FSA, DCL and Dexia in connection with the acquisition of FSAH, each of DCL and Dexia, jointly and severally, has agreed to indemnify FSA and its affiliates against any liability arising out of the proceedings described under Proceedings Related to FSAH's Former Financial Products Business below.

Table of Contents

FSAH and FSA have received various regulatory inquiries and requests for information regarding a variety of subjects. These include (i) subpoenas duces tecum and interrogatories from the State of Connecticut Attorney General and the Attorney General of the State of California related to antitrust concerns associated with the methodologies used by rating agencies for determining the credit rating of municipal debt, including a proposal by Moody's to assign corporate equivalent ratings to municipal obligations, and their communications with rating agencies and (ii) subpoenas duces tecum and interrogatories from the Attorney General of the States of Connecticut and West Virginia and antitrust civil investigative demands from the Attorney General of the State of Florida relating to their investigations of alleged bid rigging of municipal GICs. FSAH has satisfied or is in the process of satisfying such requests. FSAH may receive additional inquiries from these or other regulators and expects to provide additional information to such regulators regarding their inquiries in the future.

**Proceedings Related to FSAH's Former Financial Products Business**

In November 2006, (i) FSAH received a subpoena from the Antitrust Division of the DOJ issued in connection with an ongoing criminal investigation of bid rigging of awards of municipal GICs and other municipal derivatives and (ii) FSA received a subpoena from the SEC related to an ongoing industry-wide investigation concerning the bidding of municipal GICs and other municipal derivatives. Pursuant to the subpoenas FSAH has furnished to the DOJ and SEC records and other information with respect to FSAH's municipal GIC business. On February 4, 2008, FSAH received a Wells Notice from the staff of the Philadelphia Regional Office of the SEC relating to the foregoing matter. The Wells Notice indicates that the SEC staff is considering recommending that the SEC authorize the staff to bring a civil injunctive action and/or institute administrative proceedings against FSAH, alleging violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder and Section 17(a) of the Securities Act. FSAH has had ongoing discussions with the DOJ and the SEC. The ultimate loss that may arise from these investigations remains uncertain.

During 2008 nine putative class action lawsuits were filed in federal court alleging federal antitrust violations in the municipal derivatives industry, seeking damages and alleging, among other things, a conspiracy to fix the pricing of, and manipulate bids for, municipal derivatives, including GICs. These cases have been coordinated and consolidated for pretrial proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York as *MDL 1950, In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation*, Case No. 1:08-cv-2516 ( MDL 1950 ). Five of these cases name both FSAH and FSA: (a) *Hinds County, Mississippi v. Wachovia Bank, N.A.* (filed on or about March 13, 2008); (b) *Fairfax County, Virginia v. Wachovia Bank, N.A.* (filed on or about March 12, 2008); (c) *Central Bucks School District, Pennsylvania v. Wachovia Bank N.A.* (filed on or about June 4, 2008); (d) *Mayor & City Counsel of Baltimore, Maryland v. Wachovia Bank N.A.* (filed on or about July 3, 2008); and (e) *Washington County, Tennessee v. Wachovia Bank N.A.* (filed on or about July 14, 2008). Four of the cases name only FSAH and also allege that the defendants violated state antitrust law and common law by engaging in illegal bid-rigging and market allocation, thereby depriving the cities of competition in the awarding of GICs and ultimately resulting in the cities paying higher fees for these products: (a) *City of Oakland, California, v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about April 23, 2008); (b) *County of Alameda, California v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about July 8, 2008); (c) *City of Fresno, California v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about July 17, 2008); and (d) *Fresno County Financing Authority v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about December 24, 2008).

The MDL 1950 court has determined that it will handle federal claims alleged in the consolidated class action complaint before addressing state claims. In April 2009, the MDL 1950 court granted the defendants' motion to dismiss on the federal claims, but granted leave for the plaintiffs to file a second amended complaint. On June 18, 2009, interim lead plaintiffs' counsel filed a Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint. The complaints in these lawsuits generally seek unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees and other costs. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from these lawsuits; although the Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint currently describes some of FSAH's and FSA's activities, it does not name those entities as defendants.

FSAH and FSA also are named in five non-class action lawsuits originally filed in the California Superior Courts alleging violations of California law related to the municipal derivatives industry:

(a) *City of Los Angeles v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about July 23, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 394944, removed to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California ( C.D. Cal. ) as Case No. 2:08-cv-5574, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:08-cv-10351);

Table of Contents

(b) *City of Stockton v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about July 23, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-08-477851, removed to the N.D. Cal. as Case No. 3:08-cv-4060, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:08-cv-10350);

(c) *County of San Diego v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about August 28, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. SC 99566, removed to C.D. Cal. as Case No. 2:08-cv-6283, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:09-cv-1195);

(d) *County of San Mateo v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about October 7, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-08-480664, removed to N.D. Cal. as Case No. 3:08-cv-4751, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:09-cv-1196); and

(e) *County of Contra Costa v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about October 8, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-08-480733, removed to N.D. Cal. as Case No. 3:08-cv-4752, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:09-cv-1197).

These cases have been transferred to the S.D.N.Y. and consolidated with *MDL 1950* for pretrial proceedings. The complaints in these lawsuits generally seek unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs and other expenses. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from these lawsuits.

**Proceedings Relating to FSAH's Financial Guaranty Business**

In December 2008 and January 2009, FSA and various other financial guarantors were named in three complaints filed in the Superior Court, San Francisco County: (a) *City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power v. Ambac Financial Group et. al* (filed on or about December 31, 2008), Case No. CG-08-483689; *Sacramento Municipal Utility District v. Ambac Financial Group et. al* (filed on or about December 31, 2008), Case No. CGC-08-483691; and (c) *City of Sacramento v. Ambac Financial Group Inc. et. al* (filed on or about January 6, 2009), Case No. CGC-09-483862. These complaints alleged participation in a conspiracy in violation of California's antitrust laws to maintain a dual credit rating scale that misstated the credit default risk of municipal bond issuers and created market demand for municipal bond insurance and participation in risky financial transactions in other lines of business that damaged each bond insurer's financial condition (thereby undermining the value of each of their guaranties), and a failure to adequately disclose the impact of those transactions on their financial condition. These latter allegations form the predicate for five separate causes of action against each of the Insurers: breach of contract, breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, fraud, negligence, and negligent misrepresentation. The complaints in these lawsuits generally seek unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs and other expenses. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from these lawsuits.

In August 2008 a number of financial institutions and other parties, including FSA, were named as defendants in a civil action brought in the circuit court of Jefferson County, Alabama relating to the County's problems meeting its debt obligations on its \$3.2 billion sewer debt: *Charles E. Wilson vs. JPMorgan Chase & Co et al* (filed on or about August 8, 2008 in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Alabama), Case No. 01-CV-2008-901907.00, a putative class action. The action was brought on behalf of rate payers, tax payers and citizens residing in

Jefferson County, and alleges conspiracy and fraud in connection with the issuance of the County's debt. The complaint in this lawsuit seeks unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees and other costs. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from this lawsuit.

***Real Estate Lease***

The Company and its subsidiaries are party to various lease agreements. In June 2008, the Company's subsidiary, AGC, entered into a new five-year lease agreement for New York office space. Future minimum annual payments of \$5.3 million for the first twelve month period and \$5.7 million for subsequent twelve month periods commenced October 1, 2008 and are subject to escalation in building operating costs and real estate taxes. As a result of the FSAH acquisition, during Second Quarter 2009 the Company decided not to occupy the office space described above and subleased it to two tenants for total minimum annual payments of approximately \$3.7 million until October 2013. AGC wrote off related leasehold improvements and recorded a pre-tax loss on the sublease of \$11.7 million.

Table of Contents

which is included in FSAH acquisition-related expenses and other liabilities in the unaudited consolidated income statements and balance sheets, respectively.

**Reinsurance**

The Company is party to reinsurance agreements with other monoline financial guaranty insurance companies. The Company's facultative and treaty agreements are generally subject to termination (i) upon written notice (ranging from 90 to 120 days) prior to the specified deadline for renewal, (ii) at the option of the primary insurer if the Company fails to maintain certain financial, regulatory and rating agency criteria which are equivalent to or more stringent than those the Company is otherwise required to maintain for its own compliance with state mandated insurance laws and to maintain a specified financial strength rating for the particular insurance subsidiary or (iii) upon certain changes of control of the Company. Upon termination under the conditions set forth in (ii) and (iii) above, the Company may be required (under some of its reinsurance agreements) to return to the primary insurer all statutory unearned premiums, less ceding commissions, attributable to reinsurance ceded pursuant to such agreements after which the Company would be released from liability with respect to the ceded business. Upon the occurrence of the conditions set forth in (ii) above, whether or not an agreement is terminated, the Company may be required to obtain a letter of credit or alternative form of security to collateralize its obligation to perform under such agreement or it may be obligated to increase the level of ceding commission paid.

**10. Long-Term Debt and Credit Facilities**

The carrying value of long-term debt was as follows:

(dollars in millions)	June 30, 2009	As of	December 31, 2008
7.0% Senior Notes	\$ 197,461	\$	197,443
8.50% Senior Notes	169,732		
Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures	149,781		149,767
Total long-term debt	\$ 516,974	\$	347,210

The Company's unaudited interim consolidated financial statements include long-term debt and related interest expense, which was used to fund the Company's insurance operations and acquisition of FSAH on July 1, 2009, as described below.

**7.0% Senior Notes**

AGUS issued \$200.0 million of 7.0% Senior Notes due 2034 for net proceeds of \$197.3 million. The proceeds of the offering were used to repay substantially all of a \$200.0 million promissory note issued to a subsidiary of ACE in April 2004 as part of the IPO-related formation transactions. The coupon on the Senior Notes is 7.0%, however, the effective rate is approximately 6.4%, taking into account the effect of a cash flow hedge executed by the Company in March 2004, the term of which matches that of the Senior Notes. The Company recorded interest

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

expense of \$3.3 million, including \$0.2 million of amortized gain on the cash flow hedge, for both Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008. The Company recorded interest expense of \$6.7 million, including \$0.3 million of amortized gain on the cash flow hedge, for both Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008. These Senior Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Assured Guaranty Ltd.

### *8.50% Senior Notes*

On June 24, 2009, the Company along with its wholly-owned subsidiary, AGUS, issued 3,450,000 Equity Units for gross proceeds of \$172.5 million in a publicly registered offering. Each Equity Unit consists of (i) a purchase contract (the "Purchase Contract") requiring the counterparty to purchase from the Company for \$50 between 3.8685 and 4.5455 common shares of Assured Guaranty Ltd. on June 1, 2012, the actual number of shares to be determined based on the average closing price of the Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares over the 20-trading day period ending three trading days prior to June 1, 2012 and (ii) notes (the "Notes") issued by AGUS, initially bearing interest at a rate of 8.50% per annum, payable quarterly, maturing on June 1, 2014, subject to a



Table of Contents

mandatory remarketing in which the rate of interest, periodicity of payments, maturity date and certain other terms may be modified.

The purchase price was allocated between the Notes and the Purchase Contracts based on their relative fair values as of the offering date. The fair value of the Notes and the Purchase Contracts was determined to be \$49.19 (per 1/20th ownership interest) and \$0.81, respectively at the date of issuance. The allocation was based on the determination that a new-issue, three-year senior debt would be priced at par if it yielded 9.13%,

The Notes

- **Face Amount of the Notes:** Each Note has a face amount of \$1,000 and each Equity Unit represents a 1/20th ownership interest in a \$1,000 face amount Note plus an obligation under the Purchase Contract as described more fully below,
- **Interest Rate on the Notes:** Each Note initially bears interest at a rate of 8.50% per annum on the face amount, payable quarterly, and subject to reset upon a successful remarketing,
- **Remarketing of the Notes:** The Notes are required to be remarketed on a date chosen by the Company occurring after December 1, 2011 and prior to May 1, 2012 (or if not remarketed during this period, then the Notes will be remarketed on the final remarketing date as specified in the Notes indenture). At the remarketing, terms of the Notes including the interest rate, tenor and covenants will be modified at the discretion of a remarketing agent selected by the Company such that the proceeds generated from the remarketing will be sufficient to repay par plus accrued interest to those holders participating in the remarketing on June 1, 2012 plus fees payable to the remarketing agent,
- **Maturity of the Notes:** The Notes mature on June 1, 2014, unless the maturity date is extended during the Remarketing. In no event may the maturity date be extended beyond June 1, 2039,
- **Holder Put Right:** Holders of the Notes may exercise their put right only upon a failed final remarketing for the face amount plus accrued interest,
- **Ranking:** The Notes are senior, unsecured obligations of AGUS and are guaranteed by the Company. The ranking may not be modified as part of the remarketing.

The Purchase Contracts

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

- **Parties to the Purchase Contract:** Under the Purchase Contract, The Company is required on the Contract Settlement Date to deliver shares equal to the settlement rate to counterparties in exchange for a cash payment equal to the purchase price from the counterparties.
  
- **Settlement Rate:** The number of the Company's common shares is calculated as follows:
  1. *If Applicable Market Value  $\geq$  \$12.93 (the Threshold Appreciation Price):* If the average closing price per share for the 20 trading day period immediately preceding the Purchase Contract Settlement Date (such average being the Applicable Market Value) exceeds the Threshold Appreciation Price, the Settlement Rate will be 3.8685 shares,
  
  2. *If Applicable Market Value  $\leq$  \$11.00 (the Reference Price):* If the Applicable Market Value is less than or equal to the Reference Price, the Settlement Rate will be 4.5455 shares,
  
  3. *Reference Price  $<$  Applicable Market Value  $<$  Threshold Appreciation Price:* If the Applicable Market Value is between the Reference Price and Threshold Appreciation Price, the Settlement Rate will be equal to the quotient of \$50.00 and the Applicable Market Value.
  
- **Contract Settlement Date:** June 1, 2012. Counterparties to the Purchase Contract may elect to settle Purchase Contracts prior to the Contract Settlement Date by delivering the purchase price to the Company in exchange for the minimum Settlement Rate of 3.8685 shares, regardless of the Applicable Market Value at the time of early settlement.
  
- **Counterparty Collateral requirements:** At all times, a counterparty is required to maintain collateral with the designated collateral agent securing the counterparty's obligation to deliver the purchase price under the Purchase Contracts on the Contract Settlement Date. If a counterparty holds Notes, such Notes will be posted as collateral (such arrangement referred to as Corporate Units). If a counterparty does not hold Notes, it will be required to post specified zero coupon, U.S. Treasury securities (such arrangement referred to as Treasury Units). Notwithstanding the posting of collateral, counterparty's obligation to pay the Purchase Price will be with full recourse to such counterparty.

Table of Contents

- **Adjustment Events:** Upon the occurrence of specified events (including changes in dividend policy and certain other corporate actions), the Reference Price, Threshold Appreciation Price and Settlement Ratio will be adjusted in a manner designed to preserve the fair value of the Purchase Contracts immediately prior to such specified events for both the Company and counterparty. Generally, the nature of these adjustments is designed to protect both parties against dilutive events.

The Company recorded interest expense related to the 8.50% Senior Notes of \$0.7 million and \$0.7 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, respectively.

*Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures*

On December 20, 2006, AGUS issued \$150.0 million of Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures (the Debentures) due 2066 for net proceeds of \$149.7 million. The proceeds of the offering were used to repurchase 5,692,599 of Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares from ACE Bermuda Insurance Ltd., a subsidiary of ACE. The Debentures pay a fixed 6.40% rate of interest until December 15, 2016, and thereafter pay a floating rate of interest, reset quarterly, at a rate equal to 3 month LIBOR plus a margin equal to 2.38%. AGUS may elect at one or more times to defer payment of interest for one or more consecutive periods for up to ten years. Any unpaid interest bears interest at the then applicable rate. AGUS may not defer interest past the maturity date. The Company recorded interest expense of \$2.5 million for both Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 and \$4.9 million for both Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. These Debentures are guaranteed on a junior subordinated basis by Assured Guaranty Ltd.

*Credit Facilities*

**2006 Credit Facility**

On November 6, 2006, Assured Guaranty Ltd. and certain of its subsidiaries entered into a \$300.0 million five-year unsecured revolving credit facility (the 2006 credit facility) with a syndicate of banks. Under the 2006 credit facility, each of AGC, AG(UK), AG Re, AGRO and Assured Guaranty Ltd. are entitled to request the banks to make loans to such borrower or to request that letters of credit be issued for the account of such borrower.

Of the \$300.0 million available to be borrowed, no more than \$100.0 million may be borrowed by Assured Guaranty Ltd., AG Re or AGRO, individually or in the aggregate, and no more than \$20.0 million may be borrowed by AG(UK). The stated amount of all outstanding letters of credit and the amount of all unpaid drawings in respect of all letters of credit cannot, in the aggregate, exceed \$100.0 million.

The 2006 credit facility also provides that Assured Guaranty Ltd. may request that the commitment of the banks be increased an additional \$100.0 million up to a maximum aggregate amount of \$400.0 million. Any such incremental commitment increase is subject to certain conditions provided in the agreement and must be for at least \$25.0 million.

The proceeds of the loans and letters of credit are to be used for the working capital and other general corporate purposes of the borrowers and to support reinsurance transactions.

At the closing of the 2006 credit facility, (i) AGC guaranteed the obligations of AG(UK) under such facility, (ii) Assured Guaranty Ltd. guaranteed the obligations of AG Re and AGRO under such facility and agreed that, if the Company Consolidated Assets (as defined in the related credit agreement) of AGC and its subsidiaries were to fall below \$1.2 billion, it would, within 15 days, guarantee the obligations of AGC and AG(UK) under such facility, (iii) Assured Guaranty Overseas US Holdings Inc., guaranteed the obligations of Assured Guaranty Ltd., AG Re and AGRO under such facility and (iv) each of AG Re and AGRO guarantees the other as well as Assured Guaranty Ltd.

The 2006 credit facility's financial covenants require that Assured Guaranty Ltd. (a) maintain a minimum net worth of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Consolidated Net Worth of Assured Guaranty Ltd. as of the most recent fiscal quarter of Assured Guaranty Ltd. prior to November 6, 2006 and (b) maintain a maximum debt-to-capital ratio of 30%. In addition, the 2006 credit facility requires that AGC maintain qualified statutory capital of at least 75% of its statutory capital as of the fiscal quarter prior to November 6, 2006. Furthermore, the 2006 credit

Table of Contents

facility contains restrictions on Assured Guaranty Ltd. and its subsidiaries, including, among other things, in respect of their ability to incur debt, permit liens, become liable in respect of guaranties, make loans or investments, pay dividends or make distributions, dissolve or become party to a merger, consolidation or acquisition, dispose of assets or enter into affiliate transactions. Most of these restrictions are subject to certain minimum thresholds and exceptions. The 2006 credit facility has customary events of default, including (subject to certain materiality thresholds and grace periods) payment default, failure to comply with covenants, material inaccuracy of representation or warranty, bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, change of control and cross-default to other debt agreements. A default by one borrower will give rise to a right of the lenders to terminate the facility and accelerate all amounts then outstanding. As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, Assured Guaranty was in compliance with all of those financial covenants.

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, no amounts were outstanding under this facility nor have there been any borrowings under this facility.

Letters of credit totaling approximately \$2.9 million remained outstanding as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, discussed in Note 9.

**Non-Recourse Credit Facilities**

*AG Re Credit Facility*

On July 31, 2007 AG Re entered into a non-recourse credit facility ( AG Re Credit Facility ) with a syndicate of banks which provides up to \$200.0 million to satisfy certain reinsurance agreements and obligations. The AG Re Credit Facility expires in July 2014.

The AG Re Credit Facility does not contain any financial covenants. The AG Re Credit Facility has customary events of default, including (subject to certain materiality thresholds and grace periods) payment default, failure to comply with covenants, material inaccuracy of representation or warranty, bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, change of control and cross default to other debt agreements. If any such event of default were triggered, AG Re could be required to repay potential outstanding borrowings in an accelerated manner.

AG Re's obligations to make payments of principal and interest on loans under the AG Re Credit Facility, whether at maturity, upon acceleration or otherwise, are limited recourse obligations of AG Re and are payable solely from the collateral securing the AG Re Credit Facility, including recoveries with respect certain insured obligations in a designated portfolio, premiums with respect to defaulted insured obligations in that portfolio, certain designated reserves and other designated collateral.

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, no amounts were outstanding under this facility nor have there been any borrowings under the life of this facility.

**Committed Capital Securities**

On April 8, 2005, AGC entered into four separate agreements with four different unaffiliated custodial trusts pursuant to which AGC may, at its option, cause each of the custodial trusts to purchase up to \$50.0 million of perpetual preferred stock of AGC. The custodial trusts were created as a vehicle for providing capital support to AGC by allowing AGC to obtain immediate access to new capital at its sole discretion at any time through the exercise of the put option. If the put options were exercised, AGC would receive \$200.0 million in return for the issuance of its own perpetual preferred stock, the proceeds of which may be used for any purpose including the payment of claims. The put options were not exercised during 2009 or 2008. Initially, all of committed capital securities of the custodial trusts (the CCS Securities) were issued to a special purpose pass-through trust (the Pass-Through Trust). The Pass-Through Trust was dissolved in April 2008 and the committed capital securities were distributed to the holders of the Pass-Through Trust's securities. Neither the Pass-Through Trust nor the Custodial Trusts are consolidated in Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s financial statements.

Income distributions on the Pass-Through Trust Securities and CCS Securities were equal to an annualized rate of One-Month LIBOR plus 110 basis points for all periods ending on or prior to April 8, 2008. Following

Table of Contents

dissolution of the Pass-Through Trust, distributions on the CCS Securities are determined pursuant to an auction process. On April 7, 2008 this auction process failed, thereby increasing the annualized rate on the CCS Securities to One-Month LIBOR plus 250 basis points. Distributions on the AGC Preferred Stock will be determined pursuant to the same process.

During Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, AGC incurred \$1.9 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, of put option premiums which are an on-going expense. During Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, AGC incurred \$3.3 million and \$2.5 million, respectively, of put option premiums which are an on-going expense. The increase in Six Months 2009 compared to the respective periods in 2008 was due to the increase in annualized rates from One-Month LIBOR plus 110 basis points to One-Month LIBOR plus 250 basis points as a result of the failed auction process in April 2008. These expenses are presented in the Company's unaudited interim consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income under other expenses.

The CCS Securities had a fair value of \$10.2 million (see Note 5) and \$51.1 million as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, and a change in fair value during Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 of \$(60.6) million and \$(40.9) million, respectively, which are recorded in the consolidated balance sheets in other assets and the unaudited interim consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income in fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities, respectively. The change in fair value during Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 of \$8.9 million and \$17.4 million, respectively.

***Guarantee of FSAH's Debt***

On July 20, 2009, Assured Guaranty Ltd. announced that the Company would fully and unconditionally guarantee the following three series of FSAH debt obligations consisting of: 1) \$100.0 million of 6-7/8% Notes due December 15, 2101, 2) \$230.0 million principal amount of 6.25% Notes due November 1, 2102, and 3) \$100.0 million principal amount of 5.60% Notes due July 15, 2103. The Company also would guarantee, on a junior subordinated basis, the \$300 million of FSAH's outstanding Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2066.

**11. Employee Benefit Plans**

***Share-Based Compensation***

Share-based compensation expense in Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 was \$1.6 million (\$1.2 million after tax) and \$2.0 million (\$1.5 million after tax), respectively. Share-based compensation expense in Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008 was \$5.3 million (\$4.3 million after tax) and \$8.4 million (\$6.9 million after tax), respectively. The effect on basic and diluted earnings per share for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 was \$0.01 and \$0.05, respectively. The effect on basic and diluted earnings per share for Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 was \$0.02 and \$0.08, respectively. Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 expense included \$(0.1) million (\$(0.1) million after tax) and \$2.0 million (\$1.7 million after tax), respectively, related to accelerated vesting for stock award grants to retirement-eligible employees. Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 expense included \$(0.2) million (\$(0.2) million after tax) and \$3.7 million (\$3.3 million after tax), respectively, related to accelerated vesting for stock award grants to retirement-eligible employees.

***Performance Retention Plan***

The Company recognized approximately \$0.9 million (\$0.6 million after tax) and \$0.8 million (\$0.6 million after tax) of expense for performance retention awards in Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. The Company recognized approximately \$6.2 million (\$5.1 million after tax) and \$6.3 million (\$5.2 million after tax) of expense for performance retention awards in Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Included in Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 amounts were \$0 million and \$4.3 million, respectively, of accelerated expense related to retirement-eligible employees. Included in Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 amounts were \$0 million and \$4.6 million, respectively, of accelerated expense related to retirement-eligible employees.

**12. Earnings Per Share**

Effective January 1, 2009, the Company adopted FSP EITF 03-6-1, *Determining Whether Instruments Granted in Share-Based Payment Transactions Are Participating Securities* ( FSP ). The FSP clarifies that share-



Table of Contents

based payment awards that entitle their holders to receive nonforfeitable dividends or dividend equivalents before vesting should be considered participating securities. Restricted stock awards granted prior to February 2008 are considered participating securities as they received non-forfeitable rights to dividends at the same rate as common stock. As participating securities, the Company is required to include these instruments in the calculation of basic earnings per share (EPS), and needs to calculate basic EPS using the two-class method described in FAS No. 128, Earnings per Share.

Prior to adoption of the FSP, restricted stock was included in our dilutive EPS calculation using the treasury stock method. The two-class method of computing EPS is an earnings allocation formula that determines EPS for each class of common stock and participating security according to dividends declared (or accumulated) and participation rights in undistributed earnings. Basic EPS is then calculated by dividing net (loss) income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS adjusts basic (loss) earnings per share for the effects of restricted stock, stock options and other potentially dilutive financial instruments (dilutive securities), only in the periods in which such effect is dilutive. The dilutive effect of the dilutive securities is reflected in diluted EPS by application of the more dilutive of (1) the treasury stock method or (2) the two-class method assuming nonvested shares are not converted into common shares. The FSP requires the presentation of basic and diluted EPS for each class of common stock. The Company has a single class of common stock. Therefore, the following EPS amounts only pertain to common stock. Pursuant to the FSP, all prior period EPS data were adjusted retrospectively. The impact of adopting the FSP decreased previously reported basic EPS by \$0.05 and \$0.04 for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, and previously reported diluted EPS by \$0.01 for the three months ended June 30, 2008. There was no impact of adopting the FSP on previously reported diluted EPS for the six months ended June 30, 2008.

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

	Three Months Ended June 30,				Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
(in thousands of U.S. dollars, except per share amounts)								
<b>Basic earnings per share:</b>								
Net (loss) income	\$	(170,004)	\$	545,216	\$	(84,515)	\$	376,007
Less: Distributed and undistributed income (loss) available to nonvested shareholders		(818)		4,708		(459)		3,934
Distributed and undistributed income (loss) available to common shareholders	\$	(169,186)	\$	540,508	\$	(84,056)	\$	372,073
Basic shares		93,058		89,914		91,941		84,979
Basic EPS	\$	(1.82)	\$	6.01	\$	(0.91)	\$	4.38
<b>Diluted earnings per share:</b>								
Distributed and undistributed income (loss) available to common shareholders	\$	(169,186)	\$	540,508	\$	(84,056)	\$	372,073
Plus: Re-allocation of undistributed income (loss) available to nonvested shareholders				36				29
Distributed and undistributed income (loss) available to common shareholders	\$	(169,186)	\$	540,544	\$	(84,056)	\$	372,102
Basic shares		93,058		89,914		91,941		84,979
Effect of dilutive securities:								

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Options and restricted stock awards			710			653		
Diluted shares		93,058	90,624		91,941	85,632		
Diluted EPS	\$	(1.82)	\$	5.96	\$	(0.91)	\$	4.35

Potentially dilutive securities representing approximately 5.8 million and 2.0 million shares of common stock for the three months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively, and 5.7 million and 2.0 million shares of common stock for the six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively, were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for these periods because their effect would have been antidilutive.

Table of Contents

**13. Income Taxes**

As of both June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, AGRO had a standalone NOL of \$47.9 million, which is available to offset its future U.S. taxable income. The Company has \$27.2 million of this NOL available through 2017 and \$20.7 million available through 2023. AGRO's stand alone NOL is not permitted to offset the income of any other members of AGRO's consolidated group due to certain tax regulations. Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company is a member of the same consolidated tax group as AGRO. In Six Months 2009 AGMIC had a projected NOL of \$2.4 million which would be available through 2020.

Under applicable accounting rules, the Company is required to establish a valuation allowance for NOLs that are more likely than not to expire before being utilized. Management has assessed the likelihood of realization of all of its deferred tax assets. Based on this analysis, management believes it is more likely than not that \$20.0 million of AGRO's \$47.9 million NOL will not be utilized before it expires and has established a \$7.0 million valuation allowance related to the NOL deferred tax asset. In addition, for the three months ended June 30, 2009, management assessed that a valuation allowance of \$3.4 million is no longer necessary for AGMIC due to the decrease in loss reserves in the same period. Management believes that all other deferred income taxes are more-likely-than-not to be realized. The valuation allowance is subject to considerable judgment, is reviewed quarterly and will be adjusted to the extent actual taxable income differs from estimates of future taxable income that may be used to realize NOLs or capital losses.

***Liability For Tax Basis Step-Up Adjustment***

In connection with the IPO, the Company and ACE Financial Services Inc. (AFS), a subsidiary of ACE, entered into a tax allocation agreement, whereby the Company and AFS made a Section 338(h)(10) election that has the effect of increasing the tax basis of certain affected subsidiaries' tangible and intangible assets to fair value. Future tax benefits that the Company derives from the election will be payable to AFS when realized by the Company.

As a result of the election, the Company has adjusted its net deferred tax liability to reflect the new tax basis of the Company's affected assets. The additional basis is expected to result in increased future income tax deductions and, accordingly, may reduce income taxes otherwise payable by the Company. Any tax benefit realized by the Company will be paid to AFS. Such tax benefits will generally be calculated by comparing the Company's affected subsidiaries' actual taxes to the taxes that would have been owed by those subsidiaries had the increase in basis not occurred. After a 15 year period, to the extent there remains an unrealized tax benefit, the Company and AFS will negotiate a settlement of the unrealized benefit based on the expected realization at that time.

The Company initially recorded a \$49.0 million reduction of its existing deferred tax liability, based on an estimate of the ultimate resolution of the Section 338(h)(10) election. Under the tax allocation agreement, the Company estimated that, as of the IPO date, it was obligated to pay \$20.9 million to AFS and accordingly established this amount as a liability. The initial difference, which is attributable to the change in the tax basis of certain liabilities for which there is no associated step-up in the tax basis of its assets and no amounts due to AFS, resulted in an increase to additional paid-in capital of \$28.1 million. As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the liability for tax basis step-up adjustment, which is included in the Company's balance sheets in Other liabilities, were \$8.8 million and \$9.1 million, respectively. The Company has paid ACE and correspondingly reduced its liability by \$0.4 million and \$0.4 million in Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively.

*Tax Treatment of CDS*

The Company treats the guaranty it provides on CDS as insurance contracts for tax purposes and as such a taxable loss does not occur until the Company expects to make a loss payment to the buyer of credit protection based upon the occurrence of one or more specified credit events with respect to the contractually referenced obligation or entity. The Company holds its CDS to maturity, at which time any unrealized mark to market loss would revert to zero absent any credit related losses. As of June 30, 2009, the Company did not anticipate any significant credit related losses on its credit default swaps and, therefore, no resultant tax deductions.

The tax treatment of CDS is an unsettled area of the law. The uncertainty relates to the IRS's determination of the income or potential loss associated with CDS as either subject to capital gain (loss) or ordinary income (loss) treatment. In treating CDS as insurance contracts the Company treats both the receipt of premium and payment of losses as ordinary income and believes it is more likely than not that any CDS credit related losses will be treated as

Table of Contents

ordinary by the IRS. To the extent the IRS takes the view that the losses are capital losses in the future and the Company incurred actual losses associated with the CDS the Company would need sufficient taxable income of the same character within the carryback and carryforward period available under the tax law.

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 the deferred tax assets associated with CDS were \$192.1 million and \$116.5 million, respectively. The Company came to the conclusion that it is more likely than not that its deferred tax asset related to CDS will be fully realized after weighing all positive and negative evidence available as required under FAS 109. The evidence that was considered included the following:

Negative Evidence

- Although the Company believes that income or losses for these credit default swaps are properly characterized for tax purposes as ordinary, the federal tax treatment is an unsettled area of tax law as described above.
- Changes in the fair value of CDS have resulted in significant swings in the Company's net income in recent periods. Changes in the fair value of CDS in future periods could result in the U.S. consolidated tax group having a pre-tax loss under GAAP. Although not recognized for tax, this loss could result in a cumulative three year pre-tax loss, which is considered significant negative evidence for the recoverability of a deferred tax asset under FAS 109.
- For the three year period ended June 30, 2009 the US consolidated tax group had a pre-tax loss under GAAP of \$464.1 million.

Positive Evidence

- The mark-to-market loss on CDS is not considered a tax event, and therefore no taxable loss has occurred.
- After analysis of the current tax law on CDS the Company believes it is more likely than not that the CDS will be treated as ordinary income or loss for tax purposes.
- Assuming a hypothetical loss were triggered for the amount of deferred tax asset ( DTA ), there would be enough taxable income through carryback and future income to offset it as follows:
  - The amortization of the tax-basis unearned premium reserve of \$682.2 million as of June 30, 2009 as well as the collection of future installment premiums of contracts already written we believe will result in significant taxable income in the future.
  - The Company has the ability to carryback losses two years which would offset over \$22.8 million of losses as of June 30, 2009.
  - Although the Company has a significant tax exempt portfolio, this can be converted to taxable securities as permitted as a tax planning strategy under FAS 109.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

- The mark-to-market loss is reflective of market valuations and will change from quarter to quarter. It is not indicative of the Company's ability to enter new business. The Company writes and continues to write new business which will increase the amortization of unearned premium and investment portfolio resulting in expected taxable income in future periods.

After examining all of the available positive and negative evidence, the Company believes that no valuation allowance is necessary in connection with the deferred tax asset. The Company will continue to analyze the need for a valuation allowance on a quarter-to-quarter basis.

Table of Contents**14. Segment Reporting**

The Company has four principal business segments: (1) financial guaranty direct, which includes transactions whereby the Company provides an unconditional and irrevocable guaranty that indemnifies the holder of a financial obligation against non-payment of principal and interest when due, and could take the form of a credit derivative; (2) financial guaranty reinsurance, which includes agreements whereby the Company is a reinsurer and agrees to indemnify a primary insurance company against part or all of the loss which the latter may sustain under a policy it has issued; (3) mortgage guaranty, which includes mortgage guaranty insurance and reinsurance whereby the Company provides protection against the default of borrowers on mortgage loans; and (4) other, which includes lines of business in which the Company is no longer active.

The Company does not segregate assets and liabilities at a segment level since management reviews and controls these assets and liabilities on a consolidated basis. The Company allocates operating expenses to each segment based on a comprehensive cost study and is based on departmental time estimates and headcount.

Management uses underwriting gains and losses as the primary measure of each segment's financial performance. Underwriting gain is calculated as net earned premiums plus realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives, less the sum of loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries) including incurred losses on credit derivatives, profit commission expense, acquisition costs and other operating expenses that are directly related to the operations of the Company's insurance businesses. This measure excludes certain revenue and expense items, such as net investment income, realized investment gains and losses, unrealized losses on credit derivatives, fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities, other income, FSAH acquisition-related expenses, interest expense and other expenses, that are not directly related to the underwriting performance of the Company's insurance operations, but are included in net income.

The following tables summarize the components of underwriting gain (loss) for each reporting segment:

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2009									
	Financial Guaranty Direct		Financial Guaranty Reinsurance		Mortgage Guaranty		Other		Total	
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)									
Net earned premiums	\$	30.4	\$	47.4	\$	0.8	\$		\$	78.6
Realized gain and other settlements on credit derivatives		27.6		0.2						27.8
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		31.8		25.6		(19.4)				38.0
Incurred losses on credit derivatives		35.1		0.2						35.2
Total loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		66.9		25.8		(19.4)				73.2
Profit commission expense				1.8		0.3				2.1
Acquisition costs		3.6		12.8		0.1				16.5
Other operating expenses		15.9		6.2		0.6				22.6
Underwriting (loss) gain	\$	(28.4)	\$	1.0	\$	19.2	\$		\$	(8.2)





Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2008							
	Financial Guaranty Direct		Financial Guaranty Reinsurance		Mortgage Guaranty		Other	
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)							
Net earned premiums	\$	20.8	\$	29.6	\$	1.3	\$	51.7
Realized gain and other settlements on credit derivatives		30.9		0.6			0.4	31.8
Loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		28.2		11.3		0.1	(1.5)	38.1
Incurred losses on credit derivatives		5.6						5.6
Total loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		33.8		11.3		0.1	(1.5)	43.7
Profit commission expense				0.9		0.1		1.0
Acquisition costs		3.1		8.6		0.1		11.8
Other operating expenses		15.2		4.0		0.5		19.7
Underwriting (loss) gain	\$	(0.4)	\$	5.4	\$	0.5	\$	7.3

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009							
	Financial Guaranty Direct		Financial Guaranty Reinsurance		Mortgage Guaranty		Other	
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)							
Net earned premiums	\$	131.9	\$	93.6	\$	1.6	\$	227.1
Realized gain and other settlements on credit derivatives		47.6		0.8				48.4
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		43.5		62.4		11.8		117.8
Incurred losses on credit derivatives		27.7		(0.5)				27.2
Total loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		71.2		61.9		11.8		145.0
Profit commission expense				2.0		0.4		2.3
Acquisition costs		9.8		29.9		0.2		40.0
Other operating expenses		36.2		12.9		1.3		50.3
Underwriting (loss) gain	\$	62.3	\$	(12.3)	\$	(12.1)	\$	37.9

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2008							
	Financial Guaranty Direct		Financial Guaranty Reinsurance		Mortgage Guaranty		Other	
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)							
Net earned premiums	\$	38.1	\$	57.4	\$	3.1	\$	98.5
Realized gain and other settlements on credit derivatives		58.1		0.9			0.4	59.4
Loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		64.1		30.5		0.1	(1.5)	93.3
Incurred losses on credit derivatives		8.8						8.8
Total loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		72.9		30.5		0.1	(1.5)	102.1
Profit commission expense				2.0		0.2		2.2
Acquisition costs		6.1		17.4		0.2		23.7
Other operating expenses		36.5		10.4		1.4		48.3
Underwriting (loss) gain	\$	(19.3)	\$	(2.0)	\$	1.2	\$	(18.1)



Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

The following is a reconciliation of total underwriting gain (loss) to income (loss) before provision for income taxes for the periods ended:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)			
Total underwriting gain (loss)	\$ (8.2)	\$ 7.3	\$ 37.9	\$ (18.1)
Net investment income	43.3	40.2	86.9	76.8
Net realized investment gains (losses)	(4.9)	1.5	(22.0)	2.1
Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives, excluding incurred losses on credit derivatives	(218.9)	714.1	(200.1)	457.7
Fair value (loss) gain on committed capital securities	(60.6)	8.9	(40.9)	17.4
Other income	0.5	0.2	1.4	0.2
FSAH acquisition-related expense	(24.2)		(28.8)	
Interest expense	(6.5)	(5.8)	(12.3)	(11.6)
Other expenses	(1.9)	(1.7)	(3.3)	(2.5)
(Loss) income before provision for income taxes	\$ (281.3)	\$ 764.5	\$ (181.2)	\$ 521.7

The following table provides the lines of businesses from which each of the Company's segments derive their net earned premiums:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)			
<b>Financial guaranty direct:</b>				
Public finance	\$ 15.7	\$ 7.2	\$ 101.2	\$ 11.3
Structured finance	14.7	13.6	30.7	26.8
Total	30.4	20.8	131.9	38.1
<b>Financial guaranty reinsurance:</b>				
Public finance	36.9	17.5	71.7	36.1
Structured finance	10.5	12.1	21.9	21.3
Total	47.4	29.6	93.6	57.4
<b>Mortgage guaranty:</b>				
Mortgage guaranty	0.8	1.3	1.6	3.1
<b>Total net earned premiums</b>	<b>\$ 78.6</b>	<b>\$ 51.7</b>	<b>\$ 227.1</b>	<b>\$ 98.5</b>
<b>Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable</b>	<b>\$ 28.0</b>	<b>\$ 31.5</b>	<b>\$ 57.5</b>	<b>\$ 59.3</b>
<b>Total net earned premiums and credit derivative premiums received and receivable</b>	<b>\$ 106.6</b>	<b>\$ 83.2</b>	<b>\$ 284.5</b>	<b>\$ 157.8</b>

The other segment had an underwriting gain of \$0 million during both Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009. The other segment had an underwriting gain of \$1.9 million during both Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008, consisting of \$0.4 million net credit derivative loss recoveries and \$1.5 million recoveries.



Table of Contents**15. Subsidiary Information**

The following tables present the unaudited condensed consolidated financial information for Assured Guaranty Ltd., Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc., of which AGC is a subsidiary and other subsidiaries of Assured Guaranty Ltd. as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 and for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

AS OF JUNE 30, 2009

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)	Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.	AG Re and Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)
<b>Assets</b>					
Total investments and cash	\$ 82,616	\$ 2,404,513	\$ 2,105,605	\$	\$ 4,592,734
Investment in subsidiaries	2,257,981			(2,257,981)	
Deferred acquisition costs		56,885	317,202		374,087
Reinsurance recoverable		45,690	1,055	(42,212)	4,533
Goodwill		85,417			85,417
Credit derivative assets		112,640	33,710		146,350
Premiums receivable		385,938	492,590	(125,636)	752,892
Deferred tax asset		196,693	12,416		209,109
Other	20,314	631,741	124,511	(445,949)	330,617
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,360,911</b>	<b>\$ 3,919,517</b>	<b>\$ 3,087,089</b>	<b>\$ (2,871,778)</b>	<b>\$ 6,495,739</b>
<b>Liabilities and shareholders equity</b>					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Unearned premium reserves	\$	\$ 1,308,643	\$ 1,288,413	\$ (374,339)	\$ 2,222,717
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses		146,073	89,826	(35,612)	200,287
Profit commissions payable		4,749	5,471		10,220
Credit derivative liabilities		714,516	243,236		957,752
Long-term debt		516,974			516,974
Other	5,992	264,420	166,304	(203,846)	232,870
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>5,992</b>	<b>2,955,375</b>	<b>1,793,250</b>	<b>(613,797)</b>	<b>4,140,820</b>
<b>Total shareholders equity</b>	<b>2,354,919</b>	<b>964,142</b>	<b>1,293,839</b>	<b>(2,257,981)</b>	<b>2,354,919</b>
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders equity</b>	<b>\$ 2,360,911</b>	<b>\$ 3,919,517</b>	<b>\$ 3,087,089</b>	<b>\$ (2,871,778)</b>	<b>\$ 6,495,739</b>



Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)	Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.	AG Re and Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)
<b>Assets</b>					
Total investments and cash	\$ 188	\$ 1,651,761	\$ 1,991,690		\$ 3,643,639
Investment in subsidiaries	1,901,108			(1,901,108)	
Deferred acquisition costs		78,987	209,629		288,616
Reinsurance recoverable		22,014	3,474	(18,960)	6,528
Goodwill		85,417			85,417
Credit derivative assets		125,082	21,877		146,959
Premiums receivable		6,659	23,559	(14,475)	15,743
Deferred tax asset		109,565	19,553		129,118
Other	29,427	383,272	49,502	(222,514)	239,687
Total assets	\$ 1,930,723	\$ 2,462,757	\$ 2,319,284	\$ (2,157,057)	\$ 4,555,707
<b>Liabilities and shareholders equity</b>					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Unearned premium reserves	\$	\$ 707,957	\$ 713,948	\$ (188,191)	\$ 1,233,714
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses		133,710	90,752	(27,664)	196,798
Profit commissions payable		3,971	4,613		8,584
Credit derivative liabilities		481,253	252,513		733,766
Long-term debt		347,210			347,210
Other	4,501	82,024	62,982	(40,094)	109,413
Total liabilities	4,501	1,756,125	1,124,808	(255,949)	2,629,485
Total shareholders equity	1,926,222	706,632	1,194,476	(1,901,108)	1,926,222
Total liabilities and shareholders equity	\$ 1,930,723	\$ 2,462,757	\$ 2,319,284	\$ (2,157,057)	\$ 4,555,707

Table of Contents

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)	Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.	AG Re and Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments (1)	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)
<b>Revenues</b>					
Net earned premiums	\$	\$ 26,666	\$ 51,968	\$	\$ 78,634
Net investment income	1	19,737	23,562		43,300
Net realized investment gains (losses)		5,356	(10,244)		(4,888)
Change in fair value of credit derivatives					
Realized gain and other settlements on credit derivatives		23,385	4,410	21	27,816
Unrealized losses on credit derivatives		(225,329)	(28,934)	(21)	(254,284)
Net change in fair value of credit derivatives		(201,944)	(24,524)		(226,468)
Equity in earnings of subsidiaries	(166,626)			166,626	
Other income(2)		(59,848)	11	(241)	(60,078)
Total revenues	(166,625)	(210,033)	40,773	166,385	(169,500)
<b>Expenses</b>					
Loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		46,427	(8,397)		38,030
Acquisition costs and other operating expenses	4,063	17,752	19,398		41,213
Other(3)	(684)	32,815	446		32,577
Total expenses	3,379	96,994	11,447		111,820
(Loss) income before (benefit) provision for income taxes	(170,004)	(307,027)	29,326	166,385	(281,320)
Total (benefit) provision for income taxes		(113,303)	1,987		(111,316)
Net (loss) income	\$ (170,004)	\$ (193,724)	\$ 27,339	\$ 166,385	\$ (170,004)

(1) Due to the accounting for subsidiaries under common control, net income in the consolidating adjustment column does not equal parent company equity in earnings of subsidiaries, due to recognition of income by Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. for dividends received from Assured Guaranty Ltd.

(2) Includes fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities and other income.

(3) Includes FSAH acquisition-related expenses, interest expense and other expenses.





Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)	Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.	AG Re and Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments (1)	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)
<b>Revenues</b>					
Net earned premiums	\$	\$ 19,021	\$ 32,664	\$	\$ 51,685
Net investment income	514	17,557	22,164	(3)	40,232
Net realized investment gains (losses)		1,557	(112)	8	1,453
Change in fair value of credit derivatives					
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives		25,682	6,111		31,793
Unrealized gains on credit derivatives		610,551	97,951		708,502
Net change in fair value of credit derivatives		636,233	104,062		740,295
Equity in earnings of subsidiaries	548,017			(548,017)	
Other income(2)		9,290		(241)	9,049
Total revenues	548,531	683,658	158,778	(548,253)	842,714
<b>Expenses</b>					
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		23,495	14,630		38,125
Acquisition costs and other operating expenses	3,315	16,556	12,641		32,512
Other		7,535			7,535
Total expenses	3,315	47,586	27,271		78,172
Income before provision for income taxes	545,216	636,072	131,507	(548,253)	764,542
Total provision for income taxes		218,463	860	3	219,326
Net income	\$ 545,216	\$ 417,609	\$ 130,647	\$ (548,256)	\$ 545,216

(1) Due to the accounting for subsidiaries under common control, net income in the consolidating adjustment column does not equal parent company equity in earnings of subsidiaries, due to 1) recognition of income by Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. for dividends received from Assured Guaranty Ltd. and 2) the residual effects of the FSA backbook transaction that occurred in 2005.

(2) Includes fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities and other income.

Table of Contents

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)	Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.	AG Re and Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments (1)	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)
<b>Revenues</b>					
Net earned premiums	\$	\$ 94,391	\$ 132,689	\$	\$ 227,080
Net investment income	2	39,050	47,929	(80)	86,901
Net realized investment gains (losses)		5,594	(27,592)		(21,998)
Change in fair value of credit derivatives					
Realized gain and other settlements on credit derivatives		47,748	647		48,395
Unrealized losses on credit derivatives		(248,476)	21,174		(227,302)
Net change in fair value of credit derivatives		(200,728)	21,821		(178,907)
Equity in earnings of subsidiaries	(69,900)			69,900	
Other income(2)		(39,039)	11	(482)	(39,510)
Total revenues	(69,898)	(100,732)	174,858	69,338	73,566
<b>Expenses</b>					
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		67,809	49,975		117,784
Acquisition costs and other operating expenses	10,680	33,990	47,916		92,586
Other(3)	3,937	40,036	446		44,419
Total expenses	14,617	141,835	98,337		254,789
(Loss) income before (benefit) provision for income taxes	(84,515)	(242,567)	76,521	69,338	(181,223)
Total (benefit) provision for income taxes		(94,522)	(2,186)		(96,708)
Net (loss) income	\$ (84,515)	\$ (148,045)	\$ 78,707	\$ 69,338	\$ (84,515)

(1) Due to the accounting for subsidiaries under common control, net income in the consolidating adjustment column does not equal parent company equity in earnings of subsidiaries, due to 1) recognition of income by Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. for dividends received from Assured Guaranty Ltd. and 2) the residual effects of the FSA backbook transaction that occurred in 2005.

(2) Includes fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities and other income.

(3) Includes FSAH acquisition-related expenses, interest expense and other expenses.



Table of Contents

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)	Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.	AG Re and Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments (1)	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)
<b>Revenues</b>					
Net earned premiums	\$	\$ 35,055	\$ 63,463	\$	\$ 98,518
Net investment income	521	33,807	42,477	1	76,806
Net realized investment gains (losses)		2,224	(152)	8	2,080
Change in fair value of credit derivatives					
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives		47,563	11,847		59,410
Unrealized gains on credit derivatives		394,164	54,717		448,881
Net change in fair value of credit derivatives		441,727	66,564		508,291
Equity in earnings of subsidiaries	387,339			(387,339)	
Other income(2)		18,067		(482)	17,585
Total revenues	387,860	530,880	172,352	(387,812)	703,280
<b>Expenses</b>					
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		47,020	46,243		93,263
Acquisition costs and other operating expenses	11,853	36,338	26,022		74,213
Other		14,091			14,091
Total expenses	11,853	97,449	72,265		181,567
Income before provision for income taxes	376,007	433,431	100,087	(387,812)	521,713
Total provision for income taxes		144,123	1,580	3	145,706
Net income	\$ 376,007	\$ 289,308	\$ 98,507	\$ (387,815)	\$ 376,007

(1) Due to the accounting for subsidiaries under common control, net income in the consolidating adjustment column does not equal parent company equity in earnings of subsidiaries, due to 1) recognition of income by Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. for dividends received from Assured Guaranty Ltd. and 2) the residual effects of the FSA backbook transaction that occurred in 2005.

(2) Includes fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities and other income.



Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)		Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.		AG Re and Other Subsidiaries		Consolidating Adjustments		Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)	
Dividends received	\$	30,276	\$	482	\$		\$	(30,758)	\$	
Other operating activities		(5,183)		166,731		41,232				202,780
<b>Net cash flows provided by (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>25,093</b>		<b>167,213</b>		<b>41,232</b>		<b>(30,758)</b>		<b>202,780</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>										
Fixed maturity securities:										
Purchases				(543,322)		(284,540)				(827,862)
Sales				387,149		317,855				705,004
Maturities						5,500				5,500
Purchases of short-term investments, net		(82,428)		(561,534)		(49,675)				(693,637)
Capital contribution to subsidiary		(378,672)						378,672		
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>		<b>(461,100)</b>		<b>(717,707)</b>		<b>(10,860)</b>		<b>378,672</b>		<b>(810,995)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>										
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock and equity units		449,142		167,325						616,467
Capital contribution from parent				378,672				(378,672)		
Dividends paid		(8,681)				(30,276)		30,758		(8,199)
Repurchases of common stock		(3,676)								(3,676)
Share activity under option and incentive plans		(778)								(778)
<b>Net cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>436,007</b>		<b>545,997</b>		<b>(30,276)</b>		<b>(347,914)</b>		<b>603,814</b>
Effect of exchange rate changes				467		136				603
(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents				(4,030)		232				(3,798)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period				10,226		2,079				12,305
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	\$		\$	<b>6,196</b>	\$	<b>2,311</b>	\$		\$	<b>8,507</b>

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

(in thousands of U. S. dollars)

	Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Parent Company)		Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc.		AG Re and Other Subsidiaries		Consolidating Adjustments		Assured Guaranty Ltd. (Consolidated)	
Dividends received	\$	6,000	\$	482	\$		\$	(6,482)	\$	
Other operating activities		7,644		262,246		61,472				331,362
<b>Net cash flows provided by (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>13,644</b>		<b>262,728</b>		<b>61,472</b>		<b>(6,482)</b>		<b>331,362</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>										
Fixed maturity securities:										
Purchases				(309,615)		(530,840)				(840,455)
Sales				124,897		127,606				252,503
Maturities						3,350				3,350
(Purchases) sales of short-term investments, net		(538)		(175,701)		194,046				17,807
Capital contribution to subsidiary		(250,000)						250,000		
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>		<b>(250,538)</b>		<b>(360,419)</b>		<b>(205,838)</b>		<b>250,000</b>		<b>(566,795)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>										
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock		248,978								248,978
Capital contribution from parent				100,000		150,000		(250,000)		
Dividends paid		(8,251)				(6,000)		6,482		(7,769)
Share activity under option and incentive plans		(3,833)								(3,833)
Tax benefit from stock options exercised				10						10
<b>Net cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>236,894</b>		<b>100,010</b>		<b>144,000</b>		<b>(243,518)</b>		<b>237,386</b>
Effect of exchange rate changes				38		85				123
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents				2,357		(281)				2,076
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period				5,688		2,360				8,048
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	\$		\$	<b>8,045</b>	\$	<b>2,079</b>	\$		\$	<b>10,124</b>



Table of Contents

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

**Forward-Looking Statements**

This Form 10-Q contains information that includes or is based upon forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements give Assured Guaranty Ltd. (hereafter Assured Guaranty, we, our or the Company) expectations or forecasts of future events. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts and relate to future operating or financial performance.

Any or all of Assured Guaranty's forward-looking statements herein may turn out to be wrong and are based on current expectations and the current economic environment. Assured Guaranty's actual results may vary materially. Among factors that could cause actual results to differ materially are: (1) downgrades of the financial strength ratings assigned by the major rating agencies to any of our insurance subsidiaries at any time, which has occurred in the past; (2) downgrades of the transactions we insure; (3) our inability to execute our business strategy; (4) reduction in the amount of reinsurance facultative cessions or portfolio opportunities available to us; (5) contract cancellations; (6) developments in the world's financial and capital markets that adversely affect our loss experience, the demand for our products, our access to capital, our unrealized (losses) gains on derivative financial instruments or our investment returns; (7) more severe or frequent losses associated with our insurance products, or changes in our assumptions used to estimate loss reserves and unrealized (losses) gains on derivative financial instruments; (8) changes in regulation or tax laws applicable to us, our subsidiaries or customers; (9) governmental actions; (10) natural or man-made catastrophes; (11) dependence on customers; (12) decreased demand for our insurance or reinsurance products or increased competition in our markets; (13) loss of key personnel; (14) technological developments; (15) the effects of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures; (16) changes in accounting policies or practices; (17) changes in the credit markets, segments thereof or general economic conditions, including the overall level of activity in the economy or particular sectors, interest rates, credit spreads and other factors; (18) other risks and uncertainties that have not been identified at this time; and (19) management's response to these factors. Assured Guaranty is not obligated to publicly correct or update any forward-looking statement if we later become aware that it is not likely to be achieved, except as required by law. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures we make on related subjects in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Website Information**

We routinely post important information for investors on our website ([www.assuredguaranty.com](http://www.assuredguaranty.com)), under the Investor Information tab. We use this website as a means of disclosing material, non-public information and for complying with our disclosure obligations under SEC Regulation FD (Fair Disclosure). Accordingly, investors should monitor the Investor Information portion of our website, in addition to following our press releases, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, public conference calls, presentations and webcasts. The information contained on, or that may be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference into, and is not a part of, this report.

**Executive Summary**

Assured Guaranty Ltd. is a Bermuda based holding company which provides, through its operating subsidiaries, credit enhancement products to the public finance, structured finance and mortgage markets. We apply our credit expertise, risk management skills and capital markets

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

experience to develop insurance, reinsurance and credit derivative products that meet the credit enhancement needs of our customers. We market our products directly and through financial institutions. We serve the U.S. and international markets.

On July 1, 2009 the Company completed the acquisition of Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. ( FSAH ) pursuant to the purchase agreement, dated as of November 14, 2008 (as amended, the Purchase Agreement ), between the Company, Dexia Holdings, Inc. ( Dexia Holdings ) and Dexia Crédit Local S.A. ( DCL ). FSAH is the parent of financial guaranty insurance company Financial Security Assurance Inc., a New York stock insurance company ( FSA ). The total purchase price paid by the Company was approximately \$546

Table of Contents

million in cash and approximately 22.3 million Assured common shares. The acquisition excluded FSAH's financial products business, which included FSAH's former guaranteed investment contract business and medium-term note and leveraged tax lease businesses, as described below under Liquidity and Capital Resources.

The Company entered into an Amendment to Investment Agreement dated as of November 13, 2008 with WLR Recovery Fund IV, LP, a Delaware limited partnership (the Investor), which amended the Investment Agreement (the Investment Agreement) dated as of February 28, 2008 between the Company and the Investor, which provided a back up funding commitment to finance the Acquisition. Pursuant to pre-emptive rights set forth in the Investment Agreement, the Investor and affiliated funds, which are affiliated with Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., who is one of the Company's directors, purchased 3,850,000 common shares of the Company in the Company's June 2009 public common share offering at \$11.00 per common share, the public offering price in the public offering.

These financial statements include the effects of the Company's common share and equity units offering that took place on June 24, 2009 but do not include the effects of the acquisition of FSAH, which occurred effective July 1, 2009. The Company's financial statements as of September 30, 2009 will include the effects of the FSAH acquisition, including three months of operating results attributable to FSAH entities.

The Company believes the acquisition of FSAH will enhance its financial strength and competitive position in the financial guaranty market. The Company will now write direct financial guaranty business through its two primary operating subsidiaries, Assured Guaranty Corp. (AGC) and FSA. Management expects these dual platforms will allow the Company to capitalize on the well established franchise of each company and allow it to provide investors with increased capacity and greater risk diversification. The Company will also operate through a common infrastructure and risk management framework. The pro forma effects of the acquisition are described in the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 8, 2009 (the July 8, 2009 8-K).

Our insurance company subsidiaries have been assigned the following insurance financial strength ratings as of the date of the filing. These ratings are subject to continuous review:

	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
Assured Guaranty Corp.	Aa2(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty Re Ltd.( AG Re )	Aa3(Excellent)	AA(Very Strong)	AA-(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty Re Overseas Ltd. ( AGRO )	Aa3(Excellent)	AA(Very Strong)	AA-(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company	Aa3(Excellent)	AA(Very Strong)	AA-(Very Strong)
Assured Guaranty (UK) Ltd. ( AG(UK) )	Aa2(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA(Very Strong)
Financial Security Assurance, Inc.	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)
FSA Insurance Company	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)
Financial Security Assurance International Ltd.	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)
Financial Security Assurance (U.K.) Ltd	Aa3(Excellent)	AAA(Extremely Strong)	AA+(Very Strong)

Aaa (Exceptional) is the highest ranking, which Assured Guaranty Corp. (AGC) and Assured Guaranty (UK) Ltd. achieved in July 2007, and Aa2 (Excellent) is the third highest ranking of 21 ratings categories used by Moody's Investors Service (Moody's). A AAA (Extremely Strong) rating is the highest ranking and AA (Very Strong) is the third highest ranking of the 21 ratings categories used by Standard & Poor's Inc. (S&P).

AAA (Extremely Strong) is the highest ranking and AA (Very Strong) is the third highest ranking of the 24 ratings categories used by Fitch Ratings (Fitch). An insurance financial strength rating is an opinion with respect to an insurer's ability to pay under its insurance policies and contracts in accordance with their terms. The opinion is not specific to any particular policy or contract. Insurance financial strength ratings do not refer to an insurer's ability to meet non insurance obligations and are not a recommendation to purchase or discontinue any policy or contract.

issued by an insurer or to buy, hold, or sell any security issued by an insurer, including our common shares.

Table of Contents

On May 4, 2009, Fitch Inc. ( Fitch ) downgraded the debt and insurer financial strength ratings of Assured Guaranty Ltd. and its subsidiaries, as applicable, based on Fitch's concerns that Assured Guaranty Ltd. continued to face negative credit migration within the combined insured portfolio, primarily related to structured finance, outpacing its ability to build capital resources through earnings retention. It cited mortgage-related exposures as a particular area of concern, as well as exposures to trust preferred securities collateralized debt obligations ( TruPs CDOs ) and other structured finance transactions which have been subject to ratings downgrades. Fitch downgraded the insurer financial strength ratings of AGC and AG(UK) to AA from AAA , downgraded the insurer financial strength ratings of AG Re, AGRO and Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company to AA- from AA and the debt ratings of Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. All such ratings were placed on Rating Watch Evolving. On May 11, 2009, Fitch downgraded the insurer financial strength relating of FSA and certain other affiliates to AA+ from AAA and the long term rating of FSAH to A+ from AA . All such ratings remain on Rating Watch Negative. Fitch cited as the primary reason for this action Fitch's view of the residual risks retained by FSA following the transfer of its financial products business to Dexia S.A., which transfer is described in greater detail below. On August 10, 2009, Fitch placed the debt and insurer financial strength ratings of the Company and its subsidiaries on Rating Watch Negative, a change from Rating Watch Evolving. It confirmed that the ratings of FSAH and its subsidiaries remained on Rating Watch Negative. Fitch reported that it is currently in the process of analyzing the insured portfolios and overall capital adequacy of AGC, AG Re and FSA, and that the Rating Watch Negative reflects concerns with respect to further credit deterioration in mortgage-related exposures, which could negatively impact the capital positions of the companies. It noted that credit deterioration in other areas of the insured portfolios, including TruPS CDOs and public finance exposures, could also place additional pressure on claims paying resources, as could ratings-based triggers which could force termination or collateralization of insured exposures at AGC or the claw-back of certain businesses underwritten by AG Re. Fitch notes that it expects to complete its rating review over the next four to six weeks. There is no assurance that Fitch will not take further action on our ratings.

On May 20, 2009, Moody's Investors Service ( Moody's ) placed under review for possible downgrade the Aa2 insurance financial strength rating of AGC, as well as the ratings of other entities within the Assured group. In its public announcement of the rating action, Moody's stated that this action reflects its view that despite recent improvements in the Company's market position, the expected performance of its insured portfolio particularly the mortgage-related risks has substantially worsened. At the same time, Moody's also placed the Aa3 insurance financial strength ratings of FSA and its affiliated insurance operating companies on review for possible downgrade. In its public announcement of the rating action, Moody's cited its growing concerns about FSA's business and financial profile as a result of further deterioration in FSA's U.S. mortgage portfolio and the related adverse effect on its capital adequacy, profitability, and market traction. In both press releases, Moody's noted that it has taken a more negative view of mortgage-related exposures and Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s pooled corporate exposures in light of worse-than-expected performance trends, and recognized the continued susceptibility of the insured portfolio to the weak economic environment. Moody's also commented that the deterioration in the insured portfolios could have negative implications for the companies' franchise values, profitability and financial flexibility given the likely sensitivity of those business attributes to its capital position. Moody's also noted that the market dislocation caused by the declining financial strength of financial guaranty insurers may alter the competitive dynamics of the industry by encouraging the entry of new participants or the growth of alternative forms of execution. There can be no assurance as to the outcome of Moody's review. On July 24, 2009, Moody's announced that it expects to conclude its ratings review of the companies by mid-August 2009.

On July 1, 2009, Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ( S&P ) published a Research Update in which it affirmed its AAA counterparty credit and financial strength ratings on AGC and FSA. At the same time, S&P revised its outlook on AGC and AG(UK) to negative from stable and continued its negative outlook on FSA. S&P cited as a rationale for its actions the large single risk concentration exposure that Assured Guaranty Ltd. and FSA retain to Belgium and France prior to the posting of collateral by Dexia in October 2011, all in connection with the acquisition of FSAH by a subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Ltd., which acquisition is described in greater detail below. In addition, the outlook also reflects S&P's view that the change in the competitive dynamics of the industry with the potential entrance of new competitors, alternative forms of credit enhancement and limited insurance penetration in the U.S. public finance market could hurt the

companies business prospects. There can be no assurance that S&P will not take further action on our ratings.

Table of Contents

If the ratings of any of our insurance subsidiaries were reduced below current levels, we expect it would have an adverse effect on our subsidiary's competitive position and its prospects for future business opportunities. A downgrade may also reduce the value of the reinsurance we offer, which may no longer be of sufficient economic value for our customers to continue to cede to our subsidiaries at economically viable rates.

With respect to a significant portion of our in-force financial guaranty reinsurance business, in the event that AG Re were downgraded from Aa3 to A1, subject to the terms of each reinsurance agreement, the ceding company may have the right to recapture business ceded to AG Re and assets representing substantially all of the statutory unearned premium and loss reserves (if any) associated with that business. As of June 30, 2009, the statutory unearned premium, which represents deferred revenue to the Company, subject to recapture is approximately \$162 million. If this entire amount was recaptured, it would result in a corresponding one-time reduction to net income of approximately \$11 million. With respect to one of AG Re's ceding companies, the right to recapture business can only be exercised if AG Re were downgraded to the A category by more than one rating agency, or below A2 or A by any one rating agency. As of June 30, 2009, the statutory unearned premium subject to recapture by this ceding company is approximately \$334 million. If this entire amount were recaptured, it would result in a corresponding one-time reduction to net income of approximately \$25 million. Alternatively, the ceding company can increase the commissions it charges AG Re for cessions. Any such increase may be retroactive to the date of the cession. As of June 30, 2009, the potential increase in ceding commissions would result in a one-time reduction to net income of approximately \$38 million. The effect on net income under these scenarios is exclusive of any capital gains or losses that may be realized.

Additionally, if the ratings of our insurance subsidiaries were reduced below current levels, the Company could be required to make a termination payment on certain of its credit derivative contracts as determined under the relevant documentation. Under certain documents, the Company may have the right to cure the termination event by posting collateral, assigning its rights and obligations in respect of the transactions to a third party or seeking a third party guaranty of the obligations of the Company. As of the date of this filing, if AGC's ratings are downgraded to levels between BBB or Baa2 and BB+ or Ba1, certain CDS counterparties could terminate certain CDS contracts covering approximately \$7.7 billion par insured, compared to \$16.6 billion as of March 31, 2009. As of the date of this filing, if AGRO's ratings are downgraded to BBB- or Baa3, certain CDS counterparties could terminate certain CDS contracts covering approximately \$3.2 million par insured. As of the date of this filing, AG Re has no exposure subject to termination based on its rating. Given current market conditions, the Company does not believe that it can accurately estimate the termination payments it could be required to make if, as a result of any such downgrade, a CDS counterparty terminated its CDS contracts with the Company. These payments could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity and financial condition.

During Second Quarter 2009, the Company entered into agreements with two CDS counterparties which previously had the right to terminate certain CDS contracts in the event that AGC was downgraded to below AA- or Aa3, in one case, or below A- or A3, in the other case. These agreements eliminated the ability of those CDS counterparties to receive a termination payment. In return, the Company agreed to post \$325 million in collateral to secure its potential payment obligations under those CDS contracts, which cover approximately \$18.6 billion of par insured. The collateral posting requirement would increase to \$375 million if AGC were downgraded to below AA-

Table of Contents

or A2. The posting of this collateral has no impact on the Company's net income or shareholders' equity under U.S. GAAP nor does it impact AGC's statutory surplus or net income. In addition, in July 2009, we terminated an ISDA master agreement with Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (LBIE) due to its default under the agreement. The Company is in discussions with several other CDS counterparties to further reduce its exposure to possible termination payments. The Company can give no assurance that any agreement will be reached with any such CDS counterparty.

In addition to the collateral posting described in the previous paragraph, under a limited number of other CDS contracts, the Company may be required to post eligible securities as collateral—generally cash or U.S. government or agency securities. This requirement is based generally on a mark-to-market valuation in excess of contractual thresholds which decline if the Company's ratings decline. As of the date of this filing, the Company is posting approximately \$160.2 million of collateral in respect of approximately \$1.5 billion of par insured. Any amounts required to be posted as collateral in the future will depend on changes in the market values of these transactions. The amount that the Company could be required to post upon any downgrade cannot be quantified at this time, but could be substantial and could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity. If AGC were downgraded below A- or A3, certain of the contractual thresholds would be reduced or eliminated and the amount of par that could be subject to collateral posting requirements would be approximately \$1.8 billion. If AG Re or AGRO were downgraded below BBB or Baa2, certain of the contractual thresholds would be reduced or eliminated and the amount of par that could be subject to collateral posting requirements would be \$11.5 million in the case of AG Re and \$290.7 million in the case of AGRO.

On April 8, 2008, investment funds each with WL Ross Group, L.P. (WL Ross) as the managing member of its general partner or otherwise affiliated with WL Ross purchased 10,651,896 shares of the Company's common equity at a price of \$23.47 per share, resulting in proceeds to the Company of \$250.0 million. The Company contributed \$150.0 million of these proceeds to its subsidiary, Assured Guaranty Re Ltd. In addition, the Company contributed \$100.0 million of these proceeds to its subsidiary, Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. (AGUS), which in turn contributed the same amount to its subsidiary, AGC. In addition, Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., managing member of the general partner of WL Ross has been elected as a Director of the Company with a term expiring at the Company's 2012 annual general meeting of shareholders.

On June 24, 2009, the Company completed the sale of 44,275,000 of its common shares (including 5,775,000 common shares allocable to the underwriters) at a price of \$11.00 per share. On June 24, 2009, concurrently with the common share offering Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. (AGUS), a subsidiary of the Company, sold 3,450,000 equity units (including 450,000 equity units allocable to the underwriters) at an initial stated amount of \$50 per unit. The equity units initially consist of a forward purchase contract and a 5% undivided beneficial ownership interest in \$1,000 principal amount 8.50% senior notes due 2014 issued by AGUS (8.50% Senior Notes). Under the purchase contract, holders are required to purchase the Company's common shares no later than June 1, 2012. The threshold appreciation price of the equity units is \$12.93, which represents a premium of 17.5% over the public offering price in the common share offering. The 8.50% Senior Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Assured Guaranty Ltd. The net proceeds after underwriting expenses and offering costs for these two offerings totaled approximately \$616.5 million. Of that amount, the net proceeds from equity offering were \$170.8 million, which was allocated between \$168.0 million recognized as long-term debt and \$2.8 million of the purchase contract recognized in additional paid-in-capital in shareholders equity in the consolidated balance sheets.

On July 1, 2009 the Company completed its acquisition of FSAH pursuant to the Purchase Agreement. The Company acquired 99.9264% of the common stock of FSAH pursuant to the Purchase Agreement and the remaining shares from one of FSAH's executives as described below.

The total purchase price paid by the Company was approximately \$546 million in cash and approximately 22.3 million of the Company's common shares. The Company issued approximately 21.8 million common shares to Dexia. Dexia Holdings has agreed that the voting rights with respect to all Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares issued pursuant to the Purchase Agreement will constitute less than 9.5% of the voting power of all issued and outstanding Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares. Dexia Holdings has also agreed to a standstill arrangement until the date on which it and its affiliates beneficially own Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s common shares in an amount less than 10% of the



outstanding Assured Guaranty Ltd. s common shares. In addition, Dexia Holdings

Table of Contents

has agreed that, until November 14, 2009, the first anniversary of the date of the Purchase Agreement, it will not transfer any of the Assured Guaranty Ltd. s common shares issued pursuant to the Purchase Agreement without the consent of the Company other than to one or more of its affiliates that agrees to abide by the voting and other restrictions described above. The acquisition excluded FSAH s financial products business.

The Company acquired 24,611 shares of common stock of FSAH from Robert Cochran, the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of FSAH, for 305,017 common shares of the Company. The Company also exchanged the deemed investment of Sean McCarthy, who became the President and Chief Operating Officer of Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. following the closing of the acquisition, in 22,306 share units of FSAH under a FSAH nonqualified deferred compensation plan for a deemed investment in 130,000 share units of the Company. The Company share units will ultimately be distributed to Mr. McCarthy as a corresponding number of Assured Guaranty Ltd. s common shares at the time he receives a distribution from such nonqualified deferred compensation plan.

In conjunction with the Purchase Agreement, the Company entered into an Amendment to Investment Agreement (the Amendment ) dated as of November 13, 2008 with WLR Funds, which amended the Investment Agreement (the Investment Agreement ) dated as of February 28, 2008 between the Company and WLR Funds, which provided a back up funding commitment to finance the Acquisition. Pursuant to pre-emptive rights set forth in the Investment Agreement, WLR Funds, which are affiliated with Wilbur Ross, who is one of the Company s directors, purchased 3,850,000 common shares of the Company in the Company s June 2009 public common share offering at \$11.00 per common share, the public offering price in the public offering.

The Company has agreed with Dexia Holdings to operate the business of FSA in accordance with the key parameters described below. These restrictions will limit the Company s operating and financial flexibility.

For three years after the closing of the acquisition:

- Unless FSA is rated below A1 by Moody s and AA- by S&P, it will only write municipal bond and infrastructure bond insurance business. An exception applies in connection with the recapture of business ceded by FSA to a third party reinsurer under certain circumstances.
- FSA will continue to be domiciled in New York and be treated as a monoline bond insurer for regulatory purposes.
- FSA will not take any of the following actions unless it receives prior rating agency confirmation that such action would not cause any rating currently assigned to FSA to be downgraded immediately following such action:
  - merger;
  - issuance of debt or other borrowing exceeding \$250 million;
  - issuance of equity or other capital instruments exceeding \$250 million;
  - entry into new reinsurance arrangements involving more than 10% of the portfolio as measured by either unearned premium reserves or net par outstanding; or

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

- any waiver, amendment or modification of any agreement relating to capital or liquidity support of FSA exceeding \$250 million.
- FSA will not repurchase, redeem or pay any dividends in relation to any class of equity interests, including without limitation, interest payments in relation to its surplus notes unless
  - (A) at such time FSA is rated at least AA- by S&P, AA- by Fitch and Aa3 by Moody's (if such rating agencies still rate financial guaranty insurers generally) and (B) the aggregate amount of such dividends in any year does not exceed 125% of FSA's debt service for that year; or
  - FSA receives prior rating agency confirmation that such action would not cause any rating currently assigned to FSA to be downgraded immediately following such action.
- FSA will not (i) enter into commutation or novation agreements with respect to its insured public finance portfolio involving a payment by FSA exceeding \$250 million or (ii) enter into any cut-through reinsurance, pledge of collateral security or similar arrangement involving a payment by FSA whereby the benefits of reinsurance purchased by FSA or of other assets of FSA would be available on a preferred or priority basis to a particular class or subset of policyholders of FSA relative to the position of Dexia as policyholder upon the default or insolvency of FSA (whether or not with the consent of any relevant insurance regulatory authority). This provision does not limit: (a) collateral arrangements between FSA and its subsidiaries in support of intercompany reinsurance obligations; or (b) statutory deposits or other collateral arrangements required by law in connection with the conduct of business in any jurisdiction; or

Table of Contents

(c) pledges of recoveries or other amounts to secure repayment of amounts borrowed under FSA's soft capital facilities or the \$1 billion strip liquidity facility with DCL.

Furthermore, until the date on which (i) a credit rating has been assigned by S&P, Moody's and Fitch to the Guaranteed Investment Contract (GIC) issuers (and/or the liabilities of the GIC issuers under the relevant GICs have been separately rated by S&P, Moody's and Fitch) which is independent of the financial strength rating of FSA and (ii) the principal amount of GICs in relation to which a downgrade of FSA may result in a requirement to post collateral or terminate such GIC notwithstanding the existence of a separate rating referred to in (i) above of at least AA or higher is below \$1.0 billion (the FSA De-Linkage Date):

- FSA will restrict its liquidity exposure such that no GIC contracts or similar liabilities insured by FSA after the closing shall have terms that require acceleration, termination or prepayment based on a downgrade or withdrawal of any rating assigned to FSA's financial strength, a downgrade of the issuer or obligor under the agreement, a downgrade of any third party.
- FSA will continue to be rated by each of Moody's, S&P and Fitch, if such rating agencies still rate financial guaranty insurers generally.

Notwithstanding the above, all such restrictions will terminate on any date after the FSA De-Linkage Date that the aggregate principal amount or notional amount of exposure of Dexia and any of its affiliates (excluding the exposures relating to the FP business) to any transactions insured by FSA or any of its affiliates prior to November 14, 2008 is less than \$1 billion. Breach of any of these restrictions not remedied within 30 days of notice by Dexia Holdings entitles Dexia Holdings to payment of damages, injunctive relief or other remedies available under applicable law.

We regularly evaluate potential acquisitions of other companies, lines of business and portfolios of risks and hold discussions with potential third parties regarding such transactions. As a general rule, we publicly announce such transactions only after a definitive agreement has been reached.

The financial guaranty industry, along with many other financial institutions, continues to be threatened by deterioration of the credit performance of securities collateralized by U.S. residential mortgages. There is significant uncertainty surrounding general economic factors, including interest rates and housing prices, which may adversely affect our loss experience on these securities. The Company continues to monitor these exposures and update our loss estimates as new information is received. Additionally, scrutiny from state and federal regulatory agencies could result in changes that limit our business.

Our financial results include four principal business segments: financial guaranty direct, financial guaranty reinsurance, mortgage guaranty and other. The other segment represents lines of business that we exited or sold as part of our 2004 initial public offering (IPO).

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

We derive our revenues principally from premiums from our insurance and reinsurance businesses, unrealized gains and losses and realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives, net investment income, and net realized gains and losses from our investment portfolio. Our premiums and realized gains and other settlement on credit derivatives are a function of the amount and type of contracts we write as well as prevailing market prices. We receive payments on an upfront basis when the policy is issued or the contract is executed and/or on an installment basis over the life of the applicable transaction.

Investment income is a function of invested assets and the yield that we earn on those assets. The investment yield is a function of market interest rates at the time of investment as well as the type, credit quality and maturity of our invested assets. In addition, we could realize capital losses on securities in our investment portfolio from other than temporary declines in market value as a result of changing market conditions, including changes in market interest rates, and changes in the credit quality of our invested assets.

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives include credit derivative premiums received and receivable for credit protection the Company has sold under its credit default swaps ( CDS ), any contractual claim losses paid and payable related to insured credit events under these contracts, realized gains or losses related to their early termination and ceding commissions (expense) income. The Company generally holds credit derivative contracts

Table of Contents

to maturity. However, in certain circumstances such as for risk management purposes or as a result of a decision to exit a line of business, the Company may decide to terminate a derivative contract prior to maturity.

Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives represent the adjustments for changes in fair value that are recorded in each reporting period under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( FAS ) No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities ( FAS 133 ). Changes in unrealized gains and losses on credit derivatives are reflected in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income in unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives. Cumulative unrealized gains (losses), determined on a contract by contract basis, are reflected as either net assets or net liabilities in the Company s balance sheets. Unrealized gains and losses resulting from changes in the fair value of credit derivatives occur because of changes in interest rates, credit spreads, the credit ratings of the referenced entities, the Company s credit rating and other market factors. The unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives will reduce to zero as the exposure approaches its maturity date, unless there is a payment default on the exposure or early termination. Changes in the fair value of the Company s credit derivatives that do not reflect actual claims or credit losses have no impact on the Company s claims paying resources, rating agency capital or regulatory capital positions.

In the three and six months ended June 30, 2009 the Company also recorded a fair value loss of \$(60.6) million and \$(40.9) million, pre-tax, respectively, related to Assured Guaranty Corp. s committed capital securities.

Our expenses consist primarily of losses and loss adjustment expenses ( LAE ), profit commission expense, acquisition costs, operating expenses, FSAH acquisition-related expenses, interest expense, put-option premium expense associated with our committed capital securities (the CCS Securities ) and income taxes. Losses and LAE are a function of the amount and types of business we write. Losses and LAE are based upon estimates of the ultimate aggregate losses inherent in the portfolio. The risks we take have a low expected frequency of loss and are investment grade at the time we accept the risk. Profit commission expense represents payments made to ceding companies generally based on the profitability of the business reinsured by us. Acquisition costs are related to the production of new business. Certain acquisition costs that vary with and are directly attributable to the production of new business are deferred and recognized over the period in which the related premiums are earned. Operating expenses consist primarily of salaries and other employee related costs, including share based compensation, various outside service providers, rent and related costs and other expenses related to maintaining a holding company structure. These costs do not vary with the amount of premiums written. FSAH acquisition-related expenses consist of non-recurring employee related costs, consulting fees and lease termination amounts that the Company is incurring as part of its July 1, 2009 acquisition of FSAH. Interest expense is a function of outstanding debt and the contractual interest rate related to that debt. Put-option premium expense, which is included in other expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income, is a function of the outstanding amount of the CCS Securities and the applicable distribution rate. Income taxes are a function of our profitability and the applicable tax rate in the various jurisdictions in which we do business.

**Critical Accounting Estimates**

Our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements include amounts that, either by their nature or due to requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( GAAP ), are determined using estimates and assumptions. The actual amounts realized could ultimately be materially different from the amounts currently provided for in our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements. We believe the items requiring the most inherently subjective and complex estimates to be reserves for losses and LAE, fair value of credit derivatives , fair value of committed capital securities, valuation of investments, other than temporary impairments of investments, premium revenue recognition, deferred acquisition costs, deferred income taxes and accounting for share based compensation. An understanding of our accounting policies for these items is of critical importance to understanding our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements. The following discussion provides more information regarding the estimates and assumptions used for these items and should be read in conjunction with the notes to our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements.

*Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses*

The Company's financial guarantees written in credit derivative form have substantially the same terms and conditions in respect of the obligation to make payments upon the failure of an obligor to pay as its financial guaranty

Table of Contents

contracts written in insurance form. Under GAAP, however, the former are subject to derivative accounting rules and the latter are subject to insurance accounting rules.

Financial Guaranty Contracts Upon Adoption of FAS 163

The Company, subsequent to the adoption of FAS No. 163, Accounting for Financial Guarantee Insurance Contracts ( FAS 163 ) on January 1, 2009, recognizes a reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses on a financial guarantee insurance contract when the Company expects that a claim loss will exceed the unearned premium revenue for that contract based on the present value of expected net cash outflows to be paid under the insurance contract. The unearned premium revenue represents the insurance enterprise's stand-ready obligation under a financial guarantee insurance contract at initial recognition. Subsequently, if the likelihood of a default (insured event) increases so that the present value of the expected net cash outflows expected to be paid under the insurance contract exceeds the unearned premium revenue, the Company recognizes a reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses in addition to the unearned premium revenue.

A reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses is equal to the present value of expected net cash outflows to be paid under the insurance contract discounted using a current risk-free rate. That current risk-free rate is based on the remaining period (contract or expected, as applicable) of the insurance contract. Expected net cash outflows (cash outflows, net of potential recoveries, expected to be paid to the holder of the insured financial obligation, excluding reinsurance) are probability-weighted cash flows that reflect the likelihood of possible outcomes. The Company estimates the expected net cash outflows using the internal assumptions about the likelihood of possible outcomes based on all information available. Those assumptions consider all relevant facts and circumstances and are consistent with the information tracked and monitored through the Company's risk-management activities.

The Company updates the discount rate each reporting period and revises expected net cash outflows when increases (or decreases) in the likelihood of a default (insured event) and potential recoveries occur. The discount amount is accreted on the reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses through earnings in incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries). Revisions to a reserve for loss and loss adjustment expenses in periods after initial recognition are recognized as incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries) in the period of the change.

It is possible that our estimated loss and loss adjustment expense reserves recorded in our June 30, 2009 financial statements could experience significant adverse development which could lead to material amounts of incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses in future reporting periods as a result of continued deterioration in housing prices; the effects of a weakened economy marked by growing unemployment and wage pressures and/or continued illiquidity of the mortgage market. The Company believes that the maximum probable development under reasonably stressful scenarios on its loss reserve is approximately \$550 million. This amount reflects stressed loss assumptions that the Company used in modeling all of its material below investment grade credits. These scenarios were modeled by increasing defaults probabilities and default severities to reflect our view of the maximum probable deterioration likely to occur on these transactions.

Financial Guaranty Contracts Prior to Adoption of FAS 163



## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Prior to January 1, 2009, reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses for non-derivative transactions in our financial guaranty direct and financial guaranty assumed reinsurance included case reserves and portfolio reserves. See the Fair Value of Credit Derivatives of the Critical Accounting Estimates section for more information on our derivative transactions. Case reserves were established when there was significant credit deterioration on specific insured obligations and the obligations were in default or default was probable, not necessarily upon non-payment of principal or interest by an insured. Case reserves represented the present value of expected future loss payments and LAE, net of estimated recoveries, but before considering ceded reinsurance. This reserving method was different from case reserves established by traditional property and casualty insurance companies, which establish case reserves upon notification of a claim and establish incurred but not reported ( IBNR ) reserves for the difference between actuarially estimated ultimate losses and recorded case reserves. Financial guaranty insurance and assumed reinsurance case reserves and related salvage and subrogation, if any,

Table of Contents

were discounted at the taxable equivalent yield on our investment portfolio, which was approximately 6%, during 2008.

We recorded portfolio reserves in our financial guaranty direct and financial guaranty assumed reinsurance business. Portfolio reserves were established with respect to the portion of our business for which case reserves were not established.

Portfolio reserves were not established based on a specific event, rather they were calculated by aggregating the portfolio reserve calculated for each individual transaction. Individual transaction reserves were calculated on a quarterly basis by multiplying the par in-force by the product of the ultimate loss and earning factors without regard to discounting. The ultimate loss factor was defined as the frequency of loss multiplied by the severity of loss, where the frequency was defined as the probability of default for each individual issue. The earning factor was inception to date earned premium divided by the estimated ultimate written premium for each transaction. The probability of default was estimated from rating agency data and was based on the transaction's credit rating, industry sector and time until maturity. The severity was defined as the complement of recovery/salvage rates gathered by the rating agencies of defaulting issues and was based on the industry sector.

Portfolio reserves were recorded gross of reinsurance. We did not cede any amounts under these reinsurance contracts, as our recorded portfolio reserves did not exceed our contractual retentions, required by said contracts.

The Company recorded an incurred loss that was reflected in the statement of operations upon the establishment of portfolio reserves. When we initially recorded a case reserve, we reclassified the corresponding portfolio reserve already recorded for that credit within the balance sheet. The difference between the initially recorded case reserve and the reclassified portfolio reserve was recorded as a charge in our statement of operations. Any subsequent change in portfolio reserves or the initial case reserves was recorded quarterly as a charge or credit in our statement of operations in the period such estimates changed.

The weighted average default frequencies and severities of the Company's portfolio reserves as of December 31, 2008 were 1.08% and 23.87%, respectively. Effective January 1, 2009, upon the adoption of FAS 163, the Company no longer maintains portfolio reserves.

The Company incorporates default frequency and severity by asset class into its portfolio loss reserve models. Average default frequency and severity are based on information published by rating agencies. The increase in average default frequency shown in 2008 is reflective of downgrades within the Company's direct insured portfolio, including HELOC exposures. Rating agencies update default frequency and severity information on a periodic basis, as warranted by changes in observable data.

Mortgage Guaranty and Other Lines of Business

Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses in our mortgage guaranty line of business include case reserves and portfolio reserves. Case reserves are established when there is significant credit deterioration on specific insured obligations and the obligations are in default or default is probable, not necessarily upon non-payment of principal or interest by an insured. Case reserves represent the present value of expected future loss payments and loss adjustment expenses, net of estimated recoveries, but before considering ceded reinsurance. This reserving method is

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

different from case reserves established by traditional property and casualty insurance companies, which establish case reserves upon notification of a claim and establish IBNR reserves for the difference between actuarially estimated ultimate losses and recorded case reserves.

We also record portfolio reserves for our mortgage guaranty line of business in a manner consistent with our financial guaranty business prior to the adoption of FAS 163. While other mortgage guaranty insurance companies do not record portfolio reserves, rather just case reserves and IBNR reserves, we record portfolio reserves because we write business on an excess of loss basis, while other industry participants write quota share or first layer loss business. We manage and underwrite this business in the same manner as our financial guaranty insurance and reinsurance business because management believes they have similar characteristics as insured obligations of mortgage backed securities.

Table of Contents

We also record IBNR reserves for our other lines of business. IBNR is an estimate of losses for which the insured event has occurred but the claim has not yet been reported to us. In establishing IBNR, we use traditional actuarial methods to estimate the reporting lag of such claims based on historical experience, claim reviews and information reported by ceding companies. We record IBNR for trade credit reinsurance within our other segment, which is 100% reinsured. The other segment represents lines of business that we exited or sold as part of the Company's IPO.

Due to the inherent uncertainties of estimating loss and LAE reserves, actual experience may differ from the estimates reflected in our consolidated financial statements and the differences may be material.

Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) Transactions

Specifically with respect to reserves related to our U.S. home equity line of credit ( HELOC ) and other U.S. residential mortgage exposures, there exists significant uncertainty as to the ultimate performance of these transactions. As of June 30, 2009, the Company had net par outstanding of \$1.5 billion related to HELOC securitizations, of which \$1.3 billion are transactions with Countrywide and \$1.0 billion were written in the Company's financial guaranty direct segment ( direct Countrywide transactions or Countrywide 2005-J and Countrywide 2007-D ).

The performance of our HELOC exposures deteriorated during 2007 and 2008 and the first six months of 2009 and transactions, particularly those originated in the period from 2005 through 2007, continue to perform below our original underwriting expectations. In accordance with our standard practice, during the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, we evaluated the most currently available information, including trends in delinquencies and charge-offs on the underlying loans, draw rates on the lines of credit, and the servicer's ability to fulfill its contractual obligations including its obligation to fund additional draws. In recent periods, Constant Default Rate (CDR), Constant Payment Rate (CPR), Draw Rates and delinquency percentages have fluctuated within ranges that we believe make it appropriate to use rolling averages to project future performance. Accordingly, the Company is using modeling assumptions that are based upon or which approximate recent actual historical performance to project future performance and potential losses. In the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, consistent with FAS 163, the Company modeled and probability weighted a variety of potential time periods over which an elevated CDR may potentially occur. Further, the Company also incorporated in its loss reserve estimates the possibility that in some of those scenarios the prepayment rates increase after the stressed CDR period, leading to lower recoveries through excess spread. The Company continues to model sensitivities around the results booked using a variety of CDR rates and stress periods as well as other modeling approaches including roll rates and hybrid roll rate/CDR methods. As a result of this modeling and analysis, the Company incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses of \$0.5 million and \$(4.4) million for its direct Countrywide transactions during the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, respectively. The Company's cumulative incurred loss and loss adjustment expenses on the direct Countrywide transactions as of June 30, 2009 was \$93.8 million (\$73.0 million after-tax). During 2009, the Company paid losses and loss adjustment expenses for its direct Countrywide transactions of \$83.6 million. The Company's cumulative paid losses and loss adjustment expenses for its direct Countrywide transactions are \$253.6 million as of June 30, 2009, of which we expect to recover \$159.7 million from the receipt of excess spread from future cash flows as well as funding of future draws and recoverables from breaches of representations and warranties with respect to the underlying collateral. The excess of paid losses and loss adjustment expenses over expected losses, including amounts related to these recoveries above, results in a recovery of \$159.7 million, which is included in salvage recoverable on the balance sheet as of June 30, 2009.

Credit support for HELOC transactions comes primarily from two sources. In the first instance, excess spread is used to build a certain amount of credit enhancement and absorb losses. Over the past 12 months, excess spread (the difference between the interest collections on the collateral and the interest paid on the insured notes) has averaged approximately 270 basis points per annum. Additionally, for the transactions serviced by Countrywide, the servicer is required to fund additional draws on the HELOC loans following the occurrence of a Rapid Amortization Event. Among other things, such an event is triggered when claim payments by us exceed a certain threshold. Prior to the occurrence of a Rapid Amortization Event, during the transactions' revolving period, new draws on the HELOC loans are funded first from principal collections. As

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

such, during the revolving period no additional credit enhancement is created by the additional draws, and the speed at which our exposure amortizes is reduced to the extent of such additional draws, since principal collections are used to fund those draws rather than pay down the insured notes. Subsequent to the occurrence of a Rapid Amortization Event, new draws are funded by Countrywide

Table of Contents

and all principal collections are used to pay down the insured notes. Any draws funded by Countrywide are subordinate to us in the cash flow waterfall and hence represent additional credit enhancement available to absorb losses before we have to make a claim payment. Additionally, since all principal collections are used to pay down the insured notes, rather than fund additional draws, our exposure begins to amortize more quickly. A Rapid Amortization Event occurred for Countrywide 2007-D in April 2008 and for Countrywide 2005-J in May 2008.

We have modeled our HELOC exposures under a number of different scenarios, taking into account the multiple variables and structural features that materially affect transaction performance and potential losses to us. The key variables include the speed or rate at which borrowers make payments on their loans, as measured by the CPR(1) the default rate, as measured by the CDR(2) excess spread, and the amount of loans that are already delinquent more than 30 days. We also take into account the pool factor (the percentage of the original principal balance that remains outstanding), and the timing of the remaining cash flows. Additionally, it should be noted that our contractual rights allow us to retroactively claim that loans included in the insured pool were inappropriately included in the pool by the seller, and to put these loans back to the originator such that we would not be responsible for losses related to these loans. Such actions would benefit us by reducing potential losses. We have included in our loss model an estimated benefit for loans we expect Countrywide will repurchase.

The ultimate performance of the Company's HELOC transactions will depend on many factors, such as the level and timing of loan defaults, interest proceeds generated by the securitized loans, repayment speeds and changes in home prices, as well as the levels of credit support built into each transaction. Other factors also may have a material impact upon the ultimate performance of each transaction, including the ability of the seller and servicer to fulfill all of their contractual obligations including its obligation to fund future draws on lines of credit, as well as the amount of benefit received from repurchases of ineligible loans by Countrywide. The variables affecting transaction performance are interrelated, difficult to predict and subject to considerable volatility. Consequently, the range of potential outcomes is wide and subject to significant uncertainty. We continue to update our evaluation of these exposures as new information becomes available.

The key assumptions used in our analysis of potential case loss reserves on the direct Countrywide transactions are presented in the following table:

<b>Key Variables</b>	
Constant payment rate (CPR)	3-month average, 6.83 10.92% as of June 30, 2009
Constant default rate (CDR)	6-month average CDR of approximately 17 21% used for our initial default projections, ramping down to a steady state CDR of 1.0%
Draw rate	3-month average, 0.76 1% as of June 30, 2009
Excess spread	250 bps per annum
Repurchases of Ineligible loans by Countrywide	\$195.0 million; or approximately 8.1% of original pool balance of \$2.4 billion
Loss Severity	100%

Subprime, Alt-A and Closed End Second RMBS Transactions

Another type of RMBS transaction is generally referred to as Subprime RMBS. The collateral supporting such transactions is comprised of first-lien residential mortgage loans made to subprime borrowers. A subprime borrower is one considered to be a higher risk credit based on credit scores or other risk characteristics. As of June 30, 2009, we had net par outstanding of \$918 million related to Subprime RMBS securitizations, of which \$201 million is

---

(1) The CPR is the annualized rate at which the portfolio amortizes, so that a 15% CPR implies that 15% of the collateral will be retired over a one-year period.

(2) The CDR is the annualized default rate, so that a 1.0% CDR implies that 1.0% of the remaining collateral will default each year.

Table of Contents

classified by us as Below Investment Grade risk. Of the total U.S. Subprime RMBS exposure of \$918 million, \$430 million is from transactions issued in the period from 2005 through 2007 and written in our direct financial guaranty segment. As of June 30, 2009, we had case reserves of \$14.3 million related to our \$918 million U.S. Subprime RMBS exposure, of which \$3.7 million were related to our \$430 million exposure in the direct financial guaranty segment for transactions issued from 2005 through 2007.

The problems affecting the subprime mortgage market have been widely reported, with rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures negatively impacting the performance of Subprime RMBS transactions. Those concerns relate primarily to Subprime RMBS issued in the period from 2005 through 2007. The \$430 million exposure that we have to such transactions in our direct financial guaranty segment benefits from various structural protections, including credit enhancement that on average currently equals approximately 42% of the remaining principal balance of the transactions.

We also have exposure of \$380 million to Closed-End Second ( CES ) RMBS transactions, of which \$371 million is in the direct segment. The collateral supporting such transactions is comprised of second-lien residential mortgage loans that generally accrue interest at a fixed rate and can be amortized for periods usually up to 15 years; at the end of a loan's term, a balloon payment is typically due. As with other types of RMBS, we have seen significant deterioration in the performance of our CES transactions. On four transactions that had exposure of \$320 million, as of June 30, 2009, we have seen a significant increase in delinquencies and collateral losses, which resulted in erosion of the Company's credit enhancement and the payment of claims totaling \$24.0 million during the quarter ended June 30, 2009,. Based on the Company's analysis of these transactions and their projected collateral losses, the Company had case reserves of \$36.4 million as of June 30, 2009 in its direct segment.

Another type of RMBS transaction is generally referred to as Alt-A RMBS . The collateral supporting such transactions is comprised of first-lien residential mortgage loans made to prime quality borrowers that lack certain ancillary characteristics that would make them prime. Included in this category is Alt-A Option ARMs, which include transactions where 66% or more of the collateral is comprised of mortgage loans that have the potential to negatively amortize. As of June 30, 2009, the Company had net par outstanding of \$1.4 billion related to Alt-A RMBS securitizations. Of that amount, \$1.3 billion is from transactions issued in the period from 2005 through 2007 and written in the Company's financial guaranty direct segment. As of June 30, 2009, the Company had case reserves of \$16.2 million for Alt-A and \$19.3 million for the Option-ARM related to its \$1.4 billion Alt-A/Option-ARM RMBS exposure, in the financial guaranty direct and reinsurance segments.

The ultimate performance of the Company's RMBS transactions remains highly uncertain and may be subject to considerable volatility due to the influence of many factors, including the level and timing of loan defaults, changes in housing prices and other variables. The Company will continue to monitor the performance of its RMBS exposures and will adjust the risk ratings of those transactions based on actual performance and management's estimates of future performance.

Life Insurance Securitizations

The Company has exposure on two life insurance reserve securitization transactions based on two discrete blocks of individual life insurance business reinsured by Scottish Re (U.S.) Inc. ( Scottish Re ). The two transactions relate to Ballantyne Re p.l.c. ( Ballantyne ) (gross exposure of \$500 million) and Orkney Re II, p.l.c. ( Orkney II ) (gross exposure of \$423 million). Under both transactions, monies raised through the issuance of the insured notes support present and future U.S. statutory life insurance reserve requirements. The monies were invested at inception of each transaction in accounts managed by a large, well-known investment manager. However, those investment accounts have incurred substantial mark-to-market losses since mid-year 2007, principally as a result of their exposure to subprime and Alt-A RMBS transactions. Largely as a result of these mark-to-market losses, both we and the rating agencies have downgraded our exposure to both



## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Ballantyne and Orkney II to below investment grade. As regards the Ballantyne transaction, the Company is working with the directing guarantor, who has insured exposure of \$900 million, to remediate the risk. On the Orkney Re II transaction, the Company, as the directing financial guarantor, is taking remedial action.

Some credit losses have been realized on the securities in the Ballantyne and Orkney Re II portfolios and significant additional credit losses are expected to occur. Performance of the underlying blocks of life insurance business thus far generally has been in accordance with expectations. Adverse investment experience has led the Company to fund interest short falls which, except under its most severe loss projections, it expects to be repaid.

Table of Contents

Additionally, the transactions also contain features linked to the market values of the invested assets, reserve funding requirements on the underlying blocks of life insurance business, and minimum capital requirements for the transactions themselves that may trigger a shut off of interest payments to the insured notes and thereby result in claim payments by the Company.

Another key risk is that the occurrence of certain events may result in a situation where either Ballantyne and/or Orkney Re II are required to sell assets and potentially realize substantial investment losses and for Assured Guaranty Ltd. to incur corresponding insured losses ahead of the scheduled final maturity date. For example, cedants to Scottish Re may have the right to recapture blocks of life insurance business which Scottish Re has ceded to Orkney Re II. Such recaptures could require Orkney Re II to sell assets and realize investment losses. In the Ballantyne transaction, further declines in the market value of the invested assets and/or an increase in the reserve funding requirements could lead to a similar mandatory realization of investment losses and for Assured Guaranty Ltd. to incur corresponding insured losses ahead of the scheduled final maturity date.

In order for the Company to incur an ultimate net loss on these transactions, adverse experience on the underlying block of life insurance policies and/or credit losses in the investment portfolio would need to exceed the level of credit enhancement built into the transaction structures. Based on its analysis of the information currently available, including estimates of future investment performance, projected credit impairments on the invested assets and performance of the blocks of life insurance business, at June 30, 2009, the Company's case reserve is \$30.9 million for the Ballantyne transaction. This case reserve reflects expected losses resulting primarily from the deterioration in the investment portfolio as discussed above. At this time we do not expect the shut off triggers or recaptures by cedants discussed above to occur. Should these events occur our losses could be significantly greater than our case reserve. The Company has not established a case loss reserve for the Orkney Re II transaction due to the fact that modeled loss scenarios project sufficient cash flows from the investment and life insurance activities so that the Company does not suffer an ultimate loss in excess of its unearned premium reserve as of June 30, 2009.

On December 19, 2008, the Company sued J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. ( JPMIM ), the investment manager in the Orkney II transaction, in New York Supreme Court alleging that JPMIM engaged in breaches of fiduciary duty, gross negligence and breaches of contract based upon its handling of the investments of Orkney Re II. On May 13, 2009, the Company filed a First Amended Complaint, additionally asserting the same claims in the name of Orkney II. JPMIM has filed a motion to dismiss the First Amended Complaint. The court has not yet acted upon the motion.

The Company has exposure to a public finance transaction for sewer service in Jefferson County, Alabama through several reinsurance treaties. The Company's total exposure to this transaction is approximately \$455 million as of June 30, 2009. The Company has made debt service payments during the year and expects to make additional payments in the near term. Through our cedants, the Company is currently in discussions with the bond issuer to structure a solution, which may result in some or all of these payments being recoverable. The Company's loss and loss adjustment expense reserve as of June 30, 2009 is \$0.9 million and the Company has incurred cumulative loss and loss adjustment expenses of \$26.3 million through June 30, 2009.

A sensitivity analysis is not appropriate for our other segment reserves, since the amounts are 100% reinsured.

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

The following tables summarize our reserves for losses and LAE by segment and type of reserve as of the dates presented. For an explanation of changes in these reserves see Consolidated Results of Operations.

	As of June 30, 2009									
	Financial Guaranty Direct		Financial Guaranty Reinsurance		Mortgage Guaranty		Other		Total	
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)									
<i>Financial Guaranty Insurance Reserves by segment and type(1):</i>										
Case	\$	112.1	\$	83.1	\$	0.1	\$	1.1	\$	196.4
IBNR and portfolio		N/A		N/A		2.0		1.9		3.9
Total financial guaranty insurance loss and LAE reserves		112.1		83.1		2.1		3.0		200.3
<i>Credit Derivative Reserves by segment and type(2):</i>										
Case		77.7		5.0						82.7
Total credit derivative loss and LAE reserves		77.7		5.0						82.7
Total loss and LAE reserves, including credit derivatives	\$	189.8	\$	88.1	\$	2.1	\$	3.0	\$	283.0

	As of December 31, 2008									
	Financial Guaranty Direct		Financial Guaranty Reinsurance		Mortgage Guaranty		Other		Total	
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)									
<i>Financial Guaranty Insurance Reserves by segment and type(1):</i>										
Case	\$	64.2	\$	55.7	\$	0.1	\$	1.5	\$	121.5
IBNR								3.0		3.0
Portfolio reserves associated with fundamentally sound credits		11.8		35.5		2.5				49.8
Portfolio reserves associated with CMC credits		15.8		6.7						22.5
Total financial guaranty insurance loss and LAE reserves		91.8		97.9		2.6		4.5		196.8
<i>Credit Derivative Reserves by segment and type(2):</i>										
Case		7.2		5.5						12.7
Credit derivative portfolio reserves associated with fundamentally sound credits		15.7								15.7
Credit derivative portfolio reserves associated with CMC credits		23.4								23.4
Total credit derivative loss and LAE reserves		46.3		5.5						51.8
Total loss and LAE reserves, including credit derivatives(3)	\$	138.1	\$	103.4	\$	2.6	\$	4.5	\$	248.6

- 
- (1) Included in Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses on the Balance Sheet.
  - (2) Included in Credit derivative liabilities/assets on the Balance Sheet.
  - (3) Total does not add due to rounding.

N/A = Not applicable

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth the financial guaranty insurance policy and CDS contract in-force portfolio by underlying rating:

Ratings(1)	As of June 30, 2009		As of December 31, 2008	
	Net par outstanding	% of Net par outstanding	Net par outstanding	% of Net par outstanding
(in billions of U.S. dollars)				
Super senior	\$ 27.7	11.2%	\$ 32.4	14.5%
AAA	35.3	14.3%	40.7	18.3%
AA	50.0	20.3%	47.7	21.4%
A	88.1	35.7%	66.0	29.6%
BBB	35.5	14.4%	29.4	13.2%
Below investment grade	10.1	4.1%	6.6	3.0%
Total exposures	\$ 246.8	100.0%	\$ 222.7	100.0%

(1) The Company's internal rating. The Company's scale is comparable to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies. The super senior category, which is not generally used by rating agencies, is used by the Company in instances where the Company's AAA-rated exposure has additional credit enhancement due to either (1) the existence of another security rated AAA that is subordinated to the Company's exposure or (2) the Company's exposure benefits from a different form of credit enhancement that would pay any claims first in the event that any of the exposures incurs a loss, and such credit enhancement, in management's opinion, causes the Company's attachment point to be materially above the AAA attachment point.

(2) Total does not add due to rounding.

The change in ratings above is mainly related to the Company's U.S. RMBS exposures.

Our surveillance department is responsible for monitoring our portfolio of credits and maintains a list of below investment grade (BIG) credits. This list includes credits written in both financial guarantee insurance policy and CDS contract form. The BIG credits are divided into three categories: Category 1 (below investment grade credit with no expected losses); Category 2 (below investment grade credit with a loss reserve established prior to an event of default); Category 3 (below investment grade credit with a loss reserve established and where an event of default has occurred or is imminent).

The BIG credit list includes all credits rated lower than BBB- where there is a material amount of exposure (generally greater than \$10.0 million) or a material risk of the Company incurring a loss greater than \$0.5 million. Credit ratings are based on the Company's internal assessment of the likelihood of default. The Company's internal credit ratings are generally in line or lower than those of the ratings agencies.

As part of our surveillance process, we continually monitor all of our investment grade credits to determine whether they have suffered any credit impairments. Our quarterly procedures included qualitative and quantitative analysis on all of our insured credits to ensure that all potential BIG credits have been identified. Credits we identified through this process as having future credit impairments are subjected to further review by surveillance personnel to ensure that they have an appropriate ratings assigned to them.



Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

The following table provides financial guaranty insurance policy and CDS contract net par outstanding by credit monitoring category as of June 30, 2009:

Description:	As of June 30, 2009					
	Net Par Outstanding		% of Net Par Outstanding		# of Policies in Category	Case Reserves(2)
(\$ in millions)						
Category 1	\$	1,209	12.0%		44	\$ 0.1
Category 2		3,155	31.3%		282	45.8
Category 3		5,701	56.6%		432	232.1
BIG total(1)	\$	10,066	100.0%		758	\$ 277.9

(1) Total does not add due to rounding.

(2) Includes case reserves on credit derivatives of \$82.7 million at June 30, 2009, which balances are included in credit derivative liabilities in the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

During the Second Quarter 2009, we added net par of approximately \$0.5 billion related to U.S. RMBS, \$0.2 billion related trust preferred collateralized debt obligations and \$0.2 billion related to U.S. municipal obligations to our BIG list.

Prior to 2009, our surveillance department maintained a list of closely monitored credits ( CMC ). The closely monitored credits were divided into four categories: Category 1 (low priority; fundamentally sound, greater than normal risk); Category 2 (medium priority; weakening credit profile, may result in loss); Category 3 (high priority; claim/default probable, case reserve established); Category 4 (claim paid, case reserve established for future payments). The closely monitored credits included all below investment grade exposures where there was a material amount of exposure (generally greater than \$10.0 million) or a material risk of the Company incurring a loss greater than \$0.5 million. The closely monitored credits also included investment grade risks where credit quality was deteriorating and where, in the view of the Company, there was significant potential that the risk quality will fall below investment grade. As of December 31, 2008, the closely monitored credits included approximately 99% of our BIG exposure, and the remaining BIG exposure of \$92.3 million was distributed across 89 different credits. Other than those excluded BIG credits, credits that were not included in the closely monitored credit list were categorized as fundamentally sound risks.

The following table provides financial guaranty insurance policy and credit derivative contract net par outstanding by credit monitoring category as of December 31, 2008:

Description:	As of December 31, 2008					
	Net Par Outstanding		% of Net Par Outstanding		# of Credits in Category	Case Reserves(2)
(\$ in millions)						
Fundamentally sound risk	\$	215,987	97.0%			
Closely monitored:						
Category 1		2,967	1.3%		51	\$

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Category 2		767		0.3%	21		1
Category 3		2,889		1.3%	54		111
Category 4		20			14		20
CMC total(1)		6,643		3.0%	140		133
Other below investment grade risk		92			89		
Total(1)	\$	222,722		100.0%		\$	133

(1) Total does not add due to rounding.

(2) Includes case reserves on credit derivatives of \$12.7 million at December 31, 2008, which balances are included in credit derivative liabilities in the Company's consolidated balance sheets.



Table of Contents

***Salvage Recoverable***

When the Company becomes entitled to the underlying collateral (generally a future stream of cash flows or pool assets) of an insured credit under salvage and subrogation rights as a result of a claim payment or estimates recoveries from disputed claim payments on contractual grounds, it reduces the corresponding loss reserve for a particular financial guaranty insurance policy for the estimated salvage and subrogation, in accordance with FAS 60, Accounting and Reporting by Insurance Enterprises. If the expected salvage and subrogation exceeds the estimated loss reserve for a policy, such amounts are recorded as a salvage recoverable asset in the Company's balances sheets.

***Fair Value of Credit Derivatives***

The Company follows FAS 133, FAS No. 149, Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities (FAS 149) and FAS No. 155, Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments (FAS 155), which establishes accounting and reporting standards for derivative instruments and FAS No. 157 Fair Value Measurements (FAS 157), which establishes a comprehensive framework for measuring fair value. FAS 133 and FAS 149 require recognition of all derivatives on the balance sheet at fair value. FAS 157 defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. FAS 157 also requires an entity maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value. The price represents that available in the principal market for the asset or liability. If there is no principal market, then the price is based on the market that maximizes the value received for an asset or minimizes the amount paid for a liability (i.e. the most advantageous market).

FAS 157 specifies a fair value hierarchy based on whether the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect Company-based market assumptions. In accordance with FAS 157, the fair value hierarchy prioritizes model inputs into three broad levels as follows:

- Level 1 Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.
- Level 2 Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and observable inputs other than quoted prices, such as interest rates or yield curves and other inputs derived from or corroborated by observable market inputs.
- Level 3 Model derived valuations in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable. This hierarchy requires the use of observable market data when available.

An asset or liability's categorization within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of significant input to its valuation.

We issue credit derivatives that we view as an extension of our financial guaranty business but that do not qualify for the financial guaranty insurance scope exception under FAS 133 and FAS 149 and therefore are reported at fair value, with changes in fair value included in our

earnings.

Our realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives include credit derivative premiums received and receivable, credit derivative losses paid and payable and realized gains or losses due to early terminations and ceding commissions (expense) income. Credit derivative premiums and ceding commissions (expense) income are earned over the life of the transaction. Claim payments or recoveries are related to credit events requiring payment by or to us under the credit derivative contract. Realized gains or losses are recorded related to the early termination of credit derivative contracts.

Our unrealized gains and losses on credit derivatives represent changes in fair value of these instruments that are required to be recorded under FAS 133. The unrealized gains and losses on credit derivatives will reduce to zero as the exposure approaches its maturity date, unless there is a payment default on the exposure or early

Table of Contents

termination. However, in the event that we terminate a credit derivative contract prior to maturity the unrealized gain or loss will be realized through realized gains or losses and other settlements on credit derivatives. Changes in the fair value of our derivative contracts do not generally reflect actual claims or credit losses, and have no impact on the Company's claims paying resources, rating agency capital or regulatory capital positions or debt covenants.

We do not typically exit our credit derivative contracts and there are not quoted prices for our instruments or similar instruments. Observable inputs other than quoted market prices exist; however, these inputs reflect contracts that do not contain terms and conditions similar to the credit derivatives issued by us. Therefore, the valuation of our credit derivative contracts requires the use of models that contain significant, unobservable inputs. Thus, we believe that our credit derivative contract valuations are in Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy of FAS 157.

The fair value of these instruments represents the difference between the present value of remaining contractual premiums charged for the credit protection and the estimated present value of premiums that a comparable financial guarantor would hypothetically charge for the same protection at the balance sheet date. The fair value of these contracts depends on a number of factors including notional amount of the contract, expected term, credit spreads, changes in interest rates, the credit ratings of the referenced entities, our own credit risk and remaining contractual flows.

Remaining contractual cash flows, which are included in the realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives component of credit derivatives, are the most readily observable variables since they are based on the CDS contractual terms. These variables include i) net premiums received and receivable on written credit derivative contracts, ii) net premiums paid and payable on purchased contracts, iii) losses paid and payable to credit derivative contract counterparties and iv) losses recovered and recoverable on purchased contracts. The remaining key variables described above impact unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives.

Market conditions at June 30, 2009 were such that market prices for our CDS contracts were generally not available. Where market prices were not available, we used a combination of observable market data and valuation models, including various market indices, credit spreads, our own credit risk and estimated contractual payments to estimate the fair value of the Company's credit derivatives. These models are primarily developed internally based on market conventions for similar transactions. Management considers the non-standard terms of its credit derivative contracts in determining the fair value of these contracts. These terms differ from credit derivatives sold by companies outside of the financial guaranty industry. The non-standard terms include the absence of collateral support agreements or immediate settlement provisions, relatively high attachment points and the fact that the Company does not exit derivatives it sells for credit protection purposes, except under specific circumstances such as exiting a line of business. Because of these terms and conditions, the fair value of the Company's credit derivatives may not reflect the same prices observed in an actively traded market of credit default swaps that do not contain terms and conditions similar to those observed in the financial guaranty market. These models and the related assumptions are continuously reevaluated by management and enhanced, as appropriate, based upon improvements in modeling techniques and availability of more timely market information.

Valuation models include the use of management estimates and current market information. Management is also required to make assumptions on how the fair value of credit derivative instruments is affected by current market conditions. Management considers factors such as current prices charged for similar agreements, performance of underlying assets, life of the instrument, and the extent of credit default swaps exposure the Company ceded under reinsurance agreements, and the nature and extent of activity in the financial guaranty credit derivative marketplace. The assumptions that management uses to determine its fair value may change in the future due to market conditions. Due to the inherent uncertainties of the assumptions used in the valuation models to determine the fair value of these credit derivative products, actual experience may differ from the estimates reflected in the Company's consolidated financial statements and the differences may be material.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

The fair value adjustment recognized in our statements of operations for the three months ended June 30, 2009 ( Second Quarter 2009 ) was a \$(254.3) million loss compared with a \$708.5 million gain for the three months ended June 30, 2008 ( Second Quarter 2008 ). The fair value adjustment recognized in our statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2009 ( Six Months 2009 ) was a \$(227.3) million loss compared with a \$448.9 million gain for the six months ended June 30, 2008 ( Six Months 2008 ). The change in fair value for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 was attributable to spreads widening and includes no credit losses, partially offset by the higher credit risk of the Company as indicated by the cost of credit protection on us, which decreased

Table of Contents

from 1,775 basis points at December 31, 2008 to 1,544 basis points at June 30, 2009. The change in fair value for Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 is mainly due to an increase in the market measure of the Company's credit risk as indicated by the cost of CDS credit protection on us, which increased from 180 basis points at December 31, 2007 to 900 basis points at June 30, 2008, which was only partially offset by widening spreads of the underlying obligations. For Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008, approximately 55% and 65%, respectively, of our unrealized gain on credit derivative financial instruments is attributable to the fair value of high yield and investment grade corporate collateralized loan obligation transactions, with the balance of the change in fair values principally in the residential and commercial mortgage backed securities markets. With considerable volatility continuing in the market, the fair value adjustment amount will fluctuate significantly in future periods.

***Fair Value of Committed Capital Securities ( CCS )***

The fair value of CCS Securities represents the present value of remaining expected put option premium payments under the CCS Securities agreements and the value of such estimated payments based upon the quoted price for such premium payments as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008. The \$10.2 million and \$51.1 million fair value asset for CCS Securities as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, is included in the consolidated balance sheets. Changes in fair value of this asset are included in fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income. The Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 amounts also included a fair value loss of \$(60.6) million and \$(40.9) million, pre-tax, respectively, related to Assured Guaranty Corp.'s CCS Securities as resulting of the widening of the Company's credit spreads. The Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 amounts also included a fair value gain of \$8.9 million and \$17.4 million, pre-tax, respectively, related to Assured Guaranty Corp.'s CCS Securities as resulting of the widening of the Company's credit spreads.

***Valuation of Investments***

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, we had total investments of \$4.6 billion and \$3.6 billion, respectively. The fair values of all of our investments are calculated from independent market valuations. The fair values of the Company's U.S. Treasury securities are primarily determined based upon broker dealer quotes obtained from several independent active market makers. The fair values of the Company's portfolio other than U.S. Treasury securities are determined primarily using matrix pricing models. The matrix pricing models incorporate factors such as tranche type, collateral coupons, average life, payment speeds, and spreads, in order to calculate the fair values of specific securities owned by the Company. As of June 30, 2009, under FAS 157, all of our fixed maturity securities were classified as Level 2 and our short-term investments were classified as either Level 1 or Level 2.

As of June 30, 2009, approximately 74% of our investments were long-term fixed maturity securities, and our portfolio had an average duration of 3.3 years, compared with 87% and 4.1 years as of December 31, 2008. Changes in interest rates affect the value of our fixed maturity portfolio. As interest rates fall, the fair value of fixed maturity securities increases and as interest rates rise, the fair value of fixed maturity securities decreases. The Company's portfolio is comprised primarily of high-quality, liquid instruments. We continue to receive sufficient information to value our investments and have not had to modify our approach due to the current market conditions.

***Other Than Temporary Impairment ( OTTI ) Methodology***

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

We have a formal review process for all securities in our investment portfolio, including a review for impairment losses. Factors considered when assessing impairment include:

- a decline in the market value of a security by 20% or more below amortized cost for a continuous period of at least six months;
- a decline in the market value of a security for a continuous period of 12 months;
- recent credit downgrades of the applicable security or the issuer by rating agencies;
- the financial condition of the applicable issuer;
- whether loss of investment principal is anticipated;
- whether scheduled interest payments are past due; and

Table of Contents

- whether the Company has the intent to sell a security prior to its recovery in fair value.

If we believe a decline in the value of a particular investment is temporary, we record the decline as an unrealized loss on our balance sheet in accumulated other comprehensive income in shareholders' equity.

As discussed in more detail below, prior to April 1, 2009, the reviews for impairment of investments were conducted pursuant to FSP No. 115-1, The Meaning of Other-Than-Temporary Impairment and Its Application to Certain Investments ( FSP 115-1 ). And accordingly, any unrealized loss identified as other than temporary was recorded directly in the consolidated statement of income. As of April 1, 2009, we adopted FSP 115-2. Accordingly, any credit-related impairment related to debt securities the Company does not plan to sell and is more-likely-than-not to be required to sell is recognized in the consolidated statement of income, with the non-credit-related impairment recognized in other comprehensive income ( OCI ). For other impaired debt securities, the entire impairment is recognized in the consolidated statement of income.

We adopted FSP No. FAS 115-2 and FAS 124-2, Recognition and Presentation of Other-Than-Temporary Impairments ( FSP 115-2 ) on April 1, 2009. Effective with the adoption of FSP 115-2 we recognize an OTTI loss in earnings for a debt security in an unrealized loss position when either (a) we have the intent to sell the debt security or (b) it is more likely than not we will be required to sell the debt security before its anticipated recovery. For all debt securities in unrealized loss positions that do not meet either of these two criteria, we analyze the ability to recover the amortized cost by comparing the net present value of projected future cash flows with the amortized cost of the security. If the net present value is less than the amortized cost of the investment, an OTTI loss is recorded. The net present value is calculated by discounting our best estimate of projected future cash flows at the effective interest rate implicit in the debt security prior to impairment. Our estimates of projected future cash flows are driven by assumptions regarding probability of default and estimates regarding timing and amount of recoveries associated with a default. We develop these estimates using information based on historical experience, credit analysis of an investment, as mentioned above, and market observable data, such as industry analyst reports and forecast, sector credit ratings and other data relevant to the collectability of the security. For mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, cash flow estimates also include prepayment assumptions and other assumptions regarding the underlying collateral including default rates, recoveries and changes in value. The determination of the assumptions used in these projections requires the use of significant management judgment.

Prior to adoption of FSP 115-2 on April 1, 2009, if we believed the decline was other than temporary, we wrote down the carrying value of the investment and recorded a realized loss in our statement of operations equal to the total difference between amortized cost and fair value at the impairment measurement date.

In periods subsequent to the recognition of an OTTI loss, the impaired debt security is accounted for as if it had been purchased on the measurement date of the impairment. Accordingly, the discount (or reduced premium) based on the new cost basis is accreted into net investment income in future periods based upon the amount and timing of expected future cash flows of the security, if the recoverable value of the investment based upon those cash flows is greater than the carrying value of the investment after the impairment.

Our assessment of a decline in value includes management's current assessment of the factors noted above. If that assessment changes in the future, we may ultimately record a loss after having originally concluded that the decline in value was temporary.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

As part of our OTTI review process, we consider the nature of the investment, the cause for the impairment (interest or credit related), the severity (both as a percentage of book value and absolute dollars) and duration of the impairment and any other available evidence, such as discussions with investment advisors, volatility of the securities fair value, recent news reports, etc., when performing our assessment.



Table of Contents

As of June 30, 2009, excluding the securities described above, the Company's gross unrealized loss position stood at \$100.7 million compared to \$122.5 million at December 31, 2008. The \$21.8 million decrease in gross unrealized losses was primarily attributable to municipal securities, \$30.1 million, and partially offset by an increase in gross unrealized losses in mortgage- and asset backed securities, \$6.9 million. The decrease in gross unrealized losses during the six months ended June 30, 2009 was related to the recovery of liquidity in the financial markets offset in part by a \$62.2 million transition adjustment for adoption of FSP 115-2.

As of June 30, 2009, the Company had 95 securities in an unrealized loss position for greater than 12 months, representing a gross unrealized loss of \$48.8 million. Of these securities, 27 securities had unrealized losses greater than 10% of book value. The total unrealized loss for these securities as of June 30, 2009 was \$31.1 million. This unrealized loss is primarily attributable to the market illiquidity and volatility in the U.S. economy mentioned above and not specific to individual issuer credit. Except as noted below, the Company has recognized no other than temporary impairment losses.

The Company recognized \$14.8 million and \$33.3 million of other than temporary impairment losses substantially related to mortgage backed and corporate securities for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009, respectively. The 2009 OTTI represents the credit component of the changes in unrealized losses for impaired securities. The Company intends to hold these securities until there is a recovery in their value. The Company continues to monitor the value of these investments. Future events may result in further impairment of the Company's investments. The Company wrote down \$0.3 million of investments for other than temporary impairment losses for the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2008.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the unrealized losses in our investment portfolio by type of security and the length of time such securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position as of the dates indicated:

Length of Time in Continuous Unrealized Loss Position	As of June 30, 2009		As of December 31, 2008(1)	
	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
	(\$ in millions)			
<b>U.S. Government and agencies</b>				
0-6 months	\$ 277.6	\$ (2.5)	\$ 8.0	\$
7-12 months			8.0	
Greater than 12 months				
	277.6	(2.5)	8.0	
<b>Obligations of state and political subdivisions</b>				
0-6 months	81.1	(0.9)	168.8	(5.8)
7-12 months	13.8	(0.3)	310.6	(22.9)
Greater than 12 months	332.3	(20.1)	137.9	(22.7)
	427.2	(21.3)	617.3	(51.4)
<b>Corporate and foreign government securities</b>				
0-6 months	59.7	(3.1)	23.7	(1.7)
7-12 months	9.9	(1.8)	81.9	(8.5)
Greater than 12 months	84.4	(6.1)	14.2	(1.6)
	154.0	(11.0)	119.8	(11.8)
<b>Residential mortgage-backed securities</b>				
0-6 months	131.6	(25.7)	8.0	(2.0)
7-12 months	8.6	(4.1)	38.4	(15.7)
Greater than 12 months	17.2	(5.0)	38.2	(2.8)
	157.4	(34.8)	84.6	(20.5)
<b>Commercial mortgage-backed securities</b>				
0-6 months	47.9	(11.5)	62.3	(6.3)
7-12 months	26.4	(1.6)	72.7	(20.5)
Greater than 12 months	104.6	(17.6)	36.2	(4.5)
	178.9	(30.7)	171.2	(31.3)
<b>Asset-backed securities</b>				
0-6 months	24.8	(0.1)	73.2	(7.2)
7-12 months	1.6	(0.3)		
Greater than 12 months				
	26.4	(0.4)	73.2	(7.2)
<b>Preferred stock</b>				
0-6 months			12.4	(0.3)
7-12 months				
Greater than 12 months				
			12.4	(0.3)
Total	\$ 1,221.5	\$ (100.7)	\$ 1,086.5	\$ (122.5)

(1) December 31, 2008 amounts are not comparable to June 30, 2009 due to adoption of FSP 115-2 effective April 1, 2009.



Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the unrealized losses in our investment portfolio by type of security and remaining time to maturity as of the dates indicated:

Remaining Time to Maturity	As of June 30, 2009		As of December 31, 2008 (1)	
	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
	(\$ in millions)			
<b>U.S. Government and agencies</b>				
Due in one year or less	\$ 8.0	\$	\$ 8.0	\$
Due after one year through five years	236.4	(2.3)		
Due after five years through ten years	33.2	(0.2)		
Due after ten years				
	277.6	(2.5)	8.0	
<b>Obligations of state and political subdivisions</b>				
Due in one year or less				
Due after one year through five years			5.4	
Due after five years through ten years	30.4	(0.9)	42.4	(2.6)
Due after ten years	396.8	(20.4)	569.5	(48.8)
	427.2	(21.3)	617.3	(51.4)
<b>Corporate and foreign government securities</b>				
Due in one year or less	1.0		0.8	
Due after one year through five years	29.5	(0.8)	23.9	(1.2)
Due after five years through ten years	105.4	(5.0)	72.6	(6.6)
Due after ten years	18.1	(5.2)	22.5	(4.0)
	154.0	(11.0)	119.8	(11.8)
<b>Residential mortgage-backed securities</b>	157.4	(34.8)	84.6	(20.5)
<b>Commercial mortgage-backed securities</b>	178.9	(30.7)	171.2	(31.3)
<b>Asset-backed securities</b>	26.4	(0.4)	73.2	(7.2)
<b>Preferred stock</b>			12.4	(0.3)
Total	\$ 1,221.5	\$ (100.7)	\$ 1,086.5	\$ (122.5)

(1) December 31, 2008 amounts are not comparable to June 30, 2009 due to adoption of FSP 115-2 effective April 1, 2009.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes, for all securities sold at a loss through June 30, 2009 and 2008, the fair value and realized loss by length of time such securities were in a continuous unrealized loss position prior to the date of sale:

Length of Time in Continuous Unrealized Loss Prior to Sale	Estimated Fair Value	Three Months Ended June 30,		Estimated Fair Value	Gross Realized Losses
		2009	2008		
(\$ in millions)					
<b>U.S. Government and agencies</b>					
0-6 months	\$	\$		\$	
7-12 months					
Greater than 12 months					
<b>Obligations of state and political subdivisions</b>					
0-6 months		24.5	(0.3)		
7-12 months					
Greater than 12 months		4.2	(0.1)		
		28.7	(0.4)		
<b>Corporate and foreign government securities</b>					
0-6 months		0.4		1.1	
7-12 months					
Greater than 12 months					
		0.4		1.1	
<b>Residential mortgage-backed securities</b>					
0-6 months		57.8	(2.8)	38.1	(0.3)
7-12 months					
Greater than 12 months		2.5	(12.0)	4.2	(0.1)
		60.3	(14.8)	42.3	(0.4)
<b>Commercial mortgage-backed securities</b>					
0-6 months				8.7	(0.1)
7-12 months					
Greater than 12 months					
				8.7	(0.1)
<b>Asset-backed securities</b>					
0-6 months					
7-12 months					
Greater than 12 months					
<b>Preferred stock(1)</b>					
0-6 months				4.6	(0.3)
7-12 months					
Greater than 12 months					
				4.6	(0.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>\$ (15.2)</b>	<b>\$ 56.7</b>	<b>\$ (0.8)</b>

- (1) 2008 amount relates to other than temporary impairment losses.

Table of Contents

Length of Time in Continuous Unrealized Loss Prior to Sale	2009		Six Months Ended June 30,		2008	
	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Realized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Realized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Realized Losses
	(\$ in millions)					
<b>U.S. Government and agencies</b>						
0-6 months	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
7-12 months						
Greater than 12 months						
<b>Obligations of state and political subdivisions</b>						
0-6 months	24.6	(0.3)	2.5	(0.3)	2.5	(0.3)
7-12 months						
Greater than 12 months	7.8	(1.8)	2.5	(0.3)	2.5	(0.3)
	32.4	(2.1)				
<b>Corporate and foreign government securities</b>						
0-6 months	1.5	(0.4)	1.5	(0.4)	1.5	(0.4)
7-12 months	7.3	(6.9)	2.1	(6.9)	2.1	(6.9)
Greater than 12 months	0.8	(0.2)	3.6	(0.2)	3.6	(0.2)
	9.6	(7.5)				
<b>Residential mortgage-backed securities</b>						
0-6 months	57.8	(2.9)	42.9	(2.9)	42.9	(2.9)
7-12 months	10.2	(15.4)	4.2	(15.4)	4.2	(15.4)
Greater than 12 months	23.3	(12.2)	47.1	(12.2)	47.1	(12.2)
	91.3	(30.5)				
<b>Commercial mortgage-backed securities</b>						
0-6 months			8.8		8.8	
7-12 months			1.2		1.2	
Greater than 12 months			11.2		11.2	
<b>Asset-backed securities</b>						
0-6 months						
7-12 months						
Greater than 12 months						
<b>Preferred stock(1)</b>						
0-6 months	11.2	(1.5)	4.6	(1.5)	4.6	(1.5)
7-12 months						
Greater than 12 months	11.2	(1.5)	4.6	(1.5)	4.6	(1.5)
Total	\$ 144.5	\$ (41.6)	\$ 69.0	\$ (41.6)	\$ 69.0	\$ (41.6)

(1) 2008 amount relates to other than temporary impairment losses.





Table of Contents

***Premium Revenue Recognition***

Premiums are received either upfront or in installments.

*Upon Adoption of FAS 163*

The Company recognizes a liability for the unearned premium revenue at the inception of a financial guarantee contract equal to the present value of the premiums due or expected to be collected over the period of the contract. If the premium is a single premium received at the inception of the financial guarantee contract, the Company measures the unearned premium revenue as the amount received. The period of the contract is the expected period of risk that generally equates to the contract period. However, in some instances, the expected period of risk is significantly shorter than the full contract period due to expected prepayments. In those instances where the financial guarantee contract insures a homogeneous pool of assets that are contractually prepayable and where those prepayments are probable and the timing and amount of prepayments can be reasonably estimated the Company uses the expected period of risk to recognize premium revenues. The Company adjusts prepayment assumptions when those assumptions change and recognizes a prospective change in premium revenues as a result. The adjustment to the unearned premium revenue is equal the adjustment to the premium receivable with no effect on earnings at the time of the adjustment.

The Company recognizes the premium from a financial guarantee insurance contract as revenue over the period of the contract in proportion to the amount of insurance protection provided. As premium revenue is recognized, a corresponding decrease in the unearned premium revenue occurs. The amount of insurance protection provided is a function of the insured principal amount outstanding. Therefore, the proportionate share of premium revenue to be recognized in a given reporting period is a constant rate calculated based on the relationship between the insured principal amount outstanding in a given reporting period compared with the sum of each of the insured principal amounts outstanding for all periods. When the issuer of an insured financial obligation retires the insured financial obligation before its maturity and replaces it with a new financial obligation, referred to as a refunding, the financial guarantee insurance contract on the retired financial obligation is extinguished. The Company immediately recognizes any nonrefundable unearned premium revenue related to that contract as premium revenue and any associated acquisition costs previously deferred as an expense.

In our reinsurance businesses, we estimate the ultimate written and earned premiums to be received from a ceding company at the end of each quarter and the end of each year because some of our ceding companies report premium data anywhere from 30 to 90 days after the end of the relevant period. Written premiums reported in our statement of operations are based upon reports received from ceding companies supplemented by our own estimates of premium for which ceding company reports have not yet been received. As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the assumed premium estimate and related ceding commissions included in our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements were \$1.0 million and \$0.3 million and \$5.4 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. Key assumptions used to arrive at management's best estimate of assumed premiums are premium amounts reported historically and informal communications with ceding companies. Differences between such estimates and actual amounts are recorded in the period in which the actual amounts are determined. Historically, the differences have not been material. We do not record a provision for doubtful accounts related to our assumed premium estimate. Historically there have not been any material issues related to the collectibility of assumed premium. No provision for doubtful accounts related to our premium receivable was recorded for June 30, 2009 or December 31, 2008.

*Prior to Adoption of FAS 163*

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Prior to January 1, 2009, upfront premiums were earned in proportion to the expiration of the amount at risk. Each installment premium was earned ratably over its installment period, generally one year or less. Premium earnings under both the upfront and installment revenue recognition methods were based upon and were in proportion to the principal amount guaranteed and therefore resulted in higher premium earnings during periods where guaranteed principal was higher. For insured bonds for which the par value outstanding was declining during the insurance period, upfront premium earnings were greater in the earlier periods thus matching revenue recognition with the underlying risk. The premiums were allocated in accordance with the principal amortization schedule of the related bond issue and were earned ratably over the amortization period. When an insured issue was retired early, was called by the issuer, or was in substance paid in advance through a refunding accomplished by placing U.S. Government securities in escrow, the remaining unearned premium reserves were earned at that time.

Table of Contents

Unearned premium reserves represented the portion of premiums written that was applicable to the unexpired amount at risk of insured bonds.

*Deferred Acquisition Costs*

Acquisition costs incurred, other than those associated with credit derivative products, that vary with and are directly related to the production of new business are deferred in proportion to written premium and amortized in relation to earned premiums. These costs include direct and indirect expenses such as ceding commissions, brokerage expenses and the cost of underwriting and marketing personnel. As of June 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, we had deferred acquisition costs of \$374.1 million and \$288.6 million, respectively. Ceding commissions paid to primary insurers are the largest component of deferred acquisition costs, constituting 68% and 59% of total deferred acquisition costs as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively. Management uses its judgment in determining what types of costs should be deferred, as well as what percentage of these costs should be deferred. We annually conduct a study to determine which operating costs vary with, and are directly related to, the acquisition of new business and qualify for deferral. Ceding commissions received on premiums we cede to other reinsurers reduce acquisition costs. Anticipated losses, LAE and the remaining costs of servicing the insured or reinsured business are considered in determining the recoverability of acquisition costs. Acquisition costs associated with credit derivative products are expensed as incurred. When an insured issue is retired early, as discussed above in the Premium Revenue Recognition section of these Critical Accounting Estimates, the remaining related deferred acquisition cost is expensed at that time. Upon the adoption of FAS 163, ceding commissions associated with future installment premiums on assumed and ceded reinsurance business were recorded in deferred acquisition costs.

*Taxation of Subsidiaries*

The Company's Bermuda subsidiaries are not subject to any income, withholding or capital gains taxes under current Bermuda law. The Company's U.S. and U.K. subsidiaries are subject to income taxes imposed by U.S. and U.K. authorities and file applicable tax returns. In addition, AGRO, a Bermuda domiciled company, has elected under Section 953(d) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code to be taxed as a U.S. domestic corporation.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ) has completed audits of all of the Company's U.S. subsidiaries' federal income tax returns for taxable years through 2001. In September 2007, the IRS completed its audit of tax years 2002 through 2004 for Assured Guaranty Overseas US Holdings Inc. and subsidiaries, which includes Assured Guaranty Overseas US Holdings Inc., AGRO, Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company and AG Intermediary Inc. As a result of the audit there were no significant findings and no cash settlements with the IRS. In addition the IRS is reviewing Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. and subsidiaries for tax years 2002 through the date of the IPO. AGUS includes Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc., AGC and AG Financial Products and were part of the consolidated tax return of a subsidiary of ACE Limited ( ACE ), our former parent, for years prior to the IPO. The Company is indemnified by ACE for any potential tax liability associated with the tax examination of AGUS as it relates to years prior to the IPO. In addition, tax years 2005 and subsequent remain open.

*Deferred Income Taxes*

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, we had a net deferred income tax asset of \$209.1 million and \$129.1 million, respectively. Certain of our subsidiaries are subject to U.S. income tax. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are established for the temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted rates in effect for the year in which the

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

differences are expected to reverse. Such temporary differences relate principally to unrealized gains and losses on investments and credit derivatives, deferred acquisition costs, reserves for losses and LAE, unearned premium reserves, net operating loss carryforwards ( NOLs ) and statutory contingency reserves. A valuation allowance is recorded to reduce a deferred tax asset to the amount that in management 's opinion is more likely than not to be realized.

As of both June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, AGRO had a standalone NOL of \$47.9 million, which is available to offset its future U.S. taxable income. The Company has \$27.2 million of this NOL available through 2017 and \$20.7 million available through 2023. AGRO 's stand alone NOL is not permitted to offset the income of any other members of AGRO 's consolidated group due to certain tax regulations. Assured Guaranty Mortgage

Table of Contents

Insurance Company ( AGMIC ) is a member of the same consolidated tax group as AGRO. In Six Months 2009 AGMIC had a projected NOL of \$2.4 million which would be available through 2020.

Under applicable accounting rules, we are required to establish a valuation allowance for NOLs that we believe are more likely than not to expire before being utilized. Management has assessed the likelihood of realization of all of its deferred tax assets. Based on this analysis, management believes it is more likely than not that \$20.0 million of AGRO's \$47.9 million NOL will not be utilized before it expires and has established a \$7.0 million valuation allowance related to the NOL deferred tax asset. In addition, for the three months ended June 30, 2009, management assessed that a valuation allowance of \$3.4 million is no longer necessary for AGMIC due to the decrease in loss reserves in the same period. Management believes that all other deferred income taxes are more-likely-than-not to be realized. The valuation allowance is subject to considerable judgment, is reviewed quarterly and will be adjusted to the extent actual taxable income differs from estimates of future taxable income that may be used to realize NOLs or capital losses.

The Company adopted the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes-an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 ( FIN 48 ), on January 1, 2007. The total liability for unrecognized tax benefits as of both June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 was \$5.1 million and is included in other liabilities on the balance sheet. The Company does not believe it is reasonably possible that this amount will change significantly in the next twelve months. The Company's policy is to recognize interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense.

***Liability For Tax Basis Step-Up Adjustment***

In connection with the IPO, the Company and ACE Financial Services Inc. ( AFS ), a subsidiary of ACE, entered into a tax allocation agreement, whereby the Company and AFS made a Section 338(h)(10) election that has the effect of increasing the tax basis of certain affected subsidiaries tangible and intangible assets to fair value. Future tax benefits that the Company derives from the election will be payable to AFS when realized by the Company.

As a result of the election, the Company has adjusted its net deferred tax liability to reflect the new tax basis of the Company's affected assets. The additional basis is expected to result in increased future income tax deductions and, accordingly, may reduce income taxes otherwise payable by the Company. Any tax benefit realized by the Company will be paid to AFS. Such tax benefits will generally be calculated by comparing the Company's affected subsidiaries' actual taxes to the taxes that would have been owed by those subsidiaries had the increase in basis not occurred. After a 15 year period, to the extent there remains an unrealized tax benefit, the Company and AFS will negotiate a settlement of the unrealized benefit based on the expected realization at that time.

The Company initially recorded a \$49.0 million reduction of its existing deferred tax liability, based on an estimate of the ultimate resolution of the Section 338(h)(10) election. Under the tax allocation agreement, the Company estimated that, as of the IPO date, it was obligated to pay \$20.9 million to AFS and accordingly established this amount as a liability. The initial difference, which is attributable to the change in the tax basis of certain liabilities for which there is no associated step-up in the tax basis of its assets and no amounts due to AFS, resulted in an increase to additional paid-in capital of \$28.1 million. As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the liability for tax basis step-up adjustment, which is included in the Company's balance sheets in Other liabilities, were \$8.8 million and \$9.1 million, respectively. The Company has paid ACE and correspondingly reduced its liability by \$0.4 million and \$0.4 million in Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively.

*Accounting for Share-Based Compensation*

Effective January 1, 2006, we adopted the fair value recognition provisions of FAS No. 123 (revised), Share-Based Payment ( FAS 123R ) using the modified prospective transition method. Share-based compensation expense in Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 was \$1.6 million (\$1.2 million after tax) and \$2.0 million (\$1.5 million after tax), respectively. Share-based compensation expense in Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008 was \$5.3 million (\$4.3 million after tax) and \$8.4 million (\$6.9 million after tax), respectively. The effect on basic and diluted earnings per share for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 was \$0.01 and \$0.05, respectively. The effect on basic and diluted earnings per share for Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 was \$0.02 and \$0.08, respectively. Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 expense included \$(0.1) million (\$(0.1) million after tax) and \$(0.2) million (\$(0.2) million after tax), respectively, related to accelerated vesting for stock award grants to retirement-eligible employees. Six Months Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2008 expense

Table of Contents

included \$2.0 million (\$1.7 million after tax) and \$3.7 million (\$3.3 million after tax), respectively, related to accelerated vesting for stock award grants to retirement-eligible employees.

*Accounting for Cash-Based Compensation*

The Company recognized approximately \$0.9 million (\$0.6 million after tax) and \$0.8 million (\$0.6 million after tax) of expense for performance retention awards in Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. The Company recognized approximately \$6.2 million (\$5.1 million after tax) and \$6.3 million (\$5.2 million after tax) of expense for performance retention awards in Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Included in Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 amounts were \$0 million and \$4.3 million, respectively, of accelerated expense related to retirement-eligible employees. Included in Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 amounts were \$0 million and \$4.6 million, respectively, of accelerated expense related to retirement-eligible employees.

**Information on Residential Mortgage Backed Securities ( RMBS ), Subprime RMBS, Collateralized Debt Obligations of Asset Backed Securities ( CDOs of ABS ) and Prime RMBS Exposures**

**Our Risk Management and Surveillance personnel are responsible for monitoring and reporting on all transactions in the insured portfolio. The primary objective of the surveillance process is to monitor trends and changes in transaction credit quality, detect any deterioration in credit quality and take such remedial actions as may be necessary or appropriate. All transactions in the insured portfolio are risk rated, and surveillance personnel are responsible for adjusting these ratings to reflect changes in transaction credit quality. In assessing the credit quality of our insured portfolio, we take into consideration a variety of factors. For RMBS exposures such factors include the amount of credit support or subordination benefiting our exposure, delinquency and loss trends on the underlying collateral, the extent to which the exposure has amortized and the year in which it was insured.**

**The tables below provide information on the risk ratings and certain other risk characteristics of the Company's RMBS, subprime RMBS, CDOs of ABS and Prime exposures as of June 30, 2009 (dollars in millions):**

Table of Contents**Distribution of U.S. RMBS by Rating (1) and by Segment as of June 30, 2009**

Ratings(1):	Direct Net Par		Reinsurance Net Par		Total Net Par	
	Outstanding	%	Outstanding	%	Outstanding	%
Super senior	\$ 2,660	16.9%	\$ 2,660	15.9%	\$ 2,660	15.9%
AAA	2,615	16.6%	142	15.1%	2,758	16.5%
AA	830	5.3%	88	9.3%	918	5.5%
A	1,900	12.1%	110	11.7%	2,010	12.0%
BBB	1,909	12.1%	113	12.0%	2,022	12.1%
Below investment grade	5,841	37.1%	490	52.0%	6,331	37.9%
	\$ 15,755	100.0%	\$ 943	100.0%	\$ 16,698	100.0%

**Distribution of U.S. RMBS by Rating (1), December 31, 2006 to June 30, 2009**

Ratings(1):	12/31/06	12/31/07	12/31/08	06/30/09
Super senior	41.4%	35.4%	34.7%	15.9%
AAA	23.1%	33.9%	9.1%	16.5%
AA	0.3%	5.0%	8.5%	5.5%
A	9.2%	6.4%	13.4%	12.0%
BBB	25.1%	9.1%	10.4%	12.1%
Below investment grade	0.9%	10.1%	24.0%	37.9%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Distribution of U.S. RMBS by Rating (1) and Type of Exposure as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Prime First Lien	Prime Closed End Seconds	Prime HELOC	Alt-A First Lien	Alt-A Option ARMs	Subprime First Lien	Total Net Par Outstanding
Super senior	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,660
AAA	13	53	10	2,485	5	192	2,758
AA	72		7	697		142	918
A	31	3	8	501	200	1,267	2,010
BBB	138		93	436	86	1,269	2,022
Below investment grade	673	325	1,393	1,816	1,215	909	6,331
Total exposures	\$ 927	\$ 381	\$ 1,510	\$ 5,935	\$ 1,505	\$ 6,440	\$ 16,698

**Distribution of U.S. RMBS by Year Insured and Type of Exposure as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:

The tables below provide information on the risk ratings and certain other risk characteristics of the Company's RMBS



Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

	Prime First Lien	Prime Closed End Seconds	Prime HELOC	Alt-A First Lien	Alt-A Option ARMs	Subprime First Lien	Total Net Par Outstanding
2004 and prior	\$ 119	\$ 3	\$ 132	\$ 82	\$ 68	\$ 467	\$ 870
2005	194		655	377	49	85	1,361
2006	1	5	120	56	74	4,372	4,628
2007	614	373	603	3,043	1,170	1,491	7,294
2008				2,376	144	24	2,545
2009							
Total exposures	\$ 927	\$ 381	\$ 1,510	\$ 5,935	\$ 1,505	\$ 6,440	\$ 16,698

(1) Assured's internal rating. Assured's scale is comparable to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies. The super senior category, which is not generally used by rating agencies, is used by the Company in instances where Assured's AAA-rated exposure has additional credit enhancement due to either (1) the existence of another security rated AAA that is subordinated to Assured's exposure or (2) Assured's exposure benefits from a different form of credit enhancement that would pay any claims first in the event that any of the exposures incurs a loss and such credit enhancement, in management's opinion, causes Assured's attachment point to be materially above the AAA attachment point.

Table of Contents**Distribution of U.S. RMBS by Rating (1) and Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$ 172	\$ 91	\$ 149	\$ 208	\$ 250	\$ 870
2005		51	155	102	191	862	1,361
2006	2,660	96	135	705	731	302	4,628
2007		62	537	896	893	4,905	7,294
2008		2,376		157		12	2,545
2009	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,758	\$ 918	\$ 2,010	\$ 2,022	\$ 6,331	\$ 16,698
% of total	15.9%	16.5%	5.5%	12.0%	12.1%	37.9%	100.0%

**Distribution of U.S. Prime HELOC RMBS by Rating (1) and Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$ 0	\$ 6	\$ 5	\$ 75	\$ 45	\$ 132
2005				2	14	639	655
2006					3	117	120
2007		10	1	0	1	591	603
2008							
2009	\$	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ 8	\$ 93	\$ 1,393	\$ 1,510
% of total	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	6.1%	92.2%	100.0%

**Distribution of U.S. Closed End Seconds RMBS by Rating (1) and Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$ 0	\$	\$ 2	\$	\$	\$ 3
2005							
2006						5	5
2007		53		1		320	373
2008							
2009	\$	\$ 53	\$	\$ 3	\$	\$ 325	\$ 381
% of total	0.0%	13.9%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	85.3%	100.0%

(1) Assured's internal rating. Assured's scale is comparable to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies. The super senior category, which is not generally used by rating agencies, is used by the Company in instances where Assured's AAA-rated exposure has additional credit enhancement due to either (1) the existence of another security rated AAA that is subordinated to Assured's exposure or (2) Assured's exposure benefits from a different form of credit enhancement that would pay any claims first in the event that any of the exposures incurs a loss and such

credit enhancement, in management's opinion, causes Assured's attachment point to be materially above the AAA attachment point.

Table of Contents**Distribution of U.S. Alt-A RMBS by Rating (1) and Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$ 12	\$ 7	\$ 41	\$ 22	\$	\$ 82
2005		46	155	26	39	111	377
2006		50				6	56
2007			536	433	375	1,699	3,043
2008		2,376					2,376
2009	\$	\$ 2,485	\$ 697	\$ 501	\$ 436	\$ 1,816	\$ 5,935
% of total	0.0%	41.9%	11.8%	8.4%	7.4%	30.6%	100.0%

**Distribution of U.S. Alt-A Option ARM RMBS by Rating (1) and Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$	\$	\$ 51	\$ 16	\$	\$ 68
2005		3		2	1	43	49
2006		1			4	69	74
2007				2	65	1,104	1,170
2008				144			144
2009	\$	\$ 5	\$	\$ 200	\$ 86	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,505
% of total	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	13.3%	5.7%	80.7%	100.0%

**Distribution of U.S. Subprime RMBS by Rating (1) and Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$ 147	\$ 6	\$ 18	\$ 91	\$ 205	\$ 467
2005		1		71	2	11	85
2006	2,660	44	135	705	724	104	4,372
2007			1	461	452	578	1,491
2008				13		12	24
2009	\$ 2,660	\$ 192	\$ 142	\$ 1,267	\$ 1,269	\$ 909	\$ 6,440
% of total	41.3%	3.0%	2.2%	19.7%	19.7%	14.1%	100.0%

(1) Assured's internal rating. Assured's scale is comparable to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies. The super senior category, which is not generally used by rating agencies, is used by the Company in instances where Assured's AAA-rated exposure has additional credit enhancement due to either (1) the existence of another security rated AAA that is subordinated to Assured's exposure or (2) Assured's exposure benefits from a different form of credit enhancement that would pay any claims first in the event that any of the exposures incurs a loss and such

The tables below provide information on the risk ratings and certain other risk characteristics of the Company's RMBS

credit enhancement, in management's opinion, causes Assured's attachment point to be materially above the AAA attachment point.

Table of Contents**Distribution of Financial Guaranty Direct U.S. RMBS by Rating(1) and Type of Exposure as of June 30, 2009**

Ratings(1):	Prime First Lien	Prime Closed End Seconds	Prime HELOC	Alt-A First Lien	Alt-A Option ARMs	Subprime First Lien	Total Net Par Outstanding
Super senior	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,660
AAA		51		2,433		132	2,615
AA				695		135	830
A				473	196	1,230	1,900
BBB	134		20	433	81	1,240	1,909
Below investment grade	667	320	1,058	1,788	1,192	816	5,841
Total exposures	\$ 801	\$ 371	\$ 1,078	\$ 5,823	\$ 1,469	\$ 6,213	\$ 15,755

**Distribution of Financial Guaranty Direct U.S. RMBS by Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year insured:	Prime First Lien	Prime Closed End Seconds	Prime HELOC	Alt-A First Lien	Alt-A Option ARMs	Subprime First Lien	Total Net Par Outstanding
2004 and prior	\$	\$	\$ 20	\$ 48	\$ 66	\$ 322	\$ 456
2005	187		536	371	39	71	1,204
2006					53	4,348	4,401
2007	614	371	522	3,027	1,167	1,473	7,173
2008				2,376	144		2,521
2009	\$ 801	\$ 371	\$ 1,078	\$ 5,823	\$ 1,469	\$ 6,213	\$ 15,755

**Distribution of Financial Guaranty Direct U.S. RMBS by Year Issued as of June 30, 2009**

Year issued:	Prime First Lien	Prime Closed End Seconds	Prime HELOC	Alt-A First Lien	Alt-A Option ARMs	Subprime First Lien	Total Net Par Outstanding
2004 and prior	\$	\$	\$ 20	\$ 48	\$ 66	\$ 322	\$ 456
2005	187		536	371	39	3,519	4,652
2006				345	53	1,899	2,298
2007	614	371	522	5,058	1,311	474	8,350
2008							
2009	\$ 801	\$ 371	\$ 1,078	\$ 5,823	\$ 1,469	\$ 6,213	\$ 15,755

(1) Assured's internal rating. Assured's scale is comparable to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies. The super senior category, which is not generally used by rating agencies, is used by the Company in instances where Assured's AAA-rated exposure has additional credit enhancement due to either (1) the existence of another security rated AAA that is subordinated to Assured's exposure or (2) Assured's exposure benefits from a different form of credit enhancement that would pay any claims first in the event that any of the exposures incurs a loss and such credit enhancement, in management's opinion, causes Assured's attachment point to be materially above the AAA attachment point.



Table of Contents**Distribution of Financial Guaranty Direct U.S. RMBS Net Par Outstanding by Rating(1) and Year Issued as of June 30, 2009**

Year issued:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$ 98	\$ 5	\$ 64	\$ 122	\$ 167	\$ 456
2005	1,760	90	290	803	897	813	4,652
2006	900	262		24	450	662	2,298
2007		2,165	536	1,009	440	4,199	8,350
2008							
2009							
	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,615	\$ 830	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,909	\$ 5,841	\$ 15,755
% of total	16.9%	16.6%	5.3%	12.1%	12.1%	37.1%	100.0%

**Distribution of Financial Guaranty Direct U.S. RMBS Net Par Outstanding by Rating(1) and Year Insured as of June 30, 2009**

Year issued:	Super Senior	AAA Rated	AA Rated	A Rated	BBB Rated	BIG Rated	Total
2004 and prior	\$	\$ 98	\$ 5	\$ 64	\$ 122	\$ 167	\$ 456
2005		46	155	98	174	733	1,204
2006	2,660	44	135	705	724	133	4,401
2007		51	536	889	890	4,808	7,173
2008		2,376		144			2,521
2009							
	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,615	\$ 830	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,909	\$ 5,841	\$ 15,755
% of total	16.9%	16.6%	5.3%	12.1%	12.1%	37.1%	100.0%

(1) Assured's internal rating. Assured's scale is comparable to that of the nationally recognized rating agencies. The super senior category, which is not generally used by rating agencies, is used by the Company in instances where Assured's AAA-rated exposure has additional credit enhancement due to either (1) the existence of another security rated AAA that is subordinated to Assured's exposure or (2) Assured's exposure benefits from a different form of credit enhancement that would pay any claims first in the event that any of the exposures incurs a loss and such credit enhancement, in management's opinion, causes Assured's attachment point to be materially above the AAA attachment point.



Table of Contents**Distribution of Financial Guaranty Direct U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities Issued January 1, 2005 or Later by Exposure Type, Average Pool Factor, Subordination, Cumulative Losses and 60+ Day Delinquencies as of June 30, 2009 (1)****U.S. Prime First Lien**

<b>Year issued:</b>	<b>Net Par Outstanding</b>	<b>Pool Factor(2)</b>	<b>Subordination (3)</b>	<b>Cumulative Losses (4)</b>	<b>60+ Day Delinquencies (5)</b>	<b>Number of Transactions</b>
2005	\$ 187	69.2%	5.4%	0.2%	4.7%	6
2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007	614	83.2%	11.1%	0.7%	7.1%	1
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$ 801	79.9%	9.8%	0.6%	6.5%	7

**U.S. Prime CES**

<b>Year issued:</b>	<b>Net Par Outstanding</b>	<b>Pool Factor(2)</b>	<b>Subordination (3)</b>	<b>Cumulative Losses (4)</b>	<b>60+ Day Delinquencies (5)</b>	<b>Number of Transactions</b>
2005	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007	\$ 371	56.2%	20.6%	34.7%	20.0%	5
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$ 371	56.2%	20.6%	34.7%	20.0%	5

**U.S. Prime HELOC**

<b>Year issued:</b>	<b>Net Par Outstanding</b>	<b>Pool Factor(2)</b>	<b>Subordination (3)</b>	<b>Cumulative Losses (4)</b>	<b>60+ Day Delinquencies (5)</b>	<b>Number of Transactions</b>
2005	\$ 536	29.7%	0.0%	13.4%	16.0%	2
2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007	522	58.5%	0.0%	20.8%	11.3%	2
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$ 1,058	44.0%	0.0%	17.1%	13.7%	4

**U.S. Alt-A First Lien**

<b>Year issued:</b>	<b>Net Par Outstanding</b>	<b>Pool Factor(2)</b>	<b>Subordination (3)</b>	<b>Cumulative Losses (4)</b>	<b>60+ Day Delinquencies (5)</b>	<b>Number of Transactions</b>
2005	\$ 371	57.9%	11.8%	1.1%	11.8%	13

The tables below provide information on the risk ratings and certain other risk characteristics of the Company's RMBS

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

2006	345	71.4%	39.2%	4.2%	31.9%	2
2007	5,058	74.9%	20.3%	2.2%	26.4%	11
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$ 5,775	73.6%	20.9%	2.3%	25.8%	26

---

(1) For this release, net par outstanding is based on values as of June 2009. All performance information such as pool factor, subordination, cumulative losses and delinquency is based on June 2009 information obtained from Intex, Bloomberg, and/or provided by the trustee (except for CES, Alt-A, and Subprime, which is based on May) and may be subject to restatement or correction.

(2) Pool factor is the percentage of net par outstanding divided by the original net par outstanding of the transactions at inception.

(3) Represents the sum of subordinate tranches and over-collateralization, expressed as a percentage of total transaction size and does not include any benefit from excess interest collections that may be used to absorb losses.

(4) Cumulative losses are defined as net charge-offs on the underlying loan collateral divided by the original pool balance.

(5) 60+ day delinquencies are defined as loans that are greater than 60 days delinquent and all loans that are in foreclosure, bankruptcy or REO divided by net par outstanding.

Table of Contents**Distribution of Financial Guaranty Direct U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities Issued January 1, 2005 or Later by Exposure Type, Average Pool Factor, Subordination, Cumulative Losses and 60+ Day Delinquencies as of June 30, 2009 (1)****U.S. Alt-A Option ARMs**

<b>Year issued:</b>	<b>Net Par Outstanding</b>	<b>Pool Factor(2)</b>	<b>Subordination (3)</b>	<b>Cumulative Losses (4)</b>	<b>60+ Day Delinquencies (5)</b>	<b>Number of Transactions</b>
2005	\$ 39	31.2%	27.3%	1.4%	22.6%	1
2006	53	53.6%	18.7%	1.6%	29.3%	1
2007	1,311	78.0%	20.5%	2.1%	28.1%	7
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$ 1,403	75.8%	20.6%	2.0%	28.0%	9

**U.S. Subprime First Lien**

<b>Year issued:</b>	<b>Net Par Outstanding</b>	<b>Pool Factor(2)</b>	<b>Subordination (3)</b>	<b>Cumulative Losses (4)</b>	<b>60+ Day Delinquencies (5)</b>	<b>Number of Transactions</b>
2005	\$ 3,519	30.2%	63.8%	8.0%	42.4%	42
2006	1,899	44.3%	40.7%	10.3%	44.2%	49
2007	474	46.2%	39.3%	11.0%	47.1%	2
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$ 5,892	36.0%	54.4%	9.0%	43.4%	93

**U.S. CMBS**

<b>Year issued:</b>	<b>Net Par Outstanding</b>	<b>Pool Factor(2)</b>	<b>Subordination (3)</b>	<b>Cumulative Losses (4)</b>	<b>60+ Day Delinquencies (5)</b>	<b>Number of Transactions</b>
2005	\$ 3,429	95.9%	29.0%	0.0%	0.5%	158
2006	1,418	98.0%	30.7%	0.0%	0.7%	57
2007	512	87.7%	21.2%	0.0%	2.8%	13
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$ 5,359	95.7%	28.7%	0.0%	0.8%	228

(1) For this release, net par outstanding is based on values as of June 2009. All performance information such as pool factor, subordination, cumulative losses and delinquency is based on June 2009 information obtained from Intex, Bloomberg, and/or provided by the trustee (except for CES, Alt-A, and Subprime, which is based on May) and may be subject to restatement or correction.

(2) Pool factor is the percentage of net par outstanding divided by the original net par outstanding of the transactions at inception.

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

(3) Represents the sum of subordinate tranches and over-collateralization, expressed as a percentage of total transaction size and does not include any benefit from excess interest collections that may be used to absorb losses.

(4) Cumulative losses are defined as net charge-offs on the underlying loan collateral divided by the original pool balance.

(5) 60+ day delinquencies are defined as loans that are greater than 60 days delinquent and all loans that are in foreclosure, bankruptcy or REO divided by net par outstanding.

Table of Contents**Consolidated Results of Operations (1)**

The following table presents summary consolidated results of operations data for the three and six months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008.

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,		June 30,		June 30,		June 30,	
	2009(2)	2008	2009(2)	2008	2009(2)	2008	2009(2)	2008
	(\$ in millions)							
<b>Revenues:</b>								
Net earned premiums	\$	78.6	\$	51.7	\$	227.1	\$	98.5
Net investment income		43.3		40.2		86.9		76.8
Net realized investment (losses) gains		(4.9)		1.5		(22.0)		2.1
Change in fair value of credit derivatives								
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives		27.8		31.8		48.4		59.4
Unrealized (losses) gains on credit derivatives		(254.3)		708.5		(227.3)		448.9
Net change in fair value of credit derivatives		(226.5)		740.3		(178.9)		508.3
Fair value (loss) gain on committed capital securities		(60.6)		8.9		(40.9)		17.4
Other income		0.5		0.2		1.4		0.2
Total revenues		(169.5)		842.7		73.6		703.3
<b>Expenses:</b>								
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		38.0		38.1		117.8		93.3
Profit commission expense		2.1		1.0		2.3		2.2
Acquisition costs		16.5		11.8		40.0		23.7
Operating expenses		22.6		19.7		50.3		48.3
FSAH acquisition-related expenses		24.2				28.8		
Interest expense		6.5		5.8		12.3		11.6
Other expenses		1.9		1.7		3.3		2.5
Total expenses		111.8		78.2		254.8		181.6
(Loss) income before (benefit) provision for income taxes		(281.3)		764.5		(181.2)		521.7
(Benefit) provision for income taxes		(111.3)		219.3		(96.7)		145.7
Net (loss) income	\$	(170.0)	\$	545.2	\$	(84.5)	\$	376.0
<b>Underwriting (loss) gain by segment:</b>								
Financial guaranty direct	\$	(28.4)	\$	(0.4)	\$	62.3	\$	(19.3)
Financial guaranty reinsurance		1.0		5.4		(12.3)		(2.0)
Mortgage guaranty		19.2		0.5		(12.1)		1.2
Other				1.9				1.9
Total	\$	(8.2)	\$	7.3	\$	37.9	\$	(18.1)

(1) Some amounts may not add due to rounding.

The tables below provide information on the risk ratings and certain other risk characteristics of the Company's RM

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

(2) Effective January 1, 2009, the Company adopted FAS 163. See Critical Accounting Estimates for additional information.

We organize our business around four principal business segments: financial guaranty direct, financial guaranty reinsurance, mortgage guaranty and other. There are a number of lines of business that we have exited as part of our IPO in April 2004, which are included in the other segment. However, the results of these businesses are reflected in the above numbers. These unaudited interim consolidated financial statements cover the Second Quarter 2009, Second Quarter 2008, Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008.

Table of Contents

*Net (Loss) Income*

Net (loss) income was \$(170.0) million and \$545.2 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. The decrease of \$715.2 million in 2009 compared with 2008 is primarily due to the following factors:

- excluding the incurred losses on credit derivatives, which we include in underwriting gain, there was a \$(218.9) million unrealized loss on credit derivatives in Second Quarter 2009 compared with a \$714.1 million unrealized gain on credit derivatives in Second Quarter 2008, mainly attributable to the Company's own credit spread narrowing, which resulted in wider pricing on several transactions. With considerable volatility continuing in the market, this amount will fluctuate significantly in future periods,
- a decrease of \$69.5 million in fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities in Second Quarter 2009, which included a fair value loss of \$(60.6) million pre-tax, \$(39.4) million after-tax, related to Assured Guaranty Corp.'s committed capital securities, as compared to Second Quarter 2008, which included a fair value gain of \$8.9 million pre-tax, \$5.8 million after-tax,
- a decrease of \$15.5 million in underwriting gain to a \$(8.2) million underwriting loss in 2009, compared with a \$7.3 million underwriting gain in 2008, primarily due to an increase in incurred losses on credit derivatives as a result of credit deterioration for RMBS transactions written in CDS form,
- a \$24.2 million increase in expenses related to our acquisition of FSAH,
- a decrease of \$6.4 million in net realized investment losses in 2009, mainly due to the recognition of other-than-temporary impairment of \$14.8 million on the Company's asset backed investments.

Partially offsetting these negative factors were:

- a \$330.6 million decrease in our provision for income tax to \$(111.3) million income tax benefit in Second Quarter 2009, compared with \$219.3 million income tax expense in Second Quarter 2008. This benefit is mainly related to the unrealized loss on credit derivatives recognized in Second Quarter 2009, as compared to the unrealized gain on credit derivatives recognized in Second Quarter 2008. Additionally, the mix of income and losses in our taxable and non-taxable entities is such that there was a tax benefit for the Second Quarter 2009 as compared to a tax expense for the Second Quarter 2008,
- an increase of \$3.1 million in net investment income to \$43.3 million in Second Quarter 2009 from \$40.2 million in Second Quarter 2008 which is attributable to increased invested assets from proceeds from common stock and equity units offerings and positive operating cash

flows.

Net (loss) income was \$(84.5) million for Six Months 2009, compared with \$376.0 million for Six Months 2008. The decrease of \$460.5 million in 2009 compared with 2008 is primarily due to the same reasons mentioned above.



Table of Contents*Net Earned Premiums*

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,				June 30,			
Net Earned Premiums	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Financial guaranty direct	\$	30.4	\$	20.8	\$	131.9	\$	38.1
Financial guaranty reinsurance		47.4		29.6		93.6		57.4
Mortgage guaranty		0.8		1.3		1.6		3.1
Total financial guaranty net earned premiums		78.6		51.7		227.1		98.5
Other								
Total net earned premiums	\$	78.6	\$	51.7	\$	227.1	\$	98.5

Net earned premiums for Second Quarter 2009 were \$78.6 million compared with \$51.7 million for Second Quarter 2008. Financial guaranty direct net earned premiums increased \$9.6 million in Second Quarter 2009, compared with Second Quarter 2008. This increase is attributable to the continued growth of our in-force book of business, resulting in increased net earned premiums. Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 had no earned premiums from public finance refundings in the financial guaranty direct segment. Public finance refunding premiums reflect the unscheduled pre-payment or refundings of underlying municipal bonds. Excluding refundings, as well as the acceleration of earned premiums due to extinguishment of a certain assumed exposure, our financial guaranty reinsurance segment decreased \$0.2 million in Second Quarter 2009 compared with Second Quarter 2008 due mainly to the CIFG portfolio assumed in January 2009 which contributed \$2.1 million to net earned premiums, offset by run-off of the existing book of business. The \$0.5 million decrease in net earned premiums in our mortgage guaranty segment in Second Quarter 2009 compared with Second Quarter 2008 reflects the continued run-off of this business.

Net earned premiums for Six Months 2009 were \$227.1 million, compared with \$98.5 million for Six Months 2008. Six Months 2009 earned premiums include \$10.8 million related to the accretion of discount on future financial guaranty installment premiums as the result of the implementation of FAS 163 effective January 1, 2009. Financial guaranty direct segment net earned premiums were \$131.9 million for Six Months 2009 an increase of \$93.8 million compared with Six Months 2008. This increase is partially attributable to cancellation of certain international infrastructure transactions which resulted in \$73.6 million of net earned premiums, as well as the growth of our in-force book of business. Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008 had no earned premiums from public finance refundings in the financial guaranty direct segment. The variance in the financial guaranty reinsurance segment, excluding refundings and earned premium acceleration from both periods, was an increase of \$3.9 million mainly related to the portfolio assumed from CIFG Assurance North America, Inc. ( CIFG ) in January 2009 which contributed \$6.5 million to net earned premiums, offset by run-off of the existing book of business. The variance in the mortgage guaranty segments for Six Months 2009 compared with Six Months 2008 is primarily due to the same reason mentioned above.

*Net Investment Income*

Net investment income was \$43.3 million for Second Quarter 2009, compared with \$40.2 million for Second Quarter 2008. The \$3.1 million increase is attributable to increased invested assets due to the proceeds from common share and equity units offerings and positive operating cash flows.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Net investment income was \$86.9 million for Six Months 2009, compared with \$76.8 million for Six Months 2008. Pre-tax book yields were 4.3% and 4.7% for the six-month periods ended June 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The \$10.1 million increase for Six Months 2009 compared with Six Months 2008 is primarily due to the same reasons mentioned above.

### *Net Realized Investment (Losses) Gains*

Net realized investment (losses) gains, principally from the sale of fixed maturity securities were \$(4.9) million and \$1.5 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively, and \$(22.0) million and \$2.1 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. The Company recognized \$14.8 million of

Table of Contents

other than temporary impairment losses for the three months ended June 30, 2009 attributable to credit impairments on RMBS securities that the Company does not have the intent to sell. The Company's \$33.3 million of other than temporary impairment losses for the six month period additionally includes losses on RMBS and corporate securities that the Company did not intend to hold until a recovery of value as of March 31, 2009. The Company wrote down \$0.3 million of investments for other than temporary impairment losses for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008. Net realized investment (losses) gains, net of related income taxes, were \$(7.1) million and \$0.9 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively, and \$(24.2) million and \$1.3 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively.

**Realized Gains and Other Settlements on Credit Derivatives**

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	2009	June 30, 2008	2009	June 30, 2008
	(\$ in millions)			
Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable:				
Direct segment	\$ 27.1	\$ 30.6	\$ 55.5	\$ 58.0
Reinsurance segment	0.9	0.8	2.1	1.3
Total net credit derivative premiums received and receivable	28.0	31.5	57.5	59.3
Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable		0.4	(9.0)	0.4
Ceding commissions received/receivable (paid/payable), net	(0.2)	(0.1)		(0.3)
Total realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	\$ 27.8	\$ 31.8	\$ 48.4	\$ 59.4

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives, were \$27.8 million and \$31.8 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. Total net credit derivative premiums received and receivable, which represents premium income recognized attributable to CDS contracts, was \$28.0 million and \$31.5 million for the Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. This decrease is attributable to a decrease in our net par outstanding for CDS transactions due to amortization as well as a decline in our direct business written in CDS form. Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable, which represents contractual claim losses paid and payable related to insured credit events under these contracts, were \$0 million and \$0.4 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. The Second Quarter 2008 amount related to recoveries received by us related to claim payments made in prior years. We did not have any losses paid or payable under these contracts in Second Quarter 2008.

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives, were \$48.4 million and \$59.4 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Total net credit derivative premiums received and receivable, which represents premium income recognized attributable to CDS contracts, was \$57.5 million and \$59.3 million for the Six Months 2009 and Six Months Quarter 2008, respectively. This decrease is attributable to same reason mentioned above. Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable, which represents contractual claim losses paid and payable related to insured credit events under these contracts, were \$9.0 million and \$0.4 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Six Months 2008 amount related to recoveries received by us related to claim payments made in prior years. We did not have any losses paid or payable under these contracts in Six Months 2008.



Table of Contents*Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Credit Derivatives*

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,		June 30,		June 30,		June 30,	
Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	(\$ in millions)							
Pre-tax:								
Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives, excluding incurred losses on credit derivatives	\$ (218.9)	\$ 714.1	\$ (200.1)	\$ 457.7				
Incurred losses on credit derivatives	(35.4)	(5.6)	(27.2)	(8.8)				
Total unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives	\$ (254.3)	\$ 708.5	\$ (227.3)	\$ 448.9				
After-tax:								
Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives, excluding incurred losses on credit derivatives	\$ (150.8)	\$ 499.8	\$ (124.5)	\$ 318.4				
Incurred losses on credit derivatives	(26.0)	(4.1)	(19.1)	(6.2)				
Total unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives	\$ (176.8)	\$ 495.7	\$ (143.6)	\$ 312.2				

Credit derivatives are recorded at fair value as required by FAS 133, FAS 149 and FAS 155. The fair value adjustment for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, on a pre-tax basis, was a \$(254.3) million loss and a \$708.5 million gain, respectively. The fair value adjustment for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, on a pre-tax basis, was a \$(227.3) million loss and a \$448.9 million gain, respectively. As part of management's assessment of CDS exposure, the Company bifurcates the unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives to segregate the portion of the fair value movement that it believes is related to credit losses, using methodologies consistent with how it models loss reserves on financial guaranty insurance contracts. The credit portion of change in fair value, which we call incurred losses on credit derivatives, on a pre-tax basis, was \$35.4 million during Second Quarter 2009 compared to \$5.6 million in the same period of 2008. This increase in incurred losses is primarily attributable to adverse developments on RMBS transactions written in CDS form, specifically rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures. The increase in incurred losses on credit derivatives in the Six Month period of 2009 compared to 2008 is primarily driven by the same factors.

The change in unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives, excluding incurred losses on credit derivatives, reflects overall market movements in spreads both in the broader financial markets and on the Company's own spread. The \$218.9 unrealized loss, on a pre-tax basis, in the Second Quarter 2009 was primarily attributable to the narrowing of the Company's own credit spread, which decreased from 3,847 basis points at March 31, 2009 to 1,544 basis points at June 30, 2009. The \$714.1 million unrealized gain, on a pre-tax basis, for Second Quarter 2008 includes a gain of \$958.7 million associated with the widening of AGC's credit spread, from 540 basis points at March 31, 2008 to 900 basis points at June 30, 2008.

The \$200.1 million unrealized loss, on a pre-tax basis, for the Six Months 2009 was attributable to certain market spreads widening, primarily in the RMBS and corporate collateralized loan sectors as well as the narrowing of the Company's own credit spread, which decreased from 1,775 basis points at December 31, 2008 to 1,544 basis points at June 30, 2009. The \$457.7 million unrealized gain, on a pre-tax basis, for the Six Months 2008 was attributable to the widening of AGC's spread, which increased from 180 basis points at December 31, 2007 to 900 basis points at June 30, 2008. For the six months ended June 30, 2008, approximately 65% of our unrealized gain on credit derivative financial instruments is attributable to the fair value of high yield and investment grade corporate collateralized loan obligation transactions, with the balance of the change in fair values principally in the residential and commercial mortgage backed securities markets.

Unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivative financial instruments, excluding incurred losses on credit derivatives, net of related income taxes, were \$(150.8) million and \$499.8 million for the Three Months 2009 and 2008, respectively. These same values for the Six Months 2009 and 2008 were \$(124.5) million and \$318.4 million, respectively.

The gain or loss created by the estimated fair value adjustment will rise or fall based on estimated market pricing and may not be an indication of ultimate claims. Fair value is defined as the amount at which an asset or

Table of Contents

liability could be bought or sold in a current transaction between willing parties. We enter into credit derivative contracts which require us to make payments upon the occurrence of certain defined credit events relating to an underlying obligation (generally a fixed income obligation). The Company's credit derivative exposures are substantially similar to its financial guaranty insurance contracts and provide for credit protection against payment default. They are contracts that are generally held to maturity. The unrealized gains and losses on credit derivatives will reduce to zero as the exposure approaches its maturity date, unless there is a payment default on the exposure or early termination.

***Fair Value (Loss) Gain on Committed Capital Securities***

The Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 fair value losses related to Assured Guaranty Corp.'s committed capital securities were \$(60.6) million and \$(40.9) million, pre-tax, respectively, compared to the Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 fair value gains of \$8.9 million and \$17.4 million, pre-tax, respectively. The loss in 2009 and the gain in 2008 were due to the narrowing and widening of the Company's credit spreads in those periods, respectively.

***Other Income***

The Company recorded \$0.5 million and \$0.2 million in other income during Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. The Company recorded \$1.4 million and \$0.2 million in other income during Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively.

***Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses***

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses	Three Months Ended			Six Months Ended		
	2009	June 30, 2008		2009	June 30, 2008	
	(\$ in millions)					
Financial guaranty direct	\$ 31.8	\$ 28.2	\$	43.5	\$	64.1
Financial guaranty reinsurance	25.6	11.3		62.4		30.5
Mortgage guaranty	(19.4)	0.1		11.8		0.1
Total financial guaranty loss and loss adjustment expenses	38.0	39.6		117.8		94.7
Other		(1.5)				(1.5)
Total loss and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 38.0	\$ 38.1	\$	117.8	\$	93.3

Loss and loss adjustment expenses for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 were \$38.0 million and \$38.1 million, respectively. Loss and loss adjustment expenses for the financial guaranty direct segment increased \$3.6 million to \$31.8 million in Second Quarter 2009 from \$28.2 million in Second Quarter 2008. Loss and loss adjustment expenses for the Second Quarter 2009 were mainly related to rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures in RMBS transactions. Second Quarter 2008 included an increase in case reserves of \$31.2 million, mainly related to one CES transaction and HELOC exposures, other than the direct Countrywide transactions, driven by further deterioration, including increases in delinquencies and decreases in credit enhancement. The financial guaranty reinsurance segment loss and loss adjustment

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

expenses were \$25.6 million in Second Quarter 2009, compared with \$11.3 million in Second Quarter 2008. Loss and loss adjustment expenses for the Second Quarter 2009 were mainly related to rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures in RMBS transactions, as well as a public finance transaction experiencing cash shortfalls. Second Quarter 2008 included increases in case reserves of \$6.1 million and paid losses of \$11.2 million related primarily to our HELOC exposures. This was offset by a \$5.9 million decrease in portfolio reserve related to these reinsured exposures where a case reserve was established. Loss and loss adjustment expenses in our Mortgage guaranty segment decreased \$19.5 million during Second Quarter 2009 primarily due to a loss settlement related to an arbitration proceeding where a greater reserve was established in First Quarter 2009.

Loss and LAE for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008 were \$117.8 million and \$93.3 million, respectively. Loss and loss adjustment expenses for the Six Months 2009 were mainly related to rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures in RMBS transactions. In addition to Second Quarter 2008 activity, results for the financial guaranty direct segment for Six Months 2008 included an increase in portfolio reserves of \$35.7



Table of Contents

million, mainly related to our HELOC and other RMBS exposures driven by internal ratings downgrades. Loss and loss adjustment expenses for the Six Months 2009 were mainly related to rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures in RMBS transactions, as well as a public finance transaction, experiencing current cash shortfalls. In addition to the Second Quarter 2008 activity mentioned above, the financial guaranty reinsurance segment included increases in case and portfolio reserves of \$9.7 million and \$7.4 million, respectively, related primarily to our HELOC and U.S. Subprime RMBS exposures during Six Months 2008. Loss and loss adjustment expenses in our Mortgage guaranty segment increased \$11.7 million during Six Months 2009 primarily due to a loss settlement related to an arbitration proceeding.

***Profit Commission Expense***

Profit commissions, which are primarily related to our mortgage guaranty segment, allow the ceding company to share favorable experience on a reinsurance contract due to lower than expected losses. Expected or favorable loss development generates profit commission expense, while the inverse occurs on unfavorable loss development. Portfolio reserves are not a component of these profit commission calculations. Profit commissions for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 were \$2.1 million and \$2.3 million, respectively, compared with \$1.0 million and \$2.2 million for the comparable periods in the prior year. The increases in both periods are primarily related to the recording of updated amounts reported by our cedants for certain assumed business subject to profit commission.

***Acquisition Costs***

Acquisition costs primarily consist of ceding commissions, brokerage fees and operating expenses that are related to the acquisition of new business. Acquisition costs that vary with and are directly related to the acquisition of new business are deferred and amortized in relation to earned premium. For Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, acquisition costs incurred were \$16.5 million and \$11.8 million, respectively, while Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008 acquisition costs incurred were \$40.0 million and \$23.7 million, respectively. These amounts are consistent with changes in net earned premium from non-derivative transactions.

***Operating Expenses***

For Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, operating expenses were \$22.6 million and \$19.7 million, respectively. Operating expenses for Six Months 2009 were \$50.3 million, compared with \$48.3 million for Six Months 2008. The \$2.9 million increase for Second Quarter 2009 compared with Second Quarter 2008 and the \$2.0 million increase for Six Months 2009 compared with Six Months 2008 was mainly due to a decrease in the amount of operating expenses deferred as acquisition costs as a result of decreased new business volumes in the structured finance and international financial guarantee insurance markets, partially offset by a decrease in employee related expenses.

***FSAH Acquisition-Related Expenses***

For Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months Quarter 2009, the Company recognized expenses related to FSAH acquisition of \$24.2 million and \$28.8 million, respectively. These expenses include various real estate, legal, consulting and relocation fees.



Table of Contents

***Interest Expense***

For Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, interest expense was \$6.5 million and \$5.8 million, respectively. For Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, interest expense was \$12.3 million and \$11.6 million, respectively. Interest expense related to the issuance of our 7% Senior Notes ( 7.0 % Senior Notes ) in May 2004 was \$3.3 million in both Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 and \$6.7 million in both Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008. Interest expense related to the issuance of our 6.40% Series A Enhanced Junior Subordinated Debentures in December 2006 was \$2.5 million in both Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 and \$4.9 million in both Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008. In addition, the Company recognized \$0.7 million of interest expense in both Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 related to the issuance of 8.5% Senior Notes in June 2009.

***Other Expenses***

For Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, other expenses were \$1.9 million and \$1.7 million, respectively. For Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, other expenses were \$3.3 million and \$2.5 million, respectively. These amounts reflect the put option premiums associated with AGC's \$200.0 million committed capital securities. The increase in Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 compared to the respective periods in 2008 was due to the increase in annualized rates from One-Month LIBOR plus 110 basis points to One-Month LIBOR plus 250 basis points as a result of the failed auction process in April 2008.

***Income Tax***

For Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, income tax (benefit) expense was \$(111.3) million and \$219.3 million, respectively. For Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, income tax (benefit) expense was \$(96.7) million and \$145.7 million, respectively. Our effective tax rate was 39.6% and 53.4% for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, respectively, compared with 28.7% and 27.9% for Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Our effective tax rates reflect the proportion of income recognized by each of our operating subsidiaries, with U.S. subsidiaries taxed at the U.S. marginal corporate income tax rate of 35%, UK subsidiaries taxed at the UK marginal corporate tax rate of 30%, and no taxes for our Bermuda holding company and subsidiaries. Accordingly, our overall corporate effective tax rate fluctuates based on the distribution of taxable income across these jurisdictions. Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 included \$(254.3) million and \$(227.3) million, respectively, of unrealized losses on credit derivatives, the majority of which is associated with subsidiaries taxed in the U.S., and are the primary reasons for the 39.6% and 53.4% effective tax rates, respectively. Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 included \$708.5 million and \$448.9 million, respectively, of unrealized gains on credit derivatives, the majority of which is associated with subsidiaries taxed in the U.S., and are the primary reasons for the 28.7% and 27.9% effective tax rates, respectively.

**Segment Results of Operations**

Our financial results include four principal business segments: financial guaranty direct, financial guaranty reinsurance, mortgage guaranty and other. Management uses underwriting gains and losses as the primary measure of each segment's financial performance. Underwriting gain is calculated as net earned premiums plus realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives less the sum of loss and loss adjustment expenses including incurred losses on credit derivatives, profit commission expense, acquisition costs and other operating expenses that are directly related to the operations of our insurance businesses. This measure excludes certain revenue and expense items, such as net investment

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

income, realized investment gains and losses, unrealized gains and losses on credit derivatives, excluding loss reserves allocation, fair value gain (loss) on committed capital securities, other income, FSAH acquisition-related expenses, interest expense and other expenses, that are not directly related to the underwriting performance of our insurance operations, but are included in net income.

Loss and loss adjustment expense ratio, which is a non-GAAP financial measure, is defined as loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries) plus the Company's net estimate of credit derivative incurred case and portfolio loss and loss adjustment expense reserves, which is included in unrealized gains (losses) on credit derivatives, plus net credit derivative losses (recoveries), which is included in realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives, divided by net earned premiums plus net credit derivative premiums received and receivable, which is

Table of Contents

included in realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives. Expense ratio is calculated by dividing the sum of ceding commissions expense (income), profit commission expense, acquisition costs and operating expenses by net earned premiums plus net credit derivative premiums received and receivable, which is included in realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives. Combined ratio, which is a non-GAAP financial measure, is the sum of the loss and loss adjustment expense ratio and the expense ratio.

**Financial Guaranty Direct Segment**

The financial guaranty direct segment consists of our primary financial guaranty insurance business and our credit derivative business. Financial guaranty insurance provides an unconditional and irrevocable guaranty that protects the holder of a financial obligation against non-payment of principal and interest when due. Financial guaranty insurance may be issued to the holders of the insured obligations at the time of issuance of those obligations, or may be issued in the secondary market to holders of public bonds and structured securities. As an alternative to traditional financial guaranty insurance, credit protection on a particular security or issuer can also be provided through a credit derivative, such as a credit default swap. Under a credit default swap, the seller of protection makes a specified payment to the buyer of protection upon the occurrence of one or more specified credit events with respect to a reference obligation or a particular reference entity. Credit derivatives typically provide protection to a buyer rather than credit enhancement of an issue as in traditional financial guaranty insurance.

The table below summarizes the financial results of our financial guaranty direct segment for the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,		June 30,		June 30,		June 30,	
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Net earned premiums	\$	30.4	\$	20.8	\$	131.9	\$	38.1
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives:								
Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable		27.1		30.6		55.5		58.0
Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable		0.1				(8.7)		
Ceding commissions received/receivable (paid/payable), net		0.4		0.2		0.8		0.1
Total realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives		27.6		30.9		47.6		58.1
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		31.8		28.2		43.5		64.1
Incurred losses on credit derivatives		35.1		5.6		27.7		8.8
Total loss and loss adjustment expenses		66.9		33.8		71.2		72.9
Profit commission expense								
Acquisition costs		3.6		3.1		9.8		6.1
Operating expenses		15.9		15.2		36.2		36.5
Underwriting (loss) gain	\$	(28.4)	\$	(0.4)	\$	62.3	\$	(19.3)
Loss and loss adjustment expense ratio		116.2%		65.7%		42.6%		75.9%
Expense ratio		33.2%		35.1%		24.1%		44.2%

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Combined ratio	149.4%	100.8%	66.7%	120.1%

113

---

Table of Contents

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,				June 30,			
Net Earned Premiums	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Public finance	\$	15.7	\$	7.2	\$	101.2	\$	11.3
Structured finance		14.7		13.6		30.7		26.8
Total	\$	30.4	\$	20.8	\$	131.9	\$	38.1
Included in public finance direct net earned premiums are refundings of	\$		\$		\$		\$	
Included in public finance direct net earned premiums are transaction cancellations of	\$		\$		\$	73.6	\$	

Net earned premiums for Second Quarter 2009 were \$30.4 million compared with \$20.8 million for Second Quarter 2008. The increase in net earned premiums for the Second Quarter 2009 compared with Second Quarter 2008 reflects our increased market penetration, which has resulted in growth of our in-force book of business. Net earned premiums for Six Months 2009 increased \$93.8 million compared with Six Months 2008 mainly due to the cancellation of certain international infrastructure transactions, which resulted in \$73.6 million of net earned premiums, as well as an increase in our in-force business. There were no unscheduled refundings during 2009 and 2008. These unscheduled refundings are sensitive to market interest rates. We evaluate our net earned premiums both including and excluding these refundings.

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,				June 30,			
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable	\$	27.1	\$	30.6	\$	55.5	\$	58.0
Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable or payable		0.1				(8.7)		
Ceding commissions receivable/receivable (paid/payable), net		0.4		0.2		0.8		0.1
Total realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	\$	27.6	\$	30.9	\$	47.6	\$	58.1

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives, were \$27.6 million and \$30.9 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively, and \$47.6 million and \$58.1 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. This decrease in both periods is attributable to lower net credit derivative premiums received and receivable from CDS contracts as net par outstanding decreased due to amortization and new business writings decreased in 2009 compared to 2008. In addition, the decrease in Six Months 2009 is due to the \$(8.7) million of losses paid or payable under these contracts. We did not have any losses paid or payable under the CDS contracts in 2008.

Loss and LAE were \$31.8 million and \$28.2 million, respectively, for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, while loss and LAE were \$43.5 million and \$64.1 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Second Quarter 2009 loss and LAE is mainly related to our rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures on RMBS exposures. Second Quarter 2008 included an increase in case reserves of \$31.2 million mainly attributable to one Closed-End Second transaction and HELOC exposures, other than the direct Countrywide transactions, driven

by further deterioration, including increases in delinquencies and decreases in credit enhancement.

Loss and LAE for Six Months 2009 were also primarily driven by RMBS exposures. Six Months 2008 included an increase in portfolio reserves of \$35.7 million mainly attributable to our HELOC and other RMBS exposures driven by internal ratings downgrades.

Incurred losses on credit derivatives was \$35.1 million during Second Quarter 2009 compared to \$5.6



Table of Contents

million in the same period of 2008. This increase in incurred losses on credit derivatives is, consistent with loss and LAE expense on financial guaranty insurance contracts, primarily attributable to adverse developments on RMBS transactions written in CDS form, specifically rising delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures. The increase in incurred losses on credit derivatives in the Six Month period of 2009 compared to 2008 is primarily driven by the same factors.

Acquisition costs incurred for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 were \$3.6 million and \$9.8 million, respectively. For Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008 acquisition costs were \$3.1 million and \$6.1 million, respectively. The changes in acquisition costs incurred over the periods are directly related to changes in net earned premium from non-derivative transactions.

Operating expenses for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 were \$15.9 million and \$15.2 million, respectively. Operating expenses for Six Months 2009 were \$36.2 million, compared with \$36.5 million for Six Months 2008. The increase in operating expenses for the Second Quarter 2009 compared with the Second Quarter 2008 is mainly due to a decrease in the amount of operating expenses deferred as acquisition costs as a result of changes in market conditions, partially offset by a decrease in employee related expenses.

***Financial Guaranty Reinsurance Segment***

In our financial guaranty reinsurance business, we assume all or a portion of risk undertaken by other insurance companies that provide financial guaranty protection. The financial guaranty reinsurance business consists of public finance and structured finance reinsurance lines. Premiums on public finance are typically written upfront and earned over the life of the policy, and premiums on structured finance are typically written on an installment basis and earned ratably over the installment period.

The table below summarizes the financial results of our financial guaranty reinsurance segment for the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,		June 30,		June 30,		June 30,	
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Net earned premiums	\$	47.4	\$	29.6	\$	93.6	\$	57.4
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives:								
Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable		0.9		0.8		2.1		1.3
Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable						(0.3)		
Ceding commissions paid/payable, net		(0.7)		(0.3)		(1.0)		(0.4)
Total realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives		0.2		0.6		0.8		0.9
Loss and loss adjustment expenses		25.6		11.3		62.4		30.5
		0.2				(0.5)		

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Incurring (gains) losses on credit derivatives							
Total loss and loss adjustment expenses		25.8		11.3		61.9	30.5
Profit commission expense		1.8		0.9		2.0	2.0
Acquisition costs		12.8		8.6		29.9	17.4
Operating expenses		6.2		4.0		12.9	10.4
Underwriting gain (loss)	\$	1.0	\$	5.4	\$	(12.3)	\$ (2.0)
Loss and loss adjustment expense ratio		53.4%		37.1%		65.1%	51.9%
Expense ratio		44.5%		45.2%		47.8%	51.5%
Combined ratio		97.9%		82.3%		112.9%	103.4%

## Table of Contents

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,				June 30,			
Net Earned Premiums	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Public finance	\$	36.9	\$	17.5	\$	71.7	\$	36.1
Structured finance		10.5		12.1		21.9		21.3
Total	\$	47.4	\$	29.6	\$	93.6	\$	57.4
Included in public finance reinsurance net earned premiums are refundings of	\$	8.3	\$	2.1	\$	25.0	\$	4.5
Included in public finance reinsurance net earned premiums is a transaction acceleration of	\$	11.8	\$		\$	11.8	\$	

Net earned premiums for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009 were \$47.4 million and \$93.6 million, respectively, compared with \$29.6 million and \$57.4 million for Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Public finance net earned premiums also include refundings, which reflect the unscheduled pre-payment or refundings of underlying municipal bonds. These unscheduled refundings, which were \$8.3 million and \$25.0 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, respectively, compared with \$2.1 million and \$4.5 million, respectively, for the same periods last year, are sensitive to market interest rates. Additionally, Second Quarter 2009 included accelerated earned premium of \$11.8 million for a transaction whose exposure was extinguished. Excluding refundings and acceleration for both periods, net earned premiums decreased \$0.2 million and increased \$3.9 million in the three and six months ended June 30, 2009 compared with 2008, respectively. The variances for both periods is a result of run-off of the existing book of business, offset by net earned premiums from the portfolio assumed from CFIG in January 2009, which contributed \$2.1 million and \$6.5 million to net earned premiums in Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009, respectively.

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,				June 30,			
Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable	\$	0.9	\$	0.8	\$	2.1	\$	1.3
Net credit derivative losses (paid and payable) recovered and recoverable						(0.3)		
Ceding commissions received/receivable (paid/payable), net		(0.7)		(0.3)		(1.0)		(0.4)
Total realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives	\$	0.2	\$	0.6	\$	0.8	\$	0.9

Realized gains and other settlements on credit derivatives, were \$0.2 million and \$0.6 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively, and \$0.8 million and \$0.9 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Net credit derivative premiums received and receivable, which represents premium income recognized attributable to CDS contracts, and related ceding commission expense, increased based on amounts reported to us by our cedants. We had \$0.3 million of losses paid or payable under these contracts in Six Months 2009. We did not have any losses paid or payable under these contracts in the three months ended June 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively, and six months ended June 30, 2008.

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Loss and LAE were \$25.6 million and \$11.3 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. Second Quarter 2009 loss and LAE included \$18.0 million related to our assumed RMBS exposures, as well as \$4.8 million related to the Jefferson County public finance transaction. Second Quarter 2008 included increases to case reserves of \$6.1 million and paid losses of \$11.2 million mainly related to our HELOC exposures. This was offset by a \$5.9 million decrease in portfolio reserves associated with transactions where a case reserve was established.

Loss and LAE were \$62.4 million and \$30.5 million for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. Loss and LAE for Six Months 2009 was primarily due to assumed HELOC and other RMBS transactions, as well as

Table of Contents

\$15.4 million for two public finance transactions. In addition to the reserve increases mentioned above, Six Months 2008 included increases to case and portfolio reserves of \$9.3 million and \$7.4 million, respectively, mainly related to our U.S. Subprime RMBS and HELOC exposures.

Profit commission expense was \$1.8 million in Second Quarter 2009 compared to \$0.9 million in Second Quarter 2008, and \$2.0 million in both Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008. The increase in Second Quarter 2009 compared to Second Quarter 2008 is primarily related to amounts reported by our ceding companies.

For Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, acquisition costs incurred were \$12.8 million and \$8.6 million, respectively, while acquisition costs incurred were \$29.9 million for Six Months 2009 compared with \$17.4 million for Six Months 2008. The changes in acquisition costs incurred over the periods are directly related to changes in net earned premiums from non-derivative transactions.

Operating expenses for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008 were \$6.2 million and \$4.0 million, respectively. Operating expenses for Six Months 2009 were \$12.9 million, compared with \$10.4 million for Six Months 2008. The increase in operating expenses for the six month period is mainly due to an increase in Federal Excise Taxes related to business ceded to our Bermuda entity. Additionally, there was a decrease in the amount of operating expenses deferred as acquisition costs as a result of changes in market conditions.

***Mortgage Guaranty Segment***

Mortgage guaranty insurance provides protection to mortgage lending institutions against the default of borrowers on mortgage loans that, at the time of the advance, had a loan-to-value ratio in excess of a specified ratio. We primarily function as a reinsurer in this industry and assume all or a portion of the risks undertaken by primary mortgage insurers.

The table below summarizes the financial results of our mortgage guaranty segment for the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended				Six Months Ended			
	June 30,		June 30,		June 30,		June 30,	
	2009		2008		2009		2008	
	(\$ in millions)							
Net earned premiums	\$	0.8	\$	1.3	\$	1.6	\$	3.1
Loss and loss adjustment expenses (recoveries)		(19.4)		0.1		11.8		0.1
Profit commission expense		0.3		0.1		0.4		0.2
Acquisition costs		0.1		0.1		0.2		0.2
Operating expenses		0.6		0.5		1.3		1.4
Underwriting gain	\$	19.2	\$	0.5	\$	(12.1)	\$	1.2
Loss and loss adjustment expense ratio		NM		7.9%		737.5%		3.2%

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Expense ratio		125.0%		55.1%		118.8%		57.5%
Combined ratio		NM		63.0%		856.3%		60.7%

---

NM = Not meaningful

Loss and LAE were \$(19.4) million and \$0.1 million for Second Quarter 2009 and Second Quarter 2008, respectively. Loss and LAE for Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008 were \$11.8 million and \$0.1 million, respectively. The decrease in loss and LAE in Second Quarter 2009 and an increase in Six Months 2009 compared to the same periods last year are mainly a result of a \$10.0 million settlement in Second Quarter 2009 of a contract under dispute for which the Company set up a loss reserve in the First Quarter 2009.

The activity of this segment in the near future, is expected to be comprised of installment premiums on deals entered into in 2006 and prior.

***Other Segment***

The other segment represents lines of business that we exited or sold as part of our 2004 IPO.

Table of Contents

The other segment had no earned premiums during 2009 or 2008. The other segment had \$0 underwriting gain during both Second Quarter 2009 and Six Months 2009. During both Second Quarter 2008 and Six Months 2008, due to loss recoveries the other segment generated \$1.9 million of underwriting gain.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our liquidity, both on a short-term basis (for the next twelve months) and a long-term basis (beyond the next twelve months), is largely dependent upon: (1) the ability of our operating subsidiaries to pay dividends or make other payments to us, (2) external financings and (3) net investment income from our invested assets. Our liquidity requirements include the payment of our operating expenses, interest on our debt, and dividends on our common shares. We may also require liquidity to make periodic capital investments in our operating subsidiaries. In the ordinary course of our business, we evaluate our liquidity needs and capital resources in light of holding company expenses, debt-related expenses and our dividend policy, as well as rating agency considerations. Based on the amount of dividends we expect to receive from our subsidiaries and the income we expect to receive from our invested assets, management believes that we will have sufficient liquidity to satisfy our needs over the next twelve months, including the ability to pay dividends on our common shares. Total cash paid in Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008 for dividends to shareholders was \$8.2 million, or \$0.09 per common share, and \$7.8 million, or \$0.09 per common share, respectively. Beyond the next twelve months, the ability of our operating subsidiaries to declare and pay dividends may be influenced by a variety of factors including market conditions, insurance and rating agencies regulations and general economic conditions. Consequently, although management believes that we will continue to have sufficient liquidity to meet our debt service and other obligations over the long term, it remains possible that we may be required to seek external debt or equity financing in order to meet our operating expenses, debt service obligations or pay dividends on our common shares. These external sources of financing may or may not be available to us, and if available, the costs of such financing may be higher than our current levels.

We anticipate that a major source of our liquidity, for the next twelve months and for the longer term, will be amounts paid by our operating subsidiaries as dividends. Certain of our operating subsidiaries are subject to restrictions on their ability to pay dividends. See

Business Regulation. The amount available at AGC to pay dividends in 2009 with notice to, but without the prior approval of, the Maryland Insurance Commissioner is approximately \$37.8 million. Dividends paid by a U.S. company to a Bermuda holding company presently are subject to a 30% withholding tax. The amount available at AG Re to pay dividends or make a distribution of contributed surplus in 2009 in compliance with Bermuda law is \$1,125.0 million. However, any distribution which results in a reduction of 15% or more of AG Re's total statutory capital, as set out in its previous years' financial statements, would require the prior approval of the Bermuda Monetary Authority.

Liquidity at our operating subsidiaries is used to pay operating expenses, claims, payment obligations with respect to credit derivatives, including collateral postings, reinsurance premiums and dividends to Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. ( AGUS ) for debt service and dividends to us, as well as, where appropriate, to make capital investments in their own subsidiaries. In addition, certain of our operating companies may be required to post additional collateral in connection with credit derivatives and reinsurance transactions. Management believes that these subsidiaries' operating needs generally can be met from operating cash flow, including gross written premium and investment income from their respective investment portfolios.

Net cash flows provided by operating activities were \$202.8 million and \$331.4 million during Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. The decrease in Six Months 2009 cash flows provided by operating activities compared with Six Months 2008 was due to a slight decrease in premiums written and an increase in loss and loss adjustment expense reserves.

Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Net cash flows used in investing activities were \$811.0 million and \$566.8 million during Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. These investing activities consist of net purchases and sales of fixed maturity securities and short-term investments. The increase in 2009 was due to purchases of fixed maturity securities with the cash generated from common stock and equity units offerings, as described below, and positive cash flows from operating activities.



Table of Contents

Net cash flows provided by financing activities were \$603.8 million and \$237.4 million during Six Months 2009 and Six Months 2008, respectively. During Six Months 2009 we paid \$8.2 million in dividends, \$0.8 million, net, under our option and incentive plans and \$3.7 million for share repurchases as described below.

On November 8, 2007, the Company's Board of Directors approved a new share repurchase program for up to 2.0 million common shares. Share repurchases will take place at management's discretion depending on market conditions. Through December 31, 2008 we repurchased 0.3 million shares of our common shares. During Six Months 2009 we paid \$3.7 million to repurchase 1.0 million shares of our common shares.

As described above, on June 24, 2009, the Company completed the sale of 44,275,000 of its common shares (including 5,775,000 common shares allocable to the underwriters) at a price of \$11.00 per share. On June 24, 2009, concurrently with the common share offering the Company along with AGUS, a subsidiary of the Company, sold 3,450,000 equity units (including 450,000 equity units allocable to the underwriters) at an initial stated amount of \$50 per unit. The equity units will initially consist of a forward purchase contract and a 5% undivided beneficial ownership interest in \$1,000 principal amount 8.50% Senior Notes due 2014 issued by AGUS. Under the purchase contract, holders are required to purchase the Company's common shares no later than June 1, 2012. The threshold appreciation price of the equity units is \$12.93, which represents a premium of 17.5% over the public offering price in the common share offering. The 8.50% Senior Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Assured Guaranty Ltd. The net proceeds after underwriting expenses and offering costs for these two offerings totaled approximately \$616.5 million. Of that amount, the net proceeds from equity offering were \$170.8 million, which was allocated between \$168.0 million recognized as long-term debt and \$2.8 million of the purchase contract recognized in additional paid-in-capital in shareholders equity in the consolidated balance sheets.

During Six Months 2008 we paid \$7.8 million in dividends, \$3.8 million, net, under our option and incentive plans and \$1.0 million for offering costs incurred in connection with the December 2007 equity offering and issuance of common shares to WL Ross.

In June 2008, the Company's subsidiary, Assured Guaranty Corp., entered into a new five-year lease agreement for New York office space. Future minimum annual payments of \$5.3 million for the first twelve month period and \$5.7 million for subsequent twelve month periods commenced October 1, 2008 and are subject to escalation in building operating costs and real estate taxes. As a result of the acquisition of FSAH, during Second Quarter 2009 the Company decided not to use the office space described above and subleased it to two tenants for total minimum annual payments of approximately \$3.7 million till October 2013. Assured Guaranty Corp. wrote off related leasehold improvements and recorded a loss on the sublease of \$11.7 million, which is included in operating expenses and other liabilities in the unaudited consolidated income statements and balance sheets, respectively.

As of June 30, 2009 our future cash payments associated with other contractual obligations have not materially changed since December 31, 2008.

**8.50% Senior Notes**

On June 24, 2009, the Company along with AGUS sold 3,450,000 equity units (including 450,000 equity units allocable to the underwriters) at an initial stated amount of \$50 per unit for gross proceeds of \$172.5 million. Of that amount, the net proceeds from equity offering were \$170.8 million, which was allocated between \$168.0 million recognized as long-term debt and \$2.8 million of the purchase contract recognized in

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

additional paid-in-capital in shareholders' equity in the consolidated balance sheets.

The equity units consist of a forward purchase contract and a 5% undivided beneficial ownership interest in \$1,000 principal amount 8.50% Senior Notes due 2014 issued by AGUS. Under the purchase contract, holders are required to purchase the Company's common shares no later than June 1, 2012. The threshold appreciation price of the equity units is \$12.93, which represents a premium of 17.5% over the public offering price in the common share offering. The 8.50% Senior Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Assured Guaranty Ltd. The 8.50% Senior Notes bear a coupon rate of 8.50% per year, payable quarterly. The 8.50% Senior Notes will be remarketed between December 1, 2011 and June 1, 2012.

Table of Contents

The 8.50% Senior Notes will initially bear interest at a rate of 8.50% per year, payable, initially, quarterly. Following a successful remarketing, the interest rate on the notes will be reset and interest may become payable semi-annually if Assured Guaranty US Holdings Inc. so elects.

*Credit Facilities*

**2006 Credit Facility**

On November 6, 2006, Assured Guaranty Ltd. and certain of its subsidiaries entered into a \$300.0 million five-year unsecured revolving credit facility (the 2006 credit facility ) with a syndicate of banks, for which ABN AMRO Incorporated and Bank of America Securities LLC acted as lead arrangers. Under the 2006 credit facility, each of AGC, AG(UK), AG Re, AGRO and Assured Guaranty Ltd. are entitled to request the banks to make loans to such borrower or to request that letters of credit be issued for the account of such borrower.

Of the \$300.0 million available to be borrowed, no more than \$100.0 million may be borrowed by Assured Guaranty Ltd., AG Re or AGRO, individually or in the aggregate, and no more than \$20.0 million may be borrowed by AG(UK). The stated amount of all outstanding letters of credit and the amount of all unpaid drawings in respect of all letters of credit cannot, in the aggregate, exceed \$100.0 million.

The 2006 credit facility also provides that Assured Guaranty Ltd. may request that the commitment of the banks be increased an additional \$100.0 million up to a maximum aggregate amount of \$400.0 million. Any such incremental commitment increase is subject to certain conditions provided in the agreement and must be for at least \$25.0 million.

The proceeds of the loans and letters of credit are to be used for the working capital and other general corporate purposes of the borrowers and to support reinsurance transactions.

At the closing of the 2006 credit facility, (i) AGC guaranteed the obligations of AG(UK) under such facility, (ii) Assured Guaranty Ltd. guaranteed the obligations of AG Re and AGRO under such facility and agreed that, if the Company Consolidated Assets (as defined in the related credit agreement) of AGC and its subsidiaries were to fall below \$1.2 billion, it would, within 15 days, guarantee the obligations of AGC and AG(UK) under such facility, (iii) Assured Guaranty Overseas US Holdings Inc. guaranteed the obligations of Assured Guaranty Ltd., AG Re and AGRO under such facility and (iv) Each of AG Re and AGRO guarantees the other as well as Assured Guaranty Ltd.

The 2006 credit facility's financial covenants require that Assured Guaranty Ltd. (a) maintain a minimum net worth of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Consolidated Net Worth of Assured Guaranty Ltd. as of the most recent fiscal quarter of Assured Guaranty Ltd. prior to November 6, 2006 and (b) maintain a maximum debt-to-capital ratio of 30%. In addition, the 2006 credit facility requires that AGC maintain qualified statutory capital of at least 75% of its statutory capital as of the fiscal quarter prior to November 6, 2006. Furthermore, the 2006 credit facility contains restrictions on Assured Guaranty Ltd. and its subsidiaries, including, among other things, in respect of their ability to incur debt, permit liens, become liable in respect of guaranties, make loans or investments, pay dividends or make distributions, dissolve or become party to a merger, consolidation or acquisition, dispose of assets or enter into affiliate transactions. Most of these restrictions are subject to certain minimum thresholds and exceptions. The 2006 credit facility has customary events of default, including (subject to certain materiality thresholds

and grace periods) payment default, failure to comply with covenants, material inaccuracy of representation or warranty, bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, change of control and cross default to other debt agreements. A default by one borrower will give rise to a right of the lenders to terminate the facility and accelerate

Table of Contents

all amounts then outstanding. As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, Assured Guaranty was in compliance with all of those financial covenants.

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, no amounts were outstanding under this facility nor have there been any borrowings under this facility.

Letters of credit totaling approximately \$2.9 million remained outstanding as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, related to the Real Estate Lease agreement discussed above.

**Non-Recourse Credit Facilities**

***AG Re Credit Facility***

On July 31, 2007 AG Re entered into a non-recourse credit facility ( AG Re Credit Facility ) with a syndicate of banks which provides up to \$200.0 million to satisfy certain reinsurance agreements and obligations. The AG Re Credit Facility expires in July 2014.

The AG Re Credit Facility does not contain any financial covenants. The AG Re Credit Facility has customary events of default, including (subject to certain materiality thresholds and grace periods) payment default, failure to comply with covenants, material inaccuracy of representation or warranty, bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, change of control and cross default to other debt agreements. If any such event of default were triggered, AG Re could be required to repay potential outstanding borrowings in an accelerated manner.

AG Re's obligations to make payments of principal and interest on loans under the AG Re Credit Facility, whether at maturity, upon acceleration or otherwise, are limited recourse obligations of AG Re and are payable solely from the collateral securing the AG Re Credit Facility, including recoveries with respect to certain insured obligations in a designated portfolio, premiums with respect to defaulted insured obligations in that portfolio, certain designated reserves and other designated collateral.

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, no amounts were outstanding under this facility nor have there been any borrowings under the life of this facility.

**Committed Capital Securities**

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

On April 8, 2005, AGC entered into separate agreements (the Put Agreements ) with each of Woodbourne Capital Trust I, Woodbourne Capital Trust II, Woodbourne Capital Trust III and Woodbourne Capital Trust IV (each, a Custodial Trust ) pursuant to which AGC may, at its option, cause each of the Custodial Trusts to purchase up to \$50,000,000 of perpetual preferred stock of AGC (the AGC Preferred Stock ).

### *Structure*

Each of the Custodial Trusts is a newly organized Delaware statutory trust formed for the purpose of (i) issuing a series of flex committed capital securities (the CCS Securities ) representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of such Custodial Trust; (ii) investing the proceeds from the issuance of the CCS Securities or any redemption in full of AGC Preferred Stock in a portfolio of high-grade commercial paper and (in limited cases) U.S. Treasury Securities (the Eligible Assets ), (iii) entering into the Put Agreement with AGC; and (iv) entering into related agreements.

Initially, all of the CCS Securities were issued to a special purpose pass-through trust (the Pass-Through Trust ). The Pass-Through Trust was dissolved in April 2008 and the committed capital securities were distributed to the holders of the Pass-Through Trust 's securities. Neither the Pass-Through Trust nor the Custodial Trusts are consolidated in Assured Guaranty 's financial statements.

Table of Contents

Income distributions on the Pass-Through Trust Securities and CCS Securities were equal to an annualized rate of One-Month LIBOR plus 110 basis points for all periods ending on or prior to April 8, 2008. Following dissolution of the Pass-Through Trust, distributions on the CCS Securities are determined pursuant to an auction process. On April 7, 2008 this auction process failed, thereby increasing the annualized rate on the CCS Securities to One-Month LIBOR plus 250 basis points. Distributions on the AGC Preferred Stock will be determined pursuant to the same process or, if the Company so elects upon the dissolution of the Custodial Trusts at a fixed rate equal to One-Month LIBOR plus 250 basis points (based on the then current 30-year swap rate).

***Put Agreement***

Pursuant to the Put Agreement, AGC will pay a monthly put premium to each Custodial Trust except (1) during any period when the AGC Preferred Stock that has been put to a Custodial Trust is held by that Custodial Trust or (2) upon termination of the Put Agreement. The put premium will equal the product of (A) the applicable distribution rate on the CCS Securities for the respective distribution period less the excess of (i) the Custodial Trust's stated return on the Eligible Assets for such distribution period (including any fees and expenses of the Pass-Through Trust) (expressed as an annual rate) over (ii) the expenses of the Custodial Trust for such distribution period (expressed as an annual rate), (B) the aggregate face amount of the CCS Securities of the Custodial Trust outstanding on the date the put premium is calculated, and (C) a fraction, the numerator of which will be the actual number of days in such distribution period and the denominator of which will be 360. In addition, and as a condition to exercising the put option under a Put Agreement, AGC is required to enter into a Custodial Trust Expense Reimbursement Agreement with the respective Custodial Trust pursuant to which AGC agrees it will pay the fees and expenses of the Custodial Trust (which includes the fees and expenses of the Pass-Through Trust) during the period when such Custodial Trust holds AGC Preferred Stock.

Upon exercise of the put option granted to AGC pursuant to the Put Agreement, a Custodial Trust will liquidate its portfolio of Eligible Assets and purchase the AGC Preferred Stock and will hold the AGC Preferred Stock until the earlier of (i) the redemption of such AGC Preferred Stock and (ii) the liquidation or dissolution of the Custodial Trust.

Each Put Agreement has no scheduled termination date or maturity, however, it will terminate if (1) AGC fails to pay the put premium in accordance with the Put Agreement, and such failure continues for five business days, (2) AGC elects to have the AGC Preferred Stock bear a fixed rate dividend (a Fixed Rate Distribution Event), (3) AGC fails to pay (i) dividends on the AGC Preferred Stock, or (ii) the fees and expenses of the Custodial Trust, for the related dividend period, and such failure continues for five business days, (4) AGC fails to pay the redemption price of the AGC Preferred Stock and such failure continues for five business days, (5) the face amount of a Custodial Trust's CCS Securities is less than \$20,000,000, (6) AGC elects to terminate the Put Agreement, or (7) a decree of judicial dissolution of the Custodial Trust is entered. If, as a result of AGC's failure to pay the put premium, the Custodial Trust is liquidated, AGC will be required to pay a termination payment which will be distributed to the holders of the Pass-Through Trust Securities. The termination payment will be at a rate equal to 1.10% per annum of the amount invested in Eligible Assets calculated from the date of the failure to pay the put premium through the end of the applicable period.

As of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the put option had not been exercised.

***AGC Preferred Stock***

AGC Preferred Stock under the Put Agreement will be issued in one or more series, with each series in an aggregate liquidation preference amount equal to the aggregate face amount of a Custodial Trust's outstanding CCS Securities, net of fees and expenses, upon exercise of the put option. Unless redeemed by AGC, the AGC Preferred Stock will be perpetual.

For each distribution period, holders of the outstanding AGC Preferred Stock of any series, in preference to the holders of common stock and of any other class of shares ranking junior to the AGC Preferred Stock, will be entitled to receive out of any funds legally available therefore when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors of AGC or a duly authorized committee thereof, cash dividends at a rate per share equal to the dividends rate for such series of AGC Preferred Stock for the respective distribution period. Prior to a Fixed Rate Distribution Event, the dividend rate on the AGC Preferred Stock will be equal to the distribution rate on the CCS Securities. The Custodial



Table of Contents

Trust's expenses (including any expenses of the Pass-Through Trust) for the period will be paid separately by AGC pursuant to the Custodial Trust Expense Reimbursement Agreement.

Upon a Fixed Rate Distribution Event, the distribution rate on the AGC Preferred Stock will equal the fixed rate equivalent of one-month LIBOR plus 2.50%. A Fixed Rate Distribution Event will be deemed to have occurred when AGC Preferred Stock is outstanding, if: (1) AGC elects to have the AGC Preferred Stock bear dividends at a fixed rate, (2) AGC fails to pay dividends on the AGC Preferred Stock for the related distribution period and such failure continues for five business days or (3) AGC fails to pay the fees and expenses of the Custodial Trust for the related distribution period pursuant to the Custodial Trust Expense Reimbursement Agreement and such failure continues for five business days.

During the period in which AGC Preferred Stock is held by a Custodial Trust and unless a Fixed Rate Distribution Event has occurred, dividends will be paid every 49 days. Following a Fixed Rate Distribution Event, dividends will be paid every 90 days.

Following exercise of the put option during any Fixed Rate Period, AGC may redeem the AGC Preferred Stock held by a Custodial Trust in whole and not in part on any distribution payment date by paying a redemption price to such Custodial Trust in an amount equal to the liquidation preference amount of the AGC Preferred Stock (plus any accrued but unpaid dividends on the AGC Preferred Stock for the then current distribution period). If AGC redeems the AGC Preferred Stock held by a Custodial Trust, the Custodial Trust will reinvest the redemption proceeds in Eligible Assets and, in accordance with the Put Agreement, AGC will pay the put premium to the Custodial Trust. If the AGC Preferred Stock was distributed to holders of CCS Securities during any Fixed Rate Period then AGC may not redeem the AGC Preferred Stock until the end of such period.

Following exercise of the put option AGC Preferred Stock held by a Custodial Trust in whole or in part on any distribution payment date by paying a redemption price to the Custodial Trust in an amount equal to the liquidation preference amount of the AGC Preferred Stock to be redeemed (plus any accrued but unpaid dividends on such AGC Preferred Stock for the then current distribution period). If AGC partially redeems the AGC Preferred Stock held by a Custodial Trust, the redemption proceeds will be distributed pro rata to the holders of the CCS Securities (and a corresponding reduction in the aggregate face amount of CCS Securities); provided that AGC must redeem all of the AGC Preferred Stock if after giving effect to a partial redemption, the aggregate liquidation preference amount of the AGC Preferred Stock held by such Custodial Trust immediately following such redemption would be less than \$20,000,000. If a Fixed Rate Distribution Event occurs, AGC may not redeem the AGC Preferred Stock for a period of two years from the date of such Fixed Rate Distribution Event.

***Guarantee of FSAH's Debt***

On July 20, 2009, Assured Guaranty Ltd. announced that the Company would fully and unconditionally guarantee the following three series of FSAH debt obligations consisting of: 1) \$100.0 million of 6-7/8% Notes due December 15, 2101, 2) \$230.0 million principal amount of 6.25% Notes due November 1, 2102, and 3) \$100.0 million principal amount of 5.60% Notes due July 15, 2103. The Company also would guarantee, on a junior subordinated basis, the \$300 million of FSAH's outstanding Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2066.

*Investment Portfolio*

Our investment portfolio consisted of \$3,413.3 million of fixed maturity securities, \$1,171.0 million of short-term investments and a duration of 3.3 years as of June 30, 2009, compared with \$3,154.1 million of fixed maturity securities, \$477.2 million of short-term investments and a duration of 4.1 years as of December 31, 2008. Our fixed maturity securities are designated as available-for-sale in accordance with FAS No. 115 Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities ( FAS 115 ). Fixed maturity securities are reported at their fair value in accordance with FAS 115, and the change in fair value is reported as part of accumulated other comprehensive income. If we believe the decline in fair value is other than temporary, we write down the carrying value of the investment and record a realized loss in our statement of operations.

Fair value of the fixed maturity securities is based upon market prices provided by either independent pricing services or, when such prices are not available, by reference to broker or underwriter bid indications. Our

Table of Contents

investment portfolio does not include any non-publicly traded securities. For a detailed description of our valuation of investments see Critical Accounting Estimates.

We review our investment portfolio for possible impairment losses. For additional information, see Critical Accounting Estimates.

The following table summarizes the ratings distributions of our investment portfolio as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008. Ratings are represented by the lower of the Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Inc., a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., classifications.

	As of June 30, 2009	As of December 31, 2008
AAA or equivalent	60.3%	59.0%
AA	22.3%	23.8%
A	13.4%	15.5%
BBB	1.3%	1.7%
Below investment grade(1)	2.7%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%

(1) Represents \$1.0 million, or less than 0.1%, of the investment portfolio at December 31, 2008.

As of June 30, 2009, our investment portfolio contained 14 securities that were not rated or rated below investment grade compared to three securities as of December 31, 2008. As of both June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the weighted average credit quality of our entire investment portfolio was AA+.

As of June 30, 2009, \$529.8 million of the Company's \$3,413.3 million of fixed maturity securities were guaranteed by third parties. The following table presents the credit rating of these \$529.8 million of securities without the third-party guaranty:

Rating	Amount (in millions)
AAA	\$ 14.7
AA	301.6
A	184.1
BBB	7.3
Not Available	22.1
Total(1)	\$ 529.8

- (1) Excludes \$51.6 million of fixed maturity securities wrapped by Assured Guaranty Corp. and rated below investment grade.

Table of Contents

As of June 30, 2009, the distribution by third-party guarantor of the \$529.8 million is presented in the following table:

Guarantor	Amount (in millions)	
Ambac	\$	177.6
MBIA		158.1
FSA		137.4
FGIC		56.7
Total(1)	\$	529.8

- (1) Excludes \$51.6 million of fixed maturity securities wrapped by Assured Guaranty Corp. and rated below investment grade.

As of June 30, 2009 and to date, the Company has had no investments in or asset positions with any of these guarantors.

Short-term investments include securities with maturity dates equal to or less than one year from the original issue date. Our short-term investments are composed of money market funds, discounted notes and certain time deposits for foreign cash portfolios. Short-term investments are reported at cost, which approximates the fair value of these securities due to the short maturity of these investments.

Under agreements with our cedants and in accordance with statutory requirements, we maintain fixed maturity securities in trust accounts for the benefit of reinsured companies and for the protection of policyholders, generally in states where we or our subsidiaries, as applicable, are not licensed or accredited. The carrying value of such restricted balances as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 was \$1,346.7 million and \$1,233.4 million, respectively.

Under certain derivative contracts, the Company is required to post eligible securities as collateral, generally cash or U.S. government or agency securities. The need to post collateral under these transactions is generally based on mark-to-market valuation in excess of contractual thresholds. The fair market value of the Company's pledged securities totaled \$547.7 million and \$157.7 million as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively.

***Liquidity Arrangements with respect to the Guaranteed Investment Contract Business:***

In connection with the acquisition of FSAH by AGUS, Dexia SA ( Dexia ), the ultimate parent of Dexia Holdings, and certain of its affiliates have entered into a number of agreements to protect the Company and FSA against ongoing risk related to GICs issued by, and the GIC business conducted by, former subsidiaries of FSAH. These agreements include a guarantee jointly and severally issued by Dexia and DCL to FSA that guarantees the payment obligations of FSA under its policies related to the GIC business and an indemnification agreement between FSA, Dexia and DCL that protects FSA against other losses arising out of or as a result of the GIC business, as well as the liquidity facilities and the swap agreements described below.

On June 30, 2009, affiliates of Dexia increased their existing aggregate liquidity commitment to FSA Asset Management LLC ( FSAM ), a former FSAH subsidiary, from \$8.5 billion to \$11.5 billion in order to support the payment obligations of FSAM and the three former FSAH subsidiaries that issued GICs (collectively, the GIC Issuers ) in respect of the GICs and the GIC business. The term of the commitment will generally extend until the GICs have been paid in full. The liquidity commitments are comprised of an amended and restated revolving credit agreement (the Liquidity Facility ) pursuant to which DCL and Dexia Bank Belgium SA ( DBB ) commit to provide funds to FSAM in an amount up to \$8.0 billion (approximately \$4.2 billion of which was outstanding under the previously existing revolving credit facility as of June 30, 2009), and a master repurchase agreement (the Repurchase Facility Agreement ) and, together with the Liquidity Facility, the Guaranteed Liquidity Facilities ) pursuant to which DCL will provide up to \$3.5 billion (based on market value) of eligible collateral to satisfy collateralization obligations of the GIC Issuers under the GICs or of FSAM under derivative hedging arrangements entered into by FSAM to convert fixed-rate FSAM investment assets and GIC liabilities into London Interbank

Table of Contents

offered rate -based floating rate assets and liabilities, and to convert non-US dollar-denominated FSAM assets to US dollar-denominated assets. As of June 30, 2009, no amounts were outstanding under the Repurchase Facility Agreement.

On June 30, 2009, to support the payment obligations of FSAM and the GIC Issuers related to the GICs and the GIC business, each of Dexia and DCL entered into two separate ISDA Master Agreements, each with its associated schedule, confirmation and credit support annex (the Guaranteed Put Contract and the Non-Guaranteed Put Contract respectively, and collectively, the Dexia Put Contracts ), pursuant to which Dexia and DCL jointly and severally guarantee the scheduled payments of interest and principal in relation to each FSAM asset, as well as any failure of Dexia or its affiliates to provide liquidity or liquid collateral under the Guaranteed Liquidity Facilities. The Dexia Put Contracts reference separate portfolios of FSAM assets to which assets owned by FSAM as of September 30, 2008 were allocated, with the less liquid assets and the assets with the lowest market-to-market values generally being allocated to the Guaranteed Put Contract. As of June 30, 2009, the initial aggregate principal balance of FSAM assets related to the Guaranteed Put Contract was equal to approximately \$11.8 billion and the aggregate principal balance of FSAM assets related to the Non-Guaranteed Put Contract was equal to approximately \$4.4 billion.

Pursuant to the Dexia Put Contracts, FSAM may put an amount of FSAM assets to Dexia and DCL:

- in exchange for funds in an amount generally equal to the lesser of (A) the outstanding principal balance of the GICs and (B) the shortfall related to (i) the failure of a Dexia party to provide liquidity or collateral as required under the Guaranteed Liquidity Facilities (a Liquidity Default Trigger ) or (ii) the failure by either Dexia or DCL to transfer the required amount of eligible collateral under the credit support annex of the applicable Dexia Put Contract (a Collateral Default Trigger );
- in exchange for funds in an amount equal to the outstanding principal amount of an FSAM asset with respect to which (i) the issuer of such FSAM asset fails to pay the full amount of the expected interest when due or to pay the full amount of the expected principal when due (following expiration of any grace period) or within five business days following the scheduled due date, (ii) a writedown or applied loss results in a reduction of the outstanding principal amount, or (iii) the attribution of a principal deficiency or realized loss results in a reduction or subordination of the current interest payable on such FSAM asset (a Asset Default Trigger ); provided, that Dexia and DCL have the right to elect to pay only the difference between the amount of the expected principal or interest payment and the amount of the actual principal or interest payment, in each case, as such amounts come due, rather than paying an amount equal to the outstanding principal amount of applicable FSAM asset; and/or
- in exchange for funds in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the aggregate outstanding principal amount of all FSAM assets in the relevant portfolio and (ii) the aggregate outstanding principal balance of all of the GICs, upon the occurrence of an insolvency event with respect to Dexia as set forth in the Dexia Put Contracts (a Bankruptcy Trigger ).

To secure each Dexia Put Contract, Dexia and DCL will, pursuant to the related credit support annex, post eligible highly liquid collateral having an aggregate value (subject to agreed reductions) equal to at least the excess of (i) the aggregate principal amount of all outstanding GICs over (ii) the aggregate mark-to-market value of FSAM's assets. Prior to September 29, 2011 (the Expected First Collateral Posting Date ), the aggregate mark-to-market value of the FSAM assets related to the Guaranteed Put Contract will be deemed to be equal to the aggregate unpaid principal balance of such assets for purposes of calculating their mark-to-market value. As a result, it is expected that Dexia and DCL will not be required to post collateral until the Expected First Collateral Posting Date. Additional collateralization is required in respect of certain other liabilities of FSAM.

On June 30, 2009, the States of Belgium and France (the States ) issued a guarantee (the Sovereign Guarantee ) to FSAM pursuant to which the States guarantee, severally but not jointly, Dexia's payment obligations under the Guaranteed Put Contract, subject to certain limitations set forth therein. The States' guarantee with respect to payment demands arising from Liquidity Default Triggers and Collateral Default Triggers is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2011, and the States' guarantee with respect to payment demands arising from an Asset



Table of Contents

Default Trigger or a Bankruptcy Trigger is scheduled to expire on the earlier of (x) the final maturity of the latest maturing of the remaining FSAM assets related to the Guaranteed Put Contract, and (y) March 30, 2035.

***Liquidity Arrangements with respect to the MTN Business:***

In connection with the Company's acquisition of FSAH, DCL has issued a funding guaranty (the Funding Guaranty) pursuant to which DCL has guaranteed, for the benefit of FSA and Financial Security Assurance International, Ltd. (the Beneficiaries or the FSA Parties), the payment to or on behalf of the relevant Beneficiary of an amount equal to the payment required to be made under an FSA Policy (as defined below) by that Beneficiary has issued and a reimbursement guaranty (the Reimbursement Guaranty and, together with the Funding Guaranty, the DCL Guarantees) pursuant to which DCL has guaranteed, for the benefit of each Beneficiary, the payment to the applicable Beneficiary of reimbursement amounts related to payments made by that Beneficiary following a claim for payment under an obligation insured by an FSA Policy. Under a Separation Agreement dated as of July 1, 2009 among DCL, the FSA Parties, FSA Global Funding Limited (FSA Global) and Premier International Funding Co. (Premier), and the DCL Guarantees, DCL agreed to fund, on behalf of the FSA Parties, 100% of all policy claims made under the financial guaranty insurance policies issued by the FSA Parties (the FSA Policies) in relation to the medium-term note issuance program of FSA Global (the MTN Business). Without limiting DCL's obligation to fund 100% of all policy claims under those FSA Policies, the FSA Parties will have a separate obligation to remit to DCL a certain percentage (ranging from 0% to 25%) of those policy claims. FSA, the Company and related parties are also protected against losses arising out of or as a result of the MTN Business through an indemnification agreement with DCL.

***Liquidity Arrangements with respect to the Leveraged Tax Lease Business:***

On July 1, 2009, DCL, acting through its New York Branch (DCL (NY)), and FSA entered into a Strip Coverage Liquidity and Security Agreement (the Strip Agreement) pursuant to which DCL (NY) agreed to make loans to FSA, for the purpose of financing the payment of claims under certain financial guaranty insurance policies (Strip Policies) that were outstanding as of November 13, 2008 and issued by FSA, or an affiliate or a subsidiary of FSA, relating to the equity strip portion of a leveraged tax lease transaction. The equity strip portion refers to the amount by which the equity portion of the termination payment owed by the lessee to the lessor trust following the early termination of the related lease exceeds the accreted value of the related equity payment undertaking agreement. FSA may request advances under the Strip Agreement without any explicit limit on the number of loan requests, provided that the aggregate principal amount of loans outstanding as of any date may not exceed \$1 billion (the Commitment Amount). The Commitment Amount (i) may be reduced at the option of FSA without a premium or penalty and (ii) will be reduced in the amounts and on the dates described in the Strip Agreement either in connection with the scheduled amortization of the Commitment Amount or to \$750 million if FSA's consolidated net worth as of June 30, 2014 is less than a specified consolidated net worth. As of June 30, 2009, no advances were outstanding under the Strip Agreement.

DCL (NY)'s commitment to make advances under the Strip Agreement is subject to the satisfaction by FSA of customary conditions precedent, including compliance with certain financial covenants, and will terminate at the earlier of (A) the occurrence of a change of control with respect to FSA, (B) the reduction of the Commitment Amount to \$0 and (C) January 31, 2042.

**Credit Risk**

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

The recent credit crisis and related turmoil in the global financial system has had and may continue to have an impact on our business. On September 15, 2008, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of New York and its subsidiary LBIE was placed into administration in the United Kingdom. As of June 30, 2009, we had CDS contracts covering \$5.5 billion of par insured outstanding with LBIE with future installment payments totaling \$31.3 million (\$26.7 million present value). We have not received payment since September 15, 2008. In July 2009, we terminated our master agreement with LBIE.

Table of Contents

As of June 30, 2009, the present value of future installments ( PVI ) of our CDS contracts with counterparties in the financial services industry is approximately \$537.1 million. The largest counterparties are:

Counterparty	PVI Amount (in millions)	
Deutsche Bank AG	\$	170.4
RBS/ABN AMRO		43.4
Barclays Capital		38.9
Dexia Bank		34.9
Others (1)		249.5
Total	\$	537.1

(1) Each counterparty within the Other category represents less than 5% of the total.

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 141 (revised), Business Combinations ( FAS 141R ). FAS 141R establishes principles and requirements for how the acquirer of a business recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree. FAS 141R also provides guidance for recognizing and measuring the goodwill acquired in the business combination and determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statement to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. FAS 141R is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and interim statements within those fiscal years. Since FAS 141R applies prospectively to business combinations whose acquisition date is subsequent to the statement's adoption. The Company is applying the provisions of FAS 141R to account for its acquisition of FSAH, which closed on July 1, 2009.

In October 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ( FSP ) No. FAS 157-3, Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active ( FSP 157-3 ). FSP 157-3 clarified the application of FAS 157, Fair Value Measurements ( FAS 157 ), in a market that is not active. FSP 157-3 was effective when issued. It did not have an impact on the Company's current results of operations or financial position.

In September 2008, the FASB issued FSP FAS 133-1 and FIN 45-4, Disclosures About Credit Derivatives and Certain Guarantees ( FSP 133-1 ) and FAS 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities ( FAS 161 ) to address concerns that current derivative disclosure requirements did not adequately address the potential adverse effects that these instruments can have on the financial performance and operations of an entity. Companies are required to provide enhanced disclosures about their derivative activities to enable users to better understand: (1) how and why a company uses derivatives, (2) how it accounts for derivatives and related hedged items, and (3) how derivatives affect its financial statements. These should include the terms of the derivatives, collateral posting requirements and triggers, and other significant provisions that could be detrimental to earnings or liquidity. Management believes that the Company's current derivatives disclosures are in compliance with the requirements of FSP 133-1 and FAS 161.

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP FAS No. 157-4, Determining Fair Value When the Volume and Level of Activity for the Asset or Liability Have Significantly Decreased and Identifying Transactions That Are Not Orderly ( FSP 157-4 ). FSP 157-4 amends FAS 157 to provide

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

additional guidance on estimating fair value when the volume and level of activity for an asset or liability have significantly decreased in relation to normal market activity for the asset or liability. FSP 157-4 also provides additional guidance on circumstances that may indicate that a transaction is not orderly. FSP 157-4 supersedes FSP 157-3. FSP 157-4 amends FAS 157 to require additional disclosures about fair value measurements in annual and interim reporting periods. The Company adopted FSP 157-4 effective with Company's financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2009. The prospective application of FSP 157-4 does not require disclosures for earlier periods presented for comparative purposes at initial adoption. FSP 157-4 did not have an impact on the Company's current results of operations or financial position. The disclosures related to FSP 157-4 are included in Note 5 of Part I, Item 1, Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited).

Table of Contents

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 107-1 and APB 28-1, *Interim Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments* ( FSP 107-1 ). FSP 107-1 extends the disclosure requirements of FAS No. 107, *Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, to interim financial statements of publicly traded companies. The Company adopted FSP 107-1 effective with Company's financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2009. FSP 107-1 did not have an impact on the Company's current results of operations or financial position. The disclosures related to FSP 107-1 are included in Note 5 of Part I, Item 1, *Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)*.

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 115-2. FSP 115-2 provides new guidance on the recognition and presentation of an other than temporary impairment ( OTTI ) for debt securities classified as available-for-sale and held-to-maturity and provides some new disclosure requirements for both debt and equity securities. FSP 115-2 mandates new disclosure requirements that affect both debt and equity securities and extend the disclosure requirements (both new and existing) to interim periods. The Company adopted FSP 115-2 effective with Company's financial statements for the quarter ended June 30, 2009 and increased the April 1, 2009 balance of retained earnings by \$62.2 million (\$57.7 million after tax) with a corresponding adjustment to accumulated other comprehensive income for OTTI recorded in previous periods on securities in the Company's portfolio at April 1, 2009, that would not have been required had the FSP been effective for those periods. See Note 6 of Part I, Item 1, *Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)*.

In May 2009, the FASB issued FAS No. 165, *Subsequent Events* ( FAS 165 ). FAS 165 establishes general standards of accounting and disclosure for events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued. FAS 165 is effective for reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009. The Company adopted FAS 165 for the quarter ended June 30, 2009. FAS 165 did not have an impact on the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations, as its requirements are disclosure-only in nature. See Note 2 of Part I, Item 1, *Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)* for the related disclosures.

In June 2009, the FASB issued FAS No. 167, *Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R)* ( FAS 167 ). FAS 167 changes how a company determines when an entity that is insufficiently capitalized or is not controlled through voting (or similar rights) should be consolidated. FAS 167 will require a company to provide additional disclosures about its involvement with variable interest entities and any significant changes in risk exposure due to that involvement. FAS 167 will become effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2010. The Company is currently evaluating the effect, if any, the adoption of FAS 167 will have on its consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk****Market Risk**

Market risk represents the potential for losses that may result from changes in the value of a financial instrument as a result of changes in market conditions. The primary market risks that impact the value of our financial instruments are interest rate risk, basis risk, such as taxable interest rates relative to tax-exempt interest rates, and credit spread risk. Each of these risks and the specific types of financial instruments impacted are described below. Senior managers in our surveillance department are responsible for monitoring risk limits and applying risk measurement methodologies. The estimation of potential losses arising from adverse changes in market conditions is a key element in managing market risk. We use various systems, models and stress test scenarios to monitor and manage market risk. These models include estimates made by management that use current and historic market information. The valuation results from these models could differ materially from amounts that actually are realized in the market. See Critical Accounting Estimates Valuation of Investments.

Financial instruments that may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates consist primarily of investment securities. The primary objective in managing our investment portfolio is generation of an optimal level of after-tax investment income while preserving capital and maintaining adequate liquidity. Investment strategies are based on many factors, including our tax position, fluctuation in interest rates, regulatory and rating agency criteria and other market factors. As of January 1, 2005 we have retained BlackRock Financial Management, Inc. to manage our investment portfolio. These investment managers manage our fixed maturity investment portfolio in accordance with investment guidelines approved by our Board of Directors.

Financial instruments that may be adversely affected by changes in credit spreads consist primarily of Assured Guaranty's outstanding credit derivative contracts. We enter into credit derivative contracts which require us to make payments upon the occurrence of certain defined credit events relating to an underlying obligation (generally a fixed income obligation). The Company's credit derivative exposures are substantially similar to its financial guaranty insurance contracts and provide for credit protection against payment default, and are generally not subject to collateral calls due to changes in market value. In general, the Company structures credit derivative transactions such that the circumstances giving rise to our obligation to make loss payments is similar to that for financial guaranty insurance policies and only occurs as losses are realized on the underlying reference obligation. Nonetheless, credit derivative transactions are governed by International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. (ISDA) documentation and operate differently from financial guaranty insurance policies. For example, our control rights with respect to a reference obligation under a credit derivative may be more limited than when we issue a financial guaranty policy on a direct primary basis. In addition, while our exposure under credit derivatives, like our exposure under financial guaranty policies, is generally for as long as the reference obligation remains outstanding, unlike financial guaranty insurance policies, a credit derivative may be terminated for a breach of the ISDA documentation or other specific events. Under certain documents, the Company may have the right to cure the termination event by posting collateral, assigning its rights and obligations in respect of the transactions to a third party or seeking a third party guarantee of the obligations of the Company.

If certain of its credit derivative contracts are terminated the Company could be required to make a termination payment as determined under the relevant documentation. Under certain documents, the Company may have the right to cure the termination event by posting collateral, assigning its rights and obligations in respect of the transactions to a third party or seeking a third party guaranty of the obligations of the Company. As of the date of this filing, if AGC's ratings are downgraded to levels between BBB or Baa2 and BB+ or Ba1, certain CDS counterparties could terminate certain CDS contracts covering approximately \$7.7 billion par insured, compared to \$16.6 billion as of March 31, 2009. As of the date of this filing, if AGRO's ratings are downgraded to BBB- or Baa3, certain CDS counterparties could terminate certain CDS contracts covering approximately \$3.2 million par insured. As of the date of this filing, AG Re has no exposure subject to termination based on its rating. Given current market conditions, the Company does not believe that it can accurately estimate the termination payments it could be required to make if, as a result of any such downgrade, a CDS counterparty terminated its CDS contracts with the Company. These payments

could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity and financial condition.

During Second Quarter 2009, the Company entered into agreements with two CDS counterparties which previously had the right to terminate certain CDS contracts in the event that AGC was downgraded to below AA- or Aa3, in one case, or below A- or A3, in the other case. These agreements eliminated the ability of those CDS counterparties to receive a termination payment. In return, the Company agreed to post \$325 million in collateral to

Table of Contents

secure its potential payment obligations under those CDS contracts, which cover approximately \$18.6 billion of par insured. The collateral posting requirement would increase to \$375 million if AGC were downgraded to below AA- or A2. The posting of this collateral has no impact on the Company's net income or shareholders' equity under U.S. GAAP nor does it impact AGC's statutory surplus or net income. In addition, in July 2009, we terminated an ISDA master agreement with Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (LBIE) due to its default under the agreement. The Company has discussed with several other CDS counterparties to further reduce its exposure to possible termination payments. The Company can give no assurance that any agreement will be reached with any such CDS counterparty.

In addition to the collateral posting described in the previous paragraph, under a limited number of other CDS contracts, the Company may be required to post eligible securities as collateral -- generally cash or U.S. government or agency securities. This requirement is based generally on a mark-to-market valuation in excess of contractual thresholds which decline if the Company's ratings decline. As of the date of this filing, the Company is posting approximately \$160.2 million of collateral in respect of approximately \$1.5 billion of par insured. Any amounts required to be posted as collateral in the future will depend on changes in the market values of these transactions. The amount the Company could be required to post upon any downgrade cannot be quantified at this time, but could be substantial and could have a material adverse effect on the Company's liquidity. If AGC were downgraded below A- or A3, certain of the contractual thresholds would be reduced or eliminated and the amount of par that could be subject to collateral posting requirements would be approximately \$1.8 billion. If AG Re or AGRO were downgraded below BBB or Baa2, certain of the contractual thresholds would be reduced or eliminated and the amount of par that could be subject to collateral posting requirements would be \$11.5 million in the case of AG Re and \$290.7 million in the case of AGRO.

The total notional amount of credit derivative exposure outstanding as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 and included in our financial guaranty exposure was \$73.5 billion and \$75.1 billion, respectively.

We generally hold these credit derivative contracts to maturity. The unrealized gains and losses on derivative financial instruments will reduce to zero as the exposure approaches its maturity date, unless there is a payment default on the exposure or early termination.

The following table summarizes the estimated change in fair values on the net balance of Assured Guaranty's credit derivative positions assuming immediate parallel shifts in credit spreads on AGC and on the risks that it assumes at June 30, 2009:

(Dollars in millions)

Credit Spreads	Estimated Net Fair Value (Pre-Tax)		Estimated Pre-Tax Change in Gain / (Loss)	
<b>June 30, 2009:</b>				
100% widening in spreads	\$	(1,973.4)	\$	(1,234.0)
50% widening in spreads		(1,376.2)		(636.8)
25% widening in spreads		(1,061.3)		(321.9)
10% widening in spreads		(869.0)		(129.6)
Base Scenario		(739.4)		
10% narrowing in spreads		(657.3)		82.1
25% narrowing in spreads		(532.4)		207.0
50% narrowing in spreads		(318.8)		420.6



**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

Assured Guaranty Ltd. s management, with the participation of Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of Assured Guaranty Ltd. s disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as

Table of Contents

amended (the Exchange Act ) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on this evaluation, Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the end of such period, Assured Guaranty Ltd. s disclosure controls and procedures are effective in recording, processing, summarizing and reporting, on a timely basis, information required to be disclosed by Assured Guaranty Ltd. (including its consolidated subsidiaries) in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act.

There has been no change in the Company s internal control over financial reporting during the Company s quarter ended June 30, 2009, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company s internal controls over financial reporting.

**PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1 Legal Proceedings**

*Litigation*

It is the opinion of the Company s management, based upon the information available, that the expected outcome of litigation against the Company, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company s financial position or liquidity, although an adverse resolution of litigation against the Company could have a material adverse effect on the Company s results of operations in a particular quarter or fiscal year.

In the ordinary course of their respective businesses, certain of the Company s subsidiaries assert claims in legal proceedings against third parties to recover losses paid in prior periods. The amounts, if any, the Company will recover in these proceedings are uncertain, although recoveries in any one or more of these proceedings during any quarter or fiscal year could be material to the Company s results of operations in that particular quarter or fiscal year.

*Litigation Involving Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company*

Effective January 1, 2004, Assured Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company ( AGMIC ) reinsured a private mortgage insurer (the Reinsured ) under a Mortgage Insurance Stop Loss Excess of Loss Reinsurance Agreement (the Agreement ). Under the Agreement, AGMIC agreed to cover the Reinsured s aggregate mortgage guaranty insurance losses in excess of a \$25 million retention and subject to a \$95 million limit. Coverage under the Agreement was triggered only when the Reinsured s: (1) combined loss ratio exceeded 100%; and (2) risk to capital ratio exceeded 25 to 1, according to insurance statutory accounting. In April 2008, AGMIC notified the Reinsured it was terminating the Agreement because of its breach of the terms of the Agreement. This matter went to arbitration and on June 4, 2009, the arbitration panel issued a Final Interim Award with respect to this Agreement in which the majority of the panel concluded that the Reinsured breached a covenant in the Agreement. AGMIC and the Reinsured executed an agreement on June 17, 2009 to settle the matter in full in exchange for a payment by AGMIC to the Reinsured of \$10 million. The final settlement agreement resolves all disputes between the parties and concludes all remaining rights and obligations of the parties under the Agreement.

*Litigation Involving FSAH and its Subsidiaries*

As noted above, on July 1, 2009 the Company completed the acquisition of FSAH pursuant to the purchase agreement, dated as of November 14, 2008, between the Company, Dexia Holdings and DCL. FSAH is the parent of FSA.

The following is a description of legal proceedings involving FSAH and its subsidiaries. Although the Company did not acquire FSAH's former financial products business, which included FSAH's former guaranteed investment contract business and medium-term note and leveraged tax lease businesses, certain legal proceedings relating to those businesses are against entities which the Company did acquire. Pursuant to an indemnification agreement entered into among FSA, DCL and Dexia in connection with the acquisition of FSAH, each of DCL and Dexia, jointly and severally, has agreed to indemnify FSA and its affiliates against any liability arising out of the proceedings described under "Proceedings Related to FSAH's Former Financial Products Business" below.

Table of Contents

FSAH and FSA have received various regulatory inquiries and requests for information regarding a variety of subjects. These include (i) subpoenas duces tecum and interrogatories from the State of Connecticut Attorney General and the Attorney General of the State of California related to antitrust concerns associated with the methodologies used by rating agencies for determining the credit rating of municipal debt, including a proposal by Moody's to assign corporate equivalent ratings to municipal obligations, and the Company's communications with rating agencies and (ii) subpoenas duces tecum and interrogatories from the Attorney General of the States of Connecticut and West Virginia and antitrust civil investigative demands from the Attorney General of the State of Florida relating to their investigations of alleged bid rigging of municipal GICs. FSAH has satisfied or is in the process of satisfying such requests. FSAH may receive additional inquiries from these or other regulators and expects to provide additional information to such regulators regarding their inquiries in the future.

**Proceedings Related to FSAH's Former Financial Products Business**

In November 2006, (i) FSAH received a subpoena from the Antitrust Division of the DOJ issued in connection with an ongoing criminal investigation of bid rigging of awards of municipal GICs and other municipal derivatives and (ii) FSA received a subpoena from the SEC related to an ongoing industry-wide investigation concerning the bidding of municipal GICs and other municipal derivatives. Pursuant to the subpoenas FSAH has furnished to the DOJ and SEC records and other information with respect to FSAH's municipal GIC business. On February 4, 2008, FSAH received a Wells Notice from the staff of the Philadelphia Regional Office of the SEC relating to the foregoing matter. The Wells Notice indicates that the SEC staff is considering recommending that the SEC authorize the staff to bring a civil injunctive action and/or institute administrative proceedings against FSAH, alleging violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder and Section 17(a) of the Securities Act. FSAH has had ongoing discussions with the DOJ and the SEC. The ultimate loss that may arise from these investigations remains uncertain.

During 2008 nine putative class action lawsuits were filed in federal court alleging federal antitrust violations in the municipal derivatives industry, seeking damages and alleging, among other things, a conspiracy to fix the pricing of, and manipulate bids for, municipal derivatives, including GICs. These cases have been coordinated and consolidated for pretrial proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York as *MDL 1950, In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation*, Case No. 1:08-cv-2516 ( MDL 1950 ). Five of these cases name both FSAH and FSA: (a) *Hinds County, Mississippi v. Wachovia Bank, N.A.* (filed on or about March 13, 2008); (b) *Fairfax County, Virginia v. Wachovia Bank, N.A.* (filed on or about March 12, 2008); (c) *Central Bucks School District, Pennsylvania v. Wachovia Bank N.A.* (filed on or about June 4, 2008); (d) *Mayor & City Counsel of Baltimore, Maryland v. Wachovia Bank N.A.* (filed on or about July 3, 2008); and (e) *Washington County, Tennessee v. Wachovia Bank N.A.* (filed on or about July 14, 2008). Four of the cases name only FSAH and also allege that the defendants violated state antitrust law and common law by engaging in illegal bid-rigging and market allocation, thereby depriving the cities of competition in the awarding of GICs and ultimately resulting in the cities paying higher fees for these products: (a) *City of Oakland, California, v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about April 23, 2008); (b) *County of Alameda, California v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about July 8, 2008); (c) *City of Fresno, California v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about July 17, 2008); and (d) *Fresno County Financing Authority v. AIG Financial Products Corp.* (filed on or about December 24, 2008).

The MDL 1950 court has determined that it will handle federal claims alleged in the consolidated class action complaint before addressing state claims. In April 2009, the MDL 1950 court granted the defendants' motion to dismiss on the federal claims, but granted leave for the plaintiffs to file a second amended complaint. On June 18, 2009, interim lead plaintiffs' counsel filed a Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint. The complaints in these lawsuits generally seek unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees and other costs. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from these lawsuits; although the Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint currently describes some of FSAH's and FSA's activities, it does not name those entities as defendants.

FSAH and FSA also are named in five non-class action lawsuits originally filed in the California Superior Courts alleging violations of California law related to the municipal derivatives industry:

(a) *City of Los Angeles v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about July 23, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 394944, removed to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California ( C.D. Cal. ) as Case No. 2:08-cv-5574, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:08-cv-10351);

(b) *City of Stockton v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about July 23, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-08-477851, removed to the N.D. Cal. as Case No. 3:08-cv-4060, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:08-cv-10350);

Table of Contents

(c) *County of San Diego v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about August 28, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. SC 99566, removed to C.D. Cal. as Case No. 2:08-cv-6283, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:09-cv-1195);

(d) *County of San Mateo v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about October 7, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-08-480664, removed to N.D. Cal. as Case No. 3:08-cv-4751, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:09-cv-1196); and

(e) *County of Contra Costa v. Bank of America, N.A.* (filed on or about October 8, 2008 in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Francisco, Case No. CGC-08-480733, removed to N.D. Cal. as Case No. 3:08-cv-4752, transferred to S.D.N.Y. as Case No. 1:09-cv-1197).

These cases have been transferred to the S.D.N.Y. and consolidated with *MDL 1950* for pretrial proceedings. The complaints in these lawsuits generally seek unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs and other expenses. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from these lawsuits.

**Proceedings Relating to FSAH's Financial Guaranty Business**

In December 2008 and January 2009, FSA and various other financial guarantors were named in three complaints filed in the Superior Court, San Francisco County: (a) *City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power v. Ambac Financial Group et. al* (filed on or about December 31, 2008), Case No. CG-08-483689; *Sacramento Municipal Utility District v. Ambac Financial Group et. al* (filed on or about December 31, 2008), Case No. CGC-08-483691; and (c) *City of Sacramento v. Ambac Financial Group Inc. et. al* (filed on or about January 6, 2009), Case No. CGC-09-483862. These complaints alleged participation in a conspiracy in violation of California's antitrust laws to maintain a dual credit rating scale that misstated the credit default risk of municipal bond issuers and created market demand for municipal bond insurance and participation in risky financial transactions in other lines of business that damaged each bond insurer's financial condition (thereby undermining the value of each of their guaranties), and a failure to adequately disclose the impact of those transactions on their financial condition. These latter allegations form the predicate for five separate causes of action against each of the Insurers: breach of contract, breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, fraud, negligence, and negligent misrepresentation. The complaints in these lawsuits generally seek unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs and other expenses. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from these lawsuits.

In August 2008 a number of financial institutions and other parties, including FSA, were named as defendants in a civil action brought in the circuit court of Jefferson County, Alabama relating to the County's problems meeting its debt obligations on its \$3.2 billion sewer debt: *Charles E. Wilson vs. JPMorgan Chase & Co et al* (filed on or about August 8, 2008 in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Alabama), Case No. 01-CV-2008-901907.00, a putative class action. The action was brought on behalf of rate payers, tax payers and citizens residing in Jefferson County, and alleges conspiracy and fraud in connection with the issuance of the County's debt. The complaint in this lawsuit seeks unspecified monetary damages, interest, attorneys' fees and other costs. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from this lawsuit.

*Reinsurance*

The Company is party to reinsurance agreements with most of the major monoline primary financial guaranty insurance companies. The Company's facultative and treaty agreements are generally subject to termination (i) upon written notice (ranging from 90 to 120 days) prior to the specified deadline for renewal, (ii) at the option of the primary insurer if the Company fails to maintain certain financial, regulatory and rating agency criteria which are equivalent to or more stringent than those the Company is otherwise required to maintain for its own compliance with state mandated insurance laws and to maintain a specified financial strength rating for the particular insurance subsidiary or (iii) upon certain changes of control of the Company. Upon termination under the conditions set forth in (ii) and (iii) above, the Company may be required (under some of its reinsurance agreements) to return to the primary insurer all statutory unearned premiums, less ceding commissions, attributable to reinsurance ceded pursuant to such agreements after which the Company would be released from liability with

Table of Contents

respect to the ceded business. Upon the occurrence of the conditions set forth in (ii) above, whether or not an agreement is terminated, the Company may be required to obtain a letter of credit or alternative form of security to collateralize its obligation to perform under such agreement or it may be obligated to increase the level of ceding commission paid.

**Item 1A Risk Factors**

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2009, and the risk factors contained in Item 8.01 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 8, 2009, which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. The following risk factors supplement, but do not replace, any risk factor on a similar subject referred to above.

*A downgrade of the financial strength or financial enhancement ratings of the Company or any of its insurance subsidiaries by any of the rating agencies would adversely affect our business prospects and consequently, our results of operations and financial condition.*

On May 4, 2009, Fitch, Inc. (Fitch) downgraded Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s debt and financial strength ratings based on Fitch's concerns related to their downgrade of mortgage-related and trust preferred securities collateralized debt obligations (TruPS CDOs) in the Company's insured portfolio. At the same time, Fitch downgraded the insurer financial strength rating of AGC and AG(UK) to AA from AAA and placed such rating on Rating Watch Evolving, and lowered the insurer financial strength rating of AG Re to AA- (Rating Watch Evolving) from AA (stable). On May 11, 2009, Fitch downgraded the insurer financial strength rating of Financial Security Assurance Inc. to AA+ from AAA and placed such rating on Ratings Watch Negative. On August 10, 2009, Fitch placed the debt and insurer financial strength ratings of the Company and its subsidiaries on Rating Watch Negative, a change from Rating Watch Evolving. It confirmed that the ratings of FSAH and its subsidiaries remained on Rating Watch Negative. Fitch reported that it is currently in the process of analyzing the insured portfolios and overall capital adequacy of AGC, AG Re and FSA, and that the Rating Watch Negative reflects concerns with respect to further credit deterioration in mortgage-related exposures, which could negatively impact the capital positions of the companies. It noted that credit deterioration in other areas of the insured portfolios, including TruPS CDOs and public finance exposures, could also place additional pressure on claims paying resources, as could ratings-based triggers which could force termination or collateralization of insured exposures at AGC or the claw-back of certain businesses underwritten by AG Re. Fitch notes that it expects to complete its rating review over the next four to six weeks. There can be no assurance that Fitch will not take further action on our ratings.

On May 20, 2009, Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) placed under review for possible downgrade the Aa2 insurance financial strength rating of AGC, as well as the ratings of other entities within the Assured group. In its public announcement of the rating action, Moody's stated that this action reflects its view that despite recent improvements in the Company's market position, the expected performance of its insured portfolio particularly the mortgage-related risks has substantially worsened. At the same time, Moody's also placed the Aa3 insurance financial strength ratings of FSA and its affiliated insurance operating companies on review for possible downgrade. In its public announcement of the rating action, Moody's cited its growing concerns about FSA's business and financial profile as a result of further deterioration in FSA's U.S. mortgage portfolio and the related adverse effect on its capital adequacy, profitability, and market traction. In both press releases, Moody's noted that it has taken a more negative view of mortgage-related exposures and Assured Guaranty Ltd.'s pooled corporate exposures in light of worse-than-expected performance trends, and recognized the continued susceptibility of the insured portfolio to the weak economic environment. Moody's also commented that the deterioration in the insured portfolios could have negative implications for the companies' franchise values, profitability and financial flexibility given the likely sensitivity of those business attributes to its capital position. Moody's also noted that the market dislocation caused by the declining financial strength of financial guaranty insurers may alter the competitive dynamics of the industry by encouraging the entry of new participants or the growth of alternative forms of execution. There can be no assurance as to the outcome of Moody's review. Moody's did note on June 17, 2009, in respect of the securities of AGUS, that in light of the high sensitivity of the



## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

Company's financial profile to RMBS and CDOs, meaningful increases in Moody's stress loss estimates for these exposures, which are possible, combined with the subordination of the AGUS securities, could result in a multiple-notch downgrade of the AGUS securities, perhaps below investment grade. On July 24, 2009, Moody's announced that it expects to conclude its ratings review of the companies by mid-August 2009.

On July 1, 2009, Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (S&P) published a Research Update in which it affirmed its AAA counterparty credit and financial strength ratings on AGC and FSA. At the same time, S&P revised its outlook on AGC and AG(UK) to negative from stable and continued its negative outlook on FSA. S&P cited as a rationale for its actions the large single risk concentration exposure that Assured Guaranty Ltd. and FSA retain to Belgium and France prior to the posting of collateral by Dexia S.A. in October 2011, all in connection with the acquisition of FSAH by a subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Ltd. In addition, the outlook also reflects S&P's view that the change in the competitive dynamics of the industry with the potential entrance of new competitors, alternative forms of credit enhancement and limited insurance penetration in the U.S. public finance market could hurt the companies' business prospects. There can be no assurance that S&P will not take further action on our ratings.

Table of Contents

*We have exposure through financial guaranty insurance policies to FSAH's financial products business, which we did not acquire.*

FSAH, through its financial products subsidiaries (the Financial Products Companies), offered FSA-insured GICs and other investment agreements, including medium-term notes (MTNs). In connection with the acquisition, FSAH transferred to Dexia Holdings the ownership interests in the Financial Products Companies that it held. Even though FSAH no longer owns the Financial Products Companies, FSA's guarantees of the GICs and MTNs and other guarantees related to FSA's MTN business and leveraged tax lease business generally remain in place. While Dexia and/or certain of its affiliates and FSAH have entered into a number of agreements pursuant to which Dexia and certain of its affiliates have assumed the credit and liquidity risks associated with FSAH's former financial products business, as further described in our July 8, 2009 8-K, FSA may still be subject to certain of these risks (as further described below). To the extent FSA is required to pay any amounts on financial products issued or executed by the Financial Products Companies, FSA is subject to the risk that it will not receive the guarantee payment from Dexia and/or its affiliates or that the GICs will not be paid from funds received from Dexia or the Belgian state and/or the French state before it is required to make the payment under its financial guarantee policies or that it will not receive the guarantee payment at all.

*We have substantial credit and liquidity exposure to Dexia and the Belgian and French states.*

As described in our July 8, 2009 8-K, Dexia and its affiliates have entered into a number of agreements pursuant to which Dexia and/or certain of its affiliates have agreed to guarantee certain amounts, lend certain amounts or post liquid collateral to or in respect of FSAH's former financial products business. In addition, as described in our July 8, 2009 8-K and under Liquidity and Capital Resources Liquidity Arrangements with respect to the Leveraged Tax Lease Business, Dexia has agreed (directly or through an affiliate) to provide a liquidity facility to FSA in an amount not to exceed \$1 billion for the purpose of covering the liquidity risk arising out of claims payable in respect of strip coverages included in FSAH's leveraged tax lease business. While these various agreements are intended to shield the Company from paying any amounts in respect of the liabilities of the financial products business, the Company remains subject to the risk that Dexia and/or various affiliates, and even the Belgian state and/or the French state, may not make such amounts or securities available (a) on a timely basis, which is referred to as liquidity risk, or (b) at all, which is referred to as credit risk, because of the risk of default. Even if Dexia and its affiliates and/or the Belgian state or French state have sufficient assets to pay all amounts when due, concerns regarding Dexia's or such states' financial condition could cause one or more rating agencies to view negatively the ability of Dexia and its affiliates or such states to perform under their various agreements and could negatively affect FSA's ratings.

Dexia and FSAH have entered into a number of agreements pursuant to which Dexia and/or certain of its affiliates have agreed to guarantee the assets and liabilities of the GIC Issuers and FSAM and its subsidiary for the benefit of FSA. Certain of these obligations also benefit from a guarantee from the Belgian and French states. As of June 30, 2009, the accreted value of the liabilities of the GIC Issuers and FSAM and its subsidiary exceeded the market value of their assets by approximately \$4.1 billion (before any tax effects). To the extent FSA is required to pay any amounts in respect of the liabilities of these companies, FSA is subject to the risk that it will not receive the guarantee payment from Dexia and/or its affiliates or that the GICs will not be paid from funds received from Dexia or the Belgian state and/or the French state before it is required to make the payment under its financial guarantee policies or that it will not receive the guarantee payment at all.

In addition, if a Dexia event of default were to occur, we may be required to direct the administration and management of the assets and liabilities of the GIC subsidiaries and could be delayed in our ability to cause the GIC subsidiaries to utilize the collateral posted by Dexia and its affiliate under the credit support annexes. Any delay in the GIC subsidiaries paying amounts due and payable in connection with the GIC business related to our assuming the obligation to direct the administration and management of the GIC subsidiaries' assets and liabilities or related to a delay in our access to the collateral posted by Dexia and its affiliate could require FSA to pay claims, and in some cases significant claims, under the FSA guarantees related to FSAH's financial products business in a relatively short period of time. Any failure of FSA to satisfy these obligations under its guarantees could negatively affect FSA's rating. See A downgrade of the financial strength or financial enhancement

ratings of the Company or any of our insurance subsidiaries by any of the rating agencies could adversely affect our business and prospects and, consequently, our results of operations and financial condition.

**Item 2 Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds****Issuer's Purchases of Equity Securities**

The following table reflects purchases made by the Company during the three months ended June 30, 2009. All shares repurchased were for the payment of employee withholding taxes due in connection with the vesting of restricted stock awards:

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid Per Share	(c) Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program	(d) Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program
April 1 - April 30	2,562	\$ 9.83	2,562	707,350
May 1 - May 31	389	\$ 13.72	389	707,350
June 1 - June 30	292	\$ 15.26	292	707,350
Total	3,243	\$ 10.78	3,243	

For the restricted stock units granted, the number of shares issued on the date the restricted stock units vest is net of the statutory withholding requirements that the Company pays on behalf of its employees. These withheld shares are not included in the common stock repurchase table above. During the three months ended June 30, 2009 we withheld approximately 434 shares to satisfy \$6,200 of employee tax obligations.

Items 3, 4 and 5 are omitted either because they are inapplicable or because the answer to such question is negative.

**Item 6 - Exhibits**

See Exhibit Index for a list of exhibits filed with this report.

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.

Assured Guaranty Ltd.(Registrant)

Dated: August 10, 2009

By: /S/ Robert B. Mills

Robert B. Mills  
Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and  
Duly Authorized Officer)

---

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.1	Amended and Restated Revolving Credit Agreement dated as of June 30, 2009 among FSA Asset Management LLC, Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and Dexia Bank Belgium SA. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.2.1	Master Repurchase Agreement (September 1996 Version) dated as of June 30, 2009 between Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2.1 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.2.2	Annex I Committed Term Repurchase Agreement Annex dated as of June 30, 2009 between Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2.2 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.3.1	ISDA Master Agreement (Multicurrency Cross Border) dated as of June 30, 2009 among Dexia SA, Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3.1 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.3.2	Schedule to the 1992 Master Agreement, Guaranteed Put Contract, dated as of June 30, 2009 among Dexia Crédit Local S.A., Dexia SA and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3.2 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.3.3	Put Option Confirmation, Guaranteed Put Contract, dated June 30, 2009 to FSA Asset Management LLC from Dexia SA and Dexia Crédit Local S.A. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3.3 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.3.4	ISDA Credit Support Annex (New York Law) to the Schedule to the ISDA Master Agreement, Guaranteed Put Contract, dated as of June 30, 2009 between Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and Dexia SA and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3.4 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.4.1	ISDA Master Agreement (Multicurrency Cross Border) dated as of June 30, 2009 among Dexia SA, Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4.1 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.4.2	Schedule to the 1992 Master Agreement, Non-Guaranteed Put Contract, dated as of June 30, 2009 among Dexia Crédit Local S.A., Dexia SA and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4.2 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
10.4.3	Put Option Confirmation, Non-Guaranteed Put Contract, dated June 30, 2009 to FSA Asset Management LLC from Dexia SA and Dexia Crédit Local S.A. (Incorporated by reference to

---

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

### Table of Contents

- Exhibit 10.4.3 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.4.4 ISDA Credit Support Annex (New York Law) to the Schedule to the ISDA Master Agreement, Non-Guaranteed Put Contract, dated as of June 30, 2009 between Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and Dexia SA and FSA Asset Management LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4.4 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.5 First Demand Guarantee Relating to the Financial Products Portfolio of FSA Asset Management LLC issued by the Belgian State and the French State and executed as of June 30, 2009 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.6 Guaranty, dated as of June 30, 2009, made jointly and severally by Dexia SA and Dexia Crédit Local S.A., in favor of Financial Security Assurance Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.7 Indemnification Agreement (GIC Business) dated as of June 30, 2009 by and among Financial Security Assurance Inc., Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and Dexia SA (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.8 Pledge and Administration Agreement, dated as of June 30, 2009, among Dexia SA, Dexia Crédit Local S.A., Dexia Bank Belgium SA, Dexia FP Holdings Inc., Financial Security Assurance Inc., FSA Asset Management LLC, FSA Portfolio Asset Limited, FSA Capital Markets Services LLC, FSA Capital Markets Services (Caymans) Ltd., FSA Capital Management Services LLC and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.9 Separation Agreement, dated as of July 1, 2009, among Dexia Crédit Local S.A., Financial Security Assurance Inc., Financial Security Assurance International, Ltd., FSA Global Funding Limited and Premier International Funding Co. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.10 Funding Guaranty, dated as of July 1, 2009, made by Dexia Crédit Local S.A. in favor of Financial Security Assurance Inc. and Financial Security Assurance International, Ltd. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.11 Reimbursement Guaranty, dated as of July 1, 2009, made by Dexia Crédit Local S.A. in favor of Financial Security Assurance Inc. and Financial Security Assurance International, Ltd. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.12 Strip Coverage Liquidity and Security Agreement, dated as of July 1, 2009, between Financial Security Assurance Inc. and Dexia Crédit Local S.A. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.13 Indemnification Agreement (FSA Global Business), dated as of July 1, 2009, by and between Financial Security Assurance Inc., Assured Guaranty Ltd. and Dexia Crédit Local S.A. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.14 Pledge and Administration Annex Amendment Agreement dated as of July 1, 2009 among Dexia SA, Dexia Crédit Local S.A., Dexia Bank Belgium SA, Dexia FP Holdings Inc., Financial Security Assurance Inc., FSA Asset Management LLC, FSA Portfolio Asset Limited, FSA Capital Markets Services LLC, FSA Capital Markets Services (Caymans) Ltd.,
-

## Edgar Filing: ASSURED GUARANTY LTD - Form 10-Q

### Table of Contents

- FSA Capital Management Services LLC and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.15 Put Confirmation Annex Amendment Agreement dated as of July 1, 2009 among Dexia SA and Dexia Crédit Local S.A. and FSA Asset Management LLC and Financial Security Assurance Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).
- 10.16 Settlement Agreement and Plan by and between Financial Security Assurance Holdings, Ltd., Assured Guaranty Ltd., Dexia Holdings, Inc., Dexia Crédit Local, S.A. and Sean W. McCarthy (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Company s Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. 333-160-367)).\*
- 10.17 Employment Agreement dated as of July 1, 2009 between Assured Guaranty US Holdings, Inc. and Sean McCarthy (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Current Report on Form 8-K for July 1, 2009).\*
- 10.18 Restricted Stock Agreement for Outside Directors under Assured Guaranty Ltd. 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan\*
- 10.19 Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement for Outside Directors under Assured Guaranty Ltd. 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan\*
- 10.20 Master Repurchase Agreement between FSA Capital Management Services LLC and FSA Capital Markets Services LLC
- 10.21 Confirmation to Master Repurchase Agreement
- 10.22 Master Repurchase Agreement Annex I
- 10.23 \$300.0 million five-year unsecured revolving credit facility, dated as of November 6, 2006, for which ABN AMRO Incorporated and Bank of America Securities LLC acted as lead arrangers, between Assured Guaranty Ltd. Assured Guaranty Corp., Assured Guaranty (UK) Ltd., Assured Guaranty Re Ltd, and Assured Guaranty Re Overseas Ltd., as amended through the second amendment.
- 10.24 First Amendment to Assured Guaranty Ltd. Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan Furnished herewith (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 of Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. No. 333-160008)).\*
- 10.25 Second Amendment to Assured Guaranty Ltd. Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. No. 333-160008)).\*
- 10.26 First Amendment to Assured Guaranty Corp. Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.8 of Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. No. 333-160008)).\*
- 10.27 Second Amendment to Assured Guaranty Corp. Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 of Assured Guaranty Ltd. s Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. No. 333-160008)).\*
- 10.28 Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. 1989 Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (amended and restated as of December 17, 2004) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. Current Report on Form 8-K (Commission
-



Table of Contents

File No. 1-12644) dated December 17, 2004 and filed on December 17, 2004)\*

- 10.29 Amendment to the Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. 1989 Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan\*
- 31.1 Certification of CEO Pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13A-14 and 15D-14, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 31.2 Certification of CFO Pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13A-14 and 15D-14, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32.1 Certification of CEO 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 CFO Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 99.1 Assured Guaranty Corp. s Consolidated Unaudited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008 and for the Three and Six Months Ended June 30, 2009 and 2008

---

\* - Management contract or compensatory plan

---