

STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORP

Form 10-Q

May 03, 2012

[Table of Contents](#)

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

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012

or

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 001-02658

**STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORP - Form 10-Q

**Delaware**  
 (State or other jurisdiction of  
 incorporation or organization)

**74-1677330**  
 (I.R.S. Employer  
 Identification No.)

**1980 Post Oak Blvd., Houston TX**  
 (Address of principal executive offices)

**77056**  
 (Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 625-8100**

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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 the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

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

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

On April 30, 2012, the following shares of each of the issuer's classes of common stock were outstanding:

Common, \$1 par value	18,309,655
Class B Common, \$1 par value	1,050,012

**Table of Contents**

**FORM 10-Q QUARTERLY REPORT**

**QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2012**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Page</b>
	<b>PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	
1.	Financial Statements	1
2.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	13
3.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	23
4.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	23
	<b><u>PART II OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	
1.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	24
1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	24
5.	<u>Other Information</u>	24
6.	<u>Exhibits</u>	24
	<u>Signature</u>	25

As used in this report, we, us, our, the Company and Stewart mean Stewart Information Services Corporation and our subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise.

**Table of Contents****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE LOSS**

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
	(\$000 omitted, except per share)	
<b>Revenues</b>		
Title insurance:		
Direct operations	151,634	139,230
Agency operations	196,321	191,809
Real estate information	32,459	31,385
Investment income	3,128	3,861
Investment and other gains net	1,445	132
	384,987	366,417
<b>Expenses</b>		
Amounts retained by agencies	162,548	158,447
Employee costs	128,233	117,926
Other operating expenses	64,863	59,129
Title losses and related claims	31,387	31,200
Depreciation and amortization	4,524	4,830
Interest	1,364	1,278
	392,919	372,810
Loss before taxes and noncontrolling interests	(7,932)	(6,393)
Income tax expense	2,823	3,131
Net loss	(10,755)	(9,524)
Less net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests	1,402	769
Net loss attributable to Stewart	(12,157)	(10,293)
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Foreign currency translation	3,495	3,538
Change in unrealized gains and losses	3,528	(2,414)
Reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	(769)	(352)
Comprehensive income, before taxes	6,254	772
Income tax expense related to items of comprehensive income		(1,161)
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	6,254	(389)
Comprehensive loss attributable to Stewart	(5,903)	(10,682)
Basic and diluted average shares outstanding (000)	19,256	18,829
Basic and dilutive loss per share attributable to Stewart	(0.63)	(0.55)

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	As of March 31, 2012	As of December 31, 2011
	(\$000 omitted)	
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	92,501	117,196
Cash and cash equivalents statutory reserve funds	22,610	23,647
	115,111	140,843
Short-term investments	32,952	33,137
Investments in debt and equity securities available-for-sale, at fair value:		
Statutory reserve funds	398,501	397,074
Other	69,288	63,911
	467,789	460,985
Receivables:		
Notes	9,469	10,394
Premiums from agencies	38,292	47,351
Income taxes	10,143	7,412
Other	43,966	39,660
Allowance for uncollectible amounts	(14,636)	(16,056)
	87,234	88,761
Property and equipment, at cost		
Land	6,656	6,429
Buildings	27,729	23,823
Furniture and equipment	235,212	234,262
Accumulated depreciation	(212,491)	(208,077)
	57,106	56,437
Title plants, at cost	77,947	77,406
Real estate, at lower of cost or net realizable value	2,697	5,236
Investments in investees, on an equity method basis	14,759	18,055
Goodwill	217,042	214,492
Intangible assets, net of amortization	8,235	8,693
Other assets	56,512	52,096
	1,137,384	1,156,141
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Notes payable	7,432	11,722
Convertible senior notes	64,556	64,513
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	76,412	86,389
Estimated title losses	502,154	502,611
Deferred income taxes	29,201	27,449
	679,755	692,684
Contingent liabilities and commitments		
<b>Stockholders equity</b>		

Edgar Filing: STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORP - Form 10-Q

Common and Class B Common Stock and additional paid-in capital	152,453	152,102
Retained earnings	271,940	284,097
Accumulated other comprehensive earnings	22,935	16,681
Treasury stock 352,161 common shares, at cost	(2,666)	(2,666)
Stockholders' equity attributable to Stewart	444,662	450,214
Noncontrolling interests	12,967	13,243
Total stockholders' equity (19,328,333 and 19,303,844 shares outstanding)	457,629	463,457
	1,137,384	1,156,141

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

- 2 -

**Table of Contents****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2012                  2011 (\$000 omitted)	
<b>Reconciliation of net loss to cash used by operating activities:</b>		
Net loss	(10,755)	(9,524)
<b>Add (deduct):</b>		
Depreciation and amortization	4,524	4,830
Provision for bad debt	704	996
Investment and other gains net	(1,445)	(132)
Payments for title losses in excess of provisions	(3,278)	(5,099)
Insurance recoveries of title losses	2,607	1,581
Increase in receivables net	(1,543)	(8,677)
Increase in other assets net	(3,142)	(2,501)
Decrease in payables and accrued liabilities net	(10,392)	(23,742)
Increase in net deferred income taxes	1,752	2,030
Net earnings from equity investees	(431)	(69)
Dividends received from equity investees	674	717
Other net	389	958
<b>Cash used by operating activities</b>	<b>(20,336)</b>	<b>(38,632)</b>
<b>Investing activities:</b>		
Proceeds from investments available-for-sale matured and sold	39,639	22,267
Purchases of investments available-for-sale	(38,668)	(21,531)
Purchases of property and equipment and title plants net	(4,662)	(4,249)
Proceeds from the sale of land, buildings, and furniture and equipment	3,388	
Increases in notes receivable	(202)	(180)
Collections on notes receivable	57	538
Cash paid for acquisitions of subsidiaries and other net	(46)	
Net cash (paid) received for other assets, cost-basis investments, equity investees and other	(44)	58
<b>Cash used by investing activities</b>	<b>(538)</b>	<b>(3,097)</b>
<b>Financing activities:</b>		
Payments on notes payable	(4,301)	(1,143)
Proceeds from notes payable		500
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	(1,682)	(1,251)
<b>Cash used by financing activities</b>	<b>(5,983)</b>	<b>(1,894)</b>
Effects of changes in foreign currency exchange rates	1,125	1,003
<b>Decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(25,732)</b>	<b>(42,620)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	140,843	154,490
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>115,111</b>	<b>111,870</b>
<b>Supplemental information:</b>		
Settlement of wage and hour litigation through issuance of Common Stock		7,582
Receipt of partial building ownership in exchange for debt forgiveness	1,255	
Changes in financial statement amounts due to the acquisition of subsidiary:		
Goodwill	2,550	

Edgar Filing: STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORP - Form 10-Q

Title plants	556
Property and equipment	172
Other	(2,795)
Liabilities assumed	(405)
Debt issued	(10)
Noncontrolling interests	(22)
Cash paid for acquisition of subsidiary	46

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

- 3 -



**Table of Contents****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## Interim financial statements

**NOTE 1**

**Interim financial statements.** The financial information contained in this report for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, and as of March 31, 2012, is unaudited. This report should be read in conjunction with the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

**A. Management's responsibility.** The accompanying interim financial statements were prepared by management, who is responsible for their integrity and objectivity. These financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), including management's best judgments and estimates. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of this information for all interim periods, consisting only of normal recurring accruals, have been made. The Company's results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year and actual results could differ from those estimates.

**B. Consolidation.** The condensed consolidated financial statements include all subsidiaries in which the Company owns more than 50% voting rights in electing directors. All significant intercompany amounts and transactions have been eliminated and provisions have been made for noncontrolling interests. Unconsolidated investees, in which the Company typically owns 20% through 50% of the equity, are accounted for by the equity method.

**C. Reclassifications.** Certain amounts in the 2011 interim financial statements have been reclassified for comparative purposes. Net losses, as previously reported, were not affected.

## Investments in debt and equity securities

**NOTE 2**

**Investments in debt and equity securities.** The amortized costs and fair values follow:

	March 31, 2012		December 31, 2011	
	Amortized costs	Fair values	Amortized costs	Fair values
	(\$000 omitted)			
Debt securities:				
Municipal	21,112	21,873	26,721	27,801
Corporate and utilities	238,964	249,306	237,912	244,123
Foreign	165,837	166,492	162,384	164,268
U.S. Government	18,036	19,667	17,530	19,350
Equity securities	9,648	10,451	5,005	5,443
	453,597	467,789	449,552	460,985

Gross unrealized gains and losses were:

March 31, 2012

December 31, 2011

Edgar Filing: STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORP - Form 10-Q

	Gains	Losses	Gains	Losses
	(\$000 omitted)			
Debt securities:				
Municipal	765	4	1,080	
Corporate and utilities	10,666	324	9,184	2,973
Foreign	1,292	637	1,937	53
U.S. Government	1,634	3	1,820	
Equity securities	851	48	442	4
	15,208	1,016	14,463	3,030

- 4 -

**Table of Contents**

Debt securities as of March 31, 2012 mature, according to their contractual terms, as follows (actual maturities may differ due to call or prepayment rights):

	Amortized costs	Fair values
	(\$000 omitted)	
In one year or less	40,639	40,834
After one year through five years	176,687	179,805
After five years through ten years	203,578	211,613
After ten years	23,045	25,086
	443,949	457,338

As of March 31, 2012, gross unrealized losses on investments and the fair values of the related securities, aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position, were:

	Less than 12 months		More than 12 months		Total	
	Losses	Fair values	Losses	Fair values	Losses	Fair values
	(\$000 omitted)					
<b>Debt securities:</b>						
Municipal	4	1,333			4	1,333
Corporate and utilities	190	20,090	133	6,152	323	26,242
Foreign	637	115,360			637	115,360
U.S. Government	3	1,033			3	1,033
Equity securities	15	979	34	1,841	49	2,820
	849	138,795	167	7,993	1,016	146,788

The unrealized loss positions were primarily caused by interest rate fluctuations. The number of investments in an unrealized loss position as of March 31, 2012 was 38. Since the Company does not intend to sell and will more-likely-than-not maintain each debt security until its anticipated recovery, and no significant credit risk is deemed to exist, these investments are not considered other-than-temporarily impaired.

As of December 31, 2011, gross unrealized losses on investments and the fair values of the related securities, aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position, were:

	Less than 12 months		More than 12 months		Total	
	Losses	Fair values	Losses	Fair values	Losses	Fair values
	(\$000 omitted)					
<b>Debt securities:</b>						
Corporate and utilities	1,944	42,851	1,029	24,830	2,973	67,681
Foreign	53	59,708			53	59,708
Equity securities:	4	1,247			4	1,247
	2,001	103,806	1,029	24,830	3,030	128,636

The Company believes its investment portfolio is diversified and expects no material loss to result from the failure to perform by issuers of the debt securities it holds. Investments made by the Company are not collateralized. Foreign debt securities primarily include Canadian government bonds and United Kingdom treasury bonds.



**Table of Contents**

## Fair value measurements

**NOTE 3**

**Fair value measurements.** The Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the FASB ASC 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 at the measurement date. The Fair Value Measurements Topic establishes a three-level fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. This hierarchy requires entities to maximize the use of observable inputs when possible. The three levels of inputs used to measure fair value are as follows:

Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data; and

Level 3 unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair values of the assets or liabilities, including certain pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies and similar techniques that use significant unobservable inputs.

As of March 31, 2012, financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

	Level 1	Level 2 (\$000 omitted)	Fair value measurements
Short-term investments	32,952		32,952
Investments available-for-sale:			
Debt securities:			
Municipal		21,873	21,873
Corporate and utilities		249,306	249,306
Foreign	166,492		166,492
U.S. Government	19,667		19,667
Equity securities	10,451		10,451
	229,562	271,179	500,741

At December 31, 2011, financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

	Level 1	Level 2	Fair value measurements
Short-term investments	33,137		33,137
Investments available-for-sale:			
Debt securities:			
Municipal		27,801	27,801
Corporate and utilities		244,123	244,123

Edgar Filing: STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORP - Form 10-Q

Foreign	164,268		164,268
U.S. Government	19,350		19,350
Equity securities:	5,443		5,443
	222,198	271,924	494,122

- 6 -

**Table of Contents**

As of March 31, 2012, Level 1 financial instruments consist of short-term investments, U.S. and foreign government bonds and equity securities. Level 2 financial instruments consist of municipal and corporate bonds. The municipal bonds are valued using a third-party pricing service, and the corporate bonds are valued using actual transaction levels, independent broker/dealer quotes or information, or a combination thereof. When no relevant broker/dealer information can be obtained, the third-party service price will be used. The third-party pricing service for both municipal and corporate bonds determines a consensus price derived from prices provided by various broker/dealers that meet certain statistical requirements within a predefined statistical deviation. If a consensus price cannot be determined, then, by using a recognized pricing model, a theoretical value, based on where similar bonds, as defined by credit quality and market sector have traded, is used.

## Investment income

**NOTE 4**

**Investment income.** Gross realized investment and other gains and losses follows:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
	(\$000 omitted)	
Realized gains	1,472	851
Realized losses	(27)	(719)
	1,445	132

Expenses assignable to investment income were insignificant. There were no significant investments as of March 31, 2012 that did not produce income during the year.

Proceeds from the sales of investments available-for-sale follows:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
	(\$000 omitted)	
Proceeds from sales of investments available-for-sale	33,364	15,789

## Share-based incentives

**NOTE 5**

**Share-based incentives.** During the three months ended March 31, 2011, the Company granted 51,000 shares of fully vested, unrestricted Common Stock with a fair value of \$0.6 million, which was recorded as compensation expense. During the same period, the Company also granted 37,000 shares of restricted Common Stock with a fair value of \$0.4 million. The restricted Common Stock awards will vest at 20% over five years beginning March 10, 2011. Compensation expense associated with restricted stock awards will be recognized over this vesting period.

**Table of Contents**

Earnings per share

**NOTE 6**

**Earnings per share.** The Company's basic earnings per share attributable to Stewart was calculated by dividing net loss attributable to Stewart by the weighted-average number of shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock outstanding during the reporting periods.

To calculate diluted earnings per share, net income and number of shares are adjusted for the effects of any dilutive shares. Using the if-converted method, net income is adjusted for interest expense, net of any tax effects, applicable to the Convertible Senior Notes. The number of shares is adjusted by adding the number of dilutive shares, assuming they are issued, during the same reporting period. The treasury stock method is used to calculate the dilutive number of shares related to the Company's stock option plan.

As the Company reported a net loss for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, there were no calculations of diluted per share amounts under the treasury stock method.

Also, since the Company reported a net loss after adjustments related to the if-converted method for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, there were no calculations of diluted per share amounts.

Contingent liabilities and commitments

**NOTE 7**

**Contingent liabilities and commitments.** In the ordinary course of business, the Company guarantees the third-party indebtedness of certain of its consolidated subsidiaries. As of March 31, 2012, the maximum potential future payments on the guarantees are not more than the related notes payable recorded in the consolidated balance sheets. The Company also guarantees the indebtedness related to lease obligations of certain of its consolidated subsidiaries. The maximum future obligations arising from these lease-related guarantees are not more than the Company's future minimum lease payments. In addition, as of March 31, 2012, the Company had guarantees of indebtedness owed by certain third parties related to business expansion and unused letters of credit aggregating to \$4.2 million, primarily related to workers' compensation coverage.



**Table of Contents**

## Segment information

**NOTE 8**

**Segment information.** The Company's two reportable segments are title insurance-related services (Title) and real estate information (REI). Selected statement of operations information related to these segments follows:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
	(\$000 omitted)	
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Title	352,528	335,032
REI	32,459	31,385
	384,987	366,417
<b>Intersegment revenues:</b>		
Title	19	34
REI	927	659
	946	693
<b>Depreciation and amortization:</b>		
Title	3,637	4,221
REI	887	609
	4,524	4,830
<b>(Loss) earnings before taxes and noncontrolling interests:</b>		
Title	(16,824)	(23,310)
REI	8,892	16,917
	(7,932)	(6,393)

Selected balance sheet information as of March 31 and December 31, respectively, related to these segments follows:

	2012	2011
	(\$000 omitted)	
<b>Identifiable assets:</b>		
Title	1,067,080	1,049,947
REI	70,304	64,375
	1,137,384	1,114,322

**Table of Contents**

Revenues generated in the United States and all international operations follows:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
	(\$000 omitted)	
United States	361,680	346,680
International	23,307	19,737
	384,987	366,417

## Regulatory and legal developments

**NOTE 9**

**Regulatory and legal developments.** Stewart Title Guaranty Company (STGC) and Stewart Title Guaranty de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (STGM) were defendants in a lawsuit in the State District Court of Harris County, Texas, Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. v. Stewart Title Guaranty Company. The lawsuit was filed in 2008 and concerns 16 owners' and 16 lenders' title insurance policies on 16 parcels of land in Mexico issued by STGM and reinsurance agreements by STGC. Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. asserted claims against STGC under reinsurance of the lenders' policies as well as extra-contractual claims under Texas law. K.R. Playa VI, S de R.L. de C.V., the owner of the parcels, asserted claims against STGC and separate claims against STGM under the owners' policies as well as extra-contractual claims under Texas law. The State District Court dismissed the extra-contractual claims against STGC and STGM based on application of Mexican law.

After a 10 week trial, the jury returned a verdict of no damages, favorable to STGC and STGM, on April 29, 2011. Judgment was entered on June 30, 2011. Both Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. and K.R. Playa VI, S de R.L. de C.V. subsequently filed motions for new trial and motions for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, which the State District Court denied by orders dated September 12, 2011. Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. and K.R. Playa VI, S de R.L. de C.V. filed notices of appeal on September 28, 2011. The Company does not believe that the outcome will materially affect its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

\* \* \*

- 10 -

**Table of Contents**

In January 2009, an action was filed by individuals against STGC, Stewart Title of California, Inc., Cuesta Title Company and others in the Superior Court of California for the County of San Luis Obispo alleging that the plaintiffs have suffered damages relating to loans they made through Hurst Financial Corporation to an individual named Kelly Gearhart and entities controlled by Gearhart. Thereafter, several other lawsuits making similar allegations, including a lawsuit filed by several hundred individuals, were filed in San Luis Obispo Superior Court, and one such lawsuit was removed to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The defendants vary from case to case, but Stewart Information Services Corporation, Stewart Title Company and Stewart Title Insurance Company have also each been sued in at least one of the cases. Each of the complaints alleges some combination of the following purported causes of action: breach of contract, negligence, fraud, aiding and abetting fraud, constructive fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, financial elder abuse, violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, negligent misrepresentation, conversion, conspiracy, alter ego and declaratory relief. The San Luis Obispo Superior Court has sustained demurrers by the Company with regard to certain causes of action and certain individuals and entities and dismissed Stewart Information Services Corporation from one case without leave to amend. Plaintiffs in one case have dismissed Stewart Title Insurance Company following the Court's sustaining of Stewart Title Insurance Company's demurrer. On the other hand, the Court has overruled the demurrers as to some causes of action. The United States District Court for the Central District of California granted the Company's motion to dismiss the First Amended Complaint as to the claim for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, with prejudice, and remanded the remainder of the case to the San Luis Obispo Superior Court. The Company filed a motion to coordinate the cases for pretrial purposes, and the Court issued (i) an order assigning all the cases to a single judge, (ii) an Order Coordinating Related Cases for Pre-Trial Purposes, and (iii) a First Case Management Order for the Related Cases. Discovery is ongoing. The Company has filed a motion for summary judgment and summary adjudication seeking the dismissal of certain plaintiffs' claims. That motion is currently scheduled for hearing on June 14, 2012. No trial dates have been set. Although the Company cannot predict the outcome of these actions, it is vigorously defending itself against the allegations and does not believe that the outcome will materially affect its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

\* \* \*

In February 2008, an antitrust class action was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York against Stewart Title Insurance Company, Monroe Title Insurance Corporation, Stewart Information Services Corporation, several other unaffiliated title insurance companies and the Title Insurance Rate Service Association, Inc. (TIRSA). The complaint alleges that the defendants violated Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act by collectively filing proposed rates for title insurance in New York through TIRSA, a state-authorized and licensed rate service organization.

Complaints were subsequently filed in the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York and in the United States District Courts in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Florida, Massachusetts, Arkansas, California, Washington, West Virginia, Texas and Delaware. All of the complaints make similar class action allegations, except that certain of the complaints also allege violations of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) and various state antitrust and consumer protection laws. The complaints generally request treble damages in unspecified amounts, declaratory and injunctive relief and attorneys' fees. To date, 78 such complaints have been filed, each of which names the Company and/or one or more of its affiliates as a defendant (and have been consolidated in the aforementioned states), of which seven have been voluntarily dismissed.

- 11 -

**Table of Contents**

As of April 5, 2012, the Company has obtained dismissals of the claims in Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania (where the court dismissed the damages claims and granted defendants summary judgment on the injunctive claims), Texas and Washington. The Company filed a motion to dismiss in West Virginia (where all proceedings have been stayed and the docket closed). The plaintiffs have appealed the dismissal in Ohio to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the dismissals in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The dismissals in New York and Texas have been affirmed by the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second and Fifth Circuits, respectively, and on October 4, 2010, the United States Supreme Court denied the plaintiffs' petitions for review of those decisions. The plaintiffs have appealed the dismissal of the RESPA claims by the court in New York to the Second Circuit. Although the Company cannot predict the outcome of these actions, it is vigorously defending itself against the allegations and does not believe that the outcome will materially affect its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

\* \* \*

Van Buren Estates, LLC, Van Buren Estates LLC II, and Van Buren Estates, LP commenced an action in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside on or about March 26, 2010 against Stewart Title of California, Inc. and STGC alleging among other things, negligence, breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, specific performance, promissory estoppel and punitive damages. Stewart Title of California, Inc. settled prior to trial. STGC filed a motion for summary judgment which was granted in part. Subsequent to the summary judgment motion, Van Buren Estates, LP was the sole remaining plaintiff. A jury trial commenced on January 30, 2012. Among the issues involved was STGC's position that no title policy had been issued in favor of the remaining plaintiff. The trial concluded on March 5, 2012 with a jury verdict in favor of the plaintiff on the issues of liability and damages in the aggregate amount of approximately \$6.5 million. The parties had stipulated at trial that the cost to cure the title defect at issue in the case was \$0.4 million, less than the amount previously paid by Stewart Title of California, Inc. Judgment has yet to be entered. We expect to file a motion for a new trial and a motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict and, if unsuccessful, to appeal the judgment of the trial court. Although the Company cannot predict the outcome of these motions or an appeal, it will continue to vigorously defend itself and does not believe that the ultimate outcome will materially affect its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

\* \* \*

The Company is also subject to other claims and lawsuits arising in the ordinary course of its business, most of which involve disputed policy claims. In some of these lawsuits, the plaintiff seeks exemplary or treble damages in excess of policy limits. The Company does not expect that any of these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on its consolidated financial condition or results of operations. Along with the other major title insurance companies, the Company is party to a number of class action lawsuits concerning the title insurance industry. The Company believes that it has adequate reserves for the various litigation matters and contingencies discussed above and that the likely resolution of these matters will not materially affect its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

The Company is subject to administrative actions and litigation relating to the basis on which premium taxes are paid in certain states. Additionally, the Company has received various other inquiries from governmental regulators concerning practices in the insurance industry. Many of these practices do not concern title insurance. The Company believes that it has adequately reserved for these matters and does not anticipate that the outcome of these inquiries will materially affect its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

The Company is also subject to various other administrative actions and inquiries into its business conduct in certain of the states in which it operates. While the Company cannot predict the outcome of the various regulatory and administrative matters, it believes that it has adequately reserved for these matters and does not anticipate that the outcome of any of these matters will materially affect its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

---

**Table of Contents**

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

**MANAGEMENT'S OVERVIEW**

We reported a net loss attributable to Stewart of \$12.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012 compared with a net loss attributable to Stewart of \$10.3 million for the same period in 2011. On a basic and diluted per share basis, our net loss attributable to Stewart was \$0.63 for the first three months of 2012 compared with a net loss attributable to Stewart of \$0.55 for the first three months of 2011. Revenues were \$385.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012 compared with \$366.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011.

Although first quarter results were disappointing, we remain confident that the steps we are taking will simplify and align our company for the benefit of our customers and shareholders. We are encouraged by the improvement in our direct operations and the productivity gains from our centralized and shared services initiatives. We are continuing to focus on a higher quality and more diversified revenue base in order to solidify a model to achieve profitability, as well as meet shareholder expectations, regardless of market conditions.

Despite the increase in REI revenues, our reduced margins in the first quarter 2012 resulted in lower pre-tax earnings for the REI segment compared to first quarter 2011. The margin decline was a result of the shift in business over the last twelve months from the higher margin loan modification services to the lower margin servicing support and REO related services and also due to an increase in costs as we prepare for the additional workload associated with recently awarded contracts. The title segment's pretax loss improved 27.8 percent from the first quarter 2011, reflecting ongoing improvement in core title operations. Additionally, we expect recent personnel changes and compensation expense standardization across the Company to produce financial benefit in future quarters.

Title operating revenues in the first quarter 2012 increased 5.1 percent compared to the same quarter last year and declined 15.4 percent sequentially from the fourth quarter 2011. Revenues from direct operations for the first quarter 2012 increased 8.9 percent compared to the same quarter last year and declined sequentially 9.8 percent from the fourth quarter 2011. Revenues from commercial transactions, included in direct operations, decreased 17.1 percent in the first quarter 2012 compared to the same quarter last year, while international revenues, also included in direct operations, increased 25.6 percent. Independent agency revenues increased 2.4 percent and declined 19.3 percent from the first and fourth quarters 2011, respectively. Agency revenues represented 56.4 percent of title operating revenues for the first quarter 2012 compared to 57.9 percent for the first quarter 2011 and 59.1 percent for the fourth quarter 2011. We continue to pursue a network of high-quality, low claims risk agency operations, with emphasis on contribution to earnings rather than revenues.

REI revenues increased 3.4 percent and 25.4 percent, respectively, from the first and fourth quarters of 2011. However, REI pretax earnings decreased \$8.0 million from \$16.9 million (53.9 percent margin) in the first quarter 2011 to \$8.9 million (27.4 percent margin) in first quarter 2012 while rising 13.4 percent sequentially from fourth quarter 2011's \$7.8 million (30.3 percent margin). Although we expect modest increases in revenues in our REI businesses during the remainder of 2012, we anticipate pretax margins in this segment to stabilize to a sustainable level of 25-30 percent in the next several quarters.

As a percentage of title revenues, title losses were 9.0 percent, 9.4 percent and 9.9 percent in the first quarter 2012, first quarter 2011 and the fourth quarter 2011, respectively. Although we are maintaining a higher than historically normal provisioning rate, losses incurred on known claims decreased 25.4 percent and 7.9 percent compared to the first and fourth quarters 2011, respectively. The decline in losses incurred on known claims continues a trend noted for several quarters. Cash claim payments decreased 6.7 percent from the first quarter 2011 and increased 16.8 percent from fourth quarter 2011. The sequential increase in cash claims payments over fourth quarter 2011 is due principally to payments on large claims on policies written in years prior to 2008, which we continue to resolve. Cash payments on non-large claims continue to trend downward, as observed over several quarters.

## Table of Contents

### **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

Actual results can differ from our accounting estimates. While we do not anticipate significant changes in our estimates, there is a risk that such changes could have a material impact on our consolidated financial condition or results of operations for future periods.

#### Title loss reserves

Our most critical accounting estimate is providing for title losses associated with issued title insurance policies. Our liability for estimated title losses as of March 31, 2012 comprises both known claims (\$129.3 million) and our estimate of claims that may be reported in the future (\$372.9 million). The amount of the reserve represents the aggregate future payments (net of recoveries recognized) that we expect to incur on policy and escrow losses and in costs to settle claims.

Provisions for title losses, as a percentage of title operating revenues, were 9.0% and 9.4% for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Actual loss payment experience, including the impact of payments on large losses as well as changes in estimates for large losses, is the primary reason for increases or decreases in our loss provision. A change of 100 basis points in this percentage, a reasonably likely scenario based on our historical loss experience, would have increased or decreased our provision for title losses and pretax operating results approximately \$3.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012.

Our method for recording the reserves for title losses on both an interim and annual basis begins with the calculation of our current loss provision rate, which is applied to our current premiums resulting in a title loss expense for the period. This loss provision rate is set to provide for losses on current year policies, including the costs of administering, investigating, and/or defending claims, and is determined using moving average ratios of recent actual policy loss payment experience (net of recoveries recognized) to premium revenues.

At each quarter end, our recorded reserve for title losses begins with the prior period's reserve balance for claim losses, adds the current period provision to that balance and subtracts actual paid claims, resulting in an amount that our management compares to its actuarially-based calculation of the ending reserve balance to provide for future title losses. The actuarially-based calculation is a paid loss development calculation where loss development factors are selected based on company data and input from our third-party actuaries. We also obtain input from third-party actuaries in the form of a reserve analysis utilizing generally accepted actuarial methods. While we are responsible for determining our loss reserves, we utilize this actuarial input to assess the overall reasonableness of our reserve estimation. If our recorded reserve amount is within a reasonable range (+/- 4.0%) of our actuarially-based reserve calculation and the actuary's point estimate, but not at the point estimate, our management assesses the major factors contributing to the different reserve estimates in order to determine the overall reasonableness of our recorded reserve, as well as the position of the recorded reserves relative to the point estimate and the estimated range of reserves. The major factors considered can change from period to period and include items such as current trends in the real estate industry (which management can assess although there is a time lag in the development of this data for use by the actuary), the size and types of claims reported and changes in our claims management process. If the recorded amount is not within a reasonable range of our third-party actuary's point estimate, we will adjust the recorded reserves in the current period and reassess the provision rate on a prospective basis. Once our reserve for title losses is recorded, it is reduced in future periods as a result of claims payments and may be increased or reduced by revisions to our estimate of the overall level of required reserves.

Large claims (those exceeding \$1.0 million on a single claim), including large title losses due to independent agency defalcations, are analyzed and reserved for separately due to the higher dollar amount of loss, lower volume of claims reported and sporadic reporting of such claims. Large title losses due to independent agency defalcations typically occur when the independent agency misappropriates funds from escrow accounts under its control. Such losses are usually discovered when the independent agency fails to pay off an outstanding mortgage loan at closing (or immediately thereafter) from the proceeds of the new loan. Once the previous lender

## Table of Contents

determines that its loan has not been paid off timely, it will file a claim against the title insurer. It is at this point that the title insurance underwriter is alerted to the potential theft and begins its investigation. As is industry practice, these claims are considered a claim on the newly issued title insurance policy since such policy insures the holder (in this case, the new lender) that all previous liens on the property have been satisfied. Accordingly, these claim payments are charged to policy loss expense. These incurred losses are typically more severe in terms of dollar value compared with traditional title policy claims because the independent agency is often able over time to conceal misappropriation of escrow funds relating to more than one transaction through the constant volume of funds moving through its escrow accounts. As long as new funds continue to flow into escrow accounts, an independent agent can mask one or more defalcations. In declining real estate markets, lower transaction volumes result in a lower incoming volume of funds, making it more difficult to cover up the misappropriation with incoming funds. Thus, when the defalcation is discovered, it often relates to several transactions. In addition, the overall decline in an independent agency's revenues, profits and cash flows increases the agency's incentive to improperly utilize the escrow funds from real estate transactions.

Internal controls relating to independent agencies include, but are not limited to, pre-signing and periodic audits, site visits and reconciliations of policy inventories and premiums. The audits and site visits cover examination of the escrow account bank reconciliations and an examination of a sample of closed transactions. In some instances, we are limited in our scope by attorney agents who cite client confidentiality. Certain states have mandated a requirement for annual reviews of all agents by their underwriter. We also determine whether our independent agencies have appropriate internal controls as defined by the American Land Title Association and us. However, even with adequate internal controls in place, their effectiveness can be circumvented by collusion or improper management override at the independent agencies. To aid in the selection of agencies to review, we have developed an agency risk model that aggregates data from different areas to identify possible problems. This is not a guarantee that all agencies with deficiencies will be identified. In addition, we are typically not the only underwriter for which an independent agency issues policies and agencies may not always provide complete financial records for our review.

Due to the inherent uncertainty in predicting future title policy losses, significant judgment is required by both our management and our third party actuaries in estimating reserves. As a consequence, our ultimate liability may be materially greater or less than current reserves and/or our third party actuary's calculated estimate.

### Agency revenues

We recognize revenues on title insurance policies written by independent agencies (agencies) when the policies are reported to us. In addition, where reasonable estimates can be made, we accrue for revenues on policies issued but not reported until after period end. We believe that reasonable estimates can be made when recent and consistent policy issuance information is available. Our estimates are based on historical reporting patterns and other information about our agencies. We also consider current trends in our direct operations and in the title industry. In this accrual, we are not estimating future transactions. We are estimating revenues on policies that have already been issued by agencies but not yet reported to or received by us. We have consistently followed the same basic method of estimating unreported policy revenues for more than 10 years.

## Table of Contents

Our accruals for revenues on unreported policies from agencies were not material to our consolidated assets or stockholders' equity as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The differences between the amounts our agencies have subsequently reported to us compared to our estimated accruals are substantially offset by any differences arising from prior years' accruals and have been immaterial to consolidated assets and stockholders' equity during each of the three prior years. We believe our process provides the most reliable estimate of the unreported revenues on policies and appropriately reflects the trends in agency policy activity.

### Goodwill and other long-lived assets

Our evaluation of goodwill is normally completed annually in the third quarter using June 30 balances, but an evaluation may also be made whenever events may indicate impairment. This evaluation initially involves a qualitative assessment of potential impairment factors such as macroeconomic conditions, industry and market considerations, cost factors, financial performance, events affecting a reporting unit, share value changes or other relevant entity-specific factors in evaluating whether the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If this initial analysis does not indicate that impairment more likely than not exists, then the evaluation of goodwill is complete. Otherwise, the Company's evaluation process uses discounted cash flow analysis (DCF) and market approaches that incorporate market multiples of comparable companies and our own market capitalization. The DCF model utilizes historical and projected operating results and cash flows, initially driven by estimates of changes in future revenue levels, and risk-adjusted discount rates. Our projected operating results are primarily driven by anticipated mortgage originations, which we obtain from projections by industry experts. Fluctuations in revenues, followed by our ability to appropriately adjust our employee count and other operating expenses, are the primary reasons for increases or decreases in our projected operating results. Our market-based valuation methodologies utilize (i) market multiples of earnings and/or other operating metrics of comparable companies and (ii) our market capitalization and a control premium based on market data and factors specific to our ownership and corporate governance structure (such as our Class B Common Stock). To the extent that our future operating results are below our projections, or in the event of continued adverse market conditions, an interim review for impairment may be required, which may result in an impairment of goodwill.

We evaluate goodwill separately for our two reporting units (Title and REI). Goodwill is assigned to these reporting units at the time the goodwill is initially recorded. Once assigned to a reporting unit, the goodwill is pooled and no longer attributable to a specific acquisition. All activities within a reporting unit are available to support the carrying value of the goodwill.

We also evaluate the carrying values of title plants and other long-lived assets when events occur that may indicate impairment. The process of determining impairment for our goodwill and other long-lived assets relies on projections of future cash flows, operating results, discount rates and overall market conditions, including our market capitalization. Uncertainties exist in these projections and they are subject to changes relating to factors such as interest rates and overall real estate and financial market conditions, our market capitalization and overall stock market performance. Actual market conditions and operating results may vary materially from our projections.

Based on this evaluation, we estimate and expense to current operations any loss in value of these assets. As part of our process, we obtain input from third-party appraisers regarding the fair value of our reporting units. While we are responsible for assessing whether an impairment of goodwill exists, we utilize the input from third-party appraisers to assess the overall reasonableness of our conclusions. There were no impairment write-offs of goodwill or other long-lived assets during the three months ended March 31, 2012 or 2011.

**Operations.** Our business has two main operating segments: title insurance-related services and real estate information (REI). These segments are closely related due to the nature of their operations and common customers.



**Table of Contents**

Our primary business is title insurance and settlement-related services. We close transactions and issue title policies on homes and commercial and other real properties located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and international markets through policy-issuing offices and agencies. We also provide loan origination and servicing support; loan review services; loss mitigation; REO asset management; home and personal insurance services; tax-deferred exchanges; and technology to streamline the real estate process.

Factors affecting revenues. The principal factors that contribute to changes in operating revenues for our title and REI segments include:

mortgage interest rates;

availability of mortgage loans;

ability of potential purchasers to qualify for loans;

ratio of purchase transactions compared with refinance transactions;

ratio of closed orders to open orders;

home prices;

volume of distressed property transactions;

consumer confidence;

demand by buyers;

number of households;

premium rates;

market share;

opening of new offices and acquisitions;

number of commercial transactions, which typically yield higher premiums;

government or regulatory initiatives, including tax incentives; and

number of REO and foreclosed properties and related debt.

To the extent inflation causes increases in the prices of homes and other real estate, premium revenues are also increased. Conversely, falling home prices cause premium revenues to decline. Premiums are determined in part by the insured values of the transactions we handle. These factors may override the seasonal nature of the title insurance business. Historically, our first quarter is the least active and our third and fourth quarters are the most active in terms of title insurance revenues.

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Comparisons of our results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2012 with the three months ended March 31, 2011 follow. Factors contributing to fluctuations in our results of operations are presented in the order of their monetary significance and we have quantified, when necessary, significant changes. Results from our REI segment are included in our discussions regarding the three months ended March 31, 2012 and when relevant, we have discussed REI segment's results separately.

Our statements on home sales and loan activity are based on published industry data from sources including Fannie Mae, the National Association of Realtors®, the Mortgage Bankers Association and Freddie Mac. We also use information from our direct operations.

## **Table of Contents**

**Operating environment.** Data as of March 2012 compared with the same period in 2011 indicates annualized sales of new homes, seasonally adjusted, increased 7.5%, and sales of existing homes, seasonally adjusted, increased 5.2%. March 2012 existing home sales were a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.5 million versus 4.3 million a year earlier. Although there has been an increase in home sales over the first quarter 2011 and interest rates continue to be relatively low by historical standards, general economic conditions conducive to the housing market such as low unemployment, increasing household formation, and a comparatively low inventory of unsold homes, are not present. One-to-four family residential lending increased from an estimated \$331 billion in the first quarter 2011 to \$411 billion in the fourth quarter 2011 (most recent actual data available), primarily driven by an estimated \$70 billion increase in refinancing originations from the first quarter 2011 to the fourth quarter 2011 (most recent data available). Commercial lending activity industry-wide improved by 13% in the fourth quarter 2011 (most recent data available) compared with the same period of 2010.

**Title revenues.** Revenues from direct title operations increased \$12.4 million, or 8.9%, in the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011 primarily due to an increased number of orders offset by a decline in commercial revenues, as well as a higher proportion of refinancing transactions. The largest revenue increases were in Texas, Utah, Washington and California. These revenue increases were offset somewhat by decreases in New York. Revenues from commercial and other large transactions decreased \$4.3 million, or 17.1%, in the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011.

Direct orders closed increased 14.1% in the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011 and the average revenue per file closed was consistent with the first quarter 2011. Direct operating revenues, excluding large commercial policies, increased 14.6% in the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011. The average revenue per closing, excluding large commercial policies, in the first quarter 2012 was comparable to the first quarter 2011.

Revenues from independent agencies increased \$4.5 million, or 2.4%, in the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011. The largest increases in revenues from agencies during the three months ended March 31, 2012 were in New York, Texas, California and Virginia partially offset by decreases in New Jersey, Minnesota and Maryland.

**REI revenues.** Real estate information operating revenues increased \$1.1 million, or 3.4%, in the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011. The increase was primarily due to an increase in lower margin servicing support and REO related services partially offset by a decline in revenues from higher margin loan modification services. The acquisition of PMH Financial in the third quarter 2011 also contributed to the current year increase in REI revenues. We expect REI revenues to increase in 2012 as a result of recently awarded contracts and a full year contribution to revenues by PMH Financial. However, demand for REI services will continue to be dependent on the number and scale of governmental programs and lender projects and can fluctuate significantly on a quarterly and annual basis. We anticipate REI pretax margins to stabilize to a sustainable level of 25-30% in the next several quarters.

**Investment income.** Investment income decreased \$0.7 million, or 19.0%, in the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011, primarily due to decreases in average yield. Certain investment gains and losses, which are included in our results of operations in investment and other gains net, were realized as part of the ongoing management of our investment portfolio for the purpose of improving performance.

## Table of Contents

**Retention by agencies.** Amounts retained by title agencies are based on agreements between agencies and our title underwriters. The average retention percentage may vary from year-to-year due to the geographical mix of agency operations, the volume of title revenues and, in some states, laws or regulations. On average, amounts retained by independent agencies, as a percentage of revenues generated by them, were 82.8% and 82.6% in the first quarters of 2012 and 2011, respectively. The geographic shifts in business activity may cause quarter-to-quarter remittance rate fluctuations. In addition, we expect the mix of agency business to normalize as real estate markets continue to stabilize nationally resulting in lower average retention percentages in the aggregate. We continue to focus on improving the quality of our network of independent agencies in order to achieve an increase in the average revenue per agency while lowering the number of agencies and reducing our risk of future loss.

**Employee costs.** Our employee costs and certain other operating expenses are sensitive to inflation. Employee costs in the first quarter 2012 were up 6.1 percent sequentially from the fourth quarter 2011 and up 8.7 percent from the first quarter 2011. The increase in employee costs compared to last year is primarily related to increases in our REI operations and was expected as a result of staffing requirements to provide services under new contracts awarded in the fourth quarter 2011. Employee costs in the title segment increased less than 2 percent over the first quarter 2011 to support the increase in title revenues.

**Other operating expenses.** Other operating expenses include costs that are fixed in nature, costs that follow, to varying degrees, changes in transaction volumes and revenues and costs that fluctuate independently of revenues. Costs that are fixed in nature include attorney fees, equipment rental, insurance, professional fees, rent and other occupancy expenses, repairs and maintenance, technology costs, telephone and title plant rent. Costs that follow, to varying degrees, changes in transaction volumes and revenues include fee attorney splits, bad debt expenses, certain REI expenses, copy supplies, delivery fees, outside search fees, postage, premium taxes and title plant expenses. Costs that fluctuate independently of revenues include auto expenses, general supplies, litigation defense and settlement costs, promotion costs and travel.

In the first quarter 2012 compared with the same period in 2011, other operating expenses for the combined business segments increased \$5.7 million, or 9.7%. Costs fixed in nature increased \$2.9 million, or 11.0%, in the first quarter 2012, primarily due to increases professional fees, as a result of the outsourcing of the internal audit function, and technology costs. Costs that follow, to varying degrees, changes in transaction volumes and revenues increased \$1.1 million, or 5.0%, in the first quarter 2012. This increase was primarily related to increases in outside search fees. Costs that fluctuate independently of revenues increased \$1.7 million, or 16.2%, in the first quarter 2012, primarily due to an increase in litigation-related costs.

**Title losses.** While trending favorably, losses from title policy claims continue to remain higher than historical levels. As a percentage of title revenues, title losses were 9.0 percent, 9.4 percent and 9.9 percent in the first quarter 2012, first quarter 2011 and the fourth quarter 2011, respectively. Cash claim payments in the first quarter 2012 decreased 6.7 percent from the first quarter 2011 and increased 16.8 percent from fourth quarter 2011. The sequential increase in cash claims payments over fourth quarter 2011 is due principally to payments on large claims, which we continue to resolve. Cash payments on non-large claims continue to trend downward, as observed over several quarters. Losses incurred on known claims decreased 25.4 percent and 7.9 percent compared to the first and fourth quarters 2011, respectively. The decline in losses incurred on known claims also continues a trend noted for several quarters.

**Table of Contents**

**Income taxes.** Our effective tax rates were (30.2%) and (43.7%) for the first three months of 2012 and 2011, respectively, based on losses before taxes and after deducting earnings of noncontrolling interests, which aggregated \$9.3 million and \$7.2 million for the first three months of 2012 and 2011, respectively. For the first quarters 2012 and 2011 income tax expense primarily related to taxes in foreign jurisdictions for our profitable international operations and on entities not included in our consolidated returns. We did not recognize the income tax benefit in the first quarters 2012 and 2011 relating to our pretax losses due to the recording of a valuation allowance against deferred tax assets. The valuation allowance will be evaluated for reversal as we return to profitability.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

Our liquidity and capital resources represent our ability to generate cash flow to meet our obligations to our shareholders, customers (payments to satisfy claims on title policies), vendors, employees, lenders and others. As of March 31, 2012, our cash and investments, including amounts reserved pursuant to statutory requirements, aggregated \$615.9 million.

A substantial majority of our consolidated cash and investments as of March 31, 2012 was held by Stewart Title Guaranty Company (Guaranty) and its subsidiaries. The use and investment of these funds, dividends to the holding company, and cash transfers between Guaranty and its subsidiaries and the holding company are subject to certain legal and regulatory restrictions. In general, Guaranty may use its cash and investments in excess of its legally-mandated statutory premium reserve (established in accordance with requirements under Texas law) to fund its insurance operations, including claims payments. Guaranty may also, subject to certain limitations, provide funds to its subsidiaries (whose operations consist principally of field title offices) for their operating and debt service needs.

Guaranty cannot pay a dividend to its parent in excess of certain limits without the approval of the Texas Insurance Commissioner. As of December 31, 2011, the maximum dividend that could be paid in 2012 after such approval in 2012 is \$74.4 million. Guaranty did not pay a dividend in the three months ended March 31, 2012 or 2011. However, the maximum dividend permitted by law is not necessarily indicative of Guaranty's actual ability to pay dividends, which may be constrained by business and regulatory considerations, such as the impact of dividends on surplus, which could affect its ratings or competitive position, the amount of premiums it can write and its ability to pay future dividends. Further, depending on business and regulatory conditions, we may in the future need to retain cash in Guaranty or even raise cash in the capital markets to contribute to it in order to maintain its ratings or statutory capital position. Such a requirement could be the result of investment losses, reserve charges, adverse operating conditions in the current economic environment or changes in interpretation of statutory accounting requirements by regulators.

Cash held at the parent company totaled \$7.2 million at March 31, 2012. As noted above, as a holding company, the parent is funded principally by cash from its subsidiaries in the form of dividends and for operating and other administrative expense reimbursements. The expense reimbursements are paid in accordance with the management agreements among us and our subsidiaries. As the parent company conducts no operations apart from its wholly-owned subsidiaries, the discussion below focuses on consolidated cash flows.

A summary of our net consolidated cash flows for the three months ended March 31 follows:

	2012	2011
	(dollars in millions)	
Net cash used by operating activities	(20.3)	(38.6)
Net cash used by investing activities	(0.5)	(3.1)
Net cash used by financing activities	(6.0)	(1.9)

**Operating activities**

Our principal sources of cash from operations are premiums on title policies and revenue from title service-related transactions, mortgage service support REO related services. Our independent agencies remit cash to us net of their contractual retention. Our principal cash expenditures for operations are employee costs, operating costs and title claims payments.

Cash used by operations for the first quarter 2012 was \$20.3 million, an improvement of \$18.3 million from the \$38.6 million used by operations in 2011. This improvement is primarily related to a first quarter 2012 timing improvement on the collection of receivables and as a result of lower payments made on title claims and to settle outstanding payable and accrued liability balances versus the first quarter 2011.

## Edgar Filing: STEWART INFORMATION SERVICES CORP - Form 10-Q

Our business is labor intensive, although we continue to make progress in automating our services, which allows us to more easily adjust staffing levels as order volumes fluctuate. There are typically delays between changes in market conditions and changes in staffing levels; therefore, employee costs do not change at the same rate as revenues change.

- 20 -

---

**Table of Contents**

The insurance regulators of the states in which our underwriters are domiciled require our statutory premium reserves to be fully funded, segregated and invested in high-quality securities and short-term investments. As of March 31, 2012, cash and investments funding the statutory premium reserve aggregated \$421.1 million and our statutory estimate of claims that may be reported in the future totaled \$372.9 million. In addition to this restricted cash and investments, we had unrestricted cash and investments (excluding equity method investments) of \$152.1 million, which are available for underwriter operations, including claims payments.

**Investing activities**

Cash from investing activities was generated principally by proceeds from investments matured and sold in the amounts of \$39.6 million and \$22.3 million for the first quarters of 2012 and 2011, respectively. We used cash for the purchases of investments in the amounts of \$38.7 million and \$21.5 million for the first quarters of 2012 and 2011, respectively. The cash from sales and maturities not reinvested was used principally to fund operations.

Capital expenditures were \$4.7 million and \$4.2 million for the first quarters of 2012 and 2011, respectively. We maintain investment in capital expenditures at a level that enables us to implement technologies increasing our operational and back-office efficiencies. Notwithstanding this, we also continue to aggressively manage cash flow and, therefore, overall capital spending will continue to be at relatively reduced levels. During the first quarter 2012, we sold assets resulting in cash receipts of \$3.4 million.

**Financing activities and capital resources**

Total debt and stockholders' equity were \$72.0 million and \$457.6 million, respectively, as of March 31, 2012. Included in total debt are \$64.6 million principal amount of convertible senior notes which mature October 2014 if not converted into shares of common stock. We repaid \$4.3 million and \$1.1 million of debt in accordance with the underlying terms of the debt instruments for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. We also have available a \$10.0 million bank line of credit commitment which expires in June 2013, under which no borrowings were outstanding at March 31, 2012.

**Effect of changes in foreign currency rates**

The effect of changes in foreign currency rates on the consolidated statements of cash flows was a net increase in cash and cash equivalents of \$1.1 million for the first quarter 2012 as compared to an increase of \$1.0 million for the first quarter 2011. Our principal foreign operating unit is in Canada, and, on average, the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar decreased during the first three months of 2012.

\*\*\*\*\*

We believe we have sufficient liquidity and capital resources to meet the cash needs of our ongoing operations. However, if we determine that supplemental debt, including additional convertible debentures, or equity funding is warranted to provide additional liquidity for unforeseen circumstances or strategic acquisitions, we may pursue those sources of cash. Other than scheduled maturities of debt, operating lease payments, purchase agreements and anticipated claims payments in 2012, we have no material commitments. We expect that cash flows from operations and cash available from our underwriters, subject to regulatory restrictions, will be sufficient to fund our operations, including claims payments. However, to the extent that these funds are not sufficient, we may be required to borrow funds on terms less favorable than we currently have, or seek funding from the equity market, which may not be successful or may be on terms that are dilutive to existing shareholders.

**Table of Contents**

**Contingent liabilities and commitments.** In the ordinary course of business, the Company guarantees the third-party indebtedness of certain of its consolidated subsidiaries. As of March 31, 2012, the maximum potential future payments on the guarantees are not more than the related notes payable recorded in the consolidated balance sheets. The Company also guarantees the indebtedness related to lease obligations of certain of its consolidated subsidiaries. The maximum future obligations arising from these lease-related guarantees are not more than the Company's future minimum lease payments. In addition, as of March 31, 2012, the Company had guarantees of indebtedness owed by certain third parties related to business expansion and unused letters of credit aggregating \$4.2 million, primarily related to workers' compensation coverage.

**Other comprehensive earnings (loss).** Unrealized gains and losses on investments and changes in foreign currency exchange rates are reported net of deferred taxes in accumulated other comprehensive earnings, a component of stockholders' equity, until realized. For the three months ended March 31, 2012, net unrealized investment gains of \$2.8 million, which increased our other comprehensive income, were primarily related to temporary increases in market values of corporate bonds, partially offset by temporary decreases in government bond investments. For the three months ended March 31, 2011, net unrealized investment losses of \$1.7 million, which increased other comprehensive loss, were primarily related to temporary decreases in market values of corporate and government bond investments. Changes in foreign currency exchange rates, primarily related to our Canadian operations, increased other comprehensive income by \$3.5 million, net of taxes, for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and decreased other comprehensive loss \$1.4 million, net of taxes, for the three months ended March 31, 2011.

**Off-balance sheet arrangements.** We do not have any material source of liquidity or financing that involves off-balance sheet arrangements, other than our contractual obligations under operating leases. We also routinely hold funds in segregated escrow accounts pending the closing of real estate transactions and have qualified intermediaries in tax-deferred property exchanges for customers pursuant to Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Company holds the proceeds from these transactions until a qualifying exchange can occur. See Note 18 in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.



## **Table of Contents**

**Forward-looking statements.** Certain statements in this report are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements relate to future, not past, events and often address our expected future business and financial performance. These statements often contain words such as expect, anticipate, intend, plan, believe, seek, will or other similar words. Forward-looking statements by their nature are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to be materially different than those expressed in the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, among other things, the severity and duration of current financial and economic conditions; continued weakness or further adverse changes in the level of real estate activity; changes in mortgage interest rates and availability of mortgage financing; our ability to respond to and implement technology changes, including the completion of the implementation of our enterprise systems; the impact of unanticipated title losses on the need to further strengthen our policy loss reserves; any effect of title losses on our cash flows and financial condition; the impact of our increased diligence and inspections in our agency operations; changes to the participants in the secondary mortgage market and the rate of refinancings that affect the demand for title insurance products; our ability to successfully consummate acquisitions, and our ability to successfully integrate and manage acquired businesses, should opportunities arise; regulatory non-compliance, fraud or defalcations by our title insurance agencies or employees; our ability to timely and cost-effectively respond to significant industry changes and introduce new products and services; the outcome of litigation claims by large classes of claimants; the ultimate outcome of the Citigroup case discussed herein; the impact of changes in governmental and insurance regulations, including any future reductions in the pricing of title insurance products and services; our dependence on our operating subsidiaries and underwriters as a source of cash flow; the continued realization of expected expense savings resulting from our expense reduction steps; our ability to access the equity and debt financing markets when and if needed; our ability to grow our international operations; our ability to respond to the actions of our competitors; failure to comply with financial covenants contained in our debt instruments; and inability to make scheduled payments on or refinance our indebtedness. We expressly disclaim any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this report to reflect events or circumstances that may arise after the date hereof, except as may be required by applicable law.

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

There have been no material changes during the quarter ended March 31, 2012 in our investment strategies, types of financial instruments held or the risks associated with such instruments that would materially alter the market risk disclosures made in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

### **Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

Our principal executive officer and principal financial officer are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures. They evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of March 31, 2012, and have concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures are adequate and effective to ensure that information we are required to disclose in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and (ii) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

## **Table of Contents**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f)). Our internal control over financial reporting is a process, under the supervision of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Our management, with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of March 31, 2012. In making this assessment, our management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control – Integrated Framework. Based on this assessment, management believes that, as of March 31, 2012, our internal control over financial reporting is effective based on those criteria.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Internal control over financial reporting is a process that involves human diligence and compliance and is subject to lapses in judgment and breakdowns resulting from human failures. Internal control over financial reporting also can be circumvented by collusion or improper management override. Due to such limitations, there is a risk that material misstatements may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis by internal control over financial reporting. However, these inherent limitations are known features of the financial reporting process. Therefore, it is possible to design into the process safeguards to reduce, though not eliminate, this risk.

There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended March 31, 2012 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. As a result, no corrective actions were required or undertaken.

## **PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

See discussion of legal proceedings in Note 9 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this Report, which is incorporated by reference into this Part II, Item 1, as well as Item 3. Legal Proceedings, in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

There have been no changes during the quarter ended March 31, 2012 to our risk factors as listed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011.

### **Item 5. Other Information**

We had a book value per share of \$23.68 and \$24.01 as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. As of March 31, 2012, our book value per share was based on approximately \$457.6 million in stockholders' equity and 19,328,336 shares of Common and Class B Common Stock outstanding. As of December 31, 2011, our book value per share was based on approximately \$463.5 million in stockholders' equity and 19,303,844 shares of Common and Class B Common Stock outstanding.

### **Item 6. Exhibits**

Those exhibits required to be filed by Item 601 of Regulation S-K are listed in the Index to Exhibits immediately preceding the exhibits filed herewith and such listing is incorporated herein by reference.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, I have duly caused this report to be signed on our behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

May 3, 2012  
Date

Stewart Information Services Corporation  
Registrant

By: /s/ J. Allen Berryman  
J. Allen Berryman, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary,  
Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer

- 25 -

**Table of Contents**

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

Exhibit

3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, dated May 1, 2009 (incorporated by reference in this report from Exhibit 3.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 5, 2009)
3.2	Certificate of Amendment to Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, dated April 30, 2010 (incorporated by reference in this report from Exhibit 3.2 of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010)
3.3	Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Registrant, as of January 17, 2012 (incorporated by reference in this report from Exhibit 3.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 20, 2012)
4.1	Rights of Common and Class B Common Stockholders (incorporated by reference to Exhibits 3.1 and 3.2 hereto)
4.2	Indenture related to 6.0% Convertible Senior Notes due 2014, dated as of October 15, 2009, by and between the Registrant, the Guarantors party thereto, and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 15, 2009)
4.3	Form of 6.0% Convertible Senior Note due 2014 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 15, 2009)
31.1 *	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2 *	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1 *	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2 *	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
101.INS **	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* Filed herewith

\*\* Pursuant to Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, these interactive data files are deemed not filed or part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Sections 11 and 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, are deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the securities Exchange Act of 1934 and otherwise are not subject to liability under those sections.