

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC

Form 10-Q

November 09, 2006

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2006

OR

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

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 000-50070

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

13-4181699

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

20 Custom House Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110

(Address of principal executive offices including zip code)

(617) 951-0600

(Registrant's 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 is large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

As of November 6, 2006, there were 16,019,736 shares of common stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share outstanding.

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
<u>PART I.</u>	
	<u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>
<u>Item 1.</u>	
	<u>Financial Statements</u>
	<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2006 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2005</u> 3
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 (Unaudited)</u> 4
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 (Unaudited)</u> 5
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 (Unaudited)</u> 6
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 (Unaudited)</u> 7
	<u>Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements</u> 8
<u>Item 2.</u>	
	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>
	<u>Executive Summary and Overview</u> 18
	<u>Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates</u> 22
	<u>Results of Operations - Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006 and 2005</u> 30
	<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u> 33
	<u>Off-Balance-Sheet Arrangements</u> 34
	<u>Contractual Obligations</u> 35
	<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u> 35
<u>Item 3.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u> 36
<u>Item 4.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u> 37
<u>PART II.</u>	
	<u>OTHER INFORMATION</u>
<u>Item 1.</u>	<u>Legal Proceedings</u> 37
<u>Item 1A.</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u> 37
<u>Item 2.</u>	<u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> 37
<u>Item 3.</u>	<u>Defaults upon Senior Securities</u> 37
<u>Item 4.</u>	<u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u> 37
<u>Item 5.</u>	<u>Other Information</u> 37
<u>Item 6.</u>	<u>Exhibits</u> 37
<u>SIGNATURE</u>	38
<u>EXHIBIT INDEX</u>	39

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Dollars in thousands, except share data)

	September 30, 2006 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2005
Assets		
Investment securities available for sale:		
Fixed maturities, at fair value (amortized cost: \$910,451 and \$713,930)	\$ 911,067	\$ 712,538
Equity securities, at fair value (cost: \$3,929 and \$1,895)	4,126	2,005
Total investment securities	915,193	714,543
Cash and cash equivalents	23,551	163,027
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts	164,120	154,421
Accrued investment income	9,610	7,856
Taxes recoverable	120	318
Receivable from reinsurers related to paid loss and loss adjustment expenses	17,403	18,750
Receivable from reinsurers related to unpaid loss and loss adjustment expenses	78,279	80,550
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	34,834	37,174
Deferred policy acquisition costs	50,905	45,480
Deferred income taxes	17,909	18,120
Equity and deposits in pools	44,469	14,631
Other assets	3,096	2,805
Total assets	\$ 1,359,489	\$ 1,257,675
Liabilities		
Loss and loss adjustment expense reserves	\$ 437,726	\$ 450,716
Unearned premium reserves	359,833	341,562
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	32,257	44,372
Outstanding claims drafts	16,439	19,825
Payable to reinsurers	37,892	12,985
Capital lease obligations	96	266
Total liabilities	884,243	869,726
Commitments and contingencies (Note 7)		
Shareholders' equity		
Common stock: \$0.01 par value; 30,000,000 shares authorized; 16,019,436 and 15,787,947 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	160	158
Additional paid-in capital	127,062	120,451
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of taxes	528	(833)
Retained earnings	347,496	268,173
Total shareholders' equity	475,246	387,949
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 1,359,489	\$ 1,257,675

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

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Operations

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands, except per share and share data)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2006		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006	
		2005		2005
Net earned premiums	\$ 156,748	\$ 157,521	\$ 470,787	\$ 470,451
Net investment income	10,344	7,939	29,556	23,051
Net realized gains (losses) on investments		58	(261)	454
Finance and other service income	3,737	4,322	11,316	12,268
Total revenue	170,829	169,840	511,398	506,224
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	88,829	89,748	259,184	293,720
Underwriting, operating and related expenses	39,422	36,769	121,574	113,335
Interest expenses	21	262	65	710
Total expenses	128,272	126,779	380,823	407,765
Income before income taxes	42,557	43,061	130,575	98,459
Income tax expense	13,452	12,586	41,529	30,236
Net income	\$ 29,105	\$ 30,475	\$ 89,046	\$ 68,223
Earnings per weighted average common share:				
Basic	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.95	\$ 5.63	\$ 4.39
Diluted	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.92	\$ 5.57	\$ 4.29
Cash dividends paid per common share	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.42
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:				
Basic	15,887,574	15,630,838	15,809,047	15,552,128
Diluted	16,051,606	15,878,212	15,978,096	15,912,808

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

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands)

	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss), Net of Taxes	Retained Earnings	Total Shareholders Equity
Balance at December 31, 2004	\$ 155	\$ 114,070	\$ 8,709	\$ 182,400	\$ 305,334
Net income, January 1 to September 30, 2005				68,223	68,223
Other comprehensive loss, net of deferred federal income taxes			(7,408)		(7,408)
Exercise of options and unearned compensation on restricted stock, net of deferred federal income taxes	2	4,490			4,492
Tax contingency reserve adjustment		455			455
Dividends paid				(6,574)	(6,574)
Balance at September 30, 2005	\$ 157	\$ 119,015	\$ 1,301	\$ 244,049	\$ 364,522

	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss), Net of Taxes	Retained Earnings	Total Shareholders Equity
Balance at December 31, 2005	\$ 158	\$ 120,451	\$ (833)	\$ 268,173	\$ 387,949
Net income, January 1 to September 30, 2006				89,046	89,046
Other comprehensive income, net of deferred federal income taxes			1,361		1,361
Exercise of options and unearned compensation on restricted stock, net of deferred federal income taxes	2	6,611			6,613
Dividends paid				(9,723)	(9,723)
Balance at September 30, 2006	\$ 160	\$ 127,062	\$ 528	\$ 347,496	\$ 475,246

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

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2006		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006	
	2005	2005	2005	2005
Net income	\$ 29,105	\$ 30,475	\$ 89,046	\$ 68,223
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:				
Change in unrealized holding gains, net of tax expense (benefit) of \$7,131, \$(3,034), \$641 and \$(3,830)	13,243	(5,634	) 1,191	(7,113
Reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses included in net income, net of tax expense (benefit) of \$0, \$(20), \$91 and \$(159)		(38	) 170	(295
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities available for sale	13,243	(5,672	) 1,361	(7,408
Comprehensive income	\$ 42,348	\$ 24,803	\$ 90,407	\$ 60,815

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

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

(Dollars in thousands)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2006	2005
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 89,046	\$ 68,223
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization, net	6,369	6,318
Benefit for deferred income taxes	(522)	(2,157)
Net realized losses (gains) on investments	261	(454)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(9,699)	(16,716)
Accrued investment income	(1,754)	(1,044)
Receivable from reinsurers	3,618	259
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	2,340	2,456
Deferred policy acquisition costs	(5,425)	(6,844)
Other assets	(29,314)	(25,577)
Loss and loss adjustment expense reserves	(12,990)	4,916
Unearned premium reserves	18,271	38,334
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(12,115)	(16,012)
Payable to reinsurers	24,907	26,093
Other liabilities	(3,556)	3,310
Net cash provided by operating activities	69,437	81,105
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Fixed maturities purchased	(313,265)	(95,883)
Equity securities purchased	(2,498)	(1,252)
Proceeds from sales of fixed maturities	100,205	41,540
Proceeds from maturities of fixed maturities	12,450	4,975
Proceed from sales of equity securities	485	233
Fixed assets purchased	(771)	(610)
Net cash used for investing activities	(203,394)	(50,997)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds and excess tax benefits from exercise of stock options	4,204	2,367
Dividends paid to shareholders	(9,723)	(6,574)
Net cash used for financing activities	(5,519)	(4,207)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(139,476)	25,901
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	163,027	155,673
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 23,551	\$ 181,574

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

Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

(Dollars in thousands except per share and share data)

1. Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

The consolidated financial statements include Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Company). The subsidiaries consist of Safety Insurance Company, Safety Indemnity Insurance Company, Whiteshirts Asset Management Corporation (WAMC), and Whiteshirts Management Corporation, which is WAMC s holding company. All intercompany transactions have been eliminated. Prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

The financial information as of September 30, 2006 and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 is unaudited; however, in the opinion of the Company, the information includes all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the financial condition and results of operations for the periods. These unaudited consolidated financial statements may not be indicative of financial results for the full year and should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements included in the Company s annual report on Form 10-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on March 16, 2006.

The Company is a leading provider of personal lines property and casualty insurance focused exclusively on the Massachusetts market. The Company s principal product line is private passenger automobile insurance, which accounted for 80.3% of its direct written premiums in 2005. The Company operates through its insurance company subsidiaries, Safety Insurance Company and Safety Indemnity Insurance Company.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 155, Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments - an amendment of FASB Statements No. 133 and 140 (FAS 155). This statement permits fair value remeasurement for any hybrid financial instrument that contains an embedded derivative that otherwise would require bifurcation. This statement also adds clarity regarding interest-only strips and principal-only strips that are not subject to the requirements of Statement No. 133, and requires companies to evaluate interests in securitized financial assets to identify interests that are freestanding derivatives or that are hybrid financial instruments containing an embedded derivative that requires bifurcation. FAS 155 is effective for all financial instruments acquired or issued after the beginning of an entity s first fiscal year that begins after September 15, 2006. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of FAS 155.

In June 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes an Interpretation of FASB Statement 109 (FIN 48). This interpretation prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. This interpretation also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. FIN 48 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006. The Company does not believe the adoption of FIN 48 will have a material impact on its consolidated results of operations or financial position.

3. Earnings Per Weighted Average Common Share

Basic earnings per weighted average common share (EPS) are calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of basic common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS are calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of basic common shares outstanding and the net effect of potentially dilutive common shares. At September 30, 2006 and 2005, the Company s potentially dilutive instruments consisted of common shares under options of 450,564 and 586,560, respectively, and common shares under restriction of 118,790 and 105,960 respectively.

The following table provides share information used in the calculation of the Company's basic and diluted earnings per share.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
Earnings per weighted average common share:				
Basic	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.95	\$ 5.63	\$ 4.39
Diluted	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.92	\$ 5.57	\$ 4.29
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:				
Basic	15,887,574	15,630,838	15,809,047	15,552,128
Effect of dilutive securities:				
Stock options	114,219	212,522	134,503	335,645
Restricted stock	49,813	34,852	34,546	25,035
Diluted	16,051,606	15,878,212	15,978,096	15,912,808

Diluted EPS excludes stock options with exercise prices greater than the average market price of the Company's common stock during the period because their inclusion would be anti-dilutive. The number of anti-dilutive stock options for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 was 186,825. The number of anti-dilutive stock options for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2005 was 0 and 78,000, respectively.

4. Stock-Based Compensation

Management Omnibus Incentive Plan

Long-term incentive compensation is provided under the Company's 2002 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan (the Incentive Plan) which provides for a variety of stock-based compensation awards, including nonqualified stock options (NQSOs), incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock (RS) awards.

On March 10, 2006, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Company approved amendments to the Incentive Plan, subject to shareholder approval, to (i) increase the number of shares of common stock available for issuance by 1,250,000 shares, (ii) remove obsolete provisions, and (iii) make other non-material changes. A total of 1,250,000 shares of common stock had previously been authorized for issuance under the Incentive Plan. The Incentive Plan, as amended, was approved by the shareholders at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which was held on May 19, 2006. Under the Incentive Plan, as amended, the maximum number of shares of common stock with respect to which awards may be granted is 2,500,000. At September 30, 2006, there were 1,289,991 shares available for future grant. The Board and the Compensation Committee intend to issue more awards under the Incentive Plan in the future.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

There were no grants made under the Incentive Plan during the quarter ended September 30, 2006. A summary of stock-based awards granted under the Incentive Plan during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 is as follows:

Type of Equity Awarded	Effective Date	Number of Awards Granted	Exercise Price (1) or Fair Value (2) per Share	Vesting Terms	Expiration Date
NQSOs	March 10, 2006	126,225	\$ 42.85	(1) 5 years, 20% annually	March 10, 2016
RS	March 10, 2006	58,342	42.85	(2) 3 years , 30%-30%-40%	N/A
RS	March 10, 2006	4,000	42.85	(2) No vesting period (3)	N/A

(1) The exercise price of the stock option grant is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant effective date.

(2) The fair value of the restricted stock grant is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant effective date.

(3) The shares cannot be sold, assigned, pledged, or otherwise transferred, encumbered or disposed of until the recipient is no longer a member of the Board.

Accounting and Reporting for Stock-Based Awards

Prior to January 1, 2006, the Company accounted for share-based compensation to employees and non-employee directors in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, as allowed by Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. (FAS) 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation and as amended by FAS 148, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure. Accordingly, no compensation cost related to stock options was reflected in net income, as all options granted under this plan had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant. The Company historically reported pro forma results under the disclosure-only provisions of FAS 123.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted FAS 123R (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment, which requires the Company to measure and recognize the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments. Under the provisions of FAS 123R, share-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date, based on the fair value of the award, and is recognized as an expense over the requisite service period (generally the vesting period of the equity grant).

As permitted by FAS 123R, the Company elected the modified prospective transition method. Under the modified prospective transition method, (i) compensation expense for share-based awards granted prior to January 1, 2006 is recognized over the remaining service period using the compensation cost calculated for pro forma disclosure purposes under FAS 123 as adjusted to incorporate forfeiture assumptions under FAS 123R, and (ii) compensation expense for all share-based awards granted subsequent to December 31, 2005 is based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of FAS 123R. Results for periods prior to January 1, 2006 have not been restated.

As a result of adopting FAS 123R on January 1, 2006, the Company's net income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 was lowered by \$140 and \$415, net of income tax benefit of \$75 and \$223, respectively. The impact on both basic and diluted EPS for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 was a reduction of \$0.01 and \$0.03 per share, respectively.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

FAS 123R requires the disclosure of pro forma information for periods prior to the adoption. The following table illustrates the effect on net income and EPS if the Company had applied the fair value recognition provisions of FAS 123 for all share-based awards:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2005	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2005
Net income, as reported	\$ 30,475	\$ 68,223
Deduct: Total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects	(135)	(406)
Net income, pro forma	\$ 30,340	\$ 67,817
Earnings per weighted average share:		
Basic, as reported	\$ 1.95	\$ 4.39
Basic, pro forma	\$ 1.94	\$ 4.36
Diluted, as reported	\$ 1.92	\$ 4.29
Diluted, pro forma	\$ 1.88	\$ 4.25

Stock Options

The fair value of stock options used to compute pro forma net income and earnings per share disclosures for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 is the estimated fair value at grant effective date using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

	Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006	2005
Expected dividend yield	1.36% - 2.52%	1.36% - 2.52%
Expected volatility	0.20 - 0.36	0.20 - 0.31
Risk-free interest rate	3.23% - 4.76%	3.23% - 4.35%
Expected holding period	6.5 - 7 years	7 years

Expected dividend yield is the Company's dividend yield on the measurement date and is based on the assumption that the current yield will continue in the future. Expected volatility is based on historical volatility of the Company's common stock as well as the volatility of a peer group of property and casualty insurers measured for a period equal to the expected holding period of the option. The risk-free interest rate is based upon the yield on the measurement date of a zero-coupon U.S. Treasury bond with a maturity period equal to the expected holding period of the option. The expected holding period is based upon the simplified method provided in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107

Share-Based Payment, which utilizes the mid-points between the vesting dates and the expiration date of the option award to calculate the overall expected term.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

A summary of option activity under the Incentive Plan during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 is presented below:

Options	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2006	496,086	\$ 17.04		
Granted during the period	126,225	42.85		
Forfeited during the period	(2,600)	27.07		
Exercised during the period	(169,147)	14.72		
Outstanding at September 30, 2006	450,564	25.09	7.7 years	\$ 10,621
Exercisable at September 30, 2006	32,947	19.31	7.3 years	967

The aggregate intrinsic value in the preceding table represents the total pretax intrinsic value, based upon the Company's closing stock price of \$48.66 on September 29, 2006, which would have been received by the option holders had all option holders exercised their options as of that date. The range of exercise prices on stock options outstanding under the Incentive Plan was \$12.00 to \$42.85 at September 30, 2006 and \$12.00 to \$35.23 at September 30, 2005. The weighted average grant-date fair value of options granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 was estimated at \$16.05 and \$12.62, respectively. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 was \$5,741 and \$4,134, respectively.

A summary of the status of non-vested options as of September 30, 2006 is presented below:

	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Exercise Price
Non-vested at January 1, 2006	446,446	\$ 17.39
Granted during the period	126,225	42.85
Vested during the period	(152,454)	15.95
Forfeited during the period	(2,600)	27.07
Non-vested at September 30, 2006	417,617	\$ 25.54

As of September 30, 2006, there was \$2,480 of unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested option awards that is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 3.6 years.

Cash received from options exercised was \$2,490 and \$2,367 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

Restricted Stock

Restricted stock awarded to employees in the form of unvested shares is recorded at the market value of the Company's common stock on the grant date and amortized ratably as expense over the requisite service period.

A summary of restricted stock activity under the Incentive Plan during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 is presented below:

	Shares Under Restriction	Weighted Average Fair Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2006	98,417	\$ 27.77
Granted during the period	62,342	42.85
Vested and unrestricted during the period	(33,969)	25.97
Outstanding at September 30, 2006	126,790	35.67

As of September 30, 2006, there was \$3,273 of unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested restricted stock awards that is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.5 years. The total fair value of the shares that were vested and unrestricted during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 was \$882. For the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, the Company recorded compensation expense related to restricted stock of \$858 and \$492 net of income tax benefits of \$462 and \$265, respectively.

5. Investments

The gross unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments in fixed maturities securities, including redeemable preferred stocks that have characteristics of fixed maturities, and equity securities, including interests in mutual funds, was as follows:

	September 30, 2006			
	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S.				
Government agencies (1)	\$ 159,696	\$ 700	\$ (3,030)	\$ 157,366
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	420,125	6,521	(1,933)	424,713
Asset-backed securities (1)	191,939	687	(1,937)	190,689
Corporate and other securities	138,691	1,391	(1,783)	138,299
Subtotal, fixed maturity securities	910,451	9,299	(8,683)	911,067
Equity securities	3,929	197		4,126
Totals	\$ 914,380	\$ 9,496	\$ (8,683)	\$ 915,193

(1) Obligations of U.S. Government agencies include collateralized mortgage obligations issued, guaranteed and/or insured by the following issuers: Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) and Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA). The total of these fixed maturity securities was \$149,700 at amortized cost and \$147,468 at estimated fair value as of September 30, 2006. As such, the asset-backed securities presented exclude such issuers already presented under U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government Agencies.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The amortized cost and the estimated fair value of fixed maturity securities, by 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.

	September 30, 2006 Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 13,538	\$ 13,512
Due after one year through five years	174,925	173,388
Due after five years through ten years	160,437	161,596
Due after ten years through twenty years	202,631	206,240
Due after twenty years	17,281	18,174
Asset-backed securities	341,639	338,157
Totals	\$ 910,451	\$ 911,067

The gross realized gains (losses) on sales of fixed maturity and equity security were as follows for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2006		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006		2005	
Gross realized gains						
Fixed maturity securities	\$	66	\$ 377	\$	478	
Equity securities			31		1	
Gross realized losses						
Fixed maturity securities		(8	) (660	) (25) (
Equity securities			(9) (
Net realized gains (losses) on investments	\$	58	\$ (261	) \$	454	

Proceeds from fixed maturities maturing were \$250 and \$0 for the three months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Proceeds from fixed maturities maturing were \$12,450 and \$4,975 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

The following table illustrates the gross unrealized losses included in the Company's investment portfolio and the fair value of those securities aggregated by investment category. The table also illustrates the length of time that they have been in a continuous unrealized loss position.

	As of September 30, 2006					
	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies	\$ 15,563	\$ 180	\$ 101,528	\$ 2,850	\$ 117,091	\$ 3,030
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	6,208	5	113,076	1,928	119,284	1,933
Asset-backed securities	66,516	653	52,136	1,284	118,652	1,937
Corporate and other securities	45,123	626	54,800	1,157	99,923	1,783
Total temporarily impaired securities	\$ 133,410	\$ 1,464	\$ 321,540	\$ 7,219	\$ 454,950	\$ 8,683

The Company's investment portfolio included 218 securities in an unrealized loss position at September 30, 2006. The Company's methodology of assessing other-than-temporary impairment is based upon analysis of each security as of the balance sheet date and considers various factors including the length of time and the extent to which fair value has been less than the cost, the financial condition and the near term prospects of the issuer, whether the debtor is current on its contractually obligated interest and principal payments, and the Company's intent and ability to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery of its costs. The unrealized losses recorded on the fixed maturity investment portfolio at September 30, 2006 resulted from fluctuations in market interest rates as opposed to fundamental changes in the credit quality of the issuers of such securities. Therefore, these decreases in values are viewed as being temporary as the Company has the intent and ability to retain such investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery in market value.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, there was no significant deterioration in the credit quality of any of the Company's holdings and no other-than-temporary impairment charges were recorded related to the Company's portfolio of investment securities.

As of September 30, 2006, the Company's fixed income securities portfolio was comprised entirely of investment grade securities as defined by Moody's Investor Services, Inc., Standard and Poor's, and the Securities Valuation Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Net Investment Income

The components of net investment income were as follows for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2006		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006	
	2005	2005	2005	2005
Interest and dividends on fixed maturities	\$ 10,275	\$ 6,951	\$ 28,199	\$ 20,873
Dividends on equity securities	29	8	67	19
Interest on cash and cash equivalents	351	1,252	2,182	2,957
Total investment income	10,655	8,211	30,448	23,849
Investment expenses	311	272	892	798
Net investment income	\$ 10,344	\$ 7,939	\$ 29,556	\$ 23,051

15

6. Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense (LAE) Reserves

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of beginning and ending reserves for losses and LAE, as shown in the Company's consolidated financial statements for the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2006	2005
Reserves for losses and LAE, beginning of year	\$ 450,716	\$ 450,897
Less reinsurance recoverable on unpaid losses and LAE	(80,550)	(84,167)
Net reserves for losses and LAE, beginning of year	370,166	366,730
Incurred losses and LAE, related to:		
Current year	294,656	321,182
Prior years	(35,472)	(27,462)
Total incurred losses and LAE	259,184	293,720
Paid losses and LAE related to:		
Current year	163,046	171,289
Prior years	106,858	114,641
Total paid losses and LAE	269,904	285,930
Net reserves for losses and LAE, end of current quarter	359,447	374,520
Plus reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses and LAE	78,279	81,293
Reserves for losses and LAE, end of current quarter	\$ 437,726	\$ 455,813

At the end of each period, the reserves were re-estimated for all prior accident years. The Company's prior year reserves decreased by \$35,472 and \$27,462 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The decrease in prior year reserves during the 2006 period resulted from re-estimations of prior year ultimate loss and LAE liabilities and is primarily composed of reductions of \$13,023 in Commonwealth Automobile Reinsurers (CAR) assumed reserves, \$18,375 in the Company's automobile reserves and \$2,899 in the Company's homeowners reserves. The decrease in prior year reserves during the 2005 period resulted from re-estimations of prior year ultimate loss and LAE liabilities and is composed of reductions of \$18,212 in CAR assumed reserves and \$9,250 in the Company's own automobile reserves. It is not appropriate to extrapolate future favorable or unfavorable development of reserves from this past experience.

Due to the nature of the risks that the Company underwrites and has historically underwritten, management does not believe that it has an exposure to asbestos or environmental pollution liabilities.

7. Commitments and Contingencies

Various claims, generally incidental to the conduct of normal business, are pending or alleged against the Company from time to time. In the opinion of management, based in part on the advice of legal counsel, the ultimate resolution of such claims will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements. However, liabilities related to those proceedings could be established in the near term if estimates of the ultimate resolutions of those proceedings are revised.

Massachusetts law requires that insurers licensed to do business in Massachusetts participate in the Massachusetts Insurers Insolvency Fund (Insolvency Fund). Members of the Insolvency Fund are assessed a proportionate share of the obligations and expenses of the Insolvency Fund in connection with an insolvent insurer. Although the Company has not received written notice regarding 2006 actions to be taken by the Insolvency Fund, based upon existing knowledge of the assessment amount approved by the Board of Directors of the Insolvency Fund at its October 24, 2006 meeting, the Company reduced its estimated potential assessments to \$500, which resulted in a reduction to underwriting expenses of \$1,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2006. During the comparable 2005 period, similarly without receipt of written notice but based upon existing knowledge that a reimbursement of prior year assessments had been approved by the Board of Directors of the Insolvency Fund, the Company reduced its estimated potential assessments to \$0 for the nine months ended 2005, which resulted in a reduction to underwriting expenses of \$1,300 for the three months ended September 30, 2005.

It is anticipated that there will be additional assessments from time to time relating to various insolvencies. Although the timing and amounts of any future assessments are not known, based upon existing knowledge, management's opinion is that such future assessments will not have a material effect upon the financial position of the Company.

8. Debt

The Company has a \$30,000 revolving credit facility with Citizens Bank of Massachusetts which expires on June 17, 2008. Loans under the credit facility bear interest at our option at either (i) the LIBOR rate plus 1.5% per annum or (ii) the higher of Citizens Bank of Massachusetts prime rate or 0.5% above the federal funds rate plus 1.5% per annum. Interest only is payable prior to maturity. The obligations of the Company under the credit facility are secured by pledges of the Company's assets and the capital stock of its operating subsidiaries. The credit facility is guaranteed by the non-insurance company subsidiaries of the Company. The credit facility contains covenants including requirements to maintain minimum risk based capital ratios and statutory surplus of Safety Insurance Company as well as limitations or restrictions on indebtedness, liens, dividends, and other matters. As of September 30, 2006, the Company was in compliance with all such covenants.

The Company paid down the balance of \$19,956 on December 8, 2005 and had no amounts outstanding on its credit facility at September 30, 2006 and at December 31, 2005. The credit facility commitment fee included in interest expenses was computed at a rate of 0.25% on the \$30,000 commitment at September 30, 2006 and December 31, 2005.

9. Income Taxes

Federal income tax expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 has been computed using estimated effective tax rates. These rates are revised, if necessary, at the end of each successive interim period to reflect the current estimates of the annual effective tax rates.

Item 2.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our accompanying consolidated financial statements and notes thereto, which appear elsewhere in this document. In this discussion, all dollar amounts are presented in thousands, except share and per share data.

The following discussion contains forward-looking statements. We intend statements which are not historical in nature to be, and are hereby identified as forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In addition, the Company's senior management may make forward-looking statements orally to analysts, investors, the media and others. This safe harbor requires that we specify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of us. We cannot promise that our expectations in such forward-looking statements will turn out to be correct. Our actual results could be materially different from and worse than our expectations. See Section G. Forward-Looking Statements for specific important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements.

A. Executive Summary and Overview

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

In this discussion, Safety refers to Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and our Company, we, us and our refer to Safety Insurance Group, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries consist of Safety Insurance Company (Safety Insurance), Safety Indemnity Insurance Company, Whiteshirts Asset Management Corporation (WAMC), and Whiteshirts Management Corporation, which is WAMC's holding company.

We are a leading provider of private passenger automobile insurance in Massachusetts. In addition to private passenger automobile insurance (which represented 80.3% of our direct written premiums in 2005), we offer a portfolio of other insurance products, including commercial automobile (10.8% of 2005 direct written premiums), homeowners (7.2% of 2005 direct written premiums), dwelling fire, umbrella and business owner policies (totaling 1.7% of 2005 direct written premiums). Operating exclusively in Massachusetts through our insurance company subsidiaries, Safety Insurance and Safety Indemnity Insurance Company (together referred to as the Insurance Subsidiaries), we have established strong relationships with 637 independent insurance agents in 743 locations throughout Massachusetts. We have used these relationships and our extensive knowledge of the Massachusetts market to become the second largest private passenger automobile insurance carrier in Massachusetts, capturing an approximate 11.3% share of the Massachusetts private passenger automobile market in 2006, according to the Commonwealth Automobile Reinsures (CAR) Cession Volume Analysis Report of October 20, 2006, based on automobile exposures. These statistics total, for each vehicle insured, the number of months during the year insurance for that vehicle is in effect, to arrive at an aggregate number of car-months for each insurer; this aggregate number, divided by 12, equals the insurer's number of car-years, a measure we refer to in this discussion as automobile exposures.

Massachusetts Automobile Insurance Market

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

We are subject to the extensive regulation of the private passenger automobile insurance industry in Massachusetts, which represented 80.3% of our direct written premiums in 2005. Owners of registered automobiles in Massachusetts are required to maintain minimum automobile insurance coverages. We are required to participate in a state-mandated reinsurance program run by CAR to which we cede certain unprofitable risks and from which we are allocated a portion of the overall losses. As a servicing carrier of CAR, we are required to issue a policy to all qualified applicants. This program operates at an underwriting deficit. This deficit is allocated among every Massachusetts automobile insurance company, including us, based on a complex formula that takes into consideration a company's voluntary market share, the rate at which it cedes business to CAR, and the company's utilization of a credit system CAR has designed to encourage carriers to reduce their use of CAR. In addition, based on our market share, we are assigned certain licensed producers by CAR that have been unable to obtain a voluntary contract with another insurer. We call these agents Exclusive Representative Producers, or ERPs.

On December 31, 2004, the Commissioner approved new rules for CAR, which became effective on January 1, 2005 (the Approved Rules). The Approved Rules provided for the adoption of an assigned risk plan by CAR. On January 14, 2005, we filed, on Form 8-K, an estimate of the financial impact the Approved Rules may have on us and we stated that a lawsuit had been filed in Suffolk Superior Court by Commerce Insurance Company against the Commissioner seeking an order permanently enjoining implementation and/or enforcement of the Approved Rules. Certain ERPs, Arbella Mutual Insurance Company and the Center for Insurance Research intervened as plaintiffs and CAR intervened as a defendant in this lawsuit. On June 20, 2005, the Massachusetts Superior Court ruled that the Commissioner lacked the statutory authority to implement the Approved Rules and ordered them vacated. As a result, the Approved Rules did not go into effect. The Commissioner appealed the decision of the Massachusetts Superior Court. On October 26, 2005, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court agreed to take direct appellate review of the Commissioner's appeal. The Court held

arguments in this matter on May 4, 2006. On August 23, 2006, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court overturned the decision of the Massachusetts Superior Court and unanimously ruled that the Commissioner did not need legislative approval to put in place the provisions in the Approved Rules which establish an assigned risk plan. On October 18, 2006, the Commissioner reviewed the Approved Rules and proposed changes (the Revised Rules) that would, in part, establish an assigned risk plan called the Massachusetts Automobile Insurance Plan (the MAIP). As proposed, the Revised Rules would: 1) eliminate provisions in the current CAR Rules that are no longer necessary in light of the litigation described above; 2) integrate the Revised Rules into the current CAR Rules; 3) set a timetable for the implementation of the MAIP; and 4) revise the MAIP to conform with the Supreme Judicial Court's remand regarding the so-called "clean in three" provisions contained in the Approved Rules. A hearing will be held November 10, 2006 on the Revised Rules. At this time we are unable to predict whether the proposed Revised Rules will be adopted and what the financial impact of the proposed Revised Rules on us would be if they are adopted.

While the litigation described above was pending, in order to address certain perceived inequities in the distribution of ERP exposures, CAR approved on June 15, 2005, rules to modify the ERP subscription relief process, making the reassignment of ERP exposures from an oversubscribed servicing carrier more timely and responsive, while enhancing equity in the ERP distribution for all servicing carriers (the ERP Subscription Rules). Also, the practice of two and three-party agreements between ERPs and servicing carriers was prohibited. On September 30, 2005, the Commissioner approved the ERP Subscription Rules, and instructed CAR to complete a redistribution of all ERPs to establish for all servicing carriers overall parity in the quantity and quality of their ERP exposures. The redistribution plan for ERPs, as adopted by the CAR Governing Committee on November 16 and December 14, 2005, was approved by the Commissioner on January 27, 2006. On January 31, 2006, CAR notified each reassigned ERP and all servicing carriers of the redistribution. According to the January 31, 2006 CAR Private Passenger ERP Redistribution Summary, 18 Safety ERPs with 25,590 exposures were assigned to other servicing carriers beginning with new business effective March 1, 2006 and renewal business May 1, 2006. In addition, CAR assigned 29 ERPs with 24,670 exposures from other servicing carriers to Safety, however 25 of these ERPs with 23,116 exposures were given voluntary contracts by their former servicing carrier or other carriers and were, as a result, no longer eligible for assignment to Safety as ERPs. We expect that the redistribution of ERPs will eliminate our disproportionate share of high loss ratio ERP business, and would therefore result in a reduction of the expense we have incurred because of our historic disproportionate share of high loss ratio ERPs.

On June 1, 2005, the Governor filed legislation that would introduce more competition into the Massachusetts automobile insurance marketplace, reduce rates for good drivers, target fraud and excessive personal injury costs, and allow insurers rate flexibility. A committee of the Legislature has substituted a different bill in place of the Governor's bill that contains many provisions that are similar to the Governor's bill. At this time we are unable to predict whether this substitute bill will be enacted by the legislature.

Beginning January 1, 2006, CAR has implemented a Limited Servicing Carrier Program (LSC) for ceded commercial automobile policies. CAR approved Safety and five other servicing carriers through a Request for Proposal to process approximately \$200,000 of ceded commercial automobile business based on CAR data as of December 31, 2005, which will be spread equitably among the six servicing carriers.

Each year, the Commissioner sets maximum premium rates that may be charged and minimum commissions that must be paid to agents for private passenger automobile insurance. The Commissioner announced on December 15, 2005, an 8.7% statewide average private passenger automobile insurance rate decrease for 2006 effective January 1, 2006, compared to a 1.7% decrease for 2005. Coinciding with the 2006 rate decision, the Commissioner also approved an 11.8% commission rate agents receive for selling private passenger automobile insurance, as a percentage of premiums, compared to a commission rate of 10.9% in 2005. Beginning in 2007 the effective date of the Commissioner's rate decision will be April 1st of each year as compared to January 1st of 2006 and prior rate decisions. The 2006 rates will be in effect from January 1, 2006 until March 31, 2007. The Commissioner will set the average rate for 2007 after a hearing in which the Automobile Insurers Bureau, the Attorney General, and the State Rating Bureau (which is a department within the Massachusetts Division of Insurance) are parties. On August 11, 2006, the Automobile Insurers Bureau proposed an average rate decrease of 3.7% for 2007. The Attorney General has recommended a decrease of 18.2% and the State Rating Bureau has proposed a decrease of 8.3%. The Commissioner has not yet set the average premium rate for 2007. We expect the Commissioner to make this decision by December 15, 2006.

While state-mandated average maximum private passenger automobile insurance rates decreased 8.7% for 2006, our average premium per automobile exposure in the nine months ended September 30, 2006 decreased from the nine months ended September 30, 2005 by approximately 6.9%. The difference in our average premiums from the state-mandated rate reduction was primarily the result of purchases of new automobiles by our insureds. We believe that the continued benefits of our rate pursuit initiative, which validates insured rating classifications and discount eligibility, also contributed to the difference in our average premiums received per automobile exposure.

The table below shows average Massachusetts-mandated private passenger automobile premium rate changes and changes in our average premium per automobile exposure from 1997-2006.

Massachusetts Private Passenger Automobile Premium Rate Changes

Year	State Mandated Average Rate Change (1)	Safety Change in Average Premium per Automobile Exposure (2)
2006	(8.7)	)% (6.9)
2005	(1.7)	)% 0.1
2004	2.5	% 6.1
2003	2.7	% 6.9
2002	0.0	% 5.2
2001	(8.3)	)% 0.0
2000	0.7	% 7.4
1999	0.7	% 10.9
1998	(4.0)	)% 2.8
1997	(6.2)	)% (5.1)

(1) Source: Commissioner rate decisions for 1997 - 2006.

(2) Source: Safety Insurance.

Statutory Accounting Principles

Our results are reported in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), which differ from amounts reported in accordance with statutory accounting principles (SAP) as prescribed by insurance regulatory authorities. Specifically, under GAAP:

- Policy acquisition costs such as commissions, premium taxes and other variable costs incurred in connection with writing new and renewal business are capitalized and amortized on a pro rata basis over the period in which the related premiums are earned, rather than expensed as incurred, as required by SAP.
- Certain assets are included in the consolidated balance sheets whereas, under SAP, such assets are designated as non-admitted assets and charged directly against statutory surplus. These assets consist primarily of premium receivables that are outstanding over 90 days, federal deferred tax assets in excess of statutory limitations, furniture, equipment, leasehold improvements and prepaid expenses.
- Amounts related to ceded reinsurance are shown gross as prepaid reinsurance premiums and reinsurance recoverables, rather than netted against unearned premium reserves and loss and loss adjustment expense reserves, respectively, as required by SAP.
- Fixed maturities securities, which are classified as available-for-sale, are reported at current market values, rather than at amortized cost, or the lower of amortized cost or market, depending on the specific type of security, as required by SAP.
- Equity securities are reported at quoted market values, which may differ from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners market values as required by SAP.
- The differing treatment of income and expense items results in a corresponding difference in federal income tax expense. Changes in deferred income taxes are reflected as an item of income tax benefit or expense, rather than recorded directly to surplus as regards policyholders, as required by SAP. Admittance testing may result in a charge to unassigned surplus for non-admitted portions of deferred tax assets. Under GAAP reporting, a valuation allowance

may be recorded against the deferred tax asset and reflected as an expense.

20

Insurance Ratios

The property and casualty insurance industry uses the combined ratio as a measure of underwriting profitability. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss ratio (losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred as a percent of net earned premiums) plus the expense ratio (underwriting expenses as a percent of net written premiums, if calculated on a SAP basis, or net earned premiums, if calculated on a GAAP basis). The combined ratio reflects only underwriting results, and does not include income from investments or finance and other service income. Underwriting profitability is subject to significant fluctuations due to competition, catastrophic events, weather, economic and social conditions and other factors.

Our SAP insurance ratios are outlined in the following table.

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2006		2005	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006		2005	
Statutory Ratios:							
Loss Ratio	56.7	%	57.0	% 55.1	%	62.4	%
Expense Ratio	25.5	%	23.4	% 25.7	%	23.3	%
Combined Ratio	82.2	%	80.4	% 80.8	%	85.7	%

Under GAAP, the loss ratio is computed in the same manner as under SAP, but the expense ratio is determined by matching underwriting expenses to the period over which net premiums were earned, rather than to the period that net premiums were written.

Our GAAP insurance ratios are outlined in the following table.

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2006		2005	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006		2005	
GAAP Ratios:							
Loss Ratio	56.7	%	57.0	% 55.1	%	62.4	%
Expense Ratio	25.1	%	23.3	% 25.8	%	24.1	%
Combined Ratio	81.8	%	80.3	% 80.9	%	86.5	%

Stock-Based Compensation

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Long-term incentive compensation is provided under the Company's 2002 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan (the Incentive Plan) which provides for a variety of stock-based compensation awards, including nonqualified stock options (NQSOs), incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock (RS) awards.

On March 10, 2006, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Company approved amendments to the Incentive Plan, subject to shareholder approval, to (i) increase the number of shares of common stock available for issuance by 1,250,000 shares, (ii) remove obsolete provisions, and (iii) make other non-material changes. A total of 1,250,000 shares of common stock had previously been authorized for issuance under the Incentive Plan. The Incentive Plan, as amended, was approved by the shareholders at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders which was held on May 19, 2006. The new maximum number of shares of common stock with respect to which awards may be granted under the Incentive Plan is 2,500,000. At September 30, 2006, there were 1,289,991 shares available for future grant. The Board and the Compensation Committee intend to issue more awards under the Incentive Plan in the future.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

There were no grants made under the Incentive Plan during the quarter ended September 30, 2006. A summary of stock-based awards granted under the Incentive Plan during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 is as follows:

Type of Equity Awarded	Effective Date	Number of Awards Granted	Exercise Price (1) or Fair Value (2) per Share	Vesting Terms	Expiration Date
NQSOs	March 10, 2006	126,225	\$ 42.85	(1) 5 years, 20% annually	March 10, 2016
RS	March 10, 2006	58,342	42.85	(2) 3 years, 30%-30%-40%	N/A
RS	March 10, 2006	4,000	42.85	(2) No vesting period (3)	N/A

(1) The exercise price of the stock option grant is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant effective date.

(2) The fair value of the restricted stock grant is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant effective date.

(3) The shares cannot be sold, assigned, pledged, or otherwise transferred, encumbered or disposed of until the recipient is no longer a member of our Board of Directors.

Reinsurance

We reinsure with other insurance companies a portion of our potential liability under the policies we have underwritten, thereby protecting us against an unexpectedly large loss or a catastrophic occurrence that could produce large losses, primarily in our homeowners line of business. As of January 1, 2006, our catastrophe reinsurance provides gross per occurrence reinsurance coverage up to \$250,000. Our catastrophe reinsurance protects us in the event of a 415-year storm (that is, a storm of a severity expected to occur once in a 415-year period). Swiss Re, our primary reinsurer, maintains an A.M. Best rating of A+ (Superior). All of our other reinsurers have an A.M. Best rating of A (Excellent) or better except for Montpelier Re, Endurance Re and Amlin Bermuda which are rated A- (Excellent). We are a participant in CAR, a state-established body that runs the residual market reinsurance programs for both private passenger and commercial automobile insurance in Massachusetts under which premiums, expenses, losses and loss adjustment expenses on ceded business are shared by all insurers writing automobile insurance in Massachusetts. We also participate in the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association (FAIR Plan) in which premiums, expenses, losses and loss adjustment expenses on homeowners business that cannot be placed in the voluntary market are shared by all insurers writing homeowners insurance in Massachusetts. At September 30, 2006, we had no material amounts recoverable from any reinsurer, excluding the residual markets described above.

On March 10, 2005, our Board of Directors adopted a resolution that prohibits Safety from purchasing finite reinsurance (reinsurance that transfers only a relatively finite or limited amount of risk to the reinsurer) without approval by the Board. To date, the Company has never purchased a finite reinsurance contract.

Effects of Inflation

We do not believe that inflation has had a material effect on our consolidated results of operations, except insofar as inflation may affect interest rates.

B. Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves.

Significant periods of time can elapse between the occurrence of an insured loss, the reporting to us of that loss and our final payment of that loss. To recognize liabilities for unpaid losses, we establish reserves as balance sheet liabilities. Our reserves represent estimates of amounts needed to pay reported and unreported losses and the expenses of investigating and paying those losses, or loss adjustment expenses. Every quarter, we review our previously established reserves and adjust them, if necessary.

When a claim is reported, claims personnel establish a case reserve for the estimated amount of the ultimate payment. The amount of the reserve is primarily based upon an evaluation of the type of claim involved, the circumstances surrounding each claim and the policy provisions relating

to the loss. The estimate reflects the informed judgment of such personnel based on general insurance reserving practices and on the experience and knowledge of the claims person. During the loss adjustment period, these

22

estimates are revised as deemed necessary by our claims department based on subsequent developments and periodic reviews of the cases.

In accordance with industry practice, we also maintain reserves for estimated losses incurred but not yet reported (IBNR). IBNR reserves are determined in accordance with commonly accepted actuarial reserving techniques on the basis of our historical information and experience. We review and make adjustments to incurred but not yet reported reserves quarterly.

When reviewing reserves, we analyze historical data and estimate the impact of various loss development factors, such as our historical loss experience and that of the industry, trends in claims frequency and severity, our mix of business, our claims processing procedures, legislative enactments, judicial decisions, legal developments in imposition of damages, and changes and trends in general economic conditions, including the effects of inflation. A change in any of these factors from the assumption implicit in our estimate can cause our actual loss experience to be better or worse than our reserves, and the difference can be material. There is no precise method, however, for evaluating the impact of any specific factor on the adequacy of reserves, because the eventual development of reserves is affected by many factors.

Management determines the Company's loss and loss adjustment expense (LAE) reserves estimate based upon the work of the Company's actuaries and management's own assessment of reasonable reserves. A reasonable estimate is derived primarily by considering a range of indications calculated by the Company's actuaries using generally accepted actuarial techniques. Our key assumptions are the ultimate frequency and severity of claims, based upon the most recent ten years of claims reported to the Company and the data CAR reports to us to calculate our share of the residual market, as of the date of the applicable balance sheet. For each accident year and each coverage within a line of business our actuaries calculate reserve ranges using actuarial techniques such as:

- **Paid Loss Indications**: This method projects ultimate loss estimates based upon extrapolations of historic paid loss trends. This method tends to be used on short tail lines such as automobile physical damage.
- **Incurred Loss Indications**: This method projects ultimate loss estimates based upon extrapolations of historic incurred loss trends. This method tends to be used on long tail lines of business such as automobile liability and homeowner's liability.
- **Bornhuetter-Ferguson Indications**: This method projects ultimate loss estimates based upon extrapolations of an expected amount of IBNR, which is added to current incurred losses or paid losses. This method tends to be used on small, immature, or volatile lines of business, such as our BOP and umbrella lines of business.
- **Bodily Injury Code Indications**: This method projects ultimate loss estimates for our private passenger and commercial automobile bodily injury coverage based upon extrapolations of the historic number of accidents and the historic number of bodily injury claims per accident. Projected ultimate bodily injury claims are then segregated into expected claims by type of injury (e.g. soft tissue injury vs. hard tissue injury) based on past experience. An ultimate severity, or average paid loss amounts, is estimated based upon extrapolating historic trends. Projected ultimate loss estimates using this method are the aggregate of estimated losses by injury type.

Such techniques assume that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, are an appropriate basis for predicting future events. It is possible that the final outcome may fall above or below these amounts as a result of a number of factors, including immature data, sparse data, or significant growth in a line of business. Using these methodologies our actuaries established a range of reasonable possible estimations for net reserves of approximately \$319,234 to \$366,233 as of September 30, 2006. In general, the low and high values of the ranges represent reasonable minimum and maximum values of the indications based on the techniques described above.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

The following tables present the recorded reserves and the range of estimations by line of business for net loss and LAE reserves as of September 30, 2006.

Range of Net Reserves for Losses and LAE

Line of Business	Low	Recorded	High
Private passenger automobile	\$ 236,102	\$ 268,472	\$ 270,415
Commercial automobile	45,531	50,207	52,993
Homeowners	28,261	29,843	30,850
All other	9,340	10,925	11,975
Total	\$ 319,234	\$ 359,447	\$ 366,233

The Company's net loss and LAE reserves, based on management's best estimate, were set at \$359,447 as of September 30, 2006. For our private passenger auto, commercial auto and homeowners lines of business as of September 30, 2006, due to the relatively long time we have been writing these lines of insurance, and our stable long-term trends in frequency and severity, the range of reserves are relatively narrow. We recorded reserves closer to the high in the respective ranges, in recognition that current ultimate estimations are lower than historical results for these lines of business.

For our all other lines of business as of September 30, 2006, due to the relatively short time we have been writing these lines of business, the relatively small reserves, and the resulting immature data available for our analysis, the range of reserves is relatively wide compared to the mid-point estimation and we recorded reserves close to the high of the range of projections.

The following table presents information by line of business for our net reserves for losses and LAE as of September 30, 2006.

Net Reserves for Losses and LAE

Line of Business	Direct less Ceded	Assumed	Net
Private passenger automobile	\$ 210,192		
CAR assumed private passenger automobile		\$ 58,280	
Net private passenger automobile			\$ 268,472
Commercial automobile	33,445		
CAR assumed commercial automobile		16,762	
Net commercial automobile			50,207
Homeowners	20,868		
FAIR Plan assumed homeowners		8,975	
Net homeowners			29,843
All other	10,925		10,925
Total net reserves for losses and LAE	\$ 275,430	\$ 84,017	\$ 359,447

CAR Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

We are a participant in CAR and assume a significant portion of losses and LAE on business ceded by the industry participants to CAR. We estimate reserves for assumed losses and LAE that have not yet been reported to us by CAR. Our estimations are based upon the same factors we use for our own reserves, plus additional factors due to the nature of and the information we receive from CAR.

The CAR deficit, which consists of premium ceded to CAR less CAR losses and LAE, is allocated among every automobile insurance company writing business in Massachusetts based on a complex formula (the Participation Ratio) that takes into consideration a company's voluntary market share, the amount of business it cedes to CAR and credits the company earns under a system CAR has designed to encourage carriers to voluntarily write business in selected under-priced classes and territories.

We receive a Settlement of Balances report from CAR that reports our share of CAR premium, losses and LAE, on a lagged basis, seventy-five days after the end of every quarter. CAR-published financial data is always at least one quarter behind the financial data we report. For example, when we reported our financial results for the year ended December 31, 2005, we had

24

nine months of reported 2005 CAR financial data, and we had to estimate what CAR would report to us for the last three months of the year.

We receive our final calendar year Participation Ratio report from CAR eight months after the end of that year, and thus we have to estimate for six quarters our share of the CAR deficit. For example, for the year ended December 31, 2005 we had to estimate our 2005 policy year CAR Participation Ratio beginning with the first quarter of 2005 through the second quarter of 2006.

Because of the lag in CAR estimates, and in order to try to validate to the extent possible the information CAR does provide, we must try to estimate the effects of the actions of our competitors in order to establish our Participation Ratio. Before final Participation Ratios are available, we estimate the size of CAR and the resulting deficit based on historical analysis of CAR results, and estimations of our competitors' current cession strategies. Even after our final Participation Ratio is available from CAR, we must continue to estimate the size of CAR, and the resulting deficit based upon data published by CAR and our own continuing analysis. As a result, changes in our reserves for CAR may continue to occur until all claims are finally settled. The Loss Reserving Committee at CAR meets 70 days after the end of each quarter to estimate the CAR deficit for all active policy years and publishes estimations, which we use to estimate our share of the deficit. The estimation that CAR calculates is based on data it collects from 19 servicing carriers which settle, reserve and report claims using a variety of methods. Any delays or errors in the collection of this data could have a significant impact on the accuracy of CAR's estimations.

Although we rely to a significant extent in setting our reserves on the information CAR provides, we are cautious in our use of that information, both because of the delays described above and because the CAR estimates incorporate data CAR receives from all other CAR servicing carriers in Massachusetts. We do not have direct access to that data or firsthand knowledge of how those carriers are currently conducting their operations. As a result, we are cautious in recording CAR reserves for the calendar years that we have to estimate our Participation Ratio and these reserves are subject to significant judgments and estimates.

Sensitivity Analysis

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Establishment of appropriate reserves is an inherently uncertain process. There can be no certainty that currently established reserves based on our key assumptions regarding frequency and severity in our lines of business, or our assumptions regarding our share of the CAR loss will prove adequate in light of subsequent actual experience. To the extent that reserves are inadequate and are strengthened, the amount of such increase is treated as a charge to earnings in the period that the deficiency is recognized. To the extent that reserves are redundant and are released, the amount of the release is a credit to earnings in the period the redundancy is recognized. For the nine months ended September 30, 2006 a 1 percentage-point change in the loss and LAE ratio would result in a change in reserves of \$4,708. Each 1 percentage-point change in the loss and loss expense ratio would have a \$3,060 effect on net income, or \$0.19 per diluted share.

Our assumptions consider that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, are an appropriate basis for establishing our reserves. Our key assumptions could have a reasonable possible range of plus or minus 5 percentage-points for each estimation. However, as 2005 and the first nine months of 2006 have demonstrated, there is no guarantee that our assumptions will not have more than a 5 percentage-point variation. The following sensitivity tables present information for each of our primary lines of business on the effect each 1 percentage-point change in each of our key assumptions on unpaid frequency and severity could have on our direct minus ceded loss and LAE reserves and net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. In evaluating the information in the table, it should be noted that a 1 percentage-point change in a single assumption would change estimated reserves by 1 percentage-point. A 1 percentage-point change in both our key assumptions would change estimated reserves within a range of plus or minus 2 percentage-points.

25

	-1 Percent Change in Frequency	No Change in Frequency	+1 Percent Change in Frequency
Private Passenger Auto Direct minus Ceded Loss and LAE Reserves			
-1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated decrease in reserves	\$ (4,204)	\$ (2,102)	\$
Estimated increase in net income	2,733	1,366	
No Change in Severity			
Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves	(2,102)		2,102
Estimated increase (decrease) in net income	1,366		(1,366)
+1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated increase in reserves		2,102	4,204
Estimated decrease in net income		(1,366)	(2,733)
Commercial Auto Direct minus Ceded Loss and LAE Reserves			
-1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated decrease in reserves	(668)	(334)	
Estimated increase in net income	434	217	
No Change in Severity			
Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves	(334)		334
Estimated increase (decrease) in net income	221		(217)
+1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated increase in reserves		334	668
Estimated decrease in net income		(217)	(434)
Homeowners Direct minus Ceded Loss and LAE Reserves			
-1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated decrease in reserves	(418)	(209)	
Estimated increase in net income	272	136	
No Change in Severity			
Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves	(209)		209
Estimated increase (decrease) in net income	136		(136)
+1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated increase in reserves		209	418
Estimated decrease in net income		(136)	(272)
All Other Direct minus Ceded Loss and LAE Reserves			
-1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated decrease in reserves	(218)	(109)	
Estimated increase in net income	142	71	
No Change in Severity			
Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves	(109)		109
Estimated increase (decrease) in net income	71		(71)
+1 Percent Change in Severity			
Estimated increase in reserves		109	218
Estimated decrease in net income		(71)	(142)

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Our estimated share of CAR loss and LAE reserves is based on assumptions about our Participation Ratio, the size of CAR, and the resulting deficit (similar assumptions apply with respect to the FAIR Plan). Our assumptions consider that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, are an appropriate basis for establishing our CAR reserves. Our assumptions could have a reasonable possible range of plus or minus 5 percentage-points for each estimation. However, as 2005 and 2006 have demonstrated, there is no guarantee that our assumptions will not have more than a 5 percentage-point variation. The following sensitivity table presents information of the effect each 1 percentage-point change in our assumptions on our share of reserves for CAR and other residual markets could have on our assumed loss and LAE reserves and net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. In evaluating the information in the table, it should be noted that a 1 percentage-point change in our assumptions would change estimated reserves by 1 percentage-point.

	-1 Percent Change in Estimation	No Change in Estimation	+1 Percent Change in Estimation
CAR assumed private passenger automobile			
Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves	\$ (583)	\$	\$ 583
Estimated increase (decrease) in net income	379		(379)
CAR assumed commercial automobile			
Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves	(168)		168
Estimated increase (decrease) in net income	109		(109)
FAIR Plan assumed homeowners			
Estimated (decrease) increase in reserves	(90)		90
Estimated increase (decrease) in net income	59		(59)

Reserve Development Summary

The changes we have recorded in our reserves in the past illustrate the uncertainty of estimating reserves. The following table presents a comparison of prior year development of our net reserves for losses and LAE for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005.

Accident Year	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2006	2005
1996 & prior	\$ (44)	\$ (128)
1997	(5)	(1)
1998	1	14
1999	(19)	(449)
2000	160	(2)
2001	(1,732)	(211)
2002	(2,049)	(2,784)
2003	(5,357)	(4,091)
2004	(9,735)	(19,810)
2005	(16,692)	
All prior years	\$ (35,472)	\$ (27,462)

The decrease in prior year reserves during the 2006 period resulted from re-estimations of prior year ultimate loss and LAE liabilities and is primarily composed of reductions of \$13,023 in CAR assumed reserves, \$18,375 in the Company's automobile reserves and \$2,899 in the Company's homeowners reserves. The decrease in prior year reserves during the 2005 period resulted from re-estimations of prior year ultimate loss and LAE liabilities and is composed of reductions of \$18,212 in CAR assumed reserves and \$9,250 in the Company's own automobile reserves.

The following table presents information by line of business for prior year development of our net reserves for losses and LAE for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. Each accident year represents all claims for an annual calendar accounting period in which loss events occurred, regardless of when the losses are actually reported, booked or paid. Our financial statements reflect the aggregate results of the current and all prior accident years.

Prior Year Net Loss and LAE Reserve Development Summary

Accident Year	Private Passenger Automobile	Commercial Automobile	Homeowners	All Other	Total
1996 & prior	\$ (44)	\$	\$	\$	\$ (44)
1997	(5 )	)			(5)
1998	1	)			1
1999	1	(20 )	)		(19)
2000	(103)	87	168	8	160
2001	(1,668)	4	(32)	(36)	(1,732)
2002	(1,085)	(598)	(317)	(49)	(2,049)
2003	(3,893)	(1,047)	(347)	(70)	(5,357)
2004	(7,001)	(1,598)	(1,042)	(94)	(9,735)
2005	(13,571)	(858)	(2,013)	(250)	(16,692)
All prior years	\$ (27,368)	\$ (4,030)	\$ (3,583)	\$ (491)	\$ (35,472)

To further clarify the effects of changes in our reserve estimates for CAR and other residual markets, the next two tables break out the information in the table above by source of the business (i.e., non-residual market vs. residual market).

The following table presents information by line of business for prior year development of direct minus ceded reserves for losses and LAE for the nine months ended September 30, 2006; that is, all our reserves except for business ceded or assumed from CAR and other residual markets.

Prior Year Net Direct minus Ceded Loss and LAE Reserve Development Summary

Accident Year	Retained Private Passenger Automobile	Retained Commercial Automobile	Retained Homeowners	Retained All Other	Total
1996 & prior	\$ (44)	\$	\$	\$	\$ (44)
1997	(5 )	)			(5)
1998	1	)			1
1999	1	(2 )	)		(1)
2000	(103)	103	175	8	183
2001	(1,461)	(17)	(10)	(36)	(1,524)
2002	(722)	(617)	(274)	(49)	(1,662)
2003	(3,225)	(955)	(265)	(70)	(4,515)
2004	(3,235)	(1,419)	(850)	(94)	(5,598)
2005	(6,115)	(560)	(1,675)	(250)	(8,600)
All prior years	\$ (14,908)	\$ (3,467)	\$ (2,899)	\$ (491)	\$ (21,765)

The following table presents information by line of business for prior year development of reserves assumed from CAR and other residual markets for losses and LAE for the nine months ended September 30, 2006.

Prior Year assumed Loss and LAE Reserve Development Summary

Accident Year	CAR Assumed Private Passenger Automobile	CAR Assumed Commercial Automobile	FAIR Plan Homeowners	All Other	Total
1996 & prior	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1997					
1998					
1999		(18)	)		(18)
2000		(16)	(7)	)	(23)
2001	(207)	) 21	(22)	)	(208)
2002	(363)	) 19	(43)	)	(387)
2003	(668)	) (92)	(82)	)	(842)
2004	(3,766)	) (179)	(192)	)	(4,137)
2005	(7,456)	) (298)	(338)	)	(8,092)
All prior years	\$ (12,460)	) \$ (563)	) \$ (684)	) \$	\$ (13,707)

Our private passenger automobile line of business prior year reserves decreased by \$27,368 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. The decrease was due primarily to improved assumed CAR results of \$7,456 and \$3,766 for the 2005 and 2004 accident years and improved retained private passenger results of \$6,115, \$3,235 and \$3,225 for 2005, 2004 and 2003 accident years, respectively. The improved CAR results were due primarily to improved CAR private passenger loss ratios for 2005 and 2004 as published and reported by the CAR Loss Reserving Committee at the September 6, 2006 meeting, as compared to the published results at the June 7, 2006 meeting. The improved retained private passenger automobile reserves were primarily due to better than previously estimated severity on our established bodily injury and property damage case reserves and fewer IBNR claims than previously estimated.

Our commercial automobile line of business prior year reserves decreased by \$4,030 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. The decrease was primarily due to more favorable commercial automobile bodily injury severity than previously estimated for the 2004 and 2003 accident years and fewer IBNR claims than previously estimated.

Our homeowners line of business prior year reserves decreased by \$3,583 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 primarily as a result of improved severity on our established case reserves for 2004 and 2005 related to our retained homeowners business.

In estimating all our loss reserves, including CAR, we follow the guidance prescribed by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (FAS) No. 60, Accounting and Reporting by Insurance Enterprises and FAS No. 113, Accounting and Reporting for Reinsurance of Short-Duration and Long-Duration Contracts.

For further information, see Section C. Results of Operations: *Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses*.

Other-Than-Temporary Impairments.

We use a systematic methodology to evaluate declines in market values below cost or amortized cost of our investments. This methodology ensures that we evaluate available evidence concerning any declines in a disciplined manner.

In our determination of whether a decline in market value below amortized cost is an other-than-temporary impairment, we consider and evaluate several factors and circumstances including the issuer's overall financial condition, the issuer's credit and financial strength ratings, a weakening of the general market conditions in the industry or geographic region in which the issuer operates, a prolonged period (typically six months or longer) in which the fair value of an issuer's securities remains below our amortized cost, our ability and intent to hold these investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery of our costs, and any other factors that may raise doubt about the issuer's ability to continue as a going concern.

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

We record other-than-temporary impairments as realized losses, which serve to reduce net income and earnings per share. We record temporary losses as unrealized losses, which do not impact net income and earnings per share but reduce other comprehensive net income. The risks inherent in our assessment of other-than-temporary impairments include the risk that market factors may differ from our expectations, or that the credit assessment could change in the near term, resulting in a charge to earnings.

For further information, see Section C. Results of Operations: *Net Realized Investment Losses*.

C. Results of Operations

The following table shows certain of our selected financial results.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
Direct written premiums	\$ 156,325	\$ 161,159	\$ 496,853	\$ 514,390
Net written premiums	155,755	156,863	491,399	511,241
Net earned premiums	156,748	157,521	470,787	470,451
Net investment income	10,344	7,939	29,556	23,051
Net realized gains (losses) on investments		58	(261)	454
Finance and other service income	3,737	4,322	11,316	12,268
Total revenue	170,829	169,840	511,398	506,224
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	88,829	89,748	259,184	293,720
Underwriting, operating and related expenses	39,422	36,769	121,574	113,335
Interest expenses	21	262	65	710
Total expenses	128,272	126,779	380,823	407,765
Income before income taxes	42,557	43,061	130,575	98,459
Income tax expense	13,452	12,586	41,529	30,236
Net income	\$ 29,105	\$ 30,475	\$ 89,046	\$ 68,223

Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006 Compared to Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2005

Direct Written Premiums. Direct written premiums for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 decreased by \$4,834 or 3.0%, to \$156,325 from \$161,159 for the comparable 2005 period. Direct written premiums for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 decreased by \$17,537 or 3.4%, to \$496,853 from \$514,390 for the comparable 2005 period. The 2006 decrease occurred primarily in our personal automobile line, which experienced a 6.9% decrease in average written premium and a 1.2% decrease in written exposures. Partially offsetting the personal auto line decrease, were increases in our commercial automobile line's average written premium of 12.6% and written exposures of 13.0%. Our homeowners line's average written premium increased by 6.2%, which was partly offset by a 2.1% decrease in written exposures.

Net Written Premiums. Net written premiums for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 decreased by \$1,108, or 0.7%, to \$155,755 from \$156,863 for the comparable 2005 period. Net written premiums for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 decreased by \$19,842 or 3.9% to \$491,399 from \$511,241 for the comparable 2005 period. These decreases were primarily due to the factors that decreased direct written premiums combined with a decrease in premiums ceded to CAR.

Net Earned Premiums. Net earned premiums for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 decreased by \$773, or 0.5%, to \$156,748 from \$157,521 for the comparable 2005 period. Net earned premiums for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 increased by \$336 or 0.1%, to \$470,787 from \$470,451 for the comparable 2005 period.

Net Investment Income. Net investment income for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 was \$10,344 compared to \$7,939 for the comparable 2005 period. Net investment income for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 was

\$29,556 compared to \$23,051 for the comparable 2005 period. Average cash and investment securities (at cost) increased by \$78,974 or 9.6%, to \$905,762 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 from \$826,787 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. Net effective annualized yield on the investment portfolio increased to 4.4% during the nine months ended September 30,

30

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

2006 from 3.7% during the nine months ending September 30, 2005. Our duration increased to 4.6 years at September 30, 2006 from 3.2 years at December 31, 2005.

Net Realized (Losses) Gains on Investments. Net realized losses on investments was \$0 for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 compared to net realized gains of \$58 for the comparable 2005 period. Net realized losses on investments was \$261 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 compared to net realized gains of \$454 for the comparable 2005 period.

The gross unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments in fixed maturity securities, including redeemable preferred stocks that have characteristics of fixed maturities, and equity securities, including interests in mutual funds, was as follows:

	September 30, 2006			Estimated
	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies (1)	\$ 159,696	\$ 700	\$ (3,030)	\$ 157,366
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	420,125	6,521	(1,933)	424,713
Asset-backed securities (1)	191,939	687	(1,937)	190,689
Corporate and other securities	138,691	1,391	(1,783)	138,299
Subtotal, fixed maturity securities	910,451	9,299	(8,683)	911,067
Equity securities	3,929	197		4,126
Totals	\$ 914,380	\$ 9,496	\$ (8,683)	\$ 915,193

(1) Obligations of U.S. Government agencies include collateralized mortgage obligations issued, guaranteed and/or insured by the following issuers: Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) and Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA). The total of these fixed maturity securities was \$149,700 at amortized cost and \$147,468 at estimated fair value as of September 30, 2006. As such, the asset-backed securities presented exclude such issuers already presented under U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government Agencies.

As of September 30, 2006, our portfolio of fixed maturity investments was comprised entirely of investment grade corporate fixed maturity securities, U.S. government and agency securities and asset-backed securities (i.e., all our securities received a rating assigned by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. of Baa or higher, except the few securities not rated by Moody's which received S&P ratings of AA/A or higher, as well as a rating assigned by the Securities Valuation Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners of 1 or 2).

The composition of our fixed income security portfolio by Moody's rating was as follows:

	September 30, 2006 Estimated Fair Value	Percent	
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies	\$ 180,841	19.8	%
Aaa/Aa	576,256	63.3	%
A	92,488	10.2	%
Baa	43,212	4.7	%
Not rated (Standard & Poor's rating of A- or higher)	18,270	2.0	%
Total	\$ 911,067	100.0	%

Ratings are assigned by Moody's, or the equivalent, as discussed above. Such ratings are generally assigned upon the issuance of the securities and are subject to revision on the basis of ongoing evaluations. Ratings in the table are as of the date indicated.

In our determination of other-than-temporary impairments, we consider several factors and circumstances including the issuer's overall financial condition, the issuer's credit and financial strength ratings, a weakening of the general market conditions

in the industry or geographic region in which the issuer operates, a prolonged period (typically six months or longer) in which the fair value of an issuer's securities remains below our amortized cost, our ability and intent to hold these investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery of our costs, and any other factors that may raise doubt about the issuer's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other-than-temporary impairments are recorded as realized losses, which serve to reduce net income and earnings per share. Temporary losses are recorded as unrealized losses, which do not impact net income and earnings per share but reduce other comprehensive net income. The risks inherent in the assessment of other-than-temporary impairments include the risk that market factors may differ from our expectations; we may decide to subsequently sell a security for unforeseen business needs; or the credit assessment could change in the near term, resulting in a charge to earnings.

The following table illustrates the gross unrealized losses included in the Company's investment portfolio and the fair value of those securities, aggregated by investment category. The table also illustrates the length of time that they have been in a continuous unrealized loss position as of September 30, 2006.

	As of September 30, 2006		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies	\$ 15,563	\$ 180	\$ 101,528	\$ 2,850	\$ 117,091	\$ 3,030
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	6,208	5	113,076	1,928	119,284	1,933
Asset-backed securities	66,516	653	52,136	1,284	118,652	1,937
Corporate and other securities	45,123	626	54,800	1,157	99,923	1,783
Total temporarily impaired securities	\$ 133,410	\$ 1,464	\$ 321,540	\$ 7,219	\$ 454,950	\$ 8,683

The unrealized losses recorded on the fixed maturity investment portfolio at September 30, 2006 resulted from fluctuations in market interest rates as opposed to fundamental changes in the credit quality of the issuers of such securities. Therefore, these decreases in values are viewed as being temporary as we have the intent and ability to retain such investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery in market value.

Of the \$8,683 gross unrealized losses as of September 30, 2006, \$4,963 relates to fixed maturity obligations of states and political subdivisions and U.S. government agencies. The remaining \$3,720 of gross unrealized losses relates primarily to holdings of investment grade asset-backed, corporate and other fixed maturity securities.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, there was no significant deterioration in the credit quality of any of the Company's holdings and no other-than-temporary impairment charges were recorded related to the Company's portfolio of investment securities.

Finance and Other Service Income. Finance and other service income includes revenues from premium installment charges, which we recognize when earned. Finance and other service income decreased by \$585, or 13.5%, to \$3,737 for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 from \$4,322 for the comparable 2005 period. Finance and other service income decreased by \$952, or 7.8%, to \$11,316 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 from \$12,268 for the comparable 2005 period. These decreases were primarily due to the decreases in direct premiums written.

Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses. Losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred during the quarter ended September 30, 2006 decreased by \$919, or 1.0%, to \$88,829 from \$89,748 for the comparable 2005 period. Losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 decreased by \$34,536, or 11.8%, to \$259,184 from \$293,720 for the comparable 2005 period. Our GAAP loss ratio for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 decreased to 56.7% from 57.0% for the comparable 2005 period. Our GAAP loss ratio for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 decreased to 55.1% from 62.4% for the comparable 2005 period. Our GAAP loss ratio excluding loss adjustment expenses for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 decreased to 49.5% from 50.2% for the comparable 2005 period. Our GAAP loss ratio excluding loss adjustment expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 decreased to 47.8% from 55.6% for the comparable 2005 period. The loss ratio improved as a

result of a decrease in personal and commercial automobile bodily injury

32

and physical damage claim frequency and an increase in favorable loss development in our personal and commercial automobile and homeowners lines prior year results. Total prior year favorable development included in the pre-tax results for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2006 was \$10,093 and \$35,472 respectively, compared to prior year favorable development of \$10,229 and \$27,462 respectively, for the comparable 2005 periods.

Underwriting, Operating and Related Expenses. Underwriting, operating and related expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 increased by \$2,653 or 7.2%, to \$39,422 from \$36,769 for the comparable 2005 period. Underwriting, operating and related expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 increased by \$8,239 or 7.3%, to \$121,574 from \$113,335 for the comparable 2005 period. Our GAAP expense ratios for the third quarter of 2006 increased to 25.1% from 23.3% for the comparable 2005 period. Our GAAP expense ratios for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 increased to 25.8% from 24.1% for the comparable 2005 period. The increases were primarily due to higher accrued agents' contingent commissions and higher 2006 policy year mandated personal automobile commissions. The increase in accrued agents' contingent commissions was due to the improved underwriting results for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

Interest Expenses. Interest expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 was \$21 compared to \$262 for the comparable 2005 period. Interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 was \$65 compared to \$710 for the comparable 2005 period. The decrease in interest expense was due to the pay down of the balance outstanding under our credit facility on December 8, 2005. We had no debt outstanding related to our credit facility during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 compared to \$19,956 of debt outstanding during the comparable 2005 period. The credit facility commitment fee included in interest expense was \$19 and \$56 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006 compared to \$6 and \$19 for the comparable 2005 periods.

Income Tax Expense. Our effective tax rate was 31.6% and 29.2% for the quarters ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Our effective tax rate was 31.8% and 30.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. These effective rates were lower than the statutory rate of 35% primarily due to adjustments for tax-exempt investment income.

D. Liquidity and Capital Resources

As a holding company, Safety's assets consist primarily of the stock of our direct and indirect subsidiaries. Our principal source of funds to meet our obligations and pay dividends to shareholders, therefore, is dividends and other permitted payments from our subsidiaries, principally Safety Insurance. Safety is the borrower under our credit facilities.

Safety Insurance's sources of funds primarily include premiums received, investment income and proceeds from sales and redemptions of investments. Safety Insurance's principal uses of cash are the payment of claims, operating expenses and taxes, the purchase of investments and payment of dividends to Safety.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$69,437 and \$81,105 during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Our operations typically generate substantial positive cash flows from operations as most premiums are received in advance of the time when claim and benefit payments are required. These positive operating cash flows are expected to continue to meet our liquidity requirements.

Net cash used for investing activities was \$203,394 during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 compared to \$50,997 during the nine months ended September 30, 2005. This was primarily the result of reinvesting cash and cash equivalents in long term fixed maturities in 2006.

Net cash used for financing activities was \$5,519 and \$4,207 during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively due primarily from increased dividends paid to shareholders.

Credit Facility

Safety has a \$30,000 revolving credit facility with Citizens Bank of Massachusetts which expires on June 17, 2008. Loans under the credit facility bear interest at our option at either (i) the LIBOR rate plus 1.5% per annum or (ii) the higher of Citizens Bank of Massachusetts' prime rate or 0.5% above the federal funds rate plus 1.5% per annum. Interest only is payable prior to maturity. The obligations of Safety under the

Edgar Filing: SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

credit facility are secured by pledges of Safety's assets and the capital stock of our operating subsidiaries. The credit facility is guaranteed by our non-insurance company subsidiaries. The credit facility contains covenants including requirements to maintain minimum risk based capital ratios and statutory surplus of Safety

33

Insurance as well as limitations or restrictions on indebtedness, liens, dividends, and other matters. As of September 30, 2006, we were in compliance with all such covenants.

We paid down the balance of \$19,956 on December 8, 2005 and had no amounts outstanding on our credit facility at September 30, 2006 and at December 31, 2005. The credit facility commitment fee included in interest expenses was computed at a rate of 0.25% on the \$30,000 commitment at September 30, 2006 and December 31, 2005.

Regulatory Matters

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to various regulatory restrictions that limit the maximum amount of dividends available to be paid to their parent without prior approval of the Commissioner. The Massachusetts statute limits the dividends an insurer may pay in any twelve-month period, without the prior permission of the Commissioner, to the greater of (i) 10% of the insurer's surplus as of the preceding December 31 or (ii) the insurer's net income for the twelve-month period ending the preceding December 31, in each case determined in accordance with statutory accounting practices. Our insurance company subsidiaries may not declare an extraordinary dividend (defined as any dividend or distribution that, together with other distributions made within the preceding twelve months, exceeds the limits established by Massachusetts statute) until thirty days after the Commissioner has received notice of the intended dividend and has not objected. As historically administered by the Commissioner, this provision requires the Commissioner's prior approval of an extraordinary dividend. Under Massachusetts law, an insurer may pay cash dividends only from its unassigned funds, also known as earned surplus, and the insurer's remaining surplus must be both reasonable in relation to its outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs. At year-end 2005, the statutory surplus of Safety Insurance was \$350,833, and its net income for 2005 was \$92,432. As a result, a maximum of \$92,432 is available in 2006 for such dividends without prior approval of the Division. During the nine months ended September 30, 2006, Safety Insurance paid dividends to Safety of \$6,959.

The maximum dividend permitted by law is not indicative of an insurer'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 an insurer's ratings or competitive position, the amount of premiums that can be written and the ability to pay future dividends.

On February 16, 2006, our Board approved a quarterly cash dividend on our common stock of \$0.18 per share which was paid on March 15, 2006 to shareholders of record on March 1, 2006. On May 5, 2006, our Board approved a quarterly cash dividend on our common stock of \$0.18 per share which was paid on June 15, 2006 to shareholders of record on June 1, 2006. On August 10, 2006, our Board approved a quarterly cash dividend on our common stock of \$0.25 per share, which was paid on September 15, 2006 to shareholders of record on September 1, 2006. On November 3, 2006, our Board approved a quarterly cash dividend on our common stock of \$0.25 per share to be paid on December 15, 2006 to shareholders of record on December 1, 2006. We plan to continue to declare and pay quarterly cash dividends in 2006, depending on our financial position and the regularity of our cash flows.

Management believes that the current level of cash flow from operations provides us with sufficient liquidity to meet our operating needs over the next 12 months. We expect to be able to continue to meet our operating needs after the next 12 months from internally generated funds. Since our ability to meet our obligations in the long term (beyond such twelve-month period) is dependent upon such factors as market changes, insurance regulatory changes and economic conditions, no assurance can be given that the available net cash flow will be sufficient to meet our operating needs. We expect that we would need to borrow or issue capital stock if we needed additional funds, for example, to pay for an acquisition or a significant expansion of our operations. There can be no assurance that sufficient funds for any of the foregoing purposes would be available to us at such time.

E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have no material obligations under a guarantee contract meeting the characteristics identified in paragraph 3 of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. (FIN) 45, Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others. We have no material retained or contingent interests in assets transferred to an unconsolidated entity. We have no material obligations, including contingent obligations, under contracts that would be accounted for as derivative instruments. We have no obligations, including contingent obligations, arising out of a variable interest in an unconsolidated entity held by, and material to, us, where such entity provides financing, liquidity, market risk or credit risk support to, or engages in leasing, hedging or research and development services with us. We have no direct investments in real estate and no holdings of mortgages secured by commercial real estate. Accordingly, we have no material off-balance sheet arrangements.

F. Contractual Obligations

We have obligations to make future payments under contracts and credit-related financial instruments and commitments. At September 30, 2006, certain long-term aggregate contractual obligations and credit-related commitments are as follows:

	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less Than One Year	One to Three Years	Three to Five Years	More Than Five Years
Loss and LAE reserves	\$ 437,726	\$ 214,486	\$ 192,599	\$ 26,264	\$ 4,377
Capital lease obligations	96	96			
Operating leases	6,904	2,972	3,932		
Total contractual obligations	\$ 444,726	\$ 217,554	\$ 196,531	\$ 26,264	\$ 4,377

As of September 30, 2006, the Company had gross loss and LAE reserves of \$437,726 reinsurance recoverables of \$78,279 and net loss and LAE reserves of \$359,447. Our loss and LAE reserves are estimates as described in more detail under Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates. The specific amounts and timing of obligations related to case reserves, IBNR reserves and related LAE reserves are not set contractually, and the amounts and timing of these obligations are unknown. Nonetheless, based upon our cumulative claims paid over the last ten years, the Company estimates that its loss and LAE reserves will be paid in the period shown above. While management believes that historical performance of loss payment patterns is a reasonable source for projecting future claims payments, there is inherent uncertainty in this estimated projected settlement of loss and LAE reserves, and as a result these estimates will differ, perhaps significantly, from actual future payments. Our operations typically generate substantial positive cash flows from operations as most premiums are received in advance of the time when claim and benefit payments are required. These positive operating cash flows are expected to continue to meet our liquidity requirements, including any unexpected variations in the timing of claim settlements.

G. Forward-Looking Statements

Forward-looking statements might include one or more of the following, among others:

- Projections of revenues, income, earnings per share, capital expenditures, dividends, capital structure or other financial items;
- Descriptions of plans or objectives of management for future operations, products or services;
- Forecasts of future economic performance, liquidity, need for funding and income; and
- Descriptions of assumptions underlying or relating to any of the foregoing.

Forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They often include words such as believe, expect, anticipate, intend, plan, estimate, aim, projects, or words of similar meaning and expressions that indicate future and trends, or future or conditional verbs such as will, would, should, could, or may. All statements that address expectations or projections about the future, including statements about the Company's strategy for growth, product development, market position, expenditures and financial results, are forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. By their nature, forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties. There are a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause actual future conditions, events, results or trends to differ significantly and/or materially from historical results or those projected in the forward-looking statements. These factors include but are not limited to the competitive nature of our industry and the possible adverse effects of such competition. Although a number of national insurers that are much larger than we are do not currently compete in a material way in the Massachusetts private passenger automobile market, if one or more of these companies decided to aggressively enter the market it could have a material adverse effect on us. Other significant factors include conditions for business operations and restrictive regulations in Massachusetts, the possibility of losses due to claims resulting from severe weather, the possibility that the Commissioner may approve future Rule changes that change the operation of the residual market, our possible need for and availability of additional financing, and our dependence on strategic relationships, among others, and other risks and factors identified from time to time in our reports filed with the SEC, such as those set forth under the caption Risk Factors in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 filed with the SEC on March 16, 2006.

Some other factors, such as market, operational, liquidity, interest rate, equity and other risks, are described elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Factors relating to the regulation and supervision of our Company are also described or incorporated in this report. There are other factors besides those described or incorporated in this report that could cause actual conditions, events or results to differ from those in the forward-looking statements.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. We do not undertake any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Information about Market Risk (Dollars in thousands)

Market Risk. Market risk is the risk that we will incur losses due to adverse changes in market rates and prices. We have exposure to market risk through our investment activities and our financing activities. Our primary market risk exposure is to changes in interest rates. We use both fixed and variable rate debt as sources of financing. We have not entered, and do not plan to enter, into any derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes.

Interest Rate Risk. Interest rate risk is the risk that we will incur economic losses due to adverse changes in interest rates. Our exposure to interest rate changes primarily results from our significant holdings of fixed rate investments and from our financing activities. Our fixed maturity investments include U.S. and foreign government bonds, securities issued by government agencies, obligations of state and local governments and governmental authorities, corporate bonds and asset-backed securities, most of which are exposed to changes in prevailing interest rates.

We manage our exposure to risks associated with interest rate fluctuations through active review of our investment portfolio by our management and Board and consultation with third-party financial advisors. As a general matter, we do not attempt to match the durations of our assets with the durations of our liabilities, and the majority of our liabilities are short tail. Our goal is to maximize the total after-tax return on all of our investments. An important strategy that we employ to achieve this goal is to try to hold enough in cash and short-term investments in order to avoid liquidating longer-term investments to pay claims.

Based upon the results of interest rate sensitivity analysis, the following tables show the interest rate risk of our investments in fixed maturities, including preferred stocks with characteristics of fixed maturities, measured in terms of fair value (which is equal to the carrying value for all our fixed maturity securities).

	-100 Basis Point Change	No Change	+100 Basis Point Change
As of September 30, 2006			
Estimated fair value	\$ 954,590	\$ 911,067	\$ 865,681
Estimated increase (decrease) in fair value	\$ 43,523	\$	\$ (45,386)

An important market risk for all of our long-term debt is interest rate risk. We continue to monitor the interest rate environment and to evaluate refinancing opportunities as maturity dates approach. With respect to floating rate debt, we are also exposed to the effects of changes in prevailing interest rates. We had no debt outstanding under our credit facility during the nine months ended September 30, 2006. Assuming maximum utilization of our credit facility for the entire year, a 2.0% change in the prevailing interest rate on our variable rate debt would result in interest expense fluctuating approximately \$600.

Equity Risk. Equity risk is the risk that we will incur economic losses due to adverse changes in equity prices. In the past, our exposure to changes in equity prices primarily resulted from our holdings of common stocks, mutual funds and other equities. While we have in the past held common equity securities in our investment portfolio, presently we hold none, except for interests in mutual funds to fund the executive deferred compensation plan. We continuously evaluate market conditions and we expect in the future to purchase equity securities. We principally managed equity price risk through industry and issuer diversification and asset allocation techniques.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our CEO and CFO have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are adequate and effective and ensure that all information required to be disclosed is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and that information required to be disclosed in such reports is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings - Please see Item 1 Financial Statements - Note 7, Commitments and Contingencies.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds - None.

Item 3. Defaults upon Senior Securities - None.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders - None.

Item 5. Other Information - None.

Item 6. Exhibits - The exhibits are contained herein as listed in the Exhibit Index.

SIGNATURE

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.

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC. (Registrant)

Date: November 9, 2006

By: */s/ WILLIAM J. BEGLEY, JR.*
William J. Begley, Jr.
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary

SAFETY INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
11	Statement re: Computation of Per Share Earnings. (1)
31.1	CEO Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2)
31.2	CFO Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2)
32.1	CEO Certification Pursuant to U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2)
32.2	CFO Certification Pursuant to U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. (2)

(1) Not included herein as the information can be calculated from the face of the Consolidated Statements of Operations (see page 4).

(2) Included herein.