

METLIFE INC
Form 424B5
March 04, 2011

Table of Contents**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Each Class of Securities Offered	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee (1)(2)
Common Stock, par value \$0.01	\$ 6,349,520,044	\$ 737,179.28

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933 as amended (the Securities Act).

(2) A registration fee of \$737,179.28 has been paid with respect to this offering.

**Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-170876**

**Prospectus Supplement
(To Prospectus dated November 30, 2010)**

146,809,712 Shares

Common Stock

This is an offering of 146,809,712 shares of common stock of MetLife, Inc. MetLife, Inc. is offering 68,570,000 shares of its common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the *common stock*), and ALICO Holdings LLC, the selling stockholder (the *Selling Stockholder*), and a subsidiary of American International Group, Inc. (*AIG*), is offering 78,239,712 shares of the common stock. If fewer than 146,809,712 shares of the common stock can be sold in this offering, the number of shares sold will be allocated first, to the shares of common stock that MetLife, Inc. proposes to sell, and second, to the shares of common stock that the Selling Stockholder proposes to sell. *See* Underwriting.

The common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET. On March 2, 2011, the last reported sales price of the common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$43.41 per share.

Concurrently with this offering, the Selling Stockholder is offering, by means of a separate prospectus supplement, 40,000,000 common equity units of MetLife, Inc. (the *concurrent offering*). This offering of common stock is not conditioned on the completion of the concurrent offering. There can be no assurance that the concurrent offering will be completed. It is a condition to the closing of the MetLife, Inc. offering of common stock that all of the closing conditions of the Repurchase transaction (as more fully described herein) (except the condition that the offering of the shares of common stock by MetLife, Inc. pursuant to this prospectus supplement has been consummated) under the Coordination Agreement (as defined below) will need to be satisfied or waived. It is a condition to the closing of the Selling Stockholder offering of common stock that the Coordination Agreement is in full force and effect.

See Risk Factors beginning on page S-12 of this prospectus supplement to read about important factors you should consider before buying shares of the common stock.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$ 43.25000	\$ 6,349,520,044.00
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 0.21625	\$ 31,747,600.22
Proceeds, before expenses, to MetLife, Inc.	\$ 43.03375	\$ 2,950,824,237.50
Proceeds, before expenses, to the Selling Stockholder	\$ 43.03375	\$ 3,366,948,206.28

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares of common stock against payment in New York, New York on March 8, 2011.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Citi

Credit Suisse

BofA Merrill Lynch Barclays Capital Deutsche Bank Securities J.P. Morgan Morgan Stanley UBS Investment

**BNP PARIBAS HSBC Mizuho Securities USA Inc. Nomura Piper Jaffray PNC Capital Markets LLC
RBC Capital Markets RBS Scotia Capital SOCIETE GENERALE SMBC Nikko Cabrera Capital Markets, LL
CastleOak Securities, L.P. Guzman & Company Lebenthal Capital Markets Loop Capital Markets MFR Sec
Ramirez & Co., Inc. Siebert Capital Markets The Williams Capital Group, L.P. Toussaint Capital Partner**

Prospectus Supplement dated March 3, 2011.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-3
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-3
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-5
<u>Note Regarding Reliance on Statements in Our Contracts</u>	S-7
<u>Summary</u>	S-8
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-12
<u>Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Information for Metlife</u>	S-51
<u>Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations</u>	S-54
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-62
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-63
<u>Common Stock Price Range and Dividends</u>	S-64
<u>Selling Stockholder</u>	S-65
<u>Coordination Agreement</u>	S-66
<u>Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Holders</u>	S-68
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-72
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	S-78
<u>Experts</u>	S-78
Prospectus	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	1
<u>Note Regarding Reliance on Statements in Our Contracts</u>	3
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	3
<u>MetLife, Inc.</u>	4
<u>The Trusts</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	6
<u>Description of Securities</u>	6
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	6
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	15
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	21
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	23
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	24
<u>Description of Units</u>	25
<u>Description of Trust Preferred Securities</u>	25
<u>Description of Guarantees</u>	28
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	30
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	32
<u>Experts</u>	32

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provided you with additional or different information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor the underwriters are making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference, is accurate only as of their respective dates. MetLife's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

S-2

Table of Contents

The common stock is offered for sale in those jurisdictions in the United States, Europe, Asia and elsewhere where it is lawful to make such offers. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering or sale of the common stock in some jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus come are required by us, the Selling Stockholder and the underwriters to inform themselves about and to observe any applicable restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by any person in any jurisdiction in which that offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make that offer or solicitation. *See* Underwriting in this prospectus supplement.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You should read this prospectus supplement along with the accompanying prospectus carefully before investing in the common stock. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain the terms of this offering of common stock. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus. In addition, the information incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus may have added, updated or changed information in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with any information in the accompanying prospectus (or any information incorporated therein by reference), this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede such information.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the additional information under the caption Where You Can Find More Information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to *MetLife*, *we*, *our*, or *us* refer to MetLife, Inc., together with its direct and indirect subsidiaries, while references to *MetLife, Inc.* refer only to the holding company on an unconsolidated basis.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

MetLife, Inc. files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). These reports, proxy statements and other information can be read and copied at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. The SEC maintains an internet site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies that file electronically with the SEC, including MetLife, Inc. MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed and trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET. These reports, proxy statements and other information can also be read at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 11 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows incorporation by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus of information that MetLife, Inc. files with the SEC. This permits MetLife, Inc. to disclose important information to you by referencing these filed documents. Any information referenced this way is considered part of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, and any information filed with the SEC subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. Information furnished under Item 2.02 and Item 7.01 of MetLife, Inc.'s Current Reports on Form 8-K is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the following documents which have been filed with the SEC:

Edgar Filing: METLIFE INC - Form 424B5

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A, filed on March 1, 2011 (as so amended, the *2010 Form 10-K*); and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on August 2, 2010, November 30, 2010, March 1, 2011 and March 2, 2011.

MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the documents listed above and any future filings made with the SEC in accordance with Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the

S-3

Table of Contents

Exchange Act), until MetLife, Inc. files a post-effective amendment which indicates the termination of the offering of common stock made by this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. Any reports filed by MetLife, Inc. with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the date that the offering of common stock by means of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus.

MetLife, Inc. will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, MetLife, Inc., 1095 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, by electronic mail (metir@metlife.com), or by telephone (212-578-2211). You may also obtain the documents incorporated by reference into this document as of the date hereof at MetLife's website, www.metlife.com. All other information contained on MetLife's website is not a part of this document.

Table of Contents**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may contain or incorporate by reference information that includes or is based upon forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements give expectations or forecasts of future events. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as anticipate, estimate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, prospective services or products, future performance or results of current and anticipated services or products, sales efforts, expenses, the outcome of contingencies such as legal proceedings, trends in operations and financial results.

Any or all forward-looking statements may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Many such factors will be important in determining the actual future results of MetLife, Inc., its subsidiaries and affiliates. These statements are based on current expectations and the current economic environment. They involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. These statements are not guarantees of future performance. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Risks, uncertainties, and other factors that might cause such differences include the risks, uncertainties and other factors identified in MetLife, Inc.'s filings with the SEC. These factors include: (1) difficult conditions in the global capital markets; (2) increased volatility and disruption of the capital and credit markets, which may affect our ability to seek financing or access our credit facilities; (3) uncertainty about the effectiveness of the United States (*U.S.*) government's programs to stabilize the financial system, the imposition of fees relating thereto, or the promulgation of additional regulations; (4) impact of comprehensive financial services regulation reform on us; (5) exposure to financial and capital market risk; (6) changes in general economic conditions, including the performance of financial markets and interest rates, which may affect our ability to raise capital, generate fee income and market-related revenue and finance statutory reserve requirements and may require us to pledge collateral or make payments related to declines in value of specified assets; (7) potential liquidity and other risks resulting from our participation in a securities lending program and other transactions; (8) investment losses and defaults, and changes to investment valuations; (9) impairments of goodwill and realized losses or market value impairments to illiquid assets; (10) defaults on our mortgage loans; (11) the impairment of other financial institutions that could adversely affect our investments or business; (12) our ability to address unforeseen liabilities, asset impairments, loss of key contractual relationships, or rating actions arising from acquisitions or dispositions, including our acquisition of American Life Insurance Company (*American Life*), a subsidiary of the Selling Stockholder, and Delaware American Life Insurance Company (*DelAm*, together with American Life, collectively *ALICO*) (the *Acquisition*) and to successfully integrate and manage the growth of acquired businesses with minimal disruption; (13) uncertainty with respect to the outcome of the closing agreement entered into between American Life and the United States Internal Revenue Service in connection with the Acquisition; (14) uncertainty with respect to any incremental tax benefits resulting from the planned elections for ALICO and certain of its subsidiaries under Section 338 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the *Section 338 Elections*); (15) the dilutive impact of the settlement of the stock purchase contracts forming part of the common equity units issued to the Selling Stockholder and the issuance of common stock upon conversion of any Series B Contingent Convertible Junior Participating Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock (the *Series B Preferred Stock*) of MetLife, Inc. not repurchased and cancelled by MetLife, Inc.; (16) downward pressure on MetLife, Inc.'s stock price as a result of the Selling Stockholder's ability to sell its equity securities; (17) the conditional payment obligation of up to approximately \$300 million to the Selling Stockholder, to the extent any of the Series B Preferred Stock is not repurchased and cancelled by MetLife, Inc. and the conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock is not approved; (18) economic, political, currency and other risks relating to our international operations, including with respect to

fluctuations of exchange rates; (19) MetLife, Inc.'s primary reliance, as a holding company, on dividends from its subsidiaries to meet debt payment obligations and the applicable regulatory restrictions on the ability of the subsidiaries to pay such dividends; (20) downgrades in our claims paying ability, financial strength or credit ratings; (21) ineffectiveness of risk management policies and procedures; (22) availability and effectiveness of reinsurance or indemnification arrangements, as well as default or failure of counterparties to perform; (23) discrepancies between actual claims experience and assumptions used in setting prices for our products and establishing the liabilities for our obligations for future policy benefits and

S-5

Table of Contents

claims; (24) catastrophe losses; (25) heightened competition, including with respect to pricing, entry of new competitors, consolidation of distributors, the development of new products by new and existing competitors, distribution of amounts available under U.S. government programs, and for personnel; (26) unanticipated changes in industry trends; (27) changes in accounting standards, practices and/or policies; (28) changes in assumptions related to deferred policy acquisition costs, deferred sales inducements, value of business acquired or goodwill; (29) increased expenses relating to pension and postretirement benefit plans, as well as health care and other employee benefits; (30) exposure to losses related to variable annuity guarantee benefits, including from significant and sustained downturns or extreme volatility in equity markets, reduced interest rates, unanticipated policyholder behavior, mortality or longevity, and the adjustment for nonperformance risk; (31) deterioration in the experience of the closed block established in connection with the reorganization of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (*MLIC*); (32) adverse results or other consequences from litigation, arbitration or regulatory investigations; (33) inability to protect our intellectual property rights or claims of infringement of the intellectual property rights of others, (34) discrepancies between actual experience and assumptions used in establishing liabilities related to other contingencies or obligations; (35) regulatory, legislative or tax changes relating to our insurance, banking, international, or other operations that may affect the cost of, or demand for, our products or services, impair our ability to attract and retain talented and experienced management and other employees, or increase the cost or administrative burdens of providing benefits to employees; (36) the effects of business disruption or economic contraction due to terrorism, other hostilities, or natural catastrophes, including any related impact on our disaster recovery systems and management continuity planning which could impair our ability to conduct business effectively; (37) the effectiveness of our programs and practices in avoiding giving our associates incentives to take excessive risks; and (38) other risks and uncertainties described from time to time in MetLife, Inc.'s filings with the SEC.

MetLife, Inc. does not undertake any obligation to publicly correct or update any forward-looking statement if MetLife, Inc. later becomes aware that such statement is not likely to be achieved. Please consult any further disclosures MetLife, Inc. makes on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

Table of Contents

NOTE REGARDING RELIANCE ON STATEMENTS IN OUR CONTRACTS

In reviewing the agreements included as exhibits to any of the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, please remember that they are incorporated to provide you with information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about MetLife, Inc., its subsidiaries or the other parties to the agreements. The agreements contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and:

should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties to the agreement if those statements prove to be inaccurate;

have been qualified by disclosures that were made to the other party in connection with the negotiation of the applicable agreement, which disclosures are not necessarily reflected in the agreement;

may apply standards of materiality in a way that is different from what may be viewed as material to investors; and

were made only as of the date of the applicable agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in the agreement and are subject to more recent developments.

Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary contains basic information about us and this offering. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the common stock. You should read this entire prospectus supplement carefully, including the sections entitled Risk Factors, our financial statements and the notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision.

MetLife

MetLife, Inc. is a leading provider of insurance, employee benefits and financial services with operations throughout the United States and the regions of Latin America, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. Through subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife, Inc. reaches more than 90 million customers around the world and MetLife is the largest life insurer in the U.S. (based on life insurance in-force), and holds leading market positions in the U.S., Japan, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. The MetLife companies offer life insurance, annuities, auto and home insurance, retail banking and other financial services to individuals, as well as group insurance and retirement & savings products and services to corporations and other institutions.

MetLife is one of the largest insurance and financial services companies in the United States. MetLife believes that its franchises and brand names uniquely position it to be the preeminent provider of protection and savings and investment products in the United States. In addition, its international operations are focused on markets where the demand for insurance and savings and investment products is expected to grow rapidly in the future.

Over the past several years, we have grown our core businesses, as well as successfully executed on our growth strategy. This has included completing a number of transactions that have resulted in the acquisition and, in some cases, divestiture of certain businesses while also further strengthening our balance sheet to position MetLife for continued growth. On November 1, 2010 (the *Acquisition Date*), MetLife, Inc. completed the acquisition (the *Acquisition*) of American Life Insurance Company (*American Life*), from the Selling Stockholder, a subsidiary of AIG, and Delaware American Life Insurance Company (*DelAm*) and, together with American Life, *ALICO*) from AIG for a total purchase price of \$16.4 billion subject to adjustment, including \$7.2 billion of cash, 78,239,712 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, 6,857,000 shares of the Series B Preferred Stock (convertible into 68,570,000 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock (subject to anti-dilution adjustments) upon a favorable vote of MetLife, Inc.'s common shareholders) and 40 million equity units with an aggregate stated value of \$3.0 billion. The business acquired in the Acquisition provides consumers and businesses with products and services, life insurance, accident and health insurance, retirement and wealth management solutions. This transaction delivers on our global growth strategies, adding significant scale and reach to MetLife's international footprint, furthering our diversification in geographic mix and product offerings, as well as increasing our distribution strength.

MetLife is organized into five operating segments: Insurance Products, Retirement Products, Corporate Benefit Funding, Auto & Home (collectively, *U.S. Business*) and International. The assets and liabilities of ALICO as of November 30, 2010 and the operating results of ALICO from the Acquisition Date through November 30, 2010 are included in the International segment. For reporting periods beginning in 2011, our non-U.S. Business results will be presented within two separate segments: Japan and Other International Region. MetLife's management continues to evaluate its segment performance and allocated resources and may adjust such measurements in the future to better reflect segment profitability.

Insurance Products. The Insurance Products segment offers a broad range of protection products and services aimed at serving the financial needs of MetLife's customers throughout their lives. These products are sold to individuals and corporations, as well as other institutions and their respective employees. MetLife has built a leading position in the U.S. group insurance market through long-standing relationships with many of the largest corporate employers in the United States, and is one of the largest issuers of individual life insurance products in the United States.

Retirement Products. The Retirement products segment includes a variety of variable and fixed annuities that are primarily sold to individuals and employees of corporations and other institutions.

Table of Contents

Corporate Benefit Funding. The Corporate Benefit Funding segment includes an array of annuity and investment products, including guaranteed interest products and other stable value products, income annuities, and separate account contracts for the investment management of defined benefit and defined contribution plan assets. This segment also includes certain products to fund postretirement benefits and company, bank or trust owned life insurance used to finance non-qualified benefit programs for executives.

Auto & Home. The Auto & Home segment includes personal lines property and casualty insurance offered directly to employees at their employer's worksite, as well as to individuals through a variety of retail distribution channels, including independent agents, property and casualty specialists, direct response marketing and the individual distribution sales group.

International. International provides life insurance, accident and health insurance, credit insurance, annuities, endowment and retirement & savings products to both individuals and groups. MetLife focuses on markets primarily within Japan, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. MetLife operates in international markets through subsidiaries and affiliates. MetLife's International segment is the fastest-growing of MetLife's businesses, and we believe it will be one of the largest future growth areas.

Banking, Corporate & Other contains the excess capital not allocated to the segments, which is invested to optimize investment spread and to fund company initiatives, various start-up entities and run-off entities. Banking, Corporate & Other also includes interest expense related to the majority of MetLife's outstanding debt and expenses associated with certain legal proceedings, as well as the financial results of MetLife Bank, National Association (*MetLife Bank*), which offers a variety of residential mortgage and deposit products, including forward and reverse residential mortgage loans and consumer deposits. The elimination of transactions from activity between U.S. Business, International and Banking, Corporate & Other occurs within Banking, Corporate & Other.

Accounting Treatment of Repurchase

In connection with the repurchase of the Series B Preferred Stock, in the first quarter of 2011 MetLife will recognize a reduction in net income available to common shareholders of approximately \$145 million (approximately \$0.14 per common share), representing a return to the Selling Stockholder calculated as the excess of the repurchase price over the carrying value of the Series B Preferred Stock. This return to the Selling Stockholder will have no effect on MetLife's operating earnings, operating earnings available to common shareholders, operating earnings per common share or operating earnings available to common shareholders per common share.

MetLife, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. MetLife, Inc.'s principal executive offices are located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166-0188 and its telephone number is (212) 578-2211.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common stock offered by MetLife, Inc.	68,570,000 shares of common stock
Common stock offered by the Selling Stockholder	78,239,712 shares of common stock. Any unsold shares of common stock will be allocated to the Selling Stockholder.
Common stock outstanding at February 18, 2011, as adjusted for this offering	1,055,155,463 shares of common stock (all shares of common stock held by the Selling Stockholder are already issued and outstanding).
	If fewer than 146,809,712 shares of the common stock can be sold in this offering, the number of shares sold will be allocated first, to the shares of common stock that MetLife, Inc. proposes to sell, and second, to the shares of common stock that the Selling Stockholder proposes to sell.
Use of proceeds	MetLife, Inc. estimates that its net proceeds of this offering will be \$2,950,824,237.50. Pursuant to the Coordination Agreement, dated as of March 1, 2011 (the <i>Coordination Agreement</i>), by and among MetLife, Inc., the Selling Stockholder and AIG, MetLife, Inc. intends to use all of its net proceeds from this offering to fund the repurchase (the <i>Repurchase</i>) from the Selling Stockholder of the Series B Preferred Stock issued and delivered to the Selling Stockholder on the Acquisition Date as part of the consideration for the Acquisition, for a purchase price equal to such net proceeds. Each share of Series B Preferred Stock is convertible into ten shares of common stock (subject to anti-dilution adjustments), subject to a favorable vote of MetLife, Inc.'s common shareholders. To the extent MetLife, Inc. sells fewer than 68,570,000 shares of common stock in this offering, it will use all of the net proceeds that it receives in this offering to repurchase a proportionate number of shares of the Series B Preferred Stock (on an as-converted basis) from the Selling Stockholder, for a purchase price equal to such net proceeds. Upon receipt, any shares of the Series B Preferred Stock will be cancelled by MetLife, Inc.
	MetLife, Inc. will not receive any proceeds from the sale of common stock by the Selling Stockholder.
New York Stock Exchange symbol	MET
Concurrent Offering	Concurrent with this offering, the Selling Stockholder will offer, by means of a separate prospectus supplement, 40,000,000 common equity units of MetLife, Inc. The common equity units consist of (x) stock purchase contracts obligating the holder to purchase a variable number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock on each of three specified future settlement dates (approximately two, three and four years after the closing of the Acquisition, subject to deferral under certain circumstances) for a fixed amount per stock purchase contract (an aggregate of \$1.0 billion on each

settlement date) and (y) an interest in each of three series of debt securities of MetLife, Inc. The aggregate amount of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock expected to be issued upon settlement of the stock purchase contracts is expected to be approximately 67,764,000 to 84,696,000 shares. This offering of common stock is not conditioned on the completion of the concurrent

S-10

Table of Contents

offering. There can be no assurance that the concurrent offering will be completed.

It is a condition to the closing of the MetLife, Inc. offering of common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement that all of the closing conditions of the Repurchase transaction (except the condition that the offering of the shares of common stock by MetLife, Inc. pursuant to this prospectus supplement has been consummated) under the Coordination Agreement will need to be satisfied or waived. It is a condition to the closing of the Selling Stockholder offering of common stock that the Coordination Agreement is in full force and effect.

S-11

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

In considering whether to purchase common stock, you should carefully consider all the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus. In particular, you should carefully consider the following risk factors.

Risks Related to our Business

Difficult Conditions in the Global Capital Markets and the Economy Generally May Materially Adversely Affect Our Business and Results of Operations and These Conditions May Not Improve in the Near Future

Our business and results of operations are materially affected by conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally, both in the United States and elsewhere around the world. Stressed conditions, volatility and disruptions in global capital markets or in particular markets or financial asset classes can have an adverse effect on us, in part because we have a large investment portfolio and our insurance liabilities are sensitive to changing market factors. Disruptions in one market or asset class can also spread to other markets or asset classes. Although the disruption in the global financial markets that began in late 2007 has moderated, not all global financial markets are functioning normally, and some remain reliant upon government intervention and liquidity. Upheavals in the financial markets can also affect our business through their effects on general levels of economic activity, employment and customer behavior. Although the recent recession in the United States ended in June of 2009, the recovery from the recession has been below historic averages and the unemployment rate is expected to remain high for some time. In addition, inflation is expected to remain at low levels for some time. Some economists believe that some level of disinflation and deflation risk remains in the U.S. economy. The global recession and disruption of the financial markets has led to concerns over capital markets access and the solvency of certain European Union member states, including Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain. The Japanese economy, to which we face increased exposure as a result of the Acquisition, continues to experience low nominal growth, a deflationary environment, and weak consumer spending.

Our revenues and net investment income are likely to remain under pressure in such circumstances and our profit margins could erode. Also, in the event of extreme prolonged market events, such as the recent global credit crisis, we could incur significant capital and/or operating losses. Even in the absence of a market downturn, we are exposed to substantial risk of loss due to market volatility.

We are a significant writer of variable annuity products. The account values of these products decrease as a result of downturns in capital markets. Decreases in account values reduce the fees generated by our variable annuity products, cause the amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs (*DAC*) to accelerate and could increase the level of insurance liabilities we must carry to support those variable annuities issued with any associated guarantees.

Factors such as consumer spending, business investment, government spending, the volatility and strength of the capital markets, and inflation all affect the business and economic environment and, ultimately, the amount and profitability of our business. In an economic downturn characterized by higher unemployment, lower family income, lower corporate earnings, lower business investment and lower consumer spending, the demand for our financial and insurance products could be adversely affected. Group insurance, in particular, is affected by the higher unemployment rate. In addition, we may experience an elevated incidence of claims and lapses or surrenders of policies. Our policyholders may choose to defer paying insurance premiums or stop paying insurance premiums altogether. Adverse changes in the economy could affect earnings negatively and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. The recent market turmoil has precipitated, and may

continue to raise the possibility of, legislative, regulatory and governmental actions. We cannot predict whether or when such actions may occur, or what impact, if any, such actions could have on our business, results of operations and financial condition. *See* Actions of the U.S. Government, Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Other Governmental and Regulatory Bodies for the Purpose of Stabilizing and Revitalizing the Financial Markets and Protecting Investors and Consumers May Not Achieve the Intended Effect or Could Adversely Affect MetLife's Competitive Position, Various Aspects of Dodd-Frank Could Impact Our Business Operations, Capital Requirements and Profitability and Limit Our Growth, Our Insurance, Brokerage and Banking

S-12

Table of Contents

Businesses Are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth and Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability.

Adverse Capital and Credit Market Conditions May Significantly Affect Our Ability to Meet Liquidity Needs, Access to Capital and Cost of Capital

The capital and credit markets are sometimes subject to periods of extreme volatility and disruption. Such volatility and disruption could cause liquidity and credit capacity for certain issuers to be limited.

We need liquidity to pay our operating expenses, interest on our debt and dividends on our capital stock, maintain our securities lending activities and replace certain maturing liabilities. Without sufficient liquidity, we will be forced to curtail our operations, and our business will suffer. The principal sources of our liquidity are insurance premiums, annuity considerations, deposit funds, and cash flow from our investment portfolio and assets, consisting mainly of cash or assets that are readily convertible into cash. Sources of liquidity in normal markets also include short-term instruments such as funding agreements and commercial paper. Sources of capital in normal markets include long-term instruments, medium- and long-term debt, junior subordinated debt securities, capital securities and equity securities.

In the event market or other conditions have an adverse impact on our capital and liquidity beyond expectations and our current resources do not satisfy our needs, we may have to seek additional financing. The availability of additional financing will depend on a variety of factors such as market conditions, regulatory considerations, the general availability of credit, the volume of trading activities, the overall availability of credit to the financial services industry, our credit ratings and credit capacity, as well as the possibility that customers or lenders could develop a negative perception of our long- or short-term financial prospects if we incur large investment losses or if the level of our business activity decreases due to a market downturn. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities or rating agencies take negative actions against us. Our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient and, in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms, or at all.

Our liquidity requirements may change if, among other things, we are required to return significant amounts of cash collateral on short notice under securities lending agreements.

Disruptions, uncertainty or volatility in the capital and credit markets may also limit our access to capital required to operate our business, most significantly our insurance operations. Such market conditions may limit our ability to replace, in a timely manner, maturing liabilities; satisfy regulatory capital requirements (under both insurance and banking laws); and access the capital necessary to grow our business. The possible impact of Basel II and Basel III on MetLife is discussed in the 2010 Form 10-K. As such, we may be forced to delay raising capital, issue different types of securities than we would otherwise, less effectively deploy such capital, issue shorter tenor securities than we prefer, or bear an unattractive cost of capital which could decrease our profitability and significantly reduce our financial flexibility. Our results of operations, financial condition, cash flows and statutory capital position could be materially adversely affected by disruptions in the financial markets.

Actions of the U.S. Government, Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Other Governmental and Regulatory Bodies for the Purpose of Stabilizing and Revitalizing the Financial Markets and Protecting Investors and Consumers May Not Achieve the Intended Effect or Could Adversely Affect MetLife's Competitive Position

In recent years, Congress, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the FDIC, the U.S. Treasury and other agencies of the U.S. federal government took a number of increasingly aggressive actions (in addition to continuing a series of interest rate reductions that began in the second half of 2007) intended to provide liquidity to financial institutions and

markets, to avert a loss of investor confidence in particular troubled institutions, to prevent or contain the spread of the financial crisis and to spur economic growth. Most of these programs have largely run their course or been discontinued. More likely to be relevant to MetLife, Inc. is the monetary policy implemented by the Federal Reserve Board, as well as Dodd-Frank, which will significantly change financial regulation in the U.S. in a number of areas that could affect MetLife. Given the large number of provisions that must be implemented through regulatory action, we cannot predict what impact this could have on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

S-13

Table of Contents

It is not certain what effect the enactment of Dodd-Frank will have on the financial markets, the availability of credit, asset prices and MetLife's operations. *See* Various Aspects of Dodd-Frank Could Impact Our Business Operations, Capital Requirements and Profitability and Limit Our Growth. In addition, the U.S. federal government (including the FDIC) and private lenders have instituted programs to reduce the monthly payment obligations of mortgagors and/or reduce the principal payable on residential mortgage loans. As a result of such programs or of any legislation requiring loan modifications, we may need to maintain or increase our engagement in similar activities in order to comply with program or statutory requirements and to remain competitive. We cannot predict whether the funds made available by the U.S. federal government and its agencies will be enough to continue stabilizing or to further revive the financial markets or, if additional amounts are necessary, whether the Federal Reserve Board will make funds available, whether Congress will be willing to make the necessary appropriations, what the public's sentiment would be towards any such appropriations, or what additional requirements or conditions might be imposed on the use of any such additional funds.

The choices made by the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Reserve Board and the FDIC in their distribution of funds under EESA and any future asset purchase programs, as well as any decisions made regarding the imposition of additional regulation on large financial institutions may have, over time, the effect of supporting or burdening some aspects of the financial services industry more than others. Some of our competitors have received, or may in the future receive, benefits under one or more of the federal government's programs. This could adversely affect our competitive position. *See* Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability. *See also* New and Impending Compensation and Corporate Governance Regulations Could Hinder or Prevent Us From Attracting and Retaining Management and Other Employees with the Talent and Experience to Manage and Conduct Our Business Effectively and Our Insurance, Brokerage and Banking Businesses Are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth.

Our Insurance, Brokerage and Banking Businesses Are Highly Regulated, and Changes in Regulation and in Supervisory and Enforcement Policies May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth

Our insurance operations are subject to a wide variety of insurance and other laws and regulations. State insurance laws regulate most aspects of our U.S. insurance businesses, and our insurance subsidiaries are regulated by the insurance departments of the states in which they are domiciled and the states in which they are licensed. Our non-U.S. insurance operations are principally regulated by insurance regulatory authorities in the jurisdictions in which they are domiciled or operate.

State laws in the United States grant insurance regulatory authorities broad administrative powers with respect to, among other things:

- licensing companies and agents to transact business;
- calculating the value of assets to determine compliance with statutory requirements;
- mandating certain insurance benefits;
- regulating certain premium rates;
- reviewing and approving policy forms;
- regulating unfair trade and claims practices, including through the imposition of restrictions on marketing and sales practices, distribution arrangements and payment of inducements;

regulating advertising;

protecting privacy;

establishing statutory capital and reserve requirements and solvency standards;

fixing maximum interest rates on insurance policy loans and minimum rates for guaranteed crediting rates on life insurance policies and annuity contracts;

approving changes in control of insurance companies;

restricting the payment of dividends and other transactions between affiliates; and

regulating the types, amounts and valuation of investments.

S-14

Table of Contents

State insurance guaranty associations have the right to assess insurance companies doing business in their state for funds to help pay the obligations of insolvent insurance companies to policyholders and claimants. Because the amount and timing of an assessment is beyond our control, the liabilities that we have currently established for these potential liabilities may not be adequate.

State insurance regulators and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (*NAIC*) regularly reexamine existing laws and regulations applicable to insurance companies and their products. Changes in these laws and regulations, or in interpretations thereof, are often made for the benefit of the consumer at the expense of the insurer and, thus, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Currently, the U.S. federal government does not directly regulate the business of insurance. However, Dodd-Frank allows federal regulators to compel state insurance regulators to liquidate an insolvent insurer under some circumstances if the state regulators have not acted within a specific period. It also establishes the Federal Insurance Office which has the authority to participate in the negotiations of international insurance agreements with foreign regulators for the United States. The Federal Insurance Office is also authorized to collect information about the insurance industry and recommend prudential standards.

Federal legislation and administrative policies in several areas can significantly and adversely affect insurance companies. These areas include financial services regulation, securities regulation, pension regulation, health care regulation, privacy, tort reform legislation and taxation. In addition, various forms of direct and indirect federal regulation of insurance have been proposed from time to time, including proposals for the establishment of an optional federal charter for insurance companies. Other aspects of our insurance operations could also be affected by Dodd-Frank. For example, Dodd-Frank imposes new restrictions on the ability of affiliates of insured depository institutions (such as MetLife Bank) to engage in proprietary trading or sponsor or invest in hedge funds or private equity funds. *See* Various Aspects of Dodd-Frank Could Impact Our Business Operations, Capital Requirements and Profitability and Limit Our Growth.

As a federally chartered national association, MetLife Bank is subject to a wide variety of banking laws, regulations and guidelines. Federal banking laws regulate most aspects of the business of MetLife Bank, but certain state laws may apply as well. MetLife Bank is principally regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve and the FDIC.

Federal banking laws and regulations address various aspects of MetLife Bank's business and operations with respect to, among other things:

- chartering to carry on business as a bank;
- the permissibility of certain activities;
- maintaining minimum capital ratios;
- capital management in relation to the bank's assets;
- dividend payments;
- safety and soundness standards;
- loan loss and other related liabilities;

liquidity;

financial reporting and disclosure standards;

counterparty credit concentration;

restrictions on related party and affiliate transactions;

lending limits (and, in addition, Dodd-Frank includes the credit exposures arising from securities lending by MetLife Bank within lending limits otherwise applicable to loans);

payment of interest;

S-15

Table of Contents

unfair or deceptive acts or practices;

privacy; and

bank holding company and bank change of control.

Federal and state banking regulators regularly re-examine existing laws and regulations applicable to banks and their products. Changes in these laws and regulations, or in interpretations thereof, are often made for the benefit of the consumer at the expense of the bank and, thus, could have a material adverse effect on the financial condition and results of operations of MetLife Bank.

Since 2008, MetLife, through its MetLife Bank affiliate, has significantly increased its mortgage servicing activities by acquiring servicing portfolios. Currently, MetLife Bank services approximately 1% of the aggregate principal amount of the mortgage loans serviced in the United States.

State and federal regulatory and law enforcement authorities have initiated various inquiries, investigations or examinations of alleged irregularities in the foreclosure practices of the residential mortgage servicing industry. Mortgage servicing practices have also been the subject of Congressional attention. Authorities have publicly stated that the scope of the investigations extends beyond foreclosure documentation practices to include mortgage loan modification and loss mitigation practices.

MetLife Bank's mortgage servicing has been the subject of recent inquiries and requests by such authorities. The Acting Comptroller of the Currency disclosed in testimony before Congress that 14 mortgage servicing businesses affiliated with banking organizations, including that of MetLife Bank, have been the subject of an intra-agency confidential horizontal examination of mortgage servicing and foreclosure activities. The Acting Comptroller testified that federal banking regulators expect to issue administrative enforcement orders to such businesses and to seek civil money penalties. The Acting Comptroller's testimony also indicated that other federal agencies, including the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, were examining potential actions with respect to such businesses.

MetLife is cooperating with the authorities' review of this business. MetLife cannot predict the outcome of the pending reviews. It is also possible that additional state or federal authorities may pursue similar investigations or make related inquiries.

In view of widespread attention to foreclosure practices within the industry, MetLife Bank undertook a review of its servicing procedures. Based on its review of its foreclosure practices and procedures, MetLife Bank does not believe that its mortgage servicing practices improperly adversely affected the obligors of mortgages that it services.

Nevertheless, these inquiries or investigations could adversely affect MetLife's reputation or result in material fines, penalties, equitable remedies (including requiring default servicing or other process changes), or other enforcement actions, and result in significant legal costs in responding to governmental investigations or other litigation. In addition, any changes to the mortgage servicing business that are required in connection with the resolution of such matters may affect the profitability of such business.

In addition, Dodd-Frank establishes a new Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection that supervises and regulates institutions providing certain financial products and services to consumers. Although the consumer financial services to which this legislation applies exclude insurance business of the kind in which we engage, the new Bureau has authority to regulate consumer services provided by MetLife Bank and non-insurance consumer services provided

elsewhere throughout MetLife. Dodd-Frank established a statutory standard for Federal pre-emption of state consumer financial protection laws, which standard will require national banks to comply with many state consumer financial protection laws that previously were considered preempted by Federal law. As a result, the regulatory and compliance burden on MetLife Bank may increase and could adversely affect its business and results of operations. Dodd-Frank also includes provisions on mortgage lending, anti-predatory lending and other regulatory and supervisory provisions that could impact the business and operations of MetLife Bank.

Dodd-Frank also authorizes the SEC to establish a standard of conduct applicable to brokers and dealers when providing personalized investment advice to retail and other customers. This standard of conduct would be to act in

S-16

Table of Contents

the best interest of the customer without regard to the financial or other interest of the broker or dealer providing the advice. *See* Changes in U.S. Federal and State Securities Laws and Regulations, and State Insurance Regulations Regarding Suitability of Annuity Product Sales, May Affect Our Operations and Our Profitability.

In December 2010, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision published Basel III for banks and bank holding companies, such as MetLife, Inc. Assuming regulators in the United States endorse and adopt Basel III, it will require banks and bank holding companies to hold greater amounts of capital, to comply with requirements for short-term liquidity and to reduce reliance on short-term funding sources. It is not clear how these new requirements will compare to the enhanced prudential standards that may apply to us under Dodd-Frank. *See* Various Aspects of Dodd-Frank Could Impact Our Business Operations, Capital Requirements and Profitability and Limit Our Growth.

As a bank holding company, MetLife, Inc.'s ability to pay dividends may be restricted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. In addition, the ability of MetLife Bank and MetLife, Inc. to pay dividends could be restricted by any additional capital requirements that might be imposed as a result of the enactment of Dodd-Frank and/or the endorsement and adoption by the United States of Basel III.

The FDIC has the right to assess FDIC-insured banks for funds to help pay the obligations of insolvent banks to depositors. Because the amount and timing of an assessment is beyond our control, the reserves that we have currently established for these potential liabilities may not be adequate. In addition, Dodd-Frank will result in increased assessment for banks with assets of \$10.0 billion or more, which includes MetLife Bank.

Our international operations are subject to regulation in the jurisdictions in which they operate. A significant portion of our revenues are generated through operations in foreign jurisdictions, including many countries in early stages of economic and political development. Our international operations may be materially adversely affected by foreign authorities and regulators, such as through nationalization or expropriation of assets, the imposition of limits on foreign ownership, changes in laws or their interpretation or application, political instability, dividend limitations, price controls, currency exchange controls or other restrictions that prevent us from transferring funds from these operations out of the countries in which they operate or converting local currencies we hold to U.S. dollars or other currencies, as well as adverse actions by foreign governmental authorities and regulators. This may also impact many of our customers and independent sales intermediaries. Changes in the regulations that affect their operations also may affect our business relationships with them and their ability to purchase or distribute our products. Accordingly, these changes could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our international operations are subject to local laws and regulations, and we expect the scope and extent of regulation outside of the United States, as well as regulatory oversight, generally to continue to increase. The authority of our international operations to conduct business is subject to licensing requirements, permits and approvals, and these authorizations are subject to modification and revocation. The regulatory environment in the countries in which we operate and changes in laws could have a material adverse effect on us and our foreign operations. *See* Our International Operations Face Political, Legal, Operational and Other Risks, Including Exposure to Local and Regional Economic Conditions, that Could Negatively Affect Those Operations or Our Profitability.

Furthermore, the increase in our international operations as a result of the acquisition of ALICO may also subject us to increased supervision by the Federal Reserve Board, since the size of a bank holding company's foreign activities is taken as an indication of the holding company's complexity. It may also have an effect on the manner in which MetLife, Inc. is required to calculate its risk-based capital (*RBC*).

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations is time consuming and personnel-intensive, and changes in these laws and regulations may materially increase our direct and indirect compliance and other expenses of doing business, thus having a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

From time to time, regulators raise issues during examinations or audits of MetLife, Inc.'s regulated subsidiaries that could, if determined adversely, have a material impact on us. We cannot predict whether or when regulatory actions may be taken that could adversely affect our operations. In addition, the interpretations of

S-17

Table of Contents

regulations by regulators may change and statutes may be enacted with retroactive impact, particularly in areas such as accounting or statutory reserve requirements.

We are also subject to other regulations and may in the future become subject to additional regulations.

Various Aspects of Dodd-Frank Could Impact Our Business Operations, Capital Requirements and Profitability and Limit Our Growth

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed Dodd-Frank. Various provisions of Dodd-Frank could affect our business operations and our profitability and limit our growth. For example:

As a large, interconnected bank holding company with assets of \$50 billion or more, or possibly as an otherwise systemically important financial company, MetLife, Inc. will be subject to enhanced prudential standards imposed on systemically significant financial companies. Enhanced standards will be applied to RBC, liquidity, leverage (unless another, similar, standard is appropriate), resolution plan and credit exposure reporting, concentration limits, and risk management. Off-balance sheet activities are required to be accounted for in meeting capital requirements. In addition, if it were determined that MetLife posed a substantial threat to U.S. financial stability, the applicable federal regulators would have the right to require it to take one or more other mitigating actions to reduce that risk, including limiting its ability to merge with or acquire another company, terminating activities, restricting its ability to offer financial products or requiring it to sell assets or off-balance sheet items to unaffiliated entities. Enhanced standards would also permit, but not require, regulators to establish requirements with respect to contingent capital, enhanced public disclosures and short-term debt limits. These standards are described as being more stringent than those otherwise imposed on bank holding companies; however, the Federal Reserve Board is permitted to apply them on an institution-by-institution basis, depending on its determination of the institution's riskiness. In addition, under Dodd-Frank, all bank holding companies that have elected to be treated as financial holding companies, such as MetLife, Inc. will be required to be well capitalized and well managed as defined by the Federal Reserve Board, on a consolidated basis and not just at their depository institution(s), a higher standard than was applicable to financial holding companies before Dodd-Frank.

MetLife, Inc., as a bank holding company, will have to meet minimum leverage ratio and RBC requirements on a consolidated basis to be established by the Federal Reserve Board that are not less than those applicable to insured depository institutions under so-called prompt corrective action regulations as in effect on the date of the enactment of Dodd-Frank. One consequence of these new rules will ultimately be the inability of bank holding companies to include trust-preferred securities as part of their Tier 1 capital. Because of the phase-in period for these new rules, they should have little practical effect on MetLife's ability to treat its currently outstanding trust-preferred securities as part of its Tier 1 capital, but they do prevent MetLife, Inc. from treating the common equity units issued as part of the consideration for the Acquisition as Tier 1 capital, since the new rules apply immediately to instruments issued after May 19, 2010.

Under the provisions of Dodd-Frank relating to the resolution or liquidation of certain types of financial institutions, including bank holding companies, if MetLife, Inc. were to become insolvent or were in danger of defaulting on its obligations, it could be compelled to undergo liquidation with the FDIC as receiver. For this new regime to be applicable, a number of determinations would have to be made, including that a default by the affected company would have serious adverse effects on financial stability in the United States. If the FDIC were to be appointed as the receiver for such a company, the liquidation of that company would occur under the provisions of the new liquidation authority, and not under the Bankruptcy Code. In such a liquidation, the holders of such company's debt could in certain respects be treated differently than under the Bankruptcy Code. In particular, unsecured creditors and shareholders are intended to bear the losses of the company being

liquidated. The FDIC is authorized to establish rules for the priority of creditors' claims and, under certain circumstances, to treat similarly situated creditors differently. These provisions could apply to some financial institutions whose outstanding debt securities we hold in our investment portfolios. Dodd-Frank also provides for the assessment of bank holding companies with assets of \$50.0 billion or more, non-bank financial companies supervised by the Federal Reserve Bank, and other financial companies with assets of \$50.0 billion or more to cover the costs of liquidating any financial company subject to the new liquidation authority. Although it is not possible to assess the full impact of the liquidation authority at this

S-18

Table of Contents

time, it could affect the funding costs of large bank holding companies or financial companies that might be viewed as systemically significant. It could also lead to an increase in secured financings.

Dodd-Frank also includes a new framework of regulation of the OTC derivatives markets which will require clearing of certain types of transactions currently traded OTC and could potentially impose additional costs, including new capital, reporting and margin requirements and additional regulation on MetLife, Inc. Increased margin requirements on MetLife, Inc. s part and a smaller universe of securities that will qualify as eligible collateral could reduce its liquidity and require an increase in its holdings of cash and government securities with lower yields causing a reduction in income. However, increased margin requirements and the expanded ability to transfer trades between MetLife, Inc. s counterparties could reduce MetLife, Inc. s exposure to its counterparties default. MetLife, Inc. uses derivatives to mitigate a wide range of risks in connection with its businesses, including the impact of increased benefit exposures from our annuity products that offer guaranteed benefits. The derivative clearing requirements of Dodd-Frank could increase the cost of our risk mitigation and expose us to the risk of a default by a clearinghouse or one of its members. In addition, we are subject to the risk that hedging and other management procedures prove ineffective in reducing the risks to which insurance policies expose us or that unanticipated policyholder behavior or mortality, combined with adverse market events, produces economic losses beyond the scope of the risk management techniques employed. Any such losses could be increased by any higher costs of writing derivatives (including customized derivatives) that might result from the enactment of Dodd-Frank.

Dodd-Frank restricts the ability of insured depository institutions and of companies, such as MetLife, Inc., that control an insured depository institution and their affiliates, to engage in proprietary trading and to sponsor or invest in funds (hedge funds and private equity funds) that rely on certain exemptions from the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the *Investment Company Act*). Dodd-Frank provides an exemption for investment activity by a regulated insurance company or its affiliate solely for the general account of such insurance company if such activity is in compliance with the insurance company investments laws of the state or jurisdiction in which such company is domiciled and the appropriate Federal regulators after consultation with relevant insurance commissioners have not jointly determined such laws to be insufficient to protect the safety and soundness of the institution or the financial stability of the United States. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the appropriate Federal regulatory authorities are permitted under the legislation to impose, as part of rulemaking, additional capital requirements and other restrictions on any exempted activity. Dodd-Frank provided for a period of study and rule making during which the effects of the statutory language may be clarified. The study has been completed and has assessed and included recommendations as to how to appropriately accommodate the business of insurance within an insurance company subject to regulation in accordance with relevant insurance company investments laws. However, while these provisions of Dodd-Frank are supposed to accommodate the business of insurance, until the rulemaking is completed, it is unclear whether MetLife, Inc. may have to alter any of its future investment activities to comply.

Until various studies are completed and final regulations are promulgated pursuant to Dodd-Frank, the full impact of Dodd-Frank on the investments and investment activities and insurance and annuity products of MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries remains unclear. For example, besides directly limiting our future investment activities, Dodd-Frank could potentially negatively impact the market for, the returns from, or liquidity in, primary and secondary investments in private equity funds and hedge funds that are connected to (either through a fund sponsorship or investor relationship) an insured depository institution. The number of sponsors of such funds going forward may diminish, which may impact our available fund investment opportunities. Although Dodd-Frank provides for various transition periods for coming into compliance, fund sponsors that are subject to Dodd-Frank, and whose funds we have invested in, may have to spin off their funds business or reduce their ownership stakes in their funds, thereby potentially impacting our related investments in such funds. In addition, should such funds be required or choose to liquidate or sell their underlying assets, the

market value and liquidity of such assets or the broader related asset classes could be negatively affected, including securities and real estate assets that MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries hold or may plan to sell. Secondary sales of fund interests at significant discounts by banking institutions and their affiliates, which are not fund sponsors but nevertheless are subject to the divestment requirements of Dodd-

S-19

Table of Contents

Frank, could reduce the returns realized by investors such as MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries seeking to access liquidity by selling their fund interests. In addition, our existing derivatives counterparties and the financial institutions subject to Dodd-Frank in which we have invested also could be negatively impacted by Dodd-Frank. *See also* New and Impending Compensation and Corporate Governance Regulations Could Hinder or Prevent Us From Attracting and Retaining Management and Other Employees with the Talent and Experience to Manage and Conduct Our Business Effectively.

In addition, Dodd-Frank statutorily imposes the requirement that MetLife, Inc. serve as a source of strength for MetLife Bank.

The addition of a new regulatory regime over MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries, the likelihood of additional regulations, and the other changes discussed above could require changes to MetLife, Inc.'s operations. Whether such changes would affect our competitiveness in comparison to other institutions is uncertain, since it is possible that at least some of our competitors, for example insurance holding companies that control thrifts, rather than banks, will be similarly affected. Competitive effects are possible, however, if MetLife, Inc. were required to pay any new or increased assessments and capital requirements are imposed, and to the extent any new prudential supervisory standards are imposed on MetLife, Inc. but not on its competitors. We cannot predict whether other proposals will be adopted, or what impact, if any, the adoption of Dodd-Frank or other proposals and the resulting studies and regulations could have on our business, financial condition or results of operations or on our dealings with other financial companies. *See also* Our Insurance, Brokerage and Banking Businesses are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth and New and Impending Compensation and Corporate Governance Regulations Could Hinder or Prevent Us From Attracting and Retaining Management and Other Employees with the Talent and Experience to Manage and Conduct Our Business Effectively.

Moreover, Dodd-Frank potentially affects such a wide range of the activities and markets in which MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries engage and participate that it may not be possible to anticipate all of the ways in which it could affect us. For example, many of our methods for managing risk and exposures are based upon the use of observed historical market behavior or statistics based on historical models. Historical market behavior may be altered by the enactment of Dodd-Frank. As a result of this enactment and otherwise, these methods may not fully predict future exposures, which could be significantly greater than our historical measures indicate.

The Resolution of Several Issues Affecting the Financial Services Industry Could Have a Negative Impact on Our Reported Results or on Our Relations with Current and Potential Customers

We will continue to be subject to legal and regulatory actions in the ordinary course of our business, both in the United States and internationally. This could result in a review of business sold in the past under previously acceptable market practices at the time. Regulators are increasingly interested in the approach that product providers use to select third-party distributors and to monitor the appropriateness of sales made by them. In some cases, product providers can be held responsible for the deficiencies of third-party distributors.

As a result of publicity relating to widespread perceptions of industry abuses, there have been numerous regulatory inquiries and proposals for legislative and regulatory reforms.

In Asia, where MetLife derives and will continue to derive a significant portion of its income, regulatory regimes are developing at different speeds, driven by a combination of global factors and local considerations. New requirements may be introduced that are retrospectively applied to sales made prior to their introduction.

We Are Exposed to Significant Financial and Capital Markets Risk Which May Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations, Financial Condition and Liquidity, and May Cause Our Net Investment Income to Vary from Period to

Period

We are exposed to significant financial and capital markets risk, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, real estate markets, foreign currency exchange rates, market volatility, the performance of the global economy in general, the performance of the specific obligors, including governments, included in our portfolio and other factors outside our control.

S-20

Table of Contents

Our exposure to interest rate risk relates primarily to the market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in interest rates. Changes in interest rates will impact the net unrealized gain or loss position of our fixed income investment portfolio. If long-term interest rates rise dramatically within a six to twelve month time period, certain of our life insurance businesses and fixed annuity business may be exposed to disintermediation risk. Disintermediation risk refers to the risk that our policyholders may surrender their contracts in a rising interest rate environment, requiring us to liquidate fixed income investments in an unrealized loss position. Due to the long-term nature of the liabilities associated with certain of our life insurance businesses, guaranteed benefits on variable annuities, and structured settlements, sustained declines in long-term interest rates may subject us to reinvestment risks and increased hedging costs. In other situations, declines in interest rates may result in increasing the duration of certain life insurance liabilities, creating asset-liability duration mismatches.

Our investment portfolio also contains interest rate sensitive instruments, such as fixed income securities, which may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates from governmental monetary policies, domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. Changes in interest rates will impact both the net unrealized gain or loss position of our fixed income portfolio and the rates of return we receive on funds invested. Our mitigation efforts with respect to interest rate risk are primarily focused towards maintaining an investment portfolio with diversified maturities that has a weighted average duration that is approximately equal to the duration of our estimated liability cash flow profile. However, our estimate of the liability cash flow profile may be inaccurate and we may be forced to liquidate fixed income investments prior to maturity at a loss in order to cover the cash flow profile of the liability. Although we take measures to manage the economic risks of investing in a changing interest rate environment, we may not be able to mitigate the interest rate risk of our fixed income investments relative to our liabilities. *See also* Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability.

Our exposure to credit spreads primarily relates to market price volatility and cash flow variability associated with changes in credit spreads. A widening of credit spreads will adversely impact both the net unrealized gain or loss position of the fixed-income investment portfolio, will increase losses associated with credit-based non-qualifying derivatives where we assume credit exposure, and, if issuer credit spreads increase significantly or for an extended period of time, will likely result in higher other-than-temporary impairments. Credit spread tightening will reduce net investment income associated with new purchases of fixed maturity securities. In addition, market volatility can make it difficult to value certain of our securities if trading becomes less frequent. As such, valuations may include assumptions or estimates that may have significant period to period changes which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition. Credit spreads on both corporate and structured securities widened significantly during 2008, resulting in continuing depressed pricing. As a result of improved conditions, credit spreads narrowed in 2009 and changed to a lesser extent in 2010. If there is a resumption of significant volatility in the markets, it could cause changes in credit spreads and defaults and a lack of pricing transparency which, individually or in tandem, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition, liquidity or cash flows through realized investment losses, impairments, and changes in unrealized loss positions.

Our primary exposure to equity risk relates to the potential for lower earnings associated with certain of our insurance businesses where fee income is earned based upon the estimated fair value of the assets under management. Downturns and volatility in equity markets can have a material adverse effect on the revenues and investment returns from our savings and investment products and services. Because these products and services generate fees related primarily to the value of assets under management, a decline in the equity markets could reduce our revenues from the reduction in the value of the investments we manage. The retail variable annuity business in particular is highly sensitive to equity markets, and a sustained weakness in the equity markets could decrease revenues and earnings in variable annuity products. Furthermore, certain of our variable annuity products offer guaranteed benefits which increase our potential benefit exposure should equity markets decline. MetLife, Inc. uses derivatives and reinsurance to mitigate the impact of such increased potential benefit exposures. We are also exposed to interest rate and equity risk based upon the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return assumptions associated with our pension and

other postretirement benefit obligations. Sustained declines in long-term interest rates or equity returns likely would have a negative effect on the funded status of these plans. Lastly, we invest a portion of our investments in public and private equity securities, leveraged buy-out funds, hedge

S-21

Table of Contents

funds and other private equity funds and the estimated fair value of such investments may be impacted by downturns or volatility in equity markets.

Our primary exposure to real estate risk relates to commercial and agricultural real estate. Our exposure to commercial and agricultural real estate risk stems from various factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, market conditions including the demand and supply of leasable commercial space, creditworthiness of tenants and partners, capital markets volatility and the inherent interest rate movement. In addition, our real estate joint venture development program is subject to risks, including, but not limited to, reduced property sales and decreased availability of financing which could adversely impact the joint venture developments and/or operations. The state of the economy and speed of recovery in fundamental and capital market conditions in the commercial and agricultural real estate sectors will continue to influence the performance of our investments in these sectors. These factors and others beyond our control could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition, liquidity or cash flows through net investment income, realized investment losses and levels of valuation allowances.

Our investment portfolio contains investments in government bonds issued by European nations. Recently, the European Union member states have experienced above average public debt, inflation and unemployment as the global economic downturn has developed. A number of member states are significantly impacted by the economies of their more influential neighbors, such as Germany. In addition, financial troubles of one nation can trigger a domino effect on others. In particular, a number of large European banks hold significant amounts of sovereign financial institution debt of other European nations and could experience difficulties as a result of defaults or declines in the value of such debt. Our investment portfolio also contains investments in revenue bonds issued under the auspices of states and municipalities and a limited amount of general obligation bonds of states and municipalities (collectively, *Municipal Bonds*). Recently, certain states and municipalities have faced budget deficits and financial difficulties. There can be no assurance that the financial difficulties of such states and municipalities would not have an adverse impact on our Municipal Bond portfolio.

Our primary foreign currency exchange risks are described under **Fluctuations in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates Could Negatively Affect Our Profitability**. Changes in these factors, which are significant risks to us, can affect our net investment income in any period, and such changes can be substantial.

A portion of our investments are made in leveraged buy-out funds, hedge funds and other private equity funds, many of which make private equity investments. The amount and timing of net investment income from such investment funds tends to be uneven as a result of the performance of the underlying investments, including private equity investments. The timing of distributions from the funds, which depends on particular events relating to the underlying investments, as well as the funds' schedules for making distributions and their needs for cash, can be difficult to predict. As a result, the amount of net investment income that we record from these investments can vary substantially from quarter to quarter.

Recovering private equity markets and stabilizing credit and real estate markets during 2010 had a positive impact on returns and net investment income on private equity funds, hedge funds and real estate joint ventures, which are included within other limited partnership interests and real estate and real estate joint venture portfolios. Although volatility in most global financial markets has moderated, if there is a resumption of significant volatility, it could adversely impact returns and net investment income on these alternative investment classes. Continuing challenges include continued weakness in the U.S. real estate market and increased residential mortgage loan and other consumer loan delinquencies, investor anxiety over the U.S. and European economies, rating agency downgrades of various structured products and financial issuers, unresolved issues with structured investment vehicles and monoline financial guarantee insurers, deleveraging of financial institutions and hedge funds and the continuing recovery in the inter-bank market. If there is a resumption of significant volatility in the markets, it could cause changes in interest rates, declines in equity prices, and the strengthening or weakening of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar

which, individually or in tandem, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition, liquidity or cash flows through realized investment losses, impairments, increased valuation allowances and changes in unrealized gain or loss positions.

S-22

Table of Contents***Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability***

Some of our products, principally traditional whole life insurance, fixed annuities and guaranteed interest contracts, expose us to the risk that changes in interest rates will reduce our investment margin or spread, or the difference between the amounts that we are required to pay under the contracts in our general account and the rate of return we are able to earn on general account investments intended to support obligations under the contracts. Our spread is a key component of our net income.

As interest rates decrease or remain at low levels, we may be forced to reinvest proceeds from investments that have matured or have been prepaid or sold at lower yields, reducing our investment margin. Moreover, borrowers may prepay or redeem the fixed income securities, commercial or agricultural mortgage loans and mortgage-backed securities in our investment portfolio with greater frequency in order to borrow at lower market rates, which exacerbates this risk. Lowering interest crediting rates can help offset decreases in investment margins on some products. However, our ability to lower these rates could be limited by competition or contractually guaranteed minimum rates and may not match the timing or magnitude of changes in asset yields. As a result, our spread could decrease or potentially become negative. Our expectation for future spreads is an important component in the amortization of DAC and value of business acquired (VOBA), and significantly lower spreads may cause us to accelerate amortization, thereby reducing net income in the affected reporting period. In addition, during periods of declining interest rates, life insurance and annuity products may be relatively more attractive investments to consumers, resulting in increased premium payments on products with flexible premium features, repayment of policy loans and increased persistency, or a higher percentage of insurance policies remaining in force from year to year, during a period when our new investments carry lower returns. A decline in market interest rates could also reduce our return on investments that do not support particular policy obligations. Accordingly, declining interest rates may materially affect our results of operations, financial position and cash flows and significantly reduce our profitability. We recognize that a low interest rate environment will adversely affect our earnings, but we do not believe any such impact will be material in 2011.

The sufficiency of our life insurance statutory reserves in Taiwan is highly sensitive to interest rates and other related assumptions. This is due to the sustained low interest rate environment in Taiwan coupled with long-term interest rate guarantees of approximately 6% embedded in the life and health contracts sold prior to 2003 and the lack of availability of long-duration investments in the Taiwanese capital markets to match such long-duration liabilities. The key assumptions include current Taiwan government bond yield rates increasing approximately 1% from current levels over the next ten years, lapse rates, mortality and morbidity levels remaining consistent with recent experience, and U.S. dollar-denominated investments making up to 35% of total assets backing life insurance statutory reserves. Current reserve adequacy analysis shows that provisions are adequate; *however*, adverse changes in key assumptions for interest rates, lapse experience and mortality and morbidity levels could lead to a need to strengthen reserves.

Increases in market interest rates could also negatively affect our profitability. In periods of rapidly increasing interest rates, we may not be able to replace, in a timely manner, the investments in MetLife's general account with higher yielding investments needed to fund the higher crediting rates necessary to keep interest sensitive products competitive. We, therefore, may have to accept a lower spread and, thus, lower profitability or face a decline in sales and greater loss of existing contracts and related assets. In addition, policy loans, surrenders and withdrawals may tend to increase as policyholders seek investments with higher perceived returns as interest rates rise. This process may result in cash outflows requiring that we sell investments at a time when the prices of those investments are adversely affected by the increase in market interest rates, which may result in realized investment losses.

Unanticipated withdrawals and terminations may cause us to accelerate the amortization of DAC, VOBA and negative VOBA, which reduces net income. An increase in market interest rates could also have a material adverse effect on the value of our investment portfolio, for example, by decreasing the estimated fair values of the fixed income securities that comprise a substantial portion of our investment portfolio. Lastly, an increase in interest rates could

result in decreased fee income associated with a decline in the value of variable annuity account balances invested in fixed income funds.

S-23

Table of Contents

Some of Our Investments Are Relatively Illiquid and Are in Asset Classes That Have Been Experiencing Significant Market Valuation Fluctuations

We hold certain investments that may lack liquidity, such as privately-placed fixed maturity securities; mortgage loans; policy loans and leveraged leases; equity real estate, including real estate joint ventures and funds; and other limited partnership interests. These asset classes represented 26.6% of the carrying value of our total cash and investments at December 31, 2010. In recent years, even some of our very high quality investments experienced reduced liquidity during periods of market volatility or disruption. If we require significant amounts of cash on short notice in excess of normal cash requirements or are required to post or return cash collateral in connection with our investment portfolio, derivatives transactions or securities lending program, we may have difficulty selling these investments in a timely manner, be forced to sell them for less than we otherwise would have been able to realize, or both. The reported value of our relatively illiquid types of investments, our investments in the asset classes described above and, at times, our high quality, generally liquid asset classes, do not necessarily reflect the lowest current market price for the asset. If we were forced to sell certain of our investments in the global market, there can be no assurance that we will be able to sell them for the prices at which we have recorded them and we could be forced to sell them at significantly lower prices.

Our Participation in a Securities Lending Program Subjects Us to Potential Liquidity and Other Risks

We participate in a securities lending program whereby blocks of securities, which are included in fixed maturity securities and short-term investments, are loaned to third parties, primarily brokerage firms and commercial banks. We generally obtain collateral in an amount equal to 102% of the estimated fair value of the loaned securities, which is obtained at the inception of a loan and maintained at a level greater than or equal to 100% for the duration of the loan. Returns of loaned securities by the third parties would require us to return the collateral associated with such loaned securities. In addition, in some cases, the maturity of the securities held as invested collateral (*i.e.*, securities that we have purchased with cash collateral received from the third parties) may exceed the term of the related securities on loan and the estimated fair value may fall below the amount of cash received as collateral and invested. If we are required to return significant amounts of cash collateral on short notice and we are forced to sell securities to meet the return obligation, we may have difficulty selling such collateral that is invested in securities in a timely manner, be forced to sell securities in a volatile or illiquid market for less than we otherwise would have been able to realize under normal market conditions, or both. In addition, under stressful capital market and economic conditions, liquidity broadly deteriorates, which may further restrict our ability to sell securities. If we decrease the amount of our securities lending activities over time, the amount of net investment income generated by these activities will also likely decline.

Our Requirements to Pledge Collateral or Make Payments Related to Declines in Estimated Fair Value of Specified Assets May Adversely Affect Our Liquidity and Expose Us to Counterparty Credit Risk

Some of our transactions with financial and other institutions specify the circumstances under which the parties are required to pledge collateral related to any decline in the estimated fair value of the specified assets. In addition, under the terms of some of our transactions, we may be required to make payments to our counterparties related to any decline in the estimated fair value of the specified assets. The amount of collateral we may be required to pledge and the payments we may be required to make under these agreements may increase under certain circumstances, which could adversely affect our liquidity.

Gross Unrealized Losses on Fixed Maturity and Equity Securities May Be Realized or Result in Future Impairments, Resulting in a Reduction in Our Net Income

Fixed maturity and equity securities classified as available-for-sale are reported at their estimated fair value. Unrealized gains or losses on available-for-sale securities are recognized as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) and are, therefore, excluded from net income. Our gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity and equity securities available for sale at December 31, 2010 were \$6.9 billion. The portion of the \$6.9 billion of gross unrealized losses for fixed maturity and equity securities where the estimated fair value has declined and remained below amortized cost or cost by 20% or more for six months or greater was \$2.1 billion at December 31, 2010. The accumulated change in estimated fair value of these available-for-sale securities is recognized in net income when the gain or loss is realized upon the sale of the security or in the event that the decline in estimated fair value is determined to be other-than-temporary and an impairment charge to earnings is taken. Realized losses or impairments may have a material adverse effect on our net income in a particular quarterly or annual period.

S-24

Table of Contents***The Determination of the Amount of Allowances and Impairments Taken on Our Investments is Highly Subjective and Could Materially Impact Our Results of Operations or Financial Position***

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments varies by investment type and is based upon our periodic evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available. We update our evaluations regularly and reflect changes in allowances and impairments in net investment losses as such evaluations are revised. Additional impairments may need to be taken or allowances provided for in the future. Furthermore, historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments or allowances.

For example, the cost of our fixed maturity and equity securities is adjusted for impairments deemed to be other-than-temporary. The assessment of whether impairments have occurred is based on our case-by-case evaluation of the underlying reasons for the decline in estimated fair value. The review of our fixed maturity and equity securities for impairments includes an analysis of the total gross unrealized losses by three categories of securities: (i) securities where the estimated fair value has declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by less than 20%; (ii) securities where the estimated fair value has declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by 20% or more for less than six months; and (iii) securities where the estimated fair value has declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by 20% or more for six months or greater.

Additionally, we consider a wide range of factors about the security issuer and use our best judgment in evaluating the cause of the decline in the estimated fair value of the security and in assessing the prospects for near term recovery. Inherent in our evaluation of the security are assumptions and estimates about the operations of the issuer and its future earnings potential. Considerations in the impairment evaluation process include, but are not limited to: (i) the length of time and the extent to which the estimated fair value has been below cost or amortized cost; (ii) the potential for impairments of securities when the issuer is experiencing significant financial difficulties; (iii) the potential for impairments in an entire industry sector or sub-sector; (iv) the potential for impairments in certain economically depressed geographic locations; (v) the potential for impairments of securities where the issuer, series of issuers or industry has suffered a catastrophic type of loss or has exhausted natural resources; (vi) with respect to fixed maturity securities, whether we have the intent to sell or will more likely than not be required to sell a particular security before recovery of the decline in estimated fair value below amortized cost; (vii) with respect to equity securities, whether we have the ability and intent to hold a particular security for a period of time sufficient to allow for the recovery of its estimated fair value to an amount at least equal to its cost; (viii) unfavorable changes in forecasted cash flows on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities (*ABS*); and (ix) other subjective factors, including concentrations and information obtained from regulators and rating agencies.

Defaults on Our Mortgage Loans and Volatility in Performance May Adversely Affect Our Profitability

Our mortgage loans face default risk and are principally collateralized by commercial, agricultural and residential properties. We establish valuation allowances for estimated impairments at the balance sheet date. Such valuation allowances are based on the excess carrying value of the loan over the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's original effective interest rate, the estimated fair value of the loan's collateral if the loan is in the process of foreclosure or otherwise collateral dependent, or the loan's observable market price. We also establish valuation allowances for loan losses for pools of loans with similar risk characteristics, such as property types, or loans having similar loan-to-value ratios and debt service coverage ratios, when based on past experience, it is probable that a credit event has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. These valuation allowances are based on loan risk characteristics, historical default rates and loss severities, real estate market fundamentals and outlook as well as other relevant factors. At December 31, 2010, mortgage loans that were either delinquent or in the process of foreclosure totaled less than 0.6% of our mortgage loan investments. The performance of our mortgage loan investments, however, may fluctuate in the future. In addition, substantially all of our mortgage

loans held-for-investment have balloon payment maturities. An increase in the default rate of our mortgage loan investments could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition through realized investment losses or increases in our valuation allowances.

Further, any geographic or sector concentration of our mortgage loans may have adverse effects on our investment portfolios and consequently on our results of operations or financial condition. While we seek to

S-25

Table of Contents

mitigate this risk by having a broadly diversified portfolio, events or developments that have a negative effect on any particular geographic region or sector may have a greater adverse effect on the investment portfolios to the extent that the portfolios are concentrated. Moreover, our ability to sell assets relating to such particular groups of related assets may be limited if other market participants are seeking to sell at the same time. In addition, legislative proposals that would allow or require modifications to the terms of mortgage loans could be enacted. We cannot predict whether these proposals will be adopted, or what impact, if any, such proposals or, if enacted, such laws, could have on our business or investments.

The Impairment of Other Financial Institutions Could Adversely Affect Us

We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, hedge funds and other investment funds and other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty. In addition, with respect to secured transactions, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure due to us. We also have exposure to these financial institutions in the form of unsecured debt instruments, non-redeemable and redeemable preferred securities, derivative transactions, joint venture, hedge fund and equity investments. Further, potential action by governments and regulatory bodies in response to the financial crisis affecting the global banking system and financial markets, such as investment, nationalization, conservatorship, receivership and other intervention, whether under existing legal authority or any new authority that may be created, could negatively impact these instruments, securities, transactions and investments. There can be no assurance that any such losses or impairments to the carrying value of these investments would not materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

We Face Unforeseen Liabilities, Asset Impairments or Rating Actions Arising from Acquisitions, Including ALICO, and Dispositions of Businesses or Difficulties Integrating and Managing Growth of Such Businesses

We have engaged in dispositions and acquisitions of businesses in the past, and expect to continue to do so in the future. Acquisition and disposition activity exposes us to a number of risks.

There could be unforeseen liabilities or asset impairments, including goodwill impairments, that arise in connection with the businesses that we may sell or the businesses that we may acquire in the future.

In addition, there may be liabilities or asset impairments that we fail, or are unable, to discover in the course of performing due diligence investigations on each business that we have acquired or may acquire. Furthermore, even for obligations and liabilities that we do discover during the due diligence process, neither the valuation adjustment nor the contractual protections we negotiate may be sufficient to fully protect us from losses. For example, in connection with the acquisition of ALICO, we may be exposed to obligations and liabilities of ALICO that are not adequately covered, in amount, scope or duration, by the indemnification provisions in the stock purchase agreement, dated as of March 7, 2010 (as amended, the *Stock Purchase Agreement*), entered into in connection with the Acquisition, by and among MetLife, Inc., AIG and the Selling Stockholder, or reflected or reserved for in ALICO's historical financial statements. Although we have rights to indemnification from the Selling Stockholder under the Stock Purchase Agreement for certain losses, our rights are limited by survival periods for bringing claims and monetary limitations on the amount we may recover, and we cannot be certain that indemnification will be, among other things, collectible or sufficient in amount, scope or duration to fully offset any loss we may suffer. We are indemnified under the Stock Purchase Agreement for various tax matters, including U.S. federal income taxes attributable to periods during which the ALICO business was included in AIG's consolidated federal income tax return. We cannot be certain that any such indemnification will ultimately be fully collectible.

Furthermore, the use of our own funds as consideration in any acquisition would consume capital resources that would no longer be available for other corporate purposes. We also may not be able to raise sufficient funds to consummate an acquisition if, for example, we are unable to sell our securities or close related bridge credit facilities. Moreover, as a result of uncertainty and risks associated with potential acquisitions and dispositions of businesses, rating agencies may take certain actions with respect to the ratings assigned to MetLife, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

Our ability to achieve certain benefits we anticipate from any acquisitions of businesses will depend in large part upon our ability to successfully integrate such businesses in an efficient and effective manner. We may not be able to integrate such businesses smoothly or successfully, and the process may take longer than expected. The integration of operations and differences in operational culture may require the dedication of significant management resources, which may distract management's attention from day-to-day business. If we are unable to successfully integrate the operations of such acquired businesses, we may be unable to realize the benefits we expect to achieve as a result of such acquisitions and our business and results of operations may be less than expected.

The success with which we are able to integrate acquired operations, will depend on our ability to manage a variety of issues, including the following:

Loss of key personnel or higher than expected employee attrition rates could adversely affect the performance of the acquired business and our ability to integrate it successfully.

Customers of the acquired business may reduce, delay or defer decisions concerning their use of its products and services as a result of the acquisition or uncertainty related to the consummation of the acquisition, including, for example, potential unfamiliarity with the MetLife brand in regions where MetLife did not have a market presence prior to the acquisition.

If the acquired business relies upon independent distributors to distribute its products, these distributors may not continue to generate the same volume of business for MetLife after the acquisition. Independent distributors may reexamine the scope of their relationship with the acquired business or MetLife as a result of the acquisition and decide to curtail or eliminate distribution of our products.

Integrating acquired operations with our existing operations may require us to coordinate geographically separated organizations, address possible differences in corporate culture and management philosophies, merge financial processes and risk and compliance procedures, combine separate information technology platforms and integrate operations that were previously closely tied to the former parent of the acquired business or other service providers.

In cases where we or an acquired business operates in certain markets through joint ventures, the acquisition may affect the continued success and prospects of the joint venture. Our ability to exercise management control or influence over these joint venture operations and our investment in them will depend on the continued cooperation between the joint venture participants and on the terms of the joint venture agreements, which allocate control among the joint venture participants. We may face financial or other exposure in the event that any of these joint venture partners fail to meet their obligations under the joint venture, encounter financial difficulty or elect to alter, modify or terminate the relationship.

We may incur significant costs in connection with any acquisition and the related integration. The costs and liabilities actually incurred in connection with an acquisition and subsequent integration process may exceed those anticipated.

All of these challenges are present in our integration of ALICO, which we expect to extend over a substantial period.

The prospects of our business also may be materially and adversely affected if we are not able to manage the growth of any acquired business successfully. For example, the life insurance markets in many of the international markets in which ALICO operates have experienced significant growth in recent years. Management of ALICO's growth to date has required significant management and operational resources and is likely to continue to do so. Future growth of our combined business will require, among other things, the continued development of adequate underwriting and claim

handling capabilities and skills, sufficient capital base, increased marketing and sales activities, and the hiring and training of new personnel.

There can be no assurance that we will be successful in managing future growth of any acquired business, including ALICO. In particular, there may be difficulties in hiring and training sufficient numbers of customer service personnel and agents to keep pace with any future growth in the number of customers in our developing or developed markets. In addition, we may experience difficulties in upgrading, developing and expanding information technology systems quickly enough to accommodate any future growth. If we are unable to manage future growth, our prospects may be materially and adversely affected.

S-27

Table of Contents***There Can Be No Assurance That the Closing Agreement American Life Entered Into With the IRS Will Achieve Its Intended Effect, or That American Life Will Be Able to Comply with the Related Agreed Upon Plan***

On March 4, 2010, American Life entered into a closing agreement with the Commissioner of the IRS with respect to a U.S. withholding tax issue arising from payments by foreign branches of a life insurance company incorporated under U.S. law. IRS Revenue Ruling 2004-75, effective January 1, 2005, requires foreign branches of U.S. life insurance companies in certain circumstances to withhold U.S. income taxes on payments of taxable income made with respect to certain insurance and annuity products paid to customers resident in a foreign country. The closing agreement provides transitional relief under Section 7805(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the *Code*), to American Life, such that American Life's foreign branches will not be required to withhold U.S. income tax on the income portion of payments made pursuant to American Life's life insurance and annuity contracts (*Covered Payments*) under IRS Revenue Ruling 2004-75 for any tax periods beginning on January 1, 2005 and ending on December 31, 2013 (the *Deferral Period*). In accordance with the closing agreement, American Life submitted a plan to the IRS indicating the steps American Life will take (on a country by country basis) to ensure that no substantial amount of U.S. withholding tax will arise from Covered Payments made by American Life's foreign branches to foreign customers after the Deferral Period. In addition, the closing agreement requires that such plan be updated in quarterly filings with the IRS. The closing agreement is final and binding upon American Life and the IRS; provided, however, that the agreement can be reopened in the event of malfeasance, fraud or a misrepresentation of a material fact, and is subject to change of law risk that occurs after the effective date of the closing agreement (with certain exceptions). In addition, the closing agreement provides that no legislative amendment to Section 861(a)(1)(A) of the Code shall shorten the Deferral Period, regardless of when such amendment is enacted. The plan American Life delivered to the IRS involves the transfer of businesses from certain of the foreign branches of American Life to one or more existing or newly-formed foreign affiliates of American Life; however, the plan is subject to change pursuant to the quarterly updates that American Life will provide to the IRS. An estimate of the costs to comply with the plan has been recorded in the financial statements. Also the achievement of the plan presented to the IRS within the required time frame of December 31, 2013 is contingent upon regulatory approvals and other requirements. Failure to achieve the plan in a timely manner could cause American Life to be required to withhold U.S. income taxes on the taxable portion of payments made by American Life's foreign branches after December 31, 2013 to customers resident in a foreign country, which could put American Life at a competitive disadvantage with its competitors that sell similar products through foreign entities and could have a material adverse effect on American Life's future revenues or expenses or both.

There Can Be No Assurance That Any Incremental Tax Benefit Will Result From the Currently Planned Elections Under Section 338 of the Code

MetLife, Inc. currently plans to make Section 338 Elections with respect to ALICO and certain of its subsidiaries, and MetLife, Inc. believes that ALICO and such subsidiaries should have additional amortizable basis in their assets for U.S. tax purposes as a result of such elections. No assurance can be given, however, as to the incremental tax benefit, if any, that will result from any such elections if made.

To the Extent MetLife, Inc. Does Not Repurchase All of the Series B Preferred Stock, If MetLife, Inc.'s Stockholders Do Not Vote to Approve the Conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock Into Common Stock, MetLife, Inc. Will Be Required to Pay Up To Approximately \$300 Million to the Selling Stockholder

The Selling Stockholder received the shares of the Series B Preferred Stock upon completion of the Acquisition. Each share of Series B Preferred Stock will convert into 10 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock (subject to anti-dilution adjustments) if conversion is approved by MetLife, Inc.'s common stockholders. If MetLife, Inc. fails to obtain such approval prior to the first anniversary of the closing of the Acquisition, November 1, 2011, MetLife, Inc. will be required to pay up to approximately \$300 million to the Selling Stockholder, assuming no purchase price adjustments,

and, upon request, register the Series B Preferred Stock for sale by the Selling Stockholder in a public offering and list the Series B Preferred Stock on the NYSE.

Fluctuations in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates Could Negatively Affect Our Profitability

We are exposed to risks associated with fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates against the U.S. dollar resulting from our holdings of non-U.S. dollar denominated investments, investments in foreign subsidiaries and net

S-28

Table of Contents

income from foreign operations and issuance of non-U.S. dollar denominated instruments, including guaranteed interest contracts and funding agreements. These risks relate to potential decreases in estimated fair value and income resulting from a strengthening or weakening in foreign exchange rates versus the U.S. dollar. In general, the weakening of foreign currencies versus the U.S. dollar will adversely affect the estimated fair value of our non-U.S. dollar denominated investments, our investments in foreign subsidiaries, and our net income from foreign operations. Although we use foreign currency swaps and forward contracts to mitigate foreign currency exchange rate risk, we cannot provide assurance that these methods will be effective or that our counterparties will perform their obligations.

From time to time, various emerging market countries have experienced severe economic and financial disruptions, including significant devaluations of their currencies. Our exposure to foreign exchange rate risk is exacerbated by our investments in certain emerging markets.

Historically, we have matched substantially all of our foreign currency liabilities in our foreign subsidiaries with investments denominated in their respective foreign currency, which limits the effect of currency exchange rate fluctuation on local operating results; however, fluctuations in such rates affect the translation of these results into our U.S. dollar basis consolidated financial statements. Although we take certain actions to address this risk, foreign currency exchange rate fluctuation could materially adversely affect our reported results due to unhedged positions or the failure of hedges to effectively offset the impact of the foreign currency exchange rate fluctuation.

The Acquisition has increased our exposure to risks associated with fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates against the U.S. dollar and increased our exposure to emerging markets. Fluctuations in the yen/ U.S. dollar exchange rate can have a significant effect on our reported financial position and results of operations because ALICO has substantial operations in Japan and a significant portion of its premiums and investment income are received in yen. Claims and expenses are also paid in yen and ALICO primarily purchases yen-denominated assets to support yen-denominated policy liabilities. These and other yen-denominated financial statement items are, however, translated into U.S. dollars for financial reporting purposes. Accordingly, fluctuations in the yen/U.S. dollar exchange rate can have a significant effect on our reported financial position and results of operations.

Due to our significant international operations, during periods when any foreign currency in which we derive our revenues (such as the Japanese yen) weakens, translating amounts expressed in that currency into U.S. dollars causes fewer U.S. dollars to be reported. When the relevant foreign currency strengthens, translating such currency into U.S. dollars causes more U.S. dollars to be reported. Between September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2010, the Japanese yen has strengthened against the U.S. dollar, which fluctuated from a low point of ¥80.40 to the U.S. dollar on October 29, 2010 to a high point of ¥84.26 to the U.S. dollar on November 29, 2010, which has been somewhat offset by the weakening of the euro, which fluctuated from a high point of 0.7702 euro to the U.S. dollar on November 30, 2010, to 0.7039 euro to the U.S. dollar on November 4, 2010. Any unrealized foreign currency translation adjustments are reported in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). The weakening of a foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar will generally adversely affect the value of investments in U.S. dollar terms and reduce the level of reserves denominated in that currency.

Our International Operations Face Political, Legal, Operational and Other Risks, Including Exposure to Local and Regional Economic Conditions, That Could Negatively Affect Those Operations or Our Profitability

Our international operations face political, legal, operational and other risks that we do not face in our domestic operations. We face the risk of discriminatory regulation, nationalization or expropriation of assets, price controls and exchange controls or other restrictions that prevent us from transferring funds from these operations out of the countries in which they operate or converting local currencies we hold into U.S. dollars or other currencies. Some of our foreign insurance operations are, and are likely to continue to be, in emerging markets where these risks are

heightened. In addition, we rely on local sales forces in these countries and may encounter labor problems resulting from workers' associations and trade unions in some countries. In several countries, including Japan, China and India we operate with local business partners with the resulting risk of managing partner relationships to the business objectives. If our business model is not successful in a particular country, we may lose all or most of our investment in building and training the sales force in that country.

S-29

Table of Contents

We are expanding our international operations in certain markets where we operate and in selected new markets. This may require considerable management time, as well as start-up expenses for market development before any significant revenues and earnings are generated. Operations in new foreign markets may achieve low margins or may be unprofitable, and expansion in existing markets may be affected by local economic and market conditions. Therefore, as we expand internationally, we may not achieve expected operating margins and our results of operations may be negatively impacted.

In addition, in recent years, the operating environment in Argentina has been very challenging. In Argentina, we were formerly principally engaged in the pension business. In December 2008, the Argentine government nationalized private pensions and seized the pension funds' investments, eliminating the private pensions business in Argentina. As a result, we have experienced and will continue to experience reductions in the operation's revenues and cash flows. The Argentine government now controls all assets which previously were managed by our Argentine pension operations. Further governmental or legal actions related to our operations in Argentina could negatively impact our operations in Argentina and result in future losses.

We have market presence in over 60 different countries, and increased exposure to risks posed by local and regional economic conditions. Europe has recently experienced a deep recession and countries such as Italy, Spain, Portugal and, in particular, Greece and Ireland, have been particularly affected by the recession, resulting in increased national debts and depressed economic activity. We have significant operations and investments in these countries which could be adversely affected by economic developments such as higher taxes, growing inflation, decreasing government spending, rising unemployment and currency instability.

In addition to fluctuations in the yen/U.S. dollar exchange rate discussed above, we face increased exposure to the Japanese markets as a result of ALICO's considerable presence there. Deterioration in Japan's economic recovery could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

We also have operations in the Middle East where the legal and political systems and regulatory frameworks are subject to instability and disruptions. Lack of legal certainty and stability in the region exposes our operations to increased risk of disruption and to adverse or unpredictable actions by regulators and may make it more difficult for us to enforce our contracts, which may negatively impact our business in this region. *See also* Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability regarding the impact of low interest rates on our Taiwanese operations.

As a Holding Company, MetLife, Inc. Depends on the Ability of Its Subsidiaries to Transfer Funds to It to Meet Its Obligations and Pay Dividends

MetLife, Inc. is a holding company for its insurance and financial subsidiaries and does not have any significant operations of its own. Dividends from its subsidiaries and permitted payments to it under its tax sharing arrangements with its subsidiaries are its principal sources of cash to meet its obligations and to pay preferred and common stock dividends. If the cash MetLife, Inc. receives from its subsidiaries is insufficient for it to fund its debt service and other holding company obligations, MetLife, Inc. may be required to raise cash through the incurrence of debt, the issuance of additional equity or the sale of assets.

The payment of dividends and other distributions to MetLife, Inc. by its insurance subsidiaries is regulated by insurance laws and regulations. In general, dividends in excess of prescribed limits require insurance regulatory approval. In addition, insurance regulators may prohibit the payment of dividends or other payments by its insurance subsidiaries to MetLife, Inc. if they determine that the payment could be adverse to our policyholders or contractholders. The payment of dividends and other distributions by insurance companies is also influenced by business conditions and rating agency considerations. The ability of MetLife Bank to pay dividends is also subject to

regulation by the OCC.

Any payment of interest, dividends, distributions, loans or advances by our foreign subsidiaries and branches to MetLife, Inc. could be subject to taxation or other restrictions on dividends or repatriation of earnings under applicable law, monetary transfer restrictions and foreign currency exchange regulations in the jurisdiction in which such foreign subsidiaries operate. *See* Our International Operations Face Political, Legal, Operational and Other Risks, Including Exposure to Local and Regional Economic Conditions, That Could Negatively Affect Those Operations or Our Profitability.

S-30

Table of Contents

A Downgrade or a Potential Downgrade in Our Financial Strength or Credit Ratings Could Result in a Loss of Business and Materially Adversely Affect Our Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Financial strength ratings, which various Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (*NRSRO*) publish as indicators of an insurance company's ability to meet contractholder and policyholder obligations, are important to maintaining public confidence in our products, our ability to market our products and our competitive position.

Downgrades in our financial strength ratings could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations in many ways, including:

reducing new sales of insurance products, annuities and other investment products;

adversely affecting our relationships with our sales force and independent sales intermediaries;

materially increasing the number or amount of policy surrenders and withdrawals by contractholders and policyholders;

requiring us to reduce prices for many of our products and services to remain competitive; and

adversely affecting our ability to obtain reinsurance at reasonable prices or at all.

In addition to the financial strength ratings of our insurance subsidiaries, various NRSROs also publish credit ratings for MetLife, Inc. and several of its subsidiaries. Credit ratings are indicators of a debt issuer's ability to meet the terms of debt obligations in a timely manner and are important factors in our overall funding profile and ability to access certain types of liquidity. Downgrades in our credit ratings could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations in many ways, including adversely limiting our access to capital markets, potentially increasing the cost of debt, and requiring us to post collateral. For example, with respect to derivative transactions with credit ratings downgrade triggers, a one-notch downgrade would have increased our derivative collateral requirements by \$99 million at December 31, 2010. Also, \$375 million of liabilities associated with funding agreements and other capital market products were subject to credit ratings downgrade triggers that permit early termination subject to a notice period of 90 days.

In view of the difficulties experienced during 2008 and 2009 by many financial institutions, including our competitors in the insurance industry, we believe it is possible that the NRSROs will continue to heighten the level of scrutiny that they apply to such institutions, will continue to increase the frequency and scope of their credit reviews, will continue to request additional information from the companies that they rate, and may adjust upward the capital and other requirements employed in the NRSRO models for maintenance of certain ratings levels. Rating agencies use an outlook statement of positive, stable, negative or developing to indicate a medium- or long-term trend in credit fundamentals which, if continued, may lead to a ratings change. A rating may have a stable outlook to indicate that the rating is not expected to change; however, a stable rating does not preclude a rating agency from changing a rating at any time, without notice. Certain rating agencies assign rating modifiers such as CreditWatch or Under Review to indicate their opinion regarding the potential direction of a rating. These ratings modifiers are generally assigned in connection with certain events such as potential mergers and acquisitions, or material changes in a company's results, in order for the rating agencies to perform their analyses to fully determine the rating implications of the event. Certain rating agencies have recently implemented rating actions, including downgrades, outlook changes and modifiers, for MetLife, Inc.'s and certain of its subsidiaries' insurer financial strength and credit ratings.

Based on the announcement in February 2010 that MetLife was in discussions to acquire ALICO, in February 2010, S&P and A.M. Best placed the ratings of MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries on CreditWatch with negative implications

and under review with negative implications, respectively. Also in connection with the announcement, in March 2010, Moody's changed the ratings outlook of MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries from stable to negative outlook. Upon completion of the public financing transactions related to the Acquisition, in August 2010, S&P affirmed the ratings of MetLife, Inc. and subsidiaries with a negative outlook, and removed them from CreditWatch. On November 1, 2010, upon closing of the Acquisition, S&P changed the rating outlook of American Life to positive from negative and affirmed its financial strength rating; the ratings of MetLife, Inc. and its other subsidiaries were unaffected by this ratings action. Also on November 1, 2010, Fitch Ratings upgraded

S-31

Table of Contents

by one notch (and changed the rating outlook from Rating Watch Positive to stable) the financial strength rating of American Life and affirmed all existing ratings for MetLife, Inc. and its other subsidiaries. On November 4, 2010, A.M. Best upgraded by one notch the financial strength rating of American Life and changed the rating outlook from under review with positive implications to negative. A.M. Best also changed the outlook for MetLife, Inc. and certain of its other subsidiaries to negative from under review with negative implications. Effective as of January 2011, MetLife withdrew the American Life financial strength ratings by A.M. Best and Fitch Ratings as once it became a subsidiary of MetLife it was not deemed necessary to maintain stand-alone ratings.

On July 1, 2010, Moody's published revised guidance called Revisions to Moody's Hybrid Tool Kit (the *Guidance*) for assigning equity credit to so-called hybrid securities, *i.e.*, securities with both debt and equity characteristics (*Hybrids*). Moody's evaluates Hybrids using certain specified criteria and then places each such security into a basket, with a specific percentage of debt and equity being associated with each basket, which is then used to adjust full sets of financial statements for purposes of, among other things, calculating the issuing company's financial leverage. Under the Guidance, Hybrids are one element that Moody's considers within the context of an issuer's overall credit profile. As of December 31, 2010, we have approximately \$11.1 billion of Hybrids outstanding, which includes approximately \$6.2 billion of debt securities and \$4.9 billion of equity securities. Application of the Guidance has resulted in Moody's significantly reducing the amount of equity credit it assigns to these securities, including the common equity units issued to the Selling Stockholder in connection with the Acquisition. We do not expect at this time, as a result of the Guidance, that a reduction in Moody's equity treatment of our Hybrids, including the common equity units, would result in any material negative impact on MetLife, Inc.'s credit rating or the financial strength ratings of its insurance company subsidiaries. However, if we decided to increase our adjusted capital as a result of the application of the Guidance, we may seek to (i) issue additional common equity or higher equity content Hybrids satisfying the Guidance's revised rating criteria, and/or (ii) redeem, repurchase or restructure existing Hybrids. Any sale of additional common equity would have a dilutive effect on our common stockholders.

We cannot predict what actions rating agencies may take, or what actions we may take in response to the actions of rating agencies, which could adversely affect our business. As with other companies in the financial services industry, our ratings could be downgraded at any time and without any notice by any NRSRO.

An Inability to Access Our Credit Facilities Could Result in a Reduction in Our Liquidity and Lead to Downgrades in Our Credit and Financial Strength Ratings

In October 2010, we entered into two senior unsecured credit facilities: a three-year \$3 billion facility and a 364-day \$1 billion facility. We also have other facilities which we enter into in the ordinary course of business.

We rely on our credit facilities as a potential source of liquidity. The availability of these facilities could be critical to our credit and financial strength ratings and our ability to meet our obligations as they come due in a market when alternative sources of credit are tight. The credit facilities contain certain administrative, reporting, legal and financial covenants. We must comply with covenants under our credit facilities, including a requirement to maintain a specified minimum consolidated net worth.

Our right to make borrowings under these facilities is subject to the fulfillment of certain important conditions, including our compliance with all covenants, and our ability to borrow under these facilities is also subject to the continued willingness and ability of the lenders that are parties to the facilities to provide funds. Our failure to comply with the covenants in the credit facilities or fulfill the conditions to borrowings, or the failure of lenders to fund their lending commitments (whether due to insolvency, illiquidity or other reasons) in the amounts provided for under the terms of the facilities, would restrict our ability to access these credit facilities when needed and, consequently, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Defaults, Downgrades or Other Events Impairing the Carrying Value of Our Fixed Maturity or Equity Securities Portfolio May Reduce Our Earnings

We are subject to the risk that the issuers, or guarantors, of fixed maturity securities we own may default on principal and interest payments they owe us. We are also subject to the risk that the underlying collateral within loan-backed securities, including mortgage-backed securities, may default on principal and interest payments causing an adverse change in cash flows. Fixed maturity securities represent a significant portion of our investment

S-32

Table of Contents

portfolio. The occurrence of a major economic downturn, acts of corporate malfeasance, widening risk spreads, or other events that adversely affect the issuers, guarantors or underlying collateral of these securities could cause the estimated fair value of our fixed maturity securities portfolio and our earnings to decline and the default rate of the fixed maturity securities in our investment portfolio to increase. A ratings downgrade affecting issuers or guarantors of particular securities, or similar trends that could worsen the credit quality of issuers, such as the corporate issuers of securities in our investment portfolio, could also have a similar effect. With economic uncertainty, credit quality of issuers or guarantors could be adversely affected. Similarly, a ratings downgrade affecting a security we hold could indicate the credit quality of that security has deteriorated and could increase the capital we must hold to support that security to maintain our RBC levels. Any event reducing the estimated fair value of these securities other than on a temporary basis could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Levels of writedowns or impairments are impacted by our assessment of intent to sell, or whether it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell, fixed maturity securities and the intent and ability to hold equity securities which have declined in value until recovery. If we determine to reposition or realign portions of the portfolio so as not to hold certain equity securities, or intend to sell or determine that it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell, certain fixed maturity securities in an unrealized loss position prior to recovery, then we will incur an other-than-temporary impairment charge in the period that the decision was made not to hold the equity security to recovery, or to sell, or the determination was made it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell the fixed maturity security.

Our Risk Management Policies and Procedures May Leave Us Exposed to Unidentified or Unanticipated Risk, Which Could Negatively Affect Our Business

Management of risk requires, among other things, policies and procedures to record properly and verify a large number of transactions and events. We have devoted significant resources to develop our risk management policies and procedures and expect to continue to do so in the future. Nonetheless, our policies and procedures may not be comprehensive. Many of our methods for managing risk and exposures are based upon the use of observed historical market behavior or statistics based on historical models. As a result, these methods may not fully predict future exposures, which can be significantly greater than our historical measures indicate. Other risk management methods depend upon the evaluation of information regarding markets, clients, catastrophe occurrence or other matters that is publicly available or otherwise accessible to us. This information may not always be accurate, complete, up-to-date or properly evaluated.

Reinsurance May Not Be Available, Affordable or Adequate to Protect Us Against Losses

As part of our overall risk management strategy, we purchase reinsurance for certain risks underwritten by our various business segments. While reinsurance agreements generally bind the reinsurer for the life of the business reinsured at generally fixed pricing, market conditions beyond our control determine the availability and cost of the reinsurance protection for new business. In certain circumstances, the price of reinsurance for business already reinsured may also increase. Any decrease in the amount of reinsurance will increase our risk of loss and any increase in the cost of reinsurance will, absent a decrease in the amount of reinsurance, reduce our earnings. Accordingly, we may be forced to incur additional expenses for reinsurance or may not be able to obtain sufficient reinsurance on acceptable terms, which could adversely affect our ability to write future business or result in the assumption of more risk with respect to those policies we issue.

If the Counterparties to Our Reinsurance or Indemnification Arrangements or to the Derivative Instruments We Use to Hedge Our Business Risks Default or Fail to Perform, We May Be Exposed to Risks We Had Sought to Mitigate, Which Could Materially Adversely Affect Our Financial Condition and Results of Operations

We use reinsurance, indemnification and derivative instruments to mitigate our risks in various circumstances. In general, reinsurance does not relieve us of our direct liability to our policyholders, even when the reinsurer is liable to us. Accordingly, we bear credit risk with respect to our reinsurers and indemnitors. We cannot provide assurance that our reinsurers will pay the reinsurance recoverables owed to us or that indemnitors will honor their obligations now or in the future or that they will pay these recoverables on a timely basis. A reinsurer's or indemnitor's insolvency, inability or unwillingness to make payments under the terms of reinsurance agreements or indemnity agreements with us could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

S-33

Table of Contents

In addition, we use derivative instruments to hedge various business risks. We enter into a variety of derivative instruments, including options, forwards, interest rate, credit default and currency swaps with a number of counterparties. If our counterparties fail or refuse to honor their obligations under these derivative instruments, our hedges of the related risk will be ineffective. This is a more pronounced risk to us in view of the stresses suffered by financial institutions over the past few years. Such failure could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Differences Between Actual Claims Experience and Underwriting and Reserving Assumptions May Adversely Affect Our Financial Results

Our earnings significantly depend upon the extent to which our actual claims experience is consistent with the assumptions we use in setting prices for our products and establishing liabilities for future policy benefits and claims. Our liabilities for future policy benefits and claims are established based on estimates by actuaries of how much we will need to pay for future benefits and claims. For life insurance and annuity products, we calculate these liabilities based on many assumptions and estimates, including estimated premiums to be received over the assumed life of the policy, the timing of the event covered by the insurance policy, the amount of benefits or claims to be paid and the investment returns on the investments we make with the premiums we receive. We establish liabilities for property and casualty claims and benefits based on assumptions and estimates of damages and liabilities incurred. To the extent that actual claims experience is less favorable than the underlying assumptions we used in establishing such liabilities, we could be required to increase our liabilities.

Due to the nature of the underlying risks and the high degree of uncertainty associated with the determination of liabilities for future policy benefits and claims, we cannot determine precisely the amounts which we will ultimately pay to settle our liabilities. Such amounts may vary from the estimated amounts, particularly when those payments may not occur until well into the future. We evaluate our liabilities periodically based on accounting requirements, which change from time to time, the assumptions used to establish the liabilities, as well as our actual experience. We charge or credit changes in our liabilities to expenses in the period the liabilities are established or re-estimated. If the liabilities originally established for future benefit payments prove inadequate, we must increase them. Such increases could affect earnings negatively and have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Catastrophes May Adversely Impact Liabilities for Policyholder Claims and Reinsurance Availability

Our life insurance operations are exposed to the risk of catastrophic mortality, such as a pandemic or other event that causes a large number of deaths. Significant influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, but neither the likelihood, timing, nor the severity of a future pandemic can be predicted. A significant pandemic could have a major impact on the global economy or the economies of particular countries or regions, including travel, trade, tourism, the health system, food supply, consumption, overall economic output and, eventually, on the financial markets. In addition, a pandemic that affected our employees or the employees of our distributors or of other companies with which we do business could disrupt our business operations. The effectiveness of external parties, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, in combating the spread and severity of such a pandemic could have a material impact on the losses experienced by us. In our group insurance operations, a localized event that affects the workplace of one or more of our group insurance customers could cause a significant loss due to mortality or morbidity claims. These events could cause a material adverse effect on our results of operations in any period and, depending on their severity, could also materially and adversely affect our financial condition.

Our Auto & Home business has experienced, and will likely in the future experience, catastrophe losses that may have a material adverse impact on the business, results of operations and financial condition of the Auto & Home segment. Although Auto & Home makes every effort to manage our exposure to catastrophic risks through volatility

management and reinsurance programs, these efforts do not eliminate all risk. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including hurricanes, windstorms, earthquakes, hail, tornadoes, explosions, severe winter weather (including snow, freezing water, ice storms and blizzards), fires and man-made events such as terrorist attacks. Historically, substantially all of our catastrophe-related claims have related to homeowners coverages. However, catastrophes may also affect other Auto & Home coverages. Due to their nature, we cannot predict the incidence, timing and severity of catastrophes. In addition, changing climate conditions, primarily rising global

Table of Contents

temperatures, may be increasing, or may in the future increase, the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes such as hurricanes.

Hurricanes and earthquakes are of particular note for our homeowners coverages. Areas of major hurricane exposure include coastal sections of the northeastern United States (including lower New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts), the Gulf Coast (including Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas) and Florida. We also have some earthquake exposure, primarily along the New Madrid fault line in the central United States and in the Pacific Northwest.

The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. Most catastrophes are restricted to small geographic areas; however, hurricanes, earthquakes and man-made catastrophes may produce significant damage or loss of life in larger areas, especially those that are heavily populated. Claims resulting from natural or man-made catastrophic events could cause substantial volatility in our financial results for any fiscal quarter or year and could materially reduce our profitability or harm our financial condition. Also, catastrophic events could harm the financial condition of our reinsurers and thereby increase the probability of default on reinsurance recoveries. Our ability to write new business could also be affected. It is possible that increases in the value, caused by the effects of inflation or other factors, and geographic concentration of insured property, could increase the severity of claims from catastrophic events in the future.

Most of the jurisdictions in which our insurance subsidiaries are admitted to transact business require life and property and casualty insurers doing business within the jurisdiction to participate in guaranty associations, which are organized to pay contractual benefits owed pursuant to insurance policies issued by impaired, insolvent or failed insurers. These associations levy assessments, up to prescribed limits, on all member insurers in a particular state on the basis of the proportionate share of the premiums written by member insurers in the lines of business in which the impaired, insolvent or failed insurer is engaged. In addition, certain states have government owned or controlled organizations providing life and property and casualty insurance to their citizens. The activities of such organizations could also place additional stress on the adequacy of guaranty fund assessments. Many of these organizations also have the power to levy assessments similar to those of the guaranty associations described above. Some states permit member insurers to recover assessments paid through full or partial premium tax offsets.

While in the past five years, the aggregate assessments levied against MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries have not been material, it is possible that a large catastrophic event could render such guaranty funds inadequate and we may be called upon to contribute additional amounts, which may have a material impact on our financial condition or results of operations in a particular period. We have established liabilities for guaranty fund assessments that we consider adequate for assessments with respect to insurers that are currently subject to insolvency proceedings, but additional liabilities may be necessary.

Consistent with industry practice and accounting standards, we establish liabilities for claims arising from a catastrophe only after assessing the probable losses arising from the event. We cannot be certain that the liabilities we have established will be adequate to cover actual claim liabilities. From time to time, states have passed legislation that has the effect of limiting the ability of insurers to manage risk, such as legislation restricting an insurer's ability to withdraw from catastrophe-prone areas. While we attempt to limit our exposure to acceptable levels, subject to restrictions imposed by insurance regulatory authorities, a catastrophic event or multiple catastrophic events could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our ability to manage this risk and the profitability of our property and casualty and life insurance businesses depends in part on our ability to obtain catastrophe reinsurance, which may not be available at commercially acceptable rates in the future. *See* Reinsurance May Not Be Available, Affordable or Adequate to Protect Us Against Losses.

Our Statutory Reserve Financings May Be Subject to Cost Increases and New Financings May Be Subject to Limited Market Capacity

To support statutory reserves for several products, including, but not limited to, our level premium term life and universal life with secondary guarantees and MLIC's closed block, we currently utilize capital markets solutions for

S-35

Table of Contents

financing a portion of our statutory reserve requirements. While we have financing facilities in place for our previously written business and have remaining capacity in existing facilities to support writings through the end of 2010 or later, certain of these facilities are subject to cost increases upon the occurrence of specified ratings downgrades of MetLife or are subject to periodic repricing. Any resulting cost increases could negatively impact our financial results.

Future capacity for these statutory reserve funding structures in the marketplace is not guaranteed. If capacity becomes unavailable for a prolonged period of time, hindering our ability to obtain funding for these new structures, our ability to write additional business in a cost effective manner may be impacted.

Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability

Our segments are subject to intense competition. We believe that this competition is based on a number of factors, including service, product features, scale, price, financial strength, claims-paying ratings, credit ratings, e-business capabilities and name recognition. We compete with a large number of other insurers, as well as non-insurance financial services companies, such as banks, broker-dealers and asset managers, for individual consumers, employers and other group customers and agents and other distributors of insurance and investment products. Some of these companies offer a broader array of products, have more competitive pricing or more attractive features in their products or, with respect to other insurers, have higher claims paying ability ratings. Some may also have greater financial resources with which to compete. National banks, which may sell annuity products of life insurers in some circumstances, also have pre-existing customer bases for financial services products. Many of our group insurance products are underwritten annually, and, accordingly, there is a risk that group purchasers may be able to obtain more favorable terms from competitors rather than renewing coverage with us. The effect of competition may, as a result, adversely affect the persistency of these and other products, as well as our ability to sell products in the future.

In addition, the investment management and securities brokerage businesses have relatively few barriers to entry and continually attract new entrants.

Finally, the new requirements imposed on the financial industry by Dodd-Frank could similarly have differential effects. *See* Various Aspects of Dodd-Frank Could Impact Our Business Operations, Capital Requirements and Profitability and Limit Our Growth.

Industry Trends Could Adversely Affect the Profitability of Our Businesses

Our segments continue to be influenced by a variety of trends that affect the insurance industry, including competition with respect to product features, price, distribution capability, customer service and information technology. The impact on our business and on the life insurance industry generally of the volatility and instability of the financial markets is difficult to predict, and our business plans, financial condition and results of operations may be negatively impacted or affected in other unexpected ways. In addition, the life insurance industry is subject to state regulation, and, as complex products are introduced, regulators may refine capital requirements and introduce new reserving standards. Dodd-Frank, Basel III and the market environment in general may also lead to changes in regulation that may benefit or disadvantage us relative to some of our competitors. *See* Our Insurance, Brokerage and Banking Businesses Are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth and Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability.

Consolidation of Distributors of Insurance Products May Adversely Affect the Insurance Industry and the Profitability of Our Business

The insurance industry distributes many of its individual products through other financial institutions such as banks and broker-dealers. An increase in bank and broker-dealer consolidation activity may negatively impact the industry's sales, and such consolidation could increase competition for access to distributors, result in greater distribution expenses and impair our ability to market insurance products to our current customer base or to expand our customer base. Consolidation of distributors and/or other industry changes may also increase the likelihood that distributors will try to renegotiate the terms of any existing selling agreements to terms less favorable to us.

S-36

Table of Contents***Our Valuation of Fixed Maturity, Equity and Trading and Other Securities and Short-Term Investments May Include Methodologies, Estimations and Assumptions Which Are Subject to Differing Interpretations and Could Result in Changes to Investment Valuations That May Materially Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations or Financial Condition***

Fixed maturity, equity, and trading and other securities and short-term investments which are reported at estimated fair value on the consolidated balance sheets represent the majority of our total cash and investments. We have categorized these securities into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of the inputs to the respective valuation technique.

The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). An asset or liability's classification within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of significant input to its valuation. The input levels are as follows:

Level 1 Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. We define active markets based on average trading volume for equity securities. The size of the bid/ask spread is used as an indicator of market activity for fixed maturity securities.

Level 2 Quoted prices in markets that are not active or inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities other than quoted prices in Level 1; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other significant inputs that are observable or can be derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and are significant to the estimated fair value of the assets or liabilities. Unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose values are determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which the determination of the estimated fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation.

At December 31, 2010, 7.0%, 85.8% and 7.2% of these securities represented Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, respectively. The Level 1 securities primarily consist of certain U.S. Treasury, agency and government guaranteed fixed maturity securities; certain foreign government fixed maturity securities; exchange-traded common stock; certain trading securities; certain fair value option securities and certain short-term investments. The Level 2 assets include fixed maturity and equity securities priced principally through independent pricing services using observable inputs. These fixed maturity securities include most U.S. Treasury, agency and government guaranteed securities, as well as the majority of U.S. and foreign corporate securities, RMBS, CMBS, state and political subdivision securities, foreign government securities, and ABS. Equity securities classified as Level 2 primarily consist of non-redeemable preferred securities and certain equity securities where market quotes are available but are not considered actively traded and are priced by independent pricing services. We review the valuation methodologies used by the independent pricing services on an ongoing basis and ensure that any changes to valuation methodologies are justified. Level 3 assets include fixed maturity securities priced principally through independent non-binding broker quotations or market standard valuation methodologies using inputs that are not market observable or cannot be derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data. Level 3 consists of less liquid fixed maturity securities with very limited trading activity or where less price transparency exists around the inputs to the valuation methodologies including: U.S. and foreign corporate securities including below investment grade private placements; RMBS; CMBS; and ABS including all of those supported by sub-prime mortgage loans. Equity securities classified as Level 3 securities consist principally of nonredeemable preferred stock and common stock of companies that are privately held or companies for which there has been very limited trading activity or where less price transparency

exists around the inputs to the valuation.

Prices provided by independent pricing services and independent non-binding broker quotations can vary widely even for the same security.

The determination of estimated fair values by management in the absence of quoted market prices is based on: (i) valuation methodologies; (ii) securities we deem to be comparable; and (iii) assumptions deemed appropriate

S-37

Table of Contents

given the circumstances. The fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on available market information and judgments about financial instruments, including estimates of the timing and amounts of expected future cash flows and the credit standing of the issuer or counterparty. Factors considered in estimating fair value include: coupon rate, maturity, estimated duration, call provisions, sinking fund requirements, credit rating, industry sector of the issuer, and quoted market prices of comparable securities. The use of different methodologies and assumptions may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts. During periods of market disruption including periods of significantly rising or high interest rates, rapidly widening credit spreads or illiquidity, it may be difficult to value certain of our securities, for example sub-prime mortgage-backed securities, mortgage-backed securities where the underlying loans are Alt-A and CMBS, if trading becomes less frequent and/or market data becomes less observable. In times of financial market disruption, certain asset classes that were in active markets with significant observable data may become illiquid. In such cases, more securities may fall to Level 3 and thus require more subjectivity and management judgment. As such, valuations may include inputs and assumptions that are less observable or require greater estimation, as well as valuation methods which are more sophisticated or require greater estimation thereby resulting in estimated fair values which may be greater or less than the amount at which the investments may be ultimately sold. Further, rapidly changing and unprecedented credit and equity market conditions could materially impact the valuation of securities as reported within our consolidated financial statements and the period-to-period changes in estimated fair value could vary significantly. Decreases in value may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

If Our Business Does Not Perform Well, We May Be Required to Recognize an Impairment of Our Goodwill or Other Long-Lived Assets or to Establish a Valuation Allowance Against the Deferred Income Tax Asset, Which Could Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations or Financial Condition

Goodwill represents the excess of the amounts we paid to acquire subsidiaries and other businesses over the estimated fair value of their net assets at the date of acquisition. As of December 31, 2010, our goodwill was \$11,781 million, of which \$6,959 million of goodwill was established in connection with the acquisition of ALICO. We test goodwill at least annually for impairment. Impairment testing is performed based upon estimates of the estimated fair value of the reporting unit to which the goodwill relates. The reporting unit is the operating segment or a business one level below that operating segment if discrete financial information is prepared and regularly reviewed by management at that level. The estimated fair value of the reporting unit is impacted by the performance of the business. The performance of our businesses may be adversely impacted by prolonged market declines. If it is determined that the goodwill has been impaired, we must write down the goodwill by the amount of the impairment, with a corresponding charge to net income. Such writedowns could have an adverse effect on our results of operation or financial position. For example, our goodwill has increased substantially as a result of the Acquisition. Market factors, the failure of ALICO to perform well, or issues relating to the integration of ALICO could result in the reporting units containing parts of ALICO having fair values lower than their respective carrying values, which would result in a writedown of goodwill and, consequently, it could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Long-lived assets, including assets such as real estate, also require impairment testing to determine whether changes in circumstances indicate that MetLife will be unable to recover the carrying amount of the asset group through future operations of that asset group or market conditions that will impact the estimated fair value of those assets. Such writedowns could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position.

Deferred income tax represents the tax effect of the differences between the book and tax basis of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets are assessed periodically by management to determine if they are realizable. Factors in management's determination include the performance of the business including the ability to generate future taxable income. If based on available information, it is more likely than not that the deferred income tax asset will not be realized then a valuation allowance must be established with a corresponding charge to net income. Such charges could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position.

Table of Contents***If Our Business Does Not Perform Well or if Actual Experience Versus Estimates Used in Valuing and Amortizing DAC, Deferred Sales Inducements (DSI) and VOBA Vary Significantly, We May Be Required to Accelerate the Amortization and/or Impair the DAC, DSI and VOBA Which Could Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations or Financial Condition***

We incur significant costs in connection with acquiring new and renewal business. Those costs that vary with and are primarily related to the production of new and renewal business are deferred and referred to as DAC. Bonus amounts credited to certain policyholders, either immediately upon receiving a deposit or as excess interest credits for a period of time, are referred to as DSI. The recovery of DAC and DSI is dependent upon the future profitability of the related business. The amount of future profit or margin is dependent principally on investment returns in excess of the amounts credited to policyholders, mortality, morbidity, persistency, interest crediting rates, dividends paid to policyholders, expenses to administer the business, creditworthiness of reinsurance counterparties and certain economic variables, such as inflation. Of these factors, we anticipate that investment returns are most likely to impact the rate of amortization of such costs. The aforementioned factors enter into management's estimates of gross profits or margins, which generally are used to amortize such costs.

If the estimates of gross profits or margins were overstated, then the amortization of such costs would be accelerated in the period the actual experience is known and would result in a charge to income. Significant or sustained equity market declines could result in an acceleration of amortization of the DAC and DSI related to variable annuity and variable universal life contracts, resulting in a charge to income. Such adjustments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

VOBA is an intangible asset that represents the excess of book value over the estimated fair value of acquired insurance, annuity, and investment-type contracts in-force at the acquisition date. The estimated fair value of the acquired liabilities is based on actuarially determined projections, by each block of business, of future policy and contract charges, premiums, mortality and morbidity, separate account performance, surrenders, operating expenses, investment returns, nonperformance risk adjustment and other factors. Actual experience on the purchased business may vary from these projections. Revisions to estimates result in changes to the amounts expensed in the reporting period in which the revisions are made and could result in a charge to income. Also, as VOBA is amortized similarly to DAC and DSI, an acceleration of the amortization of VOBA would occur if the estimates of gross profits or margins were overstated. Accordingly, the amortization of such costs would be accelerated in the period in which the actual experience is known and would result in a charge to net income. Significant or sustained equity market declines could result in an acceleration of amortization of the VOBA related to variable annuity and variable universal life contracts, resulting in a charge to income. Such adjustments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Changes in Accounting Standards Issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or Other Standard-Setting Bodies May Adversely Affect Our Financial Statements

Our financial statements are subject to the application of GAAP (as defined below), which is periodically revised and/or expanded. Accordingly, from time to time we are required to adopt new or revised accounting standards issued by recognized authoritative bodies, including the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Market conditions have prompted accounting standard setters to expose new guidance which further interprets or seeks to revise accounting pronouncements related to financial instruments, structures or transactions, as well as to issue new standards expanding disclosures. The impact of accounting pronouncements that have been issued but not yet implemented is disclosed in the 2010 Form 10-K and in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. An assessment of proposed standards is not provided as such proposals are subject to change through the exposure process and, therefore, the effects on our financial statements cannot be meaningfully assessed. It is possible that future accounting standards we are required to adopt could change the current accounting treatment that we apply to our consolidated financial statements and that

such changes could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

S-39

Table of Contents***Changes in Our Discount Rate, Expected Rate of Return and Expected Compensation Increase Assumptions for Our Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans May Result in Increased Expenses and Reduce Our Profitability***

We determine our pension and other postretirement benefit plan costs based on our best estimates of future plan experience. These assumptions are reviewed regularly and include discount rates, expected rates of return on plan assets and expected increases in compensation levels and expected medical inflation. Changes in these assumptions may result in increased expenses and reduce our profitability.

Guarantees Within Certain of Our Products that Protect Policyholders Against Significant Downturns in Equity Markets May Decrease Our Earnings, Increase the Volatility of Our Results if Hedging or Risk Management Strategies Prove Ineffective, Result in Higher Hedging Costs and Expose Us to Increased Counterparty Risk

Certain of our variable annuity products include guaranteed benefits. These include guaranteed death benefits, guaranteed withdrawal benefits, lifetime withdrawal guarantees, guaranteed minimum accumulation benefits, and guaranteed minimum income benefits. Periods of significant and sustained downturns in equity markets, increased equity volatility, or reduced interest rates could result in an increase in the valuation of the future policy benefit or policyholder account balance liabilities associated with such products, resulting in a reduction to net income. We use reinsurance in combination with derivative instruments to mitigate the liability exposure and the volatility of net income associated with these liabilities, and while we believe that these and other actions have mitigated the risks related to these benefits, we remain liable for the guaranteed benefits in the event that reinsurers or derivative counterparties are unable or unwilling to pay. In addition, we are subject to the risk that hedging and other management procedures prove ineffective or that unanticipated policyholder behavior or mortality, combined with adverse market events, produces economic losses beyond the scope of the risk management techniques employed. These, individually or collectively, may have a material adverse effect on net income, financial condition or liquidity. We are also subject to the risk that the cost of hedging these guaranteed minimum benefits increases as implied volatilities increase and/or interest rates decrease, resulting in a reduction to net income.

The valuation of certain of the foregoing liabilities (carried at fair value) includes an adjustment for nonperformance risk that reflects the credit standing of the issuing entity. This adjustment, which is not hedged, is based in part on publicly available information regarding credit spreads related to MetLife, Inc.'s debt, including credit default swaps. In periods of extreme market volatility, movements in these credit spreads can have a significant impact on net income.

Guarantees Within Certain of Our Life and Annuity Products May Increase Our Exposure to Foreign Exchange Risk, and Decrease Our Earnings

Certain of our life and annuity products are exposed to foreign exchange risk. Payments under these contracts may be required to be made in different currencies, depending on the circumstances. Therefore, payments may be required in a different currency than the currency upon which the liability valuation is based. If the currency upon which expected future payments are made strengthens relative to the currency upon which the liability valuation is based, the liability valuation may increase, resulting in a reduction of net income.

We May Need to Fund Deficiencies in Our Closed Block; Assets Allocated to the Closed Block Benefit Only the Holders of Closed Block Policies

MLIC's plan of reorganization, as amended (the *Plan of Reorganization*), required that we establish and operate an accounting mechanism, known as a closed block, to ensure that the reasonable dividend expectations of policyholders who own certain individual insurance policies of MLIC are met. We allocated assets to the closed block in an amount

that will produce cash flows which, together with anticipated revenue from the policies included in the closed block, are reasonably expected to be sufficient to support obligations and liabilities relating to these policies, including, but not limited to, provisions for the payment of claims and certain expenses and tax, and to provide for the continuation of the policyholder dividend scales in effect for 1999, if the experience underlying such scales continues, and for appropriate adjustments in such scales if the experience changes. We cannot provide assurance that the closed block assets, the cash flows generated by the closed block assets and the anticipated revenue from the policies included in the closed block will be sufficient to provide for the benefits guaranteed under

S-40

Table of Contents

these policies. If they are not sufficient, we must fund the shortfall. Even if they are sufficient, we may choose, for competitive reasons, to support policyholder dividend payments with our general account funds.

The closed block assets, the cash flows generated by the closed block assets and the anticipated revenue from the policies in the closed block will benefit only the holders of those policies. In addition, to the extent that these amounts are greater than the amounts estimated at the time the closed block was funded, dividends payable in respect of the policies included in the closed block may be greater than they would be in the absence of a closed block. Any excess earnings will be available for distribution over time only to closed block policyholders.

Litigation and Regulatory Investigations Are Increasingly Common in Our Businesses and May Result in Significant Financial Losses and/or Harm to Our Reputation

We face a significant risk of litigation and regulatory investigations and actions in the ordinary course of operating our businesses, including the risk of class action lawsuits. Our pending legal and regulatory actions include proceedings specific to us and others generally applicable to business practices in the industries in which we operate. In connection with our insurance operations, plaintiffs' lawyers may bring or are bringing class actions and individual suits alleging, among other things, issues relating to sales or underwriting practices, claims payments and procedures, product design, disclosure, administration, denial or delay of benefits and breaches of fiduciary or other duties to customers. Plaintiffs in class action and other lawsuits against us may seek very large or indeterminate amounts, including punitive and treble damages, and the damages claimed and the amount of any probable and estimable liability, if any, may remain unknown for substantial periods of time.

Due to the vagaries of litigation, the outcome of a litigation matter and the amount or range of potential loss at particular points in time may normally be difficult to ascertain. Uncertainties can include how fact finders will evaluate documentary evidence and the credibility and effectiveness of witness testimony, and how trial and appellate courts will apply the law in the context of the pleadings or evidence presented, whether by motion practice, or at trial or on appeal. Disposition valuations are also subject to the uncertainty of how opposing parties and their counsel will themselves view the relevant evidence and applicable law.

On a quarterly and annual basis, we review relevant information with respect to litigation and contingencies to be reflected in our consolidated financial statements. The review includes senior legal and financial personnel. Estimates of possible losses or ranges of loss for particular matters cannot in the ordinary course be made with a reasonable degree of certainty. Liabilities are established when it is probable that a loss has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

Liabilities have been established for a number of matters. It is possible that some of the matters could require us to pay damages or make other expenditures or establish accruals in amounts that could not be estimated at December 31, 2010.

MLIC and its affiliates are currently defendants in numerous lawsuits including class actions and individual suits, alleging improper marketing or sales of individual life insurance policies, annuities, mutual funds or other products.

In addition, MLIC is a defendant in a large number of lawsuits seeking compensatory and punitive damages for personal injuries allegedly caused by exposure to asbestos or asbestos-containing products. These lawsuits principally have focused on allegations with respect to certain research, publication and other activities of one or more of MLIC's employees during the period from the 1920's through approximately the 1950's and have alleged that MLIC learned or should have learned of certain health risks posed by asbestos and, among other things, improperly publicized or failed to disclose those health risks. Additional litigation relating to these matters may be commenced in the future. The ability of MLIC to estimate its ultimate asbestos exposure is subject to considerable uncertainty, and the conditions

impacting its liability can be dynamic and subject to change. The availability of reliable data is limited and it is difficult to predict with any certainty the numerous variables that can affect liability estimates, including the number of future claims, the cost to resolve claims, the disease mix and severity of disease in pending and future claims, the impact of the number of new claims filed in a particular jurisdiction and variations in the law in the jurisdictions in which claims are filed, the possible impact of tort reform efforts, the willingness of courts to allow plaintiffs to pursue claims against MLIC when exposure took place after the dangers of asbestos exposure were well known, and the impact of any possible future adverse verdicts and their amounts. The number of

S-41

Table of Contents

asbestos cases that may be brought or the aggregate amount of any liability that MLIC may incur, and the total amount paid in settlements in any given year are uncertain and may vary significantly from year to year. Accordingly, it is reasonably possible that our total exposure to asbestos claims may be materially greater than the liability recorded by us in our consolidated financial statements and that future charges to income may be necessary. The potential future charges could be material in the particular quarterly or annual periods in which they are recorded.

We are also subject to various regulatory inquiries, such as information requests, subpoenas and books and record examinations, from state and federal regulators and other authorities. A substantial legal liability or a significant regulatory action against us could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, even if we ultimately prevail in the litigation, regulatory action or investigation, we could suffer significant reputational harm, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations, including our ability to attract new customers, retain our current customers and recruit and retain employees. Regulatory inquiries and litigation may cause volatility in the price of stocks of companies in our industry.

The New York Attorney General announced on July 29, 2010 that his office had launched a major fraud investigation into the life insurance industry for practices related to the use of retained asset accounts as a settlement option for death benefits and that subpoenas requesting comprehensive data related to retained asset accounts have been served on MetLife and other insurance carriers. We received the subpoena on July 30, 2010. We also have received requests for documents and information from U.S. congressional committees and members as well as various state regulatory bodies, including the New York Insurance Department. It is possible that other state and federal regulators or legislative bodies may pursue similar investigations or make related inquiries. We cannot predict what effect any such investigations might have on our earnings or the availability of our retained asset account known as the Total Control Account (TCA), but we believe that our financial statements taken as a whole would not be materially affected. We believe that any allegations that information about the TCA is not adequately disclosed or that the accounts are fraudulent or violate state or federal laws are without merit.

We cannot give assurance that current claims, litigation, unasserted claims probable of assertion, investigations and other proceedings against us will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. It is also possible that related or unrelated claims, litigation, unasserted claims probable of assertion, investigations and proceedings may be commenced in the future, and we could become subject to further investigations and have lawsuits filed or enforcement actions initiated against us. In addition, increased regulatory scrutiny and any resulting investigations or proceedings could result in new legal actions and precedents and industry-wide regulations that could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We May Not be Able to Protect Our Intellectual Property and May be Subject to Infringement Claims

We rely on a combination of contractual rights with third parties and copyright, trademark, patent and trade secret laws to establish and protect our intellectual property. Although we endeavor to protect our rights, third parties may infringe or misappropriate our intellectual property. We may have to litigate to enforce and protect our copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets and know-how or to determine their scope, validity or enforceability. This would represent a diversion of resources that may be significant and our efforts may not prove successful. The inability to secure or protect our intellectual property assets could have a material adverse effect on our business and our ability to compete.

We may be subject to claims by third parties for (i) patent, trademark or copyright infringement, (ii) breach of copyright, trademark or license usage rights, or (iii) misappropriation of trade secrets. Any such claims and any resulting litigation could result in significant expense and liability for damages. If we were found to have infringed or misappropriated a third-party patent or other intellectual property right, we could in some circumstances be enjoined from providing certain products or services to our customers or from utilizing and benefiting from certain methods,

processes, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets or licenses. Alternatively, we could be required to enter into costly licensing arrangements with third parties or implement a costly work around. Any of these scenarios could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

S-42

Table of Contents***New and Impending Compensation and Corporate Governance Regulations Could Hinder or Prevent Us From Attracting and Retaining Management and Other Employees with the Talent and Experience to Manage and Conduct Our Business Effectively***

The compensation and corporate governance practices of financial institutions have become and will continue to be subject to increasing regulation and scrutiny. Dodd-Frank includes new requirements that will affect our corporate governance and compensation practices, including some that have resulted in (or are likely to lead to) shareholders having the limited right to use MetLife, Inc.'s proxy statement to solicit proxies to vote for their own candidates for director, impose additional requirements for membership on Board committees, requirements for additional shareholder votes on compensation matters, requirements for policies to recover compensation previously paid to certain executives under certain circumstances, elimination of broker discretionary voting on compensation matters, requirements for additional performance and compensation disclosure, and other requirements. *See* Various Aspects of Dodd-Frank Could Impact Our Business Operations, Capital Requirements and Profitability and Limit Our Growth. In addition, the Federal Reserve Board, the FDIC and other U.S. bank regulators have released guidelines on incentive compensation that may apply to or impact MetLife, Inc. as a bank holding company. These requirements and restrictions, and others Congress or regulators may propose or implement, could hinder or prevent us from attracting and retaining management and other employees with the talent and experience to manage and conduct our business effectively.

Although AIG has received assurances from the Troubled Asset Relief Program Special Master for Executive Compensation that neither we nor ALICO will be subject to compensation related requirements and restrictions under programs established in whole or in part under EESA, there can be no assurance that the Acquisition will not lead to greater public or governmental scrutiny, regulation, or restrictions on our compensation practices as a result of the Acquisition and expansion into new markets outside the United States, whether in connection with AIG's having received U.S. government funding or as a result of other factors.

Legislative and Regulatory Activity in Health Care and Other Employee Benefits Could Increase the Costs or Administrative Burdens of Providing Benefits to Our Employees or Hinder or Prevent Us From Attracting and Retaining Employees, or Affect our Profitability As a Provider of Life Insurance, Annuities, and Non-Medical Health Insurance Benefit Products

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, signed into law on March 23, 2010, and The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, signed into law on March 30, 2010 (together, the *Health Care Act*), may lead to fundamental changes in the way that employers, including us, provide health care benefits, other benefits, and other forms of compensation to their employees and former employees. Among other changes, and subject to various effective dates, the Health Care Act generally restricts certain limits on benefits, mandates coverage for certain kinds of care, extends the required coverage of dependent children through age 26, eliminates pre-existing condition exclusions or limitations, requires cost reporting and, in some cases, requires premium rebates to participants under certain circumstances, limits coverage waiting periods, establishes several penalties on employers who fail to offer sufficient coverage to their full-time employees, and requires employers under certain circumstances to provide employees with vouchers to purchase their own health care coverage. The Health Care Act also provides for increased taxation of high cost coverage, restricts the tax deductibility of certain compensation paid by health insurers, reduces the tax deductibility of retiree health care costs to the extent of any retiree prescription drug benefit subsidy provided to the employer by the federal government, increases Medicare taxes on certain high earners, and establishes health insurance exchanges for individual purchases of health insurance.

The impact of the Health Care Act on us as an employer and on the benefit plans we sponsor for employees or retirees and their dependents, whether those benefits remain competitive or effective in meeting their business objectives, and our costs to provide such benefits and our tax liabilities in connection with benefits or compensation, cannot be

predicted. Furthermore, we cannot predict the impact of choices that will be made by various regulators, including the United States Treasury, the IRS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and state regulators, to promulgate regulations or guidance, or to make determinations under or related to the Health Care Act. Either the Health Care Act or any of these regulatory actions could adversely affect our ability to attract, retain, and motivate talented associates. They could also result in increased or unpredictable costs to provide

S-43

Table of Contents

employee benefits, and could harm our competitive position if we are subject to fees, penalties, tax provisions or other limitations in the Health Care Act and our competitors are not.

The Health Care Act also imposes requirements on us as a provider of non-medical health insurance benefit products, subject to various effective dates. It also imposes requirements on the purchasers of certain of these products and has implications for certain other MLIC products, such as annuities. We cannot predict the impact of the Act or of regulations, guidance or determinations made by various regulators, on the various products that we offer. Either the Health Care Act or any of these regulatory actions could adversely affect our ability to offer certain of these products in the same manner as we do today. They could also result in increased or unpredictable costs to provide certain products, and could harm our competitive position if the Health Care Act has a disparate impact on our products compared to products offered by our competitors.

The Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010 also includes certain provisions for defined benefit pension plan funding relief. These provisions may impact the likelihood and/or timing of corporate plan sponsors terminating their plans and/or engaging in transactions to partially or fully transfer pension obligations to an insurance company. As part of our Corporate Benefit Funding segment, we offer general account and separate account group annuity products that enable a plan sponsor to transfer these risks, often in connection with the termination of defined benefit pension plans. Consequently, this legislation could indirectly affect the mix of our business, with fewer closeouts and more non-guaranteed funding products, and adversely impact our results of operations.

Changes in U.S. Federal and State Securities Laws and Regulations, and State Insurance Regulations Regarding Suitability of Annuity Product Sales, May Affect Our Operations and Our Profitability

Federal and state securities laws and regulations apply to insurance products that are also securities, including variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. As a result, some of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries and their activities in offering and selling variable insurance contracts and policies are subject to extensive regulation under these securities laws. These subsidiaries issue variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies through separate accounts that are registered with the SEC as investment companies under the Investment Company Act. Each registered separate account is generally divided into sub-accounts, each of which invests in an underlying mutual fund which is itself a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act. In addition, the variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies issued by the separate accounts are registered with the SEC under the Securities Act. Other subsidiaries are registered with the SEC as broker-dealers under the Exchange Act, and are members of and subject to regulation by FINRA. Further, some of our subsidiaries are registered as investment advisers with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and are also registered as investment advisers in various states, as applicable.

Federal and state securities laws and regulations are primarily intended to ensure the integrity of the financial markets and to protect investors in the securities markets, as well as protect investment advisory or brokerage clients. These laws and regulations generally grant regulatory agencies broad rulemaking and enforcement powers, including the power to limit or restrict the conduct of business for failure to comply with the securities laws and regulations. A number of changes have recently been suggested to the laws and regulations that govern the conduct of our variable insurance products business and our distributors that could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. For example, Dodd-Frank authorizes the SEC to establish a standard of conduct applicable to brokers and dealers when providing personalized investment advice to retail and other customers. This standard of conduct would be to act in the best interest of the customer without regard to the financial or other interest of the broker or dealer providing the advice. Further, proposals have been made that the SEC establish a self-regulatory organization with respect to registered investment advisers, which could increase the level of regulatory oversight over such investment advisers.

In addition, state insurance regulators are becoming more active in adopting and enforcing suitability standards with respect to sales of annuities, both fixed and variable. In particular, the NAIC has adopted a revised Suitability in Annuity Transactions Model Regulation (*SAT*), that will, if enacted by the states, place new responsibilities upon issuing insurance companies with respect to the suitability of annuity sales, including responsibilities for training agents. Several states have already enacted laws based on the SAT.

S-44

Table of Contents

We also may be subject to similar laws and regulations in the foreign countries in which we offer products or conduct other activities similar to those described above.

Changes in Tax Laws, Tax Regulations, or Interpretations of Such Laws or Regulations Could Increase Our Corporate Taxes; Changes in Tax Laws Could Make Some of Our Products Less Attractive to Consumers

Changes in tax laws, Treasury and other regulations promulgated thereunder, or interpretations of such laws or regulations could increase our corporate taxes. The Obama Administration has proposed corporate tax changes. Changes in corporate tax rates could affect the value of deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities. Furthermore, the value of deferred tax assets could be impacted by future earnings levels.

Changes in tax laws could make some of our products less attractive to consumers. A shift away from life insurance and annuity contracts and other tax-deferred products would reduce our income from sales of these products, as well as the assets upon which we earn investment income. The Obama Administration has proposed certain changes to individual income tax rates and rules applicable to certain policies.

We cannot predict whether any tax legislation impacting corporate taxes or insurance products will be enacted, what the specific terms of any such legislation will be or whether, if at all, any legislation would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Changes to Regulations Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 Could Adversely Affect Our Distribution Model by Restricting Our Ability to Provide Customers With Advice

The prohibited transaction rules of the U.S. Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (*ERISA*) and the Internal Revenue Code generally restrict the provision of investment advice to ERISA plans and participants and Individual Retirement Accounts (*IRAs*) if the investment recommendation results in fees paid to the individual advisor, his or her firm or their affiliates that vary according to the investment recommendation chosen. In March 2010, the United States Department of Labor (the *DOL*) issued proposed regulations which provide limited relief from these investment advice restrictions. If the proposed rules are issued in final form and no additional relief is provided regarding these investment advice restrictions, the ability of our affiliated broker-dealers and their registered representatives to provide investment advice to ERISA plans and participants, and with respect to IRAs, would likely be significantly restricted. Also, the fee and revenue arrangements of certain advisory programs may be required to be revenue neutral, resulting in potential lost revenues for these broker-dealers and their affiliates.

Other proposed regulatory initiatives under ERISA also may negatively impact the current business model of our broker-dealers. In particular, the DOL issued a proposed regulation in October 2010 that would, if adopted as proposed, significantly broaden the circumstances under which a person or entity providing investment advice with respect to ERISA plans or IRAs would be deemed a fiduciary under ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code. If adopted, the proposed regulations may make it easier for the DOL in enforcement actions, and for plaintiffs' attorneys in ERISA litigation, to attempt to extend fiduciary status to advisors who would not be deemed fiduciaries under current regulations.

In addition, the DOL has issued a number of regulations recently that increase the level of disclosure that must be provided to plan sponsors and participants, and may issue additional such regulations in 2011. These ERISA disclosure requirements will likely increase the regulatory and compliance burden upon MetLife, resulting in increased costs.

We May Be Unable to Attract and Retain Sales Representatives for Our Products

We must attract and retain productive sales representatives to sell our insurance, annuities and investment products. Strong competition exists among insurers for sales representatives with demonstrated ability. In addition, there is competition for representatives with other types of financial services firms, such as independent broker-dealers.

We compete with other insurers for sales representatives primarily on the basis of our financial position, support services and compensation and product features. We continue to undertake several initiatives to grow our career agency force while continuing to enhance the efficiency and production of our existing sales force. We cannot

S-45

Table of Contents

provide assurance that these initiatives will succeed in attracting and retaining new agents. Sales of individual insurance, annuities and investment products and our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected if we are unsuccessful in attracting and retaining agents.

MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors May Control the Outcome of Stockholder Votes on Many Matters Due to the Voting Provisions of the MetLife Policyholder Trust

Under the Plan of Reorganization, we established the MetLife Policyholder Trust (the *Trust*) to hold the shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock allocated to eligible policyholders not receiving cash or policy credits under the Plan of Reorganization. As of February 18, 2011, the Trust held 220,255,199 shares, or 22.3%, of the outstanding shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock. Because of the number of shares held in the Trust and the voting provisions of the Trust, the Trust may affect the outcome of matters brought to a stockholder vote.

Except on votes regarding certain fundamental corporate actions described below, the trustee will vote all of the shares of common stock held in the Trust in accordance with the recommendations given by MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors to its stockholders or, if the Board gives no such recommendations, as directed by the Board. As a result of the voting provisions of the Trust, the Board of Directors may be able to control votes on matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, excluding those fundamental corporate actions, so long as the Trust holds a substantial number of shares of common stock.

If the vote relates to fundamental corporate actions specified in the Trust, the trustee will solicit instructions from the Trust beneficiaries and vote all shares held in the Trust in proportion to the instructions it receives. These actions include:

an election or removal of directors in which a stockholder has properly nominated one or more candidates in opposition to a nominee or nominees of MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors or a vote on a stockholder's proposal to oppose a Board nominee for director, remove a director for cause or fill a vacancy caused by the removal of a director by stockholders, subject to certain conditions;

a merger or consolidation, a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the assets, or a recapitalization or dissolution, of MetLife, Inc., in each case requiring a vote of stockholders under applicable Delaware law;

any transaction that would result in an exchange or conversion of shares of common stock held by the Trust for cash, securities or other property; and

any proposal requiring MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors to amend or redeem the rights under MetLife, Inc.'s stockholder rights plan, other than a proposal with respect to which we have received advice of nationally-recognized legal counsel to the effect that the proposal is not a proper subject for stockholder action under Delaware law. MetLife, Inc. does not currently have a stockholder rights plan.

If a vote concerns any of these fundamental corporate actions, the trustee will vote all of the shares of common stock held by the Trust in proportion to the instructions it received, which will give disproportionate weight to the instructions actually given by Trust beneficiaries.

The Selling Stockholder has agreed to vote all shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock acquired by it in connection with the Acquisition in proportion to the votes cast by all other stockholders of MetLife, Inc., including the Trust.

State Laws, Federal Laws, Our Certificate of Incorporation and Our By-Laws May Delay, Deter or Prevent Takeovers and Business Combinations that Stockholders Might Consider in Their Best Interests

State laws and our certificate of incorporation and by-laws may delay, deter or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders might consider in their best interests. For instance, they may prevent stockholders from receiving the benefit from any premium over the market price of MetLife, Inc. s common stock offered by a bidder in a takeover context. Even in the absence of a takeover attempt, the existence of these provisions may adversely affect the prevailing market price of MetLife, Inc. s common stock if they are viewed as discouraging takeover attempts in the future.

S-46

Table of Contents

Any person seeking to acquire a controlling interest in us would face various regulatory obstacles which may delay, deter or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders of MetLife, Inc. might consider in their best interests. First, the insurance laws and regulations of the various states in which MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries are organized may delay or impede a business combination involving us. State insurance laws prohibit an entity from acquiring control of an insurance company without the prior approval of the domestic insurance regulator. Under most states' statutes, an entity is presumed to have control of an insurance company if it owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting stock of that insurance company or its parent company. We are also subject to banking regulations, and may in the future become subject to additional regulations. Dodd-Frank contains provisions that could restrict or impede consolidation, mergers and acquisitions by systemically significant firms and/or large bank holding companies. In addition, the Investment Company Act would require approval by the contract owners of our variable contracts in order to effectuate a change of control of any affiliated investment adviser to a mutual fund underlying our variable contracts. Finally, FINRA approval would be necessary for a change of control of any FINRA registered broker-dealer that is a direct or indirect subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.

In addition, Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law may affect the ability of an interested stockholder to engage in certain business combinations, including mergers, consolidations or acquisitions of additional shares, for a period of three years following the time that the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is defined to include persons owning, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of a corporation.

MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws also contain provisions that may delay, deter or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders might consider in their best interests. These provisions may adversely affect prevailing market prices for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock and include: classification of MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors into three classes; a prohibition on the calling of special meetings by stockholders; advance notice procedures for the nomination of candidates to the Board of Directors and stockholder proposals to be considered at stockholder meetings; and supermajority voting requirements for the amendment of certain provisions of the certificate of incorporation and by-laws.

The Continued Threat of Terrorism and Ongoing Military Actions May Adversely Affect the Level of Claim Losses We Incur and the Value of Our Investment Portfolio

The continued threat of terrorism, both within the United States and abroad, ongoing military and other actions and heightened security measures in response to these types of threats may cause significant volatility in global financial markets and result in loss of life, property damage, additional disruptions to commerce and reduced economic activity. Some of the assets in our investment portfolio may be adversely affected by declines in the credit and equity markets and reduced economic activity caused by the continued threat of terrorism. We cannot predict whether, and the extent to which, companies in which we maintain investments may suffer losses as a result of financial, commercial or economic disruptions, or how any such disruptions might affect the ability of those companies to pay interest or principal on their securities or mortgage loans. The continued threat of terrorism also could result in increased reinsurance prices and reduced insurance coverage and potentially cause us to retain more risk than we otherwise would retain if we were able to obtain reinsurance at lower prices. Terrorist actions also could disrupt our operations centers in the United States or abroad. In addition, the occurrence of terrorist actions could result in higher claims under our insurance policies than anticipated. See Difficult Conditions in the Global Capital Markets and the Economy Generally May Materially Adversely Affect Our Business and Results of Operations and These Conditions May Not Improve in the Near Future.

The Occurrence of Events Unanticipated in Our Disaster Recovery Systems and Management Continuity Planning Could Impair Our Ability to Conduct Business Effectively

In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, an epidemic, an industrial accident, a blackout, a computer virus, a terrorist attack or war, unanticipated problems with our disaster recovery systems could have a material adverse impact on our ability to conduct business and on our results of operations and financial position, particularly if those problems affect our computer-based data processing, transmission, storage and retrieval systems and destroy valuable data. We depend heavily upon computer systems to provide reliable service. Despite our implementation of a variety of security measures, our computer systems could be subject to physical and electronic break-ins, and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering. In addition, in the event that a significant

S-47

Table of Contents

number of our managers were unavailable in the event of a disaster, our ability to effectively conduct business could be severely compromised. These interruptions also may interfere with our suppliers' ability to provide goods and services and our employees' ability to perform their job responsibilities.

Our Associates May Take Excessive Risks Which Could Negatively Affect Our Financial Condition and Business

As an insurance enterprise, we are in the business of being paid to accept certain risks. The associates who conduct our business, including executive officers and other members of management, sales managers, investment professionals, product managers, sales agents, and other associates, do so in part by making decisions and choices that involve exposing us to risk. These include decisions such as setting underwriting guidelines and standards, product design and pricing, determining what assets to purchase for investment and when to sell them, which business opportunities to pursue, and other decisions. Although we endeavor, in the design and implementation of our compensation programs and practices, to avoid giving our associates incentives to take excessive risks, associates may take such risks regardless of the structure of our compensation programs and practices. Similarly, although we employ controls and procedures designed to monitor associates' business decisions and prevent us from taking excessive risks, there can be no assurance that these controls and procedures are or may be effective. If our associates take excessive risks, the impact of those risks could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or business operations.

Risks Relating to the Offering of the Common Stock

MetLife, Inc.'s Share Price Will Fluctuate

Although there has been some recent stabilization, stock markets in general, and stock prices of financial services companies in particular, including MetLife, Inc., have experienced significant price and volume volatility since 2008. The market price and volume of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock may continue to be subject to significant fluctuations due not only to general stock market conditions but also to a change in sentiment in the market regarding our operations, business prospects, future funding, including in relation to the Acquisition, or this offering. In addition to the risk factors discussed above, the price and volume volatility of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock may be affected by:

the success or failure of our operating strategies and our perceived prospects;

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our financial condition or operating results;

variances in our operating results, for the first quarter of 2011 or for other periods, from the expectations of securities analysts and investors;

the operating performance and securities price performance of companies that investors consider to be comparable to us; and

announcement of strategic developments, acquisitions and other material events by us or our competitors.

There May Be Future Sales or Other Dilution of MetLife, Inc.'s Equity, Which May Adversely Affect the Market Price of Its Common Stock

Except as may be required by the underwriters for this offering of common stock, MetLife, Inc. is not restricted from issuing additional common stock or preferred stock, including any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock (including the Series B Preferred Stock, to the extent not Repurchased and cancelled, and the stock purchase contracts forming part of the common equity units). The market price of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock could decline as a result of sales of a large number of shares of its common

stock or preferred stock or similar securities in the market after this offering, or the perception that such sales could occur. The issuance of additional common stock will dilute the ownership interest of existing common stockholders. *See* The Issuance of Common Stock Pursuant to the Stock Purchase Contracts Forming Part of the Common Equity Units Being Offered By the Selling Stockholder in the Concurrent Offering and the Issuance of the Common Stock Pursuant to the Conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock, to the Extent that the Any of the Shares of the Series B Preferred Stock are Not Repurchased and Cancelled by MetLife, Inc., Will Have a Dilutive Impact on MetLife, Inc.'s Stockholders.

S-48

Table of Contents

The Common Stock, Which is Subordinate to MetLife, Inc.'s Existing and Future Indebtedness and Preferred Stock, Will Pay Dividends Only if and When Declared by MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors

Shares of the common stock are equity interests in MetLife, Inc. and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of the common stock will rank junior to all indebtedness and other non-equity claims on MetLife, Inc. with respect to assets available to satisfy claims on MetLife, Inc., including in a liquidation of MetLife, Inc. Additionally, holders of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of any holders of MetLife, Inc.'s preferred stock then outstanding.

Dividends on the common stock are payable only if declared by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors and are subject to restrictions on payment of dividends out of lawfully available funds. As a holding company for its insurance and financial subsidiaries, the payment of dividends and other distributions to MetLife, Inc. by its insurance subsidiaries is regulated by insurance laws and regulations. *See As a Holding Company, MetLife, Inc. Depends on the Ability of Its Subsidiaries to Transfer Funds to It to Meet Its Obligations and Pay Dividends.* Also, as a bank holding company regulated by the Federal Reserve Board, MetLife, Inc. is subject to its authority to restrict the payment of dividends to stockholders. MetLife, Inc. has issued and outstanding indebtedness and preferred stock under which it may defer interest or dividend payments from time to time (although MetLife, Inc. has no present intention to, and believes the likelihood is remote that it will elect or be required to defer interest payments on these instruments), but in that case, MetLife, Inc. would not be permitted to declare or pay dividends on, make any distribution with respect to, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any shares of its common stock, during the deferral period.

The Issuance of Common Stock Pursuant to the Stock Purchase Contracts Forming Part of the Common Equity Units Being Offered By the Selling Stockholder in the Concurrent Offering and the Issuance of the Common Stock Pursuant to the Conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock, to the Extent that the Any of the Shares of the Series B Preferred Stock are Not Repurchased and Cancelled by MetLife, Inc., Will Have a Dilutive Impact on MetLife, Inc.'s Stockholders

The common equity units consist of (x) stock purchase contracts obligating the holder to purchase a variable number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock on each of three specified future settlement dates (approximately two, three and four years after the closing of the Acquisition, subject to deferral under certain circumstances) for a fixed amount per stock purchase contract (an aggregate of \$1.0 billion on each settlement date) and (y) an interest in each of three series of debt securities of MetLife, Inc. The aggregate amount of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock expected to be issued upon settlement of the stock purchase contracts is expected to be approximately 67,764,000 to 84,696,000 shares.

In addition, to the extent that MetLife, Inc. does not Repurchase and cancel all of the shares of the Series B Preferred Stock pursuant to the Coordination Agreement, MetLife, Inc. will issue 10 shares of common stock for every share of the 6,857,000 shares of the Series B Preferred Stock that is not so Repurchased and cancelled.

As a result of the issuance of these securities, more shares of common stock will be outstanding and each existing stockholder will own a smaller percentage of our common stock than outstanding.

Following This Offering and the Concurrent Offering, to the Extent the Selling Stockholder Will Hold Any of MetLife, Inc.'s Equity Securities, the Selling Stockholder Will Be Able to Sell Such Securities at Any Time From and After the Date 365 Days After the Closing of the Acquisition, Which Could Cause MetLife, Inc.'s Stock Price to Decrease

The Selling Stockholder agreed in the Investor Rights Agreement entered into in connection with the Acquisition, not to transfer any of MetLife, Inc.'s securities received pursuant to the terms of the Stock Purchase Agreement, at any

time up to the date 365 days after the closing of the Acquisition, without the consent of MetLife, Inc. However, from and after such date, the Selling Stockholder will be able to transfer up to half of such equity securities, and from and after the first anniversary of the closing of the Acquisition, the Selling Stockholder will be able to transfer all of such securities, subject in each case to certain limited volume and timing restrictions set forth in the Investor Rights Agreement. Moreover, the Selling Stockholder will agree to use commercially reasonable efforts to transfer, and it will cause its affiliates to so transfer, all of MetLife, Inc.'s securities received in connection with the Acquisition prior to the later of (i) the fifth anniversary of the closing of the Acquisition, and (ii) the first

Table of Contents

anniversary of the third stock purchase date under the stock purchase contracts. Subject to certain conditions, we have agreed to register the resale of MetLife, Inc.'s equity and other securities to be issued to the Selling Stockholder under the Securities Act.

In connection with this offering of common stock, the concurrent offering and the Repurchase of the Series B Preferred Stock, MetLife, Inc. has entered into a limited waiver of the Investor Rights Agreement with the Selling Stockholder and AIG in order to permit the Selling Stockholder to offer and sell the common stock and common equity units it received in the Acquisition in this offering and the concurrent offering, respectively, and to sell the Series B Preferred Stock to MetLife, Inc. pursuant to the Coordination Agreement.

The sale or transfer of a substantial number of these securities within a short period of time could cause MetLife, Inc.'s stock price to decrease, make it more difficult for us to raise funds through future offerings of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or acquire other businesses using MetLife, Inc.'s common stock as consideration.

S-50

Table of Contents**SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR METLIFE**

The following selected financial data has been derived from MetLife's audited consolidated financial statements. The statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, and the balance sheet data at December 31, 2010 and 2009 have been derived from MetLife's audited financial statements included in the 2010 Form 10-K. The statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the balance sheet data at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 have been derived from MetLife's audited financial statements not included herein. This selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with and is qualified by reference to these consolidated financial statements and the related notes and the 2010 Form 10-K. The following consolidated statements of operations and consolidated balance sheet data have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (*GAAP*).

	2010	Years Ended December 31,			2006
		2009	2008	2007	
		(In millions)			
Statement of Operations Data (1)					
Revenues:					
Premiums	\$ 27,394	\$ 26,460	\$ 25,914	\$ 22,970	\$ 22,052
Universal life and investment-type product policy fees	6,037	5,203	5,381	5,238	4,711
Net investment income	17,615	14,837	16,289	18,055	16,239
Other revenues	2,328	2,329	1,586	1,465	1,301
Net investment gains (losses)	(392)	(2,906)	(2,098)	(318)	(1,174)
Net derivative gains (losses)	(265)	(4,866)	3,910	(260)	(208)
Total revenues	52,717	41,057	50,982	47,150	42,921
Expenses:					
Policyholder benefits and claims	29,545	28,336	27,437	23,783	22,869
Interest credited to policyholder account balances	4,925	4,849	4,788	5,461	4,899
Policyholder dividends	1,486	1,650	1,751	1,723	1,698
Other expenses	12,803	10,556	11,947	10,405	9,514
Total expenses	48,759	45,391	45,923	41,372	38,980
Income (loss) from continuing operations before provision for income tax	3,958	(4,334)	5,059	5,778	3,941
Provision for income tax expense (benefit)	1,181	(2,015)	1,580	1,675	1,027
Income (loss) from continuing operations, net of income tax	2,777	(2,319)	3,479	4,103	2,914
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income tax	9	41	(201)	362	3,526
Net income (loss)	2,786	(2,278)	3,278	4,465	6,440

Edgar Filing: METLIFE INC - Form 424B5

Less: Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(4)	(32)	69	148	147
Net income (loss) attributable to MetLife, Inc.	2,790	(2,246)	3,209	4,317	6,293
Less: Preferred stock dividends	122	122	125	137	134
Net income (loss) available to MetLife, Inc. s common shareholders	\$ 2,668	\$ (2,368)	\$ 3,084	\$ 4,180	\$ 6,159

S-51

Table of Contents

	2010	2009	December 31, 2008 (In millions)	2007	2006
Balance Sheet Data (1)					
Assets:					
General account assets (2)	\$ 547,569	\$ 390,273	\$ 380,839	\$ 399,007	\$ 383,758
Separate account assets	183,337	149,041	120,839	160,142	144,349
Total assets	\$ 730,906	\$ 539,314	\$ 501,678	\$ 559,149	\$ 528,107
Liabilities:					
Policyholder liabilities and other policy-related balances (3)	\$ 401,905	\$ 283,759	\$ 282,261	\$ 261,442	\$ 252,099
Payables for collateral under securities loaned and other transactions	27,272	24,196	31,059	44,136	45,846
Bank deposits	10,316	10,211	6,884	4,534	4,638
Short-term debt	306	912	2,659	667	1,449
Long-term debt (2)	27,586	13,220	9,667	9,100	8,822
Collateral financing arrangements	5,297	5,297	5,192	4,882	
Junior subordinated debt securities	3,191	3,191	3,758	4,075	3,381
Other (2)	22,583	15,989	15,374	33,186	32,277
Separate account liabilities	183,337	149,041	120,839	160,142	144,349
Total liabilities	681,793	505,816	477,693	522,164	492,861
Redeemable noncontrolling interests in partially owned consolidated securities	117				
Equity:					
MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders' equity:					
Preferred stock, at par value	1	1	1	1	1
Convertible preferred stock, at par value					
Common stock, at par value	10	8	8	8	8
Additional paid-in capital	26,423	16,859	15,811	17,098	17,454
Retained earnings	21,363	19,501	22,403	19,884	16,574
Treasury stock, at cost	(172)	(190)	(236)	(2,890)	(1,357)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	1,000	(3,058)	(14,253)	1,078	1,118
Total MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders' equity	48,625	33,121	23,734	35,179	33,798
Noncontrolling interests	371	377	251	1,806	1,448
Total equity	48,996	33,498	23,985	36,985	35,246
Total liabilities and equity	\$ 730,906	\$ 539,314	\$ 501,678	\$ 559,149	\$ 528,107

Table of Contents

	2010	Years Ended December 31,			2006
		2009	2008	2007	
(In millions, except per share data)					
Other Data (1), (4)					
Net income (loss) available to MetLife, Inc. s common shareholders	\$ 2,668	\$ (2,368)	\$ 3,084	\$ 4,180	\$ 6,159
Return on MetLife, Inc. s common equity	6.9%	(9.0)%	11.2%	12.9%	20.9%
Return on MetLife, Inc. s common equity, excluding accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	7.0%	(6.8)%	9.1%	13.3%	22.1%
EPS Data (1), (5)					
Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations Available to MetLife, Inc. s Common Shareholders Per Common Share:					
Basic	\$ 3.01	\$ (2.94)	\$ 4.60	\$ 5.32	\$ 3.64
Diluted	\$ 2.99	\$ (2.94)	\$ 4.54	\$ 5.19	\$ 3.59
Income (Loss) from Discontinued Operations Per Common Share:					
Basic	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.05	\$ (0.41)	\$ 0.30	\$ 4.45
Diluted	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.05	\$ (0.40)	\$ 0.29	\$ 4.40
Net Income (Loss) Available to MetLife, Inc. s Common Shareholders Per Common Share:					
Basic	\$ 3.02	\$ (2.89)	\$ 4.19	\$ 5.62	\$ 8.09
Diluted	\$ 3.00	\$ (2.89)	\$ 4.14	\$ 5.48	\$ 7.99
Cash Dividends Declared Per Common Share					
	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.59

- (1) On November 1, 2010, MetLife, Inc. acquired ALICO. The results of the Acquisition are reflected in the 2010 selected financial data.
- (2) At December 31, 2010, general account assets, long-term debt and other liabilities include amounts relating to variable interest entities of \$11,080 million, \$6,902 million and \$93 million, respectively.
- (3) Policyholder liabilities and other policy-related balances include future policy benefits, policyholder account balances, other policy-related balances, policyholder dividends payable and the policyholder dividend obligation.
- (4) Return on MetLife, Inc. s common equity is defined as net income (loss) available to MetLife, Inc. s common shareholders divided by MetLife, Inc. s average common stockholders equity.
- (5) For the year ended December 31, 2009, shares related to the assumed exercise or issuance of stock-based awards have been excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per common share as these assumed shares are anti-dilutive.

Table of Contents

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

On November 1, 2010, MetLife, Inc. acquired all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of ALICO, pursuant to the Stock Purchase Agreement, for a total purchase price of approximately \$16.4 billion, subject to adjustment, which included cash of \$7.2 billion and securities of MetLife, Inc. valued at \$9.2 billion.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations and accompanying notes present the impact of the Acquisition on MetLife, Inc.'s results of operations under the acquisition method of accounting. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010 combines the historical consolidated statement of operations of MetLife, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2010 (which includes ALICO's operations for the month of November 2010) with the historical combined statement of income of ALICO for the eleven months ended October 31, 2010, giving effect to the Acquisition as if it had been completed on January 1, 2010. The historical financial information has been adjusted in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations to give effect to pro forma events that are directly attributable to the Acquisition and factually supportable, and are expected to have a continuing impact on the combined results.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and in conjunction with the audited historical consolidated financial statements of MetLife, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 2010 and the related notes, included in the 2010 Form 10-K.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations is not intended to reflect the results of operations that would have resulted had the Acquisition been effective during the period presented or the results that may be obtained by the combined company in the future. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations for the period presented does not reflect future events that may occur after the Acquisition, including, but not limited to, expense efficiencies or revenue enhancements arising from the Acquisition. It also does not give effect to certain one-time charges that MetLife, Inc. expects to incur such as restructuring and integration costs. Future results may vary significantly from the results reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations.

Table of Contents**MetLife, Inc.****Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined
Statement of Operations For the Year Ended December 31, 2010**

	Historical MetLife	ALICO Eleven Months Ended October 31, 2010	Pro Forma Adjustments	Reclassification Adjustments	Notes	Pro Forma Combined
	December 31, 2010	October 31, 2010	(In millions, except per share data)	(In millions, except per share data)		
Revenues						
Premiums	\$ 27,394	\$ 9,463	\$ (160)	\$ (1,123)	5(a); 6(a)	\$ 35,574
Universal life and investment-type product policy fees	6,037		(107)	1,123	4(p); 5(a)	7,053
Net investment income	17,615	3,734	(857)		4(a)	20,492
Other revenues	2,328	5				2,333
Net investment gains (losses)	(657)	(98)	(229)		4(s); 4(t); 6(a); 6(b)	(984)
Total revenues	52,717	13,104	(1,353)			64,468
Expenses						
Policyholder benefits and claims	29,545	7,596	(324)	(2,135)	4(q); 4(r); 4(v); 5(b); 6(a)	34,682
Interest credited to policyholder account balances	4,925			2,135	5(b)	7,060
Policyholder dividends	1,486					1,486
Other expenses	12,803	3,790	(1,186)		4(b)	15,407
Total expenses	48,759	11,386	(1,510)			58,635
Income from continuing operations before provision for income tax	3,958	1,718	157			5,833
Provision for income tax expense	1,181	554	98		4(u)	1,833
Income from continuing operations, net of income tax	2,777	1,164	59			4,000

Less: Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(4)	36		32
Income from continuing operations, net of income tax, attributable to shareholders	2,781	1,128	59	3,968
Less: Preferred stock dividends	122			122
Income from continuing operations, net of income tax, attributable to common shareholders	\$ 2,659	\$ 1,128	\$ 59	\$ 3,846
Earnings Per Share				
Income per share from continuing operations, net of income tax, attributable to common shareholders				
Basic	\$ 3.01			\$ 3.64
Diluted	\$ 2.99			\$ 3.62
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding				
Basic	882			1,056
Diluted	890			1,063

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc.

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations

1. Description of Transaction

Under the terms of the Stock Purchase Agreement, on November 1, 2010, MetLife, Inc. (i) paid \$7.2 billion to the Selling Stockholder in cash, and (ii) issued to the Selling Stockholder (a) 78,239,712 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, (b) 6,857,000 shares of the Series B Preferred Stock and (c) 40,000,000 common equity units of MetLife, Inc. with an aggregate stated amount at issuance of \$3.0 billion, initially consisting of (x) three stock purchase contracts obligating the holder to purchase, on specified future settlement dates, a variable number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock for a fixed price; and (y) an interest in each of three series of debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc.

2. Basis of Presentation

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations is based on the historical financial statements of MetLife, Inc. and ALICO and combines the condensed consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010, for MetLife, Inc. (which includes ALICO's operations for the month of November 2010) and the combined statement of income for the eleven months ended October 31, 2010, for ALICO. For ease of reference, all pro forma adjustments reference MetLife, Inc.'s December 31, 2010 year end date and no adjustments were made to ALICO's reported information for its different period-end date. Certain adjustments and reclassifications have been recorded in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations to conform to MetLife, Inc.'s accounting policies and are more fully described in Notes 4 and 5. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations gives effect to the Acquisition as if it had occurred on January 1, 2010.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations is presented in accordance with the requirements of Article 11 of Regulation S-X published by the SEC. In accordance with Article 11 of Regulation S-X, discontinued operations and the related earnings per share data have been excluded from the presentation of the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations and accompanying notes present the impact of the Acquisition on MetLife, Inc.'s results of operations under the acquisition method of accounting. The acquisition method of accounting requires, among other things, that the consideration transferred be measured at fair value at the acquisition date and that assets acquired and liabilities assumed be recognized at their fair values as of the acquisition date. Accordingly, for purposes of determining the pro forma adjustments in the condensed combined statement of operations, the assets acquired and liabilities assumed were assumed to have been recorded as of the acquisition date of January 1, 2010 at their respective fair values.

The pro forma adjustments reflecting the acquisition are based on certain estimates and assumptions. MetLife, Inc.'s management believes that the pro forma adjustments give appropriate effect to those assumptions and are properly applied in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations is not intended to reflect the results of operations of the combined company that would have resulted had the Acquisition been effective during the period presented or the results that may be obtained by the combined company in the future.

3. Acquisition-Related Costs

During the year ended December 31, 2010, MetLife, Inc. incurred acquisition-related transaction costs, consisting primarily of investment banking and legal fees, of \$106 million. This amount is reflected in MetLife, Inc.'s historical consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010 and was included in other expenses. A pro forma adjustment has been made to eliminate these costs from the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010 due to their non-recurring nature.

S-56

Table of Contents**4. Pro Forma Adjustments**

The following pro forma adjustments are included in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations:

(a) Adjustments to reflect the increase/(decrease) in net investment income for the year ended December 31, 2010 as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2010 (in millions)	Note Reference
Adjustment to income associated with commercial mortgage-backed securities	\$ 6	4(c)
Adjustment to amortization/accretion of fixed maturities available-for-sale portfolio	(777)	4(c)
Elimination of interest income on investment in MetLife, Inc. debt securities	(8)	4(c)
Adjustment to net investment income associated with reclass of investment securities	(35)	4(d)
Adjustment to commercial mortgage loan income	45	4(e)
Adjustment to income associated with policy loans	(43)	4(f)
Recognition of income on indemnification asset	2	4(g)
Adjustment to depreciation expense on investment real estate	1	4(l)
Elimination of net investment income associated with Peru joint ventures	(48)	6(a)
	\$ (857)	

(b) Adjustments to reflect the (decrease)/increase in other expenses for the year ended December 31, 2010 are as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2010 (in millions)	Note Reference
Adjustment to remove acquisition-related transaction costs incurred in 2010	\$ (106)	3
Elimination of interest expense on MetLife, Inc. debt securities	(8)	4(c)
Elimination of amortization on historical DAC	(1,808)	4(h)
Adjustment to DAC amortization related to new business	242	4(h)
Amortization of VOBA, VODA and VOCRA	1,202	4(i)
Amortization of negative VOBA	(806)	4(j)
Elimination of expense associated with historical deferred sales inducements	(26)	4(k)
Adjustment to amortization of trademark assets	8	4(m)

Adjustment to depreciation/amortization expense associated with fixed assets and software capitalization	(13)	4(n)
Recognition of interest expense on debt securities issued in connection with Acquisition	129	4(o)
	\$ (1,186)	

(c) An adjustment to decrease certain fixed maturity securities relating to commercial mortgage-backed securities to fair value based on MetLife, Inc.'s valuation methodology was assumed to have been made as of January 1, 2010. The associated increase in net investment income is \$6 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 related primarily to the net change in premium/discount of those securities. In addition,

S-57

Table of Contents

an adjustment to recognize the reduction of \$777 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 was recorded to reflect the new cost basis and related amortization/accretion of the acquired fixed maturities available-for-sale portfolio.

The elimination of ALICO's investment in MetLife, Inc.'s bonds resulted in the related elimination of intercompany interest income/interest expense of \$8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(d) An adjustment to reclassify trading securities to fixed maturity securities available-for-sale, short term investments and cash in accordance with MetLife, Inc.'s intention not to hold the securities principally for the purpose of selling in the near term resulted in a reduction in net investment income of \$35 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(e) An adjustment to decrease mortgage loans to fair value resulted in an increase in net investment income of \$45 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(f) An adjustment to increase policy loans to fair value resulted in a reduction in net investment income of \$43 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, related to the amortization of premium.

(g) An adjustment related to the change in value of indemnification assets for established potential recoveries related to the deterioration of fixed maturity securities (including commercial mortgage-backed securities), mortgage loans and certain investment funds resulted in an increase in net investment income of \$2 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(h) An adjustment to eliminate ALICO's historical DAC resulted in an amortization decrease of \$1,808 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. In addition, the adjustment to increase other expenses for the DAC amortization related to new business in the period presented in conformity with MetLife, Inc.'s accounting policy is \$242 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(i) Adjustments to establish VOBA, the value of distribution agreements acquired (*VODA*) and the value of customer relationships acquired (*VOCRA*) arising from the Acquisition resulted in an adjustment for the related amortization for VOBA, VODA and VOCRA of \$1,202 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(j) For certain acquired blocks of business, the estimated fair value of acquired liabilities exceeded the initial policy reserves assumed at the acquisition date, resulting in a negative VOBA which resulted in an adjustment for the related amortization for negative VOBA of \$806 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(k) An adjustment to eliminate ALICO's deferred sales inducement assets resulted in a reduction in amortization of \$26 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(l) An adjustment to increase investment real estate to fair value resulted in an increase in net investment income of \$1 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(m) An adjustment to recognize the trademark values acquired as an identifiable intangible asset arising from the Acquisition resulted in an adjustment for trademark amortization of \$8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(n) An adjustment to reduce fixed assets and capitalized software to conform to MetLife, Inc.'s capitalization policy resulted in a reduction in depreciation expense of \$13 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(o) An adjustment to reflect the issuance of the debt securities of MetLife, Inc. of \$3.0 billion and the public offering of senior notes issued in August, 2010 of \$3.0 billion in connection with the Acquisition was assumed to have been made as of January 1, 2010 and the increase in other expenses related to interest expense related to the debt securities of MetLife, Inc. and the senior notes is \$129 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. Interest expense on the debt securities of MetLife, Inc. was based on an average annual contractual rate of 1.98%. Interest expense on the public offering of senior debt was calculated based on actual borrowing rates for the \$3.0 billion in aggregate principal amount of senior notes.

S-58

Table of Contents

(p) An adjustment to eliminate ALICO's historical unearned revenue is \$107 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(q) Adjustment to remove the effects of changes in embedded derivatives on certain U.K. unit linked business contracts which reduce earnings by \$99 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 since the related guarantees will not impact MetLife, Inc.'s future earnings based on the provisions of the Stock Purchase Agreement.

(r) Adjustment to decrease policyholder benefits and claims incurred by \$107 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 for the estimated effects of unlocking actuarial assumptions used in determining future net benefit premiums for certain traditional life insurance blocks of business and to reverse the mark to market effects of the fair value option used by ALICO for certain single premium variable life products in Japan as MetLife, Inc. did not exercise such a fair value election.

(s) Adjustment to reverse realized investment losses of \$83 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, to conform to MetLife, Inc.'s policy related to foreign exchange.

(t) Adjustment to realize a net investment loss of \$9 million related to the release of unrealized gains/losses to realized gains/losses on foreign currency denominated fixed maturity securities for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(u) The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations pre-tax adjustments were tax effected at the U.S. tax rate of 35%. For purposes of the unaudited pro forma condensed statements of operations, it has been assumed that earnings of foreign subsidiaries will not be permanently reinvested. For the year ended December 31, 2010, the pro forma pre-tax adjustments resulted in an increase to income tax expense of \$98 million.

(v) Adjustment to record an increase in indemnification assets of \$138 million associated with certain litigation matters, which offsets the related litigation charge reflected in ALICO's statement of income for the eleven months ended October 31, 2010.

5. Reclassification Adjustments

The following reclassification adjustments have been made to conform ALICO's accounting policies to those of MetLife, Inc. which have been recorded in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations:

(a) Adjustment to reclassify universal life and investment-type product policy fees of \$1,123 million from premiums for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(b) Adjustment to reclassify interest credited to policyholder account balances of \$2,135 million from policyholder benefits and claims for the year ended December 31, 2010.

6. Pre Closing Activities

(a) On October 27, 2010, ALICO sold its investments in two joint ventures in Peru resulting in a gain of \$83 million which has been eliminated in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations. In addition, the statement of operations items related to the Peru joint ventures have been eliminated in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010 and are presented below.

Table of Contents

	Eleven Months Ended October 31, 2010 (In millions)
Revenues	
Premiums	\$ 160
Net investment income	48
Net investment gains	5
Expenses	
Policyholder benefits and claims	178
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	22

(b) Prior to the closing of the Acquisition, AIG was required to complete certain transactions that affect ALICO, as required by the Stock Purchase Agreement. As a result, the following adjustments to eliminate gains were made in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2010:

(i) a gain of \$29 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 associated with an intercompany settlement of a foreign currency derivative between ALICO and AIG;

(ii) a gain of \$78 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, associated with the intercompany settlement of swap positions between ALICO and AIG Financial Products; and

(iii) a gain of \$108 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, associated with the sale of AIG common stock to AIG.

7. Pro Forma Earnings Per Share

The pro forma basic and diluted earnings per share amounts presented in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations are based upon the estimated weighted average number of common shares outstanding, as adjusted for the following items:

(i) the public offering of 86,250,000 shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock issued on August 6, 2010, in connection with financing the cash portion of the transaction;

(ii) the issuance of 78,239,712 shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock to the Selling Stockholder; and

(iii) conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock into 68,570,000 shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock.

	Year Ended December 31, 2010 (In millions)
Basic	
Weighted average common shares outstanding, as reported (1)	823

Edgar Filing: METLIFE INC - Form 424B5

Common shares issued in connection with the Acquisition (2)	164
Common shares upon conversion of Series B Preferred Stock (3)	69
Weighted average common shares outstanding, pro forma	1,056
Diluted	
Weighted average common shares outstanding, as reported (1)	830
Common shares issued in connection with the Acquisition (2)	164
Common shares upon conversion of Series B Preferred Stock (3)	69
Weighted average common shares outstanding, pro forma	1,063

S-60

Table of Contents

- (1) Weighted average common shares, as reported for both basic and diluted, are adjusted to remove the incremental common shares associated with common stock issued on August 6, 2010, as well as the incremental common shares associated with the common stock and the Series B Preferred Stock issued to the Selling Stockholder on November 1, 2010 in connection with the Acquisition. The shares associated with common stock are included in the total Common shares issued in connection with the Acquisition and assumed to be outstanding for the entire 2010 year. The shares associated with the Series B Preferred Stock are included in the total Common shares upon conversion of Series B Preferred Stock and are assumed to be outstanding for the entire 2010 year.
- (2) Includes shares issued on August 6, 2010 as well as shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock issued to the Selling Stockholder on November 1, 2010.
- (3) For purposes of the earnings per share calculation, the Series B Preferred Stock is treated on an as-converted basis for both basic and diluted weighted average shares.

S-61

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

MetLife, Inc. estimates that its net proceeds of this offering will be \$2,950,824,237.50. Pursuant to the Coordination Agreement, MetLife, Inc. intends to use all of its net proceeds from this offering to fund the Repurchase, for a purchase price equal to such net proceeds. Each share of Series B Preferred Stock is convertible into ten shares of common stock (subject to anti-dilution adjustments), subject to a favorable vote of MetLife, Inc.'s common shareholders. To the extent MetLife, Inc. sells fewer than 68,570,000 shares of common stock in this offering, it will use all of the net proceeds that it receives in this offering to repurchase a proportionate number of shares of the Series B Preferred Stock (on an as-converted basis) from the Selling Stockholder, for a purchase price equal to such net proceeds. Upon receipt, any shares of the Series B Preferred Stock will be cancelled by MetLife, Inc.

MetLife, Inc. will not receive any proceeds from the sale of common stock by the Selling Stockholder.

S-62

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization at December 31, 2010, on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to this offering of the common stock and the Repurchase of the Series B Preferred Stock. This information should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2010, including the notes thereto, and other financial information pertaining to us incorporated herein by reference as well as the unaudited pro forma financial information included in Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations.

	At December 31, 2010	
	Actual	As Adjusted for this Offering of Common Stock and the Repurchase(1)(2) (In millions)
Short-term debt	\$ 306	\$ 306
Long-term debt(3)	27,586	27,586
Collateral financing arrangements	5,297	5,297
Junior subordinated debt securities	3,191	3,191
Total debt	36,380	36,380
MetLife, Inc. s Stockholders Equity:		
Preferred stock, at par value	1	1
Convertible preferred stock, at par value		
Common stock, at par value	10	11
Additional paid-in capital	26,423	26,567
Retained earnings	21,363	21,218
Treasury stock, at cost	(172)	(172)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	1,000	1,000
Total MetLife, Inc. s stockholders equity	48,625	48,625
Total capitalization	\$ 85,005	\$ 85,005

(1) Reflects the issuance of 68,570,000 shares of common stock at a price per share of \$43.25 for total consideration of \$2,966 million less transaction costs of approximately \$16 million for net proceeds from the offering of \$2,950 million. Also reflects the repurchase and elimination of 6,857,000 shares of the Series B Preferred Stock resulting from the Repurchase.

(2) There is no adjustment in this column to reflect the Selling Stockholder s concurrent offering of 40,000,000 of common equity units.

(3) Includes \$6,902 million of long-term debt relating to variable interest entities.

S-63

Table of Contents**COMMON STOCK PRICE RANGE AND DIVIDENDS**

MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange, and dividend information follows:

	Price Range		Cash
	High	Low	Dividend
			Per Share
2011			
First Quarter (through March 2, 2011)	\$ 48.63	\$ 43.41	\$
2010			
Fourth Quarter	\$ 44.92	\$ 37.74	\$ 0.74
Third Quarter	\$ 42.73	\$ 36.49	
Second Quarter	\$ 47.10	\$ 37.76	
First Quarter	\$ 43.34	\$ 33.64	
2009			
Fourth Quarter	\$ 38.35	\$ 33.22	\$ 0.74
Third Quarter	\$ 40.83	\$ 26.90	
Second Quarter	\$ 35.50	\$ 23.43	
First Quarter	\$ 35.97	\$ 12.10	
2008			
Fourth Quarter	\$ 48.15	\$ 16.48	\$ 0.74
Third Quarter	\$ 63.00	\$ 43.75	
Second Quarter	\$ 62.88	\$ 52.77	
First Quarter	\$ 61.52	\$ 54.62	
2007			
Fourth Quarter	\$ 70.87	\$ 60.46	\$ 0.74
Third Quarter	\$ 69.92	\$ 59.62	
Second Quarter	\$ 69.04	\$ 63.29	
First Quarter	\$ 65.92	\$ 59.10	

The reported last sale price for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on March 2, 2011 was \$43.41 per share. As of February 18, 2011, there were 986,585,463 shares of common stock outstanding. As of February 18, 2011, our outstanding shares of common stock were held by 90,250 stockholders of record.

Table of Contents

SELLING STOCKHOLDER

The Selling Stockholder, a subsidiary of AIG, proposes to offer and sell up to 78,239,712 shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock, representing 7.9% of MetLife, Inc.'s outstanding common stock as of February 28, 2011. Following completion of this offering, the Selling Stockholder will own no shares of common stock.

The Selling Stockholder received the 78,239,712 shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement pursuant to the Acquisition. Total consideration for the Acquisition also included \$7.2 billion of cash, 6,857,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock (convertible into 68,570,000 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock (subject to anti-dilution adjustments) upon a favorable vote of MetLife, Inc.'s common shareholders) and 40,000,000 common equity units with an aggregate stated value of \$3.0 billion.

For a discussion of certain relationships between MetLife, Inc., AIG and the Selling Stockholder see Corporate Governance Related Party Transactions in MetLife, Inc.'s Form 10-K/A filed on March 1, 2011, which is incorporated by reference herein.

S-65

Table of Contents

COORDINATION AGREEMENT

On March 1, 2011, MetLife, Inc. entered into the Coordination Agreement with the Selling Stockholder and AIG, pursuant to which MetLife, Inc. agreed to repurchase from the Selling Stockholder the number of shares of Series B Preferred Stock equal to the lesser of (i) 6,857,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock and (ii) the actual number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, up to 68,570,000 shares, actually sold and delivered by MetLife, Inc. in this offering of common stock, divided by ten. The Series B Preferred Stock was previously issued by MetLife, Inc. to the Selling Stockholder at the closing of the Acquisition in accordance with the Stock Purchase Agreement. The aggregate consideration to be paid for the Repurchase will equal MetLife, Inc.'s net proceeds from the offering by MetLife, Inc. of up to 68,570,000 shares of its common stock.

The 6,857,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock are convertible into 68,570,000 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, subject to a favorable vote of MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders at its 2011 annual meeting. Pursuant to the terms of the Stock Purchase Agreement, MetLife, Inc. is obligated to pay a \$300 million compensatory payment to the Selling Stockholder in the event that MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders do not approve the conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock. Pursuant to the Coordination Agreement, the \$300 million compensatory payment will be reduced in proportion to the number of shares of Series B Preferred Stock repurchased by MetLife.

The consummation of the Repurchase, which is expected to occur concurrently with, or immediately following, the closing of this offering of common stock, is subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions, including the receipt of any required governmental approvals and third party contractual consents. Additionally, the consummation of the Repurchase is subject to the successful consummation of the offering by MetLife, Inc. of up to 68,570,000 shares of its common stock as contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the receipt of a letter from the United States Department of the Treasury, the Selling Stockholder and AIA Aurora LLC, confirming, among other things, the release of all encumbrances on the shares of Series B Preferred Stock to be repurchased in the Repurchase.

In addition to customary termination provisions, MetLife, Inc. may, prior to the execution of the underwriting agreement for this offering of common stock, terminate the Coordination Agreement in the event that MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors (or a committee thereof), determines that the offering of up to 68,570,000 shares of its common stock cannot be completed on terms acceptable to MetLife, Inc. in its sole discretion. Similarly, AIG may, prior to the execution of the underwriting agreement for this offering of common stock, terminate the Coordination Agreement in the event that AIG's board of directors (or a committee thereof), determines that this offering of common stock or the concurrent offering cannot be completed on terms acceptable to AIG in its sole discretion. Additionally, either AIG or MetLife, Inc. may terminate the Coordination Agreement between the pricing of this offering of common stock and the consummation of this offering, in the event that the underwriting agreement for this offering of common stock is terminated in accordance with its terms.

The Coordination Agreement amends the Stock Purchase Agreement with respect to certain indemnification-related obligations of AIG and the Selling Stockholder. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, 40,000,000 common equity units of MetLife, Inc. to be offered in the concurrent offering are currently held in an indemnification collateral account in order to secure the Selling Stockholder's indemnification obligations to MetLife, Inc. pursuant to the Stock Purchase Agreement. Pursuant to the Coordination Agreement, in the event that the net proceeds from the concurrent offering equal at least \$3.0 billion, then \$3.0 billion (which is the aggregate stated amount of the common equity units) will be placed in the indemnification collateral account and any proceeds above such amount will be distributed to the Selling Stockholder. In such case, any unsold equity units will be released from the indemnification collateral account to the Selling Stockholder. In the event that less than all of the common equity units are sold in the concurrent offering, and the concurrent offering generates net proceeds of less than \$3.0 billion, an amount equal to the aggregate

stated amount of the common equity units sold in the concurrent offering will be deposited in the indemnification collateral account, and any net proceeds from the concurrent offering above such aggregate stated amount will be distributed to the Selling Stockholder, with the unsold common equity units remaining in the indemnification collateral account. If the Selling Stockholder sells all of the common equity units in the concurrent offering but the net proceeds from the offering are less than \$3.0 billion, the entire net proceeds from the concurrent offering will be deposited in the indemnification collateral account. In that case, the amount that the Selling Stockholder is entitled to withdraw from the indemnification collateral account on certain scheduled release dates pursuant to the terms of the Stock Purchase Agreement will be reduced by the amount by which the net proceeds from the concurrent offering are less than \$3.0 billion.

S-66

Table of Contents

The Coordination Agreement also provides, among other things, (i) for mechanics that govern the release from the indemnification collateral account of such common equity units sold in the concurrent offering and the allocation of the net proceeds from the concurrent offering to the indemnification collateral account and the Selling Stockholder, (ii) that the Selling Stockholder will only be permitted to substitute cash for any collateral held in the indemnification collateral account, (iii) that the Selling Stockholder will not be permitted to make indemnification payments under the Stock Purchase Agreement utilizing MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or any shares of Series B Preferred Stock, (iv) that indemnification payments to be made by the Selling Stockholder by utilizing the collateral held in the indemnification collateral account will be satisfied first by delivery of cash held in such account and, to the extent such cash collateral is insufficient, by delivery of equity units held in such account, (v) that common equity units will first be released from the indemnification collateral account on the scheduled release dates as provided in the Stock Purchase Agreement, followed by any cash held in such account and (vi) that a portion of the net proceeds from the concurrent offering and, to the extent such proceeds are insufficient, a sufficient amount of the net proceeds from the offering by the Selling Stockholder of up to 78,239,712 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, will be delivered to MetLife, Inc. in connection with the payment of certain tax liabilities in connection with the Acquisition pursuant to the terms of the Coordination Agreement.

The Coordination Agreement provides for, among other things, the release of the Selling Stockholder from the transfer restrictions under the Investor Rights Agreement solely to the extent necessary to permit this offering of common stock and the concurrent offering to proceed. These restrictions include the lock-up, which prevents the Selling Stockholder from transferring any of MetLife, Inc.'s securities it received in the Acquisition before the end of July 2011, and limitations on the amount of MetLife, Inc. securities held by the Selling Stockholder that can be sold in any one offering or in any period of 180 days. In the event that the Selling Stockholder is unable to dispose of all of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock and common equity units that it holds in this offering and the concurrent offering, respectively, any unsold securities will remain subject to the lock-up until November 1, 2011, and any unsold shares of common stock or common equity units that are not sold in this offering or the concurrent offering, respectively, and any shares of Series B Preferred Stock not repurchased in the Repurchase will remain subject in all respects to the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Investor Rights Agreement.

The representations and warranties in the Coordination Agreement are the product of negotiations among the parties thereto and are for the sole benefit of the parties thereto. Any inaccuracies in such representations and warranties are subject to waiver by the parties thereto in accordance with the Coordination Agreement without notice or liability to any other person. In some instances, the representations and warranties in the Coordination Agreement may represent an allocation among the parties thereto of risks associated with particular matters regardless of the knowledge of any of the parties thereto. Consequently, persons other than the parties to the Coordination Agreement may not rely upon the representations and warranties in the Coordination Agreement as characterizations of actual facts or circumstances as of the date of the Coordination Agreement or as of any other date.

Pursuant to the terms of the Coordination Agreement, the parties have agreed to enter into an Amended and Restated Indemnification Collateral Account Security and Control Agreement with Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as securities intermediary, pledge collateral agent and stock purchase contract agent (the *Amended Indemnification Control Agreement*). The Amended Indemnification Control Agreement makes conforming changes to the Indemnification Collateral Account Security and Control Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2010, by and among MetLife, Inc., the Selling Stockholder, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as securities intermediary, pledge collateral agent and stock purchase contract agent, and AIG, as necessary to reflect the agreements and understandings in the Coordination Agreement described above.

Table of Contents

**CERTAIN MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX
CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS**

The following is a general discussion of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences resulting from the purchase, ownership and disposition of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock by a non-U.S. holder (as defined below) that acquires MetLife, Inc.'s common stock pursuant to this offering. The following discussion is based on provisions of the Code, applicable U.S. Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and administrative and judicial interpretations, all as in effect on the date of this prospectus supplement, and all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. This discussion is limited to non-U.S. holders who hold MetLife, Inc.'s common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code. This discussion is only addressed to non-U.S. holders and does not consider and does not address tax considerations applicable to holders in light of their particular circumstances or to holders that may be subject to special tax rules, including, without limitation, financial institutions (including banks), insurance companies, retirement plans, mutual funds, hybrid entities, certain former citizens or former long-term residents of the United States, dealers in securities or currencies, holders who acquire their common stock pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options or as compensation, persons subject to the mark-to-market rules of the Code, foreign governments, international organizations, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, persons that will hold our stock as a part of a hedging transaction, synthetic security, straddle, conversion transaction, or other integrated transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, entities treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and tax-exempt organizations. This discussion does not consider any U.S. federal gift or estate tax consequences, or U.S. state or local or non-U.S. tax consequences resulting from the purchase, ownership or disposition of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

If a partnership (including any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a holder of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Holders that are partnerships, and partners in such partnerships, should consult their tax advisors about the tax consequences resulting from the purchase, ownership and disposition of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

As used in this discussion, the term "non-U.S. holder" means a holder that is a beneficial owner of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock that is not, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or

a trust, if (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) it has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a domestic trust.

Prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local, and non-U.S. income and other tax considerations with respect to purchasing, owning and disposing of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

Distributions on MetLife, Inc.'s Common Stock

Distributions paid on MetLife, Inc. 's common stock will constitute dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles.

With respect to distributions that are treated as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes, we will have to withhold U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty), from the gross amount of the dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder, unless such dividends are effectively connected with such holder 's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable

S-68

Table of Contents

to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States). Under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations, non-U.S. holders are required to satisfy certain certification and other requirements (*e.g.*, as set forth on IRS Form W-8 BEN (or suitable substitute form)) in order to claim a reduced rate of withholding on dividend payments pursuant to an applicable income tax treaty. A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of withholding of U.S. federal income tax under an income tax treaty may obtain a refund or credit of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding their entitlement to benefits under a relevant income tax treaty.

Dividends that are effectively connected with a non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States) are taxed on a net income basis at the regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a resident of the United States. In such cases, we will not have to withhold U.S. federal income tax if the non-U.S. holder complies with applicable certification and other requirements (*e.g.*, as set forth on IRS Form W-8ECI (or suitable substitute form)). In addition, a branch profits tax may be imposed at a 30% rate, or a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty, if the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation that has earnings and profits (attributable to dividends or otherwise) that are effectively connected with such holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

To the extent distributions exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, such distributions will constitute a return of capital to non-U.S. holders of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, and will first reduce the non-U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in such stock, but not below zero. The amounts of any such distribution in excess of such adjusted tax basis will be treated as gain from the sale of stock which generally should not be subject to U.S. federal income tax (except as described below). See discussion below under **Gain on Disposition of Common Stock** for a more detailed discussion regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences to a non-U.S. holder with respect to gain on the sale of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

Gain on Disposition of Common Stock

Subject to the discussion below under **Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Tax** and **Newly Enacted Legislation**, a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or any withholding thereof with respect to any gain realized on a sale or other disposition of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock (including, as a result of receiving distributions that are not treated as dividends on such stock in excess of such holder's adjusted tax basis in such stock) unless one of the following applies:

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States); in which case, the non-U.S. holder will generally be taxed on its net gain derived from the disposition at the regular graduated rates and in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a resident of the United States and, if the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, the branch profits tax described above may also apply;

the non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and meets certain other requirements; in which case, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to a 30% tax on the gain derived from the disposition, although such gain may be offset by U.S. source capital losses recognized during the same taxable year; or

MetLife, Inc.'s common stock constitutes a United States real property interest (*USRPI*) by reason of our status as a United States real property holding corporation (*USRPHC*) for U.S. federal income tax purposes at any time during the shorter of the 5-year period ending on the date the non-U.S. holder disposes of MetLife, Inc.'s

common stock or the period such holder held MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

We believe that we are not currently and do not anticipate becoming a USRPHC. Moreover, even if we are, or become, a USRPHC, non-U.S. holders would not be subject to U.S. federal income tax (including withholding thereof) if our stock is regularly traded on an established securities market within the meaning of Section 897(c)(3) of the Code, unless such a holder owned (directly or indirectly) more than 5% of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock during the applicable period (in which case, such holder would be subject to U.S. federal

S-69

Table of Contents

income tax with respect to the net gain recognized on the sale of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock at regular graduated rates and related reporting and filing requirements). We believe that MetLife, Inc.'s common stock should be treated as regularly traded on an established securities market. If MetLife, Inc.'s common stock does not meet this requirement and we are, or become, a USRPHC, non-U.S. holders (regardless of the percentage of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock owned by such holders) would be subject to U.S. federal income tax (including withholding thereof at the rate of 10% on the gross proceeds paid to such holder) and related reporting and filing requirements with respect to the sale of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock. Non-U.S. holders who own or may own (in each case, directly or indirectly) more than 5% of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock should consult their tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of a disposition of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Tax

Annual reports to the IRS and to each non-U.S. holder will be made reporting the amount of distributions paid to such holder and the tax withheld from those distributions, if any. These reporting requirements apply regardless of whether withholding was reduced or eliminated by an applicable income tax treaty. Copies of the information returns reporting those distributions and withholding may also be made available under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty or agreement to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder is a resident.

Under some circumstances, U.S. Treasury regulations require backup withholding and additional information reporting on reportable payments on common stock. The gross amount of dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder that fails to certify its non-U.S. holder status in accordance with applicable U.S. Treasury regulations generally will be reduced by backup withholding at the applicable rate (currently 28%), unless the 30% rate of withholding described above applies.

The payment of the proceeds of the sale or other disposition of common stock by a non-U.S. holder to or through the U.S. office of any broker, U.S. or foreign, generally will be reported to the IRS and reduced by backup withholding, unless the non-U.S. holder either certifies under penalties of perjury that it is a non-U.S. holder and that certain other conditions are met, or otherwise establishes an exemption. The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of common stock by a non-U.S. holder to or through a non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker generally will not be reduced by backup withholding or reported to the IRS. However, the payment of proceeds from the disposition of common stock to or through a non-U.S. office of a broker that is a United States person or has certain enumerated connections with the United States will be reported to the IRS unless the broker has documentary evidence in its files that the holder is a non-U.S. holder and certain other conditions are met, or the non-U.S. holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a non-U.S. holder can be refunded or credited against the non-U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any; *provided*, that the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner. These backup withholding and information reporting rules are complex and non-U.S. holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of these rules to them.

Newly Enacted Legislation

Legislation was enacted on March 18, 2010 that generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on dividends paid with respect to stock of U.S. issuers and the gross proceeds of a disposition of such stock paid to a foreign financial institution (other than with respect to dividends or gross proceeds that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. government to collect and provide to the U.S. tax authorities substantial information regarding U.S. account holders of such institution (which would include certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners). For this purpose, a

foreign financial institution includes, among others, a non-U.S. entity that (i) is a bank, (ii) holds, as a substantial portion of its business, financial assets for the account for others or (iii) is engaged primarily in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities, partnership interests, commodities or any interest in securities, partnership interests or commodities. The legislation also generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on dividends from such stock and the gross proceeds of a disposition of such stock paid to a non-financial foreign entity

S-70

Table of Contents

(other than with respect to dividends or gross proceeds that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States), unless such entity provides the withholding agent with a certification that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or a certification identifying the direct and indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity. These reporting requirements generally will not apply to any payment beneficially owned by (i) a non-financial foreign entity that is a corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on an established securities market, (ii) certain corporations that are affiliated with an entity described in clause (i), or (iii) certain other specified types of entities. Under certain circumstances (for example, if the recipient is a resident in a country having a tax treaty with the United States), a holder of such stock might be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes. The newly enacted withholding and reporting requirements generally will apply to payments made on or after January 1, 2013. The legislation also imposes new U.S. return disclosure obligations (and related penalties for failure to disclose) on individuals required to file U.S. federal income tax returns that hold certain specified foreign financial assets (which include financial accounts in foreign financial institutions). Potential investors are urged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this recently enacted legislation on their investment in MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

The foregoing discussion of U.S. federal income tax considerations is for general information purposes only and is not tax or legal advice. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor as to the particular tax consequences to you of purchasing, owning and disposing of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, including the applicability and effect of any U.S. federal, state, local or non-U.S. tax laws, and of any changes or proposed changes in applicable law.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Goldman, Sachs & Co., Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC are acting as representatives of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an underwriting agreement among MetLife, Inc., AIG, the Selling Stockholder and the underwriters, MetLife, Inc. and the Selling Stockholder have agreed to sell to each of the underwriters named below, and each of the underwriters has severally agreed to purchase, the respective number of shares of common stock set forth in the following table:

Underwriter	Number of Shares
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	36,408,810
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	14,680,973
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	11,010,730
Barclays Capital Inc.	8,808,583
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	8,808,583
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	8,808,583
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	8,808,583
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated	8,808,583
UBS Securities LLC	8,808,583
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	8,808,583
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.	1,194,443
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	1,194,443
Mizuho Securities USA Inc.	1,194,443
Nomura Securities North America, LLC	1,194,443
Piper Jaffray & Co.	1,194,443
PNC Capital Markets LLC	1,194,443
RBC Capital Markets, LLC	1,194,443
RBS Securities Inc.	1,194,443
Scotia Capital (USA) Inc.	1,194,443
SG Americas Securities, LLC	1,194,443
SMBC Nikko Capitals Markets Limited	1,194,443
Cabrera Capital Markets, LLC	852,295
CastleOak Securities, L.P.	852,295
Guzman & Company	852,295
Lebenthal & Co., LLC	852,295
Loop Capital Markets LLC	852,295
MFR Securities, Inc.	852,295
M.R. Beal & Company	852,295
Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc.	852,295
Samuel A. Ramirez & Company, Inc.	852,295
The Williams Capital Group, L.P.	852,295
Toussaint Capital Partners, LLC	852,295
Blaylock Robert Van, LLC	535,000
Total	146,809,712

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement, the underwriters have agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase all of the shares sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these shares are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the underwriting agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

S-72

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc., AIG and the Selling Stockholder have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters are offering the shares of common stock, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of officer's certificates and legal opinions. It is a condition to the closing of the MetLife, Inc. offering of common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement that all of the closing conditions of the Repurchase transaction (except the condition that the offering of the shares of common stock by MetLife, Inc. pursuant to this prospectus supplement has been consummated) under the Coordination Agreement will need to be satisfied or waived. It is a condition to the closing of the Selling Stockholder offering of common stock that the Coordination Agreement is in full force and effect. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

If fewer than 146,809,712 shares of the common stock can be sold in this offering, the number of shares that can be sold will be allocated first, to the shares of common stock that MetLife, Inc. proposes to sell, and second, to the shares of common stock that the Selling Stockholder proposes to sell.

Commissions and Discounts

The representatives have advised MetLife, Inc. and the Selling Stockholder that the underwriters propose initially to offer the shares to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$0.129750 per share. After the initial offering, the public offering price, concession or any other term of the offering may be changed.

The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discounts and commissions and proceeds before expenses.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$ 43.25000	\$ 6,349,520,044.00
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 0.21625	\$ 31,747,600.22
Proceeds, before expenses, to MetLife, Inc.	\$ 43.03375	\$ 2,950,824,237.50
Proceeds, before expenses, to the Selling Stockholder	\$ 43.03375	\$ 3,366,948,206.28

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discounts and commissions, to MetLife, Inc. are estimated at \$1 million.

No Sales of Similar Securities

MetLife, Inc., its executive officers and directors, the Selling Stockholder and AIG have each agreed not to sell or transfer any common stock or securities convertible into, exchangeable for or exercisable for common stock, for 60 days after the date of this prospectus supplement without first obtaining the written consent of Goldman, Sachs & Co. Specifically, MetLife, Inc., its executive officers and directors, the Selling Stockholder and AIG have agreed, with certain limited exceptions (including securities issued by MetLife, Inc. under its benefit plans and securities held by affiliates of AIG and the Selling Stockholder in connection with ordinary course (i) proprietary and third party fund and asset management activities, (ii) brokerage and securities trading activities and (iii) financial services and insurance activities), not to directly or indirectly:

offer, sell, issue, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of any shares of the common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of the common stock;

enter into a transaction that would have the same effect as described above;

enter into any swap, hedge or other arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock;

S-73

Table of Contents

in the case of MetLife, Inc., the Selling Stockholder and AIG, establish or increase a put equivalent position or liquidate or decrease a call equivalent position in the common stock;

in the case of our executive officers and directors, demand that we file a registration statement related to the common stock;

in the case of MetLife, Inc., file a registration statement related to the common stock; or

in the case of MetLife, Inc., publicly disclose the intention to take any of the foregoing actions;

in each case, without the prior written consent of Goldman, Sachs & Co.

New York Stock Exchange Listing

The shares of common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET.

Price Stabilization, Short Positions

Until the distribution of the shares is completed, SEC rules may limit underwriters and selling group members from bidding for and purchasing the common stock. However, the representatives may engage in transactions that stabilize the price of the common stock, such as bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain that price.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell the common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, stabilizing transactions, purchases on the open market to cover positions created by short sales and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of shares than they are required to purchase in the offering. The underwriters will need to close out any short sale by purchasing shares in the open market. The underwriters are likely to create a short position if they are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of various bids for or purchases of shares of common stock made by the underwriters in the open market prior to the completion of the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased shares sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

Similar to other purchase transactions, the underwriters' purchases to cover the syndicate short sales may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. The underwriters may conduct these transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of the underwriters makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the common stock. In addition, neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of the underwriters makes any representation that the representatives will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Shares

In connection with the offering, certain of the underwriters or securities dealers may distribute prospectuses by electronic means, such as e-mail. In addition, one or more of the underwriters may facilitate Internet distribution for this offering to certain of its Internet subscription customers. One or more of the underwriters may allocate a limited number of shares for sale to its online brokerage customers. An electronic prospectus is available on the Internet web site maintained by one or more of the underwriters. Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on such underwriter's web site is neither part of this prospectus supplement nor of the accompanying prospectus.

Other Relationships

In the ordinary course of their respective businesses, the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged, and may in the future engage, in commercial, investment or retail banking transactions with us and our affiliates for which they have in the past received, and may in the future receive, customary fees.

S-74

Table of Contents

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of MetLife, Inc. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Nomura Securities North America, LLC, a U.S. broker dealer, will offer and sell shares of the common stock to investors through Nomura Securities International, Inc., an affiliated U.S. broker dealer.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed with MetLife, Inc. as set forth below with respect to the following jurisdictions:

Notice to Prospective Investors in the EEA

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State, it has not made and will not make an offer of common stock which is the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of common stock shall require MetLife, Inc. or any representative to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in relation to any common stock in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and any common stock to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the common stock, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State) and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

- (a) It has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Market Act 2000, or FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the common stock in

circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to MetLife, Inc. or any representative; and

(b) It has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the common stock in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Switzerland

This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus), as well as any other material relating to the common stock which is the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus), do not constitute an issue prospectus pursuant to Article 652a or Article 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations. The common stock will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and, therefore, the documents relating to the common stock, including, but not limited to, this prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) may not comply with the disclosure standards of the listing rules (including any additional listing rules or prospectus

S-75

Table of Contents

schemes) of the SIX Swiss Exchange. The common stock is being offered in Switzerland by way of a private placement, *i.e.*, to a small number of selected investors only, without any public offer and only to investors who do not purchase the common stock with the intention to distribute it to the public. The investors will be individually approached by the issuer from time to time. This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) as well as any other material relating to the common stock, is personal and confidential and does not constitute an offer to any other person. This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) may only be used by those investors to whom it has been handed out in connection with the offering described herein and may neither directly nor indirectly be distributed or made available to other persons without express consent of the issuer. It may not be used in connection with any other offer and shall in particular not be copied and/or distributed to the public in (or from) Switzerland.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) relates to an exempt offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority. This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in those rules. It must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with exempt offers. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has not approved this prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) nor taken steps to verify the information set out in it, and has no responsibility for it. The common stock which is the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the common stock offered should conduct their own due diligence on the common stock. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) you should consult an authorized financial adviser.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Australia

This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) is not a formal disclosure document and has not been, nor will be, lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) does not purport to contain all information that investors or their professional advisers would expect to find in a prospectus or other disclosure document (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Australia)) for the purposes of Part 6D.2 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Australia) or in a product disclosure statement for the purposes of Part 7.9 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Australia), in either case, in relation to the common stock.

The common stock is not being offered in Australia to retail clients as defined in sections 761G and 761GA of the Corporations Act 2001 (Australia). This offering is being made in Australia solely to wholesale clients for the purposes of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001 (Australia) and, as such, no prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document in relation to the common stock has been, or will be, prepared.

This prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) does not constitute an offer in Australia other than to wholesale clients. By submitting an application for the common stock, you represent and warrant to us that you are a wholesale client for the purposes of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001 (Australia). If any recipient of this prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) is not a wholesale client, no offer of, or invitation to apply for, the common stock shall be deemed to be made to such recipient and no applications for the common stock will be accepted from such recipient. Any offer to a recipient in Australia, and any agreement arising from acceptance of such offer, is personal and may only be accepted by the recipient. In addition, by applying for the common stock you undertake to us that, for a period of 12 months from the date of issue of the common stock, you will not transfer any interest in the common stock to any person in Australia other than to a wholesale client.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The common stock may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in this prospectus supplement (and the accompanying prospectus) being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance

S-76

Table of Contents

(Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the common stock may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the common stock which is or is intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The common stock has not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the *Financial Instruments and Exchange Law*) and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any common stock, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

Neither this prospectus supplement nor the accompanying prospectus has been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the common stock may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the common stock be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the *SFA*), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the common stock is subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, common stock, debentures and units of common stock and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the common stock under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

Table of Contents

LEGAL OPINIONS

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for MetLife, Inc. by Matthew Ricciardi, Chief Counsel – Public Company and Corporate Law, of MetLife Group, Inc., an affiliate of MetLife, Inc. The validity of the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon by Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, New York, New York, which has also acted as special tax counsel for MetLife, Inc. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the Selling Stockholder by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, New York, New York. Mr. Ricciardi is paid a salary by an affiliate of MetLife, Inc., is a participant in various employee benefit plans offered by MetLife, Inc. and its affiliates to employees generally, is paid equity-based compensation in accordance with MetLife’s compensation programs and owns MetLife, Inc. common stock. Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP has, from time to time, represented, currently represents, and may continue to represent, some or all of the underwriters in connection with various legal matters. Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP maintains various group and other insurance policies with MLIC. Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York, New York is acting as counsel to the underwriters. Debevoise & Plimpton LLP has in the past provided, and continues to provide, legal services to MetLife, Inc. and certain of its affiliates, and to AIG and certain of its affiliates. Debevoise & Plimpton LLP maintains various group insurance policies with MLIC.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from the 2010 Form 10-K, and the effectiveness of MetLife’s internal control over financial reporting for the year ended December 31, 2010, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules and includes an explanatory paragraph regarding changes in MetLife’s method of accounting for the recognition and presentation of other-than-temporary impairment losses for certain investments as required by accounting guidance adopted on April 1, 2009, and its method of accounting for certain assets and liabilities to a fair value measurement approach as required by accounting guidance adopted on January 1, 2008, and (2) express an unqualified opinion on MetLife’s effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audited historical combined financial statements of American Life, ALICO Services, Inc. and DelAm and subsidiaries (collectively, the *Company*) included as Exhibit 99.1 to MetLife, Inc.’s Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 2, 2010 and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement have been so incorporated in reliance on the report (which contains an explanatory paragraph related to the Company’s change in method of accounting for other-than-temporary impairments of fixed maturity securities as of March 1, 2009) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

METLIFE, INC.

**DEBT SECURITIES, PREFERRED STOCK, DEPOSITARY SHARES,
COMMON STOCK, WARRANTS, PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND UNITS**

**METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST V
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST VI
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST VII
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST VIII
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST IX**

TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

**Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed by MetLife, Inc.,
As Described in this Prospectus and the Accompanying Prospectus Supplement**

MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, may offer these securities, or any combination thereof, from time to time in amounts, at prices and on other terms to be determined at the time of the offering. MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

THIS PROSPECTUS MAY NOT BE USED TO SELL SECURITIES UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, may offer securities through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, through agents, or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see **Plan of Distribution** in this prospectus.

MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol **MET**. Unless otherwise stated in this prospectus or an accompanying prospectus supplement, none of these securities will be listed on a securities exchange, other than MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

MetLife, Inc., or any of the trusts named above, or any of their respective affiliates may use this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement in a remarketing or other resale transaction involving the securities after their initial sale. These transactions may be executed at negotiated prices that are related to market prices at the time of purchase or sale, or at other prices, as determined from time to time.

Investing in our securities or the securities of the trusts involves risk. See **Risk Factors on page 1 of this prospectus.**

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, the New York Superintendent of Insurance or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. They have not made, nor will they make, any determination as to whether anyone should buy these securities. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is November 30, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	1
<u>Note Regarding Reliance on Statements in Our Contracts</u>	3
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	3
<u>MetLife, Inc.</u>	4
<u>The Trusts</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	6
<u>Description of Securities</u>	6
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	6
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	15
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	21
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	23
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	24
<u>Description of Units</u>	25
<u>Description of Trust Preferred Securities</u>	25
<u>Description of Guarantees</u>	28
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	30
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	32
<u>Experts</u>	32

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to MetLife, we, our, or us refer to MetLife, Inc., and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, while references to MetLife, Inc. refer only to MetLife, Inc. on an unconsolidated basis. References in this prospectus to the trusts refer to MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that MetLife, Inc. and the trusts filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, MetLife, Inc. may, from time to time, sell any combination of debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, warrants, purchase contracts and units and the trusts may, from time to time, sell trust preferred securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc., as described in this prospectus, in one or more offerings in one or more foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities MetLife, Inc. and the trusts may offer. Each time that securities are sold, a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering will be provided. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

You should rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts are making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of the prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in MetLife, Inc. securities or the securities of the trusts involve risks. We urge you to carefully consider the risk factors described in our filings with the SEC that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and, if applicable, in any prospectus supplement, pricing supplement or free writing prospectus used in connection with an offering of our securities, as well as the information relating to us identified herein in Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements, before making an investment decision.

NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement may contain or incorporate by reference information that includes or is based upon forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements give expectations or forecasts of future events. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as anticipate, estimate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, prospective services or products, future performance or results of current and anticipated services or products, sales efforts, expenses, the outcome of contingencies such as legal proceedings, trends in operations and financial results.

Any or all forward-looking statements may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Many such factors will be important in determining MetLife's actual future results. These statements are based on current expectations and the current economic environment. They involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. These statements are not guarantees of future performance. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Risks, uncertainties, and other factors that might cause such differences include the risks, uncertainties and other factors identified in MetLife, Inc.'s filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Table of Contents

Commission (the SEC). These factors include: (1) the imposition of onerous conditions following the acquisition of American Life Insurance Company (ALICO), a subsidiary of ALICO Holdings LLC (ALICO Holdings) and Delaware American Life Insurance Company (DelAm) (collectively, the Acquisition); (2) difficulties in integrating the business acquired in the Acquisition (the Alico Business); (3) uncertainty with respect to the outcome of the closing agreement entered into between ALICO and the United States Internal Revenue Service in connection with the Acquisition; (4) uncertainty with respect to the making of elections under Section 338 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any benefits therefrom; (5) an inability to manage the growth of the Alico Business; (6) a writedown of the goodwill established in connection with the Acquisition; (7) exchange rate fluctuations; (8) an inability to predict the financial impact of the Acquisition on MetLife's business and financial results; (9) events relating to American International Group, Inc. (AIG) that could adversely affect the Alico Business or MetLife; (10) the dilutive impact on MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders resulting from the issuance of equity securities to ALICO Holdings in connection with the Acquisition; (11) a decrease in MetLife, Inc.'s stock price as a result of ALICO Holdings' ability to sell its equity securities; (12) the conditional payment obligation of approximately \$300 million to ALICO Holdings if the conversion of the Series B Contingent Convertible Junior Participating Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock (Series B Preferred Stock) issued to ALICO Holdings in connection with the Acquisition into MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is not approved; (13) change of control provisions in the Alico Business agreements; (14) effects of guarantees within certain of the Alico Business variable life and annuity products; (15) regulatory action in the financial services industry affecting the combined business; (16) financial instability in Europe and possible writedowns of sovereign debt of European nations; (17) difficult conditions in the global capital markets; (18) increased volatility and disruption of the capital and credit markets, which may affect MetLife's ability to seek financing or access its credit facilities; (19) uncertainty about the effectiveness of the U.S. government's programs to stabilize the financial system, the imposition of fees relating thereto, or the promulgation of additional regulations; (20) impact of comprehensive financial services regulation reform on MetLife; (21) exposure to financial and capital market risk; (22) changes in general economic conditions, including the performance of financial markets and interest rates, which may affect MetLife's ability to raise capital, generate fee income and market-related revenue and finance statutory reserve requirements and may require MetLife to pledge collateral or make payments related to declines in value of specified assets; (23) potential liquidity and other risks resulting from MetLife's participation in a securities lending program and other transactions; (24) investment losses and defaults, and changes to investment valuations; (25) impairments of goodwill and realized losses or market value impairments to illiquid assets; (26) defaults on MetLife's mortgage loans; (27) the impairment of other financial institutions; (28) MetLife's ability to address unforeseen liabilities, asset impairments, or rating actions arising from any future acquisitions or dispositions, and to successfully integrate acquired businesses with minimal disruption; (29) economic, political, currency and other risks relating to MetLife's international operations; (30) MetLife, Inc.'s primary reliance, as a holding company, on dividends from its subsidiaries to meet debt payment obligations and the applicable regulatory restrictions on the ability of the subsidiaries to pay such dividends; (31) downgrades in MetLife, Inc.'s and its affiliates' claims paying ability, financial strength or credit ratings; (32) ineffectiveness of risk management policies and procedures; (33) availability and effectiveness of reinsurance or indemnification arrangements, as well as default or failure of counterparties to perform; (34) discrepancies between actual claims experience and assumptions used in setting prices for MetLife's products and establishing the liabilities for MetLife's obligations for future policy benefits and claims; (35) catastrophe losses; (36) heightened competition, including with respect to pricing, entry of new competitors, consolidation of distributors, the development of new products by new and existing competitors, distribution of amounts available under U.S. government programs, and for personnel; (37) unanticipated changes in industry trends; (38) changes in accounting standards, practices and/or policies; (39) changes in assumptions related to deferred policy acquisition costs (DAC), deferred sales inducements (DSI), value of business acquired (VOBA) or goodwill; (40) increased expenses relating to pension and postretirement benefit plans, as well as health care and other employee benefits; (41) exposure to losses related to variable annuity guarantee benefits, including from significant and sustained downturns or extreme volatility in equity markets, reduced interest rates, unanticipated policyholder behavior, mortality or longevity, and the adjustment for nonperformance risk; (42) deterioration in the experience of the closed block established in connection with the reorganization of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; (43) adverse results

or other consequences from litigation, arbitration or regulatory investigations; (44) discrepancies between actual experience and assumptions used in establishing liabilities related to other contingencies or obligations; (45) regulatory, legislative or tax changes relating to MetLife's insurance,

Table of Contents

banking, international, or other operations that may affect the cost of, or demand for, MetLife's products or services, impair its ability to attract and retain talented and experienced management and other employees, or increase the cost or administrative burdens of providing benefits to employees; (46) the effects of business disruption or economic contraction due to terrorism, other hostilities, or natural catastrophes; (47) the effectiveness of MetLife's programs and practices in avoiding giving its associates incentives to take excessive risks; (48) other risks and uncertainties described from time to time in MetLife, Inc.'s filings with the SEC; and (49) any of the foregoing factors as they relate to the Alico Business and its operations.

MetLife, Inc. does not undertake any obligation to publicly correct or update any forward-looking statement if MetLife, Inc. later becomes aware that such statement is not likely to be achieved. Please consult any further disclosures MetLife, Inc. makes on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

NOTE REGARDING RELIANCE ON STATEMENTS IN OUR CONTRACTS

In reviewing the agreements included as exhibits to any of the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplements, please remember that they are included to provide you with information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about MetLife, Inc., its subsidiaries or the other parties to the agreements. The agreements contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and:

should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements prove to be inaccurate;

have been qualified by disclosures that were made to the other party in connection with the negotiation of the applicable agreement, which disclosures are not necessarily reflected in the agreement;

may apply standards of materiality in a way that is different from what may be viewed as material to investors; and

were made only as of the date of the applicable agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in the agreement and are subject to more recent developments.

Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time. Additional information about MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries may be found elsewhere in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, as well as MetLife, Inc.'s other public filings, which are available without charge through the SEC website at www.sec.gov.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

MetLife, Inc. files reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. These reports, proxy statements and other information, including the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, can be read and copied at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. The SEC maintains an internet site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies that file electronically with the SEC, including MetLife, Inc. MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "MET". These reports, proxy statements and other information can also be read at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 11 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

Edgar Filing: METLIFE INC - Form 424B5

The SEC allows incorporation by reference into this prospectus of information that MetLife, Inc. files with the SEC. This permits MetLife, Inc. to disclose important information to you by referencing these filed documents. Any information referenced this way is considered part of this prospectus, and any information filed with the SEC subsequent to the date of this prospectus will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. Information furnished under Item 2.02 and Item 7.01 of MetLife, Inc.'s Current Reports on Form 8-K is not

Table of Contents

incorporated by reference in this registration statement and prospectus. MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the following documents which have been filed with the SEC:

Annual Report on Form 10-K and Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2009;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Form 10-Q/A for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended June 30, 2010 and September 30, 2010;

Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated March 31, 2000, relating to registration of shares of MetLife, Inc. s common stock;

Definitive Proxy Statement filed on March 23, 2010 (Proxy Statement); and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 29, 2010, February 22, 2010, March 5, 2010, March 11, 2010, April 13, 2010, May 3, 2010, May 7, 2010, May 17, 2010, August 2, 2010, August 5, 2010, August 6, 2010, August 16, 2010, October 18, 2010, October 28, 2010, October 29, 2010, November 2, 2010, November 15, 2010 and November 30, 2010.

MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the documents listed above and any future filings made with the SEC in accordance with Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until MetLife, Inc. and the trusts file a post-effective amendment which indicates the termination of the offering of the securities made by this prospectus. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that the offering of the securities by means of this prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

MetLife, Inc. will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, MetLife, Inc., 1095 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, by electronic mail (metir@metlife.com) or by telephone (212-578-2211). You may also obtain some of the documents incorporated by reference into this document at MetLife s website, www.metlife.com. You should be aware that all other information contained on MetLife s website is not a part of this document.

METLIFE, INC.

We are a leading provider of insurance, employee benefits and financial services with operations throughout the United States and the Latin America, Asia Pacific and Europe, Middle East and India regions. Through our subsidiaries and affiliates, we offer life insurance, annuities, auto and homeowners insurance, retail banking and other financial services to individuals, as well as group insurance and retirement & savings products and services to corporations and other institutions.

As a holding company, the primary source of MetLife, Inc. s liquidity is dividends it receives from its insurance subsidiaries. MetLife, Inc. s insurance subsidiaries are subject to regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends imposed by the regulators of their respective domiciles. The dividend limitation for U.S. insurance subsidiaries is based on the surplus to policyholders as of the immediately preceding calendar year and statutory net gain from operations of the immediately preceding calendar year. Statutory accounting practices, as prescribed by insurance regulators of various states in which we conduct business, differ in certain respects from accounting principles used in financial statements prepared in conformity with GAAP. The significant differences relate to the treatment of DAC, certain deferred income tax, required investment reserves, reserve calculation assumptions, goodwill and surplus

notes.

MetLife, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. MetLife, Inc.'s principal executive offices are located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166-0188, and its telephone number is 212-578-2211.

Table of Contents

THE TRUSTS

MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX are statutory trusts formed on October 31, 2007 under Delaware law pursuant to declarations of trust between the trustees named therein and MetLife, Inc. and the filing of certificates of trust with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. MetLife, Inc., as sponsor of the trusts, and the trustees named in the declarations of trust will amend and restate the declarations of trust in their entirety substantially in the forms which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, as of or prior to the date the trusts issue any trust preferred securities. The declarations of trust will be qualified as indentures under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the Trust Indenture Act).

The trusts exist for the exclusive purposes of:

issuing preferred securities offered by this prospectus and common securities to MetLife, Inc.;

investing the gross proceeds of the preferred securities and common securities in related series of debt securities, which may be senior or subordinated, issued by MetLife, Inc.; and

engaging in only those other activities which are necessary, appropriate, convenient or incidental to the purposes set forth above.

The payment of periodic cash distributions on the trust preferred securities and payments on liquidation and redemption with respect to the trust preferred securities, in each case to the extent the trusts have funds legally and immediately available, will be guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. to the extent set forth under Description of Guarantees.

MetLife, Inc. will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of the trusts. The common securities will represent an aggregate liquidation amount equal to at least 3% of each trust's total capitalization. The preferred securities of each trust will represent the remaining 97% of each trust's total capitalization. The common securities will have terms substantially identical to, and will rank equal in priority of payment with, the preferred securities. However, if MetLife, Inc. defaults on the related series of debt securities, then cash distributions and liquidation, redemption and other amounts payable on the common securities will be subordinate to the trust preferred securities in priority of payment.

The trusts each have a term of approximately 55 years, but may dissolve earlier as provided in their respective declarations of trust. The trusts' activities will be conducted by the trustees appointed by MetLife, Inc., as the direct or indirect holder of all of the common securities. The holder of the common securities of each trust will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace any of, or increase or reduce the number of, the trustees of the trust. However, the number of trustees shall be at least three, at least one of which shall be an administrative trustee. The duties and obligations of the trustees will be governed by the declaration of trust for each trust. A majority of the trustees of each trust will be persons who are employees or officers of or affiliated with MetLife, Inc. One trustee of each trust will be a financial institution which will be unaffiliated with MetLife, Inc. and which will act as property trustee and as indenture trustee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act, pursuant to the terms set forth in a prospectus supplement. In addition, unless the property trustee maintains a principal place of business in the State of Delaware, and otherwise meets the requirements of applicable law, one trustee of each trust will have its principal place of business or reside in the State of Delaware.

The property trustee will hold title to the debt securities for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities and the property trustee will have the power to exercise all rights, powers and privileges under the indenture as the holder of the debt securities. In addition, the property trustee will maintain exclusive control of a segregated non-interest bearing bank account to hold all payments made in respect of the debt securities for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities. The property trustee will make payments of distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption and otherwise to the holders of the trust securities out of funds from this property account.

The rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including economic rights, rights to information and voting rights, are provided in the declarations of trust of MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX, including any amendments thereto, the trust preferred securities, the Delaware Statutory Trust Act and the Trust Indenture Act.

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc. will pay all fees and expenses related to the trusts and the offering of trust preferred securities. The principal offices of each trust is: The Bank of New York (Delaware), 100 White Clay Center, Route 273, Newark, Delaware 19711, Attention: Corporate Trust Administration. The telephone number of each trust is: 302-283-8905.

Please read the prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities for further information concerning the trusts and the trust preferred securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We may use the proceeds of securities sold or re-sold under this registration statement for, among other things, general corporate purposes. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will specify the intended use of the proceeds of that offering. Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, the trusts will use all of the proceeds they receive from the sale of trust preferred securities to purchase debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth MetLife's historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30,		For the Years Ended December 31,			
	2010	2009	2009	2008	2007	2006
	(In millions)					
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(1),(2)	1.75		1.92	1.74	1.60	1.87

- (1) For purposes of this computation, earnings are defined as income before provision for income tax and discontinued operations and excluding undistributed income and losses from equity method investments, non-controlling interest and fixed charges, excluding capitalized interest. Fixed charges are the sum of interest and debt issue costs, interest credited to bank deposits, interest credited to policyholder account balances, an estimated interest component of rent expense and preferred stock dividends. Interest costs of \$312 million related to variable interest entities are included in this computation for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.
- (2) Earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges at a 1:1 ratio by \$3,069 million and \$2,860 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and the year ended December 31, 2009, respectively, primarily due to increased net derivatives losses on freestanding derivatives.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the debt securities, preferred stock, depository shares, common stock, warrants, purchase contracts and units that MetLife, Inc. may sell from time to time, and the trust preferred securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. that the trusts may sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. However, this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used in this prospectus, debt securities means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that MetLife, Inc. may issue from time to time. The debt securities will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, senior debt securities will be issued under the Senior Indenture dated as of November 9, 2001 between MetLife, Inc. and Bank One Trust Company, N.A. (predecessor to The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A.) (the Senior Indenture) and subordinated debt securities will be issued under the Subordinated Indenture dated as of June 21, 2005 between MetLife, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association (predecessor to The Bank of

Table of Contents

New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A.) (the Subordinated Indenture). This prospectus sometimes refers to the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture collectively as the Indentures.

The Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding provisions of the Indentures and debt securities are summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the Indentures and the debt securities, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

General

The debt securities will be direct unsecured obligations of MetLife, Inc. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of MetLife, Inc.'s other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s present and future senior indebtedness.

Because MetLife, Inc. is principally a holding company, its right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary, including Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise, is subject to the prior claims of creditors of the subsidiary, except to the extent MetLife, Inc. may be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. Accordingly, MetLife, Inc.'s obligations under the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and liabilities of its subsidiaries, including liabilities under contracts of insurance and annuities written by MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries, and holders of debt securities should look only to MetLife, Inc.'s assets for payment thereunder.

The Indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that MetLife, Inc. may issue and provide that MetLife, Inc. may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. MetLife, Inc. may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable Indenture. The Indentures also do not limit our ability to incur other debt.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the terms relating to the specific series of debt securities being offered. These terms will include some or all of the following:

- the title of debt securities and whether they are subordinated debt securities or senior debt securities;

- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

- the price or prices at which MetLife, Inc. will sell the debt securities;

- the maturity date or dates of the debt securities;

- the rate or rates of interest, if any, which may be fixed or variable, per annum at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the method of determining such rate or rates, if any;

- the date or dates from which any interest will accrue, the dates on which interest will be payable, or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;

- the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of any such deferral period, including the maximum consecutive period during which interest payment periods may be extended;

whether the amount of payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to any index, formula or other method, such as one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices, and the manner of determining the amount of such payments;

the dates on which MetLife, Inc. will pay interest on the debt securities and the regular record date for determining who is entitled to the interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

Table of Contents

if MetLife, Inc. possesses the option to do so, the periods within which and the prices at which MetLife, Inc. may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to optional redemption provisions, and the other terms and conditions of any such provisions;

MetLife, Inc.'s obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities by making periodic payments to a sinking fund or through an analogous provision or at the option of holders of the debt securities, and the period or periods within which and the price or prices at which MetLife, Inc. will redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and the other terms and conditions of such obligation;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;

the portion, or methods of determining the portion, of the principal amount of the debt securities which MetLife, Inc. must pay upon the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities in connection with an Event of Default (as described below), if other than the full principal amount;

the currency, currencies or currency unit in which MetLife, Inc. will pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities, if not United States dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent thereof in United States dollars;

provisions, if any, granting special rights to holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or MetLife, Inc.'s covenants with respect to the applicable series of debt securities, and whether or not such Events of Default or covenants are consistent with those contained in the applicable Indenture;

the application, if any, of the terms of the Indenture relating to defeasance and covenant defeasance (which terms are described below) to the debt securities;

whether the subordination provisions summarized below or different subordination provisions will apply to the debt securities;

the terms, if any, upon which the holders may or are required to convert or exchange such debt securities into or for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities or property or into securities of a third party, including conversion price (which may be adjusted), the method of calculating the conversion price, or the conversion period;

whether any of the debt securities will be issued in global or certificated form and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which global debt securities may be exchanged for certificated debt securities;

any change in the right of the trustee or the requisite holders of debt securities to declare the principal amount thereof due and payable because of an Event of Default;

the depository for global or certificated debt securities;

if applicable, a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to specific debt securities;

any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or other agents with respect to the debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the Indentures, as amended or supplemented.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued in fully registered form without coupons.

Table of Contents

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and certain additional tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

Subordination

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions. However, unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s Senior Indebtedness (as described below).

Under the Subordinated Indenture, Senior Indebtedness means all amounts due on obligations in connection with any of the following, whether outstanding at the date of execution of the Subordinated Indenture or thereafter incurred or created:

the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest in respect of indebtedness of MetLife, Inc. for borrowed money and indebtedness evidenced by securities, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments issued by MetLife, Inc.;

all capital lease obligations of MetLife, Inc.;

all obligations of MetLife, Inc. issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all conditional sale obligations of MetLife, Inc. and all obligations of MetLife, Inc. under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable in the ordinary course of business);

all obligations of MetLife, Inc. for the reimbursement on any letter of credit, banker's acceptance, security purchase facility or similar credit transaction;

all obligations of MetLife, Inc. in respect of interest rate swap, cap or other agreements, interest rate future or options contracts, currency swap agreements, currency future or option contracts and other similar agreements;

all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons for the payment of which MetLife, Inc. is responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise; and

all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons secured by any lien on any property or asset of MetLife, Inc. whether or not such obligation is assumed by MetLife, Inc.

Senior Indebtedness does not include:

indebtedness or monetary obligations to trade creditors created or assumed by MetLife, Inc. in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of materials or services;

indebtedness that is, by its terms, subordinated to, or ranks equal with, the subordinated debt securities; and

any indebtedness of MetLife, Inc. to its affiliates (including all debt securities and guarantees in respect of those debt securities issued to any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with MetLife, Inc. that is a

financing vehicle of MetLife, Inc. in connection with the issuance by such financing entity of preferred securities or other securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc.) unless otherwise expressly provided in the terms of any such indebtedness.

At September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, Senior Indebtedness aggregated approximately \$13,419 billion and \$10,458 billion, respectively. The amount of Senior Indebtedness which MetLife, Inc. may issue is subject to limitations imposed by its board of directors.

Table of Contents

Senior Indebtedness shall continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness.

Unless otherwise noted in the accompanying prospectus supplement, if MetLife, Inc. defaults in the payment of any principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any Senior Indebtedness when it becomes due and payable, whether at maturity or at a date fixed for prepayment or by declaration or otherwise, then, unless and until such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, MetLife, Inc. will make no direct or indirect payment (in cash, property, securities, by set-off or otherwise) in respect of the principal of or interest on the subordinated debt securities or in respect of any redemption, retirement, purchase or other requisition of any of the subordinated debt securities.

In the event of the acceleration of the maturity of any subordinated debt securities, the holders of all senior debt securities outstanding at the time of such acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due on the senior debt securities before the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

If any of the following events occurs, MetLife, Inc. will pay in full all Senior Indebtedness before it makes any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, to any holder of subordinated debt securities:

any dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of MetLife, Inc., whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership;

any general assignment by MetLife, Inc. for the benefit of creditors; or

any other marshaling of MetLife, Inc.'s assets or liabilities.

In such event, any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, which would otherwise (but for the subordination provisions) be payable or deliverable in respect of the subordinated debt securities, will be paid or delivered directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders until all Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full. If any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities is received by the trustee of any subordinated debt securities in contravention of any of the terms of the Subordinated Indenture and before all the Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full, such payment or distribution or security will be received in trust for the benefit of, and paid over or delivered and transferred to, the holders of the Senior Indebtedness at the time outstanding in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders for application to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all such Senior Indebtedness in full.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit the issuance of additional Senior Indebtedness.

If debt securities are issued to a trust in connection with the issuance of trust preferred securities, such debt securities may thereafter be distributed pro rata to the holders of such trust securities in connection with the dissolution of such trust upon the occurrence of certain events described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Restrictive Covenants

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, the following restrictive covenants shall apply to each series of senior debt securities:

Limitation on Liens. So long as any senior debt securities are outstanding, neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries will create, assume, incur or guarantee any debt which is secured by any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance on any capital stock of:

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;

any successor to substantially all of the business of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which is also a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.; or

any corporation (other than MetLife, Inc.) having direct or indirect control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or any such successor.

Table of Contents

However, this restriction will not apply if the debt securities then outstanding are secured at least equally and ratably with the otherwise prohibited secured debt so long as it is outstanding.

Limitations on Dispositions of Stock of Certain Subsidiaries. So long as any senior debt securities are outstanding and subject to the provisions of the Senior Indenture regarding mergers, consolidations and sales of assets, neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries will sell or otherwise dispose of any shares of capital stock (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind) of:

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;

any successor to substantially all of the business of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which is also a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.; or

any corporation (other than MetLife, Inc.) having direct or indirect control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or any such successor;

except for, in each case:

a sale or other disposition of any of such stock to a wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc. or of such subsidiary; or

a sale or other disposition of all of such stock for at least fair value (as determined by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors acting in good faith); or a sale or other disposition required to comply with an order of a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction, other than an order issued at MetLife, Inc.'s request or the request of any of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries.

Consolidation, Merger, Sale of Assets and Other Transactions

(i) MetLife, Inc. may not merge with or into or consolidate with another corporation or sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to, any other corporation other than a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., and (ii) no corporation may merge with or into or consolidate with MetLife, Inc. or, except for any direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to MetLife, Inc., unless:

MetLife, Inc. is the surviving corporation or the corporation formed by or surviving such merger or consolidation or to which such sale, assignment, transfer, lease or conveyance has been made, if other than MetLife, Inc., has expressly assumed by supplemental indenture all the obligations of MetLife, Inc. under the debt securities, the Indentures, and any guarantees of preferred securities or common securities issued by the trusts;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing;

if at the time any preferred securities of the trusts are outstanding, such transaction is not prohibited under the applicable declaration of trust and the applicable preferred securities guarantee of each trust; and

MetLife, Inc. delivers to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that the supplemental indenture complies with the applicable Indenture.

Events of Default, Notice and Waiver

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, the following shall constitute Events of Default under the Indentures with respect to each series of debt securities:

MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay any interest on any debt security of such series when due and payable, continued for 30 days;

MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay principal (or premium, if any) on any debt security of such series when due, regardless of whether such payment became due because of maturity, redemption, acceleration or otherwise, or is required by any sinking fund established with respect to such series;

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc.'s failure to observe or perform any other of its covenants or agreements with respect to such series for 90 days after MetLife, Inc. receives notice of such failure;

certain defaults with respect to MetLife, Inc.'s debt which result in a principal amount in excess of \$100,000,000 becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise have become due and payable (other than the debt securities or non-recourse debt);

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of MetLife, Inc.; and

certain events of dissolution or winding-up of the trusts in the event that debt securities are issued to the trusts or a trustee of the trusts in connection with the issuance of securities by the trusts.

If an Event of Default with respect to any debt securities of any series outstanding under either of the Indentures shall occur and be continuing, the trustee under such Indenture or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series outstanding may declare, by notice as provided in the applicable Indenture, the principal amount (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of that series) of all the debt securities of that series outstanding to be due and payable immediately; provided that, in the case of an Event of Default involving certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, acceleration is automatic; and, provided further, that after such acceleration, but before a judgment or decree based on acceleration, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all Events of Default, other than the nonpayment of accelerated principal, have been cured or waived. Upon the acceleration of the maturity of original issue discount securities, an amount less than the principal amount thereof will become due and payable. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to any original issue discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of maturity thereof.

Any past default under either Indenture with respect to debt securities of any series, and any Event of Default arising therefrom, may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of all debt securities of such series outstanding under such Indenture, except in the case of (i) default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any debt securities of such series, or (ii) default in respect of a covenant or provision which may not be amended or modified without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of such series affected.

The trustee is required, within 90 days after the occurrence of a default (which is known to the trustee and is continuing), with respect to the debt securities of any series (without regard to any grace period or notice requirements), to give to the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of such default; provided, however, that, except in the case of a default in the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, or in the payment of any sinking fund installment, on any debt securities of such series, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if it in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the holders of the debt securities of such series.

The trustee, subject to its duties during default to act with the required standard of care, may require indemnification by the holders of the debt securities of any series with respect to which a default has occurred before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the Indentures at the request of the holders of the debt securities of such series. Subject to such right of indemnification and to certain other limitations, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series under either Indenture may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

No holder of a debt security of any series may institute any action against MetLife, Inc. under either of the Indentures (except actions for payment of overdue principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt security or for the conversion or exchange of such debt security in accordance with its terms) unless (i) the holder has given to the trustee written notice of an Event of Default and of the continuance thereof with respect to the debt securities of such series specifying an Event of Default, as required under the applicable Indenture, (ii) the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding under such Indenture shall have requested the trustee to institute such action and offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity

Table of Contents

against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request, and (iii) the trustee shall not have instituted such action within 60 days of such request.

MetLife, Inc. is required to furnish annually to the trustee statements as to MetLife, Inc.'s compliance with all conditions and covenants under each Indenture.

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may discharge or defease its obligations under each Indenture as set forth below.

MetLife, Inc. may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture which have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and which have either become due and payable or are by their terms due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by irrevocably depositing with the trustee cash or, in the case of debt securities payable only in U.S. dollars, U.S. government obligations (as defined in either Indenture), as trust funds in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such debt securities.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may elect either (i) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the debt securities of or within any series (except as otherwise provided in the relevant Indenture) (defeasance) or (ii) to be released from its obligations with respect to certain covenants applicable to the debt securities of or within any series (covenant defeasance), upon the deposit with the relevant Indenture trustee, in trust for such purpose, of money and/or government obligations which, through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient, without reinvestment, to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt securities to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments thereon. As a condition to defeasance or covenant defeasance, MetLife, Inc. must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (i) above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable federal income tax law occurring after the date of the relevant Indenture. In addition, in the case of either defeasance or covenant defeasance, MetLife, Inc. shall have delivered to the trustee (i) an officers' certificate to the effect that the relevant debt securities exchange(s) have informed it that neither such debt securities nor any other debt securities of the same series, if then listed on any securities exchange, will be delisted as a result of such deposit, and (ii) an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with.

MetLife, Inc. may exercise its defeasance option with respect to such debt securities notwithstanding its prior exercise of its covenant defeasance option.

Modification and Waiver

Under the Indentures, MetLife, Inc. and the applicable trustee may supplement the Indentures for certain purposes which would not materially adversely affect the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities of a series without the consent of those holders. MetLife, Inc. and the applicable trustee may also modify the Indentures or any supplemental indenture in a manner that affects the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities with the consent

of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each affected series issued under the Indenture. However, the Indentures require the consent of each holder of debt securities that would be affected by any modification which would:

extend the fixed maturity of any debt securities of any series, or reduce the principal amount thereof, or reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest thereon, or reduce any premium payable upon the redemption thereof;

Table of Contents

reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount debt security or any other debt security payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;

change the currency in which any debt security or any premium or interest is payable;

impair the right to enforce any payment on or with respect to any debt security;

adversely change the right to convert or exchange, including decreasing the conversion rate or increasing the conversion price of, any debt security (if applicable);

reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the Indentures or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Indentures or for waiver of certain defaults;

reduce the requirements contained in the Indentures for quorum or voting; or

modify any of the above provisions.

If debt securities are held by a trust or a trustee of a trust, a supplemental indenture that affects the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities will not be effective until the holders of not less than a majority in liquidation preference of the preferred securities and common securities of the applicable trust, collectively, have consented to the supplemental indenture; provided, further, that if the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security is required, the supplemental indenture will not be effective until each holder of the preferred securities and the common securities of the applicable trust has consented to the supplemental indenture.

The Indentures permit the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series issued under the Indenture which is affected by the modification or amendment to waive MetLife, Inc.'s compliance with certain covenants contained in the Indentures.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name a debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal, interest and premium on the debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of such paying agent or paying agents as MetLife, Inc. may designate for such purpose from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at MetLife, Inc.'s option, payment of any interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address appears in the security register.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, a paying agent designated by MetLife, Inc. and located in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, will act as paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. All paying agents initially designated by MetLife, Inc. for the debt securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. MetLife, Inc. may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that MetLife, Inc. will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by MetLife, Inc. to a paying agent for the payment of the principal, interest or premium on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, interest or premium has become due and payable will be repaid to MetLife, Inc. upon request, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to MetLife, Inc. for payment thereof.

Denominations, Registrations and Transfer

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, debt securities will be represented by one or more global certificates registered in the name of a nominee for The Depository Trust Company (DTC). In such

Table of Contents

case, each holder's beneficial interest in the global securities will be shown on the records of DTC and transfers of beneficial interests will only be effected through DTC's records.

A holder of debt securities may only exchange a beneficial interest in a global security for certificated securities registered in the holder's name if:

DTC notifies MetLife, Inc. that it is unwilling or unable to continue serving as the depository for the relevant global securities or DTC ceases to maintain certain qualifications under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and no successor depository has been appointed for 90 days; or

MetLife, Inc. determines, in its sole discretion and subject to the procedures of DTC, that the global security shall be exchangeable.

If debt securities are issued in certificated form, they will only be issued in the minimum denomination specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement and integral multiples of such denomination. Transfers and exchanges of such debt securities will only be permitted in such minimum denomination. Transfers of debt securities in certificated form may be registered at the trustee's corporate office or at the offices of any paying agent or trustee appointed by MetLife, Inc. under the Indentures. Exchanges of debt securities for an equal aggregate principal amount of debt securities in different denominations may also be made at such locations.

Governing Law

The Indentures and debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

Relationship with the Trustees

The trustee under the Indentures is The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (in the case of the Senior Indenture, as successor to Bank One Trust Company, N.A., and in the case of the Subordinated Indenture, as successor to J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association). MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking and trust relationships with a number of banks and trust companies, including the trustee under the Indentures.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for securities described in this prospectus. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at MetLife, Inc.'s option. These provisions may allow or require the number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of such series of debt securities to be adjusted.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

MetLife, Inc.'s authorized capital stock consists of:

200,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which 90,857,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of November 23, 2010:

Edgar Filing: METLIFE INC - Form 424B5

27,600,000 shares of Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series A (the Series A Preferred Stock), of which 24,000,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of November 23, 2010;

69,000,000 shares of 6.500% Non-Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B (the Series B Preferred Stock) of which 60,000,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of November 23, 2010;

6,857,000 shares of Series B Contingent Convertible Junior Participating Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock (the Series B Contingent Convertible Preferred Stock), of which 6,857,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of November 23, 2010; and

10,000,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which no shares were issued or outstanding as of the date of this prospectus; and

Table of Contents

3,000,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which 985,254,724 shares were outstanding as of November 1, 2010. The 6,857,000 shares of Series B Contingent Convertible Preferred Stock will be convertible into 68,570,000 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock upon a favorable vote of MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders. The remaining shares of authorized and unissued common stock will be available for future issuance without additional stockholder approval.

Common Stock

Dividends. The holders of common stock, after any preferences of holders of any preferred stock, are entitled to receive dividends as determined by the board of directors. The issuance of dividends will depend upon, among other factors deemed relevant by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors, MetLife's financial condition, results of operations, cash requirements, future prospects and regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and MetLife, Inc.'s other subsidiaries. There is no requirement or assurance that MetLife, Inc. will declare and pay any dividends. In addition, (i) the certificates of designation for the Series A Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock and Series B Contingent Convertible Preferred Stock, (ii) MetLife, Inc.'s 6.40% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2066, (iii) MetLife, Inc.'s 10.75% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2069, (iv) MetLife, Inc.'s 6.817% Senior Debt Securities, Series A, due 2018, (v) MetLife, Inc.'s 7.717% Senior Debt Securities, Series B, due 2019 (vi) upon an exchange of the 7.875% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Exchangeable Surplus Trust Securities of MetLife Capital Trust IV, the related 7.875% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2067 of MetLife, Inc. and (vii) upon exchange of the 9.250% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Exchangeable Surplus Trust Securities of MetLife Capital Trust X, the related 9.250% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2068 of MetLife, Inc., all prohibit the declaration or payment of dividends or distributions on common stock under certain circumstances. Under the certificates of designation for the Series A Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock and Series B Contingent Convertible Preferred Stock, if dividends on such securities are not paid, no dividends may be paid on the common stock. Similarly, under the 6.40% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2066, under certain circumstances, if interest is not paid in full on such securities, whether because of an optional deferral or a trigger event, subject to certain exceptions, then no dividends may be paid on the common stock.

Voting Rights. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters on which the holders of common stock are entitled to vote and do not have any cumulative voting rights.

Liquidation and Dissolution. In the event of MetLife, Inc.'s liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of common stock are entitled to share equally and ratably in MetLife, Inc.'s assets, if any, remaining after the payment of all of MetLife, Inc.'s liabilities and the liquidation preference of any outstanding class or series of preferred stock.

Other Rights. The holders of common stock have no preemptive, conversion, redemption or sinking fund rights. The holders of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock are not required to make additional capital contributions.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. The transfer agent and registrar for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is Mellon Investor Services LLC, successor to ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C.

Preferred Stock

General. MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors has the authority to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the title and number of shares constituting any such series and the designations, powers, preferences, limitations and relative rights including offering price, any dividend rights (including whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative), dividend rate, voting rights, terms of any redemption, any redemption price or prices, conversion or

exchange rights and any liquidation preferences of the shares constituting any series, without any further vote or action by stockholders. The specific terms of the preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc. has authorized 10,000,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock for issuance in connection with a stockholder rights plan. The stockholder rights plan expired at the close of business on April 4, 2010 and was not renewed.

Voting Rights. The Delaware General Corporation Law provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of such preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will describe the voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock.

Conversion or Exchange. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which the preferred stock may be convertible into or exchangeable for securities described in this prospectus. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at MetLife, Inc.'s option. These provisions may set forth the conversion price, the method of determining the conversion price and the conversion period and may allow or require the number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of preferred stock to be adjusted.

Redemption. The prospectus supplement will describe the obligation, if any, to redeem the preferred stock in whole or in part at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may not purchase or redeem any of the outstanding shares or any series of preferred stock unless full cumulative dividends, if any, have been paid or declared and set apart for payment upon all outstanding shares of any series of preferred stock for all past dividend periods, and unless all of MetLife, Inc.'s matured obligations with respect to all sinking funds, retirement funds or purchase funds for all series of preferred stock then outstanding have been met.

Certain Provisions in MetLife, Inc.'s Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws and in Delaware and New York Law

A number of provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws deal with matters of corporate governance and rights of stockholders. The following discussion is a general summary of selected provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws and regulatory provisions that might be deemed to have a potential anti-takeover effect. These provisions may have the effect of discouraging a future takeover attempt which is not approved by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors but which individual stockholders may deem to be in their best interests or in which stockholders may receive a substantial premium for their shares over then current market prices. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such a transaction may not have an opportunity to do so. Such provisions will also render the removal of the incumbent board of directors or management more difficult. Some provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the New York Insurance Law may also have an anti-takeover effect. The following description of selected provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws and selected provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the New York Insurance Law is necessarily general and reference should be made in each case to MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws, which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and to the provisions of those laws.

Classified Board of Directors and Removal of Directors

Pursuant to MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation, the directors are divided into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, with each class having a term of three years. The classes serve staggered terms, such that the term of one class of directors expires each year. Any effort to obtain control of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors by causing the election of a majority of the board may require more time than would be required without a staggered election structure. MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation also provides that, subject to the rights of the holders of any class

of preferred stock, directors may be removed only for cause at a meeting of stockholders by a vote of a majority of the shares then entitled to vote. This provision may have the effect of slowing or impeding a change in membership of MetLife, Inc. s board of directors that would effect a change of control. As disclosed in our Proxy Statement, we expect to seek shareholder approval at our 2011 Annual Meeting to amend MetLife, Inc. s certificate of incorporation in order to declassify MetLife, Inc. s board of directors and provide for the annual election of all directors.

Declassifying MetLife, Inc. s board of directors would be phased in over a three-year period such that directors may serve the full terms to which they have been elected before the change to annual elections. If

Table of Contents

classification of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors is approved at the 2011 Annual Meeting, then beginning with MetLife, Inc.'s 2014 Annual Meeting, all directors will be elected for terms that would end at the following year's Annual Meeting.

Exercise of Duties by Board of Directors

MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation provides that while the MetLife Policyholder Trust (as described below) is in existence, each MetLife, Inc. director is required, in exercising his or her duties as a director, to take the interests of the trust beneficiaries into account as if they were holders of the shares of common stock held in the trust, except to the extent that any such director determines, based on advice of counsel, that to do so would violate his or her duties as a director under Delaware law.

Restriction on Maximum Number of Directors and Filling of Vacancies on MetLife, Inc.'s Board of Directors

Pursuant to MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws and subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, the number of directors may be fixed and increased or decreased from time to time by resolution of the board of directors, but the board of directors will at no time consist of fewer than three directors. Subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, stockholders can only remove a director for cause by a vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote, in which case the vacancy caused by such removal may be filled at such meeting by the stockholders entitled to vote for the election of the director so removed. Any vacancy on the board of directors, including a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors or resulting from a removal for cause where the stockholders have not filled the vacancy, subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum. If the vacancy is not so filled it will be filled by the stockholders at the next annual meeting of stockholders. The stockholders are not permitted to fill vacancies between annual meetings, except where the vacancy resulted from a removal for cause. These provisions give incumbent directors significant authority that may have the effect of limiting the ability of stockholders to effect a change in management.

Advance Notice Requirements for Nomination of Directors and Presentation of New Business at Meetings of Stockholders; Action by Written Consent

MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws provide for advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and nominations for director. In addition, pursuant to the provisions of both the certificate of incorporation and the by-laws, action may not be taken by written consent of stockholder. Rather, any action taken by the stockholders must be effected at a duly called meeting. Moreover, the stockholders do not have the power to call a special meeting. Only the chief executive officer or the secretary pursuant to a board resolution or, under some circumstances, the president or a director who also is an officer, may call a special meeting. These provisions make it more difficult for a stockholder to place a proposal or nomination on the meeting agenda and prohibit a stockholder from taking action without a meeting, and therefore may reduce the likelihood that a stockholder will seek to take independent action to replace directors or with respect to other matters that are not supported by management for stockholder vote.

Limitations on Director Liability

MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation contains a provision that is designed to limit the directors' liability to the extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law and any amendments to that law. Specifically, directors will not be held liable to MetLife, Inc. or its stockholders for an act or omission in their capacity as a director, except for liability as a result of:

a breach of the duty of loyalty to MetLife, Inc. or its stockholders;

acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

payment of an improper dividend or improper repurchase of MetLife, Inc.'s stock under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law; or

actions or omissions pursuant to which the director received an improper personal benefit.

Table of Contents

The principal effect of the limitation on liability provision is that a stockholder is unable to prosecute an action for monetary damages against a director of MetLife, Inc. unless the stockholder can demonstrate one of the specified bases for liability. This provision, however, does not eliminate or limit director liability arising in connection with causes of action brought under the federal securities laws. MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation also does not eliminate the directors' duty of care. The inclusion of the limitation on liability provision in the certificate may, however, discourage or deter stockholders or management from bringing a lawsuit against directors for a breach of their fiduciary duties, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise have benefited MetLife, Inc. and its stockholders. This provision should not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as injunction or rescission based upon a director's breach of the duty of care.

MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws also provide that MetLife, Inc. shall indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. MetLife, Inc. is required to indemnify its directors and officers for all judgments, fines, settlements, legal fees and other expenses reasonably incurred in connection with pending or threatened legal proceedings because of the director's or officer's position with MetLife, Inc. or another entity, including Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, that the director or officer serves at MetLife, Inc.'s request, subject to certain conditions, and to advance funds to MetLife, Inc.'s directors and officers to enable them to defend against such proceedings. To receive indemnification, the director or officer must succeed in the legal proceeding or act in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of MetLife, Inc. and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be lawful.

Supermajority Voting Requirement for Amendment of Certain Provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws

Some of the provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation, including those that authorize the board of directors to create stockholder rights plans, that set forth the duties, election and exculpation from liability of directors and that prohibit stockholders from taking actions by written consent, may not be amended, altered, changed or repealed unless the amendment is approved by the vote of holders of 75% of the then outstanding shares entitled to vote at an election of directors. This requirement exceeds the majority vote of the outstanding stock that would otherwise be required by the Delaware General Corporation Law for the repeal or amendment of such provisions of the certificate of incorporation. MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws may be amended, altered or repealed by the board of directors or by the vote of holders of 75% of the then outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors. These provisions make it more difficult for any person to remove or amend any provisions that have an anti-takeover effect.

Business Combination Statute

In addition, as a Delaware corporation, MetLife, Inc. is subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, unless it elects in its certificate of incorporation not to be governed by the provisions of Section 203. MetLife, Inc. has not made that election. Section 203 can affect the ability of an interested stockholder of MetLife, Inc. to engage in certain business combinations, including mergers, consolidations or acquisitions of additional shares of MetLife, Inc. for a period of three years following the time that the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is defined to include any person owning, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of a corporation. The provisions of Section 203 are not applicable in some circumstances, including those in which (1) the business combination or transaction which results in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder is approved by the corporation's board of directors prior to the time the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder or (2) the interested stockholder, upon consummation of such transaction, owns at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding prior to such transaction.

Restrictions on Acquisitions of Securities

The insurance laws and regulations of New York, the jurisdiction in which MetLife, Inc.'s principal insurance subsidiary, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is organized, may delay or impede a business combination involving MetLife, Inc. In addition to the limitations described in the immediately preceding paragraph, the New York Insurance Law prohibits any person from acquiring control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, either

Table of Contents

directly or indirectly through any acquisition of control of MetLife, Inc., without the prior approval of the New York Superintendent of Insurance. That law presumes that control exists where any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds the power to vote or holds proxies representing 10% or more of MetLife, Inc.'s outstanding voting stock, unless the New York Superintendent, upon application, determines otherwise. Even persons who do not acquire beneficial ownership of more than 10% of the outstanding shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock may be deemed to have acquired such control, if the New York Superintendent determines that such persons, directly or indirectly, exercise a controlling influence over MetLife, Inc.'s management or policies. Therefore, any person seeking to acquire a controlling interest in MetLife, Inc. would face regulatory obstacles which may delay, deter or prevent an acquisition.

The insurance holding company law and other insurance laws of many other states also regulate changes of control (generally presumed upon acquisitions of 10% or more of voting securities) of domestic insurers (including insurers owned by MetLife, Inc.) and insurance holding companies such as MetLife, Inc.

Stockholder Rights Plan

In September 1999, MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors adopted a stockholder rights plan. The stockholder rights plan expired at the close of business on April 4, 2010 and was not renewed.

MetLife Policyholder Trust

Under a plan of reorganization adopted in September 1999, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company converted from a mutual life insurance company to a stock life insurance company subsidiary of MetLife, Inc. MetLife established the MetLife Policyholder Trust to hold the shares of common stock allocated to eligible policyholders. A total of 494,466,664 shares of common stock were distributed to the MetLife Policyholder Trust on the effective date of the plan of reorganization. As of September 30, 2010, the trust held 225,909,098 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock. Because of the number of shares held by the trust and the voting provisions of the trust, the trust may affect the outcome of matters brought to a stockholder vote.

The trustee will generally vote all of the shares of common stock held in the trust in accordance with the recommendations given by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors to its stockholders or, if the board gives no such recommendation, as directed by the board, except on votes regarding certain fundamental corporate actions. As a result of the voting provisions of the trust, MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors will effectively be able to control votes on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, excluding those fundamental corporate actions described below, so long as the trust holds a substantial number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

If the vote relates to fundamental corporate actions specified in the trust, the trustee will solicit instructions from the beneficiaries and vote all shares held in the trust in proportion to the instructions it receives, which would give disproportionate weight to the instructions actually given by trust beneficiaries. These actions include:

an election or removal of directors in which a stockholder has properly nominated one or more candidates in opposition to a nominee or nominees of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors or a vote on a stockholder's proposal to oppose a board nominee for director, remove a director for cause or fill a vacancy caused by the removal of a director by stockholders, subject to certain conditions;

a merger or consolidation, a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the assets, or a recapitalization or dissolution of MetLife, Inc., in each case requiring a vote of MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders under applicable Delaware law;

any transaction that would result in an exchange or conversion of shares of common stock held by the trust for cash, securities or other property; and

any proposal requiring MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors to amend or redeem the rights under the stockholder rights plan, other than a proposal with respect to which MetLife, Inc. has received advice of nationally-recognized legal counsel to the effect that the proposal is not a proper subject for stockholder action under Delaware law.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the depositary shares. Further terms of the depositary shares and the applicable deposit agreement will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following description and any description of the depositary shares in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the deposit agreement, a form of which has been or will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The particular terms of the depositary shares offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent to which the general provisions described below may apply to such depositary shares will be outlined in the applicable prospectus supplement.

General

MetLife, Inc. may choose to offer fractional interests in debt securities or fractional shares of common stock or preferred stock. MetLife, Inc. may issue fractional interests in debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, in the form of depositary shares. Each depositary share would represent a fractional interest in a security of a particular series of debt securities or a fraction of a share of common stock or of a particular series of preferred stock, as the case may be, and would be evidenced by a depositary receipt.

MetLife, Inc. will deposit the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock represented by depositary shares under a deposit agreement between MetLife, Inc. and a depositary which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, as an owner of a depositary share, you will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a debt security or share of common stock or preferred stock represented by the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the debt security, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, represented by the depositary share, including, as the case may be, interest, dividend, voting, conversion, redemption, sinking fund, repayment at maturity, subscription and liquidation rights.

Interest, Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all payments of interest, cash dividends or other cash distributions received on the debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, to you in proportion to the number of depositary shares that you own. In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to you in an equitable manner, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make a distribution. In that case, the depositary may sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to you.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If a debt security, common stock or series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is redeemed, the depositary will redeem your depositary shares from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per debt security or share of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, payable in relation to the redeemed series of debt securities, common stock or preferred stock. Whenever MetLife, Inc. redeems debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing, as the case may be, fractional interests in the debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot, proportionately or by any other equitable method as the

depository may determine.

Exercise of Rights under the Indentures or Voting the Common Stock or Preferred

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which you are entitled to vote, or of any request for instructions or directions from you as holder of fractional interests in debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, the depository will mail to you the information contained in that notice. Each record holder of the depository shares on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depository how to give instructions or directions with respect to the

Table of Contents

debt securities represented by that holder's depositary shares or how to vote the amount of the common stock or preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The record date for the depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be. The depositary will endeavor, to the extent practicable, to give instructions or directions with respect to the debt securities or to vote the amount of the common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, represented by the depositary shares in accordance with those instructions. MetLife, Inc. will agree to take all reasonable action which the depositary may deem necessary to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will abstain from giving instructions or directions with respect to your fractional interests in the debt securities or voting shares of the common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, if it does not receive specific instructions from you.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

MetLife, Inc. and the depositary may amend the form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement at any time. However, any amendment which materially and adversely affects the rights of the holders of the depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding.

The deposit agreement will terminate if:

all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed;

if applicable, the debt securities and the preferred stock represented by depositary shares have been converted into or exchanged for common stock or, in the case of debt securities, repaid in full; or

there has been a final distribution in respect of the common stock or preferred stock, including in connection with the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of MetLife, Inc., and the distribution proceeds have been distributed to you.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to MetLife, Inc. notice of its election to do so. MetLife, Inc. also may, at any time, remove the depositary. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. MetLife, Inc. must appoint the successor depositary within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal. The successor depositary must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having total assets of not less than \$1,000,000,000.

Charges of Depositary

MetLife, Inc. will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. MetLife, Inc. will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the debt securities or common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, and issuance of depositary receipts, all withdrawals of depositary shares of debt securities or common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, by you and any repayment or redemption of the debt securities or preferred stock, as the case may be. You will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges, as well as the other charges that are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for your account.

Miscellaneous

The depositary will forward all reports and communications from MetLife, Inc. which are delivered to the depositary and which MetLife, Inc. is required or otherwise determines to furnish to holders of debt securities, common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the depositary will be liable under the deposit agreement to you other than for its gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceedings relating to any depositary shares, debt securities, common stock or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. MetLife, Inc. and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting debt securities or shares of common stock or preferred stock for deposit, you or other persons believed to be competent and on documents which MetLife, Inc. and the depositary believe to be genuine.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

MetLife, Inc. may issue warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities described in this prospectus, or any combination of these securities, and these warrants may be issued independently or together with any underlying securities and may be attached or separate from the underlying securities. MetLife, Inc. will issue each series of warrants under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between MetLife, Inc. and a warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as MetLife, Inc.'s agent in connection with the warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency for or with holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the warrants. Further terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreement will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following description and any description of the warrants in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the warrant agreement, a form of which has been or will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any warrants that MetLife, Inc. may offer, including the following:

the title of the warrants;

the total number of warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies investors may use to pay for the warrants;

the designation and terms of the underlying securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the price at which and the currency, currencies, or currency units in which investors may purchase the underlying securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

whether the warrants will be issued in registered form or bearer form;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the underlying securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each underlying security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related underlying securities will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations;

the identity of the warrant agent;

the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the warrants; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Warrant certificates may be exchanged for new warrant certificates of different denominations, and warrants may be exercised at the warrant agent's corporate trust office or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants exercisable for debt securities will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise and will not be entitled to payments of principal (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise. Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants exercisable for shares of preferred stock or common stock will not have any rights of holders of the preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon such

Table of Contents

exercise and will not be entitled to dividend payments, if any, or voting rights of the preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon such exercise. Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants exercisable for other securities described in this prospectus will not have any rights of holders of such securities purchasable upon such exercise.

Exercise of Warrants

A warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash an amount of securities at an exercise price that will be stated in, or that will be determinable as described in, the applicable prospectus supplement. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Upon receipt of payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the warrants represented by such warrant certificate is exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

Enforceability of Rights; Governing Law

The holders of warrants, without the consent of the warrant agent, may, on their own behalf and for their own benefit, enforce, and may institute and maintain any suit, action or proceeding against MetLife, Inc. to enforce their rights to exercise and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of their warrants. Unless otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement, each issue of warrants and the applicable warrant agreement will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

As may be specified in a prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may issue purchase contracts obligating holders to purchase from MetLife, Inc., and MetLife, Inc. to sell to the holders, a number of debt securities, shares of common stock or preferred stock, or other securities described in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement at a future date or dates. The purchase contracts may require MetLife, Inc. to make periodic payments to the holders of the purchase contracts. These payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis to be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to any purchase contracts will specify the material terms of the purchase contracts and any applicable pledge or depositary arrangements, including one or more of the following:

The stated amount that a holder will be obligated to pay under the purchase contract in order to purchase debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, or other securities described in this prospectus or the formula by which such amount shall be determined.

The settlement date or dates on which the holder will be obligated to purchase such securities. The prospectus supplement will specify whether the occurrence of any events may cause the settlement date to occur on an earlier date and the terms on which an early settlement would occur.

The events, if any, that will cause MetLife, Inc.'s obligations and the obligations of the holder under the purchase contract to terminate.

The settlement rate, which is a number that, when multiplied by the stated amount of a purchase contract, determines the number of securities that MetLife, Inc. or a trust will be obligated to sell and a holder will be obligated to purchase under that purchase contract upon payment of the stated amount of that purchase contract. The settlement rate may be determined by the application of a formula specified in the prospectus supplement. If a formula is specified, it may be based on the market price of such securities over a specified period or it may be based on some other reference statistic.

Table of Contents

Whether the purchase contracts will be issued separately or as part of units consisting of a purchase contract and an underlying security with an aggregate principal amount equal to the stated amount. Any underlying securities will be pledged by the holder to secure its obligations under a purchase contract.

The type of underlying security, if any, that is pledged by the holder to secure its obligations under a purchase contract. Underlying securities may be debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, or other securities described in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement.

The terms of the pledge arrangement relating to any underlying securities, including the terms on which distributions or payments of interest and principal on any underlying securities will be retained by a collateral agent, delivered to MetLife, Inc. or be distributed to the holder.

The amount of the contract fee, if any, that may be payable by MetLife, Inc. to the holder or by the holder to MetLife, Inc., the date or dates on which the contract fee will be payable and the extent to which MetLife, Inc. or the holder, as applicable, may defer payment of the contract fee on those payment dates. The contract fee may be calculated as a percentage of the stated amount of the purchase contract or otherwise.

The descriptions of the purchase contracts and any applicable underlying security or pledge or depository arrangements in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement are summaries of the material provisions of the applicable agreements and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the purchase contract agreement, pledge agreement and deposit agreement, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit may also include debt obligations of third parties, such as U.S. Treasury securities. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The prospectus supplement will describe:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be held or transferred separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The descriptions of the units and any applicable underlying security or pledge or depository arrangements in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement are summaries of the material provisions of the applicable agreements and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, the terms and provisions of the applicable agreements, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

DESCRIPTION OF TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the trust preferred securities. Further terms of the trust preferred securities and the amended and restated declarations of trust will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms described in this section apply to that particular series of trust preferred securities. The following description and any description of the trust preferred securities and amended and restated declarations of trust in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the amended and restated declarations of trust, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Table of Contents

General

Each trust may issue only one series of trust preferred securities having terms described in the prospectus supplement. The declaration of trust of each trust will authorize the administrative trustees, on behalf of the trust, to issue the trust preferred securities of the trust. The trusts will use all of the proceeds they receive from the sale of trust preferred securities and common securities to purchase debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc. The debt securities will be held in trust by the trust's property trustee for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities and common securities.

The trust preferred securities of each trust will have such terms as are set forth in the trust's declaration of trust, including as relates to distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights and the other preferred, deferral and special rights and restrictions. A prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the distinctive designation of the trust preferred securities;

the number of trust preferred securities issued by the trust;

the total and per-security liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities;

the annual distribution rate, or method of determining such rate, for trust preferred securities of the trust;

the date or dates on which distributions will be payable and any corresponding record dates;

whether distributions on the trust preferred securities will be cumulative;

if the trust preferred securities have cumulative distribution rights, the date or dates, or method of determining the date or dates, from which distributions on the trust preferred securities will be cumulative;

the amount or amounts that will be paid out of the assets of the trust to the holders of the trust preferred securities of the trust upon voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of the trust;

the obligation, if any, of the trust to purchase or redeem the trust preferred securities;

if the trust is to purchase or redeem the trust preferred securities:

the price or prices at which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed in whole or in part;

the period or periods within which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part;

the terms and conditions upon which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part;

the voting rights, if any, of the trust preferred securities in addition to those required by law, including:

the number of votes per trust preferred security; and

any requirement for the approval by the holders of trust preferred securities as a condition to specified action or amendments to the trust's declaration of trust;

the rights, if any, to defer distributions on the trust preferred securities by extending the interest payment period on the related debt securities;

if the trust preferred securities may be converted into or exercised or exchanged for MetLife's common stock or preferred stock or any other securities, the terms on which conversion, exercise or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at the option of each trust, the date on or the period during which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, the initial conversion, exercise or exchange price or rate and the circumstances or manner in which the amount of common stock or preferred stock or other securities issuable upon conversion, exercise or exchange may be adjusted;

the terms upon which the debt securities may be distributed to holders of trust preferred securities;

Table of Contents

whether the preferred securities are to be issued in book-entry form and represented by one or more global certificates;

certain U.S. federal income tax considerations;

if applicable, any securities exchange upon which the trust preferred securities shall be listed;

provisions relating to events of default and the rights of holders of trust preferred securities in the event of default;

other agreements or other rights including upon the consolidation or merger of the trust; and

any other relative rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of the trust preferred securities not inconsistent with the trust's declaration of trust or applicable law.

All trust preferred securities offered will be guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. to the extent set forth under Description of Guarantees. Any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to an offering of trust preferred securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In connection with the issuance of preferred securities, each trust will issue one series of common securities. The declaration of each trust authorizes the administrative trustees to issue on behalf of such trust one series of common securities having such terms including distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights or such restrictions as shall be set forth therein. The terms of the common securities issued by the trust will be substantially identical to the terms of the preferred securities issued by such trust and the common securities will rank equally, and payments will be made thereon pro rata, with the preferred securities. However, upon an event of default under the declaration of trust, the rights of the holders of the common securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the preferred securities. Except in certain limited circumstances, the common securities will also carry the right to vote, and appoint, remove or replace any of the trustees of a trust. MetLife, Inc. will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of each trust.

Enforcement of Certain Rights by Holders of Trust Preferred Securities

If an event of default occurs, and is continuing, under the declaration of trust of any of the trusts, the holders of the preferred securities of that trust would typically rely on the property trustee to enforce its rights as a holder of the related debt securities against MetLife, Inc. Additionally, those who together hold a majority of the liquidation amount of the trust's preferred securities will have the right to:

direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the property trustee; or

direct the exercise of any trust or power that the property trustee holds under the declaration of trust, including the right to direct the property trustee to exercise the remedies available to it as a holder of MetLife, Inc.'s debt securities.

If the property trustee fails to enforce its rights under the applicable series of debt securities, to the fullest extent permitted by law, a holder of trust preferred securities of such trust may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce the property trustee's rights under the applicable series of debt securities without first

instituting any legal proceeding against the property trustee or any other person or entity.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an event of default occurs and the event is attributable to MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay interest or principal on the debt securities when due, including any payment on redemption, and this debt payment failure is continuing, a preferred securities holder of the trust may directly institute a proceeding for the enforcement of this payment. Such a proceeding will be limited, however, to enforcing the payment of this principal or interest only up to the value of the aggregate liquidation amount of the holder's preferred securities as determined after the due date specified in the applicable series of debt securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES

The following outlines some of the general terms and provisions of the guarantees. Further terms of the guarantees will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms described in this section apply to those guarantees. The following description and any description of the guarantees in a prospectus supplement may not be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms and provisions of the guarantee agreements, forms of which have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and the Trust Indenture Act.

MetLife, Inc. will execute and deliver the guarantees for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities. Each guarantee will be held by the guarantee trustee for the benefit of holders of the trust preferred securities to which it relates.

Each guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. will act as indenture trustee under each guarantee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act.

General

Pursuant to each guarantee, MetLife, Inc. will irrevocably and unconditionally agree, to the extent set forth in the guarantee, to pay in full, to the holders of the related trust preferred securities, the following guarantee payments, to the extent these guarantee payments are not paid by, or on behalf of, the related trust, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim that MetLife, Inc. may have or assert against any person:

any accrued and unpaid distributions required to be paid on the trust preferred securities of the trust, but if and only if and to the extent that the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make those payments;

any distributions of MetLife's common stock or preferred stock or any of its other securities, in the event that the trust preferred securities may be converted into or exercised for common stock or preferred stock, to the extent the conditions of such conversion or exercise have occurred or have been satisfied and the trust does not distribute such shares or other securities but has received such shares or other securities;

the redemption price, including all accrued and unpaid distributions to the date of redemption, with respect to any trust preferred securities called for redemption by the trust, but if and only to the extent the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make that payment; and

upon a dissolution, winding-up or termination of the trust, other than in connection with the distribution of debt securities to the holders of trust preferred securities of the trust, the lesser of:

the total of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the trust preferred securities of the trust to the date of payment, to the extent the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make that payment; and

the amount of assets of the trust remaining available for distribution to holders of trust preferred securities of the trust in liquidation of the trust.

MetLife, Inc. may satisfy its obligation to make a guarantee payment by directly paying the required amounts to the holders of the related trust preferred securities or by causing the related trust to pay such amounts to such holders.

Each guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payments with respect to the related trust preferred securities from the time of issuance of the trust preferred securities. The guarantees will not apply to the payment of distributions and other payments on the trust preferred securities when the related trust does not have sufficient funds legally and immediately available to make the distributions or other payments. If MetLife, Inc. does not make interest payments on the debt securities purchased by a trust, such trust will not pay distributions on the preferred securities issued by such trust and will not have funds available therefor. The guarantee, when taken together with MetLife, Inc.'s obligations under the debt securities, the Indentures and the declarations of trust, will provide a full and unconditional guarantee by MetLife, Inc. of payments due on the trust preferred securities.

Table of Contents

MetLife, Inc. will also agree separately, through guarantees of the common securities, to irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the obligations of the trusts with respect to the common securities to the same extent as the guarantees of the preferred securities. However, upon an event of default under the Indentures, holders of preferred securities shall have priority over holders of common securities with respect to distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption or otherwise.

Subordination

MetLife, Inc.'s obligation under each guarantee to make the guarantee payments will be an unsecured obligation of MetLife, Inc. and, if subordinated debt securities are issued to the applicable trust and unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, will rank:

subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s other liabilities, including the subordinated debt securities, except those obligations or liabilities ranking equal or subordinate to the guarantees by their terms;

equally with any other securities, liabilities or obligations that may have equal ranking by their terms; and

senior to all of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

If subordinated debt securities are issued to the applicable trust, the terms of the trust preferred securities will provide that each holder of trust preferred securities, by accepting the trust preferred securities, agrees to the subordination provisions and other terms of the guarantee related to subordination.

Each guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection. This means that the holder of trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce its rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity.

Each guarantee will be unsecured and, because MetLife, Inc. is principally a holding company, will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries, including liabilities under contracts of insurance and annuities written by MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries. The guarantee does not limit the incurrence or issuance of other secured or unsecured debt by MetLife, Inc.

Amendments and Assignment

For any changes that materially and adversely affect the rights of holders of the related trust preferred securities, each guarantee may be amended only if there is prior approval of the holders of more than 50% in liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities issued by the applicable trust. All guarantees and agreements contained in each guarantee will bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of MetLife, Inc. and will inure to the benefit of the holders of the related trust preferred securities of the applicable trust then outstanding.

Termination

Each guarantee will terminate and will have no further force and effect as to the related trust preferred securities upon:

distribution of debt securities to the holders of all trust preferred securities of the applicable trust; or

full payment of the amounts payable upon liquidation of the applicable trust.

Each guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of the related trust preferred securities must restore payment of any sums paid with respect to the trust preferred securities or under the guarantee.

Events of Default

Each guarantee provides that an event of default under a guarantee occurs upon MetLife, Inc.'s failure to perform any of its obligations under the applicable guarantee.

Table of Contents

The holders of a majority or more in liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities to which any guarantee relates may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the guarantee trustee with respect to the guarantee or may direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the guarantee trustee in respect of the guarantee.

If the guarantee trustee fails to enforce the guarantee, any holder of the related trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce the holder's rights under such guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the trust, the guarantee trustee or any other person or entity.

Furthermore, if MetLife, Inc. fails to make a guarantee payment, a holder of trust preferred securities may directly institute a proceeding against MetLife, Inc. for enforcement of the trust preferred securities guarantee for such payment.

The holders of a majority or more in liquidation amount of trust preferred securities of any series may, by vote, on behalf of the holders of all the trust preferred securities of the series, waive any past event of default and its consequences.

Information Concerning the Guarantee Trustee

Prior to an event of default with respect to any guarantee and after the curing or waiving of all events of default with respect to the guarantee, the guarantee trustee may perform only the duties that are specifically set forth in the guarantee.

Once a guarantee event of default has occurred and is continuing, the guarantee trustee is to exercise, with respect to the holder of the trust preferred securities of the series, the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Unless the guarantee trustee is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which may be incurred by the guarantee trustee by a holder of the related trust preferred securities, the guarantee trustee is not required to exercise any of its powers under any guarantee at the request of the holder. Additionally, the guarantee trustee is not required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of its duties if the guarantee trustee reasonably believes that it is not assured repayment or adequate indemnity.

The guarantee trustee is The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., which is one of a number of banks and trust companies with which MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking and trust relationships.

Governing Law

Each guarantee will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

MetLife, Inc. may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

to underwriters or dealers for resale to the public or to institutional investors;

directly to institutional investors; or

through agents to the public or to institutional investors.

The prospectus supplement with respect to each series of securities will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters or agents;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to be received by MetLife, Inc. or the applicable trust from the sale;

Table of Contents

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;
any initial public offering price;
any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.

If MetLife, Inc. or the trusts use underwriters in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

negotiated transactions;
at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;
at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
at prices related to prevailing market prices; or
at negotiated prices.

The securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for MetLife, Inc. or the trusts. The prospectus supplement will identify any remarketing firm and will describe the terms of its agreement, if any, with MetLife, Inc. or the trusts and its compensation.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities, if any are purchased.

If MetLife, Inc. sells the securities directly or through agents designated by it, MetLife, Inc. will identify any agent involved in the offering and sale of the securities and will list any commissions payable by MetLife, Inc. to the agent in the accompanying prospectus supplement. Unless indicated otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

MetLife, Inc. may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers by certain institutional investors to purchase securities and provide for payment and delivery on a future date specified in an accompanying prospectus supplement. MetLife, Inc. will describe any such arrangement in the prospectus supplement. Any such institutional investor may be subject to limitations on the minimum amount of securities that it may purchase or on the portion of the aggregate principal amount of such securities that it may sell under such arrangements. Institutional investors from which such authorized offers may be solicited include:

commercial and savings banks;
insurance companies;
pension funds;

investment companies;

educational and charitable institutions; and

such other institutions as MetLife, Inc. may approve.

Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements entered into with MetLife, Inc. and/or the applicable trust, or both, to indemnification by MetLife, Inc. against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be required to make. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for MetLife, Inc., any trust, and/or MetLife, Inc. s affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Table of Contents

Each series of securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market other than the common stock which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Any common stock sold will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, upon official notice of issuance. The securities, other than the common stock, may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold by MetLife, Inc. or any trust for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice.

Any offering of trust preferred securities will be made in compliance with Rule 2810 of the Conduct Rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

LEGAL OPINIONS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for MetLife, Inc. by Matthew Ricciardi, Chief Counsel – Public Company and Corporate Law, of MetLife Group, Inc., an affiliate of MetLife, Inc. Mr. Ricciardi is paid a salary by an affiliate of MetLife, Inc., is a participant in various employee benefit plans offered by MetLife, Inc. and its affiliates to employees generally, is paid equity-based compensation in accordance with MetLife’s compensation programs and owns MetLife, Inc. common stock. Certain matters of Delaware law relating to the validity of the trust preferred securities of MetLife Capital Trust V, MetLife Capital Trust VI, MetLife Capital Trust VII, MetLife Capital Trust VIII and MetLife Capital Trust IX will be passed upon for the trust by Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., Wilmington, Delaware, special Delaware counsel for the trusts.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedules incorporated in this prospectus by reference from MetLife’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, and the effectiveness of MetLife’s internal control over financial reporting for the year ended December 31, 2009, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules and includes an explanatory paragraph regarding changes in MetLife’s method of accounting for the recognition and presentation of other-than-temporary impairment losses for certain investments as required by accounting guidance adopted on April 1, 2009, its method of accounting for certain assets and liabilities to a fair value measurement approach as required by accounting guidance adopted on January 1, 2008, and its method of accounting for deferred acquisition costs and for income taxes as required by accounting guidance adopted on January 1, 2007, and (2) express an unqualified opinion on MetLife’s effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audited historical combined financial statements of American Life Insurance Company, ALICO Services, Inc. and Delaware American Life Insurance Company and subsidiaries included as Exhibit 99.1 to MetLife, Inc.’s Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 2, 2010 and incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents