

METLIFE INC
Form 424B5
October 08, 2008

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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities, and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-147180

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 8, 2008

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement
(To Prospectus dated November 6, 2007)

75,000,000 Shares

Common Stock

MetLife, Inc. is offering 75,000,000 shares of its common stock, par value \$.01 per share (the common stock).

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MET. On October 7, 2008, the last reported sales price of the common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$36.87 per share.

See Risk Factors beginning on page S- 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	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to MetLife, Inc.	\$	\$

To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 75,000,000 shares of common stock, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 11,250,000 shares from MetLife, Inc. at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount.

Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, on behalf of the underwriters, expects to deliver the shares of common stock against payment therefore in New York, New York on October , 2008.

Sole Bookrunning Manager

Credit Suisse

Joint Lead Managers

Merrill Lynch & Co.

UBS Investment Bank

Prospectus Supplement dated October , 2008.

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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.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You should read this prospectus supplement along with the accompanying prospectus carefully before you invest. Both documents contain important information you should consider before making your investment decision. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain the terms of this offering of common stock. The accompanying prospectus contains information about our securities generally, some of which does not apply to the common stock covered by this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus. If the information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with any information in the accompanying prospectus, the information in this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede the inconsistent information in 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 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MLIC), and their respective direct and indirect subsidiaries, while references to MetLife, Inc. refer only to the holding company.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

MetLife, Inc. files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (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 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:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (the 2007 Form 10-K);

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008 and June 30, 2008; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 16, 2008, February 19, 2008, March 5, 2008, April 8, 2008, April 22, 2008, April 28, 2008, May 15, 2008, June 2, 2008, July 15, 2008, July 25, 2008, August 11, 2008, August 15, 2008, September 12, 2008, September 17, 2008 October 2, 2008 and October 7, 2008.

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 Exchange Act), until MetLife, Inc. files a post-effective amendment which indicates the termination of the offering of the

securities made by this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the date that the offering of securities by means of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus 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., 1 MetLife Plaza, Long Island City, New York

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11101, 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. All other information contained on MetLife's website is not a part of this document.

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. You can identify these statements 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 a 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, and there are no guarantees about the performance of any securities offered by this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. 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 risk, uncertainties and other factors identified in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information," including those identified under "Risk Factors" below. These factors include:

difficult and adverse conditions in the global and domestic capital and credit markets;

continued volatility and further deterioration of the capital and credit markets;

uncertainty about the effectiveness of the U.S. government's plan to purchase large amounts of illiquid, mortgage-backed and other securities from financial institutions;

the impairment of other financial institutions;

potential liquidity and other risks resulting from our participation in a securities lending program and other transactions;

exposure to financial and capital market risk;

changes in general economic conditions, including the performance of financial markets and interest rates, which may affect our ability to raise capital and generate fee income and market-related revenue;

defaults on our mortgage and consumer loans;

investment losses and defaults, and changes to investment valuations;

market value impairments to illiquid assets;

unanticipated changes in industry trends;

heightened competition, including with respect to pricing, entry of new competitors, the development of new products by new and existing competitors and for personnel;

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 claims;

discrepancies between actual experience and assumptions used in establishing liabilities related to other contingencies or obligations;

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ineffectiveness of risk management policies and procedures;

catastrophe losses;

changes in assumptions related to deferred policy acquisition costs (DAC), value of business acquired (VOBA) or goodwill;

downgrades in our and our affiliates' claims paying ability, financial strength or credit ratings;

economic, political, currency and other risks relating to our international operations;

regulatory, legislative or tax changes that may affect the cost of, or demand for, our products or services;

changes in accounting standards, practices and/or policies;

adverse results or other consequences from litigation, arbitration or regulatory investigations;

deterioration in the experience of the closed block established in connection with the reorganization of MLIC;

the effects of business disruption or economic contraction due to terrorism or other hostilities;

MetLife's ability to identify and consummate on successful terms any future acquisitions, and to successfully integrate acquired businesses with minimal disruption;

fluctuations in our share price;

further sales or other dilution of our equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock;

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; and

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. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures MetLife, Inc. makes on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

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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 section 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. Except as otherwise noted, all information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares of common stock.

MetLife

We are a leading provider of insurance and other financial services with operations throughout the United States and the regions of Latin America, Europe, and Asia Pacific. Through our domestic and international subsidiaries and affiliates, we offer life insurance, annuities, automobile 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.

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

The Offering

Issuer	MetLife, Inc.
Securities offered	75,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of MetLife, Inc. To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 75,000,000 shares of common stock, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 11,250,000 shares of common stock.
Common stock outstanding at September 30, 2008, as adjusted for this offering	782,312,251 shares of common stock (793,562,251 shares of common stock upon the exercise of the over-allotment option in full).
Use of proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds of this offering will be approximately \$ billion (or \$ billion upon the exercise of the over-allotment option in full). We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock for general corporate purposes and potential strategic initiatives.
NYSE symbol	MET

Recent Developments

Pre-Announcement of MetLife, Inc.'s Expected Third Quarter 2008 Results

On October 7, 2008, MetLife preannounced its expected results for the third quarter of 2008. Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders for the third quarter of 2008 is expected to be between \$1,005 million and \$1,150 million, or \$1.38 to \$1.58 per diluted common share. Operating earnings available to common shareholders for the third quarter of 2008 are expected to be between \$600 million and \$675 million, or

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\$0.83 to \$0.93 per diluted common share. Premiums, fees and other revenues for the third quarter of 2008 were approximately \$8.6 billion, up 16% over the third quarter of 2007 and up 12% over the first nine months of 2007.

MetLife's range of operating earnings for the third quarter of 2008 primarily reflects:

A decline in variable investment income, which is expected to be below plan by approximately \$117 million, net of income tax, or \$0.16 per diluted common share. This decline was mostly driven by negative hedge fund and private equity returns;

The impact of poor equity markets on fee revenue in MetLife's variable annuity business and a related adjustment to deferred acquisition costs. The almost 9% decline in the S&P 500 in the quarter is expected to impact results by approximately \$105 million, net of income tax, or \$0.14 per diluted common share;

An accrual of approximately \$48 million, net of income tax, or \$0.07 per diluted common share, related to the first phase of MetLife's previously-announced Operational Excellence initiative. The third quarter accrual relates to severance and is expected to result in future annualized savings of approximately \$130 million before income tax. MetLife's Operational Excellence plans are anticipated to extend through 2010 and, while we expect to incur additional expenses, we anticipate these costs will result in targeted future cost savings, before income tax, of at least \$400 million a year, as well as revenue enhancements; and

The previously-announced decision to commute three excess insurance policies for asbestos-related claims, which amounts to a reduction in operating earnings available to common shareholders of approximately \$23 million, net of income tax, or \$0.03 per diluted common share.

Realized and Unrealized Investment Gains/Losses

Relative to the size of MetLife's \$324 billion general account portfolio, MetLife's level of realized investment losses has remained modest. For the third quarter of 2008, MetLife expects net realized investment gains, net of income tax, to be between \$400 million and \$475 million. Included in these gains are approximately \$490 million, net, in credit-related losses, including impairments. Approximately \$375 million, net, or 77%, of the credit-related impairments were related to major financial services credits such as Lehman Brothers, Washington Mutual Inc. and AIG. These credit-related losses are offset by derivative gains of approximately \$735 million, net of income tax, which arose primarily from the increase in value of the U.S. dollar in the third quarter, as well as the increase in credit default swap spreads.

MetLife's gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities at September 30, 2008 are expected to be \$17 billion pre-tax, compared with \$10 billion at June 30, 2008. MetLife's corresponding gross unrealized gains are estimated at \$5 billion pre-tax, compared with \$6 billion at June 30, 2008. The increase in gross unrealized losses resulted from widening credit spreads in the quarter. The component of gross unrealized losses for securities trading down 20% or more for six months has increased to approximately \$1.7 billion pre-tax, from \$400 million at June 30, 2008. MetLife analyzes every security in an unrealized loss position. Impairments on any security that MetLife does not have the ability or intent to hold until recovery, or which MetLife believes is expected to not recover, have already been included in the impairment number above.

Capital

MetLife estimates its excess capital position to be more than \$4 billion. This excess consists of: \$2 billion of capital in MetLife's insurance subsidiaries in excess of what MetLife believes would support a risk-based capital ratio of 350%; \$1 billion of excess capital at the holding company; and another \$1 billion which will be received in February 2009

upon the mandatory conversion of MetLife's common equity units.

Liquidity

MetLife's sources of liquidity include cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$21 billion as of September 30, 2008, up from \$14 billion as of June 30, 2008.

As of September 30, 2008, MetLife's liquid assets at the holding company totaled approximately \$1.75 billion. Liquidity is not expected to be impacted in the near term because none of the holding company's long-term debt is

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due before 2011 and the holding company's commercial paper program, which is not used for general corporate funding purposes, had only approximately \$300 million outstanding as of September 30, 2008.

Liquidity in MetLife's insurance business is determined by a number of factors:

In MetLife's retail business, which includes individual life and annuity products, the policies lapse or are surrendered in the normal course of business, and lapse rates have been decreasing recently.

In Institutional's retirement and savings business, as of September 30, 2008, approximately \$92 billion of the total policyholder liabilities of \$96 billion were comprised of pension and other fixed annuity liabilities without surrender or withdrawal options, or guaranteed investment contracts with stated maturities.

MetLife's retirement and savings business has liabilities of approximately \$4 billion under funding agreements pursuant to which customers can, on notice, require early payment. Of these, approximately \$1 billion could be required to be paid on 90 days notice, while the remainder requires 6 to 13 months notice.

In addition, less than \$1 billion of retirement and savings liabilities are subject to mandatory collateralization as a result of ratings downgrades. Hypothetically, if there were a two notch downgrade in MetLife's insurer financial strength rating, MetLife would currently be required to post less than \$200 million in collateral.

Securities Lending

In connection with MetLife's securities lending activities, MetLife lends various types of fixed income securities in return for cash collateral which is invested in high quality assets. At the end of the second quarter, MetLife's securities lending book was \$45 billion. At September 30, 2008, it had declined to \$41 billion. Of this \$41 billion, approximately \$15 billion is on open, which means that the securities MetLife has loaned can be returned to MetLife overnight in return for cash, while the balance has varying maturities ranging from two weeks to several months. Of the \$15 billion of securities on open, \$10 billion are U.S. Treasury and agency securities which MetLife believes if put to MetLife, can immediately be sold to satisfy MetLife's obligation to return cash collateral securing its loans. Should MetLife's liquidity needs under MetLife's securities lending program accelerate, MetLife has a pool of \$9 billion in cash at the end of the third quarter dedicated to meet those needs and, in addition, MetLife has the liquidity resources of most of MetLife's general account assets to draw on.

Book Value

As of September 30, 2008, preliminary stockholders' equity, excluding accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI), was approximately \$35 billion. AOCI reflects estimated unrealized losses of approximately \$7 billion, net of income tax and deferred acquisition costs. Consequently, book value per share including AOCI was \$36 per diluted common share and excluding AOCI was \$46 per diluted common share.

Termination of Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policies

On September 29, 2008, MLIC entered into an endorsement and a Termination Agreement and Release (collectively, the Termination Agreements) with respect to each of (i) Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between Stockwood Reinsurance Company, Ltd., an affiliate of Swiss Re, and MLIC (the Stockwood Policy), (ii) Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between European Reinsurance Corporation of America, an affiliate of Swiss Re, and MLIC (the ERC Policy), and (iii) Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between Granite State Insurance Company, an affiliate of American International Group, Inc., and MLIC (the

Granite State Policy, and, collectively, the Policies). The Termination Agreements were effective as of September 30, 2008.

In connection with the commutation, MLIC received securities with a market value of approximately \$115 million on September 26, 2008. MLIC will receive the remainder of the approximately \$600 million recoverable in cash on or before January 30, 2009. MLIC will recognize a loss of \$22.9 million, net of income tax, during the three months ended September 30, 2008.

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The Policies provided for recovery of losses for asbestos-related claims of up to \$1.5 billion in excess of a \$400 million self-insured retention. The Policies were also subject to annual and per claim sublimits. Amounts were recoverable under the Policies annually with respect to claims paid during the preceding calendar year. Each Policy contained an experience fund and a reference fund that provided for payments to MLIC at the commutation date if the reference fund was greater than zero at commutation or pro rata reductions from time to time in the loss reimbursements to MLIC if the cumulative return on the reference fund was less than the return specified in the experience fund. The return in the reference fund was tied to performance of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index and the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index.

RGA Transaction

During the third quarter, MetLife completed its split-off of substantially all of MetLife's interest in Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated (RGA). The split-off transaction results in a GAAP loss of \$460 million, a statutory gain in excess of \$1 billion, and a decrease in MetLife's share count of approximately 23 million shares. MetLife's share of the operating earnings of RGA in the third quarter (approximately \$24 million, or \$0.03 per diluted common share) is now reflected in discontinued operations. All previous periods will be reclassified in discontinued operations when MetLife formally reports its third quarter 2008 results. See Note 2(b) of Capitalization.

Remarketing of Securities Underlying Common Equity Units

On August 15, 2008, MetLife concluded the remarketing, on behalf of holders of its Common Equity Units (the Units), of debt securities constituting part of MetLife, Inc.'s Units. In the remarketing, \$1,029,805,000 aggregate principal amount of such debt securities were remarketed, and the debt securities were denominated 6.817% Senior Debt Securities, Series A, Due 2018 (the Series A Debentures). The Series A Debentures were issued pursuant to an Indenture and First Supplemental Indenture dated as of June 21, 2005 between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (as successor in interest to J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association), as Trustee (the Trustee), as supplemented by the Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 7, 2008, between us and the Trustee, and have terms described in our Prospectus Supplement relating to the remarketing dated August 12, 2008, filed with the SEC on August 14, 2008 pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).

See Note 2(a) of Capitalization.

Non-GAAP and Other Financial Disclosures

Net income available to common shareholders and net income available to common shareholders per diluted common share are defined as GAAP net income and GAAP net income per diluted common share less preferred stock dividends, respectively.

Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders is a GAAP measure and is defined as GAAP net income less discontinued operations, net of income tax, less preferred stock dividends.

MetLife also analyzes its performance using so-called non-GAAP measures, including operating earnings available to common shareholders and operating earnings available to common shareholders per diluted common share. Operating earnings available to common shareholders is defined as GAAP net income, excluding net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, adjustments related to net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, and discontinued operations other than discontinued real estate, net of income tax, less preferred stock dividends. Scheduled periodic settlement payments on derivative instruments not qualifying for hedge accounting treatment are included in operating earnings available to common shareholders.

Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders can be reconciled to operating earnings available to common shareholders by excluding net investment gains and losses, net of income tax; adjustments related to net investment gains and losses, net of income tax; and discontinued operations related to real estate. Discontinued operations other than discontinued operations related to real estate and preferred stock dividends are

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excluded from both income from continuing operations available to common shareholders and operating earnings available to common shareholders.

MetLife believes these measures enhance the understanding and comparability of its performance by excluding net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, and adjustments related to net investment gains and losses, net of income tax, both of which can fluctuate significantly from period to period, and discontinued operations other than discontinued real estate, net of income tax, thereby highlighting the results from operations and the underlying profitability drivers of the business. Operating earnings available to common shareholders and operating earnings available to common shareholders per diluted common share should not be viewed as substitutes for GAAP net income available to common shareholders and GAAP net income available to common shareholders per diluted common share, respectively.

Operating earnings available to common shareholders per diluted common share is calculated by dividing operating earnings available to common shareholders by the number of weighted average diluted common shares outstanding for the period indicated. Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders per diluted common share is calculated by dividing Income from continuing operations available to common shareholders by the number of weighted average diluted common shares outstanding for the period indicated.

MetLife provides guidance on its future earnings per diluted common share on both a GAAP (income from continuing operations) and a non-GAAP (operating earnings) basis. A reconciliation of the non-GAAP measure to the most directly comparable GAAP measure is not accessible on a forward-looking basis because MetLife believes it is not possible to provide other than a range of net investment gains and losses, which can fluctuate significantly within or without the range and from period to period and may have a significant impact on GAAP net income.

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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 Relating to Our Business

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 have been experiencing extreme volatility and disruption for more than twelve months. In recent weeks, the volatility and disruption have reached unprecedented levels. In some cases, the markets have exerted downward pressure on availability of liquidity and credit capacity for certain issuers.

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, 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 a variety of short- and long-term instruments, including repurchase agreements, commercial paper, medium- and long-term debt, junior subordinated debt securities, capital securities and stockholders' equity.

In the event 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, 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 decreased 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. For instance, we have funding agreements which can be put to us after a period of notice. The notice requirements vary; however, the shortest period is 90 days, applicable to approximately \$1 billion of such liabilities as of September 30, 2008.

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 statutory capital requirements; generate fee income and market-related revenue to meet liquidity needs; and access the capital necessary to grow our business. As such, we may be forced to delay raising 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. Recently our credit spreads have widened considerably. Our results of operations, financial condition, cash flows and statutory capital position could be materially adversely affected by disruptions in the financial markets.

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

Our results of operations are materially affected by conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally, both in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world. The stress experienced by global capital markets that began in the second half of 2007 continued and substantially increased during the third quarter of 2008. Recently, concerns over inflation, energy costs, geopolitical issues, the availability and cost of credit, the U.S. mortgage market and a declining real estate market in the U.S. have contributed to increased volatility and diminished expectations for the economy and the markets going forward. These factors, combined with volatile oil prices, declining business and consumer confidence and increased unemployment, have precipitated an economic

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slowdown and fears of a possible recession. In addition, the fixed-income markets are experiencing a period of extreme volatility which has negatively impacted market liquidity conditions. Initially, the concerns on the part of market participants were focused on the subprime segment of the mortgage-backed securities market. However, these concerns have since expanded to include a broad range of mortgage-and asset-backed and other fixed income securities, including those rated investment grade, the U.S. and international credit and interbank money markets generally, and a wide range of financial institutions and markets, asset classes and sectors. As a result, the market for fixed income instruments has experienced decreased liquidity, increased price volatility, credit downgrade events, and increased probability of default. Securities that are less liquid are more difficult to value and may be hard to dispose of. Domestic and international equity markets have also been experiencing heightened volatility and turmoil, with issuers (such as our company) that have exposure to the real estate, mortgage and credit markets particularly affected. These events and the continuing market upheavals may have an adverse effect on us, in part because we have a large investment portfolio and are also dependent upon customer behavior. Our revenues are likely to decline in such circumstances and our profit margins could erode. In addition, in the event of extreme prolonged market events, such as the global credit crisis, we could incur significant 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 will be affected by the downturn in capital markets. Any decrease in account values will decrease the fees generated by our variable annuity products.

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. 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 current mortgage crisis has also raised the possibility of future legislative and regulatory actions in addition to the recent enactment of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA) that could further impact our business. 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.

There Can be No Assurance that Actions of the U.S. Government, Federal Reserve and Other Governmental and Regulatory Bodies For the Purpose of Stabilizing the Financial Markets Will Achieve the Intended Effect

In response to the financial crises affecting the banking system and financial markets and going concern threats to investment banks and other financial institutions, on October 3, 2008, President Bush signed the EESA into law. Pursuant to the EESA, the U.S. Treasury has the authority to, among other things, purchase up to \$700 billion of mortgage-backed and other securities from financial institutions for the purpose of stabilizing the financial markets. The Federal Government, Federal Reserve and other governmental and regulatory bodies have taken or are considering taking other actions to address the financial crisis. There can be no assurance as to what impact such actions will have on the financial markets, including the extreme levels of volatility currently being experienced. Such continued volatility could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, or the trading price of our common stock.

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 upon or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure due to it. We also have exposure to these financial

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institutions in the form of unsecured debt instruments, derivative transactions and equity investments. There can be no assurance that any such losses or impairments to the carrying value of these assets would not materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

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

We participate in a securities lending program for our general account whereby fixed income securities are loaned by us to third parties, primarily major brokerage firms and commercial banks. The borrowers of our securities provide us with collateral, typically in cash, which we separately maintain. We invest such cash collateral in other securities, primarily U.S. Treasuries, U.S. government agency securities, mortgage-backed securities and corporate fixed income securities. Securities with a cost or amortized cost of \$40.4 billion and \$41.1 billion and an estimated fair value of \$39.7 billion and \$42.1 billion were on loan under the program at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively. Securities loaned under such transactions may be sold or repledged by the transferee. We were liable for cash collateral under our control of \$41.2 billion and \$43.3 billion at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively.

As of September 30, 2008, approximately \$15.0 billion of the \$40.4 billion in securities on loan under the program could be returned to us by the borrowers at any time, with the remainder having varying maturities ranging from two weeks to several months. Returns of loaned securities would require us to return the cash 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 received from the third parties) may exceed the term of the related securities loan and the market 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, such as those conditions we have experienced recently, 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 income generated by these activities will also likely decline.

We are Exposed to Significant Financial and Capital Markets Risk which May Adversely Affect Our Results of Operations, Financial Condition and Liquidity, and our Net Investment Income can 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 values, foreign currency exchange rates, market volatility, the performance of the economy in general, the performance of the specific obligors included in our portfolio and other factors outside our control. Our exposure to interest rate risk relates primarily to the market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in interest rates. A rise in interest rates will increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio and, if long-term interest rates rise dramatically within a six to twelve month time period, certain of our life insurance businesses 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 assets in an unrealized loss position. Due to the long-term nature of the liabilities associated with certain of our life insurance businesses, and 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. A rise in interest rates would increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, offset by our ability to earn higher rates of return on funds reinvested. Conversely, a decline in interest rates would decrease the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, offset by lower rates of return on funds reinvested. Our mitigation efforts with respect to interest rate risk are primarily focused towards maintaining an investment

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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 investments prior to maturity at a loss in order to cover 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 assets 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 and cash flow variability associated with changes in credit spreads. A widening of credit spreads will increase the net unrealized loss position of the 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, would likely result in higher other-than-temporary impairments. Credit spread tightening will reduce net investment income associated with new purchases of fixed maturities. 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 consolidated results of operations or financial condition. Recent credit spreads on both corporate and structured securities have widened, resulting in continuing depressed pricing. Continuing challenges include continued weakness in the U.S. real estate market and increased mortgage delinquencies, investor anxiety over the U.S. economy, rating agency downgrades of various structured products and financial issuers, unresolved issues with structured investment vehicles and monolines, deleveraging of financial institutions and hedge funds and a serious dislocation in the inter-bank market. If significant, continued volatility, changes in interest rates, changes in credit spreads and defaults, a lack of pricing transparency, market liquidity, declines in equity prices, and the strengthening or weakening of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar, individually or in tandem, could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations, financial condition or cash flows through realized losses, impairments, and changes in unrealized positions.

Our primary exposure to equity risk relates to the potential for lower earnings associated with certain of our insurance businesses, such as variable annuities, where fee income is earned based upon the fair value of the assets under management. In addition, certain of our annuity products offer guaranteed benefits which increase our potential benefit exposure should equity markets decline. 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 post-retirement 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.

Our primary foreign currency exchange risks are described under **Fluctuations in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates and Foreign Securities Markets Could Negatively Affect our Profitability.** Significant declines in equity prices, changes in U.S. interest rates, changes in credit spreads, and changes foreign currency could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations, financial condition or liquidity. 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.

We invest a portion of our invested assets in investment funds, many of which make private equity investments. The amount and timing of 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 income that we record from these investments can vary substantially from quarter to quarter. Recent equity and credit market volatility may reduce investment income for these type of investments.

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

Many of our transactions with financial and other institutions specify the circumstances under which the parties are required to post collateral. The amount of collateral we may be required to post under these agreements may increase under certain circumstances, which could adversely affect our liquidity. In addition, under the terms of

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some of our transactions we may be required to make payment to our counterparties related to any decline in the market value of the specified assets. In December 2007, we entered into an agreement with an unaffiliated financial institution that referenced \$2.5 billion of 35-year surplus notes issued by MetLife Reinsurance Company of Charleston (MRC). Based on the decline of the market value of MRC 's surplus notes, we made a payment to the unaffiliated financial institution in the third quarter of 2008, and may in the future be required to make additional payments based on any further declines in the market value of MRC 's surplus notes. Such payments reduce the notional amount of our agreement with our counterparty, but do not reduce the principal amount of the surplus notes. Such payments could have an adverse effect on our liquidity. Furthermore, with respect to any such payments, we will have unsecured risk to the counterparty as these amounts are not required to be segregated from the counterparty 's funds, are not held in a third-party custodial account, and are not required to be paid to us by the counterparty until the termination of the transaction. Finally, certain of our transactions involve additional liquidity risks because in the event of an early termination of the transaction, we would have to purchase the referenced security to recover the amount we have paid in reduction of the notional amount of the transaction.

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

To support its level premium term life and universal life with secondary guarantees businesses and MLIC 's closed block, we currently utilize capital markets solutions for financing a portion of its statutory reserve requirements. While we have financing facilities in place for its previously written business and has remaining capacity in existing facilities to support writings through the end of 2008, certain of these facilities are subject to cost increases upon the occurrence of specified ratings downgrades of the company or are subject to periodic repricing. Any resulting cost increases could negatively impact our financial results.

Further, the capacity for these reserve funding structures available in the current marketplace is limited. If capacity continues to be limited for a prolonged period of times, MetLife 's ability to obtain new funding for these structures may be hindered, and as a result its ability to write additional business in a cost effective manner may be impacted.

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

Our mortgage and consumer loans face default risk and are principally collateralized by commercial, agricultural and residential properties, as well as automobiles. Mortgage and consumer loans are stated on our balance sheet at unpaid principal balance, adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, and are net of valuation allowances. We establish valuation allowances for estimated impairments as of 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 value of the loan 's collateral if the loan is in the process of foreclosure or otherwise collateral dependent, or the loan 's market value if the loan is being sold. We also establish allowances for loan losses when a loss contingency exists for pools of loans with similar characteristics, such as mortgage loans based on similar property types or loan to value risk factors. At June 30, 2008, loans that were either delinquent or in the process of foreclosure totaled less than 1% of our mortgage and consumer loan investments. The performance of our mortgage and consumer loan investments, however, may fluctuate in the future. In addition, substantially all of our mortgage loan investments have balloon payment maturities. An increase in the default rate of our mortgage and consumer loan investments could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. See Management 's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Mortgage and Consumer Loans in MetLife, Inc. 's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008.

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

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Our Investments are Reflected Within the Consolidated Financial Statements Utilizing Different Accounting Basis and Accordingly We May Not Have Recognized Differences, Which May Be Significant, Between Cost and Fair Value in our Consolidated Financial Statements

Our principal investments are in fixed maturity and equity securities, trading securities, short-term investments, mortgage and consumer loans, policy loans, real estate, real estate joint ventures and other limited partnerships and other invested assets. The carrying value of such investments is as follows:

Fixed maturity and equity securities are classified as available-for-sale, except for trading securities, and are reported at their estimated fair value. Unrealized investment gains and losses on these securities are recorded as a separate component of other comprehensive income or loss, net of policyholder related amounts and deferred income taxes.

Trading securities are recorded at fair value with subsequent changes in fair value recognized in net investment income.

Short-term investments include investments with remaining maturities of one year or less, but greater than three months, at the time of acquisition and are stated at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Mortgage and consumer loans are stated at unpaid principal balance, adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, net of valuation allowances.

Policy loans are stated at unpaid principal balances.

Real estate joint ventures and other limited partnership interests in which we have more than a minor equity interest or more than a minor influence over the joint ventures or partnership's operations, but where we do not have a controlling interest and are not the primary beneficiary, are carried using the equity method of accounting. We use the cost method of accounting for investments in real estate joint ventures and other limited partnership interests in which it has a minor equity investment and virtually no influence over the joint ventures or the partnership's operations.

Other invested assets consist principally of leveraged leases and derivatives with positive fair values. Leveraged leases are recorded net of non-recourse debt. Derivatives are carried at fair value with changes in fair value reflected in income from non-qualifying derivatives and derivatives in fair value hedging relationships. Derivatives in cash flow hedging relationships are reflected as a separate component of other comprehensive income or loss.

Investments not carried at fair value in our consolidated financial statements—principally, mortgage and consumer loans, policy loans, real estate, real estate joint ventures, other limited partnerships and leveraged leases—may have fair values which are substantially higher or lower than the carrying value reflected in our consolidated financial statements. Each of such asset classes is regularly evaluated for impairment under the accounting guidance appropriate to the respective asset class.

Our Valuation of Fixed Maturity, Equity and Trading Securities 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, trading securities and short-term investments which are reported at fair value on the consolidated balance sheet represented the majority of our total cash and invested assets. The Company has

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. SFAS 157 defines the input levels as follows:

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

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

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Level 1; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other 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 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 fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation.

At June 30, 2008, approximately 5%, 85%, and 10% of these securities represented Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, respectively. The Level 1 securities primarily consist of certain U.S. Treasury and agency fixed maturity securities; exchange-traded common stock, and financial futures. The Level 2 assets include fixed maturity securities priced principally through independent pricing services including most U.S. Treasury and agency securities as well as the majority of U.S. and foreign corporate securities, residential mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, state and political subdivision securities, foreign government securities, and asset-backed securities as well as equity securities, including non-redeemable preferred stock, priced by independent pricing services. Management reviews the valuation methodologies used by the pricing services on an ongoing basis and ensures that any valuation methodologies are justified. Level 3 assets include fixed maturity securities priced principally through independent broker quotes or market standard valuation methodologies. This level 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; residential mortgage-backed securities; asset backed securities including all of those supported by sub-prime mortgage loans; and other fixed maturity securities such as structured securities. Equity securities classified as Level 3 securities consist principally of common stock of privately held companies and non-redeemable preferred stock where 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 broker quotes can vary widely even for the same security.

The determination of fair values 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 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 Alt-A and subprime mortgage backed securities, if trading becomes less frequent and/or market data becomes less observable. There may be certain asset classes that were in active markets with significant observable data that become illiquid due to the current financial environment. 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 values which may be less than the value 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 value could vary significantly. Decreases in value may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

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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 and consumer loans; policy loans and leveraged leases; and equity real estate, including real estate joint venture; and other limited partnership interests. These asset classes represented 32.3% of the carrying value of our total cash and invested assets as of June 30, 2008. Even some of our very high quality assets have been more illiquid as a result of the recent challenging market conditions.

If we require significant amounts of cash on short notice in excess of normal cash requirements or are required to post or return collateral in connection with our investment portfolio, derivatives transactions or securities lending activities, 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 in the paragraph 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 assets in the current 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 may be forced to sell them at significantly lower prices.

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 vary 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. Management updates its evaluations regularly and reflects changes in allowances and impairments in operations as such evaluations are revised. There can be no assurance that our management has accurately assessed the level of impairments taken and allowances reflected in our financial statements. Furthermore, additional impairments may need to be taken or allowances provided for in the future. 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 in value deemed to be other-than-temporary in the period in which the determination is made. The assessment of whether impairments have occurred is based on management's case-by-case evaluation of the underlying reasons for the decline in 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 had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by less than 20%; (ii) securities where the estimated fair value had 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 had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by 20% or more for six months or greater.

Additionally, our management considers a wide range of factors about the security issuer and uses their 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 management's 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 market 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) our ability

and intent to hold the security for a period of time sufficient to allow for the recovery of its value to an amount equal to or greater than cost or amortized cost; (vii) unfavorable changes in forecasted cash flows on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities; and (viii) other subjective factors, including concentrations and information obtained from regulators and rating agencies.

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Gross Unrealized Losses May be Realized or Result in Future Impairments.

Our gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities at September 30, 2008 are expected to be \$17 billion pre-tax and the component of gross unrealized losses for securities trading down 20% or more for six months is approximately \$1.7 billion pre-tax. Realized losses or impairments may have a material adverse impact on our results of operation and financial position.

Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability

Some of our products, principally traditional whole life insurance, fixed annuities and guaranteed investment contracts (GICs), expose us to the risk that changes in interest rates will reduce our 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 mortgages 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 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 adversely affect our results of operations, financial position and cash flows and significantly reduce our profitability.

Our results in Taiwan are highly sensitive to interest rates and other related assumptions because of 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 assets in the Taiwanese capital markets to match such long-duration liabilities. During the fourth quarter of 2006, our Taiwanese operation recorded a loss recognition adjustment (in the form of accelerated DAC amortization) of \$50 million, net of income tax, due, principally, to the continued low interest rate environment. The loss recognition testing that resulted in the charge during the fourth quarter of 2006 used a current best estimate of Taiwanese interest rates of 2.1% rising to 3.5% over the next ten years and a corresponding increase in related lapse rates. If interest rates and related lapse assumptions do not improve, notwithstanding other actions we may take to reduce the impact, current estimates of future loss recognition of as much as \$100 million, net of income tax, could be recognized in our results of operations in one or more future periods and additional capital may be required to be contributed to the Taiwanese operation. The results of loss recognition testing for Taiwan are inherently uncertain given the use of various assumptions and the long-term nature of the liability, and therefore, can only be reliably estimated within broad ranges which may vary significantly in future periods.

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 assets in MetLife's general account with higher yielding

assets 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 invested assets at a time when the prices of those assets are adversely affected by the increase in market interest rates, which may result in realized investment losses. Unanticipated

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withdrawals and terminations may cause us to accelerate the amortization of DAC and VOBA, which would increase our current expenses and reduce 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 fair values of the fixed income securities that comprise a substantial portion of our investment portfolio.

Industry Trends Could Adversely Affect the Profitability of Our Businesses

Our business segments continue to be influenced by a variety of trends that affect the insurance industry. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Results of Operations—Industry Trends in MetLife, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008.

The life insurance industry remains highly competitive. The product development and product life-cycles have shortened in many product segments, leading to more intense competition with respect to product features. Larger companies have the ability to invest in brand equity, product development, technology and risk management, which are among the fundamentals for sustained profitable growth in the life insurance industry. In addition, several of the industry's products can be quite homogeneous and subject to intense price competition. Sufficient scale, financial strength and financial flexibility are becoming prerequisites for sustainable growth in the life insurance industry. Larger market participants tend to have the capacity to invest in additional distribution capability and the information technology needed to offer the superior customer service demanded by an increasingly sophisticated industry client base. See Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability and Business Competition in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Regulatory Changes. The life insurance industry is regulated at the state level, with some products and services also subject to federal regulation. As life insurers introduce new and often more complex products, regulators refine capital requirements and introduce new reserving standards for the life insurance industry. Regulations recently adopted or currently under review can potentially impact the reserve and capital requirements of the industry. In addition, regulators have undertaken market and sales practices reviews of several markets or products, including equity-indexed annuities, variable annuities and group products. See Our Insurance Businesses Are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation May Reduce Our Profitability and Limit Our Growth and Business Regulation—Insurance Regulation in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Pension Plans. On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (the PPA) into law. The PPA is a comprehensive reform of defined benefit and defined contribution plan rules. While the impact of the PPA is generally expected to be positive over time, these changes may have adverse short-term effects on our business as plan sponsors may react to these changes in a variety of ways as the new rules and related regulations begin to take effect.

A Decline in Equity Markets or an Increase in Volatility in Equity Markets May Adversely Affect Sales of Our Investment Products and Our Profitability

Significant downturns and volatility in equity markets could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations in three principal ways.

First, market downturns and volatility may discourage purchases of separate account products, such as variable annuities, variable life insurance and mutual funds that have returns linked to the performance of the equity markets and may cause some of our existing customers to withdraw cash values or reduce investments in those products.

Second, downturns and volatility in equity markets can have a material adverse effect on the revenues and returns from our savings and investment products and services. Because these products and services depend on fees related

primarily to the value of assets under management, a decline in the equity markets could reduce our revenues by reducing the value of the investment assets we manage. The retail annuity business in particular is highly sensitive to equity markets, and a sustained weakness in the markets will decrease revenues and earnings in variable annuity products.

Third, we provide certain guarantees within some of our products that protect policyholders against significant downturns in the equity markets. For example, we offer variable annuity products with guaranteed features, such as minimum death, minimum withdrawal, minimum accumulation and minimum income benefits. In volatile or

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declining equity market conditions, we may need to increase liabilities for future policy benefits and policyholder account balances, negatively affecting net income.

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 fair value of their net assets at the date of acquisition. We test goodwill at least annually for impairment. Impairment testing is performed based upon estimates of the 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 fair value of the reporting unit is impacted by the performance of the business. If it is determined that the goodwill has been impaired, MetLife must write down the goodwill by the amount of the impairment, with a corresponding charge to net income. Such write downs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position.

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 value of those assets. Such write downs 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 capital gains. 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.

Competitive Factors May Adversely Affect Our Market Share and Profitability

Our business 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, 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 insurance products, particularly those offered by our Institutional segment, 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. Many of our competitors in these businesses offer a broader array of investment products and services and are better known than us as sellers of annuities and other investment products. See Business Competition in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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. 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

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while continuing to enhance the efficiency and production of our existing sales force. We cannot 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. See **Business Competition** in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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 assets we purchase 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 changes in 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.

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. See **Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk** in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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. 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.

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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 pandemics, 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. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Impact of Hurricanes and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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, pandemics, hurricanes, earthquakes and man-made catastrophes may produce significant damage 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.

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 in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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 (NRSROs) 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. See Business Company Ratings Insurer Financial Strength Ratings in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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;

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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. See *Business Company Ratings Credit Ratings* in the 2007 Form 10-K. 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. A two-notch decrease in the financial strength ratings of our insurance company subsidiaries would have required us to post less than \$200 million of collateral in connection with derivative collateral arrangements, to which we are a party and would have allowed holders of approximately \$500 million aggregate account value of our funding agreements to terminate such funding agreements on 90 days' notice.

On September 18, September 29 and October 2, 2008, A.M. Best Company, Inc., Fitch Ratings Ltd. and Moody's Investors Service (Moody's), respectively, each revised its outlook for the U.S. life insurance sector to negative from stable, citing, among other things, the significant deterioration and volatility in the credit and equity markets, economic and political uncertainty, and the expected impact of realized and unrealized investment losses on life insurers' capital levels and profitability.

In view of the difficulties experienced recently by many financial institutions, including our competitors in the insurance industry, we believe it is possible that the NRSROs will heighten the level of scrutiny that they apply to such institutions, will increase the frequency and scope of their credit reviews, will 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, such as the AA (Standard & Poor's) and Aa2 (Moody's Investors Service) insurer financial strength ratings currently held by our life insurance subsidiaries. We have been informed by one of the major NRSROs that they plan to review our ratings during the fourth quarter of 2008. It is possible that the outcome of this review will have adverse ratings consequences, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operation and financial condition.

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 notices by any NRSRO.

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, Expose Us to Increased Counterparty Risk and Result in Own Credit Exposure

Certain of our variable annuity products include guaranteed minimum benefit riders. These include guaranteed minimum death benefit, guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit, guaranteed minimum accumulation benefit, and guaranteed minimum income benefit riders. 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

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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, resulting in a reduction to net income. We also must consider the Company's own credit standing, which is not hedged, in the valuation of certain of these liabilities. A decrease in the Company's own credit spread could cause the value of these liabilities to increase, resulting in a reduction to net income.

If Our Business Does Not Perform Well or if Actual Experience Versus Estimates Used in Valuing and Amortizing DAC and VOBA Vary Significantly, We May Be Required to Accelerate the Amortization and/or Impair the DAC 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. The recovery of DAC 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 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 reflects the estimated fair value of in-force contracts in a life insurance company acquisition and represents the portion of the purchase price that is allocated to the value of the right to receive future cash flows from the insurance and annuity contracts in-force at the acquisition date. VOBA is based on actuarially determined projections. Actual experience may vary from the 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 an impairment and a charge to income. Also, as VOBA is amortized similarly to DAC, 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.

Defaults, Downgrades or Other Events Impairing the Value of Our Fixed Maturity 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. At June 30, 2008, the fixed maturity securities of \$241.2 billion in our investment portfolio represented 68.8% of our total cash and invested assets. The occurrence of a major economic downturn (such as the current downturn in the economy), acts of corporate malfeasance, widening risk spreads, or other events that adversely affect the issuers or guarantors of these securities could cause the value of our fixed maturity securities portfolio and our net income 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. Any event reducing the 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 write down or impairment are impacted by our assessment of the intent and ability to hold securities which have declined in value until recovery. If we determine to reposition or realign portions of the portfolio where we determine not to hold certain securities in an unrealized loss position to recovery, then we will incur an other than temporary impairment charge.

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Fluctuations in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates and Foreign Securities Markets 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 income from foreign operations. These risks relate to potential decreases in 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 value of our non-U.S. dollar denominated investments and our investments in foreign subsidiaries. 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. See *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk* in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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 emerging markets.

We have matched substantially all of our foreign currency liabilities in our foreign subsidiaries with assets 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 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. See *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk* in the 2007 Form 10-K.

Our International Operations Face Political, Legal, Operational and Other Risks 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. See *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk* in the 2007 Form 10-K. 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. 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.

We are currently planning to expand our international operations in 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.

The business we acquired from Travelers includes operations in several foreign countries, including Australia, Brazil, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Poland, Japan and Hong Kong. See *Business International* in the 2007 Form 10-K. Those operations, and operations in other new markets, are subject to the risks described above, as well as our unfamiliarity with the business, legal and regulatory environment in any of those countries.

In recent years, the operating environment in Argentina has been challenging. In Argentina, we are principally engaged in the pension business. This business has incurred significant losses in recent years as a result of actions taken by the Argentinean government in response to a sovereign debt crisis in December 2001. Further governmental or legal actions related to pension reform could impact our obligations to our customers and could result in future losses in our Argentinean operations.

See also [Changes in Market Interest Rates May Significantly Affect Our Profitability](#) in this Prospectus Supplement regarding the impact of low interest rates on our Taiwanese operations.

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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. See **Business Reinsurance Activity** in the 2007 Form 10-K. 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.

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. See **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Investments** in the 2007 Form 10-K. 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 recent stresses suffered by financial institutions. Such failure could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our Insurance Businesses Are Heavily Regulated, and Changes in Regulation 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 and operate. See **Business Regulation Insurance Regulation** in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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;

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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.

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. See Business Regulation Insurance Regulation Guaranty Associations and Similar Arrangements in the 2007 Form 10-K.

State insurance regulators and the NAIC regularly re-examine 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.

The NAIC and several states' legislatures have considered the need for regulations and/or laws to address agent or broker practices that have been the focus of investigations of broker compensation in the State of New York and in other jurisdictions. The NAIC adopted a Compensation Disclosure Amendment to its Producers Licensing Model Act which, if adopted by the states, would require disclosure by agents or brokers to customers that insurers will compensate such agents or brokers for the placement of insurance and documented acknowledgement of this arrangement in cases where the customer also compensates the agent or broker. Several states have enacted laws similar to the NAIC amendment. We cannot predict how many states may promulgate the NAIC amendment or alternative regulations or the extent to which these regulations may have a material adverse impact on our business.

Currently, the U.S. federal government does not directly regulate the business of insurance. However, 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, privacy, tort reform legislation and taxation. In addition, various forms of direct federal regulation of insurance have been proposed. These proposals include the National Insurance Act of 2007, which would permit an optional federal charter for insurers. In view of recent events involving certain financial institutions, it is possible that the U.S. federal government will heighten its oversight of insurers such as us, including possibly through a federal system of insurance regulation. We cannot predict whether this or other proposals will be adopted, or what impact, if any, such proposals or, if enacted, such laws, could have on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our international operations are subject to regulation in the jurisdictions in which they operate, which in many ways is similar to that of the state regulation outlined above. Many of our customers and independent sales intermediaries also operate in regulated environments. 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.

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 subsidiaries that could, if determined adversely, have a material impact on us. We cannot predict whether or when regulatory actions

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may be taken that could adversely affect our operations. In addition, the interpretations of 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, including banking regulations, and may in the future become subject to additional regulations, including thrift regulations. See *Business Regulation* in the 2007 Form 10-K. We have filed applications to convert MetLife, Inc. from a bank holding company to a thrift holding company.

Litigation and Regulatory Investigations Are Increasingly Common in Our Businesses and May Result in Significant Financial Losses and 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. See *Legal Proceedings* and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K.

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 be inherently impossible to ascertain with any degree of certainty. Inherent uncertainties can include how fact finders will view individually and in their totality documentary evidence, the credibility and effectiveness of witnesses' 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 liabilities for litigation, regulatory investigations and litigation-related contingencies to be reflected in our consolidated financial statements. The review includes senior legal and financial personnel. Unless stated elsewhere herein, estimates of possible losses or ranges of loss for particular matters cannot in the ordinary course be made with a reasonable degree of certainty. See *Legal Proceedings* and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K. 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 noted in *Legal Proceedings* and Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K. 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 as of December 31, 2007.

MLIC and MetLife, Inc. have been named as defendants in several lawsuits brought in connection with MLIC's demutualization in 2000. Although most of these lawsuits have been dismissed, two have been certified as nationwide class action lawsuits. MLIC and its affiliates also are currently defendants in numerous lawsuits including class action lawsuits, alleging improper marketing or sales of individual life insurance policies, annuities, mutual funds or other products.

In addition, MLIC is a defendant in thousands of lawsuits seeking compensatory and punitive damages for personal injuries allegedly caused by exposure to asbestos or asbestos-containing products. These lawsuits principally have

been based upon allegations relating 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 due to numerous factors. The availability of data is limited and it is difficult to predict with any certainty numerous variables that can affect liability estimates, including the number of future claims, the cost to resolve

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claims, the disease mix and severity of disease, the jurisdiction of claims filed, tort reform efforts and the impact of any possible future adverse verdicts and their amounts. The number of asbestos cases that may be brought or the aggregate amount of any liability that MLIC may ultimately incur is uncertain. Accordingly, it is reasonably possible that our total exposure to asbestos claims may be 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 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.

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.

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, 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 our annual and quarterly reports on Form 10-K and 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.

Further, the federal government, under the EESA, will conduct an investigation of fair value accounting during the fourth quarter of 2008 and has granted the SEC the authority to suspend fair value accounting for any registrant or group of registrants at its discretion. The impact of such actions on registrants who apply fair value accounting cannot be readily determined at this time; however, actions taken by the federal government could have a material adverse effect on the financial condition and results of operations of companies, including ours, that apply fair value accounting.

Changes in U.S. Federal and State Securities Laws and Regulations 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

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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. Changes to these laws or regulations that restrict the conduct of our business could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In particular, changes in the regulations governing the registration and distribution of variable insurance products, such as changes in the regulatory standards for suitability of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies, could have such a material adverse effect.

Changes in Tax Laws Could Make Some of Our Products Less Attractive to Consumers; 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. For example, reductions in the federal income tax that investors are required to pay on long-term capital gains and dividends paid on stock may provide an incentive for some of our customers and potential customers to shift assets away from some insurance company products, including life insurance and annuities, designed to defer taxes payable on investment returns. Because the income taxes payable on long-term capital gains and some dividends paid on stock has been reduced, investors may decide that the tax-deferral benefits of annuity contracts are less advantageous than the potential after-tax income benefits of mutual funds or other investment products that provide dividends and long-term capital gains. 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.

We cannot predict whether any tax legislation impacting 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. Furthermore, changes in tax laws, tax regulations, or interpretations of such laws or regulations could increase our corporate taxes.

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), 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. See Note 9 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the 2007 Form 10-K. 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 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.