

Morningstar, Inc.
Form 10-Q
October 30, 2012

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED September 30, 2012

OR

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

For the transition period from to
Commission File Number: 000-51280

MORNINGSTAR, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Illinois

(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

36-3297908

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

22 West Washington Street

Chicago, Illinois

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(312) 696-6000

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

60602

(Zip Code)

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

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

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

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

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

As of October 26, 2012, there were 47,131,295 shares of the Company's common stock, no par value, outstanding.

Table of Contents

MORNINGSTAR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
INDEX

| | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| <u>PART 1</u> | <u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Item 1.</u> | <u>Financial Statements</u> | <u>3</u> |
| | Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 | <u>3</u> |
| | <u>Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011</u> | <u>5</u> |
| | Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 | <u>6</u> |
| | Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Equity for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 | <u>7</u> |
| | Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 | <u>8</u> |
| | <u>Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | <u>9</u> |
| <u>Item 2.</u> | <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | <u>27</u> |
| <u>Item 3.</u> | <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk</u> | <u>50</u> |
| <u>Item 4.</u> | <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>50</u> |
| <u>PART 2</u> | <u>OTHER INFORMATION</u> | <u>51</u> |
| <u>Item 1.</u> | <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | <u>51</u> |
| <u>Item 1A.</u> | <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>51</u> |
| <u>Item 2.</u> | <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | <u>51</u> |
| <u>Item 6.</u> | <u>Exhibits</u> | <u>51</u> |
| <u>SIGNATURE</u> | | <u>52</u> |
| <u>EXHIBIT INDEX</u> | | <u>52</u> |

Table of Contents

PART 1. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

Morningstar, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income

| | Three months ended September | | Nine months ended September | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | 30 | | 30 | |
| (in thousands except per share amounts) | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Revenue | \$160,952 | \$160,051 | \$487,679 | \$472,829 |
| Operating expense (1): | | | | |
| Cost of goods sold | 47,711 | 48,074 | 147,479 | 133,929 |
| Development | 12,857 | 13,482 | 38,664 | 39,151 |
| Sales and marketing | 25,732 | 27,253 | 81,431 | 80,502 |
| General and administrative | 23,966 | 26,431 | 77,090 | 83,255 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 10,822 | 10,947 | 31,616 | 31,712 |
| Total operating expense | 121,088 | 126,187 | 376,280 | 368,549 |
| Operating income | 39,864 | 33,864 | 111,399 | 104,280 |
| Non-operating income (expense): | | | | |
| Interest income, net | 1,719 | 797 | 3,848 | 1,142 |
| Other income (expense), net | 161 | (1,376) | (314) | (938) |
| Non-operating income (expense), net | 1,880 | (579) | 3,534 | 204 |
| Income before income taxes and equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | 41,744 | 33,285 | 114,933 | 104,484 |
| Income tax expense | 15,186 | 12,343 | 41,441 | 35,585 |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | 478 | 428 | 1,541 | 1,397 |
| Consolidated net income | 27,036 | 21,370 | 75,033 | 70,296 |
| Net loss attributable to the noncontrolling interest | 34 | 10 | 62 | 106 |
| Net income attributable to Morningstar, Inc. | \$27,070 | \$21,380 | \$75,095 | \$70,402 |
| Net income per share attributable to Morningstar, Inc.: | | | | |
| Basic | \$0.56 | \$0.42 | \$1.53 | \$1.40 |
| Diluted | \$0.56 | \$0.42 | \$1.51 | \$1.37 |
| Dividends per common share: | | | | |
| Dividends declared per common share | \$0.10 | \$0.05 | \$0.30 | \$0.15 |
| Dividends paid per common share | \$0.10 | \$0.05 | \$0.30 | \$0.15 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding: | | | | |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Basic | 47,975 | 50,278 | 49,028 | 50,082 |
| Diluted | 48,481 | 51,123 | 49,664 | 51,071 |

3

Table of Contents

| | Three months ended September | | Nine months ended September | |
|---|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | 30 2012 | 2011 | 30 2012 | 2011 |
| (1) Includes stock-based compensation expense of: | | | | |
| Cost of goods sold | \$1,148 | \$1,117 | \$3,304 | \$3,068 |
| Development | 471 | 545 | 1,435 | 1,588 |
| Sales and marketing | 493 | 489 | 1,433 | 1,392 |
| General and administrative | 1,882 | 1,800 | 5,422 | 5,395 |
| Total stock-based compensation expense | \$3,994 | \$3,951 | \$11,594 | \$11,443 |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Morningstar, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

| (in thousands) | Three months ended September | | Nine months ended September | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | 30 2012 | 2011 | 30 2012 | 2011 |
| Consolidated net income | \$27,036 | \$21,370 | \$75,033 | \$70,296 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | 7,375 | (12,570) | 5,597 | (6) |
| Unrealized gains (losses) on securities: | | | | |
| Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during period | 1,026 | (1,871) | 1,394 | (1,472) |
| Reclassification of (gains) losses included in net income | — | 81 | 33 | (171) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 8,401 | (14,360) | 7,024 | (1,649) |
| Comprehensive income | 35,437 | 7,010 | 82,057 | 68,647 |
| Comprehensive (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interest | 16 | (47) | 77 | 52 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to Morningstar, Inc. | \$35,453 | \$6,963 | \$82,134 | \$68,699 |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Morningstar, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

| (in thousands except share amounts) | As of September 30 2012 | As of December 31 2011 |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 152,181 | \$ 200,437 |
| Investments | 190,899 | 269,755 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance of \$723 and \$835, respectively | 119,877 | 113,312 |
| Deferred tax asset, net | 2,156 | 5,104 |
| Income tax receivable, net | 5,277 | 7,445 |
| Other | 22,546 | 15,980 |
| Total current assets | 492,936 | 612,033 |
| Property, equipment, and capitalized software, net | 77,873 | 68,196 |
| Investments in unconsolidated entities | 38,278 | 27,642 |
| Goodwill | 321,134 | 318,492 |
| Intangible assets, net | 122,832 | 139,809 |
| Other assets | 8,330 | 5,912 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,061,383 | \$ 1,172,084 |
| Liabilities and equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 40,356 | \$ 41,403 |
| Accrued compensation | 55,131 | 73,124 |
| Deferred revenue | 164,360 | 155,494 |
| Other | 319 | 612 |
| Total current liabilities | 260,166 | 270,633 |
| Accrued compensation | 6,802 | 5,724 |
| Deferred tax liability, net | 14,262 | 15,940 |
| Deferred rent | 15,160 | 14,604 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 8,262 | 8,167 |
| Total liabilities | 304,652 | 315,068 |
| Equity: | | |
| Morningstar, Inc. shareholders' equity: | | |
| Common stock, no par value, 200,000,000 shares authorized, of which 47,479,142 and 50,083,940 shares were outstanding as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 5 | 5 |
| Treasury stock at cost, 4,125,568 shares as of September 30, 2012 and 980,177 shares as of December 31, 2011 | (232,685) | (46,701) |
| Additional paid-in capital | 509,896 | 491,432 |
| Retained earnings | 469,295 | 409,022 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss): | | |
| Currency translation adjustment | 7,548 | 1,936 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale investments | 1,103 | (324) |
| Total accumulated other comprehensive income | 8,651 | 1,612 |
| Total Morningstar, Inc. shareholders' equity | 755,162 | 855,370 |
| Noncontrolling interest | 1,569 | 1,646 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total equity | 756,731 | 857,016 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$1,061,383 | \$1,172,084 |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

6

Table of Contents

Morningstar, Inc. and Subsidiaries
 Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Equity
 For the nine months ended September 30, 2012

| (in thousands, except share amounts) | Morningstar, Inc. Shareholders' Equity | | | | | Accumulated | Non-Controlling Interests | Total Equity |
|---|--|-----------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Common Stock Shares Outstanding | Par Value | Treasury Stock | Additional Paid-in Capital | Retained Earnings | Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | | |
| Balance as of December 31, 2011 | 50,083,940 | \$5 | \$(46,701) | \$491,432 | \$409,022 | \$1,612 | \$1,646 | \$857,016 |
| Net income (loss) | | — | — | — | 75,095 | — | (62) | 75,033 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | | | | | |
| Unrealized gain on available-for-sale investments, net of income tax of \$794 | | — | — | — | — | 1,394 | — | 1,394 |
| Reclassification of adjustments for losses included in net income, net of income tax of \$19 | | — | — | — | — | 33 | — | 33 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment, net | | — | — | — | — | 5,612 | (15) | 5,597 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net | | — | — | — | — | 7,039 | (15) | 7,024 |
| Issuance of common stock related to stock-option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units, net | 561,276 | — | 1,114 | 1,646 | — | — | — | 2,760 |
| Stock-based compensation — restricted stock units | | — | — | 9,944 | — | — | — | 9,944 |
| Stock-based compensation — restricted stock | | — | — | 1,332 | — | — | — | 1,332 |
| Stock-based compensation — stock-options | | — | — | 318 | — | — | — | 318 |
| Excess tax benefit derived from stock-option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units | | — | — | 5,007 | — | — | — | 5,007 |
| Common shares repurchased | (3,166,074) | — | (187,098) | — | — | — | — | (187,098) |
| Dividends declared — common shares outstanding | | — | — | — | (14,587) | — | — | (14,587) |
| Dividends declared — restricted stock units | | — | — | 217 | (235) | — | — | (18) |
| Balance as of September 30, 2012 | 47,479,142 | \$5 | \$(232,685) | \$509,896 | \$469,295 | \$8,651 | \$1,569 | \$756,731 |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Morningstar, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

| (in thousands) | Nine months ended September | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Operating activities | | |
| Consolidated net income | \$75,033 | \$70,296 |
| Adjustments to reconcile consolidated net income to net cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 31,616 | 31,712 |
| Deferred income taxes | 492 | (1,559) |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 11,594 | 11,443 |
| Provision for bad debt | 990 | 1,076 |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | (1,541) | (1,397) |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units | (5,007) | (7,621) |
| Other, net | 342 | 1,607 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions: | | |
| Accounts receivable | (6,569) | (403) |
| Other assets | (3,551) | 1,996 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (4,316) | (5,275) |
| Accrued compensation | (20,851) | (3,242) |
| Income taxes—current | 7,220 | 9,442 |
| Deferred revenue | 7,684 | 618 |
| Deferred rent | 291 | (984) |
| Other liabilities | (1,111) | (1,393) |
| Cash provided by operating activities | 92,316 | 106,316 |
| Investing activities | | |
| Purchases of investments | (134,929) | (298,876) |
| Proceeds from maturities and sales of investments | 216,350 | 222,599 |
| Capital expenditures | (22,876) | (14,689) |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired | — | 300 |
| Purchases of equity and cost method investments | (10,304) | — |
| Other, net | (4) | 875 |
| Cash provided by (used for) investing activities | 48,237 | (89,791) |
| Financing activities | | |
| Proceeds from stock-option exercises, net | 2,760 | 6,630 |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units | 5,007 | 7,621 |
| Common shares repurchased | (183,698) | (28,526) |
| Dividends paid | (14,867) | (7,539) |
| Other, net | (18) | (363) |
| Cash used for financing activities | (190,816) | (22,177) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | 2,007 | (254) |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (48,256) | (5,906) |
| Cash and cash equivalents—beginning of period | 200,437 | 180,176 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents—end of period | \$152,181 | \$174,270 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: | | |
| Cash paid for income taxes | \$33,163 | \$28,437 |
| Supplemental information of non-cash investing and financing activities: | | |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale investments | \$2,221 | \$(2,598) |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

8

Table of ContentsMORNINGSTAR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Basis of Presentation of Interim Financial Information

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements of Morningstar, Inc. and subsidiaries (Morningstar, we, our, the Company) have been prepared to conform to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In the opinion of management, the statements reflect all adjustments, which are of a normal recurring nature, necessary to present fairly our financial position, results of operations, equity, and cash flows. These financial statements and notes should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on February 24, 2012.

The acronyms that appear in the Notes to our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements refer to the following:

ASC: Accounting Standards Codification
ASU: Accounting Standards Update
FASB: Financial Accounting Standards Board
SEC: Securities and Exchange Commission

2. Correction

In 2012, we identified errors related to purchases of investments and proceeds from maturities and sales of investments included on our Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 that had not been previously detected. We did not properly disclose the correct amount for both categories by equal, but offsetting, amounts. The financial statements have been corrected to increase the purchases of investments and proceeds from maturities and sales of investments as shown in the table below. The error existed in the first quarter of 2012, but did not exist in the cumulative statement as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2012.

The following tables shows our previously reported amounts, the correction, and our as corrected amounts:

| (\$000) | Nine months ended September 30, 2011 | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Previously Reported | Correction | As Corrected |
| Investing Activities | | | |
| Purchases of investments | \$ (281,698 |) \$ (17,178 |) \$ (298,876 |
| Proceeds from maturities and sales of investments | \$ 205,421 | \$ 17,178 | \$ 222,599 |
| Cash used for investing activities | \$ (89,791 |) \$ — | \$ (89,791 |

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

We discuss our significant accounting policies in Note 2 of our Consolidated Financial Statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on February 24, 2012.

In addition, effective January 1, 2012, we adopted FASB ASU No. 2011-04, Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs.

ASU No. 2011-04 clarifies existing fair value measurement and disclosure requirements, amends certain fair value measurement principles, and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. The adoption of ASU No. 2011-04 did not have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

4. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill

The following table shows the changes in our goodwill balances from December 31, 2011 to September 30, 2012:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| | (\$000) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2011 | \$318,492 |
| Net change, primarily currency translation | 2,642 |
| Balance as of September 30, 2012 | \$321,134 |

We did not record any significant impairment losses in the first nine months of 2012 or 2011. We perform our annual impairment reviews in the fourth quarter.

Intangible Assets

The following table summarizes our intangible assets:

| (\$000) | As of September 30, 2012 | | | Weighted Average Useful Life (years) | As of December 31, 2011 | | | Weighted Average Useful Life (years) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| | Gross | Accumulated Amortization | Net | | Gross | Accumulated Amortization | Net | |
| Intellectual property | \$32,343 | \$ (22,488) | \$9,855 | 9 | \$32,293 | \$ (20,455) | \$11,838 | 9 |
| Customer-related assets | 135,772 | (62,763) | 73,009 | 12 | 134,396 | (52,611) | 81,785 | 12 |
| Supplier relationships | 240 | (93) | 147 | 20 | 240 | (84) | 156 | 20 |
| Technology-based assets | 81,308 | (41,735) | 39,573 | 9 | 80,694 | (35,130) | 45,564 | 9 |
| Non-competition agreement | 1,766 | (1,518) | 248 | 4 | 1,751 | (1,285) | 466 | 4 |
| Total intangible assets | \$251,429 | \$ (128,597) | \$122,832 | 10 | \$249,374 | \$ (109,565) | \$139,809 | 10 |

The following table summarizes our amortization expense related to intangible assets:

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Amortization expense | \$5,941 | \$6,894 | \$17,972 | \$20,039 |

We amortize intangible assets using the straight-line method over their expected economic useful lives.

We expect intangible amortization expense for 2012 and subsequent years as follows:

| | |
|------|----------|
| | (\$000) |
| 2012 | \$24,048 |
| 2013 | 21,317 |

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2014 | 20,058 |
| 2015 | 19,186 |
| 2016 | 14,564 |
| 2017 | 9,954 |

Our estimates of future amortization expense for intangible assets may be affected by acquisitions, dispositions, changes in the estimated average useful life, and currency translations.

Table of Contents

5. Income Per Share

The following table shows how we reconcile our net income and the number of shares used in computing basic and diluted income per share:

| (in thousands, except per share amounts) | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Basic net income per share attributable to Morningstar, Inc.: | | | | |
| Net income attributable to Morningstar, Inc.: | \$27,070 | \$21,380 | \$75,095 | \$70,402 |
| Less: Distributed earnings available to participating securities | (12 |) (8 |) (39 |) (25 |
| Less: Undistributed earnings available to participating securities | (53 |) (57 |) (144 |) (189 |
| Numerator for basic net income per share — undistributed and distributed earnings available to common shareholders | \$27,005 | \$21,315 | \$74,912 | \$70,188 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 47,975 | 50,278 | 49,028 | 50,082 |
| Basic net income per share attributable to Morningstar, Inc. | \$0.56 | \$0.42 | \$1.53 | \$1.40 |
| Diluted net income per share attributable to Morningstar, Inc.: | | | | |
| Numerator for basic net income per share — undistributed and distributed earnings available to common shareholders | \$27,005 | \$21,315 | \$74,912 | \$70,188 |
| Add: Undistributed earnings allocated to participating securities | 53 | 57 | 144 | 189 |
| Less: Undistributed earnings reallocated to participating securities | (53 |) (56 |) (142 |) (186 |
| Numerator for diluted net income per share — undistributed and distributed earnings available to common shareholders | \$27,005 | \$21,316 | \$74,914 | \$70,191 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 47,975 | 50,278 | 49,028 | 50,082 |
| Net effect of dilutive stock options and restricted stock units | 506 | 845 | 636 | 989 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding for computing diluted income per share | 48,481 | 51,123 | 49,664 | 51,071 |
| Diluted net income per share attributable to Morningstar, Inc. | \$0.56 | \$0.42 | \$1.51 | \$1.37 |

Table of Contents

6. Segment and Geographical Area Information

Morningstar has two operating segments:

Investment Information. The Investment Information segment includes all of our data, software, and research products and services. These products are typically sold through subscriptions or license agreements.

The largest products in this segment based on revenue are Morningstar Data (formerly Licensed Data), Morningstar Advisor Workstation (including Morningstar Office), Morningstar Direct, Morningstar.com, Morningstar Integrated Web Tools, and Morningstar Principia. Morningstar Data is a set of investment data spanning all of our investment databases, including real-time pricing and commodity data, and is available through electronic data feeds. Advisor Workstation is a web-based investment planning system for advisors. Advisor Workstation is available in two editions: Morningstar Office for independent financial advisors and an enterprise edition for financial advisors affiliated with larger firms. Morningstar Direct is a web-based institutional research platform. Morningstar.com includes both Premium Memberships and Internet advertising sales. Morningstar Integrated Web Tools is a set of services that helps institutional clients build customized websites or enhance their existing sites with Morningstar's online tools and components. Principia is our CD-ROM-based investment research and planning software for advisors.

The Investment Information segment also includes Morningstar Equity Research, which we distribute through several channels. We sell Morningstar Equity Research to companies that purchase our research for their own use or provide our research to their affiliated advisors or individual investor clients.

The Investment Information segment also includes Morningstar Credit Research and Morningstar Structured Credit Ratings. The latter is provided by Morningstar Credit Ratings, LLC, a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization specializing in structured finance. It offers securities ratings, research, surveillance services, and data to help institutional investors identify risk in commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) and residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS).

We also offer a variety of financial communications and newsletters, other institutional and advisor software, and investment indexes.

Investment Management. The Investment Management segment includes all of our asset management operations, which earn the majority of their revenue from asset-based fees.

The key products and services in this segment based on revenue are Investment Advisory Services (formerly Investment Consulting), which focuses on investment monitoring and asset allocation for funds of funds, including mutual funds and variable annuities; Retirement Solutions, including the Morningstar Retirement Manager and Advice by Ibbotson platforms; and Morningstar Managed Portfolios, a fee-based discretionary asset management service that includes a series of mutual fund, exchange-traded fund, and stock portfolios tailored to meet a range of investment time horizons and risk levels that financial advisors can use for their clients' taxable and tax-deferred accounts. In addition, we offer Managed Portfolios through our subsidiary Ibbotson Australia which provides asset management services primarily to institutional clients and individual investors.

Our segment accounting policies are the same as those described in Note 3, except for the capitalization and amortization of internal product development costs, amortization of intangible assets, and costs related to corporate functions. We exclude these items from our operating segment results to provide our chief operating decision maker

with a better indication of each segment's ability to generate cash flow. This information is one of the criteria used by our chief operating decision maker in determining how to allocate resources to each segment. We include capitalization and amortization of internal product development costs, amortization of intangible assets, and costs related to corporate functions in the Corporate Items category. Our segment disclosures are consistent with the business segment information provided to our chief operating decision maker on a recurring basis; for that reason, we don't present balance sheet information by segment. We disclose goodwill by segment in accordance with the requirements of FASB ASC 350-20-50, Intangibles - Goodwill - Disclosure.

Table of Contents

The following tables present information about our operating segments and by geographical area:

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30, 2012 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Investment Information | Investment Management | Corporate Items | Total |
| External revenue | \$129,357 | \$31,595 | \$ — | \$160,952 |
| Operating expense, excluding stock-based compensation expense, depreciation, and amortization | 85,366 | 16,145 | 4,761 | 106,272 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 2,738 | 577 | 679 | 3,994 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2,296 | 31 | 8,495 | 10,822 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$38,957 | \$14,842 | \$(13,935) | \$39,864 |
| U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$3,066 |
| Non-U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$1,888 |

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30, 2011 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Investment Information | Investment Management | Corporate Items | Total |
| External revenue | \$125,804 | \$34,247 | \$ — | \$160,051 |
| Operating expense, excluding stock-based compensation expense, depreciation, and amortization | 89,652 | 15,587 | 6,050 | 111,289 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 2,609 | 556 | 786 | 3,951 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2,117 | 42 | 8,788 | 10,947 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$31,426 | \$18,062 | \$(15,624) | \$33,864 |
| U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$4,560 |
| Non-U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$1,711 |

| (\$000) | Nine months ended September 30, 2012 | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Investment Information | Investment Management | Corporate Items | Total |
| External revenue | \$391,031 | \$96,648 | \$ — | \$487,679 |
| Operating expense, excluding stock-based compensation expense, depreciation, and amortization | 265,719 | 49,277 | 18,074 | 333,070 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 7,828 | 1,657 | 2,109 | 11,594 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 6,840 | 108 | 24,668 | 31,616 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$110,644 | \$45,606 | \$(44,851) | \$111,399 |
| U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$17,280 |
| Non-U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$5,596 |

Table of Contents

| (\$000) | Nine months ended September 30, 2011 | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Investment Information | Investment Management | Corporate Items | Total |
| External revenue | \$374,319 | \$98,510 | \$ — | \$472,829 |
| Operating expense, excluding stock-based compensation expense, depreciation, and amortization | 259,899 | 43,258 | 22,237 | 325,394 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 7,567 | 1,529 | 2,347 | 11,443 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 6,023 | 124 | 25,565 | 31,712 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$100,830 | \$53,599 | \$(50,149) | \$104,280 |
| U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$8,084 |
| Non-U.S. capital expenditures | | | | \$6,605 |

| (\$000) | As of September 30, 2012 | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Investment Information | Investment Management | Corporate Items | Total |
| Goodwill | \$279,451 | \$41,683 | \$ — | \$321,134 |

| (\$000) | As of December 31, 2011 | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Investment Information | Investment Management | Corporate Items | Total |
| Goodwill | \$277,059 | \$41,433 | \$ — | \$318,492 |

External revenue by geographical area

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| United States | \$114,021 | \$112,790 | \$346,442 | \$334,395 |
| United Kingdom | 13,711 | 13,588 | 42,160 | 40,382 |
| Europe, excluding the United Kingdom | 11,643 | 12,609 | 35,980 | 36,750 |
| Australia | 10,090 | 10,614 | 29,230 | 30,600 |
| Canada | 7,605 | 6,723 | 22,351 | 20,124 |
| Asia, excluding Japan | 2,420 | 2,358 | 7,156 | 6,760 |
| Japan | 924 | 1,032 | 2,889 | 2,922 |
| Other | 538 | 337 | 1,471 | 896 |
| Total Non-U.S. | 46,931 | 47,261 | 141,237 | 138,434 |
| Total | \$160,952 | \$160,051 | \$487,679 | \$472,829 |

Table of Contents

Long-lived assets by geographical area

| | As of September 30 2012 | As of December 31 2011 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (\$000) | | |
| United States | \$54,060 | \$44,572 |
| United Kingdom | 7,611 | 7,512 |
| Europe, excluding the United Kingdom | 2,429 | 2,629 |
| Australia | 1,519 | 1,415 |
| Canada | 1,853 | 2,076 |
| Asia, excluding Japan | 10,033 | 9,656 |
| Japan | 207 | 282 |
| Other | 161 | 54 |
| Total Non-U.S. | 23,813 | 23,624 |
| Total | \$77,873 | \$68,196 |

7. Investments and Fair Value Measurements

We account for our investments in accordance with FASB ASC 320, Investments—Debt and Equity Securities. We classify our investments in three categories: available-for-sale, held-to-maturity, and trading. We monitor the concentration, diversification, maturity, and liquidity of our investment portfolio, which is primarily invested in fixed-income securities, and classify our investment portfolio as shown below:

| | As of September 30 2012 | As of December 31 2011 |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (\$000) | | |
| Available-for-sale | \$165,517 | \$247,917 |
| Held-to-maturity | 19,948 | 16,347 |
| Trading securities | 5,434 | 5,491 |
| Total | \$190,899 | \$269,755 |

Table of Contents

The following table shows the cost, unrealized gains (losses), and fair values related to investments classified as available-for-sale and held-to-maturity:

| (\$000) | As of September 30, 2012 | | | | As of December 31, 2011 | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Cost | Unrealized Gain | Unrealized Loss | Fair Value | Cost | Unrealized Gain | Unrealized Loss | Fair Value |
| Available-for-sale: | | | | | | | | |
| Government obligations | \$55,300 | \$47 | \$(622) | \$54,725 | \$139,099 | \$72 | \$(402) | \$138,769 |
| Corporate bonds | 63,810 | 78 | (431) | 63,457 | 61,589 | 14 | (280) | 61,323 |
| Commercial paper | 4,995 | 2 | — | 4,997 | 29,964 | 2 | (7) | 29,959 |
| Equity securities and exchange-traded funds | 29,325 | 1,962 | (346) | 30,941 | 8,461 | 368 | (558) | 8,271 |
| Mutual funds | 10,360 | 1,076 | (39) | 11,397 | 9,298 | 363 | (66) | 9,595 |
| Total | \$163,790 | \$3,165 | \$(1,438) | \$165,517 | \$248,411 | \$819 | \$(1,313) | \$247,917 |
| Held-to-maturity: | | | | | | | | |
| Certificates of deposit | \$19,948 | \$— | \$— | \$19,948 | \$16,347 | \$— | \$— | \$16,347 |

As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, investments with unrealized losses for greater than a 12-month period were not material to the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets and were not deemed to have other than temporary declines in value.

The table below shows the cost and fair value of investments classified as available-for-sale and held-to-maturity based on their contractual maturities as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The expected maturities of certain fixed-income securities may differ from their contractual maturities because some of these holdings have call features that allow the issuers the right to prepay obligations without penalties.

| (\$000) | As of September 30, 2012 | | As of December 31, 2011 | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | Cost | Fair Value | Cost | Fair Value |
| Available-for-sale: | | | | |
| Due in one year or less | \$107,770 | \$106,979 | \$155,651 | \$155,247 |
| Due in one to two years | 16,061 | 15,938 | 75,001 | 74,804 |
| Due in more than two years | 274 | 262 | — | — |
| Equity securities, exchange-traded funds, and mutual funds | 39,685 | 42,338 | 17,759 | 17,866 |
| Total | \$163,790 | \$165,517 | \$248,411 | \$247,917 |
| Held-to-maturity: | | | | |
| Due in one year or less | \$19,942 | \$19,942 | \$16,342 | \$16,342 |
| Due in one to three years | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | \$19,948 | \$19,948 | \$16,347 | \$16,347 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, held-to-maturity investments included a \$1,500,000 and a \$1,600,000 certificate of deposit, respectively, held primarily as collateral against bank guarantees for our office leases, primarily in Australia.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the realized gains and losses arising from sales of our investments classified as available-for-sale recorded in our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income:

| | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| (\$000) | 2012 | 2011 |
| Realized gains | \$689 | \$270 |
| Realized losses | (741 |) — |
| Realized gains (losses), net | \$(52 |) \$270 |

We determine realized gains and losses using the specific identification method.

The following table shows the net unrealized gains (losses) on trading securities as recorded in our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income:

| | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| (\$000) | 2012 | 2011 |
| Unrealized gains (losses), net | \$337 | \$(810) |

Table of Contents

The fair value of our assets subject to fair value measurements and that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis using the fair value hierarchy and the necessary disclosures under FASB ASC 820, Fair Value Measurement, are as follows:

| (\$000) | Fair Value as of September 30, 2012 | Fair Value Measurements as of September 30, 2012 Using Fair Value Hierarchy | | |
|--|---|--|-----------|---------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Available-for-sale investments: | | | | |
| Government obligations | \$54,725 | \$— | \$54,725 | \$— |
| Corporate bonds | 63,457 | — | 63,457 | — |
| Commercial paper | 4,997 | — | 4,997 | — |
| Equity securities and exchange-traded funds | 30,941 | 30,941 | — | — |
| Mutual funds | 11,397 | 11,397 | — | — |
| Trading securities | 5,434 | 5,434 | — | — |
| Cash equivalents | 20,468 | 20,468 | — | — |
| Total | \$191,419 | \$68,240 | \$123,179 | \$— |

| (\$000) | Fair Value as of December 31, 2011 | Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2011 Using Fair Value Hierarchy | | |
|--|---|---|-----------|---------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Available-for-sale investments: | | | | |
| Government obligations | \$138,769 | \$— | \$138,769 | \$— |
| Corporate bonds | 61,323 | — | 61,323 | — |
| Commercial paper | 29,959 | — | 29,959 | — |
| Equity securities and exchange-traded funds | 8,271 | 8,271 | — | — |
| Mutual funds | 9,595 | 9,595 | — | — |
| Trading securities | 5,491 | 5,491 | — | — |
| Cash equivalents | 30,818 | 30,818 | — | — |
| Total | \$284,226 | \$54,175 | \$230,051 | \$— |

Level 1: Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we have the ability to access.

Level 2: Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

Based on our analysis of the nature and risks of our investments in equity securities and mutual funds, we have determined that presenting each of these investment categories in the aggregate is appropriate.

We measure the fair value of money market funds, mutual funds, equity securities, and exchange-traded funds based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. All other financial instruments were valued either based on recent trades of securities in inactive markets or based on quoted market prices of similar instruments and other significant inputs derived from observable market data. We did not hold any securities categorized as Level 3 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

Table of Contents

8. Investments in Unconsolidated Entities

Our investments in unconsolidated entities consist primarily of the following:

| | As of September 30 2012 | As of December 31 2011 |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (\$000) | | |
| Investment in MJKK | \$20,085 | \$19,662 |
| Other equity method investments | 6,185 | 2,807 |
| Investments accounted for using the cost method | 12,008 | 5,173 |
| Total investments in unconsolidated entities | \$38,278 | \$27,642 |

Morningstar Japan K.K. Morningstar Japan K.K. (MJKK) develops and markets products and services customized for the Japanese market. MJKK's shares are traded on the Osaka Stock Exchange, "Hercules Market," using the ticker 4765. We account for our investment in MJKK using the equity method. The following table summarizes our ownership percentage in MJKK and the market value of this investment based on MJKK's publicly quoted share price:

| | As of September 30 2012 | As of December 31 2011 | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Morningstar's approximate ownership of MJKK | 34 | % 33 | % | % |

Approximate market value of Morningstar's ownership in MJKK:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Japanese yen (¥000) | ¥2,843,568 | ¥2,797,704 |
| Equivalent U.S. dollars (\$000) | \$36,369 | \$36,146 |

Other Equity Method Investments. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, other equity method investments consist of our investment in Morningstar Sweden AB (Morningstar Sweden) and YCharts, Inc. (YCharts). Morningstar Sweden develops and markets products and services customized for investors in Sweden. Our ownership interest in Morningstar Sweden was approximately 24% as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. YCharts is a technology company that provides stock research and analysis. Our ownership interest in YCharts was approximately 20% as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. As of September 30, 2012, other equity method investments also includes our investment in Inquiry Financial Europe AB (Inquiry Financial). In September 2012, we acquired a minority equity stake in Inquiry Financial for \$3,554,000. Inquiry Financial is a provider of sell-side consensus estimate data. Our ownership interest in Inquiry Financial was approximately 34% as of September 30, 2012.

We did not record any impairment losses on our equity method investments in the first nine months of 2012 or 2011.

Cost Method Investments. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, our cost method investments consist of minority investments in Pitchbook Data, Inc. (Pitchbook) and Bundle Corporation (Bundle). As of September 30, 2012, our cost method investments also include HelloWallet LLC (HelloWallet). Pitchbook offers detailed data and information about private equity transactions, investors, companies, limited partners, and service providers. Bundle is a social media company dedicated to helping people make smarter spending and saving choices. HelloWallet is a provider of personalized financial guidance to employees of Fortune 1000 companies. We paid approximately \$6,750,000 for the minority equity stake in HelloWallet in the first quarter of 2012. We did not record any impairment losses on our cost method investments in the first nine months of 2012 or 2011.

Table of Contents

9. Liability for Vacant Office Space

We include our liability for vacant office space in "Accounts payable and accrued liabilities" and "Other long-term liabilities," as appropriate, on our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. The following table shows the change in our liability for vacant office space from December 31, 2011 to September 30, 2012:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Liability for vacant office space | (\$000) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2011 | \$919 |
| Reduction of liability for lease and other related payments | (768) |
| Balance as of September 30, 2012 | \$151 |

10. Stock-Based Compensation

Stock-Based Compensation Plans

Our shareholders approved the Morningstar 2011 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2011 Plan) on May 17, 2011. As of that date, we stopped granting awards under the Morningstar 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2004 Plan). The 2004 Plan amended and restated the Morningstar 1993 Stock Option Plan, the Morningstar 2000 Stock Option Plan, and the Morningstar 2001 Stock Option Plan.

The 2011 Plan provides for a variety of stock-based awards, including, among other things, stock options, restricted stock units, and restricted stock. We granted stock options, restricted stock units, and restricted stock under the 2004 Plan.

All of our employees and our non-employee directors are eligible for awards under the 2011 Plan.

Grants awarded under the 2011 Plan or the 2004 Plan that are forfeited, canceled, settled, or otherwise terminated without a distribution of shares, or shares withheld by us in connection with the exercise of options, will be available for awards under the 2011 Plan. Any shares subject to awards under the 2011 Plan, but not under the 2004 Plan, that are withheld by us in connection with the payment of any required income tax withholding will be available for awards under the 2011 Plan.

The following table summarizes the number of shares available for future grants under our 2011 Plan:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | As of September 30 |
| (000) | 2012 |
| Shares available for future grants | 4,760 |

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation Awards

The following table summarizes our stock-based compensation expense and the related income tax benefit we recorded in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011:

| | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| | Three months ended September | | Nine months ended September | |
| | 30 | | 30 | |
| (\$000) | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Restricted stock units | \$3,396 | \$3,372 | \$9,944 | \$9,489 |
| Restricted stock | 444 | 444 | 1,332 | 1,752 |
| Stock options | 154 | 135 | 318 | 202 |
| Total stock-based compensation expense | \$3,994 | \$3,951 | \$11,594 | \$11,443 |
| Income tax benefit related to the stock-based compensation expense | \$931 | \$967 | \$2,735 | \$2,636 |

20

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the amount of unrecognized stock-based compensation expense as of September 30, 2012 and the expected number of months over which the expense will be recognized:

| | Unrecognized stock-based compensation expense (\$000) | Expected amortization period (months) |
|---|---|--|
| Restricted stock units | \$ 30,356 | 33 |
| Restricted stock | 4,587 | 31 |
| Stock options | 1,201 | 30 |
| Total unrecognized stock-based compensation expense | \$ 36,144 | 33 |

In accordance with FASB ASC 718, Compensation—Stock Compensation, we estimate forfeitures of employee stock-based awards and recognize compensation cost only for those awards expected to vest. Our largest annual equity grants typically have vesting dates in the second quarter. We adjust the stock-based compensation expense during the third quarter to reflect those awards that ultimately vested and update our estimate of the forfeiture rate that will be applied to awards not yet vested.

Restricted Stock Units

Restricted stock units represent the right to receive a share of Morningstar common stock when that unit vests. Restricted stock units to employees vest ratably over a four-year period. Restricted stock units granted to non-employee directors vest ratably over a three-year period. For restricted stock units granted through December 31, 2008, employees could elect to defer receipt of the Morningstar common stock issued upon vesting of the restricted stock unit.

We measure the fair value of our restricted stock units on the date of grant based on the closing market price of the underlying common stock on the day prior to grant. We amortize that value to stock-based compensation expense, net of estimated forfeitures, ratably over the vesting period.

The following table summarizes restricted stock unit activity during the first nine months of 2012:

| Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) | Unvested | Vested but Deferred | Total | Weighted Average Grant Date Value per RSU |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|--|
| RSUs outstanding—December 31, 2011 | 741,043 | 20,076 | 761,119 | \$ 50.66 |
| Granted | 293,609 | — | 293,609 | 55.39 |
| Dividend equivalents | 3,720 | 130 | 3,850 | 51.32 |
| Vested | (253,338) |) — | (253,338) |) 50.70 |
| Vested but deferred | 1,424 | (1,424) |) — | — |
| Issued | — | — | — | — |
| Forfeited | (66,395) |) — | (66,395) |) 50.17 |
| RSUs outstanding—September 30, 2012 | 720,063 | 18,782 | 738,845 | 52.59 |

Restricted Stock

In conjunction with the Realpoint acquisition in May 2010, we issued 199,174 shares of restricted stock to the selling employee-shareholders under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. The restricted stock vests ratably over a five-year period from the acquisition date and may be subject to forfeiture if the holder terminates his or her employment during the vesting period.

Because of the terms of the restricted stock agreements prepared in conjunction with the Realpoint acquisition, we account for the grant of restricted stock as stock-based compensation expense and not as part of the acquisition consideration.

Table of Contents

We measured the fair value of the restricted stock on the date of grant based on the closing market price of our common stock on the day prior to the grant. We amortize the fair value of \$9,363,000 to stock-based compensation expense over the vesting period. The stock-based compensation expense recorded in the first nine months of 2011 included approximately \$396,000 of expense recognized upon the accelerated vesting of a restricted stock grant. We have assumed that all of the remaining restricted stock will ultimately vest, and therefore have not incorporated a forfeiture rate for purposes of determining the stock-based compensation expense.

Stock Options

Stock options granted to employees vest ratably over a four-year period. Grants to our non-employee directors vest ratably over a three-year period. All grants expire 10 years after the date of grant. Almost all of the options granted under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan have a premium feature in which the exercise price increases over the term of the option at a rate equal to the 10-year Treasury bond yield as of the date of grant. Options granted under the 2011 Plan have an exercise price equal to the fair market value on the grant date.

In May 2011, we granted 86,106 stock options under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. In November 2011, we granted 6,095 stock options under the 2011 Plan. We estimated the fair value of the options on the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The weighted average fair value of options granted during 2011 was \$23.81 per share, based on the following assumptions:

Assumptions for Black-Scholes Option Pricing Model

| | | |
|------------------------|------|---|
| Expected life (years): | 7.4 | |
| Volatility factor: | 35.1 | % |
| Dividend yield: | 0.35 | % |
| Interest rate: | 2.87 | % |

The following tables summarize stock option activity in the first nine months of 2012 for our various stock option grants. The first table includes activity for options granted at an exercise price below the fair value per share of our common stock on the grant date; the second table includes activity for all other option grants.

| Options Granted At an Exercise Price Below the Fair Value Per Share on the Grant Date | Underlying Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Options outstanding—December 31, 2011 | 398,859 | \$19.72 |
| Granted | — | — |
| Canceled | (600 |) 14.70 |
| Exercised | (78,147 |) 20.06 |
| Options outstanding—September 30, 2012 | 320,112 | 20.34 |
| Options exercisable—September 30, 2012 | 320,112 | \$20.34 |
| All Other Option Grants, Excluding Activity Shown Above | Underlying Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
| Options outstanding—December 31, 2011 | 818,552 | \$22.76 |
| Granted | — | — |
| Canceled | (22,304 |) 39.77 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|----------|---------|
| Exercised | (301,761 |) 16.71 |
| Options outstanding—September 30, 2012 | 494,487 | 26.19 |
| Options exercisable—September 30, 2012 | 438,864 | \$22.22 |

22

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the total intrinsic value (difference between the market value of our stock on the date of exercise and the exercise price of the option) of options exercised:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | Nine months ended September 30 | |
| (\$000) | 2012 | 2011 |
| Intrinsic value of options exercised | \$17,161 | \$25,061 |

The table below shows additional information for options outstanding and exercisable as of September 30, 2012:

| Range of Exercise Prices | Options Outstanding | | | Options Exercisable | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | Number of Options | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (years) | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Aggregate Intrinsic Value (\$000) | Exercisable Shares | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (years) | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Aggregate Intrinsic Value (\$000) |
| \$8.57 - \$14.70 | 140,153 | 0.57 | \$8.58 | \$7,576 | 140,153 | 0.57 | \$8.58 | \$7,576 |
| \$20.30 - \$46.29 | 600,771 | 2.42 | 23.35 | 23,604 | 600,771 | 2.42 | 23.35 | 23,604 |
| \$57.28 - \$59.35 | 73,675 | 8.79 | 57.45 | 383 | 18,052 | 8.75 | 57.28 | 97 |
| \$8.57 - \$59.35 | 814,599 | 2.68 | 23.89 | \$31,563 | 758,976 | 2.23 | 21.43 | \$31,277 |
| Vested or Expected to Vest | | | | | | | | |
| \$8.57 - \$59.35 | 814,599 | 2.68 | \$23.89 | \$31,563 | | | | |

The aggregate intrinsic value in the table above represents the total pretax intrinsic value all option holders would have received if they had exercised all outstanding options on September 30, 2012. The intrinsic value is based on our closing stock price of \$62.64 on that date.

Excess Tax Benefits Related to Stock-Based Compensation

FASB ASC 718, Compensation—Stock Compensation, requires that we classify the cash flows that result from excess tax benefits as financing cash flows. Excess tax benefits correspond to the portion of the tax deduction taken on our income tax return that exceeds the amount of tax benefit related to the compensation cost recognized in our Statement of Income. The following table summarizes our excess tax benefits for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011:

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
| (\$000) | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Excess tax benefits related to stock-based compensation | \$459 | \$1,450 | \$5,007 | \$7,621 |

Table of Contents

11. Income Taxes

Effective Tax Rate

The following table shows our effective income tax rate for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011:

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Income before income taxes and equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | \$41,744 | \$33,285 | \$114,933 | \$104,484 | |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | 478 | 428 | 1,541 | 1,397 | |
| Net loss attributable to the noncontrolling interest | 34 | 10 | 62 | 106 | |
| Total | \$42,256 | \$33,723 | \$116,536 | \$105,987 | |
| Income tax expense | \$15,186 | \$12,343 | \$41,441 | \$35,585 | |
| Effective tax rate | 35.9 | % 36.6 | % 35.6 | % 33.6 | % |

Our effective tax rate in the third quarter of 2012 was 35.9%, a decrease of 0.7 percentage points compared with the prior-year period. Our effective tax rate in the first nine months of 2012 was 35.6%, an increase of 2.0 percentage points compared with the first nine months of 2011. The effective tax rate increase in the year-to-date period is due primarily to lower credit incentives in the current year.

Unrecognized Tax Benefits

The table below provides information concerning our gross unrecognized tax benefits as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The table also provides the effect these gross unrecognized tax benefits would have on our income tax expense, if they were recognized.

| (\$000) | As of September 30 | As of December 31 |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Gross unrecognized tax benefits | \$11,732 | \$12,189 |
| Gross unrecognized tax benefits that would affect income tax expense | \$11,674 | \$11,907 |
| Decrease in income tax expense upon recognition of gross unrecognized tax benefits | \$9,543 | \$9,827 |

There were no significant changes to unrecognized tax benefits in the first nine months of 2012.

Our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets include the following liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits. These amounts include interest and penalties, less any associated tax benefits.

| Liabilities for Unrecognized Tax Benefits (\$000) | As of September 30 | As of December 31 |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Current liability | \$4,971 | \$5,329 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Non-current liability | 6,278 | 6,200 |
| Total liability for unrecognized tax benefits | \$11,249 | \$11,529 |

We conduct business globally and as a result, we file income tax returns in U.S. federal, state, local, and foreign jurisdictions. In the normal course of business we are subject to examination by tax authorities throughout the world. The open tax years for our U.S. federal tax returns and most state tax returns include the years 2007 to the present. In non-U.S. jurisdictions, the statute of limitations generally extends to years prior to 2005.

Table of Contents

We are currently under audit by the U.S. federal and various state and local tax authorities in the United States, as well as tax authorities in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions. It is possible, though not likely, that the examination phase of some of these audits will conclude in 2012. It is not possible to estimate the effect of current audits on previously recorded unrecognized tax benefits.

Our effective tax rate reflects the fact that we are not recording an income tax benefit related to losses recorded by certain of our non-U.S. operations. The net operating losses (NOLs) may become deductible in certain non-U.S. tax jurisdictions to the extent these non-U.S. operations become profitable. In the year certain non-U.S. entities record a loss, we do not record a corresponding tax benefit, thus increasing our effective tax rate. For each of our operations, we evaluate whether it is more likely than not that the tax benefits related to NOLs will be realized. As part of this evaluation, we consider evidence such as tax planning strategies, historical operating results, forecasted taxable income, and recent financial performance. Upon determining that it is more likely than not that the NOLs will be realized, we reduce the tax valuation allowances related to these NOLs, which results in a reduction to our income tax expense and our effective tax rate in the period.

12. Contingencies

Life's Good S.T.A.B.L. Hedge Fund

In September 2011, three individual investors in Life's Good S.T.A.B.L. Mortgage hedge fund (LG), Marta Klass, Gregory Martin, and Richard Roellig, filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania against LG, its principal Robert Stinson, and several other parties, including Morningstar, Inc. (the Klass Matter). The plaintiffs claim that Morningstar committed fraud and aided and abetted the other defendants' breach of fiduciary duty through the 5-star rating LG obtained from Morningstar. The plaintiffs seek unspecified damages. Hedge fund managers self-report their performance data to Morningstar.

More than a year before the Klass Matter, in June 2010, the SEC filed suit against LG and other entities claiming they were part of a Ponzi scheme operated by Stinson. As a result, LG and the other entities were placed in court-appointed receivership. Morningstar was not part of the SEC suit or receivership. Since that time, the Receiver, as part of his duties, has been investigating whether to assert claims against third parties. Morningstar is aware of 14 lawsuits filed by the Receiver seeking to recover money for the fund.

In November 2011, Morningstar filed a motion to dismiss the Klass Matter. On behalf of the entities in receivership, the Receiver filed a motion to stay the proceedings because the Receivership Order does not permit suits against the entities in receivership without court permission. The court granted the Receiver's motion and stayed the Klass Matter. In April 2012, the Receiver filed a complaint against Morningstar, in which the Receiver claims that Morningstar is liable for contribution and aiding and abetting Stinson's breach of fiduciary duty and fraud through the 5-star rating LG obtained from Morningstar. The Receiver seeks unspecified damages. The same day the Receiver filed his complaint, Morningstar sought leave from the court to file a counter suit against Stinson and two of his entities-Keystone State Capital Corporation and LG-for, among other things, fraud, misrepresentation, and breach of user agreements. In June 2012, the court denied Morningstar's motion for leave to file suit. The court took no position on the merits of Morningstar's claims, and did not preclude Morningstar from renewing its motion to file a complaint at a later time, but deferred to the Receiver's request not to subject the receivership estate to additional litigation at this early point in the receivership. In August 2012, the court denied Morningstar's motion to dismiss the Receiver's complaint.

Morningstar believes the allegations against it by the Klass plaintiffs and the Receiver have no legal or factual basis and plans to vigorously contest the claims. Morningstar also intends to refile its affirmative claims against Stinson,

Keystone, and LG at a later time consistent with the court's order. We cannot predict the outcome of the proceedings.

Table of Contents

Egan-Jones Rating Co.

In June 2010, Egan-Jones Rating Co. filed a complaint in the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania against Realpoint, LLC (now known as Morningstar Credit Ratings, LLC) and Morningstar, Inc. in connection with a December 2007 agreement between Egan-Jones and Morningstar Credit Ratings for certain data-sharing and other services. In addition to damages, Egan-Jones filed a petition seeking an injunction to temporarily prevent Morningstar from offering corporate credit ratings through December 31, 2010. In September 2010, the court denied Egan-Jones's request for a preliminary injunction against Morningstar's corporate credit ratings business. Morningstar Credit Ratings and Morningstar continue to vigorously contest liability on all of Egan-Jones' claims for damages. We cannot predict the outcome of the proceeding.

Business Logic Holding Corporation

In November 2009, Business Logic Holding Corporation filed a complaint in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois against Ibbotson Associates, Inc. and Morningstar, Inc. relating to Ibbotson's prior commercial relationship with Business Logic. Business Logic is alleging breach of contract and trade secret misappropriation in connection with Ibbotson's development of a proprietary web-service software and user interface that connects plan participant data with the Ibbotson Wealth Forecasting Engine. Business Logic seeks, among other things, injunctive relief and unspecified damages. Ibbotson and Morningstar answered the complaint, and Ibbotson asserted a counterclaim against Business Logic alleging trade secret misappropriation and breach of contract, seeking damages and injunctive relief. While Morningstar and Ibbotson are vigorously contesting the claims against them, we cannot predict the outcome of the proceeding.

Morningstar Associates, LLC Subpoena from the New York Attorney General's Office

In December 2004, Morningstar Associates, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Morningstar, Inc., received a subpoena from the New York Attorney General's office seeking information and documents related to an investigation the New York Attorney General's office is conducting. The subpoena asked for documents relating to the investment consulting services the company offers to retirement plan providers, including fund lineup recommendations for retirement plan sponsors. Morningstar Associates has provided the requested information and documents.

In 2005, Morningstar Associates received subpoenas seeking information and documents related to investigations being conducted by the SEC and United States Department of Labor. The subpoenas were similar in scope to the New York Attorney General subpoena. In January 2007 and September 2009, respectively, the SEC and Department of Labor each notified Morningstar Associates that it had ended its investigation, with no enforcement action, fines, or penalties.

In January 2007, Morningstar Associates received a Notice of Proposed Litigation from the New York Attorney General's office. The Notice centers on disclosure relating to an optional service offered to retirement plan sponsors (employers) that select 401(k) plan services from ING, one of Morningstar Associates' clients. The Notice gave Morningstar Associates the opportunity to explain why the New York Attorney General's office should not institute proceedings. Morningstar Associates promptly submitted its explanation and has cooperated fully with the New York Attorney General's office.

We cannot predict the scope, timing, or outcome of this matter, which may include the institution of administrative, civil, injunctive, or criminal proceedings, the imposition of fines and penalties, and other remedies and sanctions, any of which could lead to an adverse impact on our stock price, the inability to attract or retain key employees, and the loss of customers. We also cannot predict what impact, if any, this matter may have on our business, operating results,

or financial condition.

We have not provided an estimate of loss or range of loss in connection with the matters described above because no such estimate can reasonably be made.

26

Table of Contents

Other Matters

In addition to these proceedings, we are involved in legal proceedings and litigation that have arisen in the normal course of our business. Although the outcome of a particular proceeding can never be predicted, we do not believe that the result of any of these other matters will have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, or financial position.

13. Share Repurchase Program

In September 2010, the board of directors approved a share repurchase program that authorizes the repurchase of up to \$100 million in shares of our outstanding common stock. In December 2011, the board approved an increase to the 2010 share repurchase program. The board approval authorized the company to repurchase up to an additional \$200 million in shares of our outstanding common stock with a revised expiration date of December 31, 2013. We may repurchase shares from time to time at prevailing market prices on the open market or in private transactions at our discretion. As of September 30, 2012, we had repurchased a total of 3,964,411 shares for \$231,553,933 under this authorization.

14. Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08, Intangibles—Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment. The objective of ASU No. 2011-08 is to simplify how entities test goodwill for impairment. ASU No. 2011-08 provides an option for companies to use a qualitative approach to test goodwill for impairment if certain conditions are met. For Morningstar, the amendments are effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed in 2012. Early adoption will be permitted. We perform our annual impairment testing in the fourth quarter and do not expect the provisions of ASU No. 2011-08 to have a material effect on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

15. Subsequent Events

In October 2012, we sold Morningstar Investor Relations Services to UK-based Investis, a leading specialist in digital corporate communications for public companies. In October 2012, we also sold the Morningstar Australasia trade publishing assets to Sterling Publishing Pty Ltd. We have not reclassified the operating results of these businesses, included as part of our Investment Information segment, to discontinued operations, nor have we reclassified the related assets and liabilities to held for disposition, because these amounts are not significant to our consolidated statements or segment disclosures. We expect to include a gain of approximately \$6 million to \$7 million on the disposal of these businesses in our fourth quarter and full-year 2012 results.

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

The discussion included in this section, as well as other sections of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, contains forward-looking statements as that term is used in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on our current expectations about future events or future financial performance. Forward-looking statements by their nature address matters that are, to different degrees, uncertain, and often contain words such as "may," "could," "expect," "intend," "plan," "seek," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "potential," or "continue." They involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause the events we discuss not to occur or to differ significantly from what we expect. For us, these risks and uncertainties include, among others:

- general industry conditions and competition, including current global financial uncertainty;
- the impact of market volatility on revenue from asset-based fees;
- damage to our reputation resulting from claims made about possible conflicts of interest;
- liability for any losses that result from an actual or claimed breach of our fiduciary duties;
- financial services industry consolidation;
- liability related to the storage of personal information about our users;
- a prolonged outage of our database and network facilities;
- challenges faced by our non-U.S. operations; and
- the availability of free or low-cost investment information.

A more complete description of these risks and uncertainties can be found in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. If any of these risks and uncertainties materialize, our actual future results may vary significantly from what we expect. We do not undertake to update our forward-looking statements as a result of new information or future events.

All dollar and percentage comparisons, which are often accompanied by words such as “increase,” “decrease,” “grew,” “declined,” “was up,” “was down,” “was flat,” or “was similar” refer to a comparison with the same period in the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Table of Contents

Understanding our Company

Our Business

Our mission is to create great products that help investors reach their financial goals. We offer an extensive line of data, software, and research products for individual investors, financial advisors, and institutional clients. We also offer investment management services for advisors, institutions, and retirement plan participants. Many of our products are sold through subscriptions or license agreements. As a result, we typically generate recurring revenue.

Our company has two operating segments: The Investment Information segment includes all of our data, software, and research products and services. These products and services are typically sold through subscriptions or license agreements. The Investment Management segment includes all of our asset management operations, which are registered investment advisors and earn more than half of their revenue from asset-based fees.

Over our 28-year history, we have focused primarily on organic growth by introducing new products and services and expanding our existing products. From 2006 through 2010, we also completed 24 acquisitions to support our five key growth strategies, which are:

- Enhance our position in each of our key market segments by focusing on our three major Internet-based platforms;
- Create a premier global investment database;
- Continue building thought leadership in independent investment research;
- Become a global leader in fund-of-funds investment management; and
- Expand our international brand presence, products, and services.

While we may make additional acquisitions to support these growth strategies, our primary focus is on integrating previous acquisitions and driving excellence throughout our organization.

Industry Overview

We monitor developments in the economic and financial information industry to help inform our company strategy, product development plans, and marketing initiatives.

Global markets rallied in the third quarter as investors responded favorably to both the actions of the world's central banks and the release of several positive economic indicators, including data suggesting signs of revival in the long-suffering U.S. housing market. The Federal Reserve began another round of monetary easing and extended its commitment to keep short-term interest rates near zero through mid-2015; and the European Central Bank moved more aggressively to address the continent's debt crisis. The Morningstar U.S. Market Index, a broad market benchmark, gained 6.2% in the quarter amid growing confidence in a sustainable—if somewhat muted—economic recovery, and the Global Ex-U.S. Index advanced to an even greater extent, posting a 7.6% gain over the same period.

U.S. mutual fund assets stood at \$12.6 trillion as of August 31, 2012, based on data from the Investment Company Institute (ICI), up almost \$1 trillion from December 31, 2011. Based on Morningstar's estimated asset flow data, investors added \$16.5 billion to long-term open-end funds in September as inflows of \$29.9 billion into taxable-bond funds outpaced redemptions of \$16.8 billion from U.S.-stock funds at a rate of nearly 2 to 1. September was the 17th consecutive month of outflows for U.S.-stock funds and further evidence of investors' preference for the perceived safety of fixed income over equities.

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Assets in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) rose to \$1.2 trillion as of August 31, 2012, compared with \$1.0 trillion as of August 31, 2011, based on data from the ICI. In September, \$18 billion flowed into U.S.-equity ETFs, an amount, as noted above, nearly equal to that lost by open-end U.S.-equity funds during the month.

While we've seen positive momentum in the markets and some signs of economic growth in the third quarter, overall we believe business conditions in the financial services industry remain challenging. Firms continue to be cautious about spending against a backdrop of worldwide economic and political uncertainty. Further, the historically low interest-rate environment has put significant pressure on the margins of many firms, most notably those in the variable annuity space. These difficult business conditions created headwinds for our results this quarter, and will continue to influence our operations going forward.

Table of Contents

Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 vs. Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011

Consolidated Results

| Key Metrics (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change | | |
| Revenue | \$160,952 | \$160,051 | 0.6 | % | \$487,679 | \$472,829 | 3.1 | % |
| Operating income | \$39,864 | \$33,864 | 17.7 | % | \$111,399 | \$104,280 | 6.8 | % |
| Operating margin | 24.8 | % 21.2 | % 3.6 | pp | 22.8 | % 22.1 | % 0.7 | pp |
| Cash provided by (used for) investing activities | \$45,274 | \$(34,440) |) NMF | | \$48,237 | \$(89,791) |) NMF | |
| Cash used for financing activities | \$(80,682) |) \$(27,666) |) 191.6 | % | \$(190,816) |) \$(22,177) |) 760.4 | % |
| Cash provided by operating activities | \$37,527 | \$45,160 | (16.9) |)% | \$92,316 | \$106,316 | (13.2) |)% |
| Capital expenditures | (4,954) |) (6,271) |) (21.0) |)% | (22,876) |) (14,689) |) 55.7 | % |
| Free cash flow | \$32,573 | \$38,889 | (16.2) |)% | \$69,440 | \$91,627 | (24.2) |)% |

pp — percentage points
NMF — Not meaningful

We define free cash flow as cash provided by or used for operating activities less capital expenditures. We present free cash flow solely as supplemental disclosure to help investors better understand how much cash is available after we spend money to operate our business. Our management team uses free cash flow to evaluate our business. Free cash flow is not equivalent to any measure required to be reported under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Also, the free cash flow definition we use may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies.

Consolidated Revenue

In the third quarter of 2012, our consolidated revenue increased 0.6% to \$161.0 million, compared with \$160.1 million in the third quarter of 2011. Currency movements had a negative effect in the quarter, lowering revenue by approximately \$2.1 million.

Excluding the effect of foreign currency translations, our consolidated revenue rose by about \$3.0 million, or 1.9%, in the third quarter of 2012. Leading the growth was Morningstar Direct, followed by Morningstar Data (formerly Licensed Data) and Morningstar Advisor Workstation. Integrated Web Tools also contributed to the organic revenue increase, although to a lesser extent. These positive factors helped offset the loss of business from a large client in our Investment Management division. As previously announced, a large Investment Advisory Services client moved to in-house management of several fund-of-funds portfolios in April 2012. We recognized about \$3.1 million in associated revenue in the third quarter of 2011.

Lower revenue for Morningstar.com and Morningstar Structured Credit Ratings also partially offset our organic revenue growth. Revenue for Morningstar.com was down because of a difficult advertising sales market and declining

paid Premium subscriptions, primarily in the United States. Revenue for Morningstar Structured Credit Ratings was down primarily because of competitive pricing pressure and fewer new issue ratings compared with the prior-year period.

Revenue for the first nine months of the year increased 3.1% to \$487.7 million. Currency movements had a negative effect, lowering revenue by approximately \$4.9 million. Excluding the effect of foreign currency translations, our consolidated revenue rose about \$19.8 million, or 4.2%, in the first nine months of 2012.

Table of Contents

To make it easier for investors to compare our results in different periods, we provide information on both organic revenue, which reflects our underlying business excluding acquisitions and the impact of foreign currency translations, and revenue from acquisitions. We did not complete any acquisitions during the 12 months ended September 30, 2012.

The table below reconciles consolidated revenue with organic revenue (revenue excluding acquisitions and the impact of foreign currency translations):

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Consolidated revenue | \$160,952 | \$160,051 | 0.6 % | \$487,679 | \$472,829 | 3.1 % |
| Less: acquisitions | — | — | n/a | — | — | n/a |
| Unfavorable impact of foreign currency translations | 2,085 | — | NMF | 4,912 | — | NMF |
| Organic revenue | \$163,037 | \$160,051 | 1.9 % | \$492,591 | \$472,829 | 4.2 % |

n/a — not applicable

Organic revenue (revenue excluding acquisitions and the impact of foreign currency translations) is considered a non-GAAP financial measure. The definition of organic revenue we use may not be the same as similarly titled measures used by other companies. Organic revenue should not be considered an alternative to any measure of performance as promulgated under GAAP.

International revenue made up 29.2% of our consolidated revenue in both the third quarter and first nine months of 2012. More than half of our international revenue is from Europe, with most of the remainder from Australia and Canada. Revenue from international operations was down \$0.3 million, or 0.7%, to \$46.9 million for the third quarter, but rose 2.0%, or \$2.8 million, to \$141.2 million in the first nine months of 2012.

Foreign currency translations had a negative effect in both periods, primarily from the euro. Excluding acquisitions and the effect of foreign currency translations, non-U.S. revenue rose 3.7% in the third quarter and 5.6% in the first nine months of 2012, reflecting stronger product sales in Europe and in Canada, partially offset by weaker results in Australia.

International organic revenue (international revenue excluding acquisitions and the impact of foreign currency translations) is considered a non-GAAP financial measure. The definition of international organic revenue we use may not be the same as similarly titled measures used by other companies. International organic revenue should not be considered an alternative to any measure of performance as promulgated under GAAP.

The tables below present a reconciliation from international revenue to international organic revenue (international revenue excluding acquisitions and the impact of foreign currency translations):

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| International revenue | \$46,931 | \$47,261 | (0.7 %) % | \$141,237 | \$138,434 | 2.0 % |
| Less: acquisitions | — | — | n/a | — | — | n/a |
| Unfavorable impact of foreign currency translations | 2,085 | — | NMF | 4,912 | — | NMF |
| International organic revenue | \$49,016 | \$47,261 | 3.7 % | \$146,149 | \$138,434 | 5.6 % |

Table of Contents

Consolidated Operating Expense

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Operating expense | \$121,088 | \$126,187 | (4.0)% | \$376,280 | \$368,549 | 2.1 % | |
| % of revenue | 75.2 | % 78.8 | % (3.6) | pp 77.2 | % 77.9 | % (0.7) | pp |

In the third quarter of 2012, our consolidated operating expense decreased \$5.1 million, or 4.0%.

Lower bonus expense of \$2.6 million in the third quarter contributed to the decline in operating expense. We review and update our estimates and the bonus pool size quarterly, primarily based on our expectations for full-year operating income relative to budget. A decrease in discretionary spending, including travel expense and advertising and marketing expense, also contributed to the lower operating expense. In addition, our results in the third quarter of 2012 included a benefit of approximately \$1.0 million for the resolution of a prior-year business tax expense matter. Higher salary expense and professional fees partially offset the decrease.

For the first nine months of 2012, operating expense increased \$7.7 million, or 2.1%. Higher salary expense of \$12.1 million was the primary driver of this increase. The majority of the increase in salary expense reflects regular pay raises and market adjustments made for some positions in July 2011. The rest of the increase represents additional headcount as well as regular pay raises made in July 2012.

We had approximately 3,525 employees worldwide as of September 30, 2012, compared with 3,465 as of December 31, 2011 and 3,395 as of September 30, 2011. The year-over-year increase in headcount reflects hiring for our development center in India and in the United States. The headcount growth during the third quarter of 2012 includes about 35 employees hired in July as part of the Morningstar Development Program, our career development program for entry-level positions.

Higher employee benefit costs, production expense, and professional fees also contributed to the increase in operating expense in the first nine months of the year, although to a lesser extent. Partially offsetting these increases was a reduction of bonus expense of approximately \$5.0 million in the first nine months of 2012. In addition, we capitalized \$6.0 million of operating expense in the first nine months of 2012, primarily for software development for Morningstar Direct, Morningstar Commodity Data, and Structured Credit Ratings. In comparison, we capitalized \$2.6 million of operating expense in the first nine months of 2011.

General and administrative expense (G&A) in the first nine months of 2012 included about \$1.6 million for a litigation settlement and an impairment charge for one of our smaller products. However, as mentioned above, our results for the first nine months of the year included a benefit of approximately \$1.0 million from the resolution of a prior-year business tax expense matter. Conversely, our results for the first nine months of 2011 included \$1.4 million of expense related to this business tax. G&A for the first nine months of 2011 included \$3.2 million of expense for a previously announced separation agreement with our former chief operating officer. This expense did not recur in the first nine months of 2012.

Intangible amortization expense decreased \$1.0 million in the quarter and \$2.1 million in the first nine months of the year, primarily because certain intangible assets from some of our earlier acquisitions are now fully amortized. However, depreciation expense rose \$0.8 million in the quarter and \$2.0 million in the first nine months of the year.

Cost of Goods Sold

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Cost of goods sold | \$47,711 | \$48,074 | (0.8)% | \$147,479 | \$133,929 | 10.1 % |
| % of revenue | 29.6 | % 30.0 | % (0.4) pp | 30.2 | % 28.3 | % 1.9 pp |
| Gross profit | \$113,241 | \$111,977 | 1.1 % | \$340,200 | \$338,900 | 0.4 % |
| Gross margin | 70.4 | % 70.0 | % 0.4 pp | 69.8 | % 71.7 | % (1.9) pp |

31

Table of Contents

Cost of goods sold is our largest category of operating expense, representing more than one-third of our total operating expense. Our business relies heavily on human capital, and cost of goods sold includes the compensation expense for employees who produce our products and services. Compensation expense for approximately half of our employees is included in this category.

Cost of goods sold declined \$0.4 million in the third quarter of 2012. Slightly lower travel expense, bonus expense, and bad debt expense were partially offset by higher salary expense.

Cost of goods sold rose \$13.6 million in the first nine months of 2012. Higher salaries and other compensation-related expense contributed approximately \$8.7 million of the increase in the first nine months of the year. Higher production expense of \$2.1 million and higher bonus expense of \$1.7 million also contributed to the increase in the first nine months of the year. Please refer to the section, Bonus Expense, for additional information on the increase in the first nine months of the year.

Our gross margin improved slightly in the third quarter but declined 1.9 percentage points in the first nine months of the year as costs in this category, primarily salary expense, increased at a faster rate compared with revenue growth.

Development Expense

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Development expense | \$12,857 | \$13,482 | (4.6)% | \$38,664 | \$39,151 | (1.2)% | |
| % of revenue | 8.0 | % 8.4 | % (0.4) | pp 7.9 | % 8.3 | % (0.4) | pp |

Development expense decreased \$0.6 million in the third quarter of 2012 and \$0.5 million in the first nine months of 2012. We capitalized \$1.9 million of software development expense in the third quarter of 2012 and \$6.0 million in the year-to-date period, reducing the expense that we would otherwise report in this category. In comparison, we capitalized \$1.6 million and \$2.6 million in the third quarter and first nine months of 2011, respectively. Lower bonus expense of \$0.3 million in the third quarter of 2012 also contributed to the decline. Higher salaries and other compensation-related expense for our development teams partially offset the favorable effect of the capitalized operating expense in the first nine months of 2012.

As a percentage of revenue, development expense was lower in both the third quarter and first nine months of 2012, primarily reflecting the effect of capitalizing software development.

Sales and Marketing Expense

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Sales and marketing expense | \$25,732 | \$27,253 | (5.6)% | \$81,431 | \$80,502 | 1.2 % | |
| % of revenue | 16.0 | % 17.0 | % (1.0) | pp 16.7 | % 17.0 | % (0.3) | pp |

Sales and marketing expense decreased \$1.5 million in the third quarter and increased \$0.9 million in the first nine months of 2012. Lower bonus expense, advertising and marketing expense, and travel expense all contributed to the decrease in operating expense in the third quarter. Higher salary-related expense represented almost all of the overall expense increase in the year-to-date period. Lower advertising and marketing expense, lower commissions, and, to a lesser extent, lower bonus expense, partially offset the increase in the first nine months of the year.

As a percentage of revenue, sales and marketing expense was down 1.0 percentage points in the quarter and 0.3 percentage points for the first nine months of the year, primarily reflecting lower advertising and marketing expense and bonus expense as a percentage of revenue.

Table of Contents

General and Administrative Expense

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| General and administrative expense | \$23,966 | \$26,431 | (9.3)% | \$77,090 | \$83,255 | (7.4)% | |
| % of revenue | 14.9 | % 16.5 | % (1.6) | pp 15.8 | % 17.6 | % (1.8) | pp |

G&A declined \$2.5 million in the third quarter of 2012 and \$6.2 million in the first nine months of 2012.

The decrease in the third quarter primarily reflects lower bonus expense of \$1.4 million. In addition, our results in the third quarter of 2012 included a benefit of approximately \$1.0 million for the resolution of a prior-year business tax expense matter. Higher professional fees partially offset the decline.

The decrease in the first nine months of the year primarily reflects lower bonus expense of \$5.9 million. Current-year bonus expense included in this category was down \$3.0 million. In addition, in the first quarter of 2011, we paid a greater portion of the 2010 bonus to employees in this category compared with our initial estimate, contributing \$2.6 million to the bonus expense recorded in the first quarter of 2011. Please refer to the section, Bonus Expense, for additional information.

G&A in the first nine months of 2012 included about \$1.6 million of expense for a litigation settlement and an impairment charge for one of our smaller products. However, as mentioned above, our results for the first nine months of the year included a benefit of approximately \$1.0 million from the resolution of a prior-year business tax expense matter. Conversely, our results for the first nine months of 2011 included \$1.4 million of expense related to this business tax. G&A for the first nine months of 2011 also included \$3.2 million of expense for a previously announced separation agreement with our former chief operating officer. This expense did not recur in 2012. Higher professional fees partially offset the decline.

As a percentage of revenue, G&A expense declined 1.6 percentage points in the third quarter of 2012, primarily because of lower bonus expense. As a percentage of revenue, G&A expense declined 1.8 percentage points in the first half of 2012, primarily because of lower bonus expense and the \$3.2 million of separation agreement expense from 2011 that did not recur in 2012.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Depreciation expense | \$4,881 | \$4,053 | 20.4 % | \$13,644 | \$11,673 | 16.9 % | |
| Amortization expense | 5,941 | 6,894 | (13.8)% | 17,972 | 20,039 | (10.3)% | |
| Total depreciation and amortization expense | \$10,822 | \$10,947 | (1.1)% | \$31,616 | \$31,712 | (0.3)% | |
| % of revenue | 6.7 | % 6.8 | % (0.1) | pp 6.5 | % 6.7 | % (0.2) | pp |

Depreciation expense rose \$0.8 million in the third quarter of 2012 and \$2.0 million in the first nine months of 2012. Amortization expense decreased \$1.0 million in the third quarter of 2012 and \$2.1 million in the year-to-date period, primarily because certain intangible assets from some of our earlier acquisitions are now fully amortized.

We expect that amortization of intangible assets will be an ongoing cost for the remaining lives of the assets. We estimate that aggregate amortization expense for intangible assets will be approximately \$24.0 million in 2012 and \$21.3 million in 2013. Our estimates of future amortization expense for intangible assets may be affected by additional acquisitions, dispositions, changes in the estimated average useful lives, and currency translations.

As a percentage of revenue, depreciation and amortization expense was down slightly in the third quarter and first nine months of 2012.

Table of Contents

Stock-Based Compensation Expense

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|--------|----|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Restricted stock units | \$3,396 | \$3,372 | 0.7 | % | \$9,944 | \$9,489 | 4.8 | % |
| Restricted stock | 444 | 444 | — | % | 1,332 | 1,752 | (24.0) | % |
| Stock options | 154 | 135 | 14.1 | % | 318 | 202 | 57.4 | % |
| Total stock-based compensation expense | \$3,994 | \$3,951 | 1.1 | % | \$11,594 | \$11,443 | 1.3 | % |
| % of revenue | 2.5 | % 2.5 | % — | pp | 2.4 | % 2.4 | % — | pp |

Our stock-based compensation expense relates to grants of restricted stock units (RSUs), restricted stock, and stock options. We include this cost in each of our operating expense categories. Stock-based compensation expense was flat in the third quarter, increased \$0.2 million in the first nine months of 2012, and was unchanged as a percentage of revenue for both periods compared with the same periods in 2011.

Restricted Stock Units: We began granting RSUs in May 2006 and have made additional grants each year, primarily in the second quarter. We recognize the expense related to RSUs over the vesting period, which is four years for employees and three years for non-employee directors. We estimate forfeitures for these awards and typically adjust the estimated forfeitures to actual forfeiture experience in the third quarter.

Restricted Stock: Beginning in 2010, we began recording expense related to restricted stock issued with the acquisition of Morningstar Credit Ratings, LLC. In May 2010, we issued 199,174 shares. The restricted stock vests ratably over a five-year period from the acquisition date and may be subject to forfeiture or acceleration upon a termination of the holder's employment during the vesting period depending on the circumstances. The expense in the first nine months of 2011 included \$0.4 million for accelerated vesting of a portion of these restricted stock grants.

Stock Options: In 2011, we granted 92,201 stock options to our executive officers and non-employee directors. These stock options vest ratably over a four-year period for executive officers and a three-year period for non-employee directors and expire 10 years after the date of grant. Using a Black-Scholes option pricing model, we estimated the fair value of these grants to be approximately \$2.2 million. We will amortize this value to stock-based compensation expense ratably over the options' vesting period.

We describe our stock-based compensation in more detail in Note 10 of the Notes to our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Based on grants of RSUs, stock options, and restricted stock made through September 30, 2012, we anticipate that stock-based compensation expense will be approximately \$15.6 million in 2012. This amount is subject to change based on additional equity grants or changes in our estimated forfeiture rate related to these grants.

Bonus Expense

The amount of bonus expense is not a fixed cost. We review and update our estimates and the bonus pool size quarterly, primarily based on our expectations for full-year operating income relative to budget. We record bonus expense throughout the year and pay annual bonuses to employees in the first quarter of the following year.

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|------|--------|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Bonus expense | \$7,751 | \$10,388 | (25.4)% | \$26,469 | \$31,503 | (16.0)% |
| % of revenue | 4.8 | % 6.5 | % (1.7) pp | 5.4 | % 6.7 | % (1.3) pp |

Table of Contents

Bonus expense, which we include in each of our operating expense categories, decreased \$2.6 million in the third quarter of 2012 and \$5.0 million in the first nine months of 2012. Bonus expense as a percentage of revenue decreased about 1.7 percentage points in the third quarter of 2012 and 1.3 percentage points in the first nine months of 2012.

Bonus expense for the first nine months of both years consisted of both the current-year bonus expense and the true-up related to the prior-year bonus accrual. We adjust the prior-year bonus estimate to the actual bonus payout during the first quarter, which is when the payout occurs. This true-up had a favorable effect of \$0.1 million on total bonus expense in the first nine months of 2012 and \$0.4 million in the first nine months of 2011. Although in total, the bonuses paid out in 2012 and 2011 were only slightly lower compared with the amounts expensed in 2011 and 2010, respectively, there were some differences by cost category. The table below presents the effect of these two factors by cost category and in total:

| (\$000) | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Cost of goods sold: | | | |
| Current year expense | \$12,706 | \$12,700 | \$6 |
| Prior year true-up | 116 | (1,577) |) 1,693 |
| Total cost of sales | 12,822 | 11,123 | 1,699 |
| Development: | | | |
| Current year expense | 4,960 | 5,189 | (229) |
| Prior year true-up | (950) |) (959) |) 9 |
| Total development | 4,010 | 4,230 | (220) |
| Sales and marketing: | | | |
| Current year expense | 2,600 | 4,676 | (2,076) |
| Prior year true-up | 973 | (521) |) 1,494 |
| Total sales and marketing | 3,573 | 4,155 | (582) |
| General and administrative: | | | |
| Current year expense | 6,339 | 9,386 | (3,047) |
| Prior year true-up | (275) |) 2,609 | (2,884) |
| Total general and administrative | 6,064 | 11,995 | (5,931) |
| Total current year expense | 26,605 | 31,951 | (5,346) |
| Total prior year true-up | (136) |) (448) |) 312 |
| Total bonus expense | \$26,469 | \$31,503 | \$(5,034) |

Consolidated Operating Income

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Operating income | \$39,864 | \$33,864 | 17.7 % | \$111,399 | \$104,280 | 6.8 % |
| % of revenue | 24.8 | % 21.2 | % 3.6 pp | 22.8 | % 22.1 | % 0.7 pp |

Consolidated operating income increased \$6.0 million in the third quarter of 2012 as our operating costs declined \$5.1 million and revenue increased \$0.9 million. Our operating margin was 24.8%, an increase of 3.6 percentage points compared with the third quarter of 2011.

Lower bonus expense as a percentage of revenue contributed approximately 1.7 percentage points to the margin improvement in the third quarter. Lower discretionary costs, including travel expense and advertising and marketing, as a percentage of revenue also contributed to the margin improvement in the third quarter.

35

Table of Contents

Consolidated operating income increased \$7.1 million in the first nine months of 2012 as the \$14.9 million increase in revenue outpaced the \$7.7 million increase in our costs. Our operating margin was 22.8%, a slight increase of 0.7 percentage points compared with the first nine months of 2011. Lower bonus expense as a percentage of revenue contributed to the margin improvement, increasing the margin by approximately 1.3 percentage points. Higher salary expense as a percentage of revenue of 1.4 percentage points partially offset the margin improvement.

The \$3.2 million of expense recorded in the first quarter of 2011 related to a separation agreement lowered our margin for the first nine months of 2011 by approximately 0.7 percentage points, favorably affecting the current-year comparison.

Consolidated Free Cash Flow

As described in more detail above, we define free cash flow as cash provided by or used for operating activities less capital expenditures.

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Cash provided by operating activities | \$37,527 | \$45,160 | (16.9)% | \$92,316 | \$106,316 | (13.2)% |
| Capital expenditures | (4,954) | (6,271) | (21.0)% | (22,876) | (14,689) | 55.7 % |
| Free cash flow | \$32,573 | \$38,889 | (16.2)% | \$69,440 | \$91,627 | (24.2)% |

We generated positive free cash flow in both the third quarter and year-to-date periods of 2012 and 2011. Free cash flow decreased \$6.3 million in the third quarter of 2012 and \$22.2 million in the first nine months of 2012, however.

Cash provided by operating activities: Cash provided by operating activities decreased \$7.6 million in the third quarter of 2012 reflecting the negative cash effect of changes in operating assets and liabilities and a \$4.4 million increase in income tax payments partially offset by higher net income, adjusted for non-cash items.

Table of Contents

To provide investors with additional insight into our financial results, we provide a comparison between the change in consolidated net income and the change in operating cash flow:

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Consolidated net income | \$27,036 | \$21,370 | \$5,666 | \$75,033 | \$70,296 | \$4,737 |
| Adjustments to reconcile consolidated net income to net cash flows from operating activities: | | | | | | |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units | (459) | (1,450) | 991 | (5,007) | (7,621) | 2,614 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 10,822 | 10,947 | (125) | 31,616 | 31,712 | (96) |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 3,994 | 3,951 | 43 | 11,594 | 11,443 | 151 |
| All other non-cash items included in net income | (415) | 259 | (674) | 283 | (273) | 556 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions: | | | | | | |
| Cash paid for bonuses | — | — | — | (42,820) | (37,464) | (5,356) |
| Cash paid for income taxes | (11,758) | (7,333) | (4,425) | (33,163) | (28,437) | (4,726) |
| Cash paid for separation agreements | — | (686) | 686 | (137) | (3,442) | 3,305 |
| Accounts receivable | (2,175) | (1,020) | (1,155) | (6,569) | (403) | (6,166) |
| Deferred revenue | (4,649) | (7,579) | 2,930 | 7,684 | 618 | 7,066 |
| Income taxes — current | 14,453 | 14,033 | 420 | 40,383 | 37,879 | 2,504 |
| Accrued compensation | 6,069 | 11,972 | (5,903) | 22,106 | 37,664 | (15,558) |
| Other assets | 89 | 1,388 | (1,299) | (3,551) | 1,996 | (5,547) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (4,968) | (15) | (4,953) | (4,316) | (5,275) | 959 |
| All other | (512) | (677) | 165 | (820) | (2,377) | 1,557 |
| Cash provided by operating activities | \$37,527 | \$45,160 | \$(7,633) | \$92,316 | \$106,316 | \$(14,000) |

In the third quarter of 2012, cash provided by operations decreased despite the increase in net income adjusted for non-cash items, primarily because of the negative cash flow effect of accrued compensation and the timing of income tax payments.

In the first nine months of 2012, the decrease in cash from operations exceeded the positive change in net income adjusted for non-cash items, primarily because of the negative cash flow effect of accrued compensation, the bonus payments, and the timing of income tax payments.

FASB ASC 718, Compensation—Stock Compensation, requires that we classify excess tax benefits as a financing activity, which contributes to the difference between net income and cash from operations. In the first nine months of 2012 and 2011, we classified \$5.0 million and \$7.6 million, respectively, of excess tax benefits as financing activities. We describe these excess tax benefits in the Liquidity and Capital Resources section.

Capital expenditures: We spent \$5.0 million for capital expenditures in the third quarter of 2012 and \$22.9 million in the first nine months of 2012, primarily for computer hardware and software, internally developed capitalized software, and spending for an expansion of office space in Chicago. In the first nine months of 2012, capital expenditures increased \$8.2 million, primarily for computer hardware and software for our U.S. operations, and internally developed capitalized software.

Segment Results

| Key Metrics (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------|----------|----|--------------------------------|------------|----------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Revenue | | | | | | | | |
| Investment Information | \$ 129,357 | \$ 125,804 | 2.8 | % | \$ 391,031 | \$ 374,319 | 4.5 | % |
| Investment Management | 31,595 | 34,247 | (7.7 |)% | 96,648 | 98,510 | (1.9 |)% |
| Consolidated revenue | \$ 160,952 | \$ 160,051 | 0.6 | % | \$ 487,679 | \$ 472,829 | 3.1 | % |
| Operating income (loss) | | | | | | | | |
| Investment Information | \$ 38,957 | \$ 31,426 | 24.0 | % | \$ 110,644 | \$ 100,830 | 9.7 | % |
| Investment Management | 14,842 | 18,062 | (17.8 |)% | 45,606 | 53,599 | (14.9 |)% |
| Intangible amortization and corporate depreciation expense | (8,495) | (8,788) | (3.3 |)% | (24,668) | (25,565) | (3.5 |)% |
| Corporate unallocated | (5,440) | (6,836) | (20.4 |)% | (20,183) | (24,584) | (17.9 |)% |
| Consolidated operating income | \$ 39,864 | \$ 33,864 | 17.7 | % | \$ 111,399 | \$ 104,280 | 6.8 | % |
| Operating margin | | | | | | | | |
| Investment Information | 30.1 | % 25.0 | % 5.1 | pp | 28.3 | % 26.9 | % 1.4 | pp |
| Investment Management | 47.0 | % 52.7 | % (5.7) | pp | 47.2 | % 54.4 | % (7.2) | pp |
| Consolidated operating margin | 24.8 | % 21.2 | % 3.6 | pp | 22.8 | % 22.1 | % 0.7 | pp |

Investment Information Segment

The Investment Information segment includes all of our data, software, and research products and services. These products are typically sold through subscriptions or license agreements.

The largest products in this segment based on revenue are Morningstar Data (formerly Licensed Data), Morningstar Advisor Workstation (including Morningstar Office), Morningstar Direct, Morningstar.com, Morningstar Integrated Web Tools, and Morningstar Principia. Morningstar Data is a set of investment data spanning all of our investment databases, including real-time pricing and commodity data, and is available through electronic data feeds. Advisor Workstation is a web-based investment planning system for advisors. Advisor Workstation is available in two editions: Morningstar Office for independent financial advisors and an enterprise edition for financial advisors affiliated with larger firms. Morningstar Direct is a web-based institutional research platform. Morningstar.com includes both Premium Memberships and Internet advertising sales. Morningstar Integrated Web Tools is a set of services that help institutional clients build customized websites or enhance their existing sites with our online tools and components. Principia is our CD-ROM-based investment research and planning software for advisors.

The Investment Information segment also includes Morningstar Equity Research, which we distribute through several channels. We sell Morningstar Equity Research to companies that purchase our research for their own use or provide our research to their affiliated advisors or individual investor clients. The segment also includes Morningstar Credit Research and Morningstar Structured Credit Ratings. The latter is provided by Morningstar Credit Ratings, LLC, a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization specializing in structured finance. It offers securities ratings, research, surveillance services, and data to help institutional investors identify risk in commercial mortgage-backed

securities (CMBS) and residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS).

We also offer a variety of financial communications and newsletters, other institutional and advisor software, and investment indexes.

37

Table of Contents

In the first nine months of 2012 and 2011, this segment represented approximately 80% of our consolidated revenue.

| Key Metrics (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Revenue | \$129,357 | \$125,804 | 2.8 % | \$391,031 | \$374,319 | 4.5 % | |
| Operating income | \$38,957 | \$31,426 | 24.0 % | \$110,644 | \$100,830 | 9.7 % | |
| Operating margin (%) | 30.1 | % 25.0 | % 5.1 | pp 28.3 | % 26.9 | % 1.4 | pp |

Revenue

In the third quarter of 2012, Investment Information segment revenue increased \$3.6 million, or 2.8%, to \$129.4 million. Investment Information segment revenue increased \$16.7 million, or 4.5%, to \$391.0 million in the first nine months of 2012. Morningstar Direct, Morningstar Data, and Advisor Workstation were the main contributors to revenue growth in both periods, partially offset by lower revenue for Morningstar.com and Morningstar Structured Credit Ratings.

Morningstar Direct was the largest contributor to the increase in segment revenue and contributed approximately 67% and 50% of the organic revenue growth for the segment in the third quarter and first nine months of 2012, respectively. The number of licenses for Morningstar Direct increased to 7,115 worldwide as of September 30, 2012, compared with 5,726 as of September 30, 2011, with strong growth globally. The growth reflects additional licenses for both new and existing clients, and, to a lesser extent, client migrations from both Institutional Workstation and Morningstar EnCorr.

Morningstar Data was the second-largest contributor to the increase in the segment revenue in both the third quarter and first nine months of 2012. Morningstar Data's revenue growth reflects strong renewal rates for managed product data. Morningstar Data gives institutions access to a full range of proprietary investment data spanning numerous investment databases, including real-time pricing data and commodity data. The data packages we offer include proprietary statistics, such as the Morningstar Style Box and Morningstar Rating, and a wide range of other information on investment performance, risk, portfolios, operations data, fees and expenses, cash flows, and ownership.

Custom solutions revenue and advisor software revenue also contributed to the growth, but to a lesser extent. Higher revenue from Morningstar Advisor Workstation (mainly Morningstar Office) and Morningstar Integrated Web Tools more than offset slightly lower revenue from Principia. The number of U.S. licenses for Morningstar Advisor Workstation was up slightly to 161,957 as of September 30, 2012 compared with 160,287 as of December 31, 2011 and 160,710 as of September 30, 2011. Principia subscriptions totaled 27,695 as of September 30, 2012, down from 31,270 as of December 31, 2011 and 31,318 as of September 30, 2011.

Revenue for Morningstar.com was down for both 2012 periods because of a difficult advertising sales market and declining paid Premium subscriptions, primarily in the United States. Premium subscriptions for the U.S. version of Morningstar.com declined to 125,006 as of September 30, 2012, compared with 130,354 as of December 31, 2011 and 133,734 as of September 30, 2011. However, consistent with the trend over the past few years, we moderately increased subscription prices for U.S. Premium Membership in both January 2012 and 2011, which partly offset the revenue decline associated with the lower subscription levels.

Revenue for Morningstar Structured Credit Ratings was down in both the third quarter and the first nine months of the year, primarily because of competitive pricing pressure and fewer new-issue ratings compared with the prior-year

periods.

Operating Income

In the third quarter of 2012, operating income for the Investment Information segment increased \$7.5 million, or 24.0%. Operating expense was down \$4.0 million in the third quarter of 2012. Lower bonus expense and lower discretionary costs, including travel expense and advertising and marketing, both contributed to the decline in operating expense.

38

Table of Contents

In the first nine months of 2012, operating income for the Investment Information segment increased \$9.8 million, or 9.7%. Operating expense was up \$6.9 million, or 2.5% in the first nine months of 2012. Higher salary expense was the primary contributor to the increase in the period. Lower advertising and marketing expense, bonus expense, and commission expense partially offset the increase.

The Investment Information segment's operating margin increased 5.1 percentage points in the third quarter. The margin improvement reflects the higher revenue base and the decrease in operating expense. Lower bonus expense and lower discretionary costs, including travel and advertising and marketing expense, all as a percentage of revenue, contributed the margin increase. Lower bonus expense contributed approximately 1.3 percentage points to the margin improvement in the quarter.

The Investment Information segment's operating margin improved 1.4 percentage points in the first nine months of 2012. Lower bonus expense and lower discretionary costs, including advertising and marketing were partially offset by higher salary expense, all as a percentage of revenue.

Investment Management Segment

The Investment Management segment includes all of our asset management operations, which earn more than half of their revenue from asset-based fees.

The key products and services in this segment based on revenue are Investment Advisory Services (formerly named Investment Consulting), which focuses on investment monitoring and asset allocation for funds of funds, including mutual funds and variable annuities; Retirement Solutions, including the Morningstar Retirement Manager and Advice by Ibbotson platforms; and Morningstar Managed Portfolios, a fee-based discretionary asset management service that includes a series of mutual fund, ETF, and stock portfolios tailored to meet a range of investment time horizons, risk levels, and investment strategies that financial advisors can use for their clients' taxable and tax-deferred accounts.

Table of Contents

Our Investment Advisory Services business has multiple fee structures, which vary by client. In general, we seek to receive asset-based fees for any work we perform that involves managing investments or acting as a subadvisor to investment portfolios. For any individual contract, we may receive flat fees, variable asset-based fees, or a combination of the two. Some of our contracts include minimum fee levels that provide us with a flat payment up to a specified asset level, above which we also receive variable asset-based fees. In the majority of our contracts that include variable asset-based fees, we bill clients quarterly in arrears based on average assets for the quarter. The method of calculation varies by client; some contracts include provisions for calculating average assets based on daily data, while others use weekly or monthly data. Other contracts may include provisions for monthly billing or billing based on assets as of the last day of the billing period rather than on average assets.

In our Retirement Solutions business, our contracts may include one-time setup fees, technology licensing fees, asset-based fees for managed retirement accounts, fixed and variable fees for advice and guidance, or a combination of these fee structures. Our Retirement Solutions business also includes plan sponsor and custom target date consulting arrangements. Fees for these services may be based on the level of assets under advisement in these arrangements.

We do not disclose a fee range for our Investment Advisory Services and Retirement Solutions businesses because our fee structures are customized by client. In addition, we believe disclosing a fee range would be detrimental to our competitive position. We disclose changes in the nature of the underlying services we provide or their associated fee structures (for example, a change from flat fees to asset-based fees) in our periodic filings to the extent that they are material to our financial results.

For Morningstar Managed Portfolios, we charge asset-based fees, which are based on a tiered schedule that depends on the client's account balance. Fees for our mutual fund and ETF portfolios generally range from 30 to 40 basis points. We charge fees of 55 basis points for our customized stock portfolios.

In addition, we offer Managed Portfolios through our subsidiary Ibbotson Australia, which provides asset management services primarily to institutional clients and individual investors.

In the first nine months of 2012 and 2011, this segment represented approximately 20% of our consolidated revenue.

| Key Metrics (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Revenue | \$31,595 | \$34,247 | (7.7)% | \$96,648 | \$98,510 | (1.9)% |
| Operating income | \$14,842 | \$18,062 | (17.8)% | \$45,606 | \$53,599 | (14.9)% |
| Operating margin (%) | 47.0 | % 52.7 | % (5.7) | pp 47.2 | % 54.4 | % (7.2) |

Revenue

Investment Management segment revenue decreased \$2.7 million, or 7.7%, in the third quarter of 2012. Investment Management segment revenue decreased \$1.9 million in the first nine months of 2012. Our largest client in the Investment Management segment began managing several fund-of-funds portfolios in-house in April 2012. We did not receive any revenue from our work on these portfolios in the third quarter of 2012, compared with about \$3.1 million in the third quarter of 2011, which represented about 9.1% of Investment Management segment revenue. We received \$3.8 million in revenue from our work on these portfolios in the first nine months of 2012 compared with \$9.3 million in revenue in the first nine months of 2011. This loss of this business was the primary driver of the segment revenue decline in both periods.

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Excluding the loss of business discussed above, Investment Advisory Services revenue was down slightly in the third quarter of 2012. Revenue for Morningstar Managed Portfolios, and to a lesser extent, Retirement Solutions, were up in the third quarter of 2012, partially offsetting the revenue decline for Investment Advisory Services.

While overall segment revenue was down, Morningstar Managed Portfolios made positive contributions to revenue in the first nine months of 2012. Managed Portfolios for Ibbotson Australia and Retirement Solutions were both down in the first nine months of 2012. Revenue for the Retirement Solutions business declined slightly because of lower non-asset-related fees and a change in contract terms for one of our clients.

Table of Contents

The variable annuity industry, which accounted for approximately 15% of Investment Management segment revenue in the third quarter of 2012, continues to face challenges. Accordingly, we expect that there will be further pressure on revenue from clients in the variable annuity industry.

We had approximately \$21.1 million in revenue from asset-based fees in the third quarter of 2012, a decrease of \$0.8 million compared with \$21.9 million in the third quarter of 2011. Within the Investment Management segment, revenue from asset-based fees made up about 65% of segment revenue in both periods of 2012 and 2011.

The asset totals as of the end of each period don't fully reflect the change in average asset levels during the quarter. The asset-based fees we earn are primarily based on average asset levels during each quarter. Average assets under advisement and management (calculated based on available quarterly or monthly data) were approximately \$190.7 billion in the third quarter of 2012, up 12.8% from approximately \$169.2 billion in the third quarter of 2011.

Assets under Advisement and Management for Investment Advisory Services

| (\$ billions) | As of September 30 | |
|---|--------------------|---------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Assets under advisement – U.S. | \$137.7 | \$117.6 |
| Assets under advisement – International | 4.7 | 1.7 |
| Total | \$142.4 | \$119.3 |

We provided Investment Advisory Services on approximately \$142.4 billion in assets as of September 30, 2012 compared with approximately \$137.5 billion as of December 31, 2011 and approximately \$119.3 billion as of September 30, 2011.

These assets include relationships for which we receive basis-point fees, including consulting arrangements and other agreements where we act as a portfolio construction manager for a mutual fund or variable annuity. We also provide Investment Advisory Services for some assets for which we receive a flat fee; we do not include these assets in the total reported above. Excluding changes related to new contracts and cancellations, changes in the value of assets under advisement can come from two primary sources: gains or losses related to overall trends in market performance, and net inflows or outflows caused when investors add to or redeem shares from these portfolios.

Assets under advisement and management increased about \$23.1 billion, or 19.4%, compared with September 30, 2011. As mentioned above, our largest Investment Management client began managing several fund-of-funds portfolios in-house in April this year. These portfolios represented \$11.3 billion, or 9.5%, of our Investment Advisory Services assets under advisement and management as of September 30, 2011. This loss was offset by additional assets for an existing fund-of-funds program for which Morningstar now receives asset-based fees. The new fee structure began late in 2011 and represents incremental growth for an existing revenue stream. Excluding assets from this program and the portfolio for which we no longer provide advisory services, assets under advisement and management rose 20.3%, primarily reflecting positive market performance.

We cannot quantify cash inflows and outflows for these portfolios because we do not have custody of the assets in the majority of our investment management businesses. The information we receive from many of our clients does not separately identify the effect of cash inflows and outflows on asset balances for each period. We also cannot precisely quantify the effect of market appreciation or depreciation because the majority of our clients have discretionary authority to implement their own portfolio allocations.

Table of Contents

Assets under Advisement and Management for Retirement Solutions

| (\$ billions) | As of September 30 | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Assets under management | \$24.2 | \$18.9 |
| Assets under advisement | 21.2 | 17.4 |
| Total | \$45.4 | \$36.3 |

Assets under management for managed retirement accounts increased to \$24.2 billion as of September 30, 2012, compared with \$19.9 billion as of December 31, 2011 and \$18.9 billion as of September 30, 2011. Assets under advisement for plan sponsor and custom target-date arrangements increased to \$21.2 billion as of September 30, 2012, compared with \$17.4 billion as of September 30, 2011, and \$17.5 billion as of December 31, 2011.

We cannot separately quantify the factors affecting assets under management for our managed retirement accounts. These factors primarily consist of employer and employee contributions, plan administrative fees, market movements, and participant loans and hardship withdrawals. We cannot quantify the impact of these other factors because the information we receive from the plan providers does not separately identify these transactions or the changes in balances caused by market movement.

Morningstar Managed Portfolios

Revenue for Morningstar Managed Portfolios increased \$0.7 million and \$1.3 million in the third quarter and first nine months of 2012, respectively. This growth mainly reflects higher average asset levels during the first nine months of 2012 compared with the same period in 2011. Assets under management and advisement for Morningstar Managed Portfolios rose to \$4.0 billion as of September 30, 2012, up from \$3.0 billion as of December 31, 2011 and \$2.8 billion as of September 30, 2011, reflecting positive market performance and strong net inflows.

Ibbotson Australia Managed Portfolios

Revenue for Ibbotson Australia Managed Portfolios was flat in the third quarter of 2012 and declined about \$0.8 million in the first nine months of 2012. The lower revenue mainly reflects lower average assets levels during the first nine months of 2012 compared with the same period in 2011. Assets under management for Ibbotson Australia totaled \$3.1 billion as of September 30, 2012, up slightly from \$2.9 billion as of December 31, 2011, and up about \$0.3 billion compared with \$2.8 billion as of September 30, 2011.

Operating Income

Operating income for the Investment Management segment decreased \$3.2 million, or 17.8%, in the third quarter of 2012. Operating expense in the segment rose \$0.6 million, or 3.5%, in the third quarter of 2012.

Operating income for the Investment Management segment decreased \$8.0 million in the first nine months of 2012. Operating expense in the segment rose \$6.1 million, or 13.7%, in the first nine months of 2012. Operating expense rose in the first nine months of 2012 primarily because of higher expense for operations outside of the United States as well as higher salary expense and professional fees in the United States. Lower bonus expense of \$2.7 million partially offset the higher operating expense.

Operating margin decreased 5.8 percentage points and 7.2 percentage points in the third quarter and first nine months of 2012, respectively, as operating expense growth exceeded the growth in revenue. Higher salary expense,

professional fees, and higher costs for operations outside the United States, all as a percentage of revenue, contributed to the margin decline. Lower bonus expense as a percentage of revenue partially offset these increases.

Table of Contents

Corporate Items

We do not allocate corporate costs to our business segments. The corporate items category includes capitalization and amortization of internal product development costs and amortization expense related to intangible assets recorded for acquisitions. The table below shows the components of corporate items that affected our consolidated operating income:

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Amortization expense | \$5,941 | \$6,894 | (13.8)% | \$17,972 | \$20,039 | (10.3)% |
| Depreciation expense | 2,554 | 1,894 | 34.8 % | 6,696 | 5,526 | 21.2 % |
| Corporate unallocated | 5,440 | 6,836 | (20.4)% | 20,183 | 24,584 | (17.9)% |
| Corporate items | \$13,935 | \$15,624 | (10.8)% | \$44,851 | \$50,149 | (10.6)% |

Amortization of intangible assets decreased \$1.0 million in the third quarter of 2012 and \$2.1 million in the first nine months of 2012, primarily because certain intangible assets from some of our earlier acquisitions are now fully amortized. As of September 30, 2012, we had \$122.8 million of net intangible assets. We amortize these assets over their estimated lives, ranging from one to 25 years. We estimate that aggregate amortization expense for intangible assets will be approximately \$24.0 million in 2012.

Corporate unallocated expense decreased \$1.4 million in the third quarter of 2012, mainly reflecting the benefit of approximately \$1.0 million for the resolution of a prior-year business tax expense. We capitalized \$1.9 million and \$1.6 million of expense for software development in the third quarter of 2012 and 2011, respectively. Higher professional fees partially offset the decrease in operating expense.

Corporate unallocated decreased \$4.4 million in the first nine months of 2012. Corporate unallocated expense for the first nine months of 2011 included \$3.2 million of expense for the separation agreement with our former chief operating officer. This expense did not recur in 2012. Corporate unallocated in the first quarter of 2012 included about \$1.6 million of expense for a litigation settlement and an impairment charge for one of our smaller products. In addition, we capitalized \$6.0 million of expense for software development in the first nine months of 2012, an increase of \$3.4 million compared with \$2.6 million in the same period of 2011. In addition, as mentioned above, corporate unallocated in the year-to-date period of 2012 included a benefit of approximately \$1.0 million for the resolution of a prior-year business tax expense matter. Conversely, corporate unallocated in the first nine months of 2011 included \$1.4 million of expense for this same matter. Partially offsetting these benefits, was about \$1.6 million of expense for a litigation settlement and an impairment charge for one of our smaller products recorded in the first quarter of 2012.

Equity in Net Income of Unconsolidated Entities, Non-Operating Income (Expense), and Income Tax Expense

Equity in Net Income of Unconsolidated Entities

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|---------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | \$478 | \$428 | \$1,541 | \$1,397 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Equity in net income of unconsolidated entities includes our portion of the net income (loss) of Morningstar Japan K.K. (MJKK), Morningstar Sweden AB, and, beginning in the fourth quarter of 2011, YCharts, Inc.

We describe our investments in unconsolidated entities in more detail in Note 8 of the Notes to our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

Non-Operating Income (Expense)

The following table presents the components of net non-operating income (expense):

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|----------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Interest income | \$1,774 | \$938 | \$4,094 | \$2,324 | |
| Interest expense | (55 |) (141 |) (246 |) (1,182 |) |
| Other income (expense), net | 161 | (1,376 |) (314 |) (938 |) |
| Non-operating income (expense), net | \$1,880 | \$(579 |) \$3,534 | \$204 | |

Interest income mainly reflects interest from our investment portfolio. Interest income in the third quarter and first nine months of 2012 increased compared with the prior-year periods primarily because of higher balances of cash equivalents and investments during the periods. Interest income in the third quarter of 2012 also includes approximately \$0.7 million of interest income related to the \$1.0 million of business tax refund for prior years recorded in the third quarter of 2012, as discussed above in the section, Consolidated Operating Expense. Interest expense in the first nine months of 2011 of \$1.2 million related primarily to the \$1.4 million of business tax expense for prior years recorded in the second quarter of 2011, as discussed above in the section, Consolidated Operating Expense.

Other income (expense), net primarily represents foreign currency exchange gains and losses arising from the ordinary course of business. It also includes royalty income from MJKK and realized gains and losses from our investment portfolio.

Income Tax Expense

The following table shows our effective tax rate:

| (\$000) | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Income before income taxes and equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | \$41,744 | \$33,285 | \$114,933 | \$104,484 | |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated entities | 478 | 428 | 1,541 | 1,397 | |
| Net loss attributable to the noncontrolling interest | 34 | 10 | 62 | 106 | |
| Total | \$42,256 | \$33,723 | \$116,536 | \$105,987 | |
| Income tax expense | \$15,186 | \$12,343 | \$41,441 | \$35,585 | |
| Effective tax rate | 35.9 | % 36.6 | % 35.6 | % 33.6 | % |

Our effective tax rate in the third quarter of 2012 was 35.9%, a decrease of 0.7 percentage points compared with 36.6% in the prior-year period. Year to date, our effective tax rate was 35.6%, compared with 33.6% in the first nine months of 2011.

There were no significant changes to unrecognized tax benefits in the first nine months of 2012. As of September 30, 2012, we had \$11.7 million of gross unrecognized tax benefits, of which \$11.7 million, if recognized, would reduce our effective income tax rate and decrease our income tax expense by \$9.5 million. As of December 31, 2011, we had

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

\$12.2 million of gross unrecognized tax benefits, of which \$11.9 million, if recognized, would reduce our effective income tax rate and decrease our income tax expense by \$9.8 million.

As of September 30, 2012, our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet included a current liability of approximately \$5.0 million and a non-current liability of \$6.3 million for unrecognized tax benefits. As of December 31, 2011, our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet included a current liability of \$5.3 million and a non-current liability of \$6.2 million for unrecognized tax benefits. These amounts include interest and penalties, less any associated tax benefits.

Table of Contents

We have not provided federal and state income taxes on accumulated undistributed earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries because these earnings have been permanently reinvested. Approximately 32% of our cash, cash equivalents, and investments as of September 30, 2012 were held by our operations outside of the United States. As such, we believe that our cash balances and investments in the United States, along with cash generated from our U.S. operations, will be sufficient to meet our U.S. operating and cash needs for the foreseeable future, without requiring us to repatriate earnings from these foreign subsidiaries. It is not possible to determine the amount of the unrecognized deferred tax liability related to the undistributed earnings.

We are currently under audit by federal and various state and local tax authorities in the United States, as well as tax authorities in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions. It is possible, though not likely, that the examination phase of some of these audits will conclude in 2012. It is not possible to estimate the effect of current audits on previously recorded unrecognized tax benefits.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We believe our available cash balances and investments, along with cash generated from operations, will be sufficient to meet our operating and cash needs for at least the next 12 months. We invest our cash reserves in cash equivalents and investments, consisting primarily of fixed-income securities. We maintain a conservative investment policy for our investments and invest a portion of these assets in government obligations and corporate bonds with high-quality stand-alone credit ratings. Investments in our portfolio have a maximum maturity of two years; the weighted average maturity is approximately one year. We also invest a portion of our investments balance (approximately 25% as of September 30, 2012) in proprietary Morningstar portfolios, exchange-traded funds that seek to track the performance of certain Morningstar proprietary indexes, and various mutual funds. The proprietary Morningstar portfolios may consist of stocks, bonds, options, mutual funds, or exchange-traded funds. Approximately 68% of our cash, cash equivalents, and investments as of September 30, 2012 was held by our operations in the United States, down from approximately 80% as of December 31, 2011.

We intend to use our cash, cash equivalents, and investments for general corporate purposes, including working capital, funding future growth, repurchasing shares under our share repurchase program, and paying quarterly dividends. To date, we have not needed to access any significant commercial credit and have not attempted to borrow or establish any lines of credit.

In December 2011, our board of directors approved an increase to the \$100 million share repurchase program we announced in 2010. This approval authorized the repurchase of up to an additional \$200 million in shares of our outstanding common stock. We may repurchase shares from time to time at prevailing market prices on the open market or in private transactions at our discretion. In the first nine months of 2012, we repurchased a total of 3,166,074 shares for approximately \$187.0 million, of which \$3.4 million was settled and paid early in the fourth quarter of 2012. As of September 30, 2012, we have repurchased a total of 3,964,411 shares for \$231.6 million since we announced the share repurchase program in 2010.

We expect to make a recurring quarterly dividend payment of 10 cents per share in 2012. In the first nine months of 2012, we paid dividends of \$14.9 million. On September 28, 2012, our board of directors approved a payment of a regular quarterly dividend of 10 cents per share payable on October 31, 2012 to shareholders of record as of October 12, 2012. As of September 30, 2012, we recorded a liability for dividends payable of \$4.8 million.

Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

As of September 30, 2012, we had cash, cash equivalents, and investments of \$343.1 million, a decrease of \$127.1 million compared with \$470.2 million as of December 31, 2011. The decrease reflects \$183.7 million used to repurchase common stock through our share repurchase program, bonus payments of \$42.8 million made during the first quarter of 2012 related to the 2011 bonus, \$22.9 million of capital expenditures, and \$14.9 million of dividends paid. In addition, we used cash of approximately \$10.3 million to acquire minority equity stakes in HelloWallet LLC and Inquiry Financial Europe AB.

These items, which decreased our cash, cash equivalents, and investments balance, were partially offset by cash inflows from net income, adjusted for non-cash items, the positive effect of changes in our operating assets and liabilities, and, to a much lesser extent, \$7.8 million of cash from stock-option proceeds and excess tax benefits.

Table of Contents

Cash Provided by Operating Activities

Our main source of capital is cash generated from operating activities.

In the first nine months of 2012, cash provided by operating activities was \$92.3 million, driven by \$113.5 million of net income, adjusted for non-cash items, partially offset by \$21.2 million in changes from our net operating assets and liabilities. A decrease in accrued compensation was the primary contributor to the unfavorable impact of changes in our net operating assets and liabilities. The decline in accrued compensation primarily reflects the bonus payments made in the first quarter of 2012 of approximately \$42.8 million, partially offset by the current-year bonus liability for the first nine months of 2012.

Cash provided by operating activities decreased \$14.0 million compared with the same period in 2011. The decrease primarily reflects the negative cash effect of changes in operating assets and liabilities, and, to a lesser extent, the \$5.3 million increase in bonuses paid in the first quarter. We paid \$42.8 million in annual bonuses in the first quarter of 2012, compared with \$37.5 million in the prior-year period. Higher net income adjusted for non-cash items partially offset the decline.

Cash Provided by (Used for) Investing Activities

Cash provided by (used for) investing activities consists primarily of cash used for acquisitions, purchases of investments less proceeds from the maturity or sale of investments, cash used for capital expenditures, and purchases of equity and cost method investments. The level of investing activities varies from period to period depending on activity in these categories. In the first nine months of 2012, cash provided by investing activities was \$48.2 million, compared with cash used for investing activities of \$89.8 million in the same period of 2011.

In the first nine months of 2012, proceeds from the maturity and sale of investments exceeded purchases of investments by \$81.4 million. In contrast, purchases of investments exceeded the proceeds from the maturity or sale of investments by \$76.3 million in the first nine months of 2011. We have used these proceeds to fund our share repurchase program. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, we had investments, consisting primarily of fixed-income securities, of \$190.9 million and \$269.8 million, respectively. As of September 30, 2012, our investments represented approximately 56% of our total cash, cash equivalents, and investments balance, down slightly compared with 57% as of December 31, 2011.

Capital expenditures were \$22.9 million in the first nine months of 2012, an increase of \$8.2 million compared with the first nine months of 2011. Capital expenditures in the first nine months of 2012 reflect spending primarily for computer hardware and software, capitalized software, and an expansion of our office space in Chicago. The capital expenditures in the first nine months of 2011 included the remaining payments for our development center in China. We expect to make total capital expenditures of approximately \$28 million to \$31 million in 2012, primarily for computer hardware and software, leasehold improvements for new and existing office locations, and capitalized software.

We did not complete any acquisitions in the first nine months of 2012 or 2011. However, in 2012, we used cash of approximately \$10.3 million to acquire minority equity stakes in HelloWallet LLC and Inquiry Financial Europe AB. In the first nine months of 2011, we received cash of approximately \$0.3 million, primarily as an adjustment to the purchase price of an acquisition made in a previous year.

Cash Provided by (Used for) Financing Activities

Cash provided by (used for) financing activities consists primarily of net proceeds from stock-option exercises and excess tax benefits related to stock-option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units. These cash inflows may be offset by dividend payments and cash used to repurchase common stock through our share repurchase program.

Table of Contents

Excess tax benefits occur at the time a stock option is exercised when the intrinsic value of the option (the difference between the fair value of our stock on the date of exercise and the exercise price of the option) is greater than the fair value of the option at the time of grant. Similarly, the vesting of restricted stock units generates excess tax benefits when the market value of our common stock on the vesting date exceeds the grant price of the restricted stock units. These excess tax benefits reduce the cash we pay for income taxes in the year we recognize them. It is not possible to predict the timing of stock-option exercises or the intrinsic value that will be achieved at the time options are exercised or upon vesting of restricted stock units. As a result, we expect cash flow from financing activities to vary over time. Note 10 in the Notes to our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements includes additional information concerning stock options and restricted stock units outstanding as of September 30, 2012.

Cash used for financing activities was \$190.8 million in the first nine months of 2012. We used cash of approximately \$183.7 million under our share repurchase program in the first nine months of 2012. In addition, we made dividend payments of \$14.9 million. Partially offsetting these cash outflows were proceeds from stock-option exercises of \$2.8 million and excess tax benefits related to stock-option exercises and vesting of restricted stock units totaling \$5.0 million.

Cash used for financing activities was \$22.2 million in the first nine months of 2011. Proceeds from stock-option exercises totaled \$6.6 million, and excess tax benefits related to stock-option exercises totaled \$7.6 million. Partially offsetting these cash inflows was \$7.5 million of dividends paid. We made purchases of \$28.5 million under our share repurchase program in the first nine months of 2011.

Employees exercised approximately 0.4 million and 0.6 million stock options in the first nine months of 2012 and 2011, respectively. The total intrinsic value (the difference between the market value of our stock on the date of exercise and the exercise price of the option) of options exercised during the first nine months of 2012 and 2011 was \$17.2 million and \$25.1 million, respectively.

Reclassifications

Beginning in 2012, as a part of the new organization structure for our Data division, we reviewed the revenue classification for our Morningstar Data product (previously Licensed Data). The Morningstar Data product now includes Morningstar Commodity Data. In addition, as part of our global product structure, we reviewed the revenue classification for our Investment Advisory Services (formerly Investment Consulting) revenue to better align our non-U.S. operations with our U.S. product definitions. Following our first quarter 10-Q, as part of the changes to our organizational structure with a focus on our global product lines, we made some additional, minor reclassifications for Morningstar Advisor Workstation and Morningstar.com. We reclassified the prior-year information for consistency with the current-year presentation. As presented in the tables below, these reclassifications changed the order of Advisor Workstation and Investment Advisory Services in our top five products in 2011, but did not have any effect on the order of our top five products in 2010.

| Top Five Products 2011 | Reclassified for Consistency with 2012 Product Revenue (\$000) | As Reported Revenue (\$000) |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Morningstar Data (formerly Licensed Data) | \$ 140,594 | \$ 106,732 |
| Morningstar Advisor Workstation | 77,882 | 77,459 |
| Investment Advisory Services (formerly Investment Consulting) | 71,253 | 78,574 |
| Morningstar.com | 56,352 | 54,169 |
| Morningstar Direct | 52,481 | 52,481 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| Top Five Products 2010 | Reclassified for Consistency with 2012 Product Revenue (\$000) | As Reported Revenue (\$000) |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Morningstar Data (formerly Licensed Data) | \$ 131,488 | \$98,186 |
| Morningstar Advisor Workstation | 69,782 | 69,321 |
| Investment Advisory Services (formerly Investment Consulting) | 58,742 | 66,264 |
| Morningstar.com | 51,756 | 49,673 |
| Morningstar Direct | 38,069 | 38,069 |

Application of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

We discuss our critical accounting policies and estimates in Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as filed with the SEC on February 24, 2012. We also discuss our significant accounting policies in Note 2 of our Consolidated Financial Statements included in our Annual Report.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08, Intangibles—Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment. The objective of ASU No. 2011-08 is to simplify how entities test goodwill for impairment. ASU No. 2011-08 provides an option for companies to use a qualitative approach to test goodwill for impairment if certain conditions are met. For Morningstar, the amendments are effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed in 2012. Early adoption will be permitted. We perform our annual impairment testing in the fourth quarter and do not expect the provisions of ASU No. 2011-08 to have a material effect on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

Rule 10b5-1 Sales Plans

Our directors and executive officers may exercise stock options or purchase or sell shares of our common stock in the market from time to time. We encourage them to make these transactions through plans that comply with Exchange Act Rule 10b5-1(c). Morningstar will not receive any proceeds, other than proceeds from the exercise of stock options, related to these transactions. The following table, which we are providing on a voluntary basis, shows the Rule 10b5-1 sales plans entered into by our directors and executive officers that were in effect as of October 26, 2012:

| Name and Position | Date of Plan | Plan Termination Date | Number of Shares to be Sold under the Plan | Timing of Sales under the Plan | Number of Shares Sold under the Plan through October 26, 2012 | Projected Beneficial Ownership (1) |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Chris Boruff President, Software Division | 7/31/2012 | 5/2/2013 | 2,500 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches specified prices | — | 147,868 |
| Bevin Desmond President, International Operations and Global Human Resources | 5/27/2011 | 5/31/2013 | 92,243 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches specified prices | 70,993 | 106,135 (2) |
| Bevin Desmond President, International Operations and Global Human Resources | 8/21/2012 | 4/30/2013 | 7,500 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches a specified price | — | 98,635 (2) |
| Scott Cooley Chief Financial Officer | 7/31/2012 | 2/28/2013 | 20,000 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches a specified price | — | 36,324 |
| Cheryl Francis Director | 8/1/2012 | 5/31/2013 | 2,400 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches a specified price | — | 21,295 |
| Steve Kaplan Director | 3/7/2012 | 5/5/2013 | 9,000 | Shares to be sold under the plan on specified dates | 3,000 | 54,467 |
| Cathy Odelbo Executive Vice President, Corporate Strategy and Partnerships | 8/13/2008 | 12/31/2012 | 100,000 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches specified prices | — | 98,919 |
| Don Phillips President, Research | 3/12/2012 | 4/30/2013 | 150,000 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches specified prices | 130,000 | 185,788 |

Edgar Filing: Morningstar, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|--------|---|--------|--------|
| Paul Sturm Director | 3/19/2012 | 5/15/2013 | 30,000 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches specified prices | 21,500 | 56,916 |
| Richard Robbins General Counsel and Corporate Secretary | 8/1/2012 | 4/30/2013 | 7,723 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches a specified price | — | 18,100 |
| David Williams Managing Director, Design | 9/10/2008 | 12/31/2012 | 20,000 | Shares to be sold under the plan if the stock reaches specified prices | 15,800 | 80,674 |

During the third quarter of 2012, David Williams' previously disclosed Rule 10b5-1 sales plan expired in accordance with its terms.

(1) This column reflects an estimate of the number of shares each identified director and executive officer will beneficially own following the sale of all shares under the Rule 10b5-1 sales plans identified above. This information reflects the beneficial ownership of our common stock on September 30, 2012, and includes shares of our common stock subject to options that were then exercisable or that will have become exercisable by November 29, 2012 and restricted stock units that will vest by November 29, 2012. The estimates do not reflect any changes to beneficial ownership that may have occurred since September 30, 2012. Each director and executive officer identified in the table may amend or terminate his or her Rule 10b5-1 sales plan and may adopt additional Rule 10b5-1 plans in the future.

Table of Contents

(2) Consists of two Rule 10b5-1 sales plans, one for Bevin and one for her spouse. Projected beneficial ownership also includes shares owned by her spouse.

49

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Our investment portfolio is actively managed and may suffer losses from fluctuating interest rates, market prices, or adverse security selection. We invest our investment portfolio mainly in high-quality fixed-income securities. As of September 30, 2012, our cash, cash equivalents, and investments balance was \$343.1 million. Based on our estimates, a 100 basis-point change in interest rates would change the fair value of our investment portfolio by approximately \$0.3 million.

As our non-U.S. revenue increases as a percentage of our consolidated revenue, fluctuations in foreign currencies present a greater potential risk. Our European operations are subject to currency risk related to the euro. To date, we have not engaged in currency hedging, and we do not currently have any positions in derivative instruments to hedge our currency risk. Our results could suffer if certain foreign currencies decline relative to the U.S. dollar. In addition, because we use the local currency of our subsidiaries as the functional currency, we are affected by the translation of foreign currencies into U.S. dollars.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

(a) Evaluation and Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to reasonably assure that information required to be disclosed in the reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to reasonably assure that information required to be disclosed in the reports filed under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including the chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as of September 30, 2012. Based on that evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported as and when required and is accumulated and communicated to management, including the chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2012 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

PART 2. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We incorporate by reference the information regarding legal proceedings set forth in Note 11, Contingencies, of the Notes to our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Part 1, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in Item 1A—Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities*

The following table presents information related to repurchases of common stock we made during the three months ended September 30, 2012:

| Period: | Total number of shares purchased | Average price paid per share | Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced programs (1) | Approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under the programs (1) |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Cumulative through June 30, 2012 | 2,660,557 | \$57.83 | 2,660,557 | \$146,079,927 |
| July 1, 2012 – July 31, 2012 | 447,247 | 59.17 | 447,247 | \$119,607,848 |
| August 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012 | 485,416 | 58.32 | 485,416 | \$91,286,421 |
| September 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012 | 371,191 | 61.51 | 371,191 | \$68,446,067 |
| Total | 3,964,411 | \$58.39 | 3,964,411 | \$68,446,067 |

* Subject to applicable law, we may repurchase shares at prevailing market prices directly on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions in amounts that we deem appropriate.

In September 2010, our board of directors approved a share repurchase program that authorizes the purchase of up to \$100 million of our outstanding common stock with an expiration date of December 31, 2012. In December (1)2011, the board approved an increase to this program. The board approval authorized the company to repurchase up to an additional \$200 million in shares of our outstanding common stock with a revised expiration date of December 31, 2013.

Item 6. Exhibits

Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Index included herewith.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

MORNINGSTAR, INC.

Date: October 30, 2012

By: /s/ Scott Cooley
Scott Cooley
Chief Financial Officer

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No | Description of Exhibit |
|------------|--|
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101 | The following financial information from Morningstar Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, filed with the SEC on October 30, 2012, formatted in XBRL: (i) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income, (ii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (iii) Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iv) Condensed Consolidated Statement of Equity, (v) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows and (vi) the Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statement |
