

MARTEN TRANSPORT LTD
Form 10-K
March 15, 2010
[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)

OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

Commission file number 0-15010

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE
(State of incorporation)

39-1140809
(I.R.S. Employer Identification no.)

129 MARTEN STREET
MONDOVI, WISCONSIN
(Address of principal executive offices)

54755
(Zip Code)

(715) 926-4216
(Registrant's telephone number)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

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Title of each class:
COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$.01 PER SHARE

Name of each exchange on which registered:
**THE NASDAQ STOCK MARKET LLC
(NASDAQ GLOBAL SELECT MARKET)**

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

NONE

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. YES o NO x

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. YES o NO x

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 x NO o

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 (Section 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 o No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. x

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 o

Accelerated filer x

Non-accelerated filer o

Smaller reporting company o

(do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). YES o NO x

As of June 30, 2009 (the last business day of the Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter), the aggregate market value of the Common Stock of the Registrant (based upon the closing price of the Common Stock at that date as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market), excluding outstanding shares beneficially owned by directors and executive officers, was \$347,733,000.

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As of March 1, 2010, 21,908,387 shares of Common Stock of the Registrant were outstanding.

Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K incorporates by reference information (to the extent specific sections are referred to in this Report) from the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the annual meeting to be held May 4, 2010, or 2010 Proxy Statement.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|------------------------|--|
| <u>PART I</u> | |
| <u>ITEM 1.</u> | <u>BUSINESS</u> 1 |
| <u>ITEM 1A.</u> | <u>RISK FACTORS</u> 7 |
| <u>ITEM 1B.</u> | <u>UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS</u> 12 |
| <u>ITEM 2.</u> | <u>PROPERTIES</u> 12 |
| <u>ITEM 3.</u> | <u>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u> 12 |
| <u>ITEM 4A.</u> | <u>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT</u> 12 |
| <u>PART II</u> | |
| <u>ITEM 5.</u> | <u>MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES</u> 14 |
| <u>ITEM 6.</u> | <u>SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA</u> 16 |
| <u>ITEM 7.</u> | <u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u> 17 |
| <u>ITEM 7A.</u> | <u>QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u> 32 |
| <u>ITEM 8.</u> | <u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA</u> 33 |
| <u>ITEM 9.</u> | <u>CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE</u> 54 |
| <u>ITEM 9A.</u> | <u>CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u> 54 |
| <u>ITEM 9B.</u> | <u>OTHER INFORMATION</u> 54 |
| <u>PART III</u> | |
| <u>ITEM 10.</u> | <u>DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u> 55 |
| <u>ITEM 11.</u> | <u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u> 56 |
| <u>ITEM 12.</u> | <u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS</u> 56 |
| <u>ITEM 13.</u> | <u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE</u> 56 |
| <u>ITEM 14.</u> | <u>PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES</u> 56 |
| <u>PART IV</u> | |
| <u>ITEM 15.</u> | <u>EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES</u> 57 |
| OTHER | |
| | <u>Signature Page</u> 59 |
| | <u>Exhibit Index</u> 61 |

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains certain forward-looking statements. Such statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Any statements not of historical fact may be considered forward-looking statements. Written words such as may, expect, believe, anticipate, plan, goal, or estimate, or other variations of these or similar words, identify such statements. These statements by their nature involve substantial risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those expressed in such forward-looking statements. Important factors known to us that could cause such material differences are identified in this Annual Report on Form 10-K under the heading Risk Factors beginning on page 7. We undertake no obligation to correct or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. You are advised, however, to consult any future disclosures we make on related subjects in future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

References in this Annual Report to we, us, our, or the Company or similar terms refer to Marten Transport, Ltd. and its consolidated subsidiaries unless the context otherwise requires.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Overview

We are one of the leading temperature-sensitive truckload carriers in the United States. We specialize in transporting and distributing food and other consumer packaged goods that require a temperature-controlled or insulated environment. In 2009, we generated \$505.9 million in operating revenue, which consists of revenue from both truckload and logistics operations. Approximately 86% of our truckload revenue resulted from hauling temperature-sensitive products and 14% from hauling dry freight. We operate throughout the United States and in parts of Canada and Mexico, with substantially all of our revenue generated from within the United States. Our primary long-haul traffic lanes are between the Midwest and the West Coast, Southwest, Southeast, and the East Coast, as well as from California to the Pacific Northwest. We provide regional truckload carrier services in the Southeast, West Coast, Midwest and South Central regions. In 2009, our average length of haul was 761 miles.

Our growth strategy is to expand our business internally by offering shippers a high level of service and significant freight capacity. We market primarily to large shippers that offer consistent volumes of freight in the lanes we prefer and are willing to compensate us for a high level of service. With our fleet of 2,264 company and independent contractor tractors, we are able to offer service levels that include up to 99% on-time performance and delivery within the narrow time windows often required when shipping perishable commodities.

We have two reporting segments Truckload and Logistics. Financial information regarding these segments can be found in Footnote 11 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 8 of this Form 10-K. The primary source of our operating revenue is truckload revenue, which we generate by transporting long-haul and regional freight for our customers and report within our Truckload segment. Generally, we are

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paid by the mile for our services. We also derive truckload revenue from fuel surcharges, loading and unloading activities, equipment detention and other ancillary services. We continue to expand our regional truckload operations, which represented 22% of our tractor fleet as of December 31, 2009. Our operating revenue also includes revenue reported within our Logistics segment, which consists of revenue from our internal brokerage and intermodal operations, both launched in 2005, and through our 45% interest in MW Logistics, LLC, or MWL, a third-party provider of logistics services to the transportation industry. Brokerage services involve arranging for another company to transport freight for our customers while we retain the billing, collection and customer management responsibilities. Intermodal services involve the transport of our

Table of Contents

trailers on railroad flatcars for a portion of a trip, with the balance of the trip using our tractors or, to a lesser extent, contracted carriers.

Organized under Wisconsin law in 1970, we are a successor to a sole proprietorship Roger R. Marten founded in 1946. In 1988, we reincorporated under Delaware law. Our executive offices are located at 129 Marten Street, Mondovi, Wisconsin 54755. Our telephone number is (715) 926-4216.

We maintain a website at www.marten.com. We are not including the information contained on our website as a part of, nor incorporating it by reference into, this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We post on our website, free of charge, documents that we file with or furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and proxy statements, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish such material to, the Securities and Exchange Commission. We also provide a link on our website to Forms 3, 4 and 5 that our officers, directors and 10% stockholders file with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Marketing and Operations

We approach our business as an integrated effort of marketing and operations. Our emphasis in marketing is directed to the temperature-sensitive market, which is generally service-sensitive, as opposed to being solely price competitive. We target large food and consumer packaged goods companies whose products require temperature-sensitive services and who ship multiple truckloads per week. By emphasizing high-quality service, we seek to become a core carrier for our customers. In 2009, our two largest customers were General Mills and Kraft.

Our marketing efforts are conducted by a staff of approximately 132 sales, customer service and support personnel under the supervision of our senior management team. Marketing personnel travel within their regions to solicit new truckload and logistics customers and maintain contact with existing customers. Customer service managers regularly contact customers to solicit additional business on a load-by-load basis.

Our operations and sales personnel strive to improve our asset productivity by seeking freight that allows for rapid turnaround times, minimizes non-revenue miles between loads, and carries a favorable rate structure. Once we have established a customer relationship, customer service managers work closely with our fleet managers to match customer needs with our capacity and the location of revenue equipment. Fleet managers use our optimization system to assign loads to satisfy customer and operational requirements, as well as to meet the routing needs of our drivers. We attempt to route most of our trucks over selected operating lanes, which we believe assists us in meeting customer requirements, balancing traffic, reducing non-revenue miles, and improving the reliability of delivery schedules.

We employ technology in our operations when we believe that it will allow us to operate more efficiently and the investment is cost-justified. Examples of the technologies we employ include:

- Satellite-based tracking and messaging that allows us to communicate with our drivers, obtain load position updates, provide our customers with freight visibility, and download engine operating information such as fuel mileage and idling time.

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- Freight optimization software that assists us in selecting loads that match our overall criteria, including profitability, repositioning, identifying capacity for expedited loads, driver availability and home time, and other factors.
- Electronic data interchange and internet communication with customers concerning freight tendering, invoices, shipment status, and other information.

Table of Contents

- Fuel-routing software that optimizes the fuel stops for each trip to take advantage of volume discounts available in our fuel network.
- Auxiliary power units installed on our company-owned tractors that allow us to decrease fuel costs associated with idling our tractors.

We believe this integrated approach to our marketing and operations, coupled with our use of technology, has allowed us to provide our customers with a high level of service and support our revenue growth in an efficient manner. For example, we had a non-revenue mile percentage of 9.2% during 2009, which points to the efficiency of our operations and we believe compares favorably to other temperature-sensitive and dry van trucking companies.

Major Customers

An important part of our growth strategy is to increase our business with large customers. Accordingly, a significant amount of our business is concentrated with a relatively small number of customers. In 2009, our top 30 customers accounted for approximately 77% of our revenue, and our top ten customers accounted for 54% of our revenue. Eight of our top ten customers have been significant customers of ours for over ten years. We believe we are the largest temperature-sensitive carrier for eight of our top ten customers. General Mills accounted for 20% and Kraft accounted for 12% of our revenue in 2009. We believe our relationships with these key customers are sound, but we are dependent upon them and the loss of some or all of their business could have a materially adverse effect on our results.

Drivers and Other Personnel

We believe that maintaining a safe and productive professional driver group is essential to providing excellent customer service and achieving profitability. Approximately 224 of our drivers as of December 31, 2009 have driven more than one million miles for us without a preventable accident, while approximately 73 of our drivers have driven more than two million miles and eight have driven more than three million miles for us without a preventable accident.

We select drivers, including independent contractors, using our specific guidelines for safety records, driving experience, and personal evaluations. We maintain stringent screening, training, and testing procedures for our drivers to reduce the potential for accidents and the corresponding costs of insurance and claims. We train new drivers at our Wisconsin, California, Georgia, Indiana, Texas and Virginia terminals in all phases of our policies and operations, as well as in safety techniques and fuel-efficient operation of the equipment. All new drivers also must pass DOT required tests prior to assignment to a vehicle.

We primarily pay company-employed drivers a fixed rate per mile. The rate increases based on length of service. Drivers also are eligible for bonuses based upon safe, efficient driving. We pay independent contractors on a fixed rate per mile. Independent contractors pay for their own fuel, insurance, maintenance, and repairs.

Competition in the trucking industry for qualified drivers is normally intense. Our operations have been impacted, and from time-to-time we have experienced under-utilization and increased expense, as a result of a shortage of qualified drivers. We place a high priority on the recruitment and retention of an adequate supply of qualified drivers.

As of December 31, 2009, we had approximately 2,666 employees. This total consists of approximately 2,080 drivers, 217 mechanics and maintenance personnel, and 369 support personnel, which includes management and administration. As of that date, we also contracted with 177 independent contractors. None of our employees are represented by a collective bargaining unit. We consider relations with our employees to be good.

Table of Contents

Revenue Equipment

Our revenue equipment programs are an important part of our overall goal of profitable growth. We evaluate our equipment decisions based on factors such as initial cost, useful life, warranty terms, expected maintenance costs, fuel economy, driver comfort, customer needs, manufacturer support, and resale value. We generally operate newer, well-maintained equipment with uniform specifications to minimize our spare parts inventory, streamline our maintenance program, and simplify driver training.

As of December 31, 2009, we operated a fleet of 2,264 tractors, including 2,087 company-owned tractors and 177 tractors supplied by independent contractors. The average age of our company-owned tractor fleet at December 31, 2009 was approximately 2.4 years. In 2009, we replaced most of our company-owned tractors within approximately four years after purchase.

Freightliner and Peterbilt manufacture most of our company-owned tractors. Maintaining a relatively new and standardized fleet allows us to operate most miles while the tractors are under warranty to minimize repair and maintenance costs. It also enhances our ability to attract drivers, increases fuel economy, and improves customer acceptance by minimizing service interruptions caused by breakdowns. We adhere to a comprehensive maintenance program during the life of our equipment. We perform most routine servicing and repairs at our terminal facilities to reduce costly on-road repairs and out-of-route trips. We do not have any agreements with tractor manufacturers pursuant to which they agree to repurchase the tractors or guarantee a residual value, and we therefore could incur losses upon disposition if resale values of used tractors decline.

We historically have contracted with independent contractors to provide and operate a portion of our tractor fleet. Independent contractors own their own tractors and are responsible for all associated expenses, including financing costs, fuel, maintenance, insurance, and taxes. We believe that a combined fleet complements our recruiting efforts. The percentage of our fleet provided by independent contractors was 7.8% as of December 31, 2009 compared to 7.9% as of December 31, 2008 and 14.0% as of December 31, 2007.

As of December 31, 2009, we operated a fleet of 3,958 trailers. Most of our trailers are equipped with Thermo-King refrigeration units, air ride suspensions, and anti-lock brakes. Most of our single van trailers are refrigerated, 53 feet long, and 102 inches wide. The average age of our trailer fleet at December 31, 2009 was approximately 3.4 years. In 2009, we replaced most of our company-owned trailers within approximately six years after purchase.

Insurance and Claims

We self-insure for a portion of our claims exposure resulting from workers' compensation, auto liability, general liability, cargo and property damage claims, as well as employees' health insurance. We are responsible for our proportionate share of the legal expenses relating to such claims as well. We reserve currently for anticipated losses and expenses. We periodically evaluate and adjust our insurance and claims reserves to reflect our experience. We are responsible for the first \$1.0 million on each auto liability claim and also responsible for up to \$1.0 million in the aggregate for 33% of all auto liability claim amounts in excess of \$1.0 million. We are also responsible for the first \$750,000 on each workers' compensation claim. We have \$8.4 million in standby letters of credit to guarantee settlement of claims under agreements with our insurance carriers and regulatory authorities. We maintain insurance coverage for per-incident and total losses in excess of the amounts for which we self-insure up to specified policy limits with licensed insurance carriers. Insurance carriers have raised premiums for many businesses,

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including trucking companies. As a result, our insurance and claims expense could increase, or we could raise our self-insured retention when our policies are renewed. We believe that our policy of self-insuring up to set limits, together with our safety and loss prevention programs, are effective means of managing insurance costs.

Table of Contents

Fuel

Our operations are heavily dependent upon the use of diesel fuel. The price and availability of diesel fuel can vary and are subject to political, economic, and market factors that are beyond our control. Fuel prices fluctuated dramatically and quickly at various times during the last three years and they remain high based on historical standards. We actively manage our fuel costs by purchasing fuel in bulk in Mondovi and at our other maintenance facilities throughout the country and have volume purchasing arrangements with national fuel centers that allow our drivers to purchase fuel at a discount while in transit. During 2009, over 99% of our fuel purchases were made at these designated locations. To help further reduce fuel consumption, we installed auxiliary power units in our company-owned tractors during 2007 and 2008. These units reduce fuel consumption by providing quiet climate control and electrical power for our drivers without idling the tractor engine.

We further manage our exposure to changes in fuel prices through fuel surcharge programs with our customers and other measures that we have implemented. We have historically been able to pass through a significant portion of long-term increases in fuel prices and related taxes to customers in the form of fuel surcharges. These fuel surcharges, which adjust with the cost of fuel, enable us to recover a substantial portion of the higher cost of fuel as prices increase, except for non-revenue miles, out-of-route miles or fuel used while the tractor is idling. As of December 31, 2009, we had no derivative financial instruments to reduce our exposure to fuel price fluctuations.

Competition

We operate primarily in the temperature-sensitive segment of the truckload market. This market is highly competitive and fragmented. We compete with many other truckload carriers that provide temperature-sensitive service of varying sizes and, to a lesser extent, with less-than-truckload carriers, railroads, and other transportation companies, many of which have more equipment, a wider range of services, and greater capital resources than we do or have other competitive advantages. In particular, several of the largest truckload carriers that offer primarily dry-van service also offer temperature-sensitive service, and these carriers could attempt to increase their business in the temperature-sensitive market. We also compete with other motor carriers for the services of drivers, independent contractors, and management employees. We believe that the principal competitive factors in our business are service, freight rates, capacity, and financial stability. As one of the largest and best-capitalized carriers focused on the temperature-sensitive segment, we believe we are well positioned to compete in that segment.

Regulation

The United States Department of Transportation, or DOT, and various state and local agencies exercise broad powers over our business, generally governing such activities as authorization to engage in motor carrier operations, safety and insurance requirements. Our company drivers and independent contractors also must comply with the safety and fitness regulations promulgated by the DOT, including those relating to drug and alcohol testing and hours-of-service. Revised rules that limit driver hours-of-service were adopted effective January 2004, and then modified effective October 2005. In July 2007, a federal appeals court vacated portions of the October 2005 Rules; however, interim rules issued in December 2007 retained the vacated portions in effect. In November 2008, final rules effective January 2009 were issued which left the interim rules unchanged. In October 2009, the FMCSA settled a lawsuit brought by a coalition of advocacy and labor groups. Under the settlement, the FMCSA is obligated to review the current regulations, draft a proposal for White House review by July 2010 and issue a new final rule in 2011.

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We believe that we are well equipped to minimize the economic impact of the current hours-of-service rules on our business. We have negotiated delay time charges with the majority of our customers. Prior to the effectiveness of the current rules, we also initiated discussions with many of our customers regarding steps that they can take to assist us in managing our drivers' non-driving activities, such as loading, unloading, or waiting, and we plan to continue to actively communicate with our customers regarding these matters in the

Table of Contents

future. In situations where shippers are unable or unwilling to take these steps, we assess detention and other charges to offset losses in productivity resulting from the current hours-of-service regulations. The regulations did not have a significant impact on our operations or financial results in 2007 through 2009.

The EPA adopted revised emissions control regulations, which require progressive reductions in exhaust emissions from diesel engines through 2010, for engines manufactured in October 2002, and thereafter. The revised regulations decrease the amount of emissions that can be released by tractor engines and affect tractors produced after the effective date of the regulations. Compliance with these regulations has increased the cost of our new tractors, lowered fuel mileage and increased our operating expenses. Some manufacturers have significantly increased new equipment prices, in part to meet more stringent engine design requirements imposed by the EPA. These adverse effects combined with the uncertainty as to the reliability of the vehicles equipped with the newly designed diesel engines and the residual values that will be realized from the disposition of these vehicles could increase our costs or otherwise adversely affect our business or operations.

We are also subject to various environmental laws and regulations dealing with the handling of hazardous materials, fuel storage tanks, air emissions from our facilities, engine idling, and discharge and retention of storm water. These regulations did not have a significant impact on our operations or financial results in 2007 through 2009.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The following factors are important and should be considered carefully in connection with any evaluation of our business, financial condition, results of operations, prospects, or an investment in our common stock. The risks and uncertainties described below are those that we currently believe may materially affect our company or our financial results. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations or affect our financial results.

Our business is subject to general economic and business factors that are largely out of our control, any of which could have a materially adverse effect on our operating results. Our business is dependent on a number of general economic and business factors that may have a materially adverse effect on our results of operations, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include excess capacity in the trucking industry, strikes or other work stoppages, and significant increases or fluctuations in interest rates, fuel taxes, and license and registration fees. We are affected by recessionary economic cycles and downturns in customers' business cycles, particularly in market segments and industries where we have a significant concentration of customers. Economic conditions may adversely affect our customers and their ability to pay for our services.

It is not possible to predict the effects of actual or threatened armed conflicts or terrorist attacks, efforts to combat terrorism, military action against any foreign state, heightened security requirements, or other related events and the subsequent effects on the economy or on consumer confidence in the United States, or the impact, if any, on our future results of operations.

The recent instability of the credit markets and the resulting effects on the economy could have a material adverse effect on our operating results. Recently, there has been widespread concern over the instability of the credit markets and the current credit market effects on the economy. If the economy and credit markets continue to weaken, our business, financial results, and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected, especially if consumer confidence declines and domestic spending decreases. Although we think it is unlikely given our current cash position, we may need to incur indebtedness, which may include drawing on our Credit Facility, or issue debt securities in the future to fund working capital requirements, make investments, or for general corporate purposes. Additionally, the stresses in the credit market have caused uncertainty in the equity markets, which may result in volatility of the market price for our securities.

We operate in a highly competitive and fragmented industry, and numerous competitive factors could impair our ability to maintain our current profitability. We compete with many other truckload carriers that provide temperature-sensitive service of varying sizes and, to a lesser extent, with less-than-truckload carriers, railroads and other transportation companies, many of which have more equipment, a wider range of services and greater capital resources than we do or have other competitive advantages. In particular, several of the largest truckload carriers that offer primarily dry-van service also offer temperature-sensitive service, and these carriers could attempt to increase their business in the temperature-sensitive market. Many of our competitors periodically reduce their freight rates to gain business, especially during times of reduced growth rates in the economy, which may limit our ability to maintain or increase freight rates or maintain significant growth in our business. In addition, many customers reduce the number of carriers they use by selecting so-called "core carriers" as approved service providers, or conduct bids from multiple carriers for their shipping needs, and in some instances we may not be selected as a core carrier or to provide service under such bids.

In addition, the trend toward consolidation in the trucking industry may create other large carriers with greater financial resources and other competitive advantages relating to their size. Competition from freight logistics and brokerage companies may negatively impact our customer relationships and freight rates. Furthermore, economies of scale that may be passed on to smaller carriers by procurement aggregation providers

may improve such carriers' ability to compete with us.

Table of Contents

We derive a significant portion of our revenue from our major customers, the loss of one or more of which could have a materially adverse effect on our business. A significant portion of our revenue is generated from our major customers. For 2009, our top 30 customers, based on revenue, accounted for approximately 77% of our revenue; our top ten customers accounted for approximately 54% of our revenue; our top five customers accounted for approximately 43% of our revenue; and our top two customers accounted for approximately 32% of our revenue. Generally, we enter into one-year contracts with our major customers, the majority of which do not contain any firm obligations to ship with us. We cannot assure you that, upon expiration of existing contracts, these customers will continue to use our services or that, if they do, they will continue at the same levels. Many of our customers periodically solicit bids from multiple carriers for their shipping needs, and this process may depress freight rates or result in loss of business to our competitors. Some of our customers also operate their own private trucking fleets, and they may decide to transport more of their own freight. A reduction in or termination of our services by one or more of our major customers could have a materially adverse effect on our business and operating results.

If the growth in our regional operations declines, or if we expand into a market with insufficient economic activity, our results of operations could be adversely affected. We operate regional service centers which are located in a number of cities within the United States. In order to support future growth, these regional operations require the commitment of additional capital, revenue equipment and facilities along with qualified management, drivers and other personnel. Should the growth in our regional operations decline, the results of our operations could be adversely affected. It may become more difficult to identify additional cities that can support service centers, and we may expand into cities where there is insufficient economic activity, reduced capacity for growth or less driver and non-driver personnel to support our operations. We may encounter operating conditions in these new markets that materially differ from our current operations and customer relationships may be difficult to obtain at appropriate freight rates. Also, we may not be able to apply our regional operating strategy successfully in additional cities, and it might take longer than expected or require a more substantial financial commitment than anticipated to establish our operations in the additional cities.

Increased prices, reduced productivity, and restricted availability of new revenue equipment could cause our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows to suffer. We have experienced higher prices for new tractors over the past few years, primarily as a result of higher commodity prices and government regulations applicable to newly manufactured tractors and diesel engines. We expect to continue to pay increased prices for revenue equipment for the foreseeable future. Our business could be harmed if we are unable to continue to obtain an adequate supply of new tractors and trailers or if we have to pay increased prices for new revenue equipment.

The EPA adopted revised emissions control regulations, which require progressive reductions in exhaust emissions from diesel engines through 2010, for engines manufactured in October 2002, and thereafter. The revised regulations decrease the amount of emissions that can be released by tractor engines and affect tractors produced after the effective date of the regulations. Compliance with these regulations has increased the cost of our new tractors, lowered fuel mileage and increased our operating expenses. Some manufacturers have significantly increased new equipment prices, in part to meet more stringent engine design requirements imposed by the EPA. These adverse effects combined with the uncertainty as to the reliability of the vehicles equipped with the newly designed diesel engines and the residual values that will be realized from the disposition of these vehicles could increase our costs or otherwise adversely affect our business or operations.

We have significant ongoing capital requirements that could harm our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows if we are unable to generate sufficient cash from our operations. The truckload industry is capital intensive, and our policy of operating newer equipment requires us to expend significant amounts annually. If we elect to expand our fleet in future periods, our capital needs would increase. We expect to pay for projected capital expenditures with cash flows from operations and borrowings under our revolving credit facility. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash from operations and obtain financing on favorable terms in the future, we may have to limit our growth, enter into less favorable financing

Table of Contents

arrangements, or operate our revenue equipment for longer periods, any of which could have a materially adverse effect on our profitability.

Ongoing insurance and claims expenses could significantly affect our earnings. Our future insurance and claims expense might exceed historical levels, which could reduce our earnings. We self-insure for a portion of our claims exposure resulting from workers' compensation, auto liability, general liability, cargo and property damage claims, as well as employees' health insurance. We also are responsible for our legal expenses relating to such claims. We reserve currently for anticipated losses and expenses. We periodically evaluate and adjust our claims reserves to reflect our experience. However, ultimate results may differ from our estimates, which could result in losses over our reserved amounts.

We maintain insurance above the amounts for which we self-insure with licensed insurance carriers. Although we believe the aggregate insurance limits should be sufficient to cover reasonably expected claims, it is possible that one or more claims could exceed our aggregate coverage limits. Insurance carriers have raised premiums for many businesses, including trucking companies. As a result, our insurance and claims expense could increase, or we could raise our self-insured retention when our policies are renewed. If these expenses increase, or if we experience a claim in excess of our coverage limits, or we experience a claim for which coverage is not provided, results of our operations and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.

Increases in compensation or difficulty in attracting drivers could affect our profitability and ability to grow. The transportation industry has historically experienced substantial difficulty in attracting and retaining qualified drivers, including independent contractors. With increased competition for drivers, we could experience greater difficulty in attracting sufficient numbers of qualified drivers. In addition, due in part to current economic conditions, including the cost of fuel and insurance, the available pool of independent contractor drivers is smaller than it has been historically. Accordingly, we may face difficulty in attracting and retaining drivers for all of our current tractors and for those we may add. Additionally, we may face difficulty in increasing the number of our independent contractor drivers. In addition, our industry suffers from high turnover rates of drivers. Our turnover rate requires us to recruit a substantial number of drivers. Moreover, our turnover rate could increase. If we are unable to continue to attract drivers and contract with independent contractors, we could be required to continue adjusting our driver compensation package beyond the norm or let trucks sit idle. An increase in our expenses or in the number of tractors without drivers could materially and adversely affect our growth and profitability.

Fluctuations in the price or availability of fuel may increase our cost of operation, which could materially and adversely affect our profitability. We require large amounts of diesel fuel to operate our tractors and to power the temperature-control units on our trailers. Fuel is one of our largest operating expenses. Fuel prices tend to fluctuate, and prices and availability of all petroleum products are subject to political, economic and market factors that are beyond our control. We depend primarily on fuel surcharges, auxiliary power units for our tractors, volume purchasing arrangements with truck stop chains and bulk purchases of fuel at our terminals to control and recover our fuel expenses. There can be no assurance that we will be able to collect fuel surcharges, enter into volume purchase agreements, or execute successful hedges in the future. Additionally, we may encounter decreases in productivity that may offset or eliminate savings from auxiliary power units, or may incur unexpected maintenance or other costs associated with such units. The absence of meaningful fuel price protection through these measures, fluctuations in fuel prices, or a shortage of diesel fuel, could materially and adversely affect our results of operations.

Seasonality and the impact of weather can affect our profitability. Our tractor productivity generally decreases during the winter season because inclement weather impedes operations and some shippers reduce their shipments. At the same time, operating expenses generally increase, with harsh weather creating higher accident frequency, increased claims and more equipment repairs. We can also suffer short-term impacts from weather-related events such as hurricanes, blizzards, ice-storms, and floods that could harm our results or make our results more volatile.

Table of Contents

We operate in a highly regulated industry and increased costs of compliance with, or liability for violation of, existing or future regulations could have a materially adverse effect on our business. The DOT and various state and local agencies exercise broad powers over our business, generally governing such activities as authorization to engage in motor carrier operations, safety and insurance requirements. Our company drivers and independent contractors also must comply with the safety and fitness regulations promulgated by the DOT, including those relating to drug and alcohol testing and hours-of-service. We also may become subject to new or more restrictive regulations relating to fuel emissions, drivers' hours-of-service, ergonomics, or other matters affecting safety or operating methods. Other agencies, such as the EPA and the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, also regulate our equipment, operations, and drivers. Future laws and regulations may be more stringent and require changes in our operating practices, influence the demand for transportation services, or require us to incur significant additional costs. Higher costs incurred by us or by our suppliers who pass the costs onto us through higher prices could adversely affect our results of operations.

The DOT, through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, or FMCSA, imposes safety and fitness regulations on us and our drivers. Revised rules that limit driver hours-of-service were adopted effective January 2004, and then modified effective October 2005. In July 2007, a federal appeals court vacated portions of these rules. Two of the key portions that were vacated include the expansion of the driving day from 10 hours to 11 hours, and the 34-hour restart, which allows drivers to reset their maximum allowable hours in a week. The court indicated that, in addition to other reasons, it vacated these two portions of the rules because FMCSA failed to provide adequate data supporting its decision to increase the driving day and provide for the 34-hour restart. Following a request by FMCSA for a 12-month extension of the vacated rules, the court, in an order filed in September 2007, granted a 90-day stay of the mandate and directed that issuance of its ruling be withheld until December 2007, to allow FMCSA time to prepare its response. In December 2007, FMCSA submitted interim final rules, which became effective in December 2007. The interim rules retained the 11 hour driving day and the 34-hour restart, but provided greater statistical support and analysis regarding the increased driving time and the 34-hour restart. The FMCSA published final rules effective January 2009 in November 2008 which left the interim rules unchanged. In October 2009, the FMCSA settled a lawsuit brought by a coalition of advocacy and labor groups. Under the settlement, the FMCSA is obligated to review the current regulations, draft a proposal for White House review by July 2010 and issue a new final rule in 2011. As advocacy groups may continue to challenge the final rules, a court's decision to strike down the final rules could have varying effects, as reducing driving time to 10 hours daily may reduce productivity in some lanes. A court's decision to strike down the final rules could decrease productivity and cause some loss of efficiency, as drivers and shippers may need to be retrained, computer programming may require modifications, additional drivers may need to be employed or engaged, additional equipment may need to be acquired, and some shipping lanes may need to be reconfigured. We are also unable to predict the effect of any new rules that might be proposed, but any such proposed rules could increase costs in our industry or decrease productivity.

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, federal, state, and municipal authorities have implemented and continue to implement various security measures, including checkpoints and travel restrictions on large trucks. As a result, it is possible we may fail to meet the needs of our customers or may incur increased expenses to do so. These security measures could negatively impact our operating results.

Some states and municipalities have begun to restrict the locations and amount of time where diesel-powered tractors, such as ours, may idle, in order to reduce exhaust emissions. The State of California has enacted legislation which requires tractors weighing more than 10,000 pounds to use alternative sources, such as auxiliary power units, when powering their cabs at idle for more than five minutes. The State of California has also enacted legislation requiring compliance with exhaust emissions standards for refrigeration units on trailers. Compliance is being phased in by the state, beginning with 2001 and earlier models. Given our investment in auxiliary power units for our tractors and the average age of our trailer fleet, we do not expect these regulations will have a significant impact on our operations or financial results.

Table of Contents

From time to time, various federal, state, or local taxes are increased, including taxes on fuels. We cannot predict whether, or in what form, any such increase applicable to us will be enacted, but such an increase could adversely affect our profitability.

Service instability in the railroad industry could increase our operating costs and reduce our ability to offer intermodal services, which could adversely affect our revenue, results of operations, and customer relationships. In the future, our dependence on railroads will increase if we continue to expand our intermodal services. In most markets, rail service is limited to a few railroads or even a single railroad. Any reduction in service by the railroads with which we have, or in the future may have, relationships is likely to increase the cost of the rail-based services we provide and reduce the reliability, timeliness, and overall attractiveness of our rail-based services. Furthermore, railroads are relatively free to adjust shipping rates up or down as market conditions permit. Price increases could result in higher costs to our customers and reduce or eliminate our ability to offer intermodal services. In addition, we cannot assure you that we will be able to negotiate additional contracts with railroads to expand our capacity, add additional routes, or obtain multiple providers, which could limit our ability to provide this service.

Our operations are subject to various environmental laws and regulations, the violation of which could result in substantial fines or penalties. We are subject to various environmental laws and regulations dealing with the handling of hazardous materials, fuel storage tanks, air emissions from our vehicles and facilities, engine idling, and discharge and retention of storm water. We operate in industrial areas, where truck terminals and other industrial activities are located, and where groundwater or other forms of environmental contamination have occurred. Our operations involve the risks of fuel spillage or seepage, environmental damage, and hazardous waste disposal, among others. Although we have instituted programs to monitor and control environmental risks and promote compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations, if we are involved in a spill or other accident involving hazardous substances or if we are found to be in violation of applicable laws or regulations, we could be subject to liabilities, including substantial fines or penalties or civil and criminal liability, any of which could have a materially adverse effect on our business and operating results.

If we are unable to retain our executive officers and key management employees, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected. We are highly dependent upon the services of our executive officers and key management employees. Currently, we do not have employment agreements with these employees and the loss of any of their services could have a materially adverse effect on our operations and future profitability. In addition, we must continue to develop and retain a core group of managers if we are to realize our goal of expanding our operations and continuing our growth. We cannot assure you that we will be able to do so in the future.

Our management information systems may prove inadequate. We depend upon our management information systems for many aspects of our business. Some of our key software has been developed internally by our programmers or by adapting purchased software to our needs and this software may not be easily modified or integrated with other software and systems. Our business will be materially and adversely affected if our management information systems are disrupted or if we are unable to improve, upgrade, integrate or expand our systems as we continue to execute our growth strategy, including our logistics services.

Table of Contents**ITEM 1B.** *UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS*

None.

ITEM 2. *PROPERTIES*

Our executive offices and principal terminal are located on approximately seven acres in Mondovi, Wisconsin. This facility consists of 39,000 square feet of office space and 21,000 square feet of equipment repair and maintenance space. We added additional equipment repair and maintenance facilities in 2007 and in 2009 in Mondovi, Wisconsin which consist of 15,000 square feet of space located on approximately 11 acres and 50,000 square feet of space located on approximately three acres, respectively. We operate facilities in or near the following cities at which we perform the following designated operating activities:

| Company Locations | Owned or Leased | Maintenance | Fueling | Driver Recruitment | Driver Training | Dispatch | Sales |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Mondovi, Wisconsin | Owned | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Ontario, California | Owned | X | X | | X | | |
| Atlanta, Georgia | Owned | X | X | | X | X | |
| Portland, Oregon | Owned | X | X | | | X | |
| Indianapolis, Indiana | Owned | X | X | | X | X | |
| Irving, Texas | Leased | X | X | | X | X | |
| Richmond, Virginia | Leased | | | | X | X | |
| Laredo, Texas | Leased | X | | | | X | |

ITEM 3. *LEGAL PROCEEDINGS*

We are involved in litigation incidental to our operations. These lawsuits primarily involve claims for workers' compensation, personal injury, or property damage incurred in the transportation of freight.

ITEM 4A. *EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT*

Our executive officers, with their ages and the offices held as of March 1, 2010, are as follows:

| Name | Age | Position |
|--------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Randolph L. Marten | 57 | Chairman of the Board, |

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Chief Executive Officer and Director

Timothy M. Kohl 62 President

Robert G. Smith 66 Chief Operating Officer

Timothy P. Nash 58 Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing

James J. Hinnendael 46 Chief Financial Officer

John H. Turner 48 Vice President of Sales

Table of Contents

Randolph L. Marten has been a full-time employee of ours since 1974. Mr. Marten has been a Director since October 1980, our Chairman of the Board since August 1993 and our Chief Executive Officer since January 2005. Mr. Marten also served as our President from June 1986 until June 2008, our Chief Operating Officer from June 1986 until August 1998 and as a Vice President from October 1980 to June 1986.

Timothy M. Kohl has been our President since June 2008. Mr. Kohl joined the company in November 2007, and has over 20 years' experience in the transportation services industry. Mr. Kohl served as Knight Transportation Inc.'s President from 2004 to 2007 and as its Secretary from 2000 to 2007. Mr. Kohl served as a director on Knight's Board of Directors from 2001 to 2006, and he served as its Chief Financial Officer from 2000 to 2004. Mr. Kohl also served as Knight's Vice President of Human Resources from 1996 through 1999. From 1999 through 2000, Mr. Kohl served as Vice President of Knight's southeast region. Prior to his employment with Knight, Mr. Kohl was employed by Burlington Motor Carriers as Vice President of Human Resources. Prior to his employment with Burlington Motor Carriers, Mr. Kohl served as Vice President of Human Resources for J.B. Hunt.

Robert G. Smith has been our Chief Operating Officer since August 1998. Mr. Smith also served as our Vice President of Operations from June 1993 until May 1999 and as our Director of Operations from September 1989 to June 1993. Mr. Smith served as director of operations for Transport Corporation of America, an irregular-route truckload carrier, from 1985 to 1989.

Timothy P. Nash has been our Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing since November 2000. Mr. Nash also served as our Vice President of Sales from November 1990 to November 2000 and as a Regional Sales Manager from July 1987 to November 1990. Mr. Nash served as a regional sales manager for Overland Express, Inc., a long-haul truckload carrier, from 1986 to 1987.

James J. Hinnendael has been our Chief Financial Officer since January 2006 and served as our Controller from January 1992 to December 2005. Mr. Hinnendael served in various professional capacities with Ernst & Young LLP, a public accounting firm, from 1987 to 1991. Mr. Hinnendael is a certified public accountant.

John H. Turner has been our Vice President of Sales since January 2007 and an executive officer since August 2007. He also served as our Vice President of Sales from October 2000 to February 2005, and as an executive officer from January 2002 to February 2005. Mr. Turner also served as our Director of Sales from July 1999 to October 2000 and in various professional capacities in our sales and marketing area from August 1991 to July 1999 and as our Operations Manager-West from October 1990 to August 1991. Previously, Mr. Turner served as a vice president for Naterra Land, Inc., a recreational land developer, from 2005 to 2006 and as the western fleet general manager and area sales manager for Munson Transportation, Inc., a long-haul truckload carrier, from 1986 to 1990.

Table of Contents**PART II****ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol MRTN. The table below shows the range of high and low bid prices for the quarters indicated on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Such quotations reflect inter-dealer prices, without retail markups, markdowns or commissions and, therefore, may not necessarily represent actual transactions.

| | Common Stock Price | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | High | Low |
| Year ended December 31, 2009 | | |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 18.82 | \$ 16.40 |
| Third Quarter | 21.46 | 16.05 |
| Second Quarter | 22.50 | 17.75 |
| First Quarter | 19.57 | 14.49 |
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | | |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 20.61 | \$ 14.98 |
| Third Quarter | 22.59 | 15.00 |
| Second Quarter | 18.32 | 15.00 |
| First Quarter | 17.85 | 11.50 |

The prices do not include adjustments for retail mark-ups, mark-downs or commissions. On March 1, 2010, we had 221 record stockholders, and approximately 1,387 beneficial stockholders of our common stock.

We have not paid a cash dividend on our common stock since we became publicly traded in September 1986. Our ability to pay cash dividends is currently limited by restrictions contained in our revolving credit facility. Our revolving credit facility prohibits us from paying, in any fiscal year, dividends in excess of 25% of our net income from the prior fiscal year. Future payments of cash dividends will depend on our financial condition, results of operations, capital commitments, restrictions under then-existing agreements, and other factors our Board of Directors deems relevant.

On December 4, 2007, our Board of Directors approved and we announced a share repurchase program to repurchase up to one million shares of our common stock either through purchases on the open market or through private transactions and in accordance with Rule 10b-18 of the Exchange Act. The timing and extent to which we will repurchase shares depends on market conditions and other corporate considerations. The repurchase program does not have an expiration date. In the first quarter of 2008 we repurchased and retired 67,500 shares of our common stock for \$810,000. We made no purchases in 2007, in the remainder of 2008 or in 2009.

Table of Contents

Comparative Stock Performance

The graph below compares the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock with the NASDAQ Market index and the SIC code 4213 (trucking, except local) line-of-business index for the last five years. Research Data Group, Inc. prepared the line-of-business index. The graph assumes \$100 is invested in our common stock, the NASDAQ Stock Market index and the line-of-business index on December 31, 2004, with reinvestment of dividends. The comparisons in the graph below are based on historical data and are not intended to forecast the possible future performance of our common stock. The information in the graph below shall be deemed furnished and not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section.

COMPARISON OF 5 YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN

Among Marten Transport, Ltd., The NASDAQ Composite Index

and SIC code 4213

* \$100 invested on 12/31/04 in stock or index, including reinvestment of dividends.

Fiscal year ending December 31.

Table of Contents**ITEM 6.** *SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA*

The following selected financial data should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes under Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| FOR THE YEAR | | | | | |
| Operating revenue | \$ 505,874 | \$ 607,099 | \$ 560,017 | \$ 518,890 | \$ 460,202 |
| Operating income | 29,359 | 32,705 | 27,801 | 41,169 | 42,867 |
| Net income | 16,267 | 18,071 | 14,968 | 24,518 | 25,061 |
| Operating ratio(1) | 94.2% | 94.6% | 95.0% | 92.1% | 90.7% |
| PER-SHARE DATA | | | | | |
| Basic earnings per common share | \$ 0.74 | \$ 0.83 | \$ 0.69 | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.16 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | 0.74 | 0.82 | 0.68 | 1.12 | 1.14 |
| Book value(2) | 12.56 | 11.79 | 10.92 | 10.20 | 9.01 |
| AT YEAR END | | | | | |
| Total assets | \$ 414,838 | \$ 397,443 | \$ 407,390 | \$ 410,822 | \$ 349,733 |
| Long-term debt | 1,499 | 2,857 | 44,643 | 58,659 | 48,300 |
| Stockholders' equity(2) | 274,907 | 257,451 | 238,213 | 221,906 | 194,348 |

(1) Represents operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenue.

(2) The amounts for 2005 through 2008 were restated to reflect the reclassification of noncontrolling interests to stockholders' equity to be consistent with the current presentation upon adoption of FASB ASC 810-10-65-1, *Consolidation*, effective January 1, 2009.

Table of Contents

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read together with the selected consolidated financial data and our consolidated financial statements and the related notes appearing elsewhere in this report. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of many factors, including but not limited to those under the heading "Risk Factors" beginning on page 7. We do not assume, and specifically disclaim, any obligation to update any forward-looking statement contained in this report.

Overview

The primary source of our operating revenue is truckload revenue, which we generate by transporting long-haul and regional freight for our customers and report within our Truckload segment. Generally, we are paid by the mile for our services. We also derive truckload revenue from fuel surcharges, loading and unloading activities, equipment detention and other ancillary services. The main factors that affect our truckload revenue are the rate per mile we receive from our customers, the percentage of miles for which we are compensated, the number of miles we generate with our equipment and changes in fuel prices. We monitor our revenue production primarily through average truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges, per tractor per week. We also analyze our average truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges, per total mile, non-revenue miles percentage, the miles per tractor we generate, our accessorial revenue and our other sources of operating revenue.

Our operating revenue also includes revenue reported within our Logistics segment, which consists of revenue from our internal brokerage and intermodal operations, both launched in 2005, and through our 45% interest in MWL, a third-party provider of logistics services to the transportation industry. Brokerage services involve arranging for another company to transport freight for our customers while we retain the billing, collection and customer management responsibilities. Intermodal services involve the transport of our trailers on railroad flatcars for a portion of a trip, with the balance of the trip using our tractors or, to a lesser extent, contracted carriers. The main factors that affect our logistics revenue are the rate per mile and other charges we receive from our customers and the rates charged by third-party providers.

In addition to the factors discussed above, our operating revenue is also affected by, among other things, the United States economy, inventory levels, the level of truck and rail capacity in the transportation market and specific customer demand.

Our operating revenue decreased \$101.2 million, or 16.7%, in 2009. This decrease was primarily due to fuel surcharge revenue decreasing by \$76.9 million, or 58.0%, caused by significantly lower fuel prices in 2009. Our operating revenue, net of fuel surcharges, decreased \$24.3 million, or 5.1%, compared with 2008. Truckload segment revenue, net of fuel surcharges, decreased 9.7% primarily due to a decrease in our average truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges, per tractor per week of 9.7% in 2009. The reduction in revenue per tractor per week was primarily caused by a decrease in our average miles per tractor in 2009 due to the difficult freight environment. The changes in our operating statistics are consistent with the continued development and growth of our regional temperature-controlled operations. By focusing on shorter lengths of haul in certain defined areas, we are addressing customer trends toward regional distribution to lower their transportation expense, furthering our own objectives of reducing fuel consumption per load, and matching some of our drivers' desires to stay closer to home. The concentration of a portion of our fleet in these markets is evident in a 10.8% reduction from 2008 in average length of haul to 761 miles. Our average fleet size was relatively stable in 2009 compared with 2008. Logistics segment revenue, net of intermodal fuel surcharges, increased 14.4% compared with 2008. The increase in logistics revenue primarily resulted from our continued emphasis on expansion of and volume growth in each of our internal brokerage and intermodal services, partially offset by a decrease in revenue generated by MWL. Logistics revenue represented 21.6% of our operating revenue in 2009 compared to 16.3% in 2008 and 12.4% in 2007.

Table of Contents

Our profitability on the expense side is impacted by variable costs of transporting freight for our customers, fixed costs, and expenses containing both fixed and variable components. The variable costs include fuel expense, driver-related expenses, such as wages, benefits, training, and recruitment, and independent contractor costs, which are recorded under purchased transportation. Expenses that have both fixed and variable components include maintenance and tire expense and our total cost of insurance and claims. These expenses generally vary with the miles we travel, but also have a controllable component based on safety, fleet age, efficiency and other factors. Our main fixed costs relate to the acquisition and financing of long-term assets, such as revenue equipment and operating terminals. We expect our annual cost of tractor and trailer ownership will increase in future periods as a result of higher prices of new equipment. Although certain factors affecting our expenses are beyond our control, we monitor them closely and attempt to anticipate changes in these factors in managing our business. For example, fuel prices fluctuated dramatically at various times during the last several years, with the D.O.E. national average cost of fuel decreasing to \$2.47 per gallon in 2009 from \$3.80 per gallon in 2008. We manage our exposure to changes in fuel prices primarily through fuel surcharge programs with our customers, as well as through volume fuel purchasing arrangements with national fuel centers and bulk purchases of fuel at our terminals. To help further reduce fuel expense, we installed auxiliary power units in our tractors to provide climate control and electrical power for our drivers without idling the tractor engine. For our Logistics segment, our profitability on the expense side is impacted by the percentage of logistics revenue we pay to providers for the transportation services we arrange.

Our operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenue, or operating ratio, was 94.2% in 2009 compared with 94.6% in 2008. Our earnings per diluted share decreased to \$0.74 in 2009 from \$0.82 in 2008. The decreased profitability in 2009 was primarily due to the decrease in revenue per tractor per week in our Truckload segment, partially offset by the improvement in our overall cost structure. The more broad implementation of our per diem pay structure for our drivers in 2009 positively impacted our operating ratio in 2009 compared with 2008.

Our business requires substantial, ongoing capital investments, particularly for new tractors and trailers. At December 31, 2009, we had approximately \$3.9 million of cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities, net of checks issued in excess of cash balances, \$1.5 million of long-term debt, including current maturities, and \$274.9 million in stockholders' equity. In 2009, net cash flows provided by operating activities were primarily used to purchase new revenue equipment, net of proceeds from dispositions, in the amount of \$72.0 million. In 2008, cash flows were primarily used to pay down our long-term debt to strengthen our liquidity. We estimate that capital expenditures, net of proceeds from dispositions, will be approximately \$65 million in 2010, which we will adjust throughout the year as we size our fleet to existing customer demand. We believe our sources of liquidity are adequate to meet our current and anticipated needs for at least the next twelve months. Based upon anticipated cash flows, existing cash and cash equivalents balances, current borrowing availability and other sources of financing we expect to be available to us, we do not anticipate any significant liquidity constraints in the foreseeable future.

We have been transforming our business strategy toward a more-diversified set of transportation service solutions, primarily regional temperature-controlled operations along with intermodal and brokerage services, to align our growth with customer trends. We believe that we are well-positioned during this difficult freight environment, as well as within an economic recovery, with this transformation of our services combined with our competitive position, cost control emphasis, modern fleet and strong balance sheet.

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations includes discussions of operating, truckload and logistics revenue, net of fuel surcharges, and net fuel expense (fuel and fuel taxes net of fuel surcharge revenue and surcharges passed through to independent contractors, outside drayage carriers and railroads). We provide these additional disclosures because management believes these measures provide a more consistent basis for comparing results of operations from period to period. These financial measures in this report have not been determined in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Pursuant to Item 10(e) of Regulation S-K, we have included the amounts necessary to reconcile these non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures, operating revenue and fuel and fuel taxes.

Table of Contents**Share-based Payment Arrangement Compensation**

Total share-based compensation expense recorded in 2009 was \$586,000 (\$353,000 net of income tax benefit), in 2008 was \$666,000 (\$432,000 net of income tax benefit) and in 2007 was \$460,000 (\$321,000 net of income tax benefit). All share-based compensation expense is recorded in salaries, wages and benefits expense. Unrecognized compensation expense from unvested service-based stock option awards was \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2009 and is expected to be recorded over a weighted-average period of 3.5 years. Unrecognized compensation expense from unvested performance-based stock option awards was \$975,000 as of December 31, 2009 and will be recorded in the periods in which the performance condition is probable of achievement through 2010.

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth for the years indicated certain operating statistics regarding our revenue and operations:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Truckload Segment: | | | |
| Revenue (in thousands) | \$ 396,795 | \$ 508,186 | \$ 490,540 |
| Average truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges, per tractor per week(1) | \$ 2,822 | \$ 3,124 | \$ 3,101 |
| Average tractors(1) | 2,358 | 2,352 | 2,516 |
| Average miles per trip | 761 | 853 | 911 |
| Total miles company-employed drivers (in thousands) | 206,894 | 222,043 | 228,776 |
| Total miles independent contractors (in thousands) | 23,415 | 32,081 | 46,096 |
| Logistics Segment: | | | |
| Brokerage: | | | |
| Marten Transport | | | |
| Revenue (in thousands) | \$ 35,014 | \$ 24,746 | \$ 15,168 |
| Loads | 18,932 | 11,621 | 7,802 |
| MWL | | | |
| Revenue (in thousands) | \$ 32,160 | \$ 37,569 | \$ 33,472 |
| Loads | 17,868 | 18,789 | 17,444 |
| Intermodal: | | | |
| Revenue (in thousands) | \$ 41,905 | \$ 36,598 | \$ 20,837 |
| Loads | 18,090 | 11,513 | 6,793 |
| Average tractors | 62 | 53 | 31 |

(1) Includes tractors driven by both company-employed drivers and independent contractors. Independent contractors provided 177, 188 and 339 tractors as of December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Table of Contents*Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2009 to Year Ended December 31, 2008*

The following table sets forth for the years indicated our operating revenue, operating income and operating ratio by segment, along with the change for each component:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2009 | 2008 | Dollar Change 2009 vs. 2008 | Percentage Change 2009 vs. 2008 |
|---|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Operating revenue: | | | | |
| Truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharge revenue | \$ 346,983 | \$ 384,264 | \$ (37,281) | (9.7)% |
| Truckload fuel surcharge revenue | 49,812 | 123,922 | (74,110) | (59.8) |
| Total Truckload revenue | 396,795 | 508,186 | (111,391) | (21.9) |
| Logistics revenue, net of intermodal fuel surcharge revenue(1) | | | | |
| Intermodal fuel surcharge revenue | 103,166 | 90,194 | 12,972 | 14.4 |
| Total Logistics revenue | 5,913 | 8,719 | (2,806) | (32.2) |
| Total operating revenue | 109,079 | 98,913 | 10,166 | 10.3 |
| Total operating revenue | \$ 505,874 | \$ 607,099 | \$ (101,225) | (16.7)% |
| Operating income: | | | | |
| Truckload | \$ 22,827 | \$ 26,055 | \$ (3,228) | (12.4)% |
| Logistics | 6,532 | 6,650 | (118) | (1.8) |
| Total operating income | \$ 29,359 | \$ 32,705 | \$ (3,346) | (10.2)% |
| Operating ratio(2): | | | | |
| Truckload | 94.2% | 94.9% | | (0.7)% |
| Logistics | 94.0 | 93.3 | | 0.8 |
| Consolidated operating ratio | 94.2% | 94.6% | | (0.4)% |

(1) Logistics revenue is net of \$10.2 million and \$16.8 million of inter-segment revenue in 2009 and 2008, respectively, for loads transported by our tractors and arranged by MWL that have been eliminated in consolidation.

(2) Represents operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenue.

Our operating revenue decreased \$101.2 million, or 16.7%, to \$505.9 million in 2009 from \$607.1 million in 2008. This decrease was primarily due to fuel surcharge revenue decreasing to \$55.7 million in 2009 from \$132.6 million in 2008, caused by significantly lower fuel prices in 2009. Our operating revenue, net of fuel surcharges, decreased \$24.3 million, or 5.1%, to \$450.1 million in 2009 from \$474.5 million in 2008. The decrease in operating revenue, net of fuel surcharges, was due to a decrease in truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges, partially offset by growth in logistics revenue.

Truckload segment revenue decreased \$111.4 million, or 21.9%, to \$396.8 million in 2009 from \$508.2 million in 2008. Truckload segment revenue, net of fuel surcharges, decreased 9.7% primarily due to a decrease in our average truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges, per tractor

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per week of 9.7% in 2009. The reduction in revenue per tractor per week was primarily caused by a decrease in our average miles per tractor in 2009 due to the difficult freight environment. The changes in our operating statistics are consistent with the continued growth of our regional temperature-controlled operations. By focusing on shorter lengths of haul in certain defined areas, we are addressing customer trends toward regional distribution to lower their transportation expense, furthering our own objectives of reducing fuel consumption per load, and matching some of our drivers' desires to stay closer to home. The concentration of a portion of our fleet in these markets is evident in a 10.8% reduction from 2008 in average length of haul to 761 miles. Our average fleet size was

Table of Contents

relatively stable in 2009 compared with 2008. The decrease in revenue per tractor per week, partially offset by the improvement in our overall cost structure, primarily caused the decrease in profitability from 2008.

Logistics segment revenue increased \$10.2 million, or 10.3%, to \$109.1 million in 2009 from \$98.9 million in 2008. Logistics segment revenue, net of intermodal fuel surcharges, increased 14.4%. The increase in logistics revenue primarily resulted from continued volume growth in each of our internal brokerage and intermodal services, partially offset by a decrease in revenue generated by MWL. Within the difficult freight environment, our operating ratio for the Logistics segment in 2009 increased by 0.8% from 2008.

The following table sets forth for the periods indicated the dollar and percentage increase or decrease of the items in our consolidated statements of operations, and those items as a percentage of operating revenue:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Dollar | Percentage | Percentage of | |
|--|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Change | Change | 2009 | 2008 |
| | 2009 vs. 2008 | 2009 vs. 2008 | Operating Revenue | Operating Revenue |
| Operating revenue | \$ (101,225) | (16.7)% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Operating expenses (income): | | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | (13,864) | (9.1) | 27.4 | 25.1 |
| Purchased transportation | (6,598) | (5.8) | 21.1 | 18.6 |
| Fuel and fuel taxes | (75,994) | (43.2) | 19.7 | 29.0 |
| Supplies and maintenance | (155) | (0.4) | 7.6 | 6.3 |
| Depreciation | 3,364 | 6.8 | 10.5 | 8.2 |
| Operating taxes and licenses | (57) | (0.8) | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| Insurance and claims | (5,513) | (21.7) | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| Communications and utilities | 430 | 11.5 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Gain on disposition of revenue equipment | 1,034 | 38.8 | (0.3) | (0.4) |
| Other | (526) | (4.6) | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Total operating expenses | (97,879) | (17.0) | 94.2 | 94.6 |
| Operating income | (3,346) | (10.2) | 5.8 | 5.4 |
| Other expenses (income): | | | | |
| Interest expense | (973) | (85.2) | | 0.2 |
| Interest income | 47 | 25.5 | | |
| | (926) | (96.7) | | 0.2 |
| Income before income taxes | (2,420) | (7.6) | 5.8 | 5.2 |
| Less: Income before income taxes | | | | |
| attributable to noncontrolling interest | (536) | (47.9) | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Income before income taxes attributable to | | | | |
| Marten Transport, Ltd. | (1,884) | (6.2) | 5.7 | 5.0 |
| Provision for income taxes | (80) | (0.6) | 2.5 | 2.1 |
| Net income | \$ (1,804) | (10.0)% | 3.2% | 3.0% |

Table of Contents

Salaries, wages and benefits consist of compensation for our employees, including both driver and non-driver employees, employees' health insurance, 401(k) plan contributions and other fringe benefits. These expenses vary depending upon the ratio of company drivers to independent contractors, our efficiency, our experience with employees' health insurance claims, changes in health care premiums and other factors. The decrease in salaries, wages and benefits resulted primarily from a 6.8% decrease in the total miles driven by company drivers coupled with a more broad implementation of our per diem pay structure for our drivers in 2009, a \$3.4 million decrease in our self-insured medical claims, which decreased our employees' health insurance expense, and a \$1.6 million decrease in bonus compensation expensed for our non-driver employees.

Purchased transportation consists of payments to independent contractor providers of revenue equipment and to carriers for transportation services we arrange in connection with brokerage and intermodal activities. This category will vary depending upon the ratio of company drivers versus independent contractors, the amount of fuel surcharges passed through to independent contractors and the amount and rates, including fuel surcharges, we pay to third-party railroad and motor carriers. Purchased transportation expense decreased \$6.6 million in total, or 5.8%, in 2009 from 2008. Payments to carriers for transportation services we arranged in our brokerage and intermodal operations increased \$6.9 million to \$80.7 million in 2009 from \$73.8 million in 2008. The portion of purchased transportation expense related to our independent contractors, including fuel surcharges, decreased \$13.5 million in 2009, primarily due to a decrease in the amount of fuel surcharges paid to the independent contractors and a decrease in the number of independent contractor-owned tractors in our fleet. We expect that purchased transportation expense will increase as we continue to grow our Logistics segment.

Net fuel expense (fuel and fuel taxes net of fuel surcharge revenue and surcharges passed through to independent contractors, outside drayage carriers and railroads) decreased \$9.3 million, or 15.2%, to \$52.1 million in 2009 from \$61.4 million in 2008. Fuel surcharges passed through to independent contractors, outside drayage carriers and railroads were \$7.9 million in 2009 and \$18.2 million in 2008. Over the past year, we have worked diligently to control fuel usage and costs by improving our volume purchasing arrangements and optimizing our drivers' fuel purchases with national fuel centers, focusing on shorter lengths of haul, installing and tightly managing the use of auxiliary power units in our tractors to minimize engine idling and improving fuel usage in our trailers' refrigeration units. Auxiliary power units, which we have installed in our company-owned tractors, provide climate control and electrical power for our drivers without idling the tractor engine. The decrease in net fuel expense was primarily due to a significant decrease in the D.O.E. national average cost of fuel to \$2.47 per gallon in 2009 from \$3.80 per gallon in 2008, a 6.8% decrease in the total miles driven by our company-owned fleet and to the cost control measures stated above. Net fuel expense represented 13.6% of truckload and intermodal revenue, net of fuel surcharges, in 2009, compared with 14.9% in 2008.

Depreciation relates to owned tractors, trailers, auxiliary power units, communications units, terminal facilities and other assets. The increase in depreciation was primarily due to a continued increase in the cost of revenue equipment and an increase in the relative percentage of company-owned tractors to independent contractor-owned tractors in 2009. We expect our annual cost of tractor and trailer ownership will increase in future periods as a result of higher prices of new equipment, which will result in greater depreciation over the useful life.

Insurance and claims consist of the costs of insurance premiums and the accruals we make for claims within our self-insured retention amounts, primarily for personal injury, property damage, physical damage to our equipment, cargo claims and workers' compensation claims. These expenses will vary primarily based upon the frequency and severity of our accident experience, our self-insured retention levels and the market for insurance. The \$5.5 million decrease in insurance and claims in 2009 was primarily due to a decrease in the cost of self-insured auto liability and workers' compensation accident claims and to reduced physical damage claims related to our tractors and trailers. We are responsible for the first \$1.0 million on each auto liability claim and also responsible for up to \$1.0 million for 33% of each auto liability claim amount in excess of \$1.0 million. We are responsible for the first \$750,000 on each workers' compensation claim. Our significant self-insured retention exposes us to the possibility of significant fluctuations in claims expense between periods.

Table of Contents

depending on the frequency, severity and timing of claims and to adverse financial results if we incur large or numerous losses.

Gain on disposition of revenue equipment decreased to \$1.6 million in 2009 from \$2.7 million in 2008 as a result of a decrease in the market value for used revenue equipment, which was partially offset by an increase in the number of trailers sold. Future gains or losses on disposition of revenue equipment will be impacted by the market for used revenue equipment, which is beyond our control. We do not expect our gain on disposition to improve in the near future as we believe that there are few buyers with adequate financing in comparison with available inventory, and the expectation of additional trucking company failures is likely to keep used truck inventories high.

As a result of the foregoing factors, our operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenue, or operating ratio, was 94.2% in 2009 compared with 94.6% in 2008. The operating ratio for our Truckload segment decreased to 94.2% from 94.9% in 2008 and the operating ratio for our Logistics segment increased to 94.0% from 93.3% in 2008. The more broad implementation of our per diem pay structure for our drivers in 2009 positively impacted our operating ratio in 2009 compared with 2008.

Interest expense primarily consists of interest on our senior unsecured notes and unsecured committed credit facility. The decrease in interest expense of \$973,000, or 85.2%, in 2009 from 2008 was primarily the result of lower average debt balances outstanding.

Our effective income tax rate increased to 43.4% in 2009 from 41.0% in 2008, primarily because of the nondeductible effect of a per diem pay structure for our drivers adopted in the first quarter of 2008 which was more broadly implemented during 2009.

As a result of the factors described above, net income decreased to \$16.3 million in 2009 from \$18.1 million in 2008. Net earnings decreased to \$0.74 per diluted share in 2009 from \$0.82 per diluted share in 2008.

Table of Contents*Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2008 to Year Ended December 31, 2007*

The following table sets forth for the years indicated our operating revenue, operating income and operating ratio by segment, along with the change for each component:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2008 | 2007 | Dollar Change 2008 vs. 2007 | Percentage Change 2008 vs. 2007 |
|---|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Operating revenue: | | | | |
| Truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharge revenue | \$ 384,264 | \$ 406,754 | \$ (22,490) | (5.5)% |
| Truckload fuel surcharge revenue | 123,922 | 83,786 | 40,136 | 47.9 |
| Total Truckload revenue | 508,186 | 490,540 | 17,646 | 3.6 |
| Logistics revenue, net of intermodal fuel surcharge revenue(1) | | | | |
| Intermodal fuel surcharge revenue | 90,194 | 66,163 | 24,031 | 36.3 |
| Total Logistics revenue | 8,719 | 3,314 | 5,405 | 163.1 |
| | 98,913 | 69,477 | 29,436 | 42.4 |
| Total operating revenue | \$ 607,099 | \$ 560,017 | \$ 47,082 | 8.4% |
| Operating income: | | | | |
| Truckload | \$ 26,055 | \$ 22,689 | \$ 3,366 | 14.8% |
| Logistics | 6,650 | 5,112 | 1,538 | 30.1 |
| Total operating income | \$ 32,705 | \$ 27,801 | \$ 4,904 | 17.6% |
| Operating ratio(2): | | | | |
| Truckload | 94.9% | 95.4% | | (0.5)% |
| Logistics | 93.3 | 92.6 | | 0.8 |
| Consolidated operating ratio | 94.6% | 95.0% | | (0.4)% |

(1) Logistics revenue is net of \$16.8 million and \$17.1 million of inter-segment revenue in 2008 and 2007, respectively, for loads transported by our tractors and arranged by MWL that have been eliminated in consolidation.

(2) Represents operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenue.

Our operating revenue increased \$47.1 million, or 8.4%, to \$607.1 million in 2008 from \$560.0 million in 2007. Our operating revenue, net of fuel surcharges, increased \$1.5 million, or 0.3%, to \$474.5 million in 2008 from \$472.9 million in 2007. The increase in operating revenue, net of fuel surcharges, was driven by continued volume growth in each of our internal brokerage and intermodal services and in the logistics services provided by MWL, partially offset by a decrease in truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges. Fuel surcharges increased \$45.5 million, or 52.3%, in 2008 due to the significant increase in the average cost of fuel from 2007.

Truckload segment revenue increased \$17.6 million, or 3.6%, to \$508.2 million in 2008 from \$490.5 million in 2007. Truckload segment revenue, net of fuel surcharges, decreased 5.5% due to a 6.5% decrease in our weighted average number of tractors, partially offset by a 0.7%

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increase in our average truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharges, per tractor per week. The increase in revenue per tractor per week was due to an increase in our revenue per total mile, partially offset by a decrease in average miles per tractor. The changes in our operating statistics are consistent with the growth of our regional temperature-controlled operations in 2008. By focusing on shorter lengths of haul in certain defined areas, we are addressing customer trends toward regional distribution to lower their transportation expense, furthering our own objectives of reducing fuel consumption per load, and matching some of our drivers' desires to stay closer to home. The

Table of Contents

concentration of a portion of our fleet in these markets is evident in a 6.4% reduction from 2007 in average length of haul to 853 miles. In response to a challenging freight environment with industry-wide capacity exceeding freight demand, we decreased our fleet throughout 2007. As a result, our average fleet size was 164 tractors less in 2008 than in 2007. The improvement in tractor productivity and in our overall cost structure resulted in increased profitability from 2007.

Logistics segment revenue increased \$29.4 million, or 42.4%, to \$98.9 million in 2008 from \$69.5 million in 2007. Logistics segment revenue, net of intermodal fuel surcharges, increased 36.3%. The increase in logistics revenue primarily resulted from continued volume growth in each of our internal brokerage and intermodal services and in the logistics services provided by MWL. The increase in the operating ratio for our Logistics segment in 2008 was primarily due to an increase as a percentage of logistics revenue of the payments to carriers for transportation services which we arranged.

The following table sets forth for the years indicated the dollar and percentage increase or decrease of the items in our consolidated statements of operations, and those items as a percentage of operating revenue:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Dollar Change 2008 vs. 2007 | Percentage Change 2008 vs. 2007 | Percentage of Operating Revenue 2008 | 2007 |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------|
| Operating revenue: | \$ 47,082 | 8.4% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Operating expenses (income): | | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | (1,158) | (0.8) | 25.1 | 27.5 |
| Purchased transportation | 9,399 | 9.1 | 18.6 | 18.5 |
| Fuel and fuel taxes | 26,871 | 18.0 | 29.0 | 26.6 |
| Supplies and maintenance | (243) | (0.6) | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| Depreciation | 2,696 | 5.7 | 8.2 | 8.4 |
| Operating taxes and licenses | (94) | (1.4) | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Insurance and claims | 3,056 | 13.7 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Communications and utilities | (129) | (3.3) | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Gain on disposition of revenue equipment | 722 | 21.3 | (0.4) | (0.6) |
| Other | 1,058 | 10.2 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Total operating expenses | 42,178 | 7.9 | 94.6 | 95.0 |
| Operating income | 4,904 | 17.6 | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| Other expenses (income): | | | | |
| Interest expense | (2,681) | (70.1) | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Interest income | 509 | 73.4 | | (0.1) |
| | (2,172) | (69.4) | 0.2 | 0.6 |
| Income before income taxes | 7,076 | 28.7 | 5.2 | 4.4 |
| Less: Income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest | 318 | 39.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Income before income taxes attributable to Marten Transport, Ltd. | 6,758 | 28.3 | 5.0 | 4.3 |
| Provision for income taxes | 3,655 | 41.1 | 2.1 | 1.6 |
| Net income | \$ 3,103 | 20.7% | 3.0% | 2.7% |

Table of Contents

The decrease in salaries, wages and benefits resulted primarily from a 2.9% decrease in the total miles driven by company drivers and the adoption in the first quarter of 2008 of a per diem expense reimbursement program for our drivers, which was partially offset by a \$2.3 million increase in our self-insured medical claims, which increased our employees' health insurance expense, and a \$1.3 million increase in bonus compensation expensed for our non-driver employees.

Purchased transportation expense increased \$9.4 million in total, or 9.1%, in 2008 from 2007. Payments to carriers for transportation services we arranged in our brokerage and intermodal operations increased \$21.3 million to \$73.8 million in 2008 from \$52.5 million in 2007, as our Logistics operations significantly increased in size and scope. The portion of purchased transportation expense related to our independent contractors, including fuel surcharges, decreased \$11.9 million in 2008, primarily due to a decrease in the number of independent contractor-owned tractors in our fleet.

Net fuel expense (fuel and fuel taxes net of fuel surcharge revenue and surcharges passed through to independent contractors, outside drayage carriers and railroads) decreased \$14.6 million, or 19.2%, to \$61.4 million in 2008 from \$76.1 million in 2007. Fuel surcharges passed through to independent contractors, outside drayage carriers and railroads were \$18.2 million in 2008 and \$14.2 million in 2007. Over the past year, we have worked diligently to control fuel costs and usage by improving our volume purchasing arrangements and optimizing our drivers' fuel purchases with national fuel centers, focusing on shorter lengths of haul, installing and tightly managing the use of auxiliary power units in our tractors to minimize engine idling and improving fuel usage in our trailers' refrigeration units. The decrease in net fuel expense was primarily due to a 2.9% decrease in the total miles driven by our company-owned fleet and to the cost control measures stated above, principally the use of auxiliary power units. Auxiliary power units, which we have installed in our company-owned tractors, provide climate control and electrical power for our drivers without idling the tractor engine. The impact of decreased miles and the cost control measures were partially offset by a significant increase in the D.O.E. national average cost of fuel during 2008 to \$3.80 per gallon from \$2.89 per gallon in 2007. Net fuel expense represented 14.9% of truckload and intermodal revenue, net of fuel surcharges, in 2008, compared with 17.9% in 2007.

The increase in depreciation was due to our investment in auxiliary power units since mid-2007 and to an increase in the relative percentage of company-owned tractors to independent contractor-owned tractors in 2008.

The increase in insurance and claims in 2008 was primarily the result of an increase in the cost of self-insured auto liability and workers compensation accident claims.

A decrease in the market value for used revenue equipment, which we believe was driven by capacity reductions in the industry, caused our gain on disposition of revenue equipment to decrease to \$2.7 million in 2008 from \$3.4 million in 2007, despite an increase in the number of tractors sold.

As a result of the foregoing factors, our operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenue, or operating ratio, was 94.6% in 2008 compared with 95.0% in 2007.

The decrease in interest expense of \$2.7 million, or 70.1%, in 2008 from 2007 was primarily the result of lower average debt balances outstanding.

Our effective income tax rate increased to 41.0% in 2008 from 37.3% in 2007, primarily because of the nondeductible effect of a per diem pay structure for our drivers adopted in the first quarter of 2008.

As a result of the factors described above, net income increased to \$18.1 million in 2008 from \$15.0 million in 2007. Net earnings increased to \$0.82 per diluted share in 2008 from \$0.68 per diluted share in 2007.

Table of Contents**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our business requires substantial, ongoing capital investments, particularly for new tractors and trailers. Our primary sources of liquidity are funds provided by operations, our unsecured senior notes and our revolving credit facility. A portion of our tractor fleet is provided by independent contractors who own and operate their own equipment. We have no capital expenditure requirements relating to those drivers who own their tractors or obtain financing through third parties. However, to the extent we purchase tractors and extend financing to the independent contractors through our tractor purchase program, we have an associated capital expenditure requirement.

The table below reflects our net cash flows provided by operating activities, net cash flows used for investing activities and net cash flows used for financing activities for the years indicated.

| (In thousands) | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net cash flows provided by operating activities | \$ 81,686 | \$ 77,044 | \$ 62,239 |
| Net cash flows used for investing activities | 77,164 | 37,602 | 46,826 |
| Net cash flows used for financing activities | 1,507 | 40,665 | 14,783 |

In 2009, net cash flows provided by operating activities were primarily used to purchase new revenue equipment, net of proceeds from dispositions, in the amount of \$72.0 million. In 2008, cash flows were primarily used to pay down \$41.8 million of long-term debt to strengthen our liquidity. We estimate that capital expenditures, net of proceeds from dispositions, will be approximately \$65 million in 2010, which we will adjust throughout the year as we size our fleet to existing customer demand. We believe our sources of liquidity are adequate to meet our current and anticipated needs for at least the next twelve months. Based upon anticipated cash flows, existing cash and cash equivalents balances, current borrowing availability and other sources of financing we expect to be available to us, we do not anticipate any significant liquidity constraints in the foreseeable future.

We have outstanding senior unsecured notes with an aggregate principal balance of \$1.4 million at December 31, 2009. These notes, which bear interest at a fixed annual rate of 8.57%, mature in April 2010 with a final principal payment of \$1.4 million. We have not prepaid the remaining principal balance of these notes due to substantial prepayment penalties.

We maintain a credit agreement that provides for a five-year unsecured committed credit facility maturing in September 2011 in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$50 million, which we decreased from \$75 million in December 2009. The aggregate principal amount of the credit facility may be increased at our option up to a maximum aggregate principal amount of \$100 million. At December 31, 2009, the credit facility had an outstanding principal balance of \$71,000, outstanding standby letters of credit of \$8.4 million and remaining borrowing availability of \$41.5 million. This facility bears interest at a variable rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate or the agent bank's Prime Rate, in each case plus/minus applicable margins. The weighted average interest rate for the facility was 0.83% at December 31, 2009.

Our credit facility prohibits us from paying, in any fiscal year, dividends in excess of 25% of our net income from the prior fiscal year. The debt agreements discussed above also contain restrictive covenants which, among other matters, require us to maintain certain financial ratios, including debt-to-equity, cash flow leverage, interest coverage and fixed charge coverage. We were in compliance with all of these covenants at December 31, 2009.

Table of Contents

In December 2007, our Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program to repurchase up to one million shares of our common stock either through purchases on the open market or through private transactions. The timing and extent to which we will repurchase shares depends on market conditions and other corporate considerations. In the first quarter of 2008 we repurchased and retired 67,500 shares of our common stock for \$810,000. We made no purchases in 2007, in the remainder of 2008 or in 2009. The repurchase program does not have an expiration date.

We had \$233,000 in direct financing receivables from independent contractors under our tractor purchase program as of December 31, 2009, compared with \$797,000 in receivables as of December 31, 2008. These receivables, which are collateralized by the financed tractors, are used to attract and retain qualified independent contractors. We deduct payments from the independent contractors' settlements weekly and, as a result, have experienced minimal collection issues for these receivables. The decrease in the receivables balance is related to a program to direct the leases to a third-party leasing vendor beginning in 2007.

The following is a summary of our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2009.

| (In thousands) | 2010 | Payments Due by Period | | | Total |
|--|----------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|
| | | 2011 And 2012 | 2013 And 2014 | Thereafter | |
| Building construction obligations | \$ 4,549 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 4,549 |
| Long-term debt obligations | 1,428 | 71 | | | 1,499 |
| Operating lease obligations | 424 | 431 | 57 | | 912 |
| Purchase obligations for revenue equipment | 40 | | | | 40 |
| Total | \$ 6,441 | \$ 502 | \$ 57 | \$ | \$ 7,000 |

Related Parties

We purchase fuel and obtain tires and related services from Bauer Built, Inc., or BBI. Jerry M. Bauer, one of our directors, is the president and a stockholder of BBI. We paid BBI \$796,000 in 2009, \$1.4 million in 2008 and \$1.1 million in 2007 for fuel and tire services. In addition, we paid \$1.5 million in 2009, \$2.3 million in 2008 and \$2.4 million in 2007 to tire manufacturers for tires that we purchased from the tire manufacturers but were provided by BBI. BBI received commissions from the tire manufacturers related to these purchases. Other than any benefit received from his ownership interest, Mr. Bauer receives no compensation or other benefits from our business with BBI.

We paid Durand Builders Service, Inc. \$1.1 million in 2009, \$564,000 in 2008 and \$547,000 in 2007 for various construction projects. Larry B. Hagness, one of our directors, is the president and owner of Durand Builders Service, Inc. Other than any benefit received from his ownership interest, Mr. Hagness receives no compensation or other benefits from these transactions.

In August 2008, we acquired a building adjacent to our headquarters which will be used for maintenance and storage from Randolph L. Marten, our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, in a like-kind exchange for a partially constructed building of equal value owned by Marten Transport. Each of the buildings were valued at \$291,000 at the time of the exchange.

Off-balance Sheet Arrangements

Other than standby letters of credit maintained in connection with our self-insurance programs in the amount of \$8.4 million and operating leases summarized above in our summary of contractual obligations, we did not have any other material off-balance sheet arrangements at December 31, 2009.

Table of Contents

Inflation and Fuel Costs

Most of our operating expenses are inflation-sensitive, with inflation generally producing increased costs of operations. During the past three years, the most significant effects of inflation have been on revenue equipment prices, accident claims, health insurance and employee compensation. We attempt to limit the effects of inflation through increases in freight rates and cost control efforts.

In addition to inflation, fluctuations in fuel prices can affect our profitability. We require substantial amounts of fuel to operate our tractors and power the temperature-control units on our trailers. Substantially all of our contracts with customers contain fuel surcharge provisions. Although we historically have been able to pass through a significant portion of long-term increases in fuel prices and related taxes to customers in the form of surcharges and higher rates, such increases usually are not fully recovered. These surcharge provisions are not effective in mitigating the fuel price increases related to non-revenue miles or fuel used while the tractor is idling.

Seasonality

Our tractor productivity generally decreases during the winter season because inclement weather impedes operations and some shippers reduce their shipments. At the same time, operating expenses generally increase, with harsh weather creating higher accident frequency, increased claims and more equipment repairs.

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions about future events, and apply judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses in our consolidated financial statements and related notes. We base our estimates, assumptions and judgments on historical experience, current trends and other factors believed to be relevant at the time our consolidated financial statements are prepared. However, because future events and their effects cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could differ from our estimates and assumptions, and such differences could be material. We believe that the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant estimates, assumptions and judgments used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition. We recognize revenue, including fuel surcharges, at the time shipment of freight is completed. We account for revenue of our Logistics segment and revenue on freight transported by independent contractors within our Truckload segment on a gross basis because we are the primary obligor in the arrangements, we have the ability to establish prices, we have the risk of loss in the event of cargo claims and we bear credit risk with customer payments. Accordingly, all such revenue billed to customers is classified as operating revenue and all corresponding payments to carriers for transportation services we arrange in connection with brokerage and intermodal activities and to independent contractor providers of revenue equipment are classified as purchased transportation expense.

Accounts Receivable. We are dependent upon a limited number of customers, and, as a result, our trade accounts receivable are highly concentrated. Trade accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amounts, net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. Our allowance for doubtful accounts was \$245,000 as of December 31, 2009 and \$380,000 as of December 31, 2008. A considerable amount of judgment is required in assessing the realization of these receivables including the current creditworthiness of each customer and related aging of the past-due balances, including any billing disputes. In order to assess the collectibility of these receivables, we perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers' financial condition. Through these evaluations, we may become aware of a situation where a customer may not be able to meet its financial obligations due to deterioration of its financial viability, credit ratings or bankruptcy. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based on the best information available to us and is reevaluated and adjusted as additional information is received. We evaluate the allowance based on historical write-off experience, the size of the

Table of Contents

individual customer balances, past-due amounts and the overall national economy. We review the adequacy of our allowance for doubtful accounts monthly.

Property and Equipment. The transportation industry requires significant capital investments. Our net property and equipment was \$341.5 million as of December 31, 2009 and \$314.3 million as of December 31, 2008. Our depreciation expense was \$53.1 million for 2009, \$49.7 million for 2008 and \$47.0 million for 2007. We compute depreciation of our property and equipment for financial reporting purposes based on the cost of each asset, reduced by its estimated salvage value, using the straight-line method over its estimated useful life. We determine and periodically evaluate our estimate of the projected salvage values and useful lives primarily by considering the market for used equipment, prior useful lives and changes in technology. We have not changed our policy regarding salvage values as a percentage of initial cost or useful lives of tractors and trailers within the last ten years. We believe that our policies and past estimates have been reasonable. Actual results could differ from these estimates. A 5% decrease in estimated salvage values would have decreased our net property and equipment as of December 31, 2009 by approximately \$8.9 million, or 2.6%.

In 2009, we replaced most of our company-owned tractors within approximately four years and our trailers within approximately six years after purchase. Our useful lives for depreciating tractors is five years and trailers is seven years, with a 25% salvage value for tractors and a 35% salvage value for trailers. These salvage values are based upon the expected market values of the equipment after five years for tractors and seven years for trailers. Depreciation expense calculated in this manner approximates the continuing declining value of the revenue equipment, and continues at a consistent straight-line rate for units held beyond the normal replacement cycle. Calculating tractor depreciation expense with a five-year useful life and a 25% salvage value results in the same depreciation rate of 15% of cost per year and the same net book value of 40% of cost at the four-year replacement date as using a four-year useful life and 40% salvage value. As a result, there is no difference in recorded depreciation expense on a quarterly or annual basis with our five-year useful life and 25% salvage value compared with a four-year useful life and 40% salvage value. Similarly, calculating trailer depreciation expense with seven-year useful life and a 35% salvage value results in the same depreciation rate of 9.3% of cost per year and the same net book value of 44.3% of cost at the six-year replacement date as using a six-year useful life and 44.3% salvage value. As a result, there is no difference in recorded depreciation expense on a quarterly or annual basis with our seven-year useful life and 35% salvage value compared with a six-year useful life and 44.3% salvage value.

Impairment of Assets. Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future net undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less the costs to sell.

Insurance and Claims. We self-insure, in part, for losses relating to workers' compensation, auto liability, general liability, cargo and property damage claims, along with employees' health insurance with varying risk retention levels. We maintain insurance coverage for per-incident and total losses in excess of these risk retention levels in amounts we consider adequate based upon historical experience and our ongoing review. However, we could suffer a series of losses within our self-insured retention limits or losses over our policy limits, which could negatively affect our financial condition and operating results. We are responsible for the first \$1.0 million on each auto liability claim and also responsible for up to \$1.0 million for 33% of each auto liability claim amount in excess of \$1.0 million. We are responsible for the first \$750,000 on each workers' compensation claim. We have \$8.4 million in standby letters of credit to guarantee settlement of claims under agreements with our insurance carriers and regulatory authorities. The insurance and claims accruals in our consolidated balance sheets were \$19.2 million as of December 31, 2009, and \$21.4 million as of December 31, 2008. We reserve currently for the estimated cost of the uninsured portion of pending claims. We periodically evaluate and adjust these reserves based on our evaluation of the nature and severity of outstanding individual claims and our estimate of future claims development based on historical claims.

Table of Contents

development factors. We believe that our claims development factors have historically been reasonable, as indicated by the adequacy of our insurance and claims accruals compared to settled claims. Actual results could differ from these current estimates. In addition, to the extent that claims are litigated and not settled, jury awards are difficult to predict. If our claims settlement experience worsened causing our historical claims development factors to increase by 5%, our estimated outstanding loss reserves as of December 31, 2009 would have needed to increase by approximately \$3.5 million.

Share-based Payment Arrangement Compensation. We have granted stock options to certain employees and non-employee directors. We recognize compensation expense for all share-based payment arrangements granted after December 31, 2005 net of an estimated forfeiture rate and only record compensation expense for those shares expected to vest on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for service-based awards (normally the vesting period). Compensation expense will be recorded for performance-based awards in the periods in which the performance condition is probable of achievement. Determining the appropriate fair value model and calculating the fair value of share-based payment arrangements require the input of highly subjective assumptions, including the expected life of the share-based payment arrangements and stock price volatility. We use the Black-Scholes model to value our stock option awards. We believe that future volatility will not materially differ from our historical volatility. Thus, we use the historical volatility of our common stock over the expected life of the award. The assumptions used in calculating the fair value of share-based payment awards represent our best estimates, but these estimates involve inherent uncertainties and the application of judgment. As a result, if factors change and we use different assumptions, share-based compensation expense could be materially different in the future. In addition, we are required to estimate the expected forfeiture rate and only recognize expense for those shares expected to vest. If the actual forfeiture rate is materially different from the estimate, share-based compensation expense could be significantly different from what has been recorded in the current period.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 167, Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R), (FASB ASC 810, *Consolidation*). This statement eliminates Interpretation No. 46(R)'s exceptions to consolidating qualifying special-purpose entities, contains new criteria for determining the primary beneficiary (the reporting entity that must consolidate the variable interest entity), and increases the frequency of required reassessments to determine whether a company is the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. This statement also clarifies, but does not significantly change, the characteristics that identify a variable interest entity. This statement is effective for the first quarter of 2010. The adoption of this statement is not expected to have a significant impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Table of Contents

ITEM 7A. *QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK*

We are exposed to a variety of market risks, most importantly the effects of the price and availability of diesel fuel. We require substantial amounts of diesel fuel to operate our tractors and power the temperature-control units on our trailers. The price and availability of diesel fuel can vary, and are subject to political, economic and market factors that are beyond our control. Significant increases in diesel fuel costs could materially and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. Based upon our 2009 fuel consumption, a 5% increase in the average cost of diesel fuel would have increased our fuel expense in 2009 by \$4.9 million.

We have historically been able to pass through a significant portion of long-term increases in diesel fuel prices and related taxes to customers in the form of fuel surcharges. Fuel surcharge programs are widely accepted among our customers, though they can vary somewhat from customer-to-customer. These fuel surcharges, which adjust weekly with the cost of fuel, enable us to recover a substantial portion of the higher cost of fuel as prices increase. These fuel surcharge provisions are not effective in mitigating the fuel price increases related to non-revenue miles or fuel used while the tractor is idling. In addition, we have worked diligently in 2009 to control fuel usage and costs by improving our volume purchasing arrangements and optimizing our drivers' fuel purchases with national fuel centers, focusing on shorter lengths of haul, installing and tightly managing the use of auxiliary power units in our tractors to minimize engine idling and improving fuel usage in our trailers refrigeration units.

While we do not currently have any outstanding hedging instruments to mitigate this market risk, we may enter into derivatives or other financial instruments to hedge a portion of our fuel costs in the future.

Table of Contents

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining an adequate system of internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, for Marten Transport, Ltd. and subsidiaries (the Company). This system is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements and even when determined to be effective, can only provide reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Also, projection of any evaluation of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting to future periods is subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree or compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management, with the participation of the Company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009. In making this evaluation, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*. Based on this assessment, management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2009. Further, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, has issued a report on the Company's internal controls over financial reporting on page 34 of this Report.

March 15, 2010

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Marten Transport, Ltd.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Marten Transport, Ltd. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009. In connection with our audits of the consolidated financial statements, we also have audited the financial statement schedule listed in Item 15(a)(2). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule and an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Marten Transport, Ltd. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, the accompanying financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements

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taken as a whole, presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein. It is also in our opinion, Marten Transport, Ltd. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

As discussed in Notes 1 and 12 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements* an amendment of ARB 51, (FASB ASC 810-10-65-1, *Consolidation*) in 2009.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota

March 15, 2010

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Consolidated Balance Sheets**

| (In thousands, except share information) | December 31, | |
|---|--------------|------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 5,410 | \$ 2,395 |
| Marketable securities | 118 | 2,604 |
| Receivables: | | |
| Trade, less allowances of \$245 and \$380, respectively | 45,434 | 50,143 |
| Other | 4,382 | 7,385 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 12,328 | 13,705 |
| Deferred income taxes | 5,172 | 6,140 |
| Total current assets | 72,844 | 82,372 |
| Property and equipment: | | |
| Revenue equipment | 455,641 | 423,188 |
| Buildings and land | 18,763 | 14,067 |
| Office equipment and other | 16,723 | 13,917 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (149,670) | (136,871) |
| Net property and equipment | 341,457 | 314,301 |
| Other assets | 537 | 770 |
| | \$ 414,838 | \$ 397,443 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Checks issued in excess of cash balances | \$ 1,671 | \$ 1,807 |
| Accounts payable | 16,308 | 15,785 |
| Insurance and claims accruals | 19,222 | 21,386 |
| Accrued liabilities | 15,588 | 17,109 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | 1,428 | 1,428 |
| Total current liabilities | 54,217 | 57,515 |
| Long-term debt, less current maturities | 71 | 1,429 |
| Deferred income taxes | 85,643 | 81,048 |
| Total liabilities | 139,931 | 139,992 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 10) | | |
| Stockholders equity: | | |
| Marten Transport, Ltd. stockholders equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, \$.01 par value per share; 2,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding | | |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value per share; 48,000,000 shares authorized; 21,885,073 shares at December 31, 2009, and 21,830,071 shares at December 31, 2008, issued and outstanding | | |
| | 219 | 218 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 76,477 | 75,305 |
| Retained earnings | 196,480 | 180,213 |
| Total Marten Transport, Ltd. stockholders equity | 273,176 | 255,736 |
| Noncontrolling interest | 1,731 | 1,715 |
| Total stockholders equity | 274,907 | 257,451 |
| | \$ 414,838 | \$ 397,443 |

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

Table of Contents

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

Consolidated Statements of Operations

| (In thousands, except per share information) | For the years ended December 31, | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| Operating revenue | \$ 505,874 | \$ 607,099 | \$ 560,017 |
| Operating expenses (income): | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | 138,752 | 152,616 | 153,774 |
| Purchased transportation | 106,577 | 113,175 | 103,776 |
| Fuel and fuel taxes | 99,898 | 175,892 | 149,021 |
| Supplies and maintenance | 38,223 | 38,378 | 38,621 |
| Depreciation | 53,069 | 49,705 | 47,009 |
| Operating taxes and licenses | 6,672 | 6,729 | 6,823 |
| Insurance and claims | 19,896 | 25,409 | 22,353 |
| Communications and utilities | 4,170 | 3,740 | 3,869 |
| Gain on disposition of revenue equipment | (1,630) | (2,664) | (3,386) |
| Other | 10,888 | 11,414 | 10,356 |
| | 476,515 | 574,394 | 532,216 |
| Operating income | 29,359 | 32,705 | 27,801 |
| Other expenses (income): | | | |
| Interest expense | 169 | 1,142 | 3,823 |
| Interest income | (137) | (184) | (693) |
| | 32 | 958 | 3,130 |
| Income before income taxes | 29,327 | 31,747 | 24,671 |
| Less: Income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest | 584 | 1,120 | 802 |
| Income before income taxes attributable to Marten Transport, Ltd. | 28,743 | 30,627 | 23,869 |
| Provision for income taxes | 12,476 | 12,556 | 8,901 |
| Net income | \$ 16,267 | \$ 18,071 | \$ 14,968 |
| Basic earnings per common share | \$ 0.74 | \$ 0.83 | \$ 0.69 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | \$ 0.74 | \$ 0.82 | \$ 0.68 |

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

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Consolidated Statements of Stockholders Equity**

| (In thousands) | Marten Transport, Ltd. Stockholders | | | | Retained Earnings | Non-controlling Interest | Total Stockholders Equity |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Common Stock Shares | Common Stock Amount | Additional Paid-In Capital | | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2006 | 21,765 | \$ 218 | \$ 73,601 | \$ 147,174 | \$ 913 | \$ 221,906 | |
| Net income | | | | 14,968 | | 14,968 | |
| Issuance of common stock from share-based payment arrangement exercises | 47 | | 303 | | | 303 | |
| Tax benefits from share-based payment arrangement exercises | | | 206 | | | 206 | |
| Share-based payment arrangement compensation expense | | | 460 | | | 460 | |
| Income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest | | | | | 802 | 802 | |
| Noncontrolling interest distributions | | | | | (432) | (432) | |
| Balance at December 31, 2007 | 21,812 | 218 | 74,570 | 162,142 | 1,283 | 238,213 | |
| Net income | | | | 18,071 | | 18,071 | |
| Repurchase and retirement of common stock | (67) | | (810) | | | (810) | |
| Issuance of common stock from share-based payment arrangement exercises | 85 | | 356 | | | 356 | |
| Tax benefits from share-based payment arrangement exercises | | | 523 | | | 523 | |
| Share-based payment arrangement compensation expense | | | 666 | | | 666 | |
| Income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest | | | | | 1,120 | 1,120 | |
| Noncontrolling interest distributions | | | | | (688) | (688) | |
| Balance at December 31, 2008 | 21,830 | 218 | 75,305 | 180,213 | 1,715 | 257,451 | |
| Net income | | | | 16,267 | | 16,267 | |
| Issuance of common stock from share-based payment arrangement exercises | 55 | 1 | 331 | | | 332 | |
| Tax benefits from share-based payment arrangement exercises | | | 255 | | | 255 | |
| Share-based payment arrangement compensation expense | | | 586 | | | 586 | |
| Income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest | | | | | 584 | 584 | |
| Noncontrolling interest distributions | | | | | (568) | (568) | |
| Balance at December 31, 2009 | 21,885 | \$ 219 | \$ 76,477 | \$ 196,480 | \$ 1,731 | \$ 274,907 | |

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

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

| (In thousands) | For the years ended December 31, | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Operations: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 16,267 | \$ 18,071 | \$ 14,968 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation | 53,069 | 49,705 | 47,009 |
| Gain on disposition of revenue equipment | (1,630) | (2,664) | (3,386) |
| Deferred income taxes | 5,563 | 4,842 | (1,237) |
| Tax benefits from share-based payment arrangement exercises | 255 | 523 | 206 |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based payment arrangement exercises | (223) | (456) | (166) |
| Share-based payment arrangement compensation expense | 586 | 666 | 460 |
| Income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest | 584 | 1,120 | 802 |
| Changes in other current operating items: | | | |
| Receivables | 7,712 | 186 | (3,251) |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 1,377 | 118 | 404 |
| Accounts payable | 3,519 | (2,066) | 1,999 |
| Insurance and claims accruals | (2,164) | 3,955 | 1,358 |
| Accrued liabilities | (3,229) | 3,044 | 3,073 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 81,686 | 77,044 | 62,239 |
| CASH FLOWS USED FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Purchases of marketable securities | (113,170) | (28,146) | (50) |
| Sales of marketable securities | 115,656 | 25,892 | |
| Revenue equipment additions | (104,842) | (64,509) | (74,732) |
| Proceeds from revenue equipment dispositions | 32,876 | 31,938 | 27,939 |
| Buildings and land, office equipment and other additions | (7,948) | (4,055) | (2,976) |
| Proceeds from buildings and land, office equipment and other dispositions | 31 | | 617 |
| Net change in other assets | 233 | 1,278 | 2,376 |
| Net cash used for investing activities | (77,164) | (37,602) | (46,826) |
| CASH FLOWS USED FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Borrowings under credit facility and long-term debt | 1,115 | 154,267 | 139,105 |
| Repayment of borrowings under credit facility and long-term debt | (2,473) | (196,053) | (153,121) |
| Issuance of common stock from share-based payment arrangement exercises | 332 | 356 | 303 |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based payment arrangement exercises | 223 | 456 | 166 |
| Change in net checks issued in excess of cash balances | (136) | 1,807 | (804) |
| Noncontrolling interest distributions | (568) | (688) | (432) |
| Repurchase and retirement of common stock | | (810) | |
| Net cash used for financing activities | (1,507) | (40,665) | (14,783) |
| NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 3,015 | (1,223) | 630 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS: | | | |
| Beginning of year | 2,395 | 3,618 | 2,988 |
| End of year | \$ 5,410 | \$ 2,395 | \$ 3,618 |

**SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW
INFORMATION:**

Cash paid for:

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| Interest | \$ | 200 | \$ | 1,240 | \$ | 3,966 |
| Income taxes | \$ | 4,905 | \$ | 6,368 | \$ | 6,629 |

Non-cash investing activities:

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|---------|----|-------|----|----------|
| Change in revenue equipment not yet paid for | \$ | (1,288) | \$ | (468) | \$ | (10,233) |
|--|----|---------|----|-------|----|----------|

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

Table of Contents

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of business: Marten Transport, Ltd. is a long-haul and regional truckload carrier providing protective service transportation and distribution of time- and temperature-sensitive materials and general commodities to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Principles of consolidation: The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Marten Transport, Ltd., its subsidiaries and its 45% owned affiliate, MW Logistics, LLC (MWL). MWL is a third-party provider of logistics services to the transportation industry. We have applied the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification, or FASB ASC, 810, *Consolidation* to our investment in MWL and have determined that Marten is the primary beneficiary based on MWL's equity structure. All material intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. MWL has elected to be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Consequently, federal income taxes are not payable by MWL.

Cash and cash equivalents: Cash in excess of current operating requirements is invested in short-term, highly liquid investments. We consider all highly liquid investments purchased with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Marketable securities: We invest available funds in short-term marketable securities. This investment is in a mutual fund investing primarily in repurchase agreements and other U.S. government-backed securities having original maturities of three months or less, and is stated at market value, which approximates cost.

Trade accounts receivable: Trade accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amounts, net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. A considerable amount of judgment is required in assessing the realization of these receivables including the current creditworthiness of each customer and related aging of the past-due balances, including any billing disputes. In order to assess the collectibility of these receivables, we perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers' financial condition. Through these evaluations, we may become aware of a situation where a customer may not be able to meet its financial obligations due to deterioration of its financial viability, credit ratings or bankruptcy. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based on the best information available to us and is reevaluated and adjusted as additional information is received. We evaluate the allowance based on historical write-off experience, the size of the individual customer balances, past-due amounts and the overall national economy. We review the adequacy of our allowance for doubtful accounts monthly. Invoice balances over 30 days after the contractual due date are considered past due per our policy and are reviewed individually for collectibility. Initial payments by new customers are monitored for compliance with contractual terms. Account balances are charged off against the allowance after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential recovery is considered remote.

Property and equipment: Additions and improvements to property and equipment are capitalized at cost. Maintenance and repair expenditures are charged to operations. Gains and losses on disposals of revenue equipment are included in operations as they are a normal,

recurring component of our operations.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

Depreciation is computed based on the cost of the asset, reduced by its estimated salvage value, using the straight-line method for financial reporting purposes. We begin depreciating assets in the month that each asset is placed in service and, therefore, is ready for its intended use. Accelerated methods are used for income tax reporting purposes. Following is a summary of estimated useful lives for financial reporting purposes:

| | Years |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Revenue equipment: | |
| Tractors | 5 |
| Trailers | 7 |
| Satellite tracking | 7 |
| Auxiliary power units | 5 |
| Buildings | 20-40 |
| Office equipment and other | 3-15 |

In 2009, we replaced most of our company-owned tractors within approximately four years and our trailers within approximately six years after purchase. Our useful lives for depreciating tractors is five years and for trailers is seven years, with a 25% salvage value for tractors and a 35% salvage value for trailers. These salvage values are based upon the expected market values of the equipment after five years for tractors and seven years for trailers. Depreciation expense calculated in this manner approximates the continuing declining value of the revenue equipment, and continues at a consistent straight-line rate for units held beyond the normal replacement cycle.

Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future net undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less the costs to sell.

Net investment in direct financing leases: We have direct financing tractor lease receivables from independent contractors, which expire over the next two years.

Tires in service: The cost of original equipment and replacement tires placed in service is capitalized. Amortization is calculated based on cost, less estimated salvage value, using the straight-line method over 24 months. The current portion of capitalized tires in service is included in prepaid expenses and other in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The long-term portion of capitalized tires in service and the estimated salvage value are included in revenue equipment in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The cost of recapping tires is charged to operations.

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Income taxes: Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax basis. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. We have reflected the necessary deferred tax assets and liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. We believe the future tax deductions will be realized principally through future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences and future taxable income.

Table of Contents

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

In the ordinary course of business there is inherent uncertainty in quantifying our income tax positions. We assess our income tax positions and record tax benefits for all years subject to examination based upon management's evaluation of the facts, circumstances, and information available at the reporting dates. For those tax positions where it is more-likely-than-not that a tax benefit will be sustained, we have recorded the largest amount of tax benefit with a greater than 50% likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement with a taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. For those income tax positions where it is not more-likely-than-not that a tax benefit will be sustained, no tax benefit has been recognized in the financial statements. Potential accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits are recognized as a component of income tax expense.

Insurance and claims: We self-insure, in part, for losses relating to workers' compensation, auto liability, general liability, cargo and property damage claims, along with employees' health insurance with varying risk retention levels. We maintain insurance coverage for per-incident and total losses in excess of these risk retention levels in amounts we consider adequate based upon historical experience and our ongoing review. We reserve currently for the estimated cost of the uninsured portion of pending claims. These reserves are periodically evaluated and adjusted based on our evaluation of the nature and severity of outstanding individual claims and an estimate of future claims development based on historical claims development factors. Under agreements with our insurance carriers and regulatory authorities, we have \$8.4 million in standby letters of credit to guarantee settlement of claims.

Revenue recognition: We record revenue and related expenses on the date shipment of freight is completed. We earned 20% and 12% of our revenue in 2009 from two single customers whose trade receivables represented 11% and 16%, respectively, of our trade receivables as of December 31, 2009. We earned 19% and 10% of our revenue in 2008 from two single customers whose trade receivables represented 16% and 10%, respectively, of our trade receivables as of December 31, 2008. We earned 18% of our revenue in 2007 from a single customer.

We account for revenue of our Logistics segment and revenue on freight transported by independent contractors within our Truckload segment on a gross basis because we are the primary obligor in the arrangements, we have the ability to establish prices, we have the risk of loss in the event of cargo claims and we bear credit risk with customer payments. Accordingly, all such revenue billed to customers is classified as operating revenue and all corresponding payments to carriers for transportation services we arrange in connection with brokerage and intermodal activities and to independent contractor providers of revenue equipment are classified as purchased transportation expense.

Share-based payment arrangement compensation: Under our stock incentive plans, all of our employees and any subsidiary employees, as well as all of our non-employee directors, consultants, advisors and independent contractors, may be granted stock-based awards, including incentive and non-statutory stock options and restricted stock awards. We account for share-based payment arrangements in accordance with FASB ASC 718, *Compensation-Stock Compensation*, which requires all share-based payments to employees and non-employee directors, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the income statement based on their fair values at the date of grant.

Earnings per common share: Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year. Diluted earnings per common share is computed by dividing net income by the sum of the

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weighted average number of common shares outstanding plus all additional common shares that would have been outstanding if potentially dilutive common shares related to stock options and other dilutive securities had been issued using the treasury stock method.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

Segment reporting: We report our operating segments in accordance with accounting standards codified in FASB ASC 280, *Segment Reporting*. Beginning with fiscal 2007, we have two reporting segments – Truckload and Logistics. See Note 11 for more information.

Use of estimates: We must make estimates and assumptions to prepare the consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities in the consolidated financial statements. These estimates are primarily related to insurance and claims accruals and depreciation. Ultimate results could differ from these estimates.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements: In June 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 167, Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R), (FASB ASC 810, *Consolidation*). This statement eliminates Interpretation No. 46(R)'s exceptions to consolidating qualifying special-purpose entities, contains new criteria for determining the primary beneficiary (the reporting entity that must consolidate the variable interest entity), and increases the frequency of required reassessments to determine whether a company is the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. This statement also clarifies, but does not significantly change, the characteristics that identify a variable interest entity. This statement is effective for the first quarter of 2010. The adoption of this statement is not expected to have a significant impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

2. Details of Consolidated Balance Sheet Accounts

Prepaid expenses and other: As of December 31, prepaid expenses and other consisted of the following:

| (In thousands) | 2009 | 2008 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| License fees | \$ 4,009 | \$ 4,243 |
| Tires in service | 2,912 | 3,684 |
| Parts and tires inventory | 2,222 | 2,235 |
| Insurance premiums | 905 | 1,531 |
| Other | 2,280 | 2,012 |
| | \$ 12,328 | \$ 13,705 |

Net investment in direct financing leases: As of December 31, the components of the net investment in direct financing lease receivables from independent contractors consisted of the following:

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| (In thousands) | 2009 | | 2008 | |
|---|------|------|------|-------|
| Total minimum lease payments to be received | \$ | 255 | \$ | 912 |
| Less: unearned income | | (22) | | (115) |
| Net investment in direct financing leases | \$ | 233 | \$ | 797 |

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The current portion of our net investment in direct financing leases is included in other receivables in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The long-term portion of our net investment in direct financing leases is included in other assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The interest method is used to amortize unearned income, which amortizes unearned income to income over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of return on the net investment in each lease. The amortization of unearned income is included in interest income in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

As of December 31, 2009, minimum lease payments to be received for each of the two succeeding fiscal years are as follows: \$225,000 in 2010 and \$30,000 in 2011.

Accrued liabilities: As of December 31, accrued liabilities consisted of the following:

| (In thousands) | 2009 | | 2008 | |
|----------------------|------|--------|------|--------|
| Accrued payables | \$ | 6,075 | \$ | 5,319 |
| Vacation | | 3,146 | | 3,416 |
| Current income taxes | | 3,116 | | 2,535 |
| Salaries and wages | | 1,795 | | 4,741 |
| Other | | 1,456 | | 1,098 |
| | \$ | 15,588 | \$ | 17,109 |

3. Long-Term Debt

As of December 31, long-term debt consisted of the following:

| (In thousands) | 2009 | | 2008 | |
|---|------|-------|------|-------|
| Series B Senior Unsecured Notes maturing in April 2010 with a final principal payment of \$1.43 million bearing interest at 8.57% | \$ | 1,428 | \$ | 2,857 |
| Unsecured committed credit facility in the amount of \$50 million with banks maturing in September 2011 and bearing variable interest based upon either the London Interbank Offered Rate or the agent bank's Prime Rate, in each case plus/minus applicable margins (0.83% weighted average interest rate for the facility at December 31, 2009) | | 71 | | |
| Total long-term debt | | 1,499 | | 2,857 |
| Less current maturities of long-term debt | | 1,428 | | 1,428 |
| Long-term debt, less current maturities | \$ | 71 | \$ | 1,429 |

We maintain a credit agreement that provides for a five-year unsecured committed credit facility (credit facility) maturing in September 2011 in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$50 million, which we decreased from \$75 million in December 2009. The aggregate principal amount of the credit facility may be increased at our option up to a maximum aggregate principal amount of \$100 million. At December 31, 2009, the credit facility had an outstanding principal balance of \$71,000, outstanding standby letters of credit of \$8.4 million and remaining borrowing availability of \$41.5 million.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

Our credit facility prohibits us from paying, in any fiscal year, dividends in excess of 25% of our net income from the prior fiscal year. The debt agreements also contain restrictive covenants which, among other matters, require us to maintain certain financial ratios, including debt-to-equity, cash flow leverage, interest coverage and fixed charge coverage. We were in compliance with all of these covenants at December 31, 2009.

Maturities of long-term debt at December 31, 2009, are as follows:

| (In thousands) | Amount |
|----------------|----------|
| 2010 | \$ 1,428 |
| 2011 | 71 |
| | \$ 1,499 |

4. Related Party Transactions

The following related party transactions occurred during the three years ended December 31, 2009:

(a) We purchase fuel and obtain tires and related services from a company in which one of our directors is the president and a principal stockholder. We paid that company \$796,000 in 2009, \$1.4 million in 2008 and \$1.1 million in 2007 for fuel and tire services. In addition, we paid \$1.5 million in 2009, \$2.3 million in 2008 and \$2.4 million in 2007 to tire manufacturers for tires that we purchased from the tire manufacturers but were provided by the same company. The same company received commissions from the tire manufacturers related to these purchases. We had accounts payable to that company of \$24,000 as of December 31, 2009 and \$14,000 as of December 31, 2008.

(b) We paid \$1.1 million in 2009, \$564,000 in 2008 and \$547,000 in 2007 for various construction projects to a company in which one of our directors is the president and owner. We had no accounts payable to that company as of December 31, 2009 and 2008.

(c) In August 2008, we acquired a building adjacent to our headquarters which will be used for maintenance and storage from our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in a like-kind exchange for a partially constructed building of equal value owned by Marten Transport. Each of the buildings were valued at \$291,000 at the time of the exchange.

5. Income Taxes

The components of the provision for income taxes consisted of the following:

| (In thousands) | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 6,084 | \$ 6,497 | \$ 8,922 |
| State | 829 | 1,217 | 1,216 |
| | 6,913 | 7,714 | 10,138 |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | 4,472 | 4,549 | (944) |
| State | 1,091 | 293 | (293) |
| | 5,563 | 4,842 | (1,237) |
| Total provision | \$ 12,476 | \$ 12,556 | \$ 8,901 |

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The statutory federal income tax rate is reconciled to the effective income tax rate as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Statutory federal income tax rate | 35% | 35% | 35% |
| Per diem and other non-deductible expenses | 5 | 3 | |
| Increase in taxes arising from state income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Other | (1) | | |
| Effective tax rate | 43% | 41% | 37% |

Our effective income tax rate increased to 43.4% in 2009 from 41.0% in 2008 and from 37.3% in 2007, primarily because of the nondeductible effect of a per diem pay structure for our drivers adopted in the first quarter of 2008 which was more broadly implemented during 2009.

As of December 31, the net deferred tax liability consisted of the following:

| (In thousands) | 2009 | 2008 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Reserves and accrued liabilities | \$ 7,452 | \$ 8,711 |
| Other | 1,168 | 958 |
| | 8,620 | 9,669 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Depreciation | 86,823 | 82,022 |
| Prepaid expenses | 2,268 | 2,555 |
| | 89,091 | 84,577 |
| Net deferred tax liability | \$ 80,471 | \$ 74,908 |

We have not provided a valuation allowance against deferred tax assets at December 31, 2009 or 2008. We believe the deferred tax assets will be realized principally through future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences (deferred tax liabilities) and future taxable income.

Our reserves for unrecognized tax benefits were \$158,000 as of December 31, 2009 and \$131,000 as of December 31, 2008. The \$27,000 increase in the amount reserved in 2009 relates to current period tax positions. The amount reserved as of December 31, 2008 was added in 2008 and 2007 relating to current period tax positions. If recognized, \$103,000 of the unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31, 2009 would impact our effective tax rate. No potential interest or penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits were recognized in our financial statements as of December 31, 2009. We do not expect the reserves for unrecognized tax benefits to change significantly within the next twelve months.

The federal statute of limitations remains open for 2006 and forward. We file tax returns in numerous state jurisdictions with varying statutes of limitations.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****6. Earnings Per Common Share**

Basic and diluted earnings per common share were computed as follows:

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Numerator: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 16,267 | \$ 18,071 | \$ 14,968 |
| Denominator: | | | |
| Basic earnings per common share - weighted-average shares | 21,870 | 21,787 | 21,795 |
| Effect of dilutive stock options | 114 | 144 | 166 |
| Diluted earnings per common share - weighted-average shares and assumed conversions | 21,984 | 21,931 | 21,961 |
| Basic earnings per common share | \$ 0.74 | \$ 0.83 | \$ 0.69 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | \$ 0.74 | \$ 0.82 | \$ 0.68 |

Options totaling 418,100, 310,600 and 190,000 shares were outstanding but were not included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share for 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, primarily because their exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the common shares and, therefore, including the options in the denominator would be antidilutive, or decrease the number of weighted-average shares. Additionally, performance-based option awards totaling 107,000, 99,500 and 90,000 shares for 2009, 2008 and 2007 respectively, were also not included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share because the performance condition was not considered probable of achievement.

7. Share Repurchase Program

In December 2007, our Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program to repurchase up to one million shares of our common stock either through purchases on the open market or through private transactions. The timing and extent to which we will repurchase shares depends on market conditions and other corporate considerations. In the first quarter of 2008 we repurchased and retired 67,500 shares of our common stock for \$810,000. We made no purchases in 2007, in the remainder of 2008 or in 2009. The repurchase program does not have an expiration date.

8. Employee Benefits

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Stock Incentive Plans - Under our 2005 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2005 Plan), all of our employees and any subsidiary employees, as well as all of our non-employee directors, consultants, advisors and independent contractors, may be granted stock-based awards, including incentive and non-statutory stock options and restricted stock awards. Stock options expire within 7 or 10 years after the date of grant and the exercise price must be at least the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Stock options issued to non-employee directors upon their annual re-election to our Board of Directors are generally exercisable at the date of grant. Service-based options issued to employees are generally exercisable beginning one year from the date of grant in cumulative amounts of 20% per year. Performance-based options become exercisable upon achievement of certain performance criteria established by the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors. Options exercised represent newly issued shares. The maximum number of shares of common stock available for issuance under the 2005 Plan is 2.85 million shares. As of December 31, 2009, there were 547,600 shares reserved for issuance under options outstanding under the 2005 Plan. The 2005 Plan replaces our 1995 Stock Incentive Plan (the 1995 Plan), which expired by its terms in March 2005.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

Under our 1995 Plan, officers, directors and employees were granted incentive and non-statutory stock options. Incentive stock option exercise prices were required to be at least the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Non-statutory stock option exercise prices were required to be at least 85% of the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Stock options expire within 10 years after the date of grant. Stock options issued to non-employee directors upon their annual re-election to our Board of Directors are generally exercisable at the date of grant. Service-based options issued to employees are generally exercisable beginning one year from the date of grant in cumulative amounts of 20% per year. Options exercised represent newly issued shares. As of December 31, 2009, there were 217,761 shares reserved for issuance under options outstanding under the 1995 Plan. No additional options will be granted under the 1995 Plan.

We account for share-based payment arrangements in accordance with FASB ASC 718, *Compensation-Stock Compensation*, which requires all share-based payments to employees and non-employee directors, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the income statement based on their fair values at the date of grant. We adopted the modified prospective transition method, and consequently have not retroactively adjusted results from prior periods. Under this transition method, compensation cost associated with share-based awards recognized in 2009, 2008 and 2007 includes: (a) compensation cost for all share-based payments granted prior to, but not yet vested as of December 31, 2005, based on the estimated grant-date fair value, and (b) compensation cost for all share-based payments granted subsequent to December 31, 2005, based on the estimated grant-date fair value.

We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to calculate the grant-date fair value of option awards. The fair value of option awards granted was estimated as of the date of grant using the following weighted average assumptions:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Service-based options: | | | |
| Expected option life in years(1) | 6.1 | 6.2 | 7.0 |
| Expected stock price volatility percentage(2) | 40% | 40% | 36% |
| Risk-free interest rate percentage(3) | 2.5% | 3.3% | 4.6% |
| Expected dividend yield(4) | | | |
| Fair value as of the date of grant | \$ 7.77 | \$ 7.76 | \$ 8.05 |
| Performance-based options: | | | |
| Expected option life in years(1) | 6.0 | 6.6 | 7.0 |
| Expected stock price volatility percentage(2) | 41% | 39% | 36% |
| Risk-free interest rate percentage(3) | 2.4% | 3.3% | 4.6% |
| Expected dividend yield(4) | | | |
| Fair value as of the date of grant | \$ 8.55 | \$ 7.90 | \$ 7.72 |

Table of Contents

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(1) Expected option life We use historical employee exercise and option expiration data to estimate the expected life assumption for the Black-Scholes grant-date valuation. We believe that this historical data is currently the best estimate of the expected term of a new option. We use a weighted-average expected life for all awards.

(2) Expected stock price volatility We use our stock's historical volatility for the same period of time as the expected life. We have no reason to believe that its future volatility will differ from the past.

(3) Risk-free interest rate The rate is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of the grant for the same period of time as the expected life.

(4) Expected dividend yield We have not historically paid cash dividends on our common stock.

We use the straight-line attribution method to recognize expense for all service-based option awards with graded vesting. Compensation expense will be recorded for performance-based option awards in the periods in which the performance condition is probable of achievement.

Service-based option awards become immediately exercisable in full in the event of retirement, death or disability and upon a change in control with respect to all options that have been outstanding for at least six months. To be eligible for retirement, an employee must reach age 65. Performance-based option awards will remain exercisable to the extent previously exercisable for a period of one year after the employee's employment is terminated due to retirement, death or disability. Performance-based option awards become immediately exercisable in full in the event of a change in control with respect to all options that have been outstanding for at least six months.

Compensation costs associated with service-based option awards are recognized over the requisite service period, which is the period between the grant date and the earlier of the award's stated vesting term or the date the employee is eligible for retirement. We immediately recognize the entire amount of share-based compensation cost for employees that are eligible for retirement at the date of grant. For awards granted to employees approaching retirement eligibility, we recognize compensation cost on a straight-line basis over the period from the grant date through the retirement eligibility date. Share-based compensation expense for employees who are not retirement eligible is recognized on a straight-line basis over the stated vesting period of the award.

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The amount of share-based compensation recognized during a period is based on the value of the portion of the awards that are ultimately expected to vest. Forfeitures are estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The term forfeitures is distinct from cancellations or expirations and represents only the unvested portion of the surrendered award. We currently expect, based on an analysis of our historical forfeitures and known forfeitures on existing awards, that approximately 1.25% of unvested outstanding options will be forfeited each year. This analysis will be re-evaluated quarterly and the forfeiture rate will be adjusted as necessary. Ultimately, the actual expense recognized over the vesting period will only be for those shares that vest.

Total share-based compensation expense recorded in 2009 was \$586,000 (\$353,000 net of income tax benefit, \$0.02 of earnings per basic and diluted share), in 2008 was \$666,000 (\$432,000 net of income tax benefit, \$0.02 of earnings per basic and diluted share), and in 2007 was \$460,000 (\$321,000 net of income tax benefit, \$0.015 of earnings per basic and diluted share). All share-based compensation expense was recorded in salaries, wages and benefits expense.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation costs (excess tax benefits) are recorded as a financing cash inflow rather than a deduction of taxes paid in operating cash flows. In 2009, 2008 and 2007, there was \$223,000, \$456,000 and \$166,000, respectively, of excess tax benefits recognized resulting from exercises of options.

As of December 31, 2009, there was a total of \$1.8 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested service-based option awards, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 3.5 years, and \$975,000 of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested performance-based option awards, which will be recorded in the periods in which our achievement of certain operating ratios is probable through 2010. As of December 31, 2009, the performance condition was not considered probable of achievement.

Option activity in 2009 was as follows:

| | Shares | | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|----------------------------------|----------|----|---------------------------------------|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2008 | 695,363 | \$ | 14.67 |
| Granted | 125,000 | | 18.30 |
| Exercised | (55,002) | | 6.04 |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2009 | 765,361 | \$ | 15.89 |
| Exercisable at December 31, 2009 | 392,281 | \$ | 12.58 |

The fair value of options granted in 2009 was \$913,000 for service-based options and \$64,000 for performance-based options. The fair value of options granted in 2008 was \$1.2 million for service-based options and \$170,000 for performance-based options. The fair value of options granted in 2007 was \$338,000 for service-based options and \$93,000 for performance-based options. The total intrinsic value of options exercised in 2009, 2008 and 2007 was \$719,000, \$1.3 million and \$564,000, respectively. Intrinsic value is the difference between the fair value of the acquired shares at the date of exercise and the exercise price, multiplied by the number of options exercised. Proceeds received from option exercises in 2009, 2008 and 2007 were \$332,000, \$356,000 and \$303,000, respectively.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The following table summarizes information concerning outstanding and exercisable option awards as of December 31, 2009:

| Range of Exercise Prices | Shares | Options Outstanding | | | Shares | Options Exercisable | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|--|
| | | Life(1) | Price(2) | Value(3) | | Life(1) | Price(2) | Value(3) | |
| Service-based options: | | | | | | | | | |
| \$3.84 - \$5.78 | 167,135 | 1.9 | \$ 4.78 | \$ 2,201 | 167,135 | 1.9 | \$ 4.78 | \$ 2,201 | |
| \$10.76 | 50,626 | 3.8 | 10.76 | 364 | 50,626 | 3.8 | 10.76 | 364 | |
| \$15.45 - \$23.59 | 440,600 | 6.4 | 19.36 | 122 | 174,520 | 6.4 | 20.57 | 35 | |
| | 658,361 | 5.0 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 2,687 | 392,281 | 4.1 | \$ 12.58 | \$ 2,600 | |
| Performance-based options: | | | | | | | | | |
| \$15.45 - \$23.59 | 107,000 | 6.6 | \$ 21.35 | \$ 48 | | | \$ | \$ | |

- (1) Represents the weighted-average remaining contractual life in years.
- (2) Represents the weighted-average exercise price.
- (3) Represents the aggregate intrinsic value based on our closing stock price on December 31, 2009 for in-the-money options (in thousands).

Nonvested option awards as of December 31, 2009 and changes during 2009 were as follows:

| | Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (in Years) |
|--------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Service-based options: | | | |
| Nonvested at December 31, 2008 | 213,800 | \$ 8.29 | 7.0 |
| Granted | 117,500 | 7.77 | 6.8 |
| Vested | (65,220) | 8.60 | 6.1 |
| Nonvested at December 31, 2009 | 266,080 | \$ 7.98 | 6.3 |
| Performance-based options: | | | |
| Nonvested at December 31, 2008 | 99,500 | \$ 9.16 | 7.6 |
| Granted | 7,500 | 8.55 | 6.4 |
| Nonvested at December 31, 2009 | 107,000 | \$ 9.12 | 6.6 |

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The total fair value of options which vested during 2009, 2008 and 2007 was \$561,000, \$629,000 and \$419,000, respectively.

Table of Contents

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Retirement Savings Plan - We sponsor a defined contribution retirement savings plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Employees are eligible for the plan after one year of service. Participants are able to contribute up to the limit set by law, which in 2009 was \$16,500 for participants less than age 50 and \$22,000 for participants age 50 and above. We contribute 35% of each participant's contribution, up to a total of 6% contributed. Our contribution vests at the rate of 20% per year for the second through sixth years of service. In addition, we may make elective contributions as determined by the board of directors. No elective contributions were made in 2009, 2008 or 2007. Total expense recorded for the plan was \$996,000 in 2009, \$1.0 million in 2008 and \$1.3 million in 2007.

Stock Purchase Plans - An Employee Stock Purchase Plan and an Independent Contractor Stock Purchase Plan are sponsored to encourage employee and independent contractor ownership of our common stock. Eligible participants specify the amount of regular payroll or contract payment deductions and voluntary cash contributions that are used to purchase shares of our common stock. The purchases are made at the market price on the open market. We pay the broker's commissions and administrative charges for purchases of common stock under the plans.

9. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of accounts receivable, direct financing leases receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. The fair value of our total long-term debt is estimated to be \$1.5 million at December 31, 2009, and \$2.9 million at December 31, 2008. The fair value was estimated by discounting future cash flows using a current borrowing rate for similar long-term debt instruments.

10. Commitments and Contingencies

We are committed to: (a) building construction expenditures of \$4.5 million in 2010; (b) operating lease obligation expenditures totaling \$912,000 through 2013; and (c) purchase \$40,000 of new revenue equipment in 2010.

We are involved in legal actions that arise in the ordinary course of business. Although the outcomes of any such legal actions cannot be predicted, in the opinion of management, the resolution of any currently pending or threatened actions will not have a material adverse effect upon our financial position or results of operations.

11. Business Segments

Our presentation includes two reporting segments Truckload and Logistics. The primary source of our operating revenue is truckload revenue, which we generate by transporting freight for our customers and report within our Truckload segment. Generally, we are paid by the mile for our services. We also derive truckload revenue from fuel surcharges, loading and unloading activities, equipment detention and other ancillary services.

Our operating revenue also includes revenue reported within our Logistics segment, which consists of revenue from our internal brokerage and intermodal operations, both launched in 2005, and through our 45% interest in MWL, a third-party provider of logistics services to the transportation industry. Brokerage services involve arranging for another company to transport freight for our customers while we retain the billing, collection and customer management responsibilities. Intermodal services involve the transport of our trailers on railroad flatcars for a portion of a trip, with the balance of the trip using our tractors or, to a lesser extent, contracted carriers.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The following table sets forth for the years indicated our operating revenue, operating income and operating ratio by segment. We do not prepare separate balance sheets by segment and, as a result, assets are not separately identifiable by segment.

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2009 | | 2008 | | 2007 | |
|--|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| Operating revenue: | | | | | | |
| Truckload revenue, net of fuel surcharge revenue | \$ | 346,983 | \$ | 384,264 | \$ | 406,754 |
| Truckload fuel surcharge revenue | | 49,812 | | 123,922 | | 83,786 |
| Total Truckload revenue | | 396,795 | | 508,186 | | 490,540 |
| Logistics revenue, net of intermodal fuel surcharge revenue(1) | | | | | | |
| Logistics revenue, net of intermodal fuel surcharge revenue(1) | | 103,166 | | 90,194 | | 66,163 |
| Intermodal fuel surcharge revenue | | 5,913 | | 8,719 | | 3,314 |
| Total Logistics revenue | | 109,079 | | 98,913 | | 69,477 |
| Total operating revenue | \$ | 505,874 | \$ | 607,099 | \$ | 560,017 |
| Operating income: | | | | | | |
| Truckload | \$ | 22,827 | \$ | 26,055 | \$ | 22,689 |
| Logistics | | 6,532 | | 6,650 | | 5,112 |
| Total operating income | \$ | 29,359 | \$ | 32,705 | \$ | 27,801 |
| Operating ratio(2) | | | | | | |
| Truckload | | 94.2% | | 94.9% | | 95.4% |
| Logistics | | 94.0% | | 93.3% | | 92.6% |
| Consolidated operating ratio | | 94.2% | | 94.6% | | 95.0% |

(1) Logistics revenue is net of \$10.2 million, \$16.8 million and \$17.1 million of inter-segment revenue in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, for loads transported by our tractors and arranged by MWL that have been eliminated in consolidation.

(2) Represents operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenue.

During 2009, more than 99% of our revenue was generated within the United States. We earned 20% and 12% of our revenue in 2009 from two single customers whose trade receivables represented 11% and 16%, respectively, of our trade receivables as of December 31, 2009. We earned 19% and 10% of our revenue in 2008 from two single customers whose trade receivables represented 16% and 10%, respectively, of our trade receivables as of December 31, 2008. We earned 18% of our revenue in 2007 from a single customer.

Table of Contents**MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****12. Reclassifications**

We adopted the provisions of FASB ASC 810-10-65-1, *Consolidation*, which were effective January 1, 2009 regarding the presentation and disclosure of noncontrolling interests in consolidated financial statements resulting in the following reclassifications. The noncontrolling interest balance of \$1.7 million as of December 31, 2008 in our consolidated balance sheets, the income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest balances of \$1.1 million for 2008 and \$802,000 for 2007 in our consolidated statements of operations, and the income before income taxes attributable to noncontrolling interest balances of \$1.1 million for 2008 and \$802,000 for 2007 and the noncontrolling interest distributions balances of \$688,000 for 2008 and \$432,000 for 2007 in our consolidated statements of stockholders' equity and our consolidated statements of cash flows have been reclassified to be consistent with the current presentation.

The changes in insurance and claims accruals balances of \$4.0 million for 2008 and \$1.4 million for 2007 and the changes in accrued liabilities balances of \$3.0 million for 2008 and \$3.1 million for 2007 in our consolidated statements of cash flows have also been reclassified to be consistent with the current presentation.

These reclassifications do not have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

13. Evaluation of Subsequent Events

As a result of our evaluation through the issuance date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, we have determined that no events or transactions have occurred subsequent to December 31, 2009 which require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

14. Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

The following is a summary of the quarterly results of operations for 2009 and 2008:

| 2009 Quarters (In thousands, except per share amounts) | First | Second | Third | Fourth |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Operating revenue | \$ 121,955 | \$ 125,804 | \$ 129,395 | \$ 128,720 |
| Operating income | 7,251 | 7,503 | 6,536 | 8,069 |

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| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net income | 4,053 | 4,477 | 3,472 | 4,265 |
| Basic earnings per common share | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.19 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | 0.18 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.19 |

| 2008 Quarters (In thousands, except per share amounts) | First | | Second | | Third | | Fourth | |
|---|--------------|---------|---------------|---------|--------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Operating revenue | \$ | 143,374 | \$ | 159,994 | \$ | 163,377 | \$ | 140,354 |
| Operating income | | 5,482 | | 6,428 | | 10,528 | | 10,267 |
| Net income | | 2,653 | | 3,469 | | 6,127 | | 5,822 |
| Basic earnings per common share | | 0.12 | | 0.16 | | 0.28 | | 0.27 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | | 0.12 | | 0.16 | | 0.28 | | 0.27 |

The diluted earnings per common share for 2009 exceeds the sum of the diluted earnings per common share for the 2009 quarters and the diluted earnings per common share for the 2008 quarters exceeds the diluted earnings per common share for 2008 due to differences in rounding.

Table of Contents

ITEM 9. *CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE*

No reports on Form 8-K have been required to be filed within the twenty-four months prior to December 31, 2009, involving a change of accountants or disagreements on accounting and financial disclosure.

ITEM 9A. *CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES*

As required by Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act), we have carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e)) as of the end of the period covered by this report. This evaluation was carried out under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2009. There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or that are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. We intend to periodically evaluate our disclosure controls and procedures as required by the Exchange Act Rules.

We have included Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting in Item 8 above.

ITEM 9B. *OTHER INFORMATION*

None.

Table of Contents

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

A. Directors of the Registrant.

The information in the Election of Directors Information About Nominees and Election of Directors Other Information About Nominees sections of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

B. Executive Officers of the Registrant.

Information about our executive officers is included in this Report under Item 4A, Executive Officers of the Registrant.

C. Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act.

The information in the Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance section of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

D. Procedure for Director Nominations by Security Holders.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which security holders may recommend nominees to our board of directors.

E. Audit Committee Financial Expert.

The information in the Election of Directors Board and Board Committees section of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

F. Identification of the Audit Committee.

The information in the Election of Directors Board and Board Committees section of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

G. Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management.

Our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management applies to all of our executive officers, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and controller, and meets the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. We have posted our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management on our website at www.marten.com. We intend to disclose any amendments to and any waivers from a provision of our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management on our website within five business days following such amendment or waiver.

Table of Contents

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information in the Election of Directors Director Compensation, Compensation and Other Benefits and Compensation Discussion and Analysis sections of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information in the Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Compensation and Other Benefits Equity Compensation Plan Information sections of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information in the Related Party Transactions and Election of Directors Board and Board Committees sections of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information in the Fees of Independent Auditors section of our 2010 Proxy Statement is incorporated in this Report by reference.

Table of Contents

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| (a) 1. <u>Financial Statements</u> (See Part II, Item 8 of this Report): | |
| <u>Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting</u> | 33 |
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | 34 |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2009 and 2008</u> | 35 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007</u> | 36 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007</u> | 37 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007</u> | 38 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | 39 |
| 2. <u>Financial Statement Schedules</u> (Consolidated Financial Statement Schedule Included in Part IV of this Report): | |
| <u>Schedule II - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts and Reserves</u> | 60 |

Schedules not listed above have been omitted as the required information is inapplicable or the information is presented in the consolidated financial statements or related notes.

Table of Contents

3. Exhibits:

The exhibits to this Report are listed in the Exhibit Index on pages 61 through 63. A copy of any of the exhibits listed will be sent at a reasonable cost to any shareholder as of March 9, 2010. Requests should be sent to James J. Hinnendael, Chief Financial Officer, at our corporate headquarters.

The following is a list of each management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement required to be filed as an exhibit to this Report under Item 15(a)(3):

- (1) Marten Transport, Ltd. 1995 Stock Incentive Plan.
- (2) Marten Transport, Ltd. 2005 Stock Incentive Plan.
- (3) Form of Non-Statutory Stock Option Agreement for the 2005 Stock Incentive Plan.
- (4) Named Executive Officers Compensation Summary.
- (5) 2010 Non-employee Director Compensation Summary.
- (6) Form of Amended and Restated Change in Control Severance Agreement.
- (7) Form of First Amendment to Amended and Restated Change in Control Severance Agreement
- (8) Form of Non-employee Director Non-statutory Stock Option Agreement.
- (9) Form of Performance Based Non-Statutory Stock Option Agreement for 2005 Stock Incentive Plan.
- (10) 2009 Non-Driver Employee Bonus Plan.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Marten Transport, Ltd., the Registrant, has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: March 15, 2010

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

By /s/ Randolph L. Marten
Randolph L. Marten
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this Report has been signed below on March 15, 2010, by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities indicated.

| Signature | Title |
|--|--|
| /s/ Randolph L. Marten Randolph L. Marten | Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) |
| /s/ James J. Hinnendael James J. Hinnendael | Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) |
| /s/ Larry B. Hagness Larry B. Hagness | Director |
| /s/ Thomas J. Winkel Thomas J. Winkel | Director |
| /s/ Jerry M. Bauer Jerry M. Bauer | Director |
| /s/ Robert L. Demorest Robert L. Demorest | Director |
| /s/ G. Larry Owens G. Larry Owens | Director |

Table of Contents**SCHEDULE II****MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.****Valuation and Qualifying Accounts and Reserves****(In thousands)**

| Description | Balance at Beginning of Year | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Deductions | Balance at End of Year |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Insurance and claims accruals: | | | | |
| Year ended December 31, 2009 | \$ 21,386 | \$ 28,695 | \$ (30,859)(1) | \$ 19,222 |
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | 17,431 | 37,271 | (33,316)(1) | 21,386 |
| Year ended December 31, 2007 | 16,073 | 30,865 | (29,507)(1) | 17,431 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts: | | | | |
| Year ended December 31, 2009 | 380 | 30 | (165)(3) | 245 |
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | 315 | 78 | (13)(3) | 380 |
| Year ended December 31, 2007 | 861 | (534)(2) | (12)(3) | 315 |

-
- (1) Claims payments
- (2) Revision of estimate
- (3) Write-off of bad debts, net of recoveries

See report of independent registered public accounting firm.

Table of Contents

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.
EXHIBIT INDEX TO ANNUAL REPORT
ON FORM 10-K
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

| Item No. | Item | Filing Method |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective August 11, 2003 | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form S-2 (File No. 33-107367). |
| 3.2 | Amendment to Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective May 25, 2005 | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2005 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 3.3 | Bylaws of the Company, as amended | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 4.1 | Specimen form of the Company's Common Stock Certificate | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 33-8108). |
| 4.2 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective August 11, 2003 | See Exhibit 3.1 above. |
| 4.3 | Amendment to Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective May 25, 2005 | See Exhibit 3.2 above. |
| 4.4 | Bylaws of the Company | See Exhibit 3.3 above. |
| 10.1 | Marten Transport, Ltd. 1995 Stock Incentive Plan | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1994 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.2 | Note Purchase and Private Shelf Agreement dated October 30, 1998, between the Company and The Prudential Insurance Company of America | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 1998 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.3 | Note Purchase Agreement, dated April 6, 2000, between the Company and The Prudential Insurance Company of America | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2000 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.4 | Marten Transport, Ltd. 2005 Stock Incentive Plan | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2005 (File No. 0-15010). |

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Table of Contents

| Item No. | Item | Filing Method |
|----------|---|---|
| 10.5 | Form of Non-Statutory Stock Option Agreement for the 2005 Stock Incentive Plan | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 31, 2006. |
| 10.6 | Form of Non-employee Director Non-statutory Stock Option Agreement | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.7 | Credit Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2006, by and among Marten Transport, Ltd., as borrower, the banks party thereto as lenders, and U.S. Bank National Association, as agent for the lenders | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 6, 2006. |
| 10.8 | First Amendment to Credit Agreement, effective as of January 1, 2007, by and among Marten Transport, Ltd., as borrower, the banks party thereto as lenders, and U.S. Bank National Association, as agent for the lenders | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 5, 2007. |
| 10.9 | Form of Performance Based Non-Statutory Stock Option Agreement for 2005 Stock Incentive Plan | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 16, 2007. |
| 10.10 | Form of Amended and Restated Change in Control Severance Agreement | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 15, 2007. |
| 10.11 | Second Amendment to Credit Agreement, effective as of November 30, 2007, by and among Marten Transport, Ltd., as borrower, the banks party thereto as lenders, and U.S. Bank National Association, as agent for the lenders | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.12 | Named Executive Officers' Compensation Summary | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.13 | Form of First Amendment to Amended and Restated Change in Control Severance Agreement | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.14 | 2009 Non-Driver Employee Bonus Plan | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 (File No. 0-15010). |
| 10.15 | 2010 Non-employee Director Compensation Summary | Filed with this Report. |

Table of Contents

| Item No. | Item | Filing Method |
|----------|---|--|
| 10.16 | Form of Indemnification Agreement | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 22, 2010. |
| 23.1 | Consent of KPMG LLP | Filed with this Report. |
| 31.1 | Certification pursuant to Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by Randolph L. Marten, the Registrant's Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | Filed with this Report. |
| 31.2 | Certification pursuant to Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by James J. Hinnendael, the Registrant's Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | Filed with this Report. |
| 32.1 | Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 | Filed with this Report. |