

DELUXE CORP  
Form 10-Q  
November 06, 2006

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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## FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2006

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 1-7945

## DELUXE CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

41-0216800

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

3680 Victoria St. N., Shoreview, Minnesota

(Address of principal executive offices)

55126-2966

(Zip Code)

(651) 483-7111

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes       No

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

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

Yes  No

The number of shares outstanding of registrant's common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, at October 23, 2006 was 51,509,161.

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### PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### Item 1. Financial Statements.

#### DELUXE CORPORATION

#### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except share par value)

(Unaudited)

|   | September 30,<br>2006 | December 31,<br>2005 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                       |                      |
| Current Assets:   |                       |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 9,251              | \$ 6,867             |
| Trade accounts receivable (net of allowances for uncollectible accounts of \$7,871 and \$7,903, respectively) | 98,080                | 105,238              |
| Inventories and supplies  | 41,907                | 41,028               |
| Deferred income taxes   | 14,250                | 17,978               |
| Other current assets  | 23,714                | 42,827               |
| Total current assets  | 187,202               | 213,938              |
| Long-Term Investments   | 45,572                | 48,668               |
| Property, Plant, and Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation of \$314,911 and \$306,160, respectively)     | 142,058               | 152,968              |
| Assets Held for Sale  | 2,685                 | 5,665                |
| Intangibles (net of accumulated amortization of \$324,379 and \$285,350, respectively)                        | 183,566               | 258,004              |
| Goodwill  | 581,159               | 581,123              |
| Non-Current Assets of Discontinued Operations   |                       | 2,256                |
| Other Non-Current Assets  | 153,409               | 163,253              |
| Total assets  | \$ 1,295,651          | \$ 1,425,875         |

#### LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIT

Current Liabilities:

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|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Accounts payable   | \$ 68,459    | \$ 88,178    |
| Accrued liabilities  | 144,753      | 139,202      |
| Short-term debt  | 160,850      | 212,346      |
| Long-term debt due within one year   | 1,541        | 51,359       |
| Total current liabilities  | 375,603      | 491,085      |
| Long-Term Debt   | 901,871      | 902,805      |
| Deferred Income Taxes  | 45,658       | 68,707       |
| Other Non-Current Liabilities  | 41,020       | 45,304       |
| Shareholders' Deficit:   |              |              |
| Common shares \$1 par value (authorized: 500,000 shares;<br>outstanding: 2006 51,504; 2005 50,735) | 51,504       | 50,735       |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 48,579       | 37,864       |
| Accumulated deficit  | (160,011 )   | (159,401 )   |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss   | (8,573 )     | (11,224 )    |
| Total shareholders' deficit  | (68,501 )    | (82,026 )    |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' deficit  | \$ 1,295,651 | \$ 1,425,875 |

See Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

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**DELUXE CORPORATION**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(in thousands, except per share amounts)

(Unaudited)

|   | Quarter Ended         |            | Nine Months Ended     |              |
|---|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|   | September 30,<br>2006 | 2005       | September 30,<br>2006 | 2005         |
| Revenue                                     | \$ 398,087            | \$ 412,501 | \$ 1,212,476          | \$ 1,284,297 |
| Cost of goods sold                          | 149,729               | 149,248    | 457,373               | 452,092      |
| Gross Profit                                | 248,358               | 263,253    | 755,103               | 832,205      |
| Selling, general and administrative expense | 190,618               | 192,041    | 595,502               | 602,934      |
| Asset impairment loss                       |                       |            | 44,698                |              |
| Net loss (gain) on assets held for sale     | 490                   | (116 )     | (4,458 )              | (543 )       |
| Operating Income                            | 57,250                | 71,328     | 119,361               | 229,814      |
| Interest expense                            | (14,377 )             | (13,661 )  | (42,966 )             | (41,635 )    |
| Other income                                | 517                   | 675        | 412                   | 1,563        |
| Income Before Income Taxes                  | 43,390                | 58,342     | 76,807                | 189,742      |

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|  |          |          |          |           |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Income tax provision                           | 12,227   | 20,722   | 23,740   | 70,391    |
| Income From Continuing Operations              | 31,163   | 37,620   | 53,067   | 119,351   |
| Discontinued Operations:                       |          |          |          |           |
| Net (loss) income before income taxes          |          | (414 )   | 564      | (862 )    |
| Income tax (expense) benefit                   |          | (72 )    | (168 )   | 73        |
| Net (Loss) Income from Discontinued Operations |          | (486 )   | 396      | (789 )    |
| Net Income                                     | \$31,163 | \$37,134 | \$53,463 | \$118,562 |
| Basic Earnings per Share:                      |          |          |          |           |
| Income from continuing operations              | \$0.61   | \$0.74   | \$1.04   | \$2.36    |
| (Loss) income from discontinued operations     |          | (0.01 )  | 0.01     | (0.02 )   |
| Basic earnings per share                       | 0.61     | 0.73     | 1.05     | 2.35      |
| Diluted Earnings per Share:                    |          |          |          |           |
| Income from continuing operations              | \$0.61   | \$0.74   | \$1.03   | \$2.34    |
| (Loss) income from discontinued operations     |          | (0.01 )  | 0.01     | (0.02 )   |
| Diluted earnings per share                     | 0.61     | 0.73     | 1.03     | 2.33      |
| Cash Dividends per Share                       | \$0.25   | \$0.40   | \$1.05   | \$1.20    |
| Total Comprehensive Income                     | \$31,893 | \$38,914 | \$56,114 | \$120,724 |

See Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

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**DELUXE CORPORATION**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)

(Unaudited)

|  | <b>Nine Months Ended</b> |             |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|
|  | <b>September 30,</b>     | <b>2005</b> |
|  | <b>2006</b>              | <b>2005</b> |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities:  |                          |             |
| Net income   | \$ 53,463                | \$ 118,562  |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities of continuing operations: |                          |             |
| Net (income) loss from discontinued operations   | (396 )                   | 789         |
| Depreciation   | 19,643                   | 21,028      |
| Amortization of intangibles  | 46,320                   | 62,595      |
| Asset impairment loss  | 44,698                   |             |
| Amortization of contract acquisition costs   | 28,063                   | 25,960      |
| Employee share-based compensation expense  | 3,887                    | 6,934       |
| Deferred income taxes  | (19,300 )                | 11,499      |
| Net gain on assets held for sale   | (4,458 )                 | (543 )      |
| Other non-cash items, net  | 5,308                    | 11,954      |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, net of effect of acquisition and discontinued operations:               |                          |             |

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|   |                         |           |   |           |   |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| Trade accounts receivable   |                         | 1,351     |   | 1,643     |   |
| Inventories and supplies  |                         | (789)     | ) | (2,988)   | ) |
| Other current assets  |                         | 19,505    |   | (14,731)  | ) |
| Contract acquisition payments   |                         | (16,121)  | ) | (67,423)  | ) |
| Other non-current assets  |                         | (3,990)   | ) | 5,927     |   |
| Accounts payable  |                         | (7,531)   | ) | (8,062)   | ) |
| Accrued and other non-current liabilities                               |                         | 2,737     |   | (59,546)  | ) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities of continuing operations      |                         | 172,390   |   | 113,598   |   |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities:                                   |                         |           |   |           |   |
| Purchases of capital assets   |                         | (33,883)  | ) | (42,417)  | ) |
| Payments for acquisitions, net of cash acquired                         |                         |           |   | (2,888)   | ) |
| Proceeds from facility sales  |                         | 7,438     |   | 1,733     |   |
| Proceeds from redemptions of life insurance policies                    |                         | 4,890     |   |           |   |
| Other   |                         | (1,340)   | ) | 840       |   |
| Net cash used by investing activities of continuing operations          |                         | (22,895)  | ) | (42,732)  | ) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities:                                   |                         |           |   |           |   |
| Net payments on short-term debt   |                         | (51,496)  | ) | (35,280)  | ) |
| Payments on long-term debt  |                         | (50,992)  | ) | (1,022)   | ) |
| Change in book overdrafts   |                         | (3,748)   | ) | 4,145     |   |
| Proceeds from issuing shares under employee plans                       |                         | 8,936     |   | 10,674    |   |
| Excess tax benefit from share-based employee awards                     |                         | 1,175     |   |           |   |
| Cash dividends paid to shareholders                                     |                         | (54,073)  | ) | (60,912)  | ) |
| Net cash used by financing activities                                   |                         | (150,198) | ) | (82,395)  | ) |
| Effect of Exchange Rate Change on Cash                                  |                         | 93        |   | 358       |   |
| Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities of Discontinued Operations |                         | 23        |   | (3,915)   | ) |
| Cash Provided by Investing Activities of Discontinued Operations        |                         | 2,971     |   | 15,042    |   |
|   | Net Proceeds from Sales |           |   |           |   |
| Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents                                 |                         | 2,384     |   | (44)      | ) |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents:  | Beginning of Period     | 6,867     |   | 15,492    |   |
|   | End of Period           | \$ 9,251  |   | \$ 15,488 |   |

See Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

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**DELUXE CORPORATION**

**CONDENSED NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 1: Consolidated financial statements**

The consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2006, the consolidated statements of income for the quarters and nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 and the consolidated statements of cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 are unaudited. The consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2005 was derived from audited consolidated financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP). In the opinion of

management, all adjustments necessary for a fair statement of the consolidated financial statements are included. Adjustments consist only of normal recurring items, except for any discussed in the notes below. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. The consolidated financial statements and notes are presented in accordance with instructions for Form 10-Q, and therefore, do not contain certain information included in our consolidated annual financial statements and notes. The consolidated financial statements and notes appearing in this report should be read in conjunction with the consolidated audited financial statements and related notes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.

**Note 2: New accounting pronouncements**

On January 1, 2006, we adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123(R), *Share-Based Payment*, using the modified prospective method. Prior to this, we were applying the fair value provisions of SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, in our accounting for employee share-based compensation awards. We adopted SFAS No. 123 on January 1, 2004, using the modified prospective method of adoption described in SFAS No. 148, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation - Transition and Disclosure*. Under this method, the results of operations presented for 2005 reflect compensation expense for all employee share-based compensation awards, including the unvested portion of awards granted prior to January 1, 2004. Upon the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R), we continued to recognize compensation expense for all of our employee share-based compensation awards, including the unvested portion of awards granted prior to January 1, 2006. As such, our results of operations for all periods presented include compensation expense for all outstanding employee share-based awards. The adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) had the following impacts on our consolidated financial statements:

Effective January 1, 2006, a portion of our restricted stock unit awards have been reclassified from shareholders' deficit to accrued liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet. Certain of these awards may be settled in cash if an employee voluntarily chooses to leave the company. Under the provisions of SFAS No. 123(R), these awards must be classified as liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet and must be re-measured at fair value as of each balance sheet date. The amount reclassified as of January 1, 2006 totalled \$1.9 million, which approximated the fair value of these awards on their grant dates. The re-measurement of these awards as of September 30, 2006 resulted in an increase in selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expense of \$16,000 for the quarter ended September 30, 2006. For the nine months ended September 30, 2006, the re-measurement of these awards, including the effect of the change in accounting principle, resulted in a \$1.0 million decrease in SG&A expense. The cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle was not presented separately in the consolidated statements of income, as it was not material.

We modified our method of recognizing compensation expense for stock option awards granted to individuals achieving qualified retiree status prior to completion of the options' normal vesting period. Previously, we recognized expense for such awards over their applicable vesting period, with cost recognition accelerated if and when an employee retired with qualified retiree status. Upon adoption of SFAS No. 123(R), we are now required to recognize the entire expense for these awards over the period from the date of grant until the date an employee is expected to achieve qualified retiree status under the terms of the applicable award agreement. This change is applied only to new awards granted after January 1, 2006. If we had applied this expense recognition methodology to awards granted prior to January 1, 2006, it would have reduced compensation expense \$0.1 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and \$0.3 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2005. This methodology would have decreased compensation expense \$0.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and would have increased compensation expense \$0.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. The terms of our awards granted subsequent to January 1, 2006 require that the compensation committee of our board of directors determine on an individual basis whether an employee is a qualified retiree upon their termination of employment with the company. As such, we do not accelerate the recognition of expense on these awards until the compensation committee makes this determination.

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method for calculating the net excess tax benefits available to absorb tax deficiencies as required under SFAS No. 123(R). We have elected to utilize the transition method outlined in this FSP in accounting for the income tax consequences of employee share-based compensation awards. Upon the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R), we had a positive income tax windfall pool. For purposes of calculating assumed proceeds under the treasury stock method when determining the denominator for the earnings per share calculation, we exclude the impact of pro forma deferred tax assets.

SFAS No. 123(R) requires that the cash retained as a result of the tax deductibility of employee share-based awards be presented as a component of cash flows from financing activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows. In prior periods, we reported these amounts as a component of cash flows from operating activities. For the nine months ended September 30, 2005, \$1.5 million was included in cash provided by operating activities of continuing operations for the excess tax benefit of employee share-based awards.

The adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) increased compensation expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and reduced compensation expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. As such, the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) had the following dollar impacts on our consolidated statements of income and our consolidated statement of cash flows:

| (in thousands, except per share amounts) | <b>Quarter Ended<br/>September 30,<br/>2006</b> | <b>Nine Months<br/>Ended September<br/>30, 2006</b> |
|--|---|---|
| Income before income taxes               | \$(16 )   | \$954   |
| Income from continuing operations        | (12 )   | 584   |
| Net income                               | (12 )   | 584   |
| Earnings per share basic                 |   | 0.01  |
| Earnings per share diluted               |   |   |
| Cash used by financing activities        | 195   | 1,175   |

In June 2006, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*. The new standard defines the threshold for recognizing the benefits of tax return positions in the financial statements as more-likely-than-not to be sustained by the taxing authority. The new standard is effective for us on January 1, 2007. We are currently in the process of analyzing the impact of this new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2006, the FASB ratified the consensuses reached by the Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) regarding EITF Issue No. 06-03, *How Taxes Collected from Customers and Remitted to Government Authorities Should be Presented in the Income Statement (That Is, Gross versus Net Presentation)*. This guidance requires that companies disclose their accounting policy related to sales tax and other similar taxes. We report these taxes on a net basis, excluding them from revenue.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. The new standard addresses how companies should measure fair value when they are required to use a fair value measure for recognition or disclosure purposes under GAAP. The new standard is effective for us on January 1, 2008. We are currently in the process of analyzing the impact of this new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans*. The new standard requires companies to recognize the overfunded or underfunded status of a defined benefit postretirement plan as an asset or liability on the balance sheet and to recognize changes in that funded status in the year in which the change occurs through comprehensive income. This requirement applies to our December 31, 2006 financial statements. As such, our year-end consolidated balance sheet will reflect the funded status of our postretirement benefit plans, with a corresponding adjustment reported in other comprehensive loss, net of tax. We recently adopted a plan amendment to our postretirement medical benefit plan, which required us to perform a re-measurement of our plan assets and liabilities as of July 31, 2006 (see Note 9). As of that date, our postretirement medical benefit plan was underfunded \$10.0 million. As of September 30, 2006, our consolidated balance sheet included a postretirement asset of \$30.3 million for this plan. Upon adoption of SFAS No. 158, the postretirement asset will be reclassified to shareholders' deficit, net of tax, and a liability will be recorded for the underfunded amount,

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with a corresponding adjustment to shareholders' deficit, net of tax. As disclosed in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005, our pension plans were underfunded \$4.8 million on an aggregate basis as of that date, with related liabilities of \$4.2 million included in our consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2005. Upon adoption of SFAS No. 158, we will adjust our pension liabilities to the funded status of our plans, with a corresponding adjustment to shareholders' deficit, net of tax. The new standard also requires companies to measure the funded status of a plan as of the date of its year-end balance sheet. We currently use September 30 as our measurement date. As such, we will need to change our measurement date to December 31 beginning in 2008.

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In September 2006, the FASB ratified the consensus reached by the EITF regarding EITF Issue No. 06-05, *Accounting for Purchases of Life Insurance-Determining the Amount That Could be Realized in Accordance with FASB Technical Bulletin No. 85-4, Accounting for Purchases of Life Insurance*. The new guidance provides clarification as to how companies should calculate the amount reflected on their balance sheets for the cash surrender value of life insurance policies. The long-term investments reported on our consolidated balance sheets consist primarily of investments in life insurance policies. Our accounting for these policies complies with the new guidance. As such, the new guidance has no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In September 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 108, *Financial Statements Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements when Quantifying Misstatements in Current Year Financial Statements*. SAB No. 108 provides guidance on how prior year misstatements should be taken into consideration when quantifying misstatements in current year financial statements for purposes of determining whether the current year's financial statements are materially misstated. We apply the methodology outlined in SAB No. 108 when assessing financial statement errors. As such, SAB No. 108 has no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

### Note 3: Supplemental balance sheet and cash flow information

*Inventories and supplies* Inventories and supplies were comprised of the following:

| (in thousands)                 | September 30,<br>2006 | December 31,<br>2005 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Raw materials                  | \$ 7,305              | \$ 7,954             |
| Semi-finished goods            | 14,184                | 13,957               |
| Finished goods                 | 10,714                | 9,698                |
| Total inventories              | 32,203                | 31,609               |
| Supplies, primarily production | 9,704                 | 9,419                |
| Inventories and supplies       | \$ 41,907             | \$ 41,028            |

*Other current assets* Other current assets were comprised of the following:

| (in thousands) | September 30,<br>2006 | December 31, |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|



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|   |           | <b>2005</b> |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Cash held for customers   | \$ 10,722 | \$ 12,746   |
| Prepayment to voluntary employee beneficiary association (VEBA) trust |           | 19,394      |
| Other   | 12,992    | 10,687      |
| Other current assets  | \$ 23,714 | \$ 42,827   |

We maintain a VEBA trust to fund employee and retiree medical costs, as well as severance benefits. Historically, we made the majority of our contributions to this trust in the first quarter of the year and would fund our obligations from the trust assets throughout the year. During 2006, we decided to change this practice. We now fund the VEBA obligations throughout the year because the tax benefit from pre-funding the trust no longer exceeds the interest cost associated with the pre-funding. During the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, we contributed \$15.5 million and \$39.5 million, respectively, to the trust. As of September 30, 2006, our liability for incurred but not reported medical claims exceeded the prepaid balance in the VEBA. As such, no amount was reported in other current assets for the VEBA trust as of September 30, 2006.

*Assets held for sale* Assets held for sale as of September 30, 2006 included one Financial Services check printing facility which we closed during 2004, as well as one Small Business Services facility which was closed prior to our acquisition of New England Business Service, Inc. (NEBS) in June 2004. During the quarter ended September 30, 2006, we executed a sales agreement for one of these facilities and recorded a loss of \$0.8 million based on the selling price less estimated costs of the sale. We expect the selling price for the other facility to exceed its carrying value. These assets were also held for sale as of December 31, 2005, as were two additional Financial Services facilities which we sold for more than their carrying value during 2006, resulting in a \$5.3 million gain.

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*Intangibles* Intangibles were comprised of the following:

|                                      | <b>September 30, 2006</b>    |                                 |                            | <b>December 31, 2005</b>     |                                 |                            |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | <b>Gross carrying amount</b> | <b>Accumulated amortization</b> | <b>Net carrying amount</b> | <b>Gross carrying amount</b> | <b>Accumulated amortization</b> | <b>Net carrying amount</b> |
| (in thousands)                       |                              |                                 |                            |                              |                                 |                            |
| Indefinite-lived:                    |                              |                                 |                            |                              |                                 |                            |
| Trade names                          | \$ 59,400                    | \$                              | \$ 59,400                  | \$ 59,400                    | \$                              | \$ 59,400                  |
| Amortizable intangibles:             |                              |                                 |                            |                              |                                 |                            |
| Internal-use software <sup>(1)</sup> | 269,309                      | (230,812 )                      | 38,497                     | 304,793                      | (218,024 )                      | 86,769                     |
| Customer lists                       | 110,420                      | (65,901 )                       | 44,519                     | 110,164                      | (48,177 )                       | 61,987                     |
| Distributor contracts                | 30,900                       | (13,351 )                       | 17,549                     | 30,900                       | (9,402 )                        | 21,498                     |
| Trade names                          | 30,302                       | (11,064 )                       | 19,238                     | 30,248                       | (7,258 )                        | 22,990                     |
| Other                                | 7,614                        | (3,251 )                        | 4,363                      | 7,849                        | (2,489 )                        | 5,360                      |
| Amortizable intangibles              | 448,545                      | (324,379 )                      | 124,166                    | 483,954                      | (285,350 )                      | 198,604                    |
| Intangibles                          | \$ 507,945                   | \$ (324,379 )                   | \$ 183,566                 | \$ 543,354                   | \$ (285,350 )                   | \$ 258,004                 |

<sup>(1)</sup> During the second quarter of 2006, we recorded an asset impairment loss of \$44,698 related to internal-use software (see Note 6).

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Total amortization of intangibles was \$13.5 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and \$16.7 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2005. Amortization of intangibles was \$46.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$62.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. Based on the intangibles in service as of September 30, 2006, estimated future amortization expense is as follows:

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| (in thousands)    |           |
| Remainder of 2006 | \$ 12,934 |
| 2007              | 41,828    |
| 2008              | 30,889    |
| 2009              | 17,874    |
| 2010              | 7,266     |

*Other non-current assets* Other non-current assets were comprised of the following:

|   |                               |                              |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (in thousands)  | <b>September 30,<br/>2006</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2005</b> |
| Contract acquisition costs (net of accumulated amortization of \$93,711 and \$74,600, respectively) | \$ 79,530                     | \$ 93,664                    |
| Prepaid postretirement asset  | 30,271                        | 26,051                       |
| Deferred advertising costs  | 24,649                        | 27,017                       |
| Other   | 18,959                        | 16,521                       |
| Other non-current assets  | \$ 153,409                    | \$ 163,253                   |

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Changes in contract acquisition costs during the first nine months of 2006 and 2005 were as follows:

|                                    |  |             |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| (in thousands)                     | <b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |
|                                    | <b>2006</b>                            | <b>2005</b> |
| Balance, beginning of year         | \$ 93,664                              | \$ 83,825   |
| Additions <sup>(1)</sup>           | 13,929                                 | 50,583      |
| Amortization                       | (28,063                                | ) (25,960   |
| Refunds from contract terminations |  | ) (5,607    |
| Balance, end of period             | \$ 79,530                              | \$ 102,841  |

<sup>(1)</sup> Contract acquisition costs are accrued upon contract execution. Cash payments made for contract acquisition costs were \$16,121 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$67,423 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

*Accrued liabilities* Accrued liabilities were comprised of the following:

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| (in thousands)                                    | September 30,<br>2006 | December 31,<br>2005 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Accrued wages, including vacation                 | \$ 23,729             | \$ 16,533            |
| Customer rebates                                  | 23,086                | 16,931               |
| Employee profit sharing and pension               | 19,407                | 19,917               |
| Income taxes                                      | 12,039                | 20,347               |
| Cash held for customers                           | 10,722                | 12,746               |
| Contract acquisition payments due within one year | 2,887                 | 3,865                |
| Restructuring due within one year (see Note 7)    | 2,870                 | 5,442                |
| Other   | 50,013                | 43,421               |
| Accrued liabilities                               | \$ 144,753            | \$ 139,202           |

*Non-cash transactions* As of December 31, 2005, we had accounts payable of \$8.5 million related to capital asset purchases. The payment of these liabilities is included in purchases of capital assets on the consolidated statement of cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2006.

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**Note 4: Earnings per share**

The following table reflects the calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share from continuing operations. During each period, certain options were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share because their effect would have been antidilutive.

| (in thousands, except per share amounts)   | Quarter Ended         |           | Nine Months Ended     |            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|
|  | September 30,<br>2006 | 2005      | September 30,<br>2006 | 2005       |
| Earnings per share basic:  |                       |           |                       |            |
| Income from continuing operations  | \$ 31,163             | \$ 37,620 | \$ 53,067             | \$ 119,351 |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding  | 51,098                | 50,655    | 50,961                | 50,535     |
| Earnings per share basic   | \$ 0.61               | \$ 0.74   | \$ 1.04               | \$ 2.36    |
| Earnings per share diluted:  |                       |           |                       |            |
| Income from continuing operations  | \$ 31,163             | \$ 37,620 | \$ 53,067             | \$ 119,351 |
| Re-measurement of share-based awards classified as liabilities                                     | 12                    |           | (584 )                |            |
| Income available to common shareholders  | \$ 31,175             | \$ 37,620 | \$ 52,483             | \$ 119,351 |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding  | 51,098                | 50,655    | 50,961                | 50,535     |
| Dilutive impact of options, restricted stock units and unvested restricted stock                   | 182                   | 385       | 220                   | 359        |
| Shares contingently issuable   |                       | 42        |                       | 28         |
| Weighted-average shares and potential dilutive shares outstanding                                  | 51,280                | 51,082    | 51,181                | 50,922     |
| Earnings per share diluted   | \$ 0.61               | \$ 0.74   | \$ 1.03               | \$ 2.34    |
| Antidilutive options excluded from calculation<br>(weighted-average amount for nine month periods) | 3,025                 | 1,394     | 3,067                 | 1,702      |

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Earnings per share amounts for continuing operations, discontinued operations and net income, as presented on the consolidated statements of income, are calculated individually and may not sum due to rounding differences.

### Note 5: Discontinued operations

In December 2004, we sold the NEBS European operations, with the exception of one facility. The rental income and expenses of this facility are reported as discontinued operations in our consolidated statements of income for the quarter ended September 30, 2005 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005. The facility in Europe was sold during the second quarter of 2006. Net proceeds from this sale were \$3.0 million, resulting in a pre-tax gain of \$0.5 million. The results of discontinued operations in 2005 also included the NEBS apparel business which we sold in the third quarter of 2005. Net proceeds from this sale were \$15.0 million, resulting in a pre-tax gain of \$0.1 million.

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Revenue and net (loss) income from discontinued operations for the quarter ended September 30, 2005 and the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 were as follows:

| (in thousands)                                 | Quarter<br>Ended         | Nine Months Ended     |          |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|  | September<br>30,<br>2005 | September 30,<br>2006 | 2005     |
| Revenue  | \$8,902                  | \$49                  | \$33,330 |
| (Loss) income from operations                  | \$(476 )                 | \$21                  | \$(924 ) |
| Gain on disposal                               | 62                       | 543                   | 62       |
| Income tax (expense) benefit                   | (72 )                    | (168 )                | 73       |
| Net (loss) income from discontinued operations | \$(486 )                 | \$396                 | \$(789 ) |

### Note 6: Asset impairment loss

During the second quarter of 2006, we determined that a software project intended to replace major portions of our existing order capture, billing and pricing systems would not meet our future business requirements in a cost-effective manner. Therefore, we made the decision to abandon the project. Accordingly, during the second quarter, we wrote down the carrying value of the related internal-use software to zero. This resulted in an asset impairment loss of \$44.7 million. Of this amount, \$26.4 million was allocated to the Financial Services segment and \$18.3 million was allocated to the Small Business Services segment.

### Note 7: Restructuring accruals

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Restructuring accruals of \$4.5 million as of September 30, 2006 and \$6.5 million as of December 31, 2005 are reflected in accrued liabilities and other non-current liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets. The accruals consist of employee severance benefits and payments due under operating lease obligations for facilities that we have or will be vacating. During the quarter ended September 30, 2006, we recorded restructuring accruals of \$2.1 million for employee severance related to the planned closure of our Financial Services customer service call center located in Syracuse, New York, as well as other employee reductions, primarily within our corporate shared services functions. The Syracuse facility is expected to be closed during the first quarter of 2007. The restructuring accruals included severance payments for 226 employees, which we expect to fully pay by the end of 2007, utilizing cash from operations. These restructuring charges are reflected as cost of goods sold of \$0.4 million and SG&A expense of \$1.7 million in our consolidated statements of income for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2006.

The remainder of our severance accruals primarily relate to two Small Business Services facilities which were closed during the second quarter of 2006. We expect these employee severance payments to be substantially paid by the end of 2006, utilizing cash from operations. The remaining payments due under the operating lease obligations will be paid through 2008, utilizing cash from operations. Further information regarding our restructuring accruals can be found under the caption "Note 6: Restructuring accruals" in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.

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As of September 30, 2006, our restructuring accruals consisted of the following:

|   | <b>Employee severance</b>      |                           |                      |                  | <b>Operating lease obligations</b> |              |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
|   | <b>Small Business Services</b> | <b>Financial Services</b> | <b>Direct Checks</b> | <b>Corporate</b> | <b>Small Business Services</b>     | <b>Total</b> |
| (in thousands)                              |                                |                           |                      |                  |                                    |              |
| Balance, December 31, 2005                  | \$3,835                        | \$                        | \$10                 | \$               | \$2,698                            | \$6,543      |
| Restructuring charges                       | 467                            | 1,266                     |                      | 781              |                                    | 2,514        |
| Payments                                    | (3,758 )                       | (81 )                     | (10 )                | (47 )            | (651 )                             | (4,547 )     |
| Balance, September 30, 2006                 | \$544                          | \$1,185                   | \$                   | \$734            | \$2,047                            | \$4,510      |
| Cumulative amounts for current initiatives: |                                |                           |                      |                  |                                    |              |
| Restructuring charges                       | \$27,218                       | \$1,266                   | \$2,582              | \$781            | \$2,871                            | \$34,718     |
| Restructuring reversals                     |                                |                           | (98 )                |                  |                                    | (98 )        |
| Payments                                    | (26,674 )                      | (81 )                     | (2,484 )             | (47 )            | (824 )                             | (30,110 )    |
| Balance, September 30, 2006                 | \$544                          | \$1,185                   | \$                   | \$734            | \$2,047                            | \$4,510      |

### Note 8: Share-based compensation plans

Our employee share-based compensation plans consist of our employee stock purchase plan and our stock incentive plan. Under our stock incentive plan, we currently have non-qualified stock options, restricted stock units, restricted shares and performance share awards outstanding. There are 8.5 million shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the stock incentive plan, with 3.7 million of these shares remaining

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available for issuance as of September 30, 2006. The following amounts were recognized in our consolidated statements of income for share-based compensation plans:

| (in thousands)  | <b>Quarter Ended</b>          |             | <b>Nine Months Ended</b>      |             |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>September 30,<br/>2006</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>September 30,<br/>2006</b> | <b>2005</b> |
| Compensation expense:                                       |                               |             |                               |             |
| Stock options   | \$ 312                        | \$ 979      | \$ 1,756                      | \$ 2,963    |
| Restricted shares and restricted stock units <sup>(1)</sup> | 542                           | 1,235       | 1,530                         | 3,373       |
| Employee stock purchase plan                                | 108                           | 253         | 601                           | 598         |
| Performance share awards <sup>(2)</sup>                     |                               | (357 )      |                               |             |
| Total share-based compensation expense                      | \$ 962                        | \$ 2,110    | \$ 3,887                      | \$ 6,934    |
| Income tax benefit  | \$ 271                        | \$ 749      | \$ 1,201                      | \$ 2,572    |

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes an increase in compensation expense of \$16 for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and a decrease in compensation expense of \$954 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 related to the re-measurement of awards classified as liabilities (see Note 2).

<sup>(2)</sup> We currently estimate that no awards will be earned under our performance share plan. As such, no expense for this plan has been recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2006. During the quarter ended September 30, 2005, compensation expense previously recorded for our performance share plan was reversed, as we revised our estimate of the amount of awards that would be earned.

As of September 30, 2006, the total compensation expense for nonvested awards not yet recognized in our statements of income was \$10.2 million, net of the effect of estimated forfeitures. This amount is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.9 years.

*Non-qualified stock options* All options allow for the purchase of shares of common stock at prices equal to the stock's market value at the date of grant. Options become exercisable beginning one year after the grant date, with one-third vesting each year over three years. Options may be exercised up to seven years following the date of grant. In the case of qualified retirement, death, disability or involuntary termination without cause, options vest immediately and the period over which the options can be exercised is shortened. Employees forfeit unvested options when they voluntarily terminate their employment with the company, and they have up to three months to exercise vested options before they are cancelled. In the case of involuntary termination with cause, the entire unexercised portion of the award is cancelled. All options vest immediately upon a change of control, as defined in the award agreement. We determine the fair value of options using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The estimated fair value of options, including the effect of estimated forfeitures, is recognized as expense on the straight-line basis over the options' vesting periods. The following weighted-average assumptions were used in determining the fair value of stock options granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, under the Black-Scholes model:

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|                             | <b>Nine Months Ended</b> |             |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|                             | <b>September 30,</b>     |             |
|                             | <b>2006</b>              | <b>2005</b> |
| Risk-free interest rate (%) | 4.6                      | 3.9         |
| Dividend yield (%)          | 4.2                      | 3.9         |

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|                         |      |      |
|-------------------------|------|------|
| Expected volatility (%) | 22.1 | 20.5 |
| Option life (years)     | 4.7  | 5.7  |

The risk-free interest rate for periods within the expected option life is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the grant date. Expected volatility is based on the historical volatility of our stock. We utilize historical option exercise and employee termination data to estimate the option life.

Information regarding our outstanding stock options for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 is as follows:

|                                   | Number of options | Weighted average exercise price | Aggregate intrinsic value (in thousands) | Weighted average remaining contractual term (years) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2005  | 2,960,385         | \$38.46                         |  |   |
| Granted                           | 795,700           | 25.83                           |  |   |
| Exercised                         | (295,485)         | ) 19.19                         |  |   |
| Forfeited or expired              | (416,047)         | ) 34.49                         |  |   |
| Outstanding at September 30, 2006 | 3,044,553         | 37.55                           | \$ 18                                    | 3.6   |
| Exercisable at September 30, 2006 | 2,223,554         | 40.96                           | 18                                       | 2.6   |

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of options granted was \$4.17 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$6.13 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. No options were granted during the quarters ended September 30, 2006 and 2005. The intrinsic value of a stock award is the amount by which the fair value of the underlying stock exceeds the exercise price of the award. The total intrinsic value of options exercised was \$0.3 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2005, \$2.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$4.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. No options were exercised during the quarter ended September 30, 2006.

*Restricted stock units* Certain employees have the option to receive a portion of their bonus payment in the form of restricted stock units. When employees elect this payment method, we provide an additional matching amount of restricted stock units equal to one-half of the restricted stock units earned under the bonus plan. These awards vest two years from the date of grant. In the case of approved retirement, death, disability or change of control, the units vest immediately. In the case of involuntary termination without cause or voluntary termination, employees receive a cash payment for the units earned under the bonus plan, but forfeit the company-provided matching amount. The fair value of these awards is determined on the date of grant based on the market value of our common stock. Compensation expense, including the effect of estimated forfeitures, is recognized over the applicable service period. Because the bonus portion of these awards may be settled in cash upon voluntary termination of employment, this portion of the awards is included in accrued liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2006, and is re-measured at each reporting period based on the current market value of our common stock. The company-provided match portion of the awards is never settled in cash. As such, this portion of the awards is recorded in equity at the grant date fair value and is not re-measured each reporting period.

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In addition to awards granted to employees, non-employee members of our board of directors can elect to receive all or a portion of their fees in the form of restricted stock units. Directors are issued shares in exchange for the units upon the earlier of the tenth anniversary of February 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the year in which the non-employee director ceases to serve on the board or such other objectively determinable date pre-elected by the director. The fair value of these awards is based on the market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Compensation expense is recognized immediately, as the awards are for past services.

Each restricted stock unit is convertible into one share of common stock upon completion of the vesting period. Information regarding our outstanding restricted stock units for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 is as follows:

|                                   | Number of<br>units | Weighted<br>average grant<br>date fair value | Aggregate<br>intrinsic<br>value (in<br>thousands) | Weighted<br>average<br>remaining<br>contractual<br>term (years) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|---|
| Outstanding at December 31, 2005  | 126,101            | \$ 35.68                                     |   |   |
| Granted                           | 12,450             | 21.96  |   |   |
| Vested                            | (20,068 )          | 35.44  |   |   |
| Forfeited                         | (41,225 )          | 35.23  |   |   |
| Outstanding at September 30, 2006 | 77,258             | 33.76  | \$ 1,321  | 7.1   |

Of the awards presented here, 21,645 restricted stock units are classified as liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2006 at a value of \$0.4 million. As of September 30, 2006, these units had a fair value of \$17.10 per unit and a weighted-average remaining contractual term of 0.3 year.

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of restricted stock units granted was \$17.53 for the quarter ended September 30, 2006, \$39.56 for the quarter ended September 30, 2005, \$21.96 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$35.63 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. The total intrinsic value of restricted stock units converted was \$0.4 million for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$0.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. No restricted stock units were converted during the quarter ended September 30, 2005. We made cash payments to settle share-based liabilities of \$0.4 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$0.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

*Restricted shares* We currently have two types of restricted share awards outstanding. Certain of these awards have a set vesting period at which time the restrictions on the shares lapse. The vesting period on these awards currently ranges from two to three years. The fair value of these awards is based on the market value of an unrestricted share on the grant date and is recognized, net of the effect of estimated forfeitures, over the vesting period. We have also granted performance-accelerated restricted shares. The restrictions on these awards lapse three years from the grant date. However, if the performance criteria are met, the restrictions on one-half of the awards will lapse one year from the grant date. Fair value is based on the market value of an unrestricted share on the date of grant and is recognized, net of the effect of estimated forfeitures, over the vesting period.

For both types of restricted share awards, the restrictions lapse immediately in the case of qualified retirement, death or disability. In the case of involuntary termination without cause or a change of control, restrictions on a pro-rata portion of the shares lapse, based on how much of the vesting period has passed. In the case of voluntary termination of employment or termination with cause, the remaining restricted shares are forfeited.



Information regarding our unvested restricted shares for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 is as follows:

|                                | <b>Number of<br/>shares</b> | <b>Weighted<br/>average grant<br/>date fair value</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Unvested at December 31, 2005  | 82,883                      | \$40.70   |
| Granted                        | 374,675                     | 25.81   |
| Vested                         | (14,695 )                   | 40.26   |
| Forfeited                      | (74,283 )                   | 29.02   |
| Unvested at September 30, 2006 | 368,580                     | 28.00   |

The total fair value of restricted shares vesting was \$0.1 million for the quarter ended September 30 2006, \$0.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006, and \$0.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. No restricted shares vested during the quarter ended September 30, 2005.

*Performance shares* Under these awards, the level of shares earned is contingent upon attaining specific performance targets over a three-year period. In the case of qualified retirement, death, disability or involuntary termination without cause on or after the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the performance period, a pro-rata portion of the award will be granted after the expiration of the performance period if an award is earned. In the case of voluntary termination of employment or termination of employment for any reason prior to the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the performance period, no award will be granted. If there is a change in control, a pro-rata portion of the award will be paid based on performance up to the date of the change in control, based on the assumption that the performance goals have been achieved at target level. Compensation expense is recognized over the three-year performance period based on our estimate of the number of shares which will be earned by the award recipients. These plans were first utilized in 2004. As such, no awards have been earned under these plans, and we currently estimate that no such awards will be earned.

*Employee stock purchase plan* Under our employee stock purchase plan, eligible employees may purchase Deluxe common stock at 85% of its fair market value at the end of each six-month purchase period. Prior to August 1, 2006, the plan contained a "look-back" provision under which the purchase price was calculated as 85% of the lower of the stock's fair market value at the beginning or end of the six-month purchase period.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2006, 180,277 shares were issued under this plan at prices of \$22.76 and \$14.45. During the nine months ended September 30, 2005, 91,902 shares were issued at prices of \$32.53 and \$32.99. Prior to August 1, 2006, we utilized the Black-Scholes option pricing model to calculate the fair value of these awards. This fair value plus the 15% discount amount was recognized as compensation expense over the six-month purchase period. Subsequent to August 1, 2006, the 15% discount amount is recognized as compensation expense over the six-month purchase period.

#### **Note 9: Pension and postretirement benefits**

We have historically provided certain health care benefits for a large number of retired employees. In addition to our postretirement benefit plan, we also have supplemental executive retirement plans (SERP's) in the United States and Canada and a pension plan which covers certain Canadian employees. These three pension plans were acquired as part of the acquisition of NEBS in June 2004.

Our pension and postretirement benefit expense for the quarters ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 consisted of the following components:

| (in thousands)                                  | Postretirement benefit plan |         | Pension plans |       |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|---------------|-------|
|   | 2006                        | 2005    | 2006          | 2005  |
| Service cost                                    | \$268                       | \$195   | \$87          | \$69  |
| Interest cost                                   | 1,890                       | 1,729   | 119           | 138   |
| Expected return on plan assets                  | (1,905)                     | (1,674) | (76)          | (65)  |
| Amortization of prior service benefit           | (654)                       | (654)   |               |       |
| Recognized amortization of net actuarial losses | 2,538                       | 2,344   | 3             |       |
| Total benefit expense                           | \$2,137                     | \$1,940 | \$133         | \$142 |

Our pension and postretirement benefit expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005 consisted of the following components:

| (in thousands)                                  | Postretirement benefit plan |         | Pension plans |       |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|---------------|-------|
|   | 2006                        | 2005    | 2006          | 2005  |
| Service cost                                    | \$805                       | \$586   | \$259         | \$205 |
| Interest cost                                   | 5,670                       | 5,187   | 356           | 411   |
| Expected return on plan assets                  | (5,715)                     | (5,021) | (226)         | (192) |
| Amortization of prior service benefit           | (1,963)                     | (1,963) |               |       |
| Recognized amortization of net actuarial losses | 7,613                       | 7,031   | 7             |       |
| Total benefit expense                           | \$6,410                     | \$5,820 | \$396         | \$424 |

During 2006, we expect to make benefit payments of approximately \$13 million for our postretirement medical plan. We also anticipate making benefit payments of \$0.9 million for all three of our pension plans and funding \$0.6 million to our Canadian pension plan.

In July 2006, an amendment to our postretirement benefit plan was adopted and communicated to employees and retirees. The amendment limits the total amount we will pay toward retiree medical costs. The limit will be set at 150% of the average cost per retiree in 2006. Medical costs incurred above the pre-determined limit will be paid by retirees. We expect the cap will be reached in four to six years. We completed a plan remeasurement as of August 1, 2006 to calculate the impact of this plan amendment. This change reduced our accumulated postretirement benefit obligation by approximately \$30 million. This amount will be recognized as a reduction of our postretirement benefit expense over a period of 22 years, which is the average remaining life of plan participants.

#### Note 10: Provision for income taxes

Our effective tax rate was 28.2% for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and 30.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2006, compared to our effective tax rate for full year 2005 of 37.0%. The decrease in our effective tax rate was due to a lower overall state tax rate in 2006, as well as a decrease in our estimated annual pre-tax income for 2006, as compared to 2005. While the permanent differences between reported income and taxable income have remained relatively constant compared to 2005, the decrease in our estimated annual pre-tax income for 2006

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results in our permanent differences having a larger impact on the effective tax rate. Additionally, our effective tax rate for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2006, included the impact of certain one-time adjustments which were included in our provision for income taxes for the third quarter of 2006. These items, which related to changes in our legal entity structure and the settlement of prior period tax audits, reduced our effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 by 1.7 percentage points.

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### Note 11: Debt

Total debt outstanding was comprised of the following:

| (in thousands)  | September 30,<br>2006 | December 31,<br>2005 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 3.5% senior, unsecured notes due October 1, 2007, net of discount   | \$ 324,933            | \$ 324,882           |
| 5.0% senior, unsecured notes due December 15, 2012, net of discount | 298,825               | 298,683              |
| 5.125% senior, unsecured notes due October 1, 2014, net of discount | 274,507               | 274,461              |
| Long-term portion of capital lease obligations                      | 3,606                 | 4,779                |
| Long-term portion of debt   | 901,871               | 902,805              |
| Amounts drawn on credit facilities                                  | 160,850               |                      |
| Commercial paper  |                       | 212,346              |
| 2.75% senior, unsecured notes repaid on September 15, 2006          |                       | 50,000               |
| Capital lease obligations due within one year                       | 1,541                 | 1,359                |
| Short-term portion of debt  | 162,391               | 263,705              |
| Total debt  | \$ 1,064,262          | \$ 1,166,510         |

All of our senior, unsecured notes include covenants that place restrictions on the issuance of additional debt that would be senior to the notes and the execution of certain sale-leaseback agreements. With the exception of the 3.5% notes due October 1, 2007, principal redemptions may be made at our election prior to their stated maturity. Discounts from par value are being amortized ratably as increases to interest expense over the term of the related debt.

In October 2004, we issued \$325.0 million of 3.5% senior, unsecured notes maturing on October 1, 2007 and \$275.0 million of 5.125% senior, unsecured notes maturing on October 1, 2014. The notes were issued via a private placement under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These notes were subsequently registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) via a registration statement which became effective on November 23, 2004. Interest payments are due each April and October. Proceeds from the offering, net of offering costs, were \$595.5 million. These proceeds were used to pay off commercial paper borrowings used for the acquisition of NEBS. The fair market value of these notes was \$544.8 million as of September 30, 2006, based on quoted market prices.

In December 2002, we issued \$300.0 million of 5.0% senior, unsecured notes maturing on December 15, 2012. These notes were issued under our shelf registration statement covering up to \$300.0 million in medium-term notes, thereby exhausting that registration statement. Interest payments are due each June and December. Proceeds from the offering, net of offering costs, were \$295.7 million. These proceeds were used for general corporate purposes, including funding share repurchases, capital asset purchases and working capital. The fair value of these notes was \$246.0 million as of September 30, 2006, based on quoted market prices.

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As of September 30, 2006, we had a \$500.0 million commercial paper program in place. The daily average amount of commercial paper outstanding during the first nine months of 2006 was \$63.7 million at a weighted-average interest rate of 4.67%. As of September 30, 2006, no commercial paper was outstanding. The daily average amount of commercial paper outstanding during 2005 was \$247.3 million at a weighted-average interest rate of 3.29%. As of December 31, 2005, \$212.3 million was outstanding at a weighted-average interest rate of 4.41%.

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We have committed lines of credit which are available for borrowing and to support our commercial paper program. The credit agreements governing the lines of credit contain customary covenants requiring a ratio of earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) to interest expense of 3.0 times, as well as limits on the levels of subsidiary indebtedness. The daily average amount outstanding under these lines of credit during the first nine months of 2006 was \$106.8 million at a weighted-average interest rate of 5.59%. As of September 30, 2006, \$160.9 million was outstanding at a weighted-average interest rate of 5.84%. No amounts were drawn on these lines of credit during 2005. As of September 30, 2006, amounts were available under our committed lines of credit for borrowing or for support of additional commercial paper, as follows:

|  | <b>Total</b>     | <b>Expiration</b> | <b>Commitment</b> |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (in thousands)                                       | <b>Available</b> | <b>date</b>       | <b>Fee</b>        |
| Five year line of credit                             | \$275,000        | July 2010         | .175%             |
| Five year line of credit                             | 225,000          | July 2009         | .225%             |
| Total committed lines of credit                      | 500,000          |                   |                   |
| Amounts drawn on credit facilities                   | (160,850 )       |                   |                   |
| Outstanding letters of credit                        | (11,187 )        |                   |                   |
| Net available for borrowing as of September 30, 2006 | \$327,963        |                   |                   |

Absent certain defined events of default under our committed lines of credit, there are no significant contractual restrictions on our ability to pay cash dividends.

### Note 12: Shareholders' deficit

We are in a shareholders' deficit position primarily as a result of the required accounting treatment for our share repurchase programs. Share repurchases are reflected as reductions of shareholders' equity in the consolidated balance sheets. Under the laws of Minnesota, our state of incorporation, shares which we repurchase are considered to be authorized and unissued shares. Thus, share repurchases are not presented as a separate treasury stock caption in our consolidated balance sheets, but are recorded as direct reductions of common shares, additional paid-in capital and retained earnings. We have not repurchased any shares since the second quarter of 2004. We have an outstanding authorization from our board of directors to purchase up to 10 million shares of our common stock. This authorization has no expiration date, and 7.9 million shares remain available for purchase under this authorization.

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Changes in shareholders' deficit during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 were as follows:

| (in thousands)   | Common shares       |              | Additional<br>paid-in<br>capital | Accumulated<br>deficit | Accumulated<br>other<br>comprehensive<br>loss | Total<br>shareholders<br>deficit |
|--|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|  | Number of<br>shares | Par<br>value |                                  |                        |   |                                  |
| Balance, December 31, 2005   | 50,735              | \$ 50,735    | \$ 37,864                        | \$(159,401 )           | \$ (11,224 )                                  | \$(82,026 )                      |
| Net income   |                     |              |                                  | 53,463                 |   | 53,463                           |
| Cash dividends   |                     |              |                                  | (54,073 )              |   | (54,073 )                        |
| Common shares issued   | 795                 | 795          | 8,141                            |                        |   | 8,936                            |
| Tax benefit of share-based awards  |                     |              | 737                              |                        |   | 737                              |
| Reclassification of share-based awards to accrued liabilities (see Note 2) |                     |              | (1,919 )                         |                        |   | (1,919 )                         |
| Common shares retired  | (30 )               | (30 )        | (700 )                           |                        |   | (730 )                           |
| Fair value of employee share-based compensation                            | 4                   | 4            | 4,456                            |                        |   | 4,460                            |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax                                     |                     |              |                                  |                        | 2,651   | 2,651                            |
| Balance, September 30, 2006  | 51,504              | \$ 51,504    | \$ 48,579                        | \$(160,011 )           | \$ (8,573 )                                   | \$(68,501 )                      |

Accumulated other comprehensive loss was comprised of the following:

| (in thousands)                             | September 30, | December 31, |
|--|---------------|--------------|
|  | 2006          | 2005         |
| Unrealized loss on derivatives, net of tax | \$(11,811 )   | \$(13,721 )  |
| Unrealized gain on securities, net of tax  | 114           | 63           |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment    | 3,124         | 2,434        |
| Total                                      | \$(8,573 )    | \$(11,224 )  |

### Note 13: Business segment information

We operate three business segments: Small Business Services, Financial Services and Direct Checks. Small Business Services sells checks, forms and related products to small businesses and home offices through direct response marketing, financial institution referrals, sales representatives, independent distributors and the internet. Financial Services sells personal and business checks, related products and check merchandising services to financial institutions. Direct Checks sells checks and related products directly to consumers through direct mail and the internet. All three segments operate primarily in the United States. Small Business Services also has operations in Canada.

The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. Corporate expenses are allocated to the business segments based on revenue. During the first quarter of 2005, corporate expenses were not allocated to the NEBS portion of our Small Business Services segment, as NEBS operations were not yet fully integrated into our corporate functions. This changed on April 1, 2005, when NEBS implemented certain of our corporate information systems and began utilizing corporate shared services functions. As such, we began allocating corporate costs to the NEBS portion of the Small Business Services segment for those corporate functions being utilized by the NEBS business. As of January 1, 2006, NEBS had implemented all corporate shared services functions and we began allocating costs to the NEBS portion of Small Business Services for all corporate functions. The corporate allocation includes expenses for various support activities such as executive management, finance and human resources and includes depreciation and amortization expense related to corporate assets. The corresponding corporate asset balances are not allocated to the segments. Depreciation and amortization expense related to corporate assets and allocated to the segments was \$4.3 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2006, \$3.5 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2005, \$15.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$10.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. Corporate assets consist primarily of internal-use software related to corporate activities, shared facilities, our prepaid postretirement asset and deferred tax assets.

We are an integrated enterprise, characterized by substantial intersegment cooperation, cost allocations and the sharing of assets. Therefore, we do not represent that these segments, if operated independently, would report the operating income and other financial information shown.

The following is our segment information as of and for the quarters ended September 30, 2006 and 2005:

| (in thousands)                         |      | Reportable Business Segments |                    |               | Corporate | Consolidated |
|--|------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
|  |      | Small Business Services      | Financial Services | Direct Checks |           |              |
| Revenue from external customers:       | 2006 | \$ 234,103                   | \$ 113,664         | \$ 50,320     | \$        | \$ 398,087   |
|  | 2005 | 226,614                      | 125,449            | 60,438        |           | 412,501      |
| Operating income:                      | 2006 | 24,486                       | 17,299             | 15,465        |           | 57,250       |
|  | 2005 | 23,044                       | 27,814             | 20,470        |           | 71,328       |
| Depreciation and amortization expense: | 2006 | 14,409                       | 3,308              | 1,769         |           | 19,486       |
|  | 2005 | 17,381                       | 4,041              | 2,047         |           | 23,469       |
| Total assets:                          | 2006 | 852,463                      | 161,360            | 122,031       | 159,797   | 1,295,651    |
|  | 2005 | 936,077                      | 196,017            | 127,598       | 201,205   | 1,460,897    |
| Capital purchases:                     | 2006 | 2,080                        | 1,324              | 22            | 2,214     | 5,640        |
|  | 2005 | 4,229                        | 3,579              | 389           | 7,990     | 16,187       |

The following is our segment information as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005:

| (in thousands)                         |      | Reportable Business Segments |                    |               | Corporate | Consolidated |
|--|------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
|  |      | Small Business Services      | Financial Services | Direct Checks |           |              |
| Revenue from external customers:       | 2006 | \$ 703,315                   | \$ 347,965         | \$ 161,196    | \$        | \$ 1,212,476 |
|  | 2005 | 675,546                      | 420,057            | 188,694       |           | 1,284,297    |
| Operating income:                      | 2006 | 37,539                       | 30,438             | 51,384        |           | 119,361      |
|  | 2005 | 69,946                       | 99,501             | 60,367        |           | 229,814      |
| Depreciation and amortization expense: | 2006 | 48,882                       | 11,396             | 5,685         |           | 65,963       |
|  | 2005 | 53,789                       | 23,493             | 6,341         |           | 83,623       |
| Asset impairment loss:                 | 2006 | 18,285                       | 26,413             |               |           | 44,698       |
|  | 2005 |                              |                    |               |           |              |
| Total assets:                          | 2006 | 852,463                      | 161,360            | 122,031       | 159,797   | 1,295,651    |
|  | 2005 | 936,077                      | 196,017            | 127,598       | 201,205   | 1,460,897    |
| Capital purchases:                     | 2006 | 7,713                        | 3,771              | 389           | 22,010    | 33,883       |
|  | 2005 | 9,372                        | 8,157              | 912           | 23,976    | 42,417       |

#### Note 14: Subsequent event

On October 25, 2006, we completed the acquisition of the assets of Johnson Group, Inc. and its affiliated companies, which are in the business of providing prepress, printing, mailing and fulfillment, and finishing services. This acquisition allows us to expand our business in the custom,

full color, digital and web-to-print space with our small business customers. It also provides potential opportunities longer term, specifically in the area of literature management, for financial institutions. The purchase price for this acquisition was approximately \$17.5 million, including costs directly related to the acquisition, and was funded using availability on our existing credit facilities. Several key Johnson Group executives entered into employment agreements under which the executives are eligible for additional payments up to an aggregate amount of \$2.5 million over a three-year period if certain financial targets are realized. This new business will be included in our Small Business Services segment.

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

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

Our businesses are organized into three segments: Small Business Services, Financial Services and Direct Checks. Our Small Business Services segment generated 58.0% of our consolidated revenue for the first nine months of 2006. This segment sells checks, forms and related products to more than six million small businesses and home offices through direct response marketing, financial institution referrals, sales representatives, independent distributors and the internet. Small Business Services is comprised of New England Business Service, Inc. (NEBS), which we acquired in June 2004, and our former Business Services segment. Our Financial Services segment generated 28.7% of our consolidated revenue for the first nine months of 2006. This segment sells personal and business checks, related products and check merchandising services to approximately 7,500 financial institution clients nationwide, including banks, credit unions and financial services companies. Our Direct Checks segment generated 13.3% of our consolidated revenue for the first nine months of 2006. This segment is the nation's leading direct-to-consumer check supplier, selling under the Checks Unlimited® and Designer® Checks brands via direct response marketing and the internet. All three of our segments operate primarily in the United States. Small Business Services also has operations in Canada.

Our results of operations for the first nine months of 2006 benefited from an increase in revenue per order and increased first-time buyers for Small Business Services as a result of the investments to grow our business, as well as synergies resulting from the NEBS acquisition, various other cost savings and lower amortization expense. These benefits were more than offset by a number of negative factors, including: an asset impairment loss of \$44.7 million resulting from the abandonment of a software project; lower prices and an unfavorable shift in product mix in our Financial Services segment; and lower order volume in Direct Checks and Financial Services. The lower order volume resulted from the continuing decline in check usage. Also, in the case of Direct Checks, order volume from new customers decreased due to previous reductions in advertising spending and lower consumer response rates. Reorders also declined due to lower customer retention rates. Investments to execute our Small Business Services strategy also negatively impacted earnings.

**Small Business Services Strategies**

Our focus within Small Business Services is to continue executing strategies intended to drive sustained growth. One key element of these strategies is the interdependency between our Small Business Services and Financial Services segments. The relationships we have with financial institutions help generate small business referrals, which we serve through our Small Business Services segment. We believe Small Business Services provides one of the most comprehensive business product offerings for small businesses and we continue to analyze opportunities to extend our current portfolio of products and services. Further, we can service small businesses through many different sales channels, allowing small businesses to buy from us when, where and how they choose. Meeting the needs of small businesses in turn strengthens our ability to retain and acquire clients in our Financial Services segment as we enable them to better serve small business customers. Examples of steps we have already taken toward executing our strategies include the following:

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Strengthened our customer acquisition pipeline by launching our Deluxe Business Advantage<sup>SM</sup> program, which provides a fast and simple way for financial institutions to offer expanded personalized service to small businesses. Our inside sales team partners with our direct sales force, which makes one-on-one contact with small businesses and financial institution branches more effective. This model is designed to align our resources in the most productive and cost effective manner. This program has required additional investment as we expand our sales force.

Focused our sales team on expanding sales to new and existing customers. We have trained over 1,200 sales representatives to deliver consultative expertise and have realigned the majority of our sales and marketing channels from a focus on individual brands to organizations aligned to customer segments. In addition, we are focused on providing products to our customers that they currently purchase from other suppliers in order to increase our order sizes. With the breadth of our products, we are positioned to meet many of the needs of small businesses, thereby simplifying their purchasing process and increasing our revenue.

Executed and refined a tiered model for segmenting small business customers. This model allows us to direct our marketing approach based on how often a customer orders, the dollar value of an average order, which order channel the customer prefers and their loyalty to our brand or brands.

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We believe that these initiatives contributed to a \$27.8 million increase in Small Business Services revenue in the first nine months of 2006, as compared to 2005. Revenue per order increased due, in part, to our success in increasing order sizes. The number of orders also increased.

In October 2006, we completed the acquisition of the assets of Johnson Group, Inc. and its affiliated companies, which are in the business of providing prepress, printing, mailing and fulfilment, and finishing services. This acquisition allows us to expand our business in the custom, full color, digital and web-to-print space with our small business customers. It also provides potential opportunities longer term, specifically in the area of literature management, for financial institutions. The purchase price for this acquisition was approximately \$17.5 million, including costs directly related to the acquisition, and was funded by using availability on our existing credit facilities. Several key Johnson Group executives entered into employment agreements under which the executives are eligible for additional payments up to an aggregate amount of \$2.5 million over a three-year period if certain financial targets are realized. This new business will be included in our Small Business Services segment. We do not expect the acquisition to have a significant impact on diluted earnings per share or operating cash flow in 2006.

### Industry Conditions

Two of our largest product groups, checks and business forms, are mature products and their use has been declining. According to our estimates, the total number of checks written in the United States has been in decline as a result of alternative payment methods, including credit cards, debit cards, automated teller machines and electronic payment systems. A 2004 Federal Reserve study reported that the check remains the largest single non-cash payment method in the United States, accounting for approximately 45% of all non-cash payments processed in 2003, down from 2000 when checks comprised approximately 60% of all non-cash payments. The Federal Reserve study also indicated that the use of personal checks is declining faster than the use of business checks. We estimate that personal check usage is declining between 4-5% per year. A new Federal Reserve study will be available in 2007. In addition to the decline in check usage, the use of business forms is also under pressure. Continual technological improvements have provided small business customers with alternative means to enact and record business transactions. For example, electronic transaction systems and off-the-shelf business software applications have been designed to automate several of the functions performed by business forms products.



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Because check usage is declining and financial institutions are consolidating, we have been encountering significant pricing pressure when negotiating contracts with our financial institution clients. Our traditional financial institution relationships are typically formalized through supply contracts averaging three to five years in duration. As we compete to retain and acquire new financial institution business, the resulting pricing pressure, combined with declining check usage in the marketplace, has reduced our revenue and profit margins. We expect this trend to continue.

In 2005 and early 2006, we entered into contracts with several larger new financial institution clients and renewed contracts with many others. We began seeing the impact of this new business late in the first quarter of 2006. We also expanded our check business with an existing major client late in the second quarter of 2006 and began producing for another one of these new clients early in the fourth quarter of 2006. At the same time, mid-2005 client losses from financial institution consolidations had a negative impact on revenue in comparison to 2005 in the first half of the year. Overall, by the end of this year we expect our share of the financial institution channel to increase over our share in 2005. Financial Services order volume for the third quarter of 2006 increased 4.1% compared to the same period last year, the first year-over-year increase since the fourth quarter of 2003. Financial Services order volume for the third quarter of this year also increased compared to both the first and second quarters of this year.

Our Direct Checks segment and portions of our Small Business Services segment have been impacted by reduced customer response rates to direct mail advertisements. Our own experience indicates that direct-to-consumer media response rates are declining across a wide variety of products and services. Additionally, our customer response rates are declining further due to the decline in check usage, the gradual obsolescence of standardized forms products and an increase in financial institutions providing free checks to consumers. Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2006, we expect to modestly increase our advertising expenditures in Direct Checks as we seek to gain volume in the direct-to-consumer channel.

### **Cost Reduction and Business Simplification Plans**

We have previously announced that we are focusing on performance improvement plans, which include pursuing aggressive cost reduction and business simplification initiatives. These initiatives include plans to streamline our call center and check fulfillment activities, eliminate system and work stream redundancies and strengthen our go-to-market capabilities through the continuing application of lean principles. We believe significant cost reduction opportunities exist in our manufacturing, supply chain, and other shared services functions, primarily within our information technology functions, through the reduction of SKUs, standardization of products and services and improvements in sourcing third-party goods and services. Within Small Business Services, we are focusing on refining our business model and improving how we go to market, as well as evaluating the level and pace of our investment. In Financial Services, we are focusing on simplifying our core business model and reducing our cost structure while investing in new products and services. These identified opportunities collectively are expected to reduce our annual cost structure by at least \$150 million, net of required investments, by the end of 2008. The baseline for these anticipated savings is the annual diluted earnings per share guidance for 2006 of \$1.41 - \$1.51, which we provided in our teleconference call held on July 27, 2006. We

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estimate that approximately 40-45% of the \$150 million target will come from our shared services infrastructure organizations. We expect information technology will represent the greatest percentage of these shared services infrastructure savings by lowering our data center costs, improving mainframe and server utilization and reducing the cost of our networking and voice communications. We estimate that approximately 35-40% of the \$150 million target will come from fulfillment, including manufacturing and supply chain, and we estimate that approximately 10-15% of the \$150 million target will come from reorganizing our sales and marketing functions. Overall, one-third of the savings are expected to affect cost of goods sold, with the remaining two-thirds impacting selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expense. We have begun taking specific steps to reduce costs, such as announcing the closing of our customer service call center in Syracuse, New York planned for the

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first quarter of 2007, better managing our costs and vendor relationships, particularly in the information technology area, and further centralizing the purchase of indirect products and services.

### Outlook

After considering the factors previously discussed, we expect that 2006 earnings will decrease from 2005. We estimate that revenue for 2006 will be between \$1.630 billion and \$1.638 billion, and we estimate that diluted earnings per share will be between \$1.74 and \$1.78 for 2006, which reflects the following key differentiators from 2005:

The asset impairment loss recorded in the second quarter of 2006 resulted in a \$0.59 decrease in diluted earnings per share.

Revenue and operating income will continue to decline in Financial Services due to lower prices, unfavorable product mix, investments in business simplification and lower personal check usage. However, we expect our share of the financial institution channel to increase by the end of 2006 due to our recent client wins.

Revenue and operating income will continue to decline in Direct Checks due to lower direct marketing response rates, lower reorders and the decline in personal check usage.

We expect Small Business Services to deliver mid-single digit revenue growth from launching our Deluxe Business Advantage program and leveraging the investments we have made in our sales force and call centers. However, the investments in our sales infrastructure in the first half of this year, as well as manufacturing costs related to the facility consolidations completed in the second quarter, offset the profitability from the revenue growth in those quarters.

Our effective tax rate for 2006 is expected to be approximately 33.0%, compared to 37.0% for 2005, due to a lower overall state tax rate, a decrease in our estimated annual pre-tax income and one-time adjustments related to changes in our legal entity structure and the settlement of prior period tax audits.

We will realize an estimated \$0.14 per share benefit in the fourth quarter of 2006 from selling an underperforming outsourced payroll services contract.

We have begun investing in our cost reduction efforts.

We anticipate that operating cash flow will be between \$235 million and \$245 million in 2006, compared to \$178 million in 2005. We expect the increase in 2006 will be due to several factors: anticipated decreases of at least \$45 million in contract acquisition payments to financial institution clients as fewer large clients are up for renewal in 2006 and we are seeking to reduce our use of up-front product discounts; a decision earlier in the year to reduce the level of prefunding of our medical, dental and severance benefits; lower payments for performance-based employee compensation based on our 2005 operating performance; the sale of an underperforming outsourced payroll services contract in the fourth quarter of 2006; and other positive working capital changes. We expect capital spending to be approximately \$45 million in 2006 as we invest in our Small Business Services call centers, strategic selling and cost reduction initiatives and other projects that will add capabilities and increase synergies, primarily in manufacturing. In the third quarter of this year, we reduced our quarterly dividend amount by 37.5% to \$0.25 per share. This reduction in our quarterly dividend is a part of our strategy to accelerate the rate at which we pay down debt and work to achieve greater financial flexibility.

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**CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**
**Consolidated Revenue**

| (in thousands, except per order amounts) | Quarter Ended September 30, |           |         | Nine Months Ended September 30, |             |         |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
|  | 2006                        | 2005      | Change  | 2006                            | 2005        | Change  |
| Revenue                                  | \$398,087                   | \$412,501 | (3.5% ) | \$1,212,476                     | \$1,284,297 | (5.6% ) |
| Orders                                   | 16,276                      | 16,020    | 1.6%    | 48,796                          | 49,672      | (1.8% ) |
| Revenue per order                        | \$24.46                     | \$25.75   | (5.0% ) | \$24.85                         | \$25.86     | (3.9% ) |

The decrease in revenue for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, was due to lower prices and unfavorable product mix in our Financial Services segment and a decline in volume for our Direct Checks segment. The volume decrease for Direct Checks was due to the overall decline in check usage, as well as lower customer retention, lower direct mail consumer response rates and lower advertising expenditures in prior periods. Partially offsetting these decreases were increased revenue per order and an increase in first-time buyers for our Small Business Services segment as we continued to implement the growth strategies discussed earlier under *Executive Overview*. Additionally, Financial Services volume increased, as the impact of net client gains exceeded the effect of the decline in check usage.

The decrease in revenue for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2006, was due to lower prices and unfavorable product mix in our Financial Services segment, a decline in volume for our Direct Checks segment, as discussed for the third quarter, and \$11.7 million of contract termination payments in the second quarter of 2005. Additionally, volume declined in Financial Services as the decline in check usage exceeded the impact of net client gains. Partially offsetting these decreases was increased revenue for Small Business Services, as discussed for the third quarter, as well as an increase in revenue per order for Direct Checks due to a shift from the mail order channel to the internet channel, which typically results in higher revenue per order.

The number of orders increased for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, as the volume increase for Financial Services exceeded the negative impact of the Direct Checks volume decline. The number of orders decreased for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, due to the Direct Checks and Financial Services volume declines.

Revenue per order decreased in the third quarter of 2006 and the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the same periods in 2005, as lower prices and negative product mix in Financial Services more than offset the impact of the favorable comparisons for Small Business Services and Direct Checks.

**Consolidated Gross Margin**

| (in thousands) | Quarter Ended September 30, |           |        | Nine Months Ended September 30, |           |        |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|
|                | 2006                        | 2005      | Change | 2006                            | 2005      | Change |
| Gross profit   | \$248,358                   | \$263,253 | (5.7%) | \$755,103                       | \$832,205 | (9.3%) |

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Gross margin      62.4%                  63.8%                  (1.4) pts.                  62.3%                  64.8%                  (2.5) pts.

Gross margin decreased for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, primarily due to lower prices and negative product mix in Financial Services, as well as higher overall product delivery costs due to rate increases and fuel surcharges. Offsetting these decreases was the increase in Small Business Services revenue per order discussed earlier and lower material costs for Small Business Services.

Gross margin decreased for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, for the same reasons as discussed for the third quarter decline. Additionally, contract termination payments received in 2005 and costs related to consolidating operations as we closed two Small Business Services facilities in the second quarter of 2006 contributed to the decrease for the first nine months of the year.

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### Consolidated Selling, General & Administrative (SG&A) Expense

| (in thousands)                  | Quarter Ended September 30, |            |          | Nine Months Ended September 30, |            |          |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------|----------|
|                                 | 2006                        | 2005       | Change   | 2006                            | 2005       | Change   |
| SG&A expense                    | \$ 190,618                  | \$ 192,041 | (0.7%)   | \$ 595,502                      | \$ 602,934 | (1.2%)   |
| SG&A as a percentage of revenue | 47.9%                       | 46.6%      | 1.3 pts. | 49.1%                           | 46.9%      | 2.2 pts. |

The decrease in SG&A expense for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, was due to lower information technology expense and other cost savings, reduced marketing expense for Small Business Services and lower amortization expense related to intangible assets acquired as part of the NEBS acquisition in June 2004. Partially offsetting these decreases were higher customer care costs and commissions related to the revenue increase for Small Business Services, as well as severance charges of \$1.7 million. Further information regarding the severance charges can be found under *Restructuring Accruals*.

The decrease in SG&A expense for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, was due to a decrease in amortization expense resulting primarily from one of our order capture software systems being fully amortized. Also contributing to the decrease were cost synergies resulting from the NEBS acquisition and other cost savings, lower performance-based employee compensation and lower marketing costs for Small Business Services. Partially offsetting these decreases were the investments discussed earlier under *Executive Overview* related to our Small Business Services growth strategies, as well as higher customer care costs and commissions for Small Business Services as a result of the increased revenue.

SG&A expense as a percentage of revenue increased for the third quarter and first nine months of 2006, as compared to the same periods in 2005, primarily due to the decline in revenue for Financial Services and Direct Checks and investments related to the Small Business Services revenue growth.

### Asset Impairment Loss

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| (in thousands)        | Quarter Ended September 30, |      |        | Nine Months Ended September 30, |      |          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|---------------------------------|------|----------|
|                       | 2006                        | 2005 | Change | 2006                            | 2005 | Change   |
| Asset impairment loss | \$                          | \$   | \$     | \$44,698                        | \$   | \$44,698 |

During the second quarter of 2006, we determined that a software project intended to replace major portions of our existing order capture, billing and pricing systems would not meet our future business requirements in a cost-effective manner. Therefore, we made the decision to abandon the project. Accordingly, we wrote down the carrying value of the related internal-use software to zero. This resulted in an asset impairment loss of \$44.7 million. Of this amount, \$26.4 million was allocated to the Financial Services segment and \$18.3 million was allocated to the Small Business Services segment.

### Net Loss (Gain) on Assets Held for Sale

| (in thousands)                          | Quarter Ended September 30, |         |        | Nine Months Ended September 30, |         |           |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|
|   | 2006                        | 2005    | Change | 2006                            | 2005    | Change    |
| Net loss (gain) on assets held for sale | \$490                       | \$(116) | \$606  | \$(4,458)                       | \$(543) | \$(3,915) |

In September 2006, we completed the sale of our Dallas, Texas facility, which was closed in 2004, realizing a gain of \$0.3 million. We also executed a sales agreement in September 2006 for a NEBS facility which was closed prior to our acquisition of NEBS in June 2004. We recorded a loss of \$0.8 million on this facility in the third quarter of 2006 based on the selling price less estimated costs of the sale. We expect the sale of this facility to be completed in the fourth quarter of this year. We currently have one additional facility held for sale. We have also executed a sales agreement for this facility and anticipate that we will complete the sale in the fourth quarter of this year. We expect the net sales price for this facility to exceed its carrying value. In the third quarter of 2005, we completed the sale of our Tucker, Georgia facility, which was closed in 2004.

Our results for the first nine months of 2006 also included the sale of our Campbell, California facility in the first quarter of 2006. Our results for the first nine months of 2005 also included the sale of our Indianapolis, Indiana facility in the second quarter of 2005.

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### Interest Expense

| (in thousands)                    | Quarter Ended September 30, |           |           | Nine Months Ended September 30, |           |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                   | 2006                        | 2005      | Change    | 2006                            | 2005      | Change    |
| Interest expense                  | \$14,377                    | \$13,661  | 5.2%      | \$42,966                        | \$41,635  | 3.2%      |
| Weighted-average debt outstanding | 1,101,597                   | 1,230,895 | (10.5%)   | 1,123,116                       | 1,239,374 | (9.4%)    |
| Weighted-average interest rate    | 4.64%                       | 4.25%     | 0.39 pts. | 4.57%                           | 4.14%     | 0.43 pts. |

The increase in interest expense for the third quarter and first nine months of 2006, as compared to the same periods in 2005, was due to higher interest rates. This impact was partially offset by the lower debt level in 2006.

**Income Tax Provision**

| (in thousands)       | Quarter Ended September 30, |           |            | Nine Months Ended September 30, |           |            |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
|                      | 2006                        | 2005      | Change     | 2006                            | 2005      | Change     |
| Income tax provision | \$ 12,227                   | \$ 20,722 | (41.0%)    | \$ 23,740                       | \$ 70,391 | (66.3%)    |
| Effective tax rate   | 28.2%                       | 35.5%     | (7.3) pts. | 30.9%                           | 37.1%     | (6.2) pts. |

The decrease in our effective tax rate for the third quarter and first nine months of 2006, as compared to the same periods in 2005, was due to a lower overall state tax rate in 2006, as well as a decrease in our estimated annual pre-tax income for 2006, as compared to 2005. While the permanent differences between reported income and taxable income have remained relatively constant compared to 2005, the decrease in our estimated annual pre-tax income for 2006 results in our permanent differences having a larger impact on the effective tax rate. Additionally, our effective tax rate for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2006, included the impact of certain one-time adjustments which were included in our provision for income taxes for the third quarter of 2006. These items, which related to changes in our legal entity structure and the settlement of prior period tax audits, reduced our effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 by 1.7 percentage points. The decrease in our effective tax rate contributed \$0.06 to diluted earnings per share for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, and contributed \$0.10 to diluted earnings per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2006, as compared to the prior year period. We expect that our annual effective tax rate for 2006 will be approximately 33%.

**RESTRUCTURING ACCRUALS**

In conjunction with the acquisition of NEBS, we recorded \$30.0 million of restructuring accruals for NEBS activities which we decided to exit. These accruals included \$27.1 million of severance benefits, as well as \$2.9 million due under noncancelable operating leases on facilities which have been or will be vacated as we consolidate operations. The severance accruals included payments due to 701 employees. This includes employees in the Tucker, Georgia printing facility, which was closed during the fourth quarter of 2004, and the Los Angeles, California and Athens, Ohio facilities, which were closed in the second quarter of 2006. Additionally, the accruals included employees in various functional areas throughout NEBS resulting from our shared services approach to manufacturing and certain SG&A functions. The severance accruals also included amounts due to certain NEBS executives under change of control provisions included in their employment agreements, as we eliminated redundancies between the two companies. Severance payments are expected to be substantially paid by the end of 2006, utilizing cash from operations. As a result of these facility closings and other employee reductions, we estimate that we will realize annual savings of approximately \$5 million in cost of goods sold and \$2 million in SG&A expense in 2006, in comparison to our 2005 results of operations. We do not expect to realize the full impact of the manufacturing facility closures in 2006 as the remaining locations adapt to the increased product variety and complexity required. As a result, we anticipate additional annual savings in 2007 of approximately \$2 million in cost of goods sold.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2006, we recorded restructuring accruals of \$2.1 million for employee severance related to the planned closure of our Financial Services customer service call center located in Syracuse, New York, as well as other employee reductions, primarily within our corporate shared services functions. The Syracuse facility is expected to be closed during the first quarter of 2007. The restructuring accruals included severance payments for 226 employees, which we expect to fully pay by the end of 2007, utilizing cash from operations. These restructuring charges are reflected as cost of goods sold of \$0.4 million and SG&A expense of \$1.7 million in our consolidated statements of income for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2006. As a result of these initiatives, we expect to realize annual cost savings of approximately \$1 million in cost of goods sold and \$4 million in SG&A expense in 2007, in comparison to our 2006 results of operations.

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Further information regarding our restructuring accruals can be found under the caption *Note 7: Restructuring accruals* of the Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in Item 1 of this report.

### SEGMENT RESULTS

Additional financial information regarding our business segments appears under the caption *Note 13: Business segment information* of the Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in Item 1 of this report.

#### Small Business Services

This segment sells checks, forms and related products to small businesses and home offices through direct response marketing, financial institution referrals and via sales representatives, independent distributors and the internet.

| (in thousands)   | Quarter Ended September 30, |            |          | Nine Months Ended September 30, |            |            |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                  | 2006                        | 2005       | Change   | 2006                            | 2005       | Change     |
| Revenue          | \$ 234,103                  | \$ 226,614 | 3.3%     | \$ 703,315                      | \$ 675,546 | 4.1%       |
| Operating income | 24,486                      | 23,044     | 6.3%     | 37,539                          | 69,946     | (46.3%)    |
| % of revenue     | 10.5%                       | 10.2%      | 0.3 pts. | 5.3%                            | 10.4%      | (5.1) pts. |

The increase in revenue for the third quarter and first nine months of 2006, as compared to the same periods in 2005, was due to an increase in both revenue per order and the number of first-time customers resulting from the continued implementation of the growth strategies outlined in *Executive Overview*. We also began offering more products for our distributor channel. For the third quarter, these increases were partially offset by one less manufacturing day in 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005.

The increase in operating income for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, was due to various SG&A cost savings, primarily within information technology, lower manufacturing costs related to product and material mix, lower marketing costs due to reduced advertising expenditures, the impact of the revenue increase and lower amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets. These increases were partially offset by higher customer care costs and commissions related to the revenue increase, as well as higher product delivery costs.

The decrease in operating income for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, was due to the asset impairment loss of \$18.3 million discussed earlier under *Consolidated Results of Operations*, investments related to our growth strategies, primarily the hiring and training of call center and sales personnel, as well as higher customer care costs and commissions related to the revenue increase, and higher manufacturing costs related to facility consolidations which occurred in the second quarter. These decreases were partially offset by the impact of the revenue increase, cost synergies resulting from the integration of NEBS and other cost savings initiatives, lower amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets, as certain of the assets are being amortized using accelerated methods, as well as lower marketing expense due to reduced advertising expenditures and lower performance-based employee compensation.

Changes in our allocation methodology for corporate costs resulted in a decrease of \$10.3 million in Small Business Services operating income for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005. As discussed under the caption *Note 13: Business segment information* of the Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in Item 1 of this report, we began allocating corporate costs to the NEBS portion of Small Business Services on April 1, 2005 only for those corporate services which the NEBS portion of the business was utilizing. As such, the NEBS portion of Small Business Services did not bear any allocation of corporate costs in the first quarter of 2005 and did not bear a full allocation of corporate costs during the remainder of 2005. As of January 1, 2006, the NEBS portion of the business was fully integrated into all corporate functions and thus, Small Business Services results include a full allocation of corporate costs in 2006.

## Financial Services

Financial Services sells personal and business checks, related products and check merchandising services to financial institutions. Additionally, we offer enhanced services to our financial institution clients, such as customized reporting, file management, expedited account conversion support, fraud prevention and customer retention programs.

| (in thousands)   | Quarter Ended September 30, |            |            | Nine Months Ended September 30, |            |             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                  | 2006                        | 2005       | Change     | 2006                            | 2005       | Change      |
| Revenue          | \$ 113,664                  | \$ 125,449 | (9.4%)     | \$ 347,965                      | \$ 420,057 | (17.2%)     |
| Operating income | 17,299                      | 27,814     | (37.8%)    | 30,438                          | 99,501     | (69.4%)     |
| % of revenue     | 15.2%                       | 22.2%      | (7.0) pts. | 8.7%                            | 23.7%      | (15.0) pts. |

The decrease in revenue for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, was caused by lower revenue per order due to winning and renewing contracts at lower price levels, as well as an unfavorable shift in product mix to lower priced, non-licensed designs. Partially offsetting the lower revenue per order was an increase in volume, as the impact of net client gains exceeded the decline in check usage. Order volume increased 4.1% for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005.

The decrease in revenue for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, was due to lower revenue per order, contract termination payments of \$11.7 million in the second quarter of 2005, as well as a decline in volume. For the year-to-date period, the decline in check usage exceeded the impact of net client gains. Order volume decreased 0.2% for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005.

The decrease in operating income for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, was due to the revenue decline, higher product delivery costs and severance charges related to the planned closing of our customer service call center located in Syracuse, New York in the first quarter of 2007. These impacts were partially offset by various cost saving initiatives, primarily within information technology.

Operating income decreased for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, for the same reasons as discussed for the third quarter decline. Additionally, the decrease for the first nine months of the year was due to the asset impairment loss of \$26.4 million discussed earlier under *Consolidated Results of Operations*, which was partially offset by lower amortization expense related to one of our order capture software systems being fully amortized, a reduction in the allocation of corporate costs, a \$4.9 million gain from a facility sale in the first quarter of 2006 and lower performance-based employee compensation. As discussed earlier, Small Business Services is now bearing a larger portion of corporate costs. This change resulted in a \$6.9 million reduction in the allocation of corporate costs to Financial Services in the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005.

## Direct Checks

Direct Checks sells checks and related products directly to consumers through direct mail and the internet. We use a variety of direct marketing techniques to acquire new customers in the direct-to-consumer channel, including newspaper inserts, in-package advertising, statement stuffers



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and co-op advertising. We also use e-commerce strategies to direct traffic to our websites. Direct Checks sells under the Checks Unlimited and Designer Checks brand names, as well as www.checks.com.

| (in thousands)   | Quarter Ended September 30, |           |            | Nine Months Ended September 30, |            |            |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                  | 2006                        | 2005      | Change     | 2006                            | 2005       | Change     |
| Revenue          | \$ 50,320                   | \$ 60,438 | (16.7%)    | \$ 161,196                      | \$ 188,694 | (14.6%)    |
| Operating income | 15,465                      | 20,470    | (24.5%)    | 51,384                          | 60,367     | (14.9%)    |
| % of revenue     | 30.7%                       | 33.9%     | (3.2) pts. | 31.9%                           | 32.0%      | (0.1) pts. |

The decrease in revenue for the third quarter and first nine months of 2006, as compared to the same periods in 2005, was due to the overall decline in check usage, as well as lower customer retention, lower direct mail consumer response rates and lower advertising expenditures in prior periods. We believe that the decline in our customer response rates is attributable to the decline in check usage, an increase in financial institutions providing free checks to consumers and a general decline in direct marketing response rates. For the year-to-date period, the volume decline was partially offset by an increase in revenue per order resulting from our efforts to shift mail orders to the internet channel, which typically results in higher revenue per order.

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The decrease in operating income for the third quarter of 2006, as compared to the third quarter of 2005, was primarily due to the revenue decline, partially offset by lower customer care costs associated with the lower order volume and lower advertising expense due to reductions in advertising expenditures in prior periods.

Operating income decreased for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, for the same reasons as discussed for the third quarter decline. Additionally, the decrease in operating income was partially offset by a reduction in the allocation of corporate costs. As discussed earlier, Small Business Services is now bearing a larger portion of corporate costs. This change resulted in a \$3.4 million reduction in the allocation of corporate costs to Direct Checks in the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005.

### CASH FLOWS

As of September 30, 2006, we held cash and cash equivalents of \$9.3 million. The following table shows our cash flow activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated statements of cash flows appearing in Item 1 of this report.

| (in thousands)                            | Nine Months Ended September 30, |            |           |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
|   | 2006                            | 2005       | Change    |
| Continuing operations:                    |                                 |            |           |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 172,390                      | \$ 113,598 | \$ 58,792 |
| Net cash used by investing activities     | (22,895 )                       | (42,732 )  | 19,837    |
| Net cash used by financing activities     | (150,198 )                      | (82,395 )  | (67,803 ) |
| Effect of exchange rate change on cash    | 93                              | 358        | (265 )    |
| Net cash used by continuing operations    | (610 )                          | (11,171 )  | 10,561    |

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|   |          |          |           |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|
| Net cash provided (used) by operating activities of discontinued operations | 23       | (3,915 ) | 3,938     |
| Net cash provided by investing activities of discontinued operations        | 2,971    | 15,042   | (12,071 ) |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents                                     | \$ 2,384 | \$ (44 ) | \$ 2,428  |

The \$58.8 million increase in cash provided by operating activities for the first nine months of 2006, as compared to the first nine months of 2005, was due to a \$51.3 million decrease in contract acquisition payments related to new financial institution contracts, a \$26.2 million decrease in employee profit sharing and pension payments related to our 2005 operating results, a \$24.0 million decrease in the amount we contributed to the voluntary employee beneficiary association (VEBA) trust we use to fund employee and retiree medical costs and severance benefits, and a \$23.6 million decrease in income tax payments. These increases were largely offset by the lower earnings discussed earlier under *Consolidated Results of Operations* and other working capital changes.

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Included in cash provided by operating activities were the following operating cash outflows:

| (in thousands)                                     | <b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |               |
|--|--|-------------|---------------|
|  | <b>2006</b>                            | <b>2005</b> | <b>Change</b> |
| Income tax payments                                | \$ 53,399                              | \$ 76,994   | \$(23,595 )   |
| Interest payments                                  | 33,354                                 | 33,145      | 209           |
| Contract acquisition payments                      | 16,121                                 | 67,423      | (51,302 )     |
| Employee profit sharing and pension contributions  | 13,883                                 | 40,033      | (26,150 )     |
| Voluntary employee beneficiary trust contributions | 15,481                                 | 39,466      | (23,985 )     |
| Severance payments                                 | 3,896                                  | 8,542       | (4,646 )      |

Cash used by investing activities in the first nine months of 2006 was \$19.8 million lower than the first nine months of 2005, primarily due to lower capital expenditures, more cash proceeds from facility sales and the redemption of company-owned life insurance policies in 2006.

Cash used by financing activities in the first nine months of 2006 was \$67.8 million higher than the first nine months of 2005 due to a \$50.0 million payment on long-term debt which matured in the third quarter of 2006 and increased payments on short-term debt, as we continued to focus on reducing our debt level. These increases were partially offset by a \$6.8 million reduction in dividend payments, as we lowered our quarterly dividend amount from \$0.40 per share to \$0.25 per share in the third quarter of 2006.

Net cash provided by investing activities of discontinued operations in the first nine months of 2006 was \$12.1 million lower than the first nine months of 2005 due to the sale of our apparel business in the third quarter of 2005, partially offset by the sale of our remaining facility in Europe during the second quarter of 2006.

Significant cash inflows, excluding those related to operating activities, for each period were as follows:

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| (in thousands)                                       | <b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |               |
|--|--|-------------|---------------|
|  | <b>2006</b>                            | <b>2005</b> | <b>Change</b> |
| Proceeds from shares issued under employee plans     | \$8,936                                | \$10,674    | \$(1,738 )    |
| Proceeds from facility sales                         | 7,438                                  | 1,733       | 5,705         |
| Proceeds from redemptions of life insurance policies | 4,890                                  |             | 4,890         |
| Proceeds from sales of discontinued operations       | 2,971                                  | 15,042      | (12,071 )     |

Significant cash outflows, excluding those related to operating activities, for each period were as follows:

| (in thousands)                      | <b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |               |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|---------------|
|                                     | <b>2006</b>                            | <b>2005</b> | <b>Change</b> |
| Cash dividends paid to shareholders | \$54,073                               | \$60,912    | \$(6,839 )    |
| Net payments on short-term debt     | 51,496                                 | 35,280      | 16,216        |
| Payments on long-term debt          | 50,992                                 | 1,022       | 49,970        |
| Purchases of capital assets         | 33,883                                 | 42,417      | (8,534 )      |

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In October 2007, \$325.0 million of our outstanding debt becomes payable. As that maturity approaches, we will determine the best method of repaying that debt. There are multiple financing options available to us, including the bank market, our credit facilities or additional long-term debt that would be issued under our outstanding shelf registration which became effective July 8, 2003. We currently have \$328.0 million available under our credit facilities, and we can issue up to \$425.0 million under our outstanding shelf registration. Cash generated by operating activities throughout the remainder of this year and in 2007 will also be a factor in our decision. Although cash provided by operating activities of \$178.3 million for full year 2005 decreased from \$307.6 million in 2004, we anticipate that cash provided by operating activities will increase significantly in 2006, as compared to 2005, due to anticipated decreases in contract acquisition payments to financial institution clients, lower performance-based employee compensation and other positive working capital changes. Additionally, in the third quarter of this year, we reduced our quarterly dividend amount by 37.5% to \$0.25 per share. This will provide additional cash which may be used for debt service. We reduced our debt by \$102.2 million during the first nine months of 2006, and we expect to reduce our debt by a total of \$135 million to \$145 million by the end of 2006. As such, we believe future cash flows provided by operating activities and our available credit capacity are sufficient to support our operations, including capital expenditures, required debt service and dividend payments, for the foreseeable future.

### **CAPITAL RESOURCES**

Our total debt was \$1,064.3 million as of September 30, 2006, a decrease of \$102.2 million from December 31, 2005.

#### **Capital Structure**

| (in thousands) | September 30, | December 31, | Change |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------|
|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------|

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|                                    | 2006       | 2005         |             |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Amounts drawn on credit facilities | \$ 160,850 | \$           | \$ 160,850  |
| Commercial paper                   |            | 212,346      | (212,346 )  |
| Current portion of long-term debt  | 1,541      | 51,359       | (49,818 )   |
| Long-term debt                     | 901,871    | 902,805      | (934 )      |
| Total debt                         | 1,064,262  | 1,166,510    | (102,248 )  |
| Shareholders' deficit              | (68,501 )  | (82,026 )    | 13,525      |
| Total capital                      | \$ 995,761 | \$ 1,084,484 | \$(88,723 ) |

We are in a shareholders' deficit position due to the required accounting treatment for share repurchases. We have an outstanding authorization from our board of directors to purchase up to 10 million shares of our common stock. This authorization has no expiration date, and 7.9 million shares remain available for purchase under this authorization. We have not repurchased any shares since the second quarter of 2004, and we do not expect to repurchase a significant number of additional shares in the near future, as we intend to focus on reducing our outstanding debt. Further information regarding changes in shareholders' deficit during the first nine months of 2006 can be found under the caption Note 12: Shareholders' deficit of the Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in Item 1 of this report.

### Debt Structure

|                        | September 30, 2006 |                                | December 31, 2005 |                                | Change       |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                        | Amount             | Weighted-average interest rate | Amount            | Weighted-average interest rate |              |
| (in thousands)         |                    |                                |                   |                                |              |
| Fixed interest rate    | \$ 898,265         | 4.5 %                          | \$ 948,026        | 4.4 %                          | \$(49,761 )  |
| Floating interest rate | 160,850            | 5.8 %                          | 212,346           | 4.4 %                          | (51,496 )    |
| Capital leases         | 5,147              | 10.4 %                         | 6,138             | 10.4 %                         | (991 )       |
| Total debt             | \$ 1,064,262       | 4.7 %                          | \$ 1,166,510      | 4.4 %                          | \$(102,248 ) |

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Further information concerning our outstanding debt can be found under the caption Note 11: Debt of the Condensed Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in Item 1 of this report. We may, from time to time, consider retiring outstanding debt through cash purchases, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise. Any such repurchases or exchanges, if any, would depend on prevailing market conditions, our liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions and other factors.

During 2004, we entered into \$450.0 million of forward starting interest rate swaps to hedge, or lock-in, the interest rate on a portion of the debt we issued in 2004. The termination of the lock agreements in September 2004 yielded a deferred pre-tax loss of \$23.6 million. During 2002, we entered into two forward rate lock agreements to effectively hedge, or lock-in, the annual interest rate on a portion of the debt we issued in 2002. The termination of the lock agreements in December 2002 yielded a deferred pre-tax loss of \$4.0 million. These losses are reflected, net of tax, in accumulated other comprehensive loss in our consolidated balance sheets and are being amortized ratably to our statements of income as increases to interest expense over the terms of the related debt.

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We currently have a \$500.0 million commercial paper program in place which is supported by two committed lines of credit. The credit agreements governing the lines of credit contain customary covenants requiring a ratio of earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) to interest expense of 3.0 times, as well as limits on levels of subsidiary indebtedness. We were in compliance with all debt covenants as of September 30, 2006, and we expect to remain in compliance with all debt covenants throughout the remainder of this year and throughout 2007.

As of September 30, 2006, amounts were available under our committed lines of credit for borrowing or for support of additional commercial paper, as follows:

| (in thousands)                                       | <b>Total<br/>available</b> | <b>Expiration<br/>date</b> | <b>Commitment<br/>fee</b> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Five year line of credit                             | \$275,000                  | July 2010                  | .175%                     |
| Five year line of credit                             | 225,000                    | July 2009                  | .225%                     |
| Total committed lines of credit                      | 500,000                    |                            |                           |
| Amounts drawn on credit facilities                   | (160,850 )                 |                            |                           |
| Outstanding letters of credit                        | (11,187 )                  |                            |                           |
| Net available for borrowing as of September 30, 2006 | \$327,963                  |                            |                           |

In October 2006, Standard and Poor's credit rating agency (S&P) lowered our long-term debt rating from BB+ to BB- with a negative outlook. Our S&P short-term credit rating remains at B. S&P indicated that the downgrade reflects an increase in expected operating challenges. In August 2006, Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) lowered our long-term debt rating from Baa3 to Ba2, lowered our short-term debt rating from Prime-3 to Not Prime and assigned a Ba2 corporate family rating with a negative outlook. Moody's indicated that the downgrades reflect a lower revenue base and lower operating margins.

Given the credit rating downgrades, the commercial paper market has not been available to us. As necessary, we will utilize our \$500.0 million committed lines of credit or issue term debt, depending on which alternative is most economical. Our credit facilities do not have covenants or events of default tied to our credit ratings.

### OTHER CHANGES IN FINANCIAL CONDITION

Other current assets decreased \$19.1 million from December 31, 2005. This is primarily due to a reduction in the prepayment related to the VEBA trust we use to fund employee and retiree medical costs, as well as severance benefits. Historically, we made the majority of our contributions to this trust in the first quarter of the year and would fund our obligations from the trust assets throughout the year. During 2006, we decided to change this practice. We now fund the VEBA obligations throughout the year because the tax benefit from pre-funding the trust no longer exceeds the interest cost associated with the pre-funding. During the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and 2005, we contributed \$15.5 million and \$39.5 million, respectively, to the trust. As of September 30, 2006, our liability for incurred but not reported medical claims exceeded the prepaid balance in the VEBA. As such, no amount was reported in other current assets for the VEBA trust as of September 30, 2006.

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Other non-current assets include contract acquisition costs of our Financial Services segment. These costs are recorded as non-current assets upon contract execution and are amortized, generally on the straight-line basis, as reductions of revenue over the related contract term. Changes in contract acquisition costs during the first nine months of 2006 and 2005 were as follows:

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| (in thousands)                     | <b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|
|                                    | <b>2006</b>                            | <b>2005</b> |
| Balance, beginning of year         | \$ 93,664                              | \$ 83,825   |
| Additions <sup>(1)</sup>           | 13,929                                 | 50,583      |
| Amortization                       | (28,063 )                              | (25,960 )   |
| Refunds from contract terminations |  | (5,607 )    |
| Balance, end of period             | \$ 79,530                              | \$ 102,841  |

<sup>(1)</sup> Contract acquisition costs are accrued upon contract execution. Cash payments made for contract acquisition costs were \$16,121 for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and \$67,423 for the nine months ended September 30, 2005.

The number of checks being written has been in decline since the mid-1990 s, which has contributed to increased competitive pressure when attempting to retain or obtain clients. In recent years, both the number of financial institution clients requesting contract acquisition payments and the amount of the payments has increased. Although we anticipate that we will selectively continue to make contract acquisition payments, we cannot quantify future amounts with certainty. The amount paid depends on numerous factors such as the number and timing of contract executions and renewals, competitors' actions, overall product discount levels and the structure of up-front product discount payments versus providing higher discount levels throughout the term of the contract. When the overall discount level provided for in a contract is unchanged, contract acquisition costs do not result in lower net revenue. The impact of these costs is the timing of cash flows. An up-front cash payment is made as opposed to providing higher product discount levels throughout the term of the contract.

Liabilities for contract acquisition payments are recorded upon contract execution. These obligations are monitored for each contract and are adjusted as payments are made. Contract acquisition payments due within the next year are included in accrued liabilities in our consolidated balance sheets. These accruals were \$2.9 million as of September 30, 2006 and \$3.9 million as of December 31, 2005. Accruals for contract acquisition payments included in other non-current liabilities in our consolidated balance sheets were \$5.5 million as of September 30, 2006 and \$6.7 million as of December 31, 2005.

### **OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS, GUARANTEES AND CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

It is not our general business practice to enter into off-balance sheet arrangements nor to guarantee the performance of third parties. In the normal course of business we periodically enter into agreements that incorporate general indemnification language. These indemnifications encompass such items as product or service defects, intellectual property rights, governmental regulations and/or employment-related matters. Performance under these indemnities would generally be triggered by our breach of terms of the contract. In disposing of assets or businesses, we often provide representations, warranties and/or indemnities to cover various risks including, for example, unknown damage to the assets, environmental risks involved in the sale of real estate, liability to investigate and remediate environmental contamination at waste disposal sites and manufacturing facilities, and unidentified tax liabilities and legal fees related to periods prior to disposition. We do not have the ability to estimate the potential liability from such indemnities because they relate to unknown conditions. However, we have no reason to believe that any potential liability under these indemnities would have a material adverse effect on our financial position, annual results of operations or cash flows. We have recorded liabilities for known indemnifications related to environmental matters. Further information can be found under the caption Note 14: Other commitments and contingencies of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.

We are not engaged in any transactions, arrangements or other relationships with unconsolidated entities or other third parties that are reasonably likely to have a material effect on our liquidity, or on our access to, or requirements for capital resources. In addition, we have not established any special purpose entities.

A table of our contractual obligations was provided in the *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation* section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. During the third quarter of 2006, we entered into a new direct mail advertising contract for the Direct Checks segment. As discussed under *Executive Summary*, we intend to modestly increase advertising expenditures in Direct Checks beginning in the fourth quarter of

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2006 to gain volume in the direct-to-consumer channel. The new contract requires annual spending of approximately \$11.5 million each year from 2007 through 2012, for a total obligation of \$69 million dollars. The contract can be cancelled at the end of 2010 for a fee of approximately \$0.6 million. During October 2006, we executed an amendment to an information technology contract, primarily related to network servers. Under this amendment, our contractual obligations were reduced \$6.5 million for 2007 and \$7.8 million each year for 2008 through 2012, for a total reduction of \$45.5 million. There were no other significant changes to the total obligations previously reported.

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

We entered into no related party transactions during the nine months ended September 30, 2006 or during 2005.

#### **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

A description of our critical accounting policies was provided in the *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation* section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. There were no changes to these accounting policies during the nine months ended September 30, 2006.

#### **NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

On January 1, 2006, we adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123(R), *Share-Based Payment*, using the modified prospective method. Prior to this, we were applying the fair value provisions of SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, in our accounting for employee share-based compensation awards. We adopted SFAS No. 123 on January 1, 2004, using the modified prospective method of adoption described in SFAS No. 148, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation - Transition and Disclosure*. Under this method, the results of operations presented for 2005 reflect compensation expense for all employee share-based compensation awards, including the unvested portion of awards granted prior to January 1, 2004. Upon the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R), we continued to recognize compensation expense for all of our employee share-based compensation awards, including the unvested portion of awards granted prior to January 1, 2006. As such, our results of operations for all periods presented include compensation expense for all outstanding employee share-based awards. The adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) had the following impacts on our consolidated financial statements:

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Effective January 1, 2006, a portion of our restricted stock unit awards have been reclassified from shareholders' deficit to accrued liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet. Certain of these awards may be settled in cash if an employee voluntarily chooses to leave the company. Under the provisions of SFAS No. 123(R), these awards must be classified as liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet and must be re-measured at fair value as of each balance sheet date. The amount reclassified as of January 1, 2006 totalled \$1.9 million, which approximated the fair value of these awards on their grant dates. The re-measurement of these awards as of September 30, 2006 resulted in an increase in SG&A expense of \$16,000 for the quarter ended September 30, 2006. For the nine months ended September 30, 2006, the re-measurement of these awards, including the effect of the change in accounting principle, resulted in a \$1.0 million decrease in SG&A expense. The cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle was not presented separately in the consolidated statements of income, as it was not material.

We modified our method of recognizing compensation expense for stock option awards granted to individuals achieving qualified retiree status prior to completion of the options' normal vesting period. Previously, we recognized expense for such awards over their applicable vesting period, with cost recognition accelerated if and when an employee retired with qualified retiree status. Upon adoption of SFAS No. 123(R), we are now required to recognize the entire expense for these awards over the period from the date of grant until the date an employee is expected to achieve qualified retiree status under the terms of the applicable award agreement. This change is applied only to new awards granted after January 1, 2006. If we had applied this expense recognition methodology to awards granted prior to January 1, 2006, it would have reduced compensation expense \$0.1 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and \$0.3 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2005. This methodology would have decreased compensation expense \$0.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 and would have increased compensation expense \$0.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. The terms of our awards granted subsequent to January 1, 2006 require that the compensation committee of our board of directors determine on an individual basis whether an employee is a qualified retiree upon their termination of employment with the company. As such, we do not accelerate the recognition of expense on these awards until the compensation committee makes this determination.

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In November 2005, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. FAS 123(R)-3, *Transition Election Related to Accounting for the Tax Effects of Share-Based Payment Awards*. This FSP provides an alternative method for calculating the net excess tax benefits available to absorb tax deficiencies as required under SFAS No. 123(R). We have elected to utilize the transition method outlined in this FSP in accounting for the income tax consequences of employee share-based compensation awards. Upon the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R), we had a positive income tax windfall pool. For purposes of calculating assumed proceeds under the treasury stock method when determining the denominator for the earnings per share calculation, we exclude the impact of pro forma deferred tax assets.

SFAS No. 123(R) requires that the cash retained as a result of the tax deductibility of employee share-based awards be presented as a component of cash flows from financing activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows. In prior periods, we reported these amounts as a component of cash flows from operating activities. For the nine months ended September 30, 2005, \$1.5 million was included in cash provided by operating activities of continuing operations for the excess tax benefit of employee share-based awards.

The adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) increased compensation expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2006 and reduced compensation expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2006. As such, the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) had the following dollar impacts on our consolidated statements of income and our consolidated statement of cash flows:

|  | <b>Quarter Ended</b> | <b>Nine Months</b>   |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
|  | <b>September 30,</b> | <b>Ended</b>         |
|  | <b>2006</b>          | <b>September 30,</b> |
|  |                      | <b>2006</b>          |
| (in thousands, except per share amounts) |                      |                      |



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|                                   |        |   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---|--------|
| Income before income taxes        | \$ (16 | ) | \$ 954 |
| Income from continuing operations | (12    | ) | 584    |
| Net income                        | (12    | ) | 584    |
| Earnings per share basic          |        |   | 0.01   |
| Earnings per share diluted        |        |   |        |
| Cash used by financing activities | 195    |   | 1,175  |

In June 2006, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*. The new standard defines the threshold for recognizing the benefits of tax return positions in the financial statements as more-likely-than-not to be sustained by the taxing authority. The new standard is effective for us on January 1, 2007. We are currently in the process of analyzing the impact of this new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2006, the FASB ratified the consensuses reached by the Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) regarding EITF Issue No. 06-03, *How Taxes Collected from Customers and Remitted to Government Authorities Should be Presented in the Income Statement (That Is, Gross versus Net Presentation)*. This guidance requires that companies disclose their accounting policy related to sales tax and other similar taxes. We report these taxes on a net basis, excluding them from revenue.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. The new standard addresses how companies should measure fair value when they are required to use a fair value measure for recognition or disclosure purposes under GAAP. The new standard is effective for us on January 1, 2008. We are currently in the process of analyzing the impact of this new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans*. The new standard requires companies to recognize the overfunded or underfunded status of a defined benefit postretirement plan as an asset or liability on the balance sheet and to recognize changes in that funded status in the year in which the change occurs through comprehensive income. This requirement applies to our December 31, 2006 financial statements. As such, our year-end consolidated balance sheet will reflect the funded status of our postretirement benefit plans, with a corresponding adjustment reported in other comprehensive loss, net of tax. We recently adopted a plan amendment to our postretirement medical benefit plan, which required us to perform a re-measurement of our plan assets and liabilities as of July 31, 2006. As of that date, our postretirement medical benefit plan was underfunded \$10.0 million. As of September 30, 2006, our consolidated balance sheet included a postretirement asset of \$30.3 million for this plan. Upon adoption of SFAS No. 158, the postretirement asset will be reclassified to shareholders' deficit, net of tax, and a liability will be recorded for the underfunded amount, with a corresponding adjustment to shareholders' deficit, net of tax. As disclosed in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005, our pension plans were underfunded \$4.8 million on an aggregate basis as of that date, with related liabilities of \$4.2 million included in our consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2005. Upon adoption of SFAS No. 158, we will adjust our pension liabilities to the funded status of our plans, with a corresponding adjustment to shareholders' deficit, net of tax. The new standard also requires companies to measure the funded status of a plan as of the date of its year-end balance sheet. We currently use September 30 as our measurement date. As such, we will need to change our measurement date to December 31 beginning in 2008.

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In September 2006, the FASB ratified the consensuses reached by the EITF regarding EITF Issue No. 06-05, *Accounting for Purchases of Life Insurance-Determining the Amount That Could be Realized in Accordance with FASB Technical Bulletin No. 85-4, Accounting for Purchases of Life Insurance*. The new guidance provides clarification as to how companies should calculate the amount reflected on their balance sheets for

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the cash surrender value of life insurance policies. The long-term investments reported on our consolidated balance sheets consist primarily of investments in life insurance policies. Our accounting for these policies complies with the new guidance. As such, the new guidance has no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In September 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 108, *Financial Statements Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements when Quantifying Misstatements in Current Year Financial Statements*. SAB No. 108 provides guidance on how prior year misstatements should be taken into consideration when quantifying misstatements in current year financial statements for purposes of determining whether the current year's financial statements are materially misstated. We apply the methodology outlined in SAB No. 108 when assessing financial statement errors. As such, SAB No. 108 has no impact on our consolidated financial statements.

### CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the Reform Act) provides a safe harbor for forward-looking statements to encourage companies to provide prospective information. We are filing this cautionary statement in connection with the Reform Act. When we use the words or phrases should result, believe, intend, plan, are expected to, targeted, will continue, will approximate, is anticipated, similar expressions in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, in future filings with the SEC, in our press releases and in oral statements made by our representatives, they indicate forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Reform Act.

We want to caution you that any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf are subject to uncertainties and other factors that could cause them to be wrong. The material uncertainties and other factors known to us are discussed in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 and are incorporated into this report as if fully stated herein, subject to any updates provided in Item 1A of our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. Although we have attempted to compile a comprehensive list of these important factors, we want to caution you that other factors may prove to be important in affecting future operating results. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of these factors, nor can we assess the impact each factor or combination of factors may have on our business.

You are further cautioned not to place undue reliance on those forward-looking statements because they speak only of our views as of the date the statements were made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

We are exposed to changes in interest rates primarily as a result of the borrowing activities used to support our capital structure, maintain liquidity and fund business operations. We do not enter into financial instruments for speculative or trading purposes. During the first nine months of 2006, we used our committed lines of credit to fund working capital requirements. The nature and amount of debt outstanding can be expected to vary as a result of future business requirements, market conditions and other factors. As of September 30, 2006, our total debt was comprised of the following:

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|   | <b>Carrying</b> | <b>Fair</b>                | <b>Weighted-</b> |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|   | <b>amount</b>   | <b>value<sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>average</b>   |                 |
| (in thousands)  | <b>amount</b>   | <b>value<sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>rate</b>      | <b>interest</b> |
| Long-term notes maturing October 2007                     | \$324,933       | \$316,251                  | 3.50             | %               |
| Long-term notes maturing December 2012                    | 298,825         | 246,000                    | 5.00             | %               |
| Long-term notes maturing October 2014                     | 274,507         | 228,594                    | 5.13             | %               |
| Amounts drawn on credit facilities                        | 160,850         | 160,850                    | 5.84             | %               |
| Capital lease obligations maturing through September 2009 | 5,147           | 5,147                      | 10.41            | %               |
| Total debt  | \$1,064,262     | \$956,842                  | 4.73             | %               |

<sup>(1)</sup> Based on quoted market rates as of September 30, 2006, except for capital lease obligations which are shown at carrying value.

Based on the outstanding variable rate debt in our portfolio, a one percentage point increase in interest rates would have resulted in additional interest expense of \$1.3 million for the first nine months of 2006.

We are exposed to changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Investments in and loans and advances to foreign subsidiaries and branches, as well as the operations of these businesses, are denominated in foreign currencies, primarily the Canadian dollar. The effect of exchange rate changes is expected to have a minimal impact on our results of operations and liquidity, as our foreign operations represent a relatively small portion of our business.

### Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

(a) **Disclosure Controls and Procedures** As of the end of the period covered by this report (the Evaluation Date), we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the 1934 Act)). Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the Evaluation Date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in applicable rules and forms, and (ii) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting** There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with our evaluation during the quarter ended September 30, 2006, which have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## **PART II-OTHER INFORMATION**

### Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

We are involved in routine litigation incidental to our business, but there are no material pending legal proceedings to which we are a party or to which any of our property is subject.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Our risk factors are outlined in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. Based on our decision in June 2006 to abandon the software project related to the replacement of portions of our existing order capture, billing and pricing systems, the risk factor regarding this project is no longer applicable.

We have identified the following additional risk factor:

*Our ability to reduce costs is critical to our success.*

We intend to reduce expenses within our shared services functions. We also intend to simplify our business processes within Financial Services, with the intention of generating further cost savings. These initiatives require up-front expenditures related to items such as redesigning and streamlining processes and improving asset utilization and productivity. We can provide no assurance that these expenditures will not exceed our expectations or that we will be successful at reducing our costs. Moreover, we cannot provide assurance that we will be able to achieve our cost reduction goals without disruption to our business and therefore, we may choose to delay or forego certain cost reductions as business conditions require.

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

In August 2003, our board of directors approved an authorization to purchase up to 10 million shares of our common stock. This authorization has no expiration date and 7.9 million shares remain available for purchase under this authorization. During the third quarter of 2006, we did not purchase any of our own equity securities under this authorization, and we have not completed any such purchases since the second quarter of 2004. We do not expect to repurchase a significant number of additional shares in the near future, as we intend to focus on reducing our outstanding debt. However, we have not terminated this authorization, and we may purchase additional shares under this authorization in the future.

While not considered repurchases of shares, we do at times withhold shares that would otherwise be issued under equity-based awards to cover the withholding taxes due as a result of the exercising or vesting of such awards. During the third quarter of 2006, we withheld 8,906 shares in conjunction with the vesting of restricted stock and restricted stock units.

Item 6. Exhibits.

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| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description</u>   | <u>Method of Filing</u> |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1.1                   | Purchase Agreement, dated September 28, 2004, by and among us and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as representatives of the several initial purchasers listed in Schedule 1 of the Purchase Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on October 4, 2004) | *                       |
| 2.1                   | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 17, 2004, by and among us, Hudson Acquisition Corporation and New England Business Service, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (d)(1) to the Deluxe Corporation Schedule TO-T filed with the Commission on May 25, 2004)   | *                       |
| 3.1                   | Articles of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1990)   | *                       |
| 3.2                   | Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006)   | *                       |

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|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 4.1 | Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated as of January 31, 1997, by and between us and Norwest Bank Minnesota, National Association, as Rights Agent, which includes as Exhibit A thereto, the form of Rights Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 1 on Form 8-A/A-1 (File No. 001-07945) filed with the Commission on February 7, 1997) | * |
| 4.2 | Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, entered into as of January 21, 2000, between us and Norwest Bank Minnesota, National Association as Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 1 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2000)  | * |
| 4.3 | First Supplemental Indenture dated as of December 4, 2002, by and between us and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A. (formerly Norwest Bank Minnesota, National Association), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 5, 2002)   | * |
| 4.4 | Indenture, dated as of April 30, 2003, by and between us and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A. (formerly Norwest Bank Minnesota, National Association), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.8 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-104858) filed with the Commission on April 30, 2003)   | * |
| 4.5 |  | * |

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Form of Officer's Certificate and Company Order authorizing the 2007 Notes, series B (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-120381) filed with the Commission on November 12, 2004)

|      |  |                   |
|------|--|-------------------|
| 4.6  | Specimen of 3½% senior notes due 2007, series B (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.8 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-120381) filed with the Commission on November 12, 2004)                                      | *                 |
| 4.7  | Form of Officer's Certificate and Company Order authorizing the 2014 Notes, series B (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-120381) filed with the Commission on November 12, 2004) | *                 |
| 4.8  | Specimen of 5 1/8% senior notes due 2014, series B (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-120381) filed with the Commission on November 12, 2004)                                  | *                 |
| 10.1 | Offer Letter, dated as of September 15, 2006, between us and Richard S. Greene   | Filed<br>herewith |
| 12.1 | Statement re: Computation of Ratios  | Filed<br>herewith |

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|      |  |                       |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| 31.1 | CEO Certification of Periodic Report pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002         | Filed<br>herewith     |
| 31.2 | CFO Certification of Periodic Report pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002         | Filed<br>herewith     |
| 32.1 | CEO and CFO Certification of Periodic Report pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 | Furnished<br>herewith |

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\* Incorporated by reference

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**SIGNATURES**

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

DELUXE CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

Dated: November 6, 2006

By: /s/ Lee Schram  
Lee Schram  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Dated: November 6, 2006

By: /s/ Richard S. Greene  
Richard S. Greene  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

Dated: November 6, 2006

By: /s/ Terry D. Peterson  
Terry D. Peterson  
Vice President, Investor Relations  
and Chief Accounting Officer  
(Principal Accounting Officer)

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------|--|
| 10.1               | Offer Letter, dated as of September 15, 2006, between us and Richard S. Greene                         |
| 12.1               | Statement re: Computation of Ratios  |
| 31.1               | CEO Certification of Periodic Report pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2004         |
| 31.2               | CFO Certification of Periodic Report pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2004         |
| 32.1               | CEO and CFO Certification of Periodic Report pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |