

RLI CORP
Form 10-Q
October 28, 2013

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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, 2013

or

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 001-09463

RLI Corp.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

ILLINOIS

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

37-0889946
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

9025 North Lindbergh Drive, Peoria, IL
(Address of principal executive offices)

61615
(Zip Code)

(309) 692-1000

(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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

APPLICABLE ONLY TO CORPORATE ISSUERS:

As of October 11, 2013, the number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Common Stock was 21,446,816.

PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Earnings

(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except per share data)	For the Three-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012
Net premiums earned	\$ 163,702	\$ 149,943
Net investment income	13,598	14,221
Net realized investment gains	10,999	5,481
Consolidated revenue	188,299	169,645
Losses and settlement expenses	64,246	70,598
Policy acquisition costs	54,176	49,262
Insurance operating expenses	13,462	11,553
Interest expense on debt	1,513	1,512
General corporate expenses	2,157	2,099
Total expenses	135,554	135,024
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investee	2,564	1,859
Earnings before income taxes	55,309	36,480
Income tax expense	17,662	11,017
Net earnings	\$ 37,647	\$ 25,463
Other comprehensive earnings (loss), net of tax	(1,946)	21,047
Comprehensive earnings	\$ 35,701	\$ 46,510
Earnings per share:		
Basic:		
Basic net earnings per share	\$ 1.76	\$ 1.20
Basic comprehensive earnings per share	\$ 1.67	\$ 2.19
Diluted:		
Diluted net earnings per share	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.19
Diluted comprehensive earnings per share	\$ 1.64	\$ 2.16
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding		
Basic	21,422	21,218
Diluted	21,773	21,486
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.32

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Earnings

(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except per share data)	For the Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012
Net premiums earned	\$ 462,406	\$ 428,807
Net investment income	39,331	44,340
Net realized investment gains	18,425	17,389
Other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses on investments		(1,156)
Consolidated revenue	520,162	489,380
Losses and settlement expenses	191,301	193,486
Policy acquisition costs	156,014	145,632
Insurance operating expenses	37,916	34,595
Interest expense on debt	4,538	4,537
General corporate expenses	6,235	5,901
Total expenses	396,004	384,151
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investee	10,696	8,928
Earnings before income taxes	134,854	114,157
Income tax expense	42,458	35,908
Net earnings	\$ 92,396	\$ 78,249
Other comprehensive earnings (loss), net of tax	(17,874)	37,713
Comprehensive earnings	\$ 74,522	\$ 115,962
Earnings per share:		
Basic:		
Basic net earnings per share	\$ 4.33	\$ 3.69
Basic comprehensive earnings per share	\$ 3.49	\$ 5.47
Diluted:		
Diluted net earnings per share	\$ 4.26	\$ 3.64
Diluted comprehensive earnings per share	\$ 3.44	\$ 5.39
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding		
Basic	21,337	21,207
Diluted	21,665	21,519
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.94

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except share data)	September 30, 2013	December 31, 2012
ASSETS		
Investments		
Fixed income		
Available-for-sale, at fair value	\$ 1,379,012	\$ 1,378,582
Held-to-maturity, at amortized cost	651	11,728
Trading, at fair value		7
Equity securities, at fair value	392,156	375,788
Short-term investments, at cost	22,994	30,462
Cash	87,398	44,314
Total investments and cash	1,882,211	1,840,881
Bond issuance - proceeds receivable	148,596	
Accrued investment income	12,781	14,403
Premiums and reinsurance balances receivable	157,213	139,355
Ceded unearned premium	69,842	73,192
Reinsurance balances recoverable on unpaid losses	360,194	359,884
Deferred policy acquisition costs	63,215	52,344
Property and equipment	36,007	27,987
Investment in unconsolidated investee	62,506	52,128
Goodwill and intangibles	75,140	76,113
Other assets	18,932	8,345
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,886,637	\$ 2,644,632
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Unpaid losses and settlement expenses	\$ 1,135,698	\$ 1,158,483
Unearned premiums	416,886	369,346
Reinsurance balances payable	44,530	43,959
Funds held	64,047	56,633
Income taxes-deferred	54,337	55,566
Debt, notes payable due 2014	100,000	100,000
Debt, notes payable due 2023	150,000	
Accrued expenses	49,108	49,933
Other liabilities	17,453	14,349
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 2,032,059	\$ 1,848,269
Shareholders Equity		
Common stock (\$1 par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized)		
(32,911,923 shares issued, 21,446,816 shares outstanding at 9/30/13)		
(32,727,731 shares issued, 21,262,624 shares outstanding at 12/31/12)	32,912	32,728
Paid-in capital	240,125	235,262
Accumulated other comprehensive earnings	125,296	143,170
Retained earnings	849,244	778,202
Deferred compensation	10,482	11,106
Less: Treasury shares at cost		
(11,465,107 shares at 9/30/13 and 12/31/12)	(403,481)	(404,105)
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	854,578	796,363
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 2,886,637	\$ 2,644,632

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	For the Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 81,736	\$ 13,154
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Investments purchased	(358,510)	(628,331)
Investments sold	221,133	180,641
Investments called or matured	114,929	469,041
Net change in short-term investments	10,869	(59,088)
Net property and equipment purchased	(10,766)	(11,073)
Net cash used in investing activities	\$ (22,345)	\$ (48,810)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Cash dividends paid	\$ (21,354)	\$ (19,940)
Stock plan share issuance	159	4,842
Excess tax benefit from exercise of stock options	4,888	871
Net cash used in financing activities	\$ (16,307)	\$ (14,227)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	43,084	(49,883)
Cash at the beginning of the period	44,314	81,184
Cash at September 30	\$ 87,398	\$ 31,301

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) for interim financial reporting and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the disclosures required by GAAP for complete financial statements. As such, these unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with our 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Management believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading, and all normal and recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position at September 30, 2013 and the results of operations of RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries for all periods presented have been made. The results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the operating results for a full year.

The preparation of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. These estimates are inherently subject to change and actual results could differ significantly from these estimates.

B. ADOPTED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

ASU 2012-02, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment

This ASU permits an entity the option to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that an indefinite-lived intangible asset is impaired. The results of the qualitative assessment are used as a basis in determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step quantitative impairment test. If the qualitative assessment supports the conclusion that it is more likely than not that the fair value of the asset exceeds its carrying amount, the entity would not need to perform the two-step quantitative impairment test. The focus of the guidance is to reduce the cost and complexity of performing impairment tests for indefinite-lived intangible assets other than goodwill, and to improve consistency in impairment testing among long-lived asset categories.

We adopted ASU 2012-02 on January 1, 2013. The adoption did not have a material effect on our financial statements. There have been no triggering events that would suggest possible impairment or that it is more likely than not that the fair values of indefinite-lived intangible assets are less than their carrying amounts.

ASU 2013-02, Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

This ASU was issued to improve the reporting of reclassifications out of

accumulated other comprehensive income. The guidance requires an entity to present, either on the face of the statement where net earnings is presented or in the notes, significant amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items in the statement of earnings. The intent of the guidance is to provide financial statement users with a single location to determine the effect of reclassification adjustments on the financial statements.

We adopted ASU 2013-02 on January 1, 2013. The required disclosures have been included in note 1.F. to these unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

C. PROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

There are no prospective accounting standards which would impact our financial statements as of September 30, 2013.

D. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

In accordance with GAAP guidelines, the amortization of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets is not permitted. Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets remain on the balance sheet and are tested for impairment on an annual basis, or earlier if there is reason to suspect that their values may have been diminished or impaired. Goodwill and intangibles totaled \$75.1 million at September 30, 2013. These assets relate to acquisition activity including our recent acquisitions of Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company (CBIC) and Rockbridge Underwriting Agency (Rockbridge).

Goodwill resulting from acquisitions completed prior to 2011 totaled \$26.2 million and is attributable to our surety segment. Goodwill and intangible assets resulting from the CBIC acquisition in April 2011 totaled \$32.6 million. The CBIC-related assets include goodwill attributable to our casualty and surety segments of \$5.3 million and \$15.1 million, respectively, and an indefinite-lived intangible asset in the amount of \$8.8 million. Annual impairment testing was performed on each of these goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets during the second quarter of 2013. Based upon these reviews, none of the assets were impaired. In addition, as of September 30, 2013, there were no triggering events that occurred that would suggest an updated review was necessary. Definite-lived intangible assets related to the CBIC acquisition totaled \$3.4 million, net of amortization, as of September 30, 2013.

The remaining \$16.3 million of goodwill and intangibles relates to our purchase of Rockbridge in November 2012. Goodwill attributable to our casualty segment totaled \$12.4 million. Definite-lived intangible assets totaled \$3.9 million, net of amortization, as of September 30, 2013. Our initial annual impairment testing on this goodwill will be performed in the fourth quarter of 2013. As of September 30, 2013, there were no triggering events that occurred that would suggest an interim review was necessary. See note 6 to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements for further discussion.

The aforementioned definite-lived intangible assets are amortized against future operating results based on their estimated useful lives. Amortization

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

of intangible assets resulting from the acquisitions of CBIC and Rockbridge was \$0.4 million for the third quarter of 2013, and \$1.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

E. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share (EPS) excludes dilution and is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS reflects the dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock or common stock equivalents were exercised or converted into common stock. When inclusion of common stock equivalents increases the earnings per share or reduces the loss per share, the effect on earnings is anti-dilutive. Under these circumstances, the diluted net earnings or net loss per share is computed excluding the common stock equivalents.

The following represents a reconciliation of the numerator and denominator of the basic and diluted EPS computations contained in the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

(in thousands, except per share data)	For the Three-Month Period Ended September 30, 2013			For the Three-Month Period Ended September 30, 2012		
	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount
Basic EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	\$ 37,647	21,422	\$ 1.76	\$ 25,463	21,218	\$ 1.20
Effect of Dilutive Securities						
Stock options		351			268	
Diluted EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	\$ 37,647	21,773	\$ 1.73	\$ 25,463	21,486	\$ 1.19

(in thousands, except per share data)	For the Nine-Month Period Ended September 30, 2013			For the Nine-Month Period Ended September 30, 2012		
	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount
Basic EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	\$ 92,396	21,337	\$ 4.33	\$ 78,249	21,207	\$ 3.69
Effect of Dilutive Securities						
Stock options		328			312	
Diluted EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	\$ 92,396	21,665	\$ 4.26	\$ 78,249	21,519	\$ 3.64

F. COMPREHENSIVE EARNINGS

Our comprehensive earnings include net earnings plus unrealized gains/losses on our available-for-sale investment securities, net of tax. In reporting comprehensive earnings on a net basis in the statement of earnings, we used a 35 percent tax rate. The following table illustrates the changes in the balance of each component of accumulated other comprehensive earnings for each period presented in the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

(in thousands)	For the Three-Month Periods Ended		For the Nine-Month Periods	
	September 30,		Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
<u>Unrealized Gains/Losses on Available-for-Sale Securities</u>				
Beginning balance	\$ 127,242	133,991	\$ 143,170	117,325
Other comprehensive earnings before reclassifications	5,203	25,127	(5,354)	50,066
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive earnings	(7,149)	(4,080)	(12,520)	(12,353)
Net current-period other comprehensive earnings	\$ (1,946)	21,047	\$ (17,874)	37,713
Ending balance	\$ 125,296	155,038	\$ 125,296	155,038

The sale or other-than-temporary impairment of an available-for-sale security results in amounts being reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive earnings to current period net earnings. The effects of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive earnings by the respective line items of net earnings are presented in the following table.

(in thousands)	Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Earnings				Affected line item in the Statement of Earnings
	For the Three-Month Periods Ended		For the Nine-Month Periods Ended		
	September 30,	2012	September 30,	2012	
Component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Earnings	2013	2012	2013	2012	
Unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities	\$ 10,998	6,278	\$ 19,261	20,161	Net realized investment gains
				(1,156)	Other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses on investments
	10,998	6,278	19,261	19,005	Earnings before income taxes
	(3,849)	(2,198)	(6,741)	(6,652)	Income tax expense
	\$ 7,149	4,080	\$ 12,520	12,353	Net earnings

2. INVESTMENTS

Our investments include fixed income debt securities and common stock equity securities. As disclosed in our 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K, we present our investments in these classes as available-for-sale and held-to-maturity. When available, we obtain quoted market prices to determine fair value for our investments. If a quoted market price is not available, fair value is estimated using a secondary pricing source or using quoted market prices of similar securities. We have no investment securities for which fair value is

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

determined using Level 3 inputs as defined in note 3 to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements, Fair Value Measurements.

The following tables show the amortized cost, unrealized gains/losses, fair value and contractual maturities for our available-for-sale and held-to-maturity securities.

Available-for-Sale Securities

The amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale securities at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 were as follows:

Available-for-sale

(in thousands)

Asset Class	9/30/2013			
	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. agency	\$ 8,537	\$ 52	\$ (130)	\$ 8,459
Corporate	474,628	23,746	(6,850)	491,524
Mortgage-backed	247,317	7,722	(3,475)	251,564
ABS/CMBS*	94,123	1,609	(1,725)	94,007
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	11,414	469	(16)	11,867
U.S. government	17,090	253		17,343
Municipal	506,834	8,079	(10,665)	504,248
Total Fixed Income	\$ 1,359,943	\$ 41,930	\$ (22,861)	\$ 1,379,012
Equity	\$ 218,656	\$ 173,861	\$ (361)	\$ 392,156

Available-for-sale

(in thousands)

Asset Class	12/31/2012			
	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. agency	\$ 11,609	\$ 150	\$	\$ 11,759
Corporate	535,437	45,497	(226)	580,708
Mortgage-backed	234,629	15,758		250,387
ABS/CMBS*	72,681	4,648		77,329
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	8,410	957		9,367
U.S. government	16,358	355		16,713

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

Municipal		415,226		17,250		(157)		432,319
Total Fixed Income	\$	1,294,350	\$	84,615	\$	(383)	\$	1,378,582
Equity	\$	240,287	\$	136,376	\$	(875)	\$	375,788

*Asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

The following table presents the amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale debt securities by contractual maturity dates as of September 30, 2013:

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

AFS (in thousands)	9/30/2013	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 12,910	\$ 13,014
Due after one year through five years	146,264	155,143
Due after five years through 10 years	616,368	627,254
Due after 10 years	242,961	238,030
Mtge/ABS/CMBS*	341,440	345,571
Total available-for-sale	\$ 1,359,943	\$ 1,379,012

*Mortgage-backed, asset-backed & commercial mortgage-backed

Held-to-Maturity Debt Securities

The carrying value and fair value of held-to-maturity securities at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 were as follows:

Held-to-maturity

(in thousands)

Asset Class	9/30/2013			Fair Value
	Amortized Cost/ Carrying Value**	Gross Unrecognized Gains	Gross Unrecognized Losses	
U.S. agency	\$	\$	\$	\$
Corporate				
Mortgage-backed ABS/CMBS*				
Non-U.S. govt. & agency				
U.S. government				
Municipal	651	44		695
Total Fixed Income	\$ 651	\$ 44	\$	\$ 695

Held-to-maturity

(in thousands)

Asset Class	12/31/2012			Fair Value
	Amortized Cost/ Carrying Value**	Gross Unrecognized Gains	Gross Unrecognized Losses	
U.S. agency	\$ 10,076	\$ 74	\$	\$ 10,150
Corporate				
Mortgage-backed				

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

ABS/CMBS*

U.S. government					
Municipal		1,652		66	1,718
Total Fixed Income	\$	11,728	\$	140	\$ 11,868

* Asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

** Held-to-maturity securities are carried on the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheets at amortized cost and changes in the fair value of these securities, other than impairment charges, are not reported on the financial statements.

The following table presents the carrying value and fair value of debt securities held-to-maturity by contractual maturity dates as of September 30, 2013:

HTM (in thousands)	9/30/2013	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$	\$
Due after one year through five years	651	695
Due after five years through 10 years		
Due after 10 years		
Mtge/ABS/CMBS*		
Total held-to-maturity	\$	\$
	651	695

*Mortgage-backed, asset-backed & commercial mortgage-backed

We conduct and document periodic reviews of all securities with unrealized losses to evaluate whether the impairment is other-than-temporary. The following tables are used as part of our impairment analysis and illustrate the total value of securities that were in an unrealized loss position as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012. The tables segregate the securities based on type, noting the fair value, cost (or amortized cost), and unrealized loss on each category of investment as well as in total. The tables further classify the securities based on the length of time they have been in an unrealized loss position. As of September 30, 2013 unrealized losses, as shown in the following tables, were 1.2% of total invested assets. Unrealized losses have increased in 2013, as interest rates have increased throughout the year, particularly during the second quarter.

Investment Positions with Unrealized Losses**Segmented by Type and Period of Continuous****Unrealized Loss at September 30, 2013**

(in thousands)	< 12 Mos.	12 Mos. & Greater	Total
U.S. Government			
Fair value	\$	\$	\$
Cost or Amortized Cost			
Unrealized Loss			
U.S. Agency			
Fair value	\$	3,866	\$ 3,866
Cost or Amortized Cost		3,996	3,996
Unrealized Loss		(130)	(130)
Non-U.S. govt. & agency			
Fair value	\$	2,985	\$ 2,985
Cost or Amortized Cost		3,001	3,001
Unrealized Loss		(16)	(16)
Mortgage-backed			
Fair value	\$	92,321	\$ 92,321
Cost or Amortized Cost		95,796	95,796
Unrealized Loss		(3,475)	(3,475)
ABS/CMBS*			
Fair value	\$	50,376	\$ 50,376
Cost or Amortized Cost		52,101	52,101
Unrealized Loss		(1,725)	(1,725)
Corporate			
Fair value	\$	175,314	\$ 175,314
Cost or Amortized Cost		182,164	182,164
Unrealized Loss		(6,850)	(6,850)
Municipal			
Fair value	\$	283,155	\$ 946 \$ 284,101
Cost or Amortized Cost		293,809	957 294,766
Unrealized Loss		(10,654)	(11) (10,665)
Subtotal, debt securities			
Fair value	\$	608,017	\$ 946 \$ 608,963
Cost or Amortized Cost		630,867	957 631,824
Unrealized Loss		(22,850)	(11) (22,861)
Equity securities			
Fair value	\$	7,041	\$ 7,041
Cost or Amortized Cost		7,402	7,402
Unrealized Loss		(361)	(361)
Total			
Fair value	\$	615,058	\$ 946 \$ 616,004
Cost or Amortized Cost		638,269	957 639,226

Unrealized Loss	(23,211)	(11)	(23,222)
-----------------	----------	------	----------

* Asset-backed & commercial mortgage-backed.

Investment Positions with Unrealized Losses**Segmented by Type and Period of Continuous****Unrealized Loss at December 31, 2012**

(in thousands)	< 12 Mos.	12 Mos. & Greater	Total
U.S. Government			
Fair value	\$ 749	\$	749
Cost or Amortized Cost	749		749
Unrealized Loss			
U.S. Agency			
Fair value	\$	\$	\$
Cost or Amortized Cost			
Unrealized Loss			
Non-U.S. govt. & agency			
Fair value	\$	\$	\$
Cost or Amortized Cost			
Unrealized Loss			
Mortgage-backed			
Fair value	\$	\$	\$
Cost or Amortized Cost			
Unrealized Loss			
ABS/CMBS*			
Fair value	\$ 18	\$	18
Cost or Amortized Cost	18		18
Unrealized Loss			
Corporate			
Fair value	\$ 35,969	\$ 960	\$ 36,929
Cost or Amortized Cost	36,162	993	37,155
Unrealized Loss	(193)	(33)	(226)
Municipal			
Fair value	\$ 35,064	\$	35,064
Cost or Amortized Cost	35,221		35,221
Unrealized Loss	(157)		(157)
Subtotal, debt securities			
Fair value	\$ 71,800	\$ 960	\$ 72,760
Cost or Amortized Cost	72,150	993	73,143
Unrealized Loss	(350)	(33)	(383)
Equity securities			
Fair value	\$ 16,207	\$	16,207
Cost or Amortized Cost	17,082		17,082
Unrealized Loss	(875)		(875)
Total			
Fair value	\$ 88,007	\$ 960	\$ 88,967
Cost or Amortized Cost	89,232	993	90,225

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

Unrealized Loss	(1,225)	(33)	(1,258)
-----------------	---------	------	---------

* Asset-backed & commercial mortgage-backed.

This table excludes securities with a fair value of less than \$0.1 million, classified as trading.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

The following table shows the composition of the fixed income securities in unrealized loss positions at September 30, 2013 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) rating and the generally equivalent Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Moody's ratings. The vast majority of the securities are rated by S&P and/or Moody's.

NAIC Rating	Equivalent S&P Rating	Equivalent Moody's Rating	(dollars in thousands)			
			Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss	Percent to Total
1	AAA/AA/A	Aaa/Aa/A	\$ 597,964	\$ 576,292	\$ (21,672)	94.8%
2	BBB	Baa	32,870	31,703	(1,167)	5.1%
3	BB	Ba	990	968	(22)	0.1%
4	B	B				
5	CCC or lower	Caa or lower				
6						
Total			\$ 631,824	\$ 608,963	\$ (22,861)	100.0%

Cash and Short-term Investments

Cash consists of uninvested balances in bank accounts. We had a cash balance of \$87.4 million at the end of the third quarter of 2013, compared to \$44.3 million at the end of 2012. Short-term investments are carried at cost, which approximates fair value. The balance at September 30, 2013 was \$23.0 million compared to \$30.5 million at December 31, 2012.

Evaluating Investments for OTTI

The fixed income portfolio contained 288 securities in an unrealized loss position as of September 30, 2013. The \$22.9 million in associated unrealized losses for these 288 securities represents 1.7% of the fixed income portfolio's cost basis. Of these 288 securities, one has been in an unrealized loss position for 12 consecutive months or longer. All fixed income securities in the investment portfolio continue to pay the expected coupon payments under the contractual terms of the securities. Any credit-related impairment related to fixed income securities we do not plan to sell and for which we are not more likely than not to be required to sell is recognized in net earnings, with the non-credit related impairment recognized in comprehensive earnings. Based on our analysis, our fixed income portfolio is of high credit quality and we believe we will recover the amortized cost basis of our fixed income securities. We continually monitor the credit quality of our fixed income investments to assess if it is probable that we will receive our contractual or estimated cash flows in the form of principal and interest. There were no other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses recognized in net earnings or other comprehensive earnings in the periods presented on the fixed income portfolio.

As of September 30, 2013, we held three common stock securities that were in an unrealized loss position. The unrealized loss on these securities was \$0.4 million. Based on our analysis, we believe each security will recover in a reasonable period of time and we have the intent and ability to hold them until recovery. No equity securities have been in an unrealized loss position for 12 consecutive months or longer.

No securities were considered to be other-than-temporarily impaired during the first nine months of 2013. During the first nine months of 2012, we recognized \$1.2 million in other-than-temporary impairment charges for equity securities we no longer had the intent to hold until recovery.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Assets and Liabilities Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

Fair value is defined as the price in the principal market that would be received for an asset to facilitate an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date.

We determined the fair values of certain financial instruments based on their underlying characteristics and relevant transactions in the marketplace. GAAP guidance requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The guidance also describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value.

Financial assets are classified based upon the lowest level of significant input that is used to determine fair value. The following are the levels of the fair value hierarchy and a brief description of the type of valuation inputs that are used to establish each level:

Pricing Level 1 is applied to valuations based on readily available, unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. These valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market.

Pricing Level 2 is applied to valuations based upon quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets in inactive markets; or valuations based on models where the significant inputs are observable (e.g. interest rates, yield curves, prepayment speeds, default rates, loss severities) or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Pricing Level 3 is applied to valuations that are derived from techniques in which one or more of the significant inputs are unobservable.

As a part of management's process to determine fair value, we utilize a widely recognized, third-party pricing source to determine our fair values. We have obtained an understanding of the third-party pricing source's valuation methodologies and inputs. The following is a description of the valuation techniques used for financial assets that are measured at fair value, including the general classification of such assets pursuant to the fair value hierarchy.

Corporate, Agencies, Government and Municipal Bonds: The pricing vendor uses a generic model which uses standard inputs, including (listed in order of priority for use), benchmark yields, reported trades, broker/dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

securities, market bids/offers and other reference data. The pricing vendor also monitors market indicators, as well as industry and economic events. All bonds valued using these

techniques are classified as Level 2. All corporate, agency, government and municipal securities were deemed Level 2.

Mortgage-backed Securities (MBS)/Commercial Mortgage-backed Securities (CMBS) and Asset-backed Securities (ABS): The pricing vendor evaluation methodology includes interest rate movements, new issue data and other pertinent data. Evaluation of the tranches (non-volatile, volatile or credit sensitivity) is based on the pricing vendors' interpretation of accepted modeling and pricing conventions. This information is then used to determine the cash flows for each tranche, benchmark yields, prepayment assumptions and to incorporate collateral performance. To evaluate MBS and CMBS volatility, an option adjusted spread model is used in combination with models that simulate interest rate paths to determine market price information. This process allows the pricing vendor to obtain evaluations of a broad universe of securities in a way that reflects changes in yield curve, index rates, implied volatility, mortgage rates and recent trade activity. MBS/CMBS and ABS with corroborated, observable inputs are classified as Level 2. All of our MBS/CMBS and ABS are deemed Level 2.

Common Stock: Exchange traded equities have readily observable price levels and are classified as Level 1 (fair value based on quoted market prices). All of our common stock holdings are deemed Level 1.

For the Level 2 securities, as described above, we periodically conduct a review to assess the reasonableness of the fair values provided by our pricing service. Our review consists of a two pronged approach. First, we compare prices provided by our pricing service to those provided by an additional source. Second, we obtain prices from securities brokers and compare them to the prices provided by our pricing service. In both comparisons, when discrepancies are found, we compare our prices to actual reported trade data. Based on this assessment, we determined that the fair values of our Level 2 securities provided by our pricing service are reasonable.

For common stock, we receive prices from the same nationally recognized pricing service. Prices are based on observable inputs in an active market and are therefore classified as Level 1. Based on this assessment, we determined that the fair values of our Level 1 securities provided by our pricing service are reasonable.

Due to the relatively short-term nature of cash, short-term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable, their carrying amounts are reasonable estimates of fair value.

Assets measured at fair value in the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements on a recurring basis are summarized below:

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

(in thousands) Description	As of September 30, 2013			Total
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Trading securities				
Corporate	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mortgage-backed ABS/CMBS*				
U.S. government				
Total trading securities	\$	\$	\$	\$
Available-for-sale securities				
U.S. agency	\$	\$	8,459	\$ 8,459
Corporate			491,524	491,524
Mortgage-backed			251,564	251,564
ABS/CMBS*			94,007	94,007
Non-U.S. govt. & agency			11,867	11,867
U.S. government			17,343	17,343
Municipal			504,248	504,248
Equity	392,156			392,156
Total available-for-sale securities	\$ 392,156	\$ 1,379,012	\$	\$ 1,771,168
Total	\$ 392,156	\$ 1,379,012	\$	\$ 1,771,168

*Asset-backed & commercial mortgage-backed

(in thousands) Description	As of December 31, 2012			Total
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Trading securities				
Corporate	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mortgage-backed ABS/CMBS*			7	7
U.S. government				
Total trading securities	\$	\$	7	\$ 7
Available-for-sale securities				
U.S. agency	\$	\$	11,759	\$ 11,759
Corporate			580,708	580,708
Mortgage-backed			250,387	250,387
ABS/CMBS*			77,329	77,329
Non-U.S. govt. & agency			9,367	9,367
U.S. government			16,713	16,713
Municipal			432,319	432,319
Equity	375,788			375,788
Total available-for-sale securities	\$ 375,788	\$ 1,378,582	\$	\$ 1,754,370
Total	\$ 375,788	\$ 1,378,589	\$	\$ 1,754,377

*Asset-backed & commercial mortgage-backed

As noted in the above table, we do not have any assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the period. Additionally, there were no securities transferred in or out of levels 1 or 2 during the three-month period ended September 30, 2013.

4. STOCK BASED COMPENSATION

Our RLI Corp. Omnibus Stock Plan (omnibus plan) was in place from 2005 to 2010. The omnibus plan provided for grants of up to 1,500,000 shares (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization). Since 2005, we have granted 1,228,726 stock options under this plan, including incentive stock options (ISOs), which were adjusted as part of the special dividends in 2012, 2011 and 2010.

During the second quarter of 2010, our shareholders approved the RLI Corp. Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP), which replaced the omnibus plan. In conjunction with the adoption of the LTIP, effective May 6, 2010, options will no longer be granted under the omnibus plan. Awards under the LTIP may be in the form of restricted stock, stock options (nonqualified only), stock appreciation rights, performance units, as well as other stock-based awards. Eligibility under the LTIP is limited to employees or directors of the company or any affiliate. The granting of awards under the LTIP is solely at the discretion of the board of directors. The total number of shares of common stock available for distribution under the LTIP may not exceed 2,000,000 shares (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization and certain other events). Since 2010, we have granted 1,131,000 stock options under the LTIP, including 291,100 thus far in 2013.

Under the LTIP, as under the omnibus plan, we grant stock options for shares with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the shares at the date of grant. Options generally vest and become exercisable ratably over a five-year period. Beginning with the annual grant in May 2009, options granted under both plans have an eight-year life. Prior to that grant, options were granted with a ten-year life. The related compensation expense is recognized over the requisite service period.

In most instances, the requisite service period and vesting period will be the same. For participants who are retirement eligible, defined by the plan as those individuals whose age and years of service equals 75, the requisite service period is deemed to be met and options are immediately expensed on the date of grant. For participants who will become retirement eligible during the vesting period, the requisite service period over which expense is recognized is the period between the grant date and the attainment of retirement eligibility. Shares issued upon option exercise are newly issued shares.

The following tables summarize option activity for the periods ended September 30, 2013 and 2012:

	Number of Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in 000 s)
Outstanding options at January 1, 2013	1,472,602	\$ 44.45		
Options granted	291,100	\$ 72.62		
Options exercised	(380,681)	\$ 34.36		\$ 17,211
Options canceled/forfeited	(22,440)	\$ 51.86		
Outstanding options at September 30, 2013	1,360,581	\$ 53.18	5.65	\$ 46,590
Exercisable options at September 30, 2013	530,331	\$ 42.18	4.35	\$ 23,995

	Number of Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in 000 s)
Outstanding options at January 1, 2012	1,280,866	\$ 43.23		
Options granted	292,900	\$ 68.46		
Options exercised	(63,721)	\$ 40.29		\$ 1,966
Options canceled/forfeited	(3,120)	\$ 45.84		
Outstanding options at September 30, 2012	1,506,925	\$ 48.26	5.32	\$ 28,385
Exercisable options at September 30, 2012	738,945	\$ 40.78	4.33	\$ 19,125

The majority of our options are granted annually at our regular board meeting in May. In addition, options are approved at the May meeting for quarterly grants to certain retirement eligible employees. Since grants to retirement eligible employees are fully expensed when issued, the approach allows for a more even expense distribution throughout the year.

Thus far in 2013, 291,100 options were granted with an average exercise price of \$72.62 and a weighted average fair value of \$13.17. We recognized \$1.0 million of expense in the third quarter of 2013, and \$2.8 million in the first nine months of 2013, related to options vesting. Since options granted under our plan are non-qualified, we recorded a tax benefit of \$0.3 million in the third quarter of 2013, and \$1.0 million in the first nine months of 2013, related to this compensation expense. Total unrecognized compensation expense relating to outstanding and unvested options was \$5.1 million, which will be recognized over the remainder of the vesting period. Comparatively, we recognized \$0.9 million of expense in the third quarter of 2012, and \$2.7 million of expense in the first nine months of 2012. We recorded a tax benefit of \$0.3 million in the third quarter of 2012, and \$0.9 million in the first nine months of 2012, related to this compensation expense.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

The fair value of options was estimated using a Black-Scholes based option pricing model with the following weighted average grant-date assumptions and weighted average fair values as of September 30:

	2013		2012	
Weighted-average fair value of grants	\$	13.17	\$	13.13
Risk-free interest rates		0.80%		0.90%
Dividend yield		2.00%		1.93%
Expected volatility		25.41%		25.64%
Expected option life		5.23 years		5.39 years

The risk-free rate is determined based on U.S. treasury yields that most closely approximate the option's expected life. The dividend yield is calculated based on the average annualized dividends paid during the most recent five-year period. It excludes the special dividends paid in the fourth quarters of 2012, 2011 and 2010. The expected volatility is calculated based on the mean reversion of RLI's stock. The expected option life is determined based on historical exercise behavior and the assumption that all outstanding options will be exercised at the midpoint of the current date and remaining contractual term, adjusted for the demographics of the current year's grant.

In 2013, we began providing restricted common stock to outside directors. Shares are issued to outside directors from the LTIP as part of annual director compensation and are directly owned by each director on the date of issuance. Currently, each director receives restricted shares worth \$10,000 at the time of issuance. The shares are issued annually in the first quarter and include a one-year restriction on the sale or transfer of such shares. In the first quarter of 2013, we issued a total of 1,160 restricted shares and recognized \$0.1 million of compensation expense.

5. OPERATING SEGMENT INFORMATION - Selected information by operating segment is presented in the table below. Additionally, the table reconciles segment totals to total earnings and total revenues.

SEGMENT DATA (in thousands)

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended September 30, REVENUES		For the Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30, REVENUES	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Net premiums earned:				
Casualty	\$ 83,966	\$ 68,194	\$ 235,307	\$ 197,409
Property	52,705	54,741	147,305	151,581
Surety	27,031	27,008	79,794	79,817
Segment totals before income taxes	\$ 163,702	\$ 149,943	\$ 462,406	\$ 428,807
Net investment income	13,598	14,221	39,331	44,340
Net realized gains	10,999	5,481	18,425	16,233
Total consolidated revenue	\$ 188,299	\$ 169,645	\$ 520,162	\$ 489,380
	NET EARNINGS		NET EARNINGS	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Casualty	\$ 20,799	\$ 10,806	\$ 39,517	\$ 22,409
Property	6,468	(310)	19,614	11,317
Surety	4,551	8,034	18,044	21,368
Net underwriting income	\$ 31,818	\$ 18,530	\$ 77,175	\$ 55,094
Net investment income	13,598	14,221	39,331	44,340
Net realized gains	10,999	5,481	18,425	16,233
General corporate expense and interest on debt	(3,670)	(3,611)	(10,773)	(10,438)
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investee	2,564	1,859	10,696	8,928
Total earnings before income taxes	\$ 55,309	\$ 36,480	\$ 134,854	\$ 114,157
Income tax expense	17,662	11,017	42,458	35,908
Total net earnings	\$ 37,647	\$ 25,463	\$ 92,396	\$ 78,249

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

The following table further summarizes revenues (net premiums earned) by major product type within each operating segment:

(in thousands)	For the Three-Month Periods Ended September 30,		For the Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Casualty				
General liability	\$ 20,342	\$ 21,556	\$ 61,139	\$ 63,449
Commercial and personal umbrella	22,247	17,430	61,803	50,337
Commercial transportation	13,463	8,583	35,594	25,252
P&C package business	7,643	7,479	22,671	21,334
Executive products	4,550	3,914	13,175	11,666
Professional services	11,021	7,386	30,092	19,704
Medical professional liability	2,674		5,136	
Other	2,026	1,846	5,697	5,667
Total	\$ 83,966	\$ 68,194	\$ 235,307	\$ 197,409
Property				
Commercial property	\$ 18,938	\$ 18,640	\$ 57,813	\$ 55,285
Marine	14,242	14,026	43,898	44,591
Crop reinsurance	11,846	9,876	19,501	15,992
Property reinsurance	2,848	6,826	12,503	20,193
Other property	4,831	5,373	13,590	15,520
Total	\$ 52,705	\$ 54,741	\$ 147,305	\$ 151,581
Surety				
Miscellaneous	\$ 9,590	\$ 10,026	\$ 28,559	\$ 29,600
Contract	7,025	6,835	20,137	19,507
Commercial	5,857	5,574	17,285	16,536
Oil and Gas	4,559	4,573	13,813	14,174
Total	\$ 27,031	\$ 27,008	\$ 79,794	\$ 79,817
Grand Total	\$ 163,702	\$ 149,943	\$ 462,406	\$ 428,807

6. ACQUISITION

On November 2, 2012, we acquired Rockbridge, a Houston-based managing general agency. Rockbridge specializes in medical professional liability insurance in the excess and surplus market. Coverage is offered to individual physicians and physician groups in all 50 states through a network of retail and wholesale brokers.

Total consideration for the acquisition was \$16.7 million, which included \$15.5 million of cash paid at acquisition, and \$1.2 million associated with the present value of a contingent earn-out agreement. The earn-out is subject to the achievement of certain loss ratio targets and may be adjusted, either upward or downward, in future periods based on actual performance achieved. As of September 30, 2013, the recorded value of the contingent earn-out agreement is \$1.2 million.

During the third quarter of 2013, Rockbridge contributed gross premiums written of \$3.5 million and net premiums earned of \$2.7 million to our casualty segment. For the nine months ended September 30, 2013, Rockbridge contributed gross premiums written of \$11.5 million and net premiums earned of \$5.1 million.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On September 25, 2013, we entered into an underwriting agreement to issue \$150.0 million of senior unsecured notes. On October 2, 2013, the public offering was completed with funds received and notes issued bearing a coupon rate of 4.875% and a maturity date of September 15, 2023 (a 10-year maturity). The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2013, presented in these unaudited condensed interim consolidated financial statements reflects amounts related to this debt offering. The condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2013, however, does not reflect our receipt of the net debt offering proceeds. Actual cash receipt occurred on October 2, 2013, subsequent to quarter end, and will be reflected in financing activity cash flows for the fourth quarter of 2013.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995: This discussion and analysis may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are not historical facts, and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected and projected. Various risk factors that could affect future results are listed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

OVERVIEW

We underwrite selected property and casualty insurance through major subsidiaries collectively known as RLI Insurance Group (the Group). We conduct operations principally through four insurance companies. These companies are organized in a vertical structure beneath RLI Corp. with RLI Insurance Company (RLI Ins.) as the first-level, or principal, insurance subsidiary. RLI Ins. writes multiple lines of insurance on an admitted basis in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Mt. Hawley Insurance Company (Mt. Hawley), a subsidiary of RLI Ins., writes surplus lines insurance in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. RLI Indemnity Company (RIC), a subsidiary of Mt. Hawley, has authority to write multiple lines of insurance on an admitted basis in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company (CBIC), a subsidiary of RLI Ins., has authority to write multiple lines of insurance on an admitted basis in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We are an Illinois corporation that was organized in 1965.

As a niche company with a specialty focus, we offer insurance coverages in both the specialty admitted and excess and surplus markets. Coverages in the specialty admitted market, such as our oil and gas surety bonds, are for risks that are unique or hard-to-place in the standard market, but must remain with an admitted insurance company for regulatory or marketing reasons. In addition, our coverages in the specialty admitted market may be designed to meet specific insurance needs of targeted insured groups, such as our professional liability and package coverages for design professionals and our stand-alone personal umbrella policy. The specialty admitted market is subject to more state regulation than the excess and surplus market, particularly with regard to rate and form filing requirements, restrictions on the ability to exit lines of business, premium tax payments and membership in various state associations, such as state guaranty funds and assigned risk plans. We also underwrite coverages in the excess and surplus market. The excess and surplus market, unlike the standard admitted market, is less regulated and more flexible in terms of policy forms and premium rates. This market provides an alternative for customers with risks or loss exposures that generally cannot be written in the standard market. This typically results in coverages that are more restrictive and more expensive than coverages in the standard market. When we underwrite within the excess and surplus market, we are selective in the lines of business and type of risks we choose to write. Using our non-admitted status in this market allows us to tailor terms and conditions to manage these exposures effectively. Often, the development of these coverages

is generated through proposals brought to us by an agent or broker seeking coverage for a specific group of clients or loss exposures. Once a proposal is submitted, our underwriters determine whether it would be a viable product based on our business objectives.

The foundation of our overall business strategy is to underwrite for profit in all market conditions and we achieved this for 17 consecutive years, averaging an 87.9 combined ratio over that period of time. This foundation drives our ability to provide shareholder returns in three different ways: the underwriting income itself, net investment income from our investment portfolio and long-term appreciation in our equity portfolio. Our investment strategy is based on preservation of capital as the first priority, with a secondary focus on generating total return. The fixed income portfolio consists primarily of highly-rated, diversified, liquid investment-grade securities. Consistent underwriting income allows a portion of our shareholders' equity to be invested in equity securities. Our equity portfolio consists of a core stock portfolio weighted toward dividend-paying stocks, as well as exchange traded funds (ETFs). Our minority equity ownership in Maui Jim, Inc. (Maui Jim), a manufacturer of high-quality sunglasses, has also enhanced overall returns. We have a diversified investment portfolio and monitor our investment risks. Despite periodic fluctuations in market value, our equity portfolio is part of a long-term asset allocation strategy and has contributed significantly to our historic growth in book value.

We measure the results of our insurance operations by monitoring certain measures of growth and profitability across three distinct business segments: casualty, property and surety. Growth is measured in terms of gross premiums written, and profitability is analyzed through combined ratios, which are further subdivided into their respective loss and expense components.

The property and casualty insurance business is cyclical and influenced by many factors, including price competition, economic conditions, natural or man-made disasters (for example, earthquakes, hurricanes, and terrorism), interest rates, state regulations, court decisions and changes in the law.

One of the unique and challenging features of the property and casualty insurance business is that coverages must be priced before costs have fully developed, because premiums are charged before claims are incurred. This requires that liabilities be estimated and recorded in recognition of future loss and settlement obligations. Due to the inherent uncertainty in estimating these liabilities, there can be no assurance that actual liabilities will not be more or less than recorded amounts; if actual liabilities differ from recorded amounts, there will be an adverse or favorable effect on net earnings. In evaluating the objective performance measures previously mentioned, it is important to consider the following individual characteristics of each major insurance segment.

The casualty portion of our business consists largely of general liability, personal umbrella, transportation, executive products, commercial umbrella, package business and other specialty coverages, such as our professional liability for design professionals. We also offer fidelity and crime coverage for commercial insureds and select financial institutions and recently expanded our casualty offerings to include medical professional liability coverages in the excess and surplus market. The casualty business is subject to the risk of estimating losses and related loss reserves because the

ultimate settlement of a casualty claim may take several years to fully develop. The casualty segment is also subject to inflation risk and may be affected by evolving legislation and court decisions that define the extent of coverage and the amount of compensation due for injuries or losses.

Our property segment is comprised primarily of commercial fire, earthquake, difference in conditions, marine, facultative and treaty reinsurance, including crop, and select personal lines policies, including recreational vehicle and Hawaii homeowners coverages. While our marine and facultative reinsurance coverages are predominantly domestic risks, these portfolios do contain a relatively small portion of foreign risks. Property insurance and reinsurance results are subject to the variability introduced by perils such as earthquakes, fires and hurricanes. Our major catastrophe exposure is to losses caused by earthquakes, primarily on the West Coast. Our second largest catastrophe exposure is to losses caused by hurricanes to commercial properties throughout the Gulf and East Coast, as well as to homes we insure in Hawaii. We limit our net aggregate exposure to a catastrophic event by minimizing the total policy limits written in a particular region, purchasing reinsurance and through extensive use of computer-assisted modeling techniques. These techniques provide estimates that help us carefully manage the concentration of risks exposed to catastrophic events. Our assumed multi-peril crop and hail treaty reinsurance business covers revenue shortfalls or production losses due to natural causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects and disease. Significant aggregation of these losses is mitigated by the U.S. Federal Government reinsurance program that provides stop loss protection inuring to our benefit.

The surety segment specializes in writing small-to-large commercial and contract surety coverages, as well as those for the energy, petrochemical and refining industries. We offer miscellaneous bonds, including license and permit, notary and court bonds. Often, our surety coverages involve a statutory requirement for bonds. While these bonds typically maintain a relatively low loss ratio, losses may fluctuate due to adverse economic conditions affecting the financial viability of our insureds. The contract surety product guarantees the construction work of a commercial contractor for a specific project. Generally, losses occur due to the deterioration of a contractor's financial condition. This line has historically produced marginally higher loss ratios than other surety lines during economic downturns.

Rates have increased modestly on most coverages since 2012. However, the insurance marketplace continues to be intensely competitive in many segments, with new entrants and less disciplined markets broadening policy terms and reducing prices. Nevertheless, we believe that our business model is geared to create underwriting income by focusing on sound risk selection and discipline. Our primary focus will continue to be on underwriting profitability, with a secondary focus on premium growth where we believe underwriting profit exists, as opposed to general premium growth or market share measurements.

GAAP and non-GAAP Financial Performance Metrics

Throughout this quarterly report, we present our operations in the way we believe will be most meaningful, useful, and transparent to anyone using this financial information to evaluate our performance. In addition to the GAAP

presentation of net income, we show certain statutory reporting information and other non-GAAP financial measures that we believe are valuable in managing our business and drawing comparisons to our peers. These measures are underwriting income, combined ratios and net unpaid loss and settlement expenses.

Following is a list of non-GAAP measures found throughout this report with their definitions, relationships to GAAP measures and explanations of their importance to our operations.

Underwriting Income

Underwriting income or profit represents one measure of the pretax profitability of our insurance operations and is derived by subtracting losses and settlement expenses, policy acquisition costs and insurance operating expenses from net premiums earned. Each of these captions is presented in the statements of earnings, but not subtotaled. However, this information is available in total and by segment in note 11 to the consolidated financial statements on our 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K, regarding operating segment information. The nearest comparable GAAP measure is earnings before income taxes which, in addition to underwriting income, includes net investment income, net realized gains/losses on investments, general corporate expenses, debt costs and unconsolidated investee earnings.

Combined ratio

This ratio is a common industry measure of profitability for any underwriting operation and is calculated in two components. First, the loss ratio is losses and settlement expenses divided by net premiums earned. The second component, the expense ratio, reflects the sum of policy acquisition costs and insurance operating expenses, divided by net premiums earned. All items included in these components of the combined ratio are presented in our GAAP financial statements. The sum of the loss and expense ratios is the combined ratio. The difference between the combined ratio and 100 reflects the per-dollar rate of underwriting income or loss. For example, a combined ratio of 85 implies that for every \$100 of premium we earn, we record \$15 of underwriting income.

Net Unpaid Loss and Settlement Expenses

Unpaid losses and settlement expenses, as shown in the liabilities section of our balance sheets, represents the total obligations to claimants for both estimates of known claims and estimates for incurred but not reported (IBNR) claims. The related asset item, reinsurance balances recoverable on unpaid losses and settlement expense, is the estimate of known claims and estimates of IBNR that we expect to recover from reinsurers. The net of these two items is generally referred to as net unpaid loss and settlement expenses and is commonly used in our disclosures regarding the process of establishing these various estimated amounts.

Critical Accounting Policies

In preparing the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements, we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the condensed consolidated

financial

statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses for the reporting period. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates.

The most critical accounting policies involve significant estimates and include those used in determining the liability for unpaid losses and settlement expenses, investment valuation and OTTI, recoverability of reinsurance balances, deferred policy acquisition costs and deferred taxes.

Unpaid Losses and Settlement Expenses

Overview

Loss and loss adjustment expense (LAE) reserves represent our best estimate of ultimate payments for losses and related settlement expenses from claims that have been reported but not paid, and those losses that have occurred but have not yet been reported to us. Loss reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability, but instead represent our estimates, generally utilizing individual claim estimates, actuarial expertise and estimation techniques at a given accounting date. The loss reserve estimates are expectations of what ultimate settlement and administration of claims will cost upon final resolution. These estimates are based on facts and circumstances then known to us, review of historical settlement patterns, estimates of trends in claims frequency and severity, projections of loss costs, expected interpretations of legal theories of liability and many other factors. In establishing reserves, we also take into account estimated recoveries from reinsurance, salvage and subrogation. The reserves are reviewed regularly by a team of actuaries we employ.

The process of estimating loss reserves involves a high degree of judgment and is subject to a number of variables. These variables can be affected by both internal and external events, such as changes in claims handling procedures, claim personnel, economic inflation, legal trends and legislative changes, among others. The impact of many of these items on ultimate costs for loss and LAE is difficult to estimate. Loss reserve estimations also differ significantly by coverage due to differences in claim complexity, the volume of claims, the policy limits written, the terms and conditions of the underlying policies, the potential severity of individual claims, the determination of occurrence date for a claim and reporting lags (the time between the occurrence of the policyholder event and when it is actually reported to the insurer). Informed judgment is applied throughout the process. We continually refine our loss reserve estimates as historical loss experience develops and additional claims are reported and settled. We rigorously attempt to consider all significant facts and circumstances known at the time loss reserves are established.

Due to inherent uncertainty underlying loss reserve estimates, including, but not limited to, the future settlement environment, final resolution of the estimated liability may be different from that anticipated at the reporting date. Therefore, actual paid losses in the future may yield a significantly different amount than currently reserved – favorable or unfavorable.

The amount by which estimated losses differ from those originally reported for a period is known as development. Development is unfavorable when the losses ultimately settle for more than the levels at which they were reserved or subsequent estimates indicate a basis for reserve increases on unresolved

claims. Development is favorable when losses ultimately settle for less than the amount reserved or subsequent estimates indicate a basis for reducing loss reserves on unresolved claims. We reflect favorable or unfavorable developments of loss reserves in the results of operations in the period the estimates are changed.

We record two categories of loss and LAE reserves – case-specific reserves and IBNR reserves.

Within a reasonable period of time after a claim is reported, our claim department completes an initial investigation and establishes a case reserve. This case-specific reserve is an estimate of the ultimate amount we will have to pay for the claim, including related legal expenses and other costs associated with resolving and settling it. The estimate reflects all of the current information available regarding the claim, the informed judgment of our professional claim personnel regarding the nature and value of the specific type of claim and our reserving practices. During the life cycle of a particular claim, as more information becomes available, we may revise the estimate of the ultimate value of the claim either upward or downward. We may determine that it is appropriate to pay portions of the reserve to the claimant or related settlement expenses before final resolution of the claim. The amount of the individual claim reserve will be adjusted accordingly and is based on the most recent information available.

We establish IBNR reserves to estimate the amount we will have to pay for claims that have occurred, but have not yet been reported to us, claims that have been reported to us that may ultimately be paid out differently than reflected in our case-specific reserves and claims that have been closed but may reopen and require future payment.

Our IBNR reserving process involves three steps: (1) an initial IBNR generation process that is prospective in nature, (2) a loss and LAE reserve estimation process that occurs retrospectively and (3) a subsequent discussion and reconciliation between our prospective and retrospective IBNR estimates, which includes changes in our provisions for IBNR where deemed appropriate. These three processes are discussed in more detail in the following sections.

LAE represents the cost involved in adjusting and administering losses from policies we issued. The LAE reserves are frequently separated into two components: allocated and unallocated. Allocated loss adjustment expense (ALAE) reserves represent an estimate of claims settlement expenses that can be identified with a specific claim or case. Examples of ALAE would be the hiring of an outside adjuster to investigate a claim or an outside attorney to defend our insured. The claims professional typically estimates this cost separately from the loss component in the case reserve. Unallocated loss adjustment expense (ULAE) reserves represent an estimate of claims settlement expenses that cannot be identified with a specific claim. An example of ULAE would be the cost of an internal claims examiner to manage or investigate a reported claim.

All decisions regarding our best estimate of ultimate loss and LAE reserves are made by our Loss Reserve Committee (LRC). The LRC is made up of various members of the management team including the chief executive officer, chief operating officer, chief financial officer, chief actuary, general counsel and other selected executives. We do not use discounting (recognition of the time

value of money) in reporting our estimated reserves for losses and settlement expenses. Based on current assumptions used in calculating reserves, we believe that our overall reserve levels at September 30, 2013, make a reasonable provision to meet our future obligations.

Initial IBNR Generation Process

Initial carried IBNR reserves are determined through a reserve generation process. The intent of this process is to establish an initial total reserve that will provide a reasonable provision for the ultimate value of all unpaid loss and ALAE liabilities. For most casualty and surety products, this process involves the use of an initial loss and ALAE ratio that is applied to the earned premium for a given period. The result is our best initial estimate of the expected amount of ultimate loss and ALAE for the period by product. Payments and case reserves are subtracted from this initial estimate of ultimate loss and ALAE to determine a carried IBNR reserve.

For most property products, we use an alternative method of determining an appropriate provision for initial IBNR. Since this segment is characterized by a shorter period of time between claim occurrence and claim settlement, the IBNR reserves are determined by IBNR percentages applied to premium earned. The percentages are determined based on historical reporting patterns and are updated periodically. In addition, for assumed property reinsurance, consideration is given to data compiled for a sizable sample of reinsurers. No deductions for paid or case reserves are made. This alternative method of determining initial IBNR allows incurred losses and ALAE to react more rapidly to the actual emergence and is more appropriate for our property products where final claim resolution occurs over a shorter period of time.

Our crop reinsurance business is unique and is subject to an inherently higher degree of estimation risk during interim periods. As a result, the interim reports and professional judgments of our ceding company's actuaries and crop business experts provide important information which assists us in estimating our carried reserves.

We do not reserve for natural or man-made catastrophes until an event has occurred. Shortly after such occurrence, we review insured locations exposed to the event, catastrophe model loss estimates based on our own exposures and industry loss estimates of the event. We also consider our knowledge of frequency and severity from early claim reports to determine an appropriate reserve for the catastrophe. These reserves are reviewed frequently to consider actual losses reported and appropriate changes to our estimates are made to reflect the new information.

The initial loss and ALAE ratios that are applied to earned premium are reviewed at least semi-annually. Prospective estimates are made based on historical loss experience adjusted for exposure mix, price change and loss cost trends. The initial loss and ALAE ratios also reflect our judgment as to estimation risk. We consider estimation risk by product and coverage within product, if applicable. A product with greater overall volatility and uncertainty has greater estimation risk. Products or coverages with higher estimation risk include, but are not limited to, the following characteristics:

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

- Significant changes in underlying policy terms and conditions,
- A new business or one experiencing significant growth and/or high turnover,
- Small volume or lacking internal data requiring significant utilization of external data,
- Unique reinsurance features including those with aggregate stop-loss, reinstatement clauses, commutation provisions, or clash protection,
- Longer emergence patterns with exposures to latent unforeseen mass tort,
- Assumed reinsurance businesses where there is an extended reporting lag and/or a heavier utilization of ceding company data and claims and product expertise,
- High severity and/or low frequency,
- Operational processes undergoing significant change, and/or
- High sensitivity to significant swings in loss trends, economic change or legislative change.

The historical and prospective loss and ALAE estimates, along with the risks listed, are the basis for determining our initial and subsequent carried reserves. Adjustments in the initial loss ratio by product and segment are made where necessary and reflect updated assumptions regarding loss experience, loss trends, price changes and prevailing risk factors. The LRC makes all final decisions regarding changes in the initial loss and ALAE ratios.

Loss and LAE Reserve Estimation Process

A full analysis of our loss reserves takes place at least semi-annually. The purpose of this analysis is to provide validation of our carried loss reserves. Estimates of the expected value of the unpaid loss and LAE are derived using actuarial methodologies. These estimates are then compared to the carried loss reserves to determine the appropriateness of the current reserve balance.

The process of estimating ultimate payment for claims and claim expenses begins with the collection and analysis of current and historical claim data. Data on individual reported claims, including paid amounts and individual claim adjuster estimates, are grouped by common characteristics. There is judgment involved in this grouping. Considerations when grouping data include the volume of the data available, the credibility of the data available, the homogeneity of the risks in each cohort and both settlement and payment pattern consistency. We use this data to determine historical claim reporting and payment patterns, which are used in the analysis of ultimate claim liabilities. For portions of the business without sufficiently large numbers of policies or that have not accumulated sufficient historical statistics, our own data is supplemented with external or industry average data as available and when appropriate. For our newer products such as crop reinsurance and medical professional liability, as well as for executive products, professional services and marine, we utilize external data extensively.

In addition to the review of historical claim reporting and payment patterns, we also incorporate estimated losses relative to premium (loss ratios) by year into the analysis. The expected loss ratios are based on a review of historical loss performance, trends in frequency and severity and price level changes. The estimates are subject to judgment including consideration given to available internal and industry data, growth and

policy turnover, changes

in policy limits, changes in underlying policy provisions, changes in legal and regulatory interpretations of policy provisions and changes in reinsurance structure. For the most current year, these are equivalent with the ratios used in the initial IBNR generation process. Increased recognition is given to actual emergence as the years age.

We use historical development patterns, expected loss ratios and standard actuarial methods to derive an estimate of the ultimate level of loss and LAE payments necessary to settle all the claims occurring as of the end of the evaluation period.

Our reserve processes include multiple standard actuarial methods for determining estimates of IBNR reserves. Other supplementary methodologies are incorporated as necessary. Mass tort and latent liabilities are examples of exposures for which supplementary methodologies are used. Each method produces an estimate of ultimate loss by accident year. We review all of these various estimates and assign weights to each based on the characteristics of the product being reviewed.

Our estimates of ultimate loss and LAE reserves are subject to change as additional data emerges. This could occur as a result of change in loss development patterns, a revision in expected loss ratios, the emergence of exceptional loss activity, a change in weightings between actuarial methods, the addition of new actuarial methodologies, new information that merits inclusion or the emergence of internal variables or external factors that would alter our view.

There is uncertainty in the estimates of ultimate losses. Significant risk factors to the reserve estimate include, but are not limited to, unforeseen or unquantifiable changes in:

- Loss payment patterns,
- Loss reporting patterns,
- Frequency and severity trends,
- Underlying policy terms and conditions,
- Business or exposure mix,
- Operational or internal processes affecting the timing of loss and LAE transactions,
- Regulatory and legal environment, and/or
- Economic environment.

Our actuaries engage in discussions with senior management, underwriting and the claim department on a regular basis to ascertain any substantial changes in operations or other assumptions that are necessary to consider in the reserving analysis.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

A considerable degree of judgment in the evaluation of all these factors is involved in the analysis of reserves. The human element in the application of judgment is unavoidable when faced with uncertainty. Different experts will choose different assumptions based on their individual backgrounds, professional experiences and areas of focus. Hence, the estimates selected by various qualified experts may differ significantly from each other. We consider this uncertainty by examining our historic reserve accuracy and through an internal peer review process.

Given the substantial impact of the reserve estimates on our financial

statements, we subject the reserving process to significant diagnostic testing and reasonability checks. In addition, there are data validity checks and balances in our front-end processes. Data anomalies are researched and explained to reach a comfort level with the data and results. Leading indicators such as actual versus expected emergence and other diagnostics are also incorporated into the reserving processes.

Determination of Our Best Estimate

Upon completion of our full loss and LAE estimation analysis, the results are discussed with the LRC. As part of this discussion, the analysis supporting the actuarial central estimate of the IBNR reserve by product is reviewed. The actuaries also present explanations supporting any changes to the underlying assumptions used to calculate the indicated central estimate. A review of the resulting variance between the indicated reserves and the carried reserves takes place. Quarterly, we also consider the most recent actual loss emergence compared to the expected loss emergence derived using the last full loss and ALAE analyses. Our actuaries make a recommendation to management in regards to booked reserves that reflect their analytical assessment and view of estimation risk. After discussion of these analyses and all relevant risk factors, the LRC determines whether the reserve balances require adjustment. Resulting reserve balances have always fallen within our actuaries' reasonable range of estimates.

As a predominantly excess and surplus lines and specialty insurer servicing niche markets, we believe there are several reasons to carry on an overall basis reserves above the actuarial central estimate. We believe we are subject to above-average variation in estimates and that this variation is not symmetrical around the actuarial central estimate.

One reason for the variation is the above-average policyholder turnover and changes in the underlying mix of exposures typical of an excess and surplus lines business. This constant change can cause estimates based on prior experience to be less reliable than estimates for more stable, admitted books of business. Also, as a niche market insurer, there is little industry-level information for direct comparisons of current and prior experience and other reserving parameters. These unknowns create greater-than-average variation in the actuarial central estimates.

Actuarial methods attempt to quantify future outcomes. However, insurance companies are subject to unique exposures that are difficult to foresee at the point coverage is initiated and, often, many years subsequent. Judicial and regulatory bodies involved in interpretation of insurance contracts have increasingly found opportunities to expand coverage beyond that which was intended or contemplated at the time the policy was issued. Many of these policies are issued on an all risk and occurrence basis. Aggressive plaintiff attorneys have often sought coverage beyond the insurer's original intent. Some examples would be the industry's ongoing asbestos and environmental litigation, court interpretations of exclusionary language for mold and construction defect, and debates over wind versus flood as the cause of loss from major hurricane events.

We believe that because of the inherent variation and the likelihood that there are unforeseen and under-quantified liabilities absent from the actuarial estimate, it is prudent to carry loss reserves above the actuarial

central estimate. Most of our variance between the carried reserve and the actuarial central estimate is in the most recent accident years for our casualty segment, where the most significant estimation risks reside. These estimation risks are considered when setting the initial loss ratios. In the cases where these risks fail to materialize, favorable loss development will likely occur over subsequent accounting periods. It is also possible that the risks materialize above the amount we considered when booking our initial loss reserves. In this case, unfavorable loss development is likely to occur over subsequent accounting periods.

Our best estimate of loss and LAE reserves may change as a result of a revision in the actuarial central estimate, the actuary's certainty in the estimates and processes and our overall view of the underlying risks. From time to time, we benchmark our reserving policies and procedures and refine them by adopting industry best practices where appropriate. A detailed, ground-up analysis of the actuarial estimation risks associated with each of our products and segments, including an assessment of industry information, is performed annually. This information is used when determining management's best estimate of booked reserves.

Loss reserve estimates are subject to a high degree of variability due to the inherent uncertainty of ultimate settlement values. Periodic adjustments to these estimates will likely occur as the actual loss emergence reveals itself over time. Our loss reserving processes reflect accepted actuarial practices and our methodologies result in a reasonable provision for reserves as of September 30, 2013.

Investment Valuation and OTTI

Throughout each year, we and our investment managers buy and sell securities to achieve investment objectives in accordance with investment policies established and monitored by our board of directors and executive officers.

We classify our investments in debt and equity securities into one of two categories. Held-to-maturity securities are carried at amortized cost. Available-for-sale securities are carried at fair value with unrealized gains/losses recorded as a component of comprehensive earnings and shareholders' equity, net of deferred income taxes. During the third quarter of 2013 we exited our remaining fixed income positions that were classified as trading.

Fair value is defined as the price in the principal market that would be received for an asset to facilitate an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date.

We determined the fair value of certain financial instruments based on their underlying characteristics and relevant transactions in the marketplace. GAAP guidance requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The guidance also describes three pricing categories that are used to classify fair value.

We regularly evaluate our fixed income and equity securities using both quantitative and qualitative criteria to determine impairment losses for other-than-temporary declines in the fair value of the investments. The

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

following are some of the key factors we consider for determining if a security is other-than-temporarily impaired:

- The length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost,
- The probability of significant adverse changes to the cash flows on a fixed income investment,
- The occurrence of a discrete credit event resulting in the issuer defaulting on a material obligation, the issuer seeking protection from creditors under the bankruptcy laws, or the issuer proposing a voluntary reorganization under which creditors are asked to exchange their claims for cash or securities having a fair value substantially lower than par value of their claims,
- The probability that we will recover the entire amortized cost basis of our fixed income securities prior to maturity, or
- For our equity securities, our expectation of recovery to cost within a reasonable period of time.

Quantitative criteria considered during this process include, but are not limited to: the degree and duration of current fair value as compared to the cost (amortized, in certain cases) of the security, degree and duration of the security's fair value being below cost and, for fixed maturities, whether the issuer is in compliance with the terms and covenants of the security. Qualitative criteria include the credit quality, current economic conditions, the anticipated speed of cost recovery, the financial health of and specific prospects for the issuer, as well as the absence of intent to sell or requirement to sell fixed income securities prior to recovery. In addition, we consider price declines of fixed income securities in our OTTI analysis where such price declines provide evidence of declining credit quality, and we distinguish between price changes caused by credit deterioration as opposed to rising interest rates.

Key factors that we consider in the evaluation of credit quality include:

- Changes in technology that may impair the earnings potential of the investment,
- The discontinuance of a segment of business that may affect future earnings potential,
- Reduction or elimination of dividends,
- Specific concerns related to the issuer's industry or geographic area of operation,
- Significant or recurring operating losses, poor cash flows and/or deteriorating liquidity ratios, and
- A downgrade in credit quality by a major rating agency.

For mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities that have significant unrealized loss positions and major rating agency downgrades, credit impairment is assessed using a cash flow model that estimates likely payments using security-specific collateral and transaction structure. All of our mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities remain AAA-rated by the major rating agencies and the fair value is not significantly less than amortized cost.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

Under current accounting standards, an OTTI write-down of debt securities, where fair value is below amortized cost, is triggered by circumstances where (1) an entity has the intent to sell a security, (2) it is more likely than

not that the entity will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis, or (3) the entity does not expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. If an entity intends to sell a security or if it is more likely than not the entity will be required to sell the security before recovery, an OTTI write-down is recognized in earnings equal to the difference between the security's amortized cost and its fair value. If an entity does not intend to sell the security or it is not more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security before recovery, the OTTI write-down is separated into an amount representing the credit loss, which is recognized in earnings, and the amount related to all other factors, which is recognized in other comprehensive income.

Part of our evaluation of whether particular securities are other-than-temporarily impaired involves assessing whether we have both the intent and ability to continue to hold equity securities in an unrealized loss position. For fixed income securities, we consider our intent to sell a security (which is determined on a security-by-security basis) and whether it is more likely than not we will be required to sell the security before the recovery of our amortized cost basis. Significant changes in these factors could result in a charge to net earnings for impairment losses. Impairment losses result in a reduction of the underlying investment's cost basis.

Recoverability of Reinsurance Balances

Ceded unearned premiums and reinsurance balances recoverable on paid and unpaid losses and settlement expenses are reported separately as assets, rather than being netted with the related liabilities, since reinsurance does not relieve us of our liability to policyholders. Such balances are subject to the credit risk associated with the individual reinsurer. Additionally, the same uncertainties associated with estimating unpaid losses and settlement expenses impact the estimates for the ceded portion of such liabilities. We continually monitor the financial condition of our reinsurers. As part of our monitoring efforts, we review their annual financial statements, Securities and Exchange Commission filings for those reinsurers that are publicly traded, A.M. Best and S&P rating developments and insurance industry developments that may impact the financial condition of our reinsurers. In addition, we subject our reinsurance recoverables to detailed recoverable tests, including one based on average default by S&P rating. Based upon our review and testing, our policy is to charge to earnings, in the form of an allowance, an estimate of unrecoverable amounts from reinsurers. This allowance is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that the amount makes a reasonable provision for reinsurance balances that we may be unable to recover. Further discussion of our reinsurance balances recoverable can be found in note 5 to the financial statements included in our 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs

We defer commissions, premium taxes and certain other costs that are incrementally or directly related to the successful acquisition of new or renewal insurance contracts. Acquisition-related costs may be deemed ineligible for deferral when they are based on contingent or performance criteria beyond the basic acquisition of the insurance contract, or when efforts to obtain or renew the insurance contract are unsuccessful. All eligible costs are capitalized and charged to expense in proportion to premium revenue recognized. The method followed in computing deferred policy

acquisition costs limits the amount of such deferred costs to their estimated realizable value. This would also give effect to the premiums to be earned and anticipated losses and settlement expenses, as well as certain other costs expected to be incurred as the premiums are earned. Judgments as to the ultimate recoverability of such deferred costs are reviewed on a segment basis and are highly dependent upon estimated future loss costs associated with the premiums written. This deferral methodology applies to both gross and ceded premiums and acquisition costs.

Deferred Taxes

We record net deferred tax assets to the extent that temporary differences representing future deductible items exceed future taxable items. A significant amount of our deferred tax assets relate to expected future tax deductions arising from claim reserves and future taxable income related to changes in our unearned premium.

Periodically, management reviews our deferred tax positions to determine if it is more likely than not that the assets will be realized. These reviews include, among other things, the nature and amount of the taxable income and expense items, the expected timing of when assets will be used or liabilities will be required to be reported, as well as the reliability of historical profitability of businesses expected to provide future earnings. Furthermore, management considers tax-planning strategies it can use to increase the likelihood that the tax assets will be realized. After conducting the periodic review, if management determines that the realization of the tax asset does not meet the more likely than not criteria, an offsetting valuation allowance is recorded, thereby reducing net earnings and the deferred tax asset in that period. In addition, management must make estimates of the tax rates expected to apply in the periods in which future taxable items are realized. Such estimates include determinations and judgments as to the expected manner in which certain temporary differences, including deferred amounts related to our equity method investment, will be recovered. These estimates enter into the determination of the applicable tax rates and are subject to change based on the circumstances.

We consider uncertainties in income taxes and recognize those in our financial statements as required. As it relates to uncertainties in income taxes, our unrecognized tax benefits, including interest and penalty accruals, are not considered material to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements. Also, no tax uncertainties are expected to result in significant increases or decreases to unrecognized tax benefits within the next 12-month period. Penalties and interest related to income tax uncertainties, should they occur, would be included in income tax expense in the period in which they are incurred.

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013, COMPARED TO NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

Consolidated revenues, as displayed in the table that follows, totaled \$520.2 million for the first nine months of 2013 compared to \$489.4 million for the same period in 2012.

	For the Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012
Consolidated revenues (in thousands)		
Net premiums earned	\$ 462,406	\$ 428,807
Net investment income	39,331	44,340
Net realized investment gains	18,425	16,233
Total consolidated revenue	\$ 520,162	\$ 489,380

Consolidated revenue for the first nine months of 2013 increased \$30.8 million, or 6%, from the same period in 2012, as net premiums earned for the Group increased 8%. Premium growth for 2013 was attributable to both new product initiatives and rate and exposure growth in mature product offerings, which was largely driven by our casualty segment. Net investment income declined 11% to \$39.3 million on lower reinvestment rates over the prior twelve months and a higher allocation to tax-exempt municipals which have lower nominal yields than taxable alternatives. We realized net investment gains of \$18.4 million in the first nine months of 2013, compared to \$16.2 million during the same period of 2012.

Net after-tax earnings for the first nine months of 2013 totaled \$92.4 million, \$4.26 per diluted share, compared to \$78.2 million, \$3.64 per diluted share for the same period in 2012. Both periods benefited from positive underwriting income that was bolstered by favorable reserve development. In 2013, favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves resulted in additional pretax earnings of \$63.4 million, which was partially offset by \$10.0 million of spring storm losses. Comparatively, 2012 results included \$59.6 million of favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves, which was partially offset by \$15.0 million of spring storm losses and \$5.0 million in losses from Hurricane Isaac. In addition, results for 2012 reflect adverse loss experience on the 2012 crop reinsurance year related to drought conditions across the United States. Bonus and profit sharing-related expenses associated with these specific items totaled \$7.3 million in 2013 and \$4.8 million in 2012. These performance-related expenses affected policy acquisition, insurance operating and general corporate expenses. Bonuses earned by executives, managers and associates are predominately influenced by corporate performance, principally operating earnings and return on capital.

During the first nine months of 2013, equity in earnings of unconsolidated investee totaled \$10.7 million from Maui Jim, Inc. (Maui Jim). This result was \$1.8 million higher than results for the same period last year.

Comprehensive earnings, which include net earnings plus other comprehensive earnings (loss) (primarily the change in unrealized gains/losses, net of tax), totaled \$74.5 million, \$3.44 per diluted share, for the first nine months of 2013, compared to \$116.0 million, \$5.39 per diluted share, for the same period in 2012. Unrealized losses, net of tax, for the first nine months of 2013 were \$17.9 million, compared to unrealized gains, net of tax, of \$37.7 million for the same period in 2012. Unrealized losses in the current year were largely from the fixed income portfolio, due to an increase in interest rates during the second and third quarters of 2013.

RLI INSURANCE GROUP

As reflected in the table below, gross premiums written for the Group increased 8% to \$651.5 million for the first nine months of 2013. Growth was driven by our casualty segment, which posted a 19% increase over 2012. Our diversified product portfolio has continued to contribute to premium growth, with newer product initiatives accounting for 27% of total premiums. A continued favorable pricing environment in our casualty segment has also contributed to premium growth. In addition, our net premiums written advanced 11% during the first nine months of 2013. Growth in net premiums written has outpaced growth in gross premiums written, due largely to increased retentions on certain casualty products during 2013. Given the upward momentum in pricing, we increased retentions during our 2013 casualty reinsurance renewal. Underwriting income for the Group increased to \$77.2 million for the first nine months of 2013 compared to \$55.1 million in 2012. Both periods benefited from favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves, though the benefit in 2013 was \$2.5 million higher than the prior year. In addition, 2013 has been relatively benign with respect to catastrophe activity. Compared to 2012, results for 2013 included \$8.8 million less in hurricane and spring storm losses. The GAAP combined ratio totaled 83.3 in 2013, compared to 87.1 in 2012. The Group's loss ratio decreased to 41.4, from 45.1, while the Group's expense ratio decreased slightly to 41.9 from 42.0.

	For the Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012
Gross premiums written (in thousands)		
Casualty	\$ 343,179	\$ 288,652
Property	222,190	226,382
Surety	86,129	86,750
Total	\$ 651,498	\$ 601,784
Underwriting income (in thousands)		
Casualty	\$ 39,517	\$ 22,409
Property	19,614	11,317
Surety	18,044	21,368
Total	\$ 77,175	\$ 55,094
Combined ratio		
Casualty	83.2	88.6
Property	86.6	92.6
Surety	77.4	73.2
Total	83.3	87.1

Casualty

Gross premiums written for the casualty segment totaled \$343.2 million for the first nine months of 2013, an increase of \$54.5 million, or 19%, from the same period last year. Both mature and newer products have contributed to growth within the segment. Growth within our more mature products continues to be led by transportation, executive products and umbrella. Transportation contributed \$62.1 million of gross premiums written, an increase of \$26.0 million, or 72%, from the same period last year, and our executive products group premium was

up 14% to \$34.7 million. In addition, umbrella posted \$91.9 million in gross premiums written during the first nine months of 2013, up 8% from the same period last year. Growth within these products offset an \$11.2 million, or 16%, decline from general liability. The habitational component of the general liability book has presented challenges in recent years, causing us to re-underwrite certain policies and pursue rate increases where pricing was inadequate. When efforts to secure adequate pricing have been unsuccessful, we have exited those policies, which has negatively impacted premium written. Newer product offerings also experienced growth during the first nine months of 2013. Premium from our professional services group, which includes product offerings to architects and engineers, was up \$13.1 million, or 43%, to \$43.8 million. Growth within this group was driven by both geographic and product expansion efforts. Medical professional liability, which was acquired with the acquisition of Rockbridge in November 2012, posted \$11.5 million of premium in the first nine months of 2013. In addition, gross written premiums from our P&C package business was up 9% from the same period last year, to \$28.6 million.

Underwriting income for the casualty segment was \$39.5 million for the first nine months of 2013, compared to \$22.4 million for the same period last year. Both periods included favorable development on prior years' loss reserves, though to a greater extent in 2013. Products which benefited from favorable prior year development in 2013 included general liability, umbrella, P&C package, and executive products. Due to positive emergence, during the first nine months of 2013, we released reserves, improving the segment's underwriting results by \$46.1 million. From an accident year standpoint, the majority of the favorable development occurred on more recent accident years (2007-2012). Comparatively, results for 2012 included favorable development on prior years' loss reserves, which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$34.3 million.

Overall, the combined ratio for the casualty segment was 83.2 for 2013 compared to 88.6 in 2012. The segment's loss ratio was 46.4 in 2013 compared to 51.7 in 2012, driven by the higher amount of favorable development on prior accident years' reserves and an improved current accident year loss ratio for 2013. Re-underwriting efforts on general liability habitational business coupled with a shift in mix toward lower loss ratio casualty products accounted for the improvement in the loss ratio. The expense ratio for the casualty segment was 36.8 for the first nine months of 2013 compared to 36.9 for the same period of 2012.

Property

Gross premiums written for the Group's property segment totaled \$222.2 million for the first nine months of 2013, a decrease of \$4.2 million, or 2%, compared to the same period last year. While crop reinsurance and recreational vehicles program premiums advanced, most other lines declined due to competitive pressures or re-underwriting efforts. Crop reinsurance business recorded gross premiums written of \$51.6 million, an increase of \$16.1 million, or 45%, from the same period last year. This growth was due to increased participation over the prior year. The recreational vehicle program, one of our newest products which was launched in the fourth quarter of 2012, posted premiums of \$8.0 million through the first nine months of the year. Growth from these products served to partially offset declines in other catastrophe-exposed assumed

reinsurance programs, which decreased \$16.0 million, or 54%, from the prior year. The decrease in premium from these reinsurance programs is a result of actions taken to exit certain underperforming programs within this book. Further offsetting growth was a \$4.1 million, or 7%, decline in premiums from our fire product. Fire premiums have decreased, in part, due to largely benign catastrophe activity, which has resulted in increased competition and lower rates. In addition, marine premiums decreased 3%, due to re-underwriting efforts within this book, while pet insurance premiums decreased \$5.1 million as a result of our late-2012 exit from that product line.

Underwriting income for the segment was \$19.6 million for the first nine months of 2013, compared to \$11.3 million for the same period in 2012. Results for 2013 reflected favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$5.4 million. This included a \$1.4 million reduction in losses from Hurricane Sandy, primarily related to our fire product. The favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves was more than offset by losses recorded on 2013 spring storms, which impacted the segment's underwriting results by \$8.7 million. The bulk of the spring storms losses relate to our fire and marine products. Comparatively, results for 2012 benefited from \$10.3 million of favorable development on prior years' reserves, related to our crop and marine businesses and 2011 catastrophes. These benefits were offset by losses recorded on 2012 spring storms and Hurricane Isaac, which reduced underwriting income for the first nine months of 2012 by \$13.2 million, and \$4.4 million, respectively. Prior year results were also impacted by \$3.2 million of adverse loss experience on the 2012 crop reinsurance year, related to widespread drought conditions which existed during 2012.

Segment results for 2013 translated into a combined ratio of 86.6, compared to 92.6 for the same period last year. The segment's loss ratio was 48.0 in 2013 compared to 55.7 in 2012. Reduced catastrophe activity during 2013, and the impact of drought conditions during 2012, were primary drivers of the loss ratio decrease. From an expense standpoint, the segment's expense ratio was 38.6 for 2013, compared to 36.9 for 2012. The increased expense ratio for 2013 was due, in part, to investments in expansion. The decline in premium production has also contributed to the expense ratio increase, due to the fixed nature of certain expenses.

Surety

The surety segment recorded gross premiums written of \$86.1 million for the first nine months of 2013, flat from the same period last year. Premium production within the segment continues to be impacted by increased competition and the slow economic recovery. Oil and gas surety premiums declined 5% from the same period last year, while premiums from miscellaneous bonds decreased 2%. Premiums for the first nine months of 2013 from contract surety and commercial surety are flat compared to 2012.

The segment recorded underwriting income of \$18.0 million, compared to \$21.4 million for the same period last year. Results for 2013 included favorable development on prior years' loss reserves, which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$4.3 million. From a comparative standpoint, 2012 results included favorable development on prior accident years' loss reserves which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$8.6 million.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

The combined ratio for the surety segment totaled 77.4 in 2013, versus 73.2 for the same period in 2012. The segment's loss ratio was 14.3 for 2013, compared to 8.8 for 2012, due largely to the lower favorable development on prior years' loss reserves in 2013. From an expense standpoint, cost synergies and other expense savings realized from the integration of CBIC have improved the segment's expense ratio. The expense ratio decreased to 63.1 for 2013 from 64.4 for 2012.

INVESTMENT INCOME AND REALIZED CAPITAL GAINS

During the first nine months of 2013, net investment income decreased 11.3% from that reported for the same period in 2012. Both lower reinvestment rates over the last twelve months and a higher allocation to tax-exempt municipals contributed to the decline in investment income. Because of their tax preference, municipals typically trade with lower nominal yields than taxable alternatives.

(in thousands)	9/30/2013		12/31/2012	
	Financial Stmt Value	%	Financial Stmt Value	%
Fixed income	\$ 1,379,663	73.3%	\$ 1,390,317	75.5%
Equity securities	392,156	20.8%	375,788	20.4%
Cash and short-term investments	110,392	5.9%	74,776	4.1%
Total	\$ 1,882,211	100.0%	\$ 1,840,881	100.0%

Our current equity allocation represents 21% of our total investment portfolio.

We believe our overall asset allocation best meets our strategy to preserve capital for policyholders, provide sufficient income to support insurance operations, and to effectively grow book value over a long-term investment horizon.

The average annual yields on our fixed income investments (excluding short-term investments) for the first nine months of 2013 and 2012 were as follows:

	2013	2012
<u>Pretax Yield</u>		
Taxable	3.67%	3.99%
Tax-Exempt	2.70%	3.16%
<u>After-tax Yield</u>		
Taxable	2.39%	2.59%
Tax-Exempt	2.56%	2.99%

The fixed income portfolio decreased by \$10.7 million in the first nine months of 2013. This portfolio had a tax-adjusted total return on a mark-to-market basis of -1.8%. Average fixed income duration was 5.1 at September 30, 2013, reflecting our current liability structure and sound capital position.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

The equity portfolio increased by \$16.4 million during the first nine months of 2013, to \$392.2 million. The increase is due to the strong performance of the equity markets during the first nine months of 2013. This portfolio had a total return of 17.7% through September 30, 2013.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

We recognized a total of \$18.4 million in net realized gains in the first nine months of 2013, compared to net realized gains of \$16.2 million in the first nine months of 2012.

The following table is used as part of our impairment analysis and illustrates certain industry-level measurements relative to our equity portfolio as of September 30, 2013, including fair value, cost basis, and unrealized gains and losses.

(in thousands)	Cost Basis	Fair Value	9/30/2013 Unrealized		Net	Unrealized Gain/Loss % (1)
			Gains	Losses		
Consumer Discretionary	\$ 10,595	\$ 22,718	\$ 12,123	\$	\$ 12,123	114.4%
Consumer Staples	14,923	34,656	19,733		19,733	132.2%
Energy	12,986	31,248	18,262		18,262	140.6%
Financials	27,892	44,494	16,602		16,602	59.5%
Healthcare	8,319	25,744	17,425		17,425	209.5%
Industrials	18,348	36,490	18,142		18,142	98.9%
Information Technology	23,232	33,652	10,420		10,420	44.9%
Materials	3,058	7,142	4,084		4,084	133.6%
Telecommunications	8,541	15,695	7,426	(272)	7,154	83.8%
Utilities	40,600	63,109	22,598	(89)	22,509	55.4%
ETF	50,162	77,208	27,046		27,046	53.9%
	\$ 218,656	\$ 392,156	\$ 173,861	\$ (361)	\$ 173,500	79.3%

(1) Calculated as the percentage of net unrealized gain (loss) to cost basis.

INCOME TAXES

Our effective tax rate for the first nine months of 2013 was 31% compared to 31% for the same period in 2012. Effective rates are dependent upon components of pretax earnings and the related tax effects. The effective rate for the first nine months of 2013 was the same due to a comparable amount of tax-favored investment income relative to underwriting income.

Income tax expense attributable to income from operations differed from the amounts computed by applying the U.S. federal tax rate of 35% to pretax income for the first nine months of 2013 and 2012 as a result of the following:

(in thousands)	2013		2012	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Provision for income taxes at the Statutory rate of 35%	\$ 47,199	35%	\$ 39,955	35%
Increase (reduction) in taxes resulting from:				
Tax exempt interest income	(2,717)	-2%	(2,157)	-2%
Dividends received deduction	(1,871)	-2%	(1,842)	-2%
Dividends paid deduction	(592)	0%	(538)	0%
Other items, net	439	0%	490	0%

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

Total tax expense	\$	42,458	31%	\$	35,908	31%
-------------------	----	--------	-----	----	--------	-----

We are currently under examination by the IRS for federal income tax years 2010 and 2011, which began in March of 2013.

THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 COMPARED TO THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

Consolidated revenues, as displayed in the table that follows, totaled \$188.3 million for the third quarter of 2013 compared to \$169.6 million for the same period in 2012.

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012
Consolidated revenues (in thousands)		
Net premiums earned	\$ 163,702	\$ 149,943
Net investment income	13,598	14,221
Net realized investment gains	10,999	5,481
Total consolidated revenue	\$ 188,299	\$ 169,645

Consolidated revenue for the third quarter of 2013 increased \$18.7 million, or 11%, from the same period in 2012. Net premiums earned for the Group increased 9% for the quarter, led by growth from our casualty segment which was up 23%. Net premiums earned were flat in our surety segment, while property segment premiums declined 4% from the prior year. Net investment income decreased 4% to \$13.6 million due to lower reinvestment rates over the prior twelve months and increased allocation to tax-exempt municipal securities. Net realized investment gains, totaled \$11.0 million in the third quarter of 2013, compared to net realized investment gains of \$5.5 million in 2012. Investment gains during the quarter were taken in the normal course of portfolio rebalancing, primarily in the equity portfolio due to the strong performance of the equity markets through the first nine months of the year.

Net after-tax earnings for the third quarter of 2013 totaled \$37.6 million, \$1.73 per diluted share, compared to \$25.5 million, \$1.19 per diluted share, for the same period in 2012. In the third quarter of 2013, favorable development on prior years loss and catastrophe reserves resulted in additional pretax earnings of \$23.4 million. Further, the absence of a significant catastrophe event also served to benefit results for the quarter. Comparatively, in the third quarter of 2012, favorable development on prior years loss reserves resulted in additional pretax earnings of \$20.5 million, partially offset by \$5.0 million in Hurricane Isaac losses and \$1.3 million in spring storm losses. Widespread drought conditions also impacted results for 2012, and resulted in \$3.6 million of adverse current accident year loss experience on multi-peril crop business. Bonus and profit sharing-related expenses related to these specific items totaled \$3.7 million in 2013, compared to \$1.7 million in 2012.

During the third quarter of 2013, equity in earnings of unconsolidated investee totaled \$2.6 million from Maui Jim. The third quarter of 2012 reflected \$1.9 million of Maui Jim earnings.

Comprehensive earnings, which include net earnings plus other comprehensive earnings (primarily the change in unrealized gains/losses, net of tax), was \$35.7 million, \$1.64 per diluted share, for the third quarter of 2013,

compared to comprehensive income of \$46.5 million, \$2.16 per diluted share, for the same period in 2012. Unrealized losses, net of tax, for the third quarter of 2013 were \$1.9 million, compared to unrealized gains, net of tax, of \$21.0 million for the same period in 2012.

RLI INSURANCE GROUP

As reflected in the table below, gross premiums written for the Group increased 3% to \$201.7 million for the third quarter of 2013 from \$195.9 million in the third quarter of 2012. Growth from our casualty segment, up 16%, offset declines within our property and surety segments. Expansion efforts, new product initiatives and positive pricing momentum within our casualty segment have each contributed to increased premium production. In addition, our net premiums written advanced 7% in the quarter. Growth in net premiums written has outpaced growth in gross premiums written, due largely to increased retentions on certain casualty products during 2013. Given the upward momentum in pricing, we increased retentions during our 2013 casualty reinsurance renewal. The casualty segment posted net premiums written growth of 26% from the prior year quarter. Underwriting income for the Group increased \$13.3 million to \$31.8 million for the third quarter of 2013. Results for both periods included favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves, which improved underwriting results by \$19.7 million for the third quarter of 2013, and \$18.1 million for the same period last year. The 2012 favorable development was partially offset by losses from Hurricane Isaac and spring storms, which impacted underwriting results by \$4.4 million and \$1.2 million, respectively. The GAAP combined ratio totaled 80.5 in 2013 and 87.7 in 2012.

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended September 30,			
	2013		2012	
Gross premiums written (in thousands)				
Casualty	\$	116,242	\$	99,970
Property		55,716		65,321
Surety		29,708		30,591
Total	\$	201,666	\$	195,882
Underwriting income (loss) (in thousands)				
Casualty	\$	20,799	\$	10,806
Property		6,468		(310)
Surety		4,551		8,034
Total	\$	31,818	\$	18,530
Combined ratio				
Casualty		75.3		84.2
Property		87.7		100.6
Surety		83.2		70.3
Total		80.5		87.7

Casualty

Gross premiums written for the casualty segment increased 16%, to \$116.2 million for the third quarter of 2013, compared to \$100.0 million from the

same period last year. Positive pricing trends have continued to support premium growth, as both mature products and newer product initiatives within the segment have advanced top line production. Transportation posted gross premiums written of \$23.2 million, up \$8.7 million, or 61%, from the third quarter of 2012. Our professional services product, which includes offerings to architects and engineers, also contributed to growth in the quarter, as premiums advanced 31%, to \$15.3 million. Our executive products group and P&C package business also delivered solid results, with gross premiums written up 12% and 6%, respectively, while our new medical professional liability product posted premiums of \$3.5 million in the quarter. Growth from these products offset a \$2.1 million, or 10%, decrease in gross premiums written from general liability, related to the aforementioned challenges in recent years within the habitational component of this book.

The casualty segment recorded underwriting income of \$20.8 million, compared to \$10.8 million for the same period last year. Both periods included favorable development on prior years' loss reserves, but the impact in 2013 was \$4.7 million greater than in 2012. Products with favorable development in 2013 included general liability, umbrella, and P&C package. From an accident year standpoint, the majority of the favorable development occurred on more recent accident years (2007-2012). Due to positive emergence, during the third quarter of 2013, we released reserves which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$17.5 million. From a comparative standpoint, 2012 results included favorable development on prior accident years' loss reserves, primarily for general liability, umbrella, and specialty programs, which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$12.8 million.

Overall, the combined ratio for the casualty segment was 75.3 for 2013 compared to 84.2 in 2012. The segment's loss ratio was 38.5 in 2013 compared to 47.4 in 2012. The decrease is driven by the higher amount of favorable development on prior accident years' reserves and an improved current accident year loss ratio for 2013. Re-underwriting efforts on general liability habitational business coupled with a shift in mix toward lower loss ratio casualty products accounted for the improvement in the loss ratio. The expense ratio for the casualty segment was 36.8 for the third quarter of 2013, unchanged from the comparable prior year period.

Property

Gross premiums written for the Group's property segment totaled \$55.7 million for the third quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$9.6 million, or 15%, from the same period last year. Premium production declined for multiple lines within the segment, the largest being our catastrophe-exposed assumed reinsurance programs, which decreased \$7.1 million, or 71%, from the same period last year. Declines from these products have resulted as we exited certain underperforming programs within this book. Gross premiums written from our fire product and marine business also declined, down 14% and 6%, respectively, from the prior year. Fire premiums have decreased due to the increased competition and lower rates associated with largely benign catastrophe activity, while re-underwriting efforts in our marine book have resulted in reduced premiums from this business. In addition, \$1.2 million of premium decline related to our late-2012 exit from our pet insurance line. Partially offsetting these decreases, our newly launched recreational vehicles program posted gross premiums written of \$3.7 million.

Underwriting income for the segment was \$6.5 million for the third quarter of 2013, compared to a loss of \$0.3 million for the same period in 2012. Results for 2013 were impacted by favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$3.1 million. Included in the favorable development was a \$0.4 million reduction in losses related to Hurricane Sandy. From a comparative standpoint, underwriting results for 2012 were improved by \$2.6 million due to favorable development on prior years' loss and catastrophe reserves. Offsetting this was a \$5.6 million reduction to underwriting income related to losses from Hurricane Isaac and 2012 spring storms. Results for the prior year also reflect \$3.2 million of adverse loss experience on the 2012 crop reinsurance year, due to widespread drought conditions across the United States in 2012.

Segment results for the third quarter of 2013 translate into a combined ratio of 87.7 compared to 100.6 for the same period last year. The segment's loss ratio decreased to 50.7 in 2013 from 65.6 in 2012, due to reduced catastrophe activity in 2013 and lower loss ratios for the 2013 current accident year. From an expense standpoint, the segment's expense ratio for the third quarter was 37.0 for 2013, compared to 35.0 in 2012. The increased expense ratio for 2013 was due, in part, to investments in expansion. The decline in premium production has also contributed to the expense ratio increase, due to the fixed nature of certain expenses.

Surety

The surety segment recorded gross premiums written of \$29.7 million for the third quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$0.9 million, or 3%, from the same period last year. Slight increases in the quarter from contract and miscellaneous surety were more than offset by declines from commercial surety and our oil and gas product, which decreased 9% and 12%, respectively.

The surety segment recorded underwriting income of \$4.6 million, compared to \$8.0 million for the same period last year. Results for 2013 included a slight amount of favorable development on prior accident years' loss reserves, which had a minimal impact on the segment's underwriting results. From a comparative standpoint, 2012 results included favorable loss development which improved the segment's underwriting results by \$2.9 million.

The combined ratio for the surety segment totaled 83.2 for the third quarter of 2013, versus 70.3 for the same period in 2012. The segment's loss ratio was 19.4 for 2013, compared to 8.9 for 2012, as favorable development on prior years' reserves provided a greater positive impact to results for 2012. The expense ratio for the third quarter was 63.8 for 2013, compared to 61.4 in 2012.

INVESTMENT INCOME AND REALIZED CAPITAL GAINS

Our investment portfolio generated net investment income of \$13.6 million during the third quarter of 2013, a decrease of 4.4% from that reported for the same period in 2012. The decline in investment income was due to lower reinvestment rates over the prior twelve months as well as a higher allocation to tax-exempt municipals which have lower nominal yields than taxable alternatives. On an after-tax basis, investment income decreased by 1.9%.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

Yields on our fixed income investments for the third quarter of 2013 and 2012 are as follows:

	3Q 2013	3Q 2012
<u>Pretax Yield</u>		
Taxable	3.75%	3.90%
Tax-Exempt	2.70%	2.79%
<u>After-tax yield</u>		
Taxable	2.44%	2.54%
Tax-Exempt	2.56%	2.64%

We recognized \$11.0 million in realized gains in the third quarter of 2013, compared to realized gains of \$5.5 million in the third quarter of 2012. Investment gains during the quarter were taken in the normal course of portfolio rebalancing, primarily in the equity portfolio due to the strong performance of the equity markets through the first nine months of the year. We did not record any realized losses associated with OTTI of securities during the third quarter of 2013.

INCOME TAXES

Our effective tax rate for the third quarter of 2013 was 32% compared to 30% for the same period in 2012. Effective rates are dependent upon components of pretax earnings and the related tax effects. The effective rate for the third quarter of 2013 was higher due to an increase in underwriting income relative to tax-favored investment income.

Income tax expense attributable to income from operations differed from the amounts computed by applying the U.S. federal tax rate of 35% to pretax income for the third quarter of 2013 and 2012 as a result of the following:

(in thousands)	2013		2012	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Provision for income taxes at the Statutory rate of 35%	\$ 19,358	35%	\$ 12,768	35%
Increase (reduction) in taxes resulting from:				
Tax exempt interest income	(991)	-2%	(826)	-2%
Dividends received deduction	(708)	-1%	(624)	-2%
Dividends paid deduction	(199)	0%	(185)	-1%
Other items, net	202	0%	(116)	0%
Total tax expense	\$ 17,662	32%	\$ 11,017	30%

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

We have three primary types of cash flows: (1) cash flows from operating activities, which consist mainly of cash generated by our underwriting operations and income earned on our investment portfolio, (2) cash flows from investing activities related to the purchase, sale and maturity of investments, and (3) cash flows from financing activities that impact our capital structure, such as changes in debt and shares outstanding.

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

The following table summarizes cash flows provided by (used in) our activities for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2013 and 2012:

	2013	(in thousands)	2012
Operating cash flows	\$	81,736	\$ 13,154
Investing cash flows	\$	(22,345)	\$ (48,810)
Financing cash flows	\$	(16,307)	\$ (14,227)
Total	\$	43,084	\$ (49,883)

Cash flows from operating activities were positive in the first nine months of 2013, though considerably higher than the comparable prior year period. Cash flows from operating activities for 2012 reflect a \$50.0 million cash outflow related to the return of collateral that was being held on a large commercial surety account. Increased premium receipts and a decline in paid losses also contributed to the greater operating cash flows in 2013. The financing cash outflows as of September 30, 2013 do not reflect amounts related to our \$150.0 million debt issuance, described further below and in note 7, which was completed on October 2, 2013.

We have \$250.0 million in debt outstanding. On December 12, 2003, we completed a public debt offering, issuing \$100.0 million in senior notes maturing January 15, 2014 (a 10-year maturity), and paying interest semi-annually at the rate of 5.95% per annum. The notes were issued at a discount resulting in proceeds, net of discount and commission, of \$98.9 million. The estimated fair value for the senior note at September 30, 2013 was \$101.3 million. On September 25, 2013, we entered into an underwriting agreement to issue additional senior unsecured notes. On October 2, 2013, we completed the additional public debt offering, issuing \$150.0 million in senior notes maturing September 15, 2023 (a 10-year maturity), and paying interest semi-annually at the rate of 4.875% per annum. The notes were issued at a discount resulting in proceeds, net of discount and commission, of \$148.6 million. The estimated fair value for the senior note at September 30, 2013 was \$150.6 million. The fair value of our debt is estimated based on the limited observable prices that reflect thinly traded securities.

As of September 30, 2013, we had cash, short-term investments and other investments maturing within one year of approximately \$123.4 million and an additional \$168.4 million maturing between one to five years. As of September 30, 2013, our short-term investments were held primarily in government/agency funds. All funds are NAIC-rated, AAA-rated, and maintain average weighted maturities of less than 60 days. Holdings within each of these funds comply with regulatory limitations.

Whereas our strategy is to be fully invested at all times, short-term investments in excess of demand deposit balances are considered a component of investment activities, and thus are classified as investments in our consolidated balance sheets.

We also maintain a revolving line of credit with JP Morgan Chase, which permits us to borrow up to an aggregate principal amount of \$25.0 million. Under certain conditions, the line may be increased up to an aggregate principal amount of \$50.0 million. The facility has a three-year term that

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

expires on May 31, 2014. As of and during the quarter ended September 30, 2013 no amounts were outstanding on this facility.

We believe that cash generated by operations, by investments and by cash available from financing activities will provide sufficient sources of liquidity to meet our anticipated needs over the next 12 to 24 months.

We have not had any liquidity issues affecting our operations as we have sufficient cash flow to support operations. In addition to the line of credit, our highly liquid investment portfolio and additional reverse repurchase debt capacity provide additional sources of liquidity.

We maintain a diversified investment portfolio representing policyholder funds that have not yet been paid out as claims, as well as the capital we hold for our shareholders. As of September 30, 2013, our investment portfolio had a book value of \$1.9 billion. Invested assets at September 30, 2013, have increased \$41.3 million from December 31, 2012.

As of September 30, 2013, our investment portfolio had the following asset allocation breakdown:

Portfolio Allocation

(in thousands)

Asset Class	Cost or Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	% of Total Fair Value	Quality*
U.S. agency	\$ 8,537	\$ 8,459	\$ (78)	0.5%	AA
Corporate	474,628	491,524	16,896	26.1%	A
Mortgage-backed	247,317	251,564	4,247	13.4%	AA
ABS/CMBS**	94,123	94,007	(116)	5.0%	AAA
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	11,414	11,867	453	0.6%	AA
U.S. government	17,090	17,343	253	0.9%	AA
Municipal	507,485	504,943	(2,542)	26.8%	AA
Total Fixed Income	\$ 1,360,594	\$ 1,379,707	\$ 19,113	73.3%	AA
Equity	\$ 218,656	\$ 392,156	\$ 173,500	20.8%	
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 110,392	\$ 110,392	\$	5.9%	
Total Portfolio	\$ 1,689,642	\$ 1,882,255	\$ 192,613	100.0%	

*Quality ratings provided by Moody's and S&P

**Asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed securities

Our investment portfolio does not have any exposure to credit default swaps or derivatives.

As of September 30, 2013, our fixed income portfolio had the following rating distribution:

AAA	16.7%
AA	47.6%
A	26.3%
BBB	9.3%
BB	0.1%
NR	0.0%
Total	100.0%

Edgar Filing: RLI CORP - Form 10-Q

As of September 30, 2013, the duration of the fixed income portfolio was 5.1 years. Our fixed income portfolio remained well diversified, with 688 individual issues as of September 30, 2013.

Our investment portfolio has limited exposure to structured asset-backed securities (ABS). As of September 30, 2013, we had \$20.1 million in ABS which are pools of assets collateralized by cash flows from several types of loans, including home equity, credit cards, autos, and similar obligations. The majority of our asset-backed portfolio is comprised of rate reduction utility bonds.

As of September 30, 2013 we had \$73.9 million in commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS) and \$251.6 million in residential mortgage backed securities backed by government sponsored enterprises (GSEs - Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae). Excluding the GSE backed MBS, our exposure to ABS and CMBS was 5.0 percent of our investment portfolio at quarter end.

We also maintain an allocation to municipal fixed income securities. As of September 30, 2013, we had \$504.9 million in municipal securities. As of September 30, 2013, approximately 91% of our municipal bond portfolio maintains an AA or better rating. At December 31, 2012, approximately 99% of our municipal bond portfolio held an AA or better rating.

At September 30, 2013, our equity portfolio had a fair value of \$392.2 million and is also a source of liquidity. The securities within the equity portfolio remain primarily invested in large-cap issues with strong dividend performance. In the equity portfolio, the strategy remains one of value investing, with security selection taking precedence over market timing. We use a buy-and-hold strategy, minimizing both transactional costs and taxes.

As of September 30, 2013, our equity portfolio had a dividend yield of 2.9% compared to 2.0% for the S&P 500 index. Because of the corporate dividend-received-deduction applicable to our dividend income, we pay an effective tax rate of 14.2% on dividends, compared to 35.0% on taxable interest and 5.3% on municipal bond interest income. The equity portfolio is managed in a diversified and granular manner, with 80 individual names and no single stock exposure greater than 2% of the equity portfolio.

Our capital structure is comprised of equity and debt outstanding. As of September 30, 2013, our capital structure consisted of \$100.0 million in 10-year maturity senior notes maturing in 2014 (debt), \$150.0 million in 10-year maturity senior notes maturing in 2023 (debt) and \$854.6 million of shareholders' equity. Debt outstanding comprised 22.6% of total capital as of September 30, 2013. Interest and fees on debt obligations totaled \$4.5 million for the first nine months of 2013 and 2012. We have incurred interest expense on debt at an average interest rate of 6.02% for the three-month periods ended September 30, 2013 and 2012.

We paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.34 per share on September 20, 2013, the same amount as the prior quarter. We have paid dividends for 149 consecutive quarters and increased dividends in each of the last 38 years.

Our insurance subsidiaries are organized in a vertical structure with RLI Ins. as the first-level, or principal, insurance subsidiary of RLI Corp. At the

holding company (RLI Corp.) level, we rely largely on dividends from our insurance company subsidiaries to meet our obligations for paying principal and interest on outstanding debt, corporate expenses and dividends to RLI Corp. shareholders. As discussed further below, dividend payments to RLI Corp. from our principal insurance subsidiary are restricted by state insurance laws as to the amount that may be paid without prior approval of the insurance regulatory authorities of Illinois. As a result, we may not be able to receive dividends from such subsidiary at times and in amounts necessary to pay desired dividends to RLI Corp. shareholders. As of September 30, 2013, our holding company had \$854.6 million in equity. Of this amount, \$809.2 million is related to the statutory equity of our insurance subsidiaries, which is subject to regulatory restrictions under state insurance laws. The remaining \$45.4 million in holding company equity is not restricted and is comprised primarily of investments and cash, including \$18.5 million in liquid assets, which are utilized for annual holding company expenditures. In addition, RLI Corp. maintains the above mentioned revolving line of credit with JP Morgan Chase, which permits us to borrow up to an aggregate principal amount of \$25.0 million. Under certain conditions, the line may be increased up to an aggregate principal amount of \$50.0 million.

Ordinary dividends, which may be paid by our principal insurance subsidiary without prior regulatory approval, are subject to certain limitations based upon income, surplus and earned surplus. The maximum ordinary dividend distribution from our principal insurance subsidiary in a rolling 12-month period is limited by Illinois law to the greater of 10 percent of RLI Ins. policyholder surplus, as of December 31 of the preceding year, or the net income of RLI Ins. for the 12-month period ending December 31 of the preceding year. Ordinary dividends are further restricted by the requirement that they be paid from earned surplus. In 2012, our principal insurance subsidiary paid ordinary dividends totaling \$13.0 million to RLI Corp. There were no dividends paid by RLI Ins. to RLI Corp. in the first nine months of 2013. Any dividend distribution in excess of the ordinary dividend limits is deemed extraordinary and requires prior approval from the Illinois Department of Insurance. In 2012, our principal insurance subsidiary sought and received regulatory approval prior to the payment of extraordinary dividends totaling \$125.0 million. As a result of these extraordinary dividends, as of December 31, 2012, the net assets of our principal insurance subsidiary are restricted and prior approval from the Illinois Department of Insurance is required for all dividends to RLI Corp. These restrictions remain in effect as of September 30, 2013. Because the limitations are based upon a rolling 12-month period, the presence, amount and impact of these restrictions vary over time.

ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of economic losses due to adverse changes in the estimated fair value of a financial instrument as the result of changes in equity prices, interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates and commodity prices. Historically, our primary market risks have been equity price risk associated with investments in equity securities and interest rate risk associated with investments in fixed maturities. We have limited exposure to both foreign currency risk and commodity risk.

Credit risk is the potential loss resulting from adverse changes in an issuer's ability to repay its debt obligations. We monitor our portfolio to ensure that credit risk does not exceed prudent levels. We have consistently

invested in high credit quality, investment grade securities. Our fixed maturity portfolio has an average rating of AA, with 91% rated A or better by at least two nationally recognized rating organization.

On an overall basis, our exposure to market risk has not significantly changed from that reported in our December 31, 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures

We maintain a system of controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the reliability of the financial statements and other disclosures included in this report, as well as to safeguard assets from unauthorized use or disposition. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures was performed, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures are effective, as of the end of the period covered by this report.

In designing and evaluating our disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurances of achieving the desired control objective, and management necessarily is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. We believe that our disclosure controls and procedures provide such reasonable assurance.

No changes were made to our internal control over financial reporting during the last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings - There were no material changes to report.

Item 1A. Risk Factors - There were no material changes to report.

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

Items 2(a) and (b) are not applicable.

Our current \$100 million share repurchase program was implemented by our Board of Directors in May 2010. The repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice. During the third quarter of 2013, no repurchases were made. We have not repurchased shares under this program since the third quarter of 2011. We have \$87.5 million of remaining capacity from the repurchase program.

Item 3. **Defaults Upon Senior Securities** - Not Applicable

Item 4. **Mine Safety Disclosures** - Not Applicable.

Item 5. **Other Information** - Not Applicable

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit 31.1 Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 31.2 Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 32.1 Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 32.2 Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 101 XBRL-Related Documents

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.

RLI Corp.

/s/Thomas L. Brown
Thomas L. Brown
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Chief Accounting Officer)

Date: October 28, 2013