GLOBAL PAYMENTS INC

Form 10-K/A September 28, 2012 Table of Contents

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K/A

(Amendment No. 1)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended May 31, 2012

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission File No. 001-16111

GLOBAL PAYMENTS INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Georgia 58-2567903
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

10 Glenlake Parkway, North Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30328-3473 (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 770-829-8000

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

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which registered

Common Stock, No Par Value

Series A Junior Participating Preferred Share Purchase

New York Stock Exchange
New York Stock Exchange

Rights

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

NONE

(Title of Class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes $x \, \text{No} \, \text{o}$

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act. Yes o No x

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 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 x No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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 x Accelerated filer o

Non-accelerated filer o Smaller reporting company o

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes o No x The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter was \$3,439,642,327.

The number of shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding at July 16, 2012 was 78,658,674 shares. DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Specifically identified portions of the registrant's proxy statement for the 2012 annual meeting of shareholders are incorporated by reference in Part III.

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Explanatory Note

This Amendment No. 1 (the "Amendment") amends the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended May 31, 2012 of Global Payments Inc. originally filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 27, 2012 (the "Original Filing"). This Amendment is being filed to correct the form type referenced in Exhibits 31.1, 31.2 and 32.1, which inadvertently referred to a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q due to a clerical error. Additionally, the registrant hereby amends the original Annual Report on Form 10-K by correcting the reference in Exhibit 18 to incorporate by reference the preferability letter filed as Exhibit 18 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q dated August 31, 2011.

As required by Rule 12b-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, new certifications by our principal executive officer and principal financial officer are filed herewith as exhibits to this Amendment. Also included in this Amendment is an updated consent from the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm filed as Exhibit 23.1.

This Amendment does not reflect events occurring after the date of the Original Filing or modify or update those disclosures that may be affected by subsequent events.

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CAUTIONARY NOTICE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Unless the context requires otherwise, references in this report to "Global Payments," the "Company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Global Payments Inc. and our respective subsidiaries.

We believe that it is important to communicate our plans and expectations about the future to our shareholders and to the public. Some of the statements we use in this report, and in some of the documents we incorporate by reference in this report, contain forward-looking statements concerning our business operations, economic performance and financial condition, including in particular: our business strategy and means to implement the strategy; measures of future results of operations, such as revenue, expenses, operating margins, income tax rates, and earnings per share; other operating metrics such as shares outstanding and capital expenditures; our success and timing in developing and introducing new products or services and expanding our business; and the successful integration of future acquisitions. You can sometimes identify forward looking-statements by our use of the words "believes," "anticipates," "expects," "intends," "plan," "forecast," "guidance" and similar expressions. For these statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Although we believe that the plans and expectations reflected in or suggested by our forward-looking statements are reasonable, those statements are based on a number of assumptions and estimates that are inherently subject to significant risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, cannot be foreseen and reflect future business decisions that are subject to change. Accordingly, we cannot guarantee you that our plans and expectations will be achieved. Our actual revenues, revenue growth rates and margins, other results of operations and shareholder values could differ materially from those anticipated in our forward-looking statements as a result of many known and unknown factors, many of which are beyond our ability to predict or control. These factors include, but are not limited to, those set forth in Item 1A - Risk Factors of this report, those set forth elsewhere in this report and those set forth in our press releases, reports and other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. These cautionary statements qualify all of our forward-looking statements, and you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

Our forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made and should not be relied upon as representing our plans and expectations as of any subsequent date. While we may elect to update or revise forward-looking statements at some time in the future, we specifically disclaim any obligation to publicly release the results of any revisions to our forward-looking statements.

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PART I

ITEM 1- BUSINESS

General Developments

Financial Highlights

In the year ended May 31, 2012, or fiscal 2012, revenue increased 18% to \$2,203.8 million from \$1,859.8 million in the year ended May 31, 2011, or fiscal 2011. This revenue growth was primarily due to growth in most of our markets around the world and also due to the impact of our acquisition in Spain on December 20, 2010.

Consolidated operating income was \$307.3 million for fiscal 2012, compared to \$331.6 million for fiscal 2011. Consolidated operating income for fiscal 2012 includes processing system intrusion costs of \$84.4 million. Net income attributable to Global Payments decreased \$21.0 million, or 10%, to \$188.2 million in fiscal 2012 from \$209.2 million in the prior year, resulting in a \$0.23 decrease in diluted earnings per share to \$2.37 in fiscal 2012 from \$2.60 in fiscal 2011.

North America merchant services segment revenue increased \$204.4 million or 15% to \$1,567.3 million in fiscal 2012 from \$1,362.9 million in fiscal 2011. North America merchant services segment operating income increased to \$281.3 million in fiscal 2012 from \$268.2 million in fiscal 2011, with operating margins of 17.9% and 19.7% for fiscal 2012 and 2011, respectively.

International merchant services segment revenue increased \$139.7 million or 28% to \$636.6 million in fiscal 2012 from \$496.9 million in fiscal 2011. International merchant services operating income also increased to \$196.1 million in fiscal 2012 from \$143.9 million in fiscal 2011, with operating margins of 30.8% and 29.0% for fiscal 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Refer to "Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" for a detailed explanation of these results.

Fiscal 2012 Acquisitions

During the fiscal year 2012 we completed three targeted acquisitions which expanded our International and e-commerce presence. In December 2011, our UCS subsidiary acquired Alfa-Bank's merchant acquiring business. Alfa-Bank is the largest privately owned bank in Russia. In December 2011, we also acquired a merchant acquiring business in Malta and in January 2012 acquired a U.S. e-commerce portfolio. The aggregate purchase price for these three transactions was approximately \$44 million.

Business Description

Global Payments Inc. is a leading provider of electronic payments transaction processing services for consumers, merchants, Independent Sales Organizations ("ISO"s), financial institutions, government agencies and multi-national corporations located throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, the Asia-Pacific region, the Czech Republic, and the Russian Federation. We serve as an intermediary to facilitate electronic payment transactions and operate in two business segments, North America Merchant Services and International Merchant Services. We were incorporated in Georgia as Global Payments Inc. in September 2000, and we spun-off from our former parent company on January 31, 2001. Including our time as part of our former parent company, we have been in the

payments business since 1967.

Our North America Merchant Services and International Merchant Services segments target customers in many vertical industries including financial institutions, gaming, government, health care, professional services, restaurants, retail, universities, nonprofit organizations and utilities. Please see Note 14 in the notes to consolidated financial statements for additional segment information and "Item 1A - Risk Factors" for a discussion of risks involved with our operations.

Merchant Services Overview

Our merchant acquiring services are similar around the world in that we accept a variety of card and electronic based payments at the point of sale. The majority of our business model provides payment products and services directly to merchants as our end customers. We also provide similar products and services to financial institutions and a limited number of ISOs that,

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in turn, resell our products and services, in which case, the financial institutions and select ISOs are our end customers. These particular services are marketed in the United States, Canada, and parts of Eastern Europe.

We provide our merchant customers with the ability to accept check, card and electronic-based payments. The term "merchant" generally refers to any organization that accepts credit or debit cards for the payment of goods and services. We sell our services through multiple sales channels around the world and target customers in many vertical industries. Card-based payment forms consist of credit, debit, gift, stored value, and electronic benefits transfer cards. Credit and debit card transaction processing includes the processing of the world's major international card brands, including American Express, China UnionPay, Discover, JCB, MasterCard, and Visa, as well as certain domestic debit networks, such as Interac in Canada. Electronic payment processing involves a consumer or cardholder acquiring goods or services from a merchant and using a credit or debit card or other electronic method as the form of payment. We are the processing intermediary between the merchant, the credit and debit networks and the financial institutions that issue cards. Our comprehensive offerings include terminal sales and deployment, front-end authorization processing, settlement and funding processing, full customer support and help-desk functions, chargeback resolution, industry compliance, PCI security, consolidated billing and statements, and on-line reporting. Our value proposition is to provide high quality, responsive, secure and full end-to-end service to all of our customers. Currently, we target merchant customers in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, Czech Republic, Malta, the Asia-Pacific region and the Russian Federation.

The majority of merchant services revenue is generated on services priced as a percentage of transaction value or a specified fee per transaction, depending on card type. We also charge other fees based on specific services that are unrelated to the number of transactions or the transaction value. The majority of credit cards and signature debit cards, which are only a U.S. based card type, are based on a percentage of transaction value along with other related fees, while PIN debit cards are typically a fee per transaction.

Credit and Debit Card Transaction Processing

Credit and debit networks establish uniform regulations that govern much of the payment card industry. During a typical card transaction, the merchant and the card issuer do not interface directly with each other, but instead rely on merchant acquirers. Merchant acquirers are typically financial institutions or independent processors like Global Payments. Global Payments performs a series of services including authorization, electronic draft capture, file transfers to facilitate funds settlement and certain exception-based, back office support services such as chargeback and retrieval resolution.

Electronic draft capture is the process of transferring sales draft data into an electronic format so that it may be sent through networks for clearing and settlement. The card networks, primarily Visa, MasterCard, and Discover, use a system known as interchange in the case of credit and signature debit cards for this purpose. Financial institutions use the debit networks for PIN-based debit cards to transfer the information and funds between the card issuers and merchant acquirers to complete the link between merchants and card issuers. Debit card payments differ slightly from traditional credit card transactions in that the cardholder is required to have sufficient funds available in a deposit account at the time of the transaction, or the debit card transaction will not be authorized. PIN-based debit transactions are sent through a debit network while signature-based debit or check card transactions, which are offered exclusively in the United States, are sent through Visa and MasterCard and require a signature at the time of purchase. Also, PIN-based debit transactions typically deduct the purchase amount from the cardholder's deposit account within a day of the purchase, depending on the time of the purchase. Signature-based debit, or check card transactions, typically debit the cardholder's deposit account two to three days after the purchase, although the funds are "held" with a memo posted to the cardholder's bank account. A credit card transaction posts to a cardholder's card account, reducing the available credit limit in a similar manner.

In order to provide credit and signature-based debit card transaction processing services for MasterCard and Visa, we must either be a member of these systems or be designated as a certified processor by MasterCard and Visa in addition to being a Merchant Service Provider by MasterCard and an Independent Sales Organization by Visa. Currently, these designations are dependent upon member clearing banks of either organization sponsoring us and our adherence to the standards of the Visa and MasterCard networks. A financial institution that is a member of the Visa and/or MasterCard card networks (which we refer to in this discussion as Member) must sponsor an electronic transaction payment processor such as Global Payments. We have five primary financial institution sponsors in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Russian Federation with whom we have sponsorship or depository and clearing agreements. These agreements allow us to route transactions under the member banks' control and identification numbers to clear credit card transactions through Visa and MasterCard. Certain of the member financial institutions of Visa and MasterCard are our competitors. Visa and MasterCard set the standards with which we must comply. In certain markets, we have achieved membership in various payment networks, allowing us to process and fund transactions without third-party financial institution sponsorship. We intend to pursue memberships in additional markets in the future.

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We also provide credit card transaction processing for Discover Financial Services or Discover Card ("Discover") and are designated as an acquirer by Discover. This designation provides us with a direct relationship between us and Discover, and therefore a Member sponsorship is not required. Our agreement with Discover allows us to route and clear transactions directly through Discover's network. Otherwise, we process Discover transactions similarly to the way we process MasterCard and Visa transactions. Discover publishes acquirer operating regulations with which we must comply. We use our Members to assist in funding merchants for Discover transactions.

Additionally, we provide credit and debit card transaction processing for China Unionpay ("CUP") in selected markets and through a variety of methods, and are either designated as an acquirer by China Unionpay or are sponsored by a China Unionpay member institution. China Unionpay publishes acquirer operating regulations with which we must comply. We use our Members to assist in funding merchants for China Unionpay transactions.

How a Card Transaction Works

A typical card transaction begins when a cardholder presents a card for payment at a merchant location where the card information is captured by a POS terminal card reader, which may be sold or leased, and serviced by Global Payments. Alternatively, card and transaction information may be captured and transmitted to our network through a POS device by one of a number of products that we offer directly or through a value added reseller ("VAR"). The terminal electronically records sales draft information, such as the card identification number, transaction date and value of the goods or services purchased.

After the card and transaction information is captured by the POS device, the terminal automatically either dials a pre-programmed phone number or otherwise connects to our network through the internet or other communication channels in order to receive authorization of the transaction. For a credit card transaction, authorization services generally refer to the process in which the card issuer indicates whether a particular credit card is authentic and whether the impending transaction value will cause the cardholder to exceed defined credit limits. In a debit card transaction, the company obtains authorization for the transaction from the card issuer through the payment network verifying that the cardholder has sufficient funds for the transaction.

Timing differences, interchange expense, merchant reserves and exception items cause differences between the amount the Member receives from the card networks and the amount funded to the merchants. The standards of the card networks restrict us from performing funds settlement or accessing merchant settlement funds, and, instead, require that these funds be in the possession of the Member until the merchant is funded. However, in practice and in accordance with the terms of our sponsorship agreements with our Members, we generally follow a net settlement process by region whereby, if the incoming amount from the card networks precedes the Member's funding obligation to the merchant, we temporarily hold the surplus on behalf of the Member, in an account at the Member bank, and record a corresponding liability. Conversely, if the Member's funding obligation to the merchant precedes the incoming amount from the card networks, the amount of the Member's net receivable position is either subsequently advanced to the Member by us or the Member satisfies this obligation with its own funds. If the Member uses its own funds, the Member assesses a funding cost. Each participant in the transaction process receives compensation for its services.

As an illustration, on a \$100.00 credit card transaction, the card issuer may fund the Member \$98.50 after retaining approximately \$1.50 referred to as an interchange fee or interchange expense. The card issuer seeks reimbursement of \$100.00 from the cardholder in the cardholder's monthly credit card bill. The Member would, in turn, pay the merchant \$100.00. The net settlement after this transaction would require Global Payments to advance the Member \$1.50. After the end of the month, we would bill the merchant a percentage of the transaction, or discount, to cover the full amount of the interchange fee and our net revenue from the transaction. If our net revenue from the merchant in

the above example was 0.5%, we would bill the merchant \$2.00 at the end of the month for the transaction, reimburse ourselves for approximately \$1.50 in interchange fees and retain \$0.50 as our revenue for the transaction. Our profit on the transaction reflects the revenue less operating expenses, including the network and systems cost to process the transaction (including assessments) and commissions paid to our sales force or ISO. Assessments are fees charged by Visa and MasterCard based on the dollar value of transactions processed through their networks.

Business Segments

North America Merchant Services Segment

North America merchant services revenues represent 71% of our total consolidated fiscal 2012 revenues and include operations in the United States and Canada. In the United States, we sell our services via ISOs, a direct sales force, trade associations, agent and VAR referral arrangements, as well as proprietary telesales groups.

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Our ISO channel targets a variety of merchant types with typical annual bankcard volumes of \$150,000 or less. The ISOs contract with Global Payments to provide processing and other services depending on the ISOs' requirements. These contracts are multi-year and priced by service on a per transaction basis. The ISOs act as a third-party sales group selling Global Payments-branded merchant acquiring products and services, with the majority of Global Payments ISOs marketing direct merchant acquiring. Because Global Payments is a primary party to the merchant contract as a result of our bank sponsor relationship, the full amount of fees collected from the merchant is recorded as revenue. The excess of revenue earned over the ISO contractual transaction fee (plus assessments) is remitted to the ISO in the form of a residual payment on a monthly basis and is recorded in Sales, general and administrative expenses.

Our direct sales channel receives qualified leads from our agent bank, VAR and trade association referral partners signing a variety of mid-to-large sized merchants with annual bankcard volume on average above \$300,000. Our merchant portfolio is also increased by targeted campaigns and other lead generating efforts by our direct sales force. Our sales force is paid a combination of base salary and commission. Our referral partners are paid various referral fees.

Our United States revenue also includes check and gaming services and indirect merchant services. Our check products offer merchant customers risk management alternatives, in the case of our verification and recovery offerings, or risk elimination, in the case of our guarantee offerings, by leveraging our internal and external databases of checkwriters to help decide whether the merchant should accept a check as the form of payment from a particular checkwriter. Our check services products are part of our direct merchant service offering.

The majority of check services involve providing check guarantee services for checks received by merchants. Under the guarantee service, when a merchant receives a check in payment for goods and services, the transaction is submitted and analyzed by the Company. The Company either accepts or declines the check for warranty coverage under its guarantee service. If the Company approves the check for warranty coverage and the merchant accepts the check, the merchant will either deposit the check in its bank account or process it for settlement through the company's electronic check acceptance service. If the check is returned unpaid by the merchant's bank and the returned check meets the requirements for warranty coverage, the Company is required to purchase the check from the merchant at its face value. The Company then owns the purchased check and pursues collection of the check from the check writer. As a result, the Company bears the risk of loss if the company is unable to collect the returned check from the check writer. We earn a fee for each check guaranteed, which generally is determined as a percentage of the check amount.

In the specialized vertical market of gaming, our VIP LightSpeed proprietary software and VIP Preferred Advantage product provide the gaming industry with the tools necessary to establish revolving check cashing limits for a casino's customers. Our gaming products allow fast access to cash with high limits so that gaming establishments can increase the flow of money to their gaming floors and reduce risk. We derive revenue from our gaming products primarily based on a percentage of the transaction value.

International Merchant Services Segment

International merchant services revenues represent 29% of our total consolidated fiscal 2012 revenues and include operations in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Our business in Europe is primarily located in the United Kingdom, Spain, the Czech Republic, and the Russian Federation. Our Asia-Pacific region includes the following eleven countries and territories: Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Taiwan. We have a direct sales force in the United Kingdom, Spain, the Russian Federation and the Asia-Pacific region through which we primarily sell our direct merchant acquiring services while leveraging our bank

referral relationships. In the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation we also provide indirect merchant acquiring services.

Total revenues from our segments, by geography, are as follows (amounts in thousands):

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| | Year Ended May 31, | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Revenues: | | | |
| United States | \$1,234,818 | \$1,031,997 | \$902,844 |
| Canada | 332,434 | 330,872 | 317,272 |
| North America merchant services | 1,567,252 | 1,362,869 | 1,220,116 |
| Europe | 489,300 | 359,567 | 315,023 |
| Asia-Pacific | 147,295 | 137,366 | 107,329 |
| International merchant services | 636,595 | 496,933 | 422,352 |
| Consolidated revenues | \$2,203,847 | \$1,859,802 | \$1,642,468 |

Industry Overview and Target Markets

Industry Overview

Payment processing service providers offer high-volume electronic transaction payment processing and support services directly to merchants, multinational corporations, financial institutions and ISOs.

We are a leading mid-market and small-market merchant acquirer in the United States and we primarily compete with First Data Corporation, Bank of America Merchant Services, Chase Paymentech, Wells Fargo, Vantiv, Heartland Payment Systems and Elavon.

In Canada, we have a significant market share we believe to be second to Moneris Solutions. Moneris Solutions is a joint venture between the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal. We also consider Chase Paymentech Solutions and TD Merchant Services to be major competitors in the Canadian market.

In the European and Asia-Pacific regions, financial institutions remain the dominant providers of payment processing services to merchants, although the outsourcing of merchant processing services to third party service providers is becoming more prevalent. Processing services have become increasingly complex, requiring significant capital commitments to develop, maintain and update the systems necessary to provide these advanced services at a competitive price.

In the United Kingdom, we believe we hold the number three market position compared to our primary competitors WorldPay and Barclays. In Spain, we hold the number one market share position and our primary competitors are Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A and Caja Madrid, although all banks offer some form of card processing in line with the traditional full service model in the market. While we have a market leading position with our partner Caixa Bank, we are expecting similar models to become more prevalent as further consolidation occurs in the banking sector. We believe we hold the number one market share position in The Russian Federation in a highly fragmented payments market. Our competition is made up of various financial institutions, including Sberbank, VTB, Raiffeisen Bank, and Russian Standard Bank. In the Czech Republic, our primary competitors are First Data, SiNSYS, and Euronet. In the Asia-Pacific region, our primary competition is from financial institutions that offer merchant acquiring services in each of our eleven markets.

As a result of continued growth in our industry, several large merchant acquirers, including us, have expanded operations both domestically and internationally. This expansion has come in the form of acquisitions and the creation

of alliances and joint ventures. We believe that the electronic payment transaction processing industry will continue to consolidate as banks and independent processors that do not have the necessary infrastructure to participate in a highly competitive environment look to exit the business.

We believe the number of electronic transactions will continue to grow in the future and that an increasing percentage of these transactions will be processed through emerging technologies. To help our customers reduce their transaction costs and accelerate the transaction approval process, we have integrated new technologies into our service offerings such as internet protocol communications and check truncation or conversion at the point of sale. In order to support and integrate payments into our merchants' various business solutions utilized through Value-Added Resellers (VARs), the company created a developer portal simplifying the payment enablement process with multiple VARs. We are also able to offer our customers integrated ecommerce solutions. Through our VAR relationships, we have several products that support radio frequency identification for contactless payment cards as well as near field communication enabled Smartphones that contain mobile wallet software, which

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position Global Payments to participate in the mobile payments market. We also offer our customers the ability of accepting payments utilizing a mobile device as a point of sale terminal. As mobile payments continue to evolve and are desired by merchants and consumers, we intend to continue partnering with VARs and developing new products and services that will exploit the benefits that these new technologies can offer our customers. We also believe that new markets will continue to develop in areas that have been previously dominated by paper-based transactions. Industries such as e-commerce, healthcare, education, government, recurring payments, and business-to-business should continue to see transaction volumes migrate to more electronic-based settlement solutions. We believe that the continued development of new products and services and the emergence of new vertical markets will be a factor in the growth of our business for the foreseeable future.

Target Markets

We believe that significant global opportunities exist for growth in the application of electronic transaction payment processing services. Although the United States accounts for the largest payment processing volume in the world, global expansion by financial institutions into new geographies and the increased recognition by governments of the role of payment cards in facilitating economic growth are rapidly transforming the electronic commerce market into a global opportunity.

The growth of card transactions correlates with the historic growth of our business. According to The Nilson Report dated April 2012, worldwide annual general purpose card purchase volume increased 18.5% to \$11.2 trillion in 2011. General purpose cards include the major card networks brands such as Visa, MasterCard, American Express, China UnionPay, JCB, and Diners Club. In Canada, general purpose cards also include Interac debit cards.

The Nilson Report dated February 2012 estimates that more than \$3.6 trillion of annual consumer spending was charged in 2011 using general purpose cards in the United States, a 10.4% increase from 2010. The Nilson Report dated March 2012 reported that \$533.1 billion (United States Dollars) of annual Canadian consumer spending uses general purpose cards as the form of payment, representing an increase of 7.3% from 2010. The Nilson Report dated June 2012 estimates that \$2.4 trillion of annual consumer spending was charged in 2011 using general purpose cards in Europe, a 11% increase from 2010. We process in eleven countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region. These markets include almost 39% of the world's population and 71% of the total Asia-Pacific population according to the CIA World Factbook. We believe there are significant, long-term growth opportunities for payment processing in this region.

Strategy

We seek to leverage the rapid adoption of, and transition to, card and electronic based payments by expanding market share in our existing markets through our distribution channels and through acquisitions and also enter new markets through acquisitions in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe. We intend to continue to invest in and leverage our technology infrastructure and our people, thereby maximizing shareholder value. We intend to accomplish this overall strategy by increasing our penetration of existing markets and further leveraging our infrastructure. Our objectives include:

grow our direct merchant services market share by concentrating on the small and mid-market merchant segments, while selectively targeting national merchants that meet our profitability criteria;

expand our direct merchant services distribution channels, including our existing sales force, ISOs, original equipment manufacturer ("OEMs"), VARs, e-commerce, mobile wallet software and other referral relationships;

focus on the highest potential markets and channels including emerging technologies;

continue to develop a seamless, multinational acquiring platform and solutions for leading global customers;

provide the best possible customer service at levels that exceed our competitors while leveraging our global infrastructure by investing in technology, training and product enhancements; provide enhanced products and services by developing value-added applications, enhancing existing products and developing new systems and services to blend technology with our customer needs; drive efficiencies throughout our technology infrastructure by continual systems integrations where applicable; pursue potential domestic and international acquisitions or investments in and alliances with companies that have high growth potential or significant market presence and operate in profitable sectors of payments-related industries through compatible technology, products and services, and development and distribution capabilities; and focus on international markets with high payments industry growth or significant market presence in Europe, the Asia Pacific region and Latin America.

Safeguarding Our Business

Privacy and security are central to our service. We work with information security and forensics firms and employ advanced technologies to investigate and address issues related to processing system security. We also work with industry third

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parties, regulators and law enforcement to fully resolve security incidents and assist in efforts to prevent unauthorized access to our processing system.

In early March of this year, we identified and self-reported unauthorized access into a limited portion of our processing system. We have concluded our investigation, and we believe that a limited portion of our North American card processing system was affected. We do not believe our International card processing systems were similarly accessed.

As a result of this event, certain card networks removed us from their list of Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard, referred to as PCI DSS, compliant service providers. We have hired a Qualified Security Assessor, or QSA, to conduct an independent review of the PCI DSS compliance of our systems. Once that review is complete and we conclude the required remediation, we will work closely with the networks to return to the lists of PCI DSS compliant service providers as quickly as possible. We continue to sign new merchants and process transactions around the world for all card networks.

The investigation also revealed potential unauthorized access to servers containing personal information collected from a subset of merchant applicants. It is unclear whether any such information was exported; however, we notified potentially-affected individuals and made available credit monitoring and identity protection insurance at no cost to the individual.

We believe that the incident is contained and have significantly enhanced our hardware and software systems, network monitoring and security procedures.

Employees

As of May 31, 2012, we had 3,796 employees. Many of our employees are highly skilled in technical areas specific to electronic transaction payment processing. We believe that our current and future operations depend substantially on retaining our key technical employees.

Government Regulation

Various aspects of our business are subject to regulation and supervision under federal, state and local laws in the United States, as well as laws and regulations that affect the electronic payments industry in the countries in which we operate. In addition, we are subject to rules promulgated by the various payment networks, including Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and Interac; the Payment Services Directive in Europe; as well as a variety of other regulations, including escheat laws and applicable privacy and information security regulations. In addition, because we provide data processing services to banks and other financial institutions, we are subject to examination by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC). Set forth below is a brief summary of some of the significant laws and regulations that apply to the Company. These descriptions are not exhaustive and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the particular statutory or regulatory provision.

The Dodd-Frank Act

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), which will result in significant structural and other changes to the regulation of the financial services industry. The Dodd-Frank Act directed the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve ("Board") to regulate the debit interchange transaction fees that a card issuer or payment card network receives or charges for an electronic debit transaction. The Act requires that these fees be "reasonable and proportional" to the cost incurred by the card issuer in authorizing, clearing and settling the transaction. On June 29, 2011, the Board announced the final rules

governing debit card interchange fees, and routing and exclusivity restrictions. Under these rules, debit interchange rates for card issuers with assets of \$10 billion or more are capped at \$0.21 per transaction and an ad valorem component of 5 basis points to reflect a portion of the issuer's fraud losses plus, for qualifying issuers, an additional \$0.01 per transaction in debit interchange for fraud prevention costs. In addition, the rules contain prohibitions on network exclusivity and merchant routing restrictions that require a card issuer to enable at least two unaffiliated networks on each debit card, prohibit card networks from entering into exclusivity arrangements, and restrict the ability of issuers or networks to mandate transaction routing requirements. The interchange fee limitations and prohibition on merchant routing restrictions took effect on October 1, 2011. The prohibition on network exclusivity arrangements took effect on October 1, 2011 for payment card networks and April 1, 2012 for most debit card issuers. In addition, the prohibition on network exclusivity arrangements will take effect for certain health and benefit cards and general-use prepaid cards on April 1, 2013.

The Dodd-Frank Act also created the Financial Stability Oversight Council ("FSOC"), which was established to, among other things, identify risks to the stability of the U.S. financial system. The FSOC has the authority to require supervision and regulation of nonbank financial companies by the Federal Reserve if the FSOC determines either that (i) material financial

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distress at the nonbank financial company or (ii) the nature, scope, size, scale, concentration, interconnectedness, or mix of activities of the nonbank financial company could pose a threat to the financial stability of the United States. Separately, the FSOC has the authority to designate financial market utilities ("FMUs") and financial institutions engaged in payment, clearing and settlement ("PCS") activities as systemically important if the FSOC determines that failure or disruption to the functioning of the FMU or conduct of the PCS activities could threaten the stability of the U.S. financial system. Such a designation will subject the FMU or financial institution to oversight and risk management standards established by the Federal Reserve (in consultation with the FSOC and certain other applicable regulatory agencies). Early indications suggest that the FSOC is focused on the regulation of financial services companies that operate unregulated wholesale transfer systems or engage in largely unregulated commodities, derivatives and currency markets, and not on entities such as the Company.

Payment Network Rules

We are subject to the rules of MasterCard, Visa, Discover and Interac, and other payment networks. In order to provide our transaction processing services, several of our subsidiaries are registered with Visa and MasterCard as service providers for member institutions and with other networks. Accordingly, we are subject to card association and network rules that could subject us to a variety of fines or penalties that may be levied by the card networks for certain acts or omissions.

Banking Laws and Regulations

Because we provide data processing and technology services to banks and other financial institutions, we are subject to examination by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC). The FFIEC is an interagency body comprised of the federal bank and credit union regulators (the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection). The FFIEC examines large data processors in order to recognize and supervise risks associated with systemically significant service providers and the risk they may pose to the banking industry. In addition, we are subject to Directive 2007/60 EC in the European Union ("the Payment Services Directive"), which was implemented in most European Union member states through national legislation. As a result of this legislation, we are subject to regulation and oversight in certain EU member nations, including the requirement that we maintain specified regulatory capital.

Privacy and Information Security Laws

We provide services that may be subject to various state, federal and foreign privacy laws and regulations. These laws and regulations include the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which applies to a broad range of financial institutions and to companies that provide services to financial institutions. We are also subject to foreign data protection and privacy laws. Among other things, these foreign and domestic laws, and their implementing regulations, restrict the collection, processing, storage, use and disclosure of personal information, require notice to individuals of privacy practices, and provide individuals with certain rights to prevent use and disclosure of protected information. These laws also impose requirements for safeguarding and removal or elimination of personal information. Certain state laws also restrict the ability of the Company to collect and utilize certain types of information such as Social Security and driver's license numbers.

Anti-money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Requirements

Regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury Office Department of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") place prohibitions and restrictions on all U.S. citizens and entities, including the Company, with respect to transactions by U.S. persons with specified countries and individuals and entities identified on OFAC's Specially Designated Nationals list (for

example, individuals and companies owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of, countries subject to certain economic and trade sanctions, as well as terrorists, terrorist organizations and narcotics traffickers identified by OFAC under programs that are not country specific). Similar requirements apply to transactions and to dealings with persons and entities specified in lists maintained in other countries. We have developed procedures and controls that are designed to monitor and address legal and regulatory requirements and developments and that allow our customers to protect against having direct business dealings with such prohibited countries, individuals or entities.

Debt Collection Laws

Our subsidiary, Global Payments Check Services, Inc., is subject to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and similar state laws in connection with its check guarantee service, which guarantees the payment of checks on behalf of certain merchants. These laws are designed to eliminate abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices and require licensing at the state level. Global Payments Check Services, Inc. has procedures in place to comply with the requirements of these laws and is licensed in a number of states in order to engage in collection in those states.

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Escheat Laws

We are subject to unclaimed or abandoned property laws in the U.S. and in foreign countries that require us to transfer to certain government authorities the unclaimed property of others that we hold when that property has been unclaimed for a certain period of time. Moreover, we are subject to audit by state regulatory authorities with regard to our escheatment practices.

Where to Find More Information

We file annual and quarterly reports, proxy statements and other information with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. You may read and print materials that we have filed with the SEC from its website at www.sec.gov. In addition, certain of our SEC filings, including our annual report on Form 10-K, our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, our current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to them can be viewed and printed from the investor information section of our website at www.globalpaymentsinc.com free of charge. Certain materials relating to our corporate governance, including our senior financial officers' code of ethics, are also available in the investor information section of our website. Copies of our filings, specified exhibits and corporate governance materials are also available, free of charge, by writing us using the address on the cover of this Form 10-K. You may also telephone our investor relations office directly at (770) 829-8234. We are not including the information on our website as a part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this report.

Our SEC filings may also be viewed and copied at the following SEC public reference room, and at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, where our common stock is quoted under the symbol "GPN."

SEC Public Reference Room 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549 (You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room.)

NYSE Euronext 20 Broad Street New York, NY 10005

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ITEM 1A-RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the following risks and other information contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and other SEC filings before you decide whether to buy our common stock. The risks identified below are not all encompassing but should be considered in establishing an opinion of our future operations. If any of the events contemplated by the following discussion of risks should occur, our business, results of operation and financial condition could suffer significantly. As a result, the market price of our common stock could decline and you may lose all or part of the money you paid to buy our common stock.

Failure to safeguard our data could affect our reputation among our merchant clients and cardholders, and may expose us to penalties, fines, liabilities and legal claims.

Under VISA, MasterCard and Discover card network rules, as well as various state laws, we are responsible for information provided to us by merchants, independent sales organizations, or ISO's, third party service providers, and other agents (all of which we refer to as "associated third parties"), which we require in order to process transactions and for fraud prevention. This information includes bankcard numbers, names, addresses, social security numbers, drivers' license numbers, and bank account numbers. We process the data and deliver our products and services by utilizing computer systems and telecommunications networks operated both by us and by third party service providers. We have ultimate liability to the card networks and their member financial institutions for our failure or the failure of our associated third parties to protect this information. Although plans and procedures are in place to protect this sensitive data, we cannot be certain that our measures will be successful and will be sufficient to counter all current and emerging technology threats designed to breach our systems in order to gain access to confidential information.

Although we generally require that our agreements with service providers who have access to merchant and customer data include confidentiality obligations that restrict these parties from using or disclosing any customer or merchant data except in accordance with the applicable agreements, we cannot assure you that these contractual measures will prevent the unauthorized use or disclosure of data. In addition, we have agreed in certain agreements to take certain protective measures to ensure the confidentiality of merchant and consumer data. The costs of systems and procedures associated with such protective measures may increase and could adversely affect our ability to compete effectively. Any failure to adequately enforce or provide these protective measures could result in liability and protracted and costly litigation.

In early March of this year, we identified and self-reported unauthorized access into a limited portion of our processing system. We have concluded our investigation and we believe that a limited portion of our North American card processing system was affected. We do not believe our International card processing systems were similarly accessed.

As a result of this event, certain card networks removed us from their list of PCI DSS compliant service providers. We have hired a QSA to conduct an independent review of the PCI DSS compliance of our systems. Once that review is complete, and we conclude the required remediation, we will work closely with the networks to return to the lists of PCI DSS compliant service providers as quickly as possible. Our failure or a delay in returning to the lists could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operation.

The investigation also revealed potential unauthorized access to servers containing personal information collected from a subset of merchant applicants. It is unclear whether any such information was exported; however, we notified potentially-affected individuals and made available credit monitoring and identity protection insurance at no cost to the individual.

We expect the card networks will seek to impose fines, penalties and/or other assessments against us or our sponsor banks (who would seek indemnification from us pursuant to our agreements with them). We expect the card networks to seek to recover estimated fraud losses and operating expenses, including losses and expenses of issuing banks, associated with this event, as well as fines or penalties resulting from our failure to comply with card network rules and standards. The unauthorized access has resulted in legal action against us and could result in additional lawsuits in the future. See "Business - Legal Proceedings." In addition, governmental entities have made inquiries and may initiate investigations related to the event.

This incident has had and will continue to have a financial impact on us due to the expense of consultants and other professional advisors engaged to conduct the investigation and remediate any discovered issues, the costs of remediating the breach and returning to the network lists of PCI DSS compliant service providers, assessments, fines or penalties from the card networks and state authorities, and the cost of the credit monitoring and identity protection insurance we provided.

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For the year ended May 31, 2012, we have recorded \$84.4 million of expense associated with this incident. Of this amount. \$19.0 million represents the costs we have incurred through May 31, 2012 for legal fees, fees of consultants and other professional advisors engaged to conduct the investigation and various other costs associated with the investigation and remediation. An additional \$67.4 million represents an accrual of our estimate of fraud losses, fines and other charges that will be imposed upon us by the card networks. We have also recorded \$2.0 million of insurance recoveries based on claims submitted to date as discussed below. We based our estimate of fraud losses, fines and other charges on our understanding of the rules and operating regulations published by the networks and preliminary settlement discussions with the networks. As such, the final settlement amounts and our ultimate costs associated with fraud losses, fines and other charges that will be imposed by the networks could differ from the amount we have accrued as of May 31, 2012. Any such difference could have a material impact on our results of operations in the period in which the associated claims are actually settled, or in the period in which we receive additional information that would cause us to refine our estimate of losses and adjust our accrual. Currently we do not have sufficient information to estimate the amount or range of additional possible loss. In addition, if we need to raise additional funds to finance our future capital needs, given the impact this event may have on our business and financial condition, we cannot provide any assurance that we will be able to obtain such financing on reasonable terms or at all. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations" and "Business - Legal Proceedings."

A security breach like the one that recently occurred, or other misuse of data could harm our reputation and deter existing and prospective customers from using our products and services, increase our operating expenses in order to contain and remediate the breach, expose us to unbudgeted or uninsured liability, disrupt our operations (including potential service interruptions), increase our risk of regulatory scrutiny, result in the imposition of penalties and fines under state, federal and foreign laws or by the card networks, and adversely affect our continued card network registration and financial institution sponsorship.

The Company is insured under a claims-made Professional and Technology Based Services, Technology Products, Computer Network Security, and Multimedia and Advertising Liability Insurance Policy and a claims-made Follow Form Excess Liability Insurance Policy issued by certain syndicates of Lloyd's Underwriters and State National Insurance Company, respectively, for the policy period beginning June 1, 2011 and ending June 1, 2012. The policies provide a total of \$30 million in policy limits that are potentially available to cover certain first-party and third-party technology errors and omissions losses. The policies contain various sub-limits of liability and other terms, conditions and limitations, including a \$1.0 million deductible per claim. The insurers have been advised of the circumstances surrounding our recent event. As of May 31, 2012 we have recorded \$2.0 million in insurance recoveries based on claims submitted. We expect to receive additional recoveries as we receive assessments from the networks and submit additional claims. We will record receivables for such recoveries in the periods in which we determine such recovery is probable and the amount can be reasonably estimated.

We expect to incur additional costs associated with investigation, remediation and demonstrating PCI DSS compliance and for the credit monitoring and identity protection insurance we are providing to potentially-affected individuals. We will expense such costs as they are incurred in accordance with our accounting policies for such costs. We currently anticipate that such additional costs may be \$55 to \$65 million in fiscal 2013. We anticipate that we may receive additional insurance recoveries of up to \$28 million.

Our revenues from the sale of services to merchants that accept Visa cards and MasterCard cards are dependent upon our continued Visa and MasterCard registration and financial institution sponsorship and, in some cases, continued participation in certain card networks.

In order to provide our Visa and MasterCard transaction processing services, we must be either a direct participant or be registered as a merchant processor or service provider of Visa and MasterCard. Registration as a merchant processor or service provider is dependent upon our being sponsored by member banks of both organizations. If our

sponsor banks should stop providing sponsorship for us, we would need to find another financial institution to provide those services or we would need to attain direct participation, either of which could prove to be difficult and expensive. If we are unable to find a replacement financial institution to provide sponsorship or attain direct participation, we may no longer be able to provide processing services to the affected customers which would negatively impact our revenues and earnings. Furthermore, some agreements with our bank sponsors give them substantial discretion in approving certain aspects of our business practices, including our solicitation, application, and qualification procedures for merchants and the terms of our agreements with merchants. Our bank sponsors' discretionary actions under these agreements could have a material effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. In connection with direct participation, the rules and regulations of various card associations and networks prescribe certain capital requirements. Any increase in the capital level required would limit our use of capital for other purposes.

In Canada, we have filed an application with the Canadian regulatory authorities for the formation of a wholly owned loan company in Canada which could serve as our financial institution sponsor. While such application is pending, in March 2011, we obtained temporary direct participation in the Visa Canada system. This temporary status will expire on September 30, 2012. In

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the event the wholly owned loan company has not been approved by such expiration date and Visa is unwilling to extend such temporary status, we have entered into an agreement with a financial institution that is willing to serve as our sponsor; however that agreement is not intended to be a long-term solution.

We rely on various financial institutions to provide clearing services in connection with our settlement activities. If we are unable to maintain clearing services with these financial institutions and are unable to find a replacement, our business may be adversely affected.

We rely on various financial institutions to provide clearing services in connection with our settlement activities. If such financial institutions should stop providing clearing services, we must find other financial institutions to provide those services. If we are unable to find a replacement financial institution we may no longer be able to provide processing services to certain customers which could negatively impact our revenue and earnings.

If we fail to comply with the applicable requirements of the card networks, they could seek to fine us, suspend us or terminate our registrations. If our merchants or ISOs incur fines or penalties that we cannot collect from them, we could end up bearing cost of fines or penalties.

We are subject to card association and network rules that could subject us to a variety of fines or penalties that may be levied by the card networks for certain acts or omissions. The rules of the card networks are set by their boards, which may be influenced by card issuers, and some of those issuers are our competitors with respect to these processing services. Many banks directly or indirectly sell processing services to merchants in direct competition with us. These banks could attempt, by virtue of their influence on the networks, to alter the networks' rules or policies to the detriment of non-members like us. The termination of our registrations or our status as a service provider or a merchant processor, or any changes in card association or other network rules or standards, including interpretation and implementation of the rules or standards, that increase the cost of doing business or limit our ability to provide transaction processing services to our customers, could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition. If a merchant or an ISO fails to comply with the applicable requirements of the card associations and networks, it could be subject to a variety of fines or penalties that may be levied by the card associations or networks. If we cannot collect such amounts from the applicable merchant or ISO, we could end up bearing such fines or penalties, resulting in lower earnings for us. See also our discussion above under "Failure to safeguard our data could affect our reputation among our merchant clients and cardholders, and may expose us to penalties, fines, liabilities and legal claims."

Increased merchant or ISO attrition could cause our financial results to decline.

We experience attrition in merchant credit and debit card processing volume resulting from several factors, including business closures, transfers of merchants' accounts to our competitors, unsuccessful contract renewal renegotiation, and account closures that we initiate for various reasons, as such heightened credit risks or contract breaches by merchants. Our ISO sales channel is a strong contributor to our revenue and earnings growth in our North America merchant services segment. If an ISO partner switches to another transaction processor, terminates our services, shuts down or becomes insolvent, we will no longer receive new merchant referrals from the ISO, and we risk losing existing merchants that were originally enrolled by the ISO. We cannot predict the level of attrition in the future and it could increase. Our announcement regarding unauthorized access into our system could cause an increase in attrition. Higher than expected attrition could negatively affect our results, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The payment processing industry is highly competitive and some of our competitors are larger and have greater financial and operational resources than we do, which may give them an advantage in our market with respect to the pricing of our products and services offered to our customers, and our ability to develop new technologies.

We operate in the electronic payments market, which is highly competitive. Our primary competitors in these markets include other independent processors, as well as financial institutions, ISOs, and, potentially, card networks. Many of

our competitors are companies that are larger than we are and have greater financial and operational resources than we have. In addition, our competitors that are financial institutions or subsidiaries of financial institutions do not incur the costs associated with being sponsored by a bank for registration with the card networks. These factors may allow them to offer better pricing terms to customers, which could result in a loss of our potential or current customers or could force us to lower our prices as well. Our recent announcement of unauthorized access into our system could result in increased attrition and could negatively impact our ability to increase our market share. Any of these actions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operation.

In addition, many of our competitors may have the ability to devote more financial and operational resources than we can to the development of new technologies and services, including Internet payment processing services and mobile payment processing services that provide improved operating functionality and features to their product and service offerings. If successful, their development efforts could render our product and services offerings less desirable to customers, again resulting in the loss

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of customers or a reduction in the price we could demand for our offerings. Furthermore, we are facing competition from non-traditional competitors offering alternative payment methods, such as PayPal and Google. These non-traditional competitors have significant financial resources and robust networks and are highly regarded by consumers. If these non-traditional competitors gain a greater share of total electronic payments transactions, it could also have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operation.

In order to remain competitive and to continue to increase our revenues and earnings, we must continually update our products and services, a process which could result in increased costs and the loss of revenues, earnings and customers if the new products and services do not perform as intended or are not accepted in the marketplace.

The electronic payments markets in which we compete are subject to rapid technological changes. These markets are characterized by technological change, new product introductions, evolving industry standards and changing customer needs. In order to remain competitive, we are continually involved in a number of projects including the development of a new front-end platform for electronic payments processing, mobile payment applications, ecommerce services and other new offerings emerging in the electronic payments industry. These projects carry the risks associated with any development effort, including cost overruns, delays in delivery and performance problems. In the electronic payments markets these risks are even more acute. Any delay in the delivery of new products or services or the failure to differentiate our products and services could render them less desirable to our customers, or possibly even obsolete. In addition, the products and services we deliver to the electronic payments markets are designed to process very complex transactions and deliver reports and other information on those transactions, all at very high volumes and processing speeds. Any failure to deliver an effective and secure product or any performance issue that arises with a new product or service could result in significant processing or reporting errors or other losses. As a result of these factors, our development efforts could result in increased costs that could reduce our earnings in addition to a loss of revenue and earnings if promised new products are not timely delivered to our customers or do not perform as anticipated. We also rely in part on third parties, including some of our competitors and potential competitors, for the development and access to new technologies. Our future success will depend in part on our ability to develop or adapt to technological changes and evolving industry standards and our failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

In order for us to continue to grow and increase our profitability, we must continue to expand our share of the existing electronic payments markets and also expand into new markets.

Our future growth and profitability depend upon our continued expansion within the markets in which we currently operate, the further expansion of these markets, the emergence of other markets for electronic transaction payment processing, and our ability to penetrate these markets. As part of our strategy to achieve this expansion, we look for acquisition opportunities, investments and alliance relationships with other businesses that will allow us to increase our market penetration, technological capabilities, product offerings and distribution capabilities. We may not be able to successfully identify suitable acquisition, investment and alliance candidates in the future, and if we do, they may not provide us with the benefits we anticipated. Once completed, investments and alliances may not realize the value that we expect.

Our expansion into new markets is also dependent upon our ability to apply our existing technology or to develop new applications to meet the particular service needs of each new market. We may not have adequate financial or technological resources to develop effective and secure products and distribution channels that will satisfy the demands of these new markets. If we fail to expand into new and existing electronic payments markets, we may not be able to continue to grow our revenues and earnings.

There may be a decline in the use of cards as a payment mechanism for consumers or adverse developments with respect to the card industry in general.

If consumers do not continue to use credit or debit cards as a payment mechanism for their transactions or if there is a change in the mix of payments between cash, credit cards, and debit cards, which is adverse to us, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. We believe future growth in the use of credit and debit cards and other electronic payments will be driven by the cost, ease-of-use, and quality of products and services offered to consumers and businesses. In order to consistently increase and maintain our profitability, consumers and businesses must continue to use electronic payment methods that we process including credit and debit cards.

Our systems and our third-party providers' systems may fail which could interrupt our service, cause us to lose business, increase our costs and expose us to liability.

We depend on the efficient and uninterrupted operation of our computer systems, software, data centers and telecommunications networks, as well as the systems and services of third parties. In addition, we have undertaken the relocation

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of our primary data center. We have entered into agreements related to this relocation and for the ongoing management of the data center.

A system outage or data loss could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operation. Not only would we suffer damage to our reputation in the event of a system outage or data loss, but we may also be liable to third parties. Our systems and operations or those of our third-party providers could be exposed to damage or interruption from, among other things, fire, natural disaster, power loss, telecommunications failure, terrorist acts, war, unauthorized entry, human error, and computer viruses or other defects. Defects in our systems or those of third parties, errors or delays in the processing of payment transactions, telecommunications failures, or other difficulties (including those related to the system relocation) could result in loss of revenue, loss of customers, loss of merchant and cardholder data, harm to our business or reputation, exposure to fraud losses or other liabilities, negative publicity, additional operating and development costs, fines and other sanctions imposed by card networks, and/or diversion of technical and other resources.

We may experience software defects, undetected errors, and development delays, which could damage customer relations, decrease our potential profitability and expose us to liability.

Our products are based on sophisticated software and computing systems that often encounter development delays and the underlying software may contain undetected errors, viruses, or defects. Defects in our software products and errors or delays in our processing of electronic transactions could result in additional development costs, diversion of technical and other resources from our other development efforts, loss of credibility with current or potential customers, harm to our reputation, or exposure to liability claims.

In addition, we rely on technologies and software supplied by third parties that may also contain undetected errors, viruses or defects that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We incur chargeback liability when our merchants refuse or cannot reimburse chargebacks resolved in favor of their customers. We cannot accurately anticipate these liabilities, which may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

In the event a dispute between a cardholder and a merchant is not resolved in favor of the merchant, the transaction is normally "charged back" to the merchant and the purchase price is credited or otherwise refunded to the cardholder. Furthermore, such disputes are more likely to arise during economic downturns. If we are unable to collect such amounts from the merchant's account or reserve account (if applicable), or if the merchant refuses or is unable, due to closure, bankruptcy or other reasons, to reimburse us for a chargeback, we bear the loss for the amount of the refund paid to the cardholder. The risk of chargebacks is typically greater with those merchants that promise future delivery of goods and services rather than delivering goods or rendering services at the time of payment. We may experience significant losses from chargebacks in the future. Any increase in chargebacks not paid by our merchants could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Fraud by merchants or others could have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

We have potential liability for fraudulent electronic payment transactions or credits initiated by merchants or others. Examples of merchant fraud include when a merchant or other party knowingly uses a stolen or counterfeit credit or debit card, card number, or other credentials to record a false sales or credit transaction, processes an invalid card, or intentionally fails to deliver the merchandise or services sold in an otherwise valid transaction. Criminals are using increasingly sophisticated methods to engage in illegal activities such as counterfeiting and fraud. Failure to effectively manage risk and prevent fraud would increase our chargeback liability or cause us to incur other liabilities.

It is possible that incidents of fraud could increase in the future. Increases in chargebacks or other liabilities could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

We are subject to economic and political risk, the business cycles and credit risk of our customers and the overall level of consumer, business and government spending, which could negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The global electronic payments industry depends heavily on the overall level of consumer, business and government spending. We are exposed to general economic conditions that affect consumer confidence, consumer spending, consumer discretionary income or changes in consumer purchasing habits. A sustained deterioration in general economic conditions in the markets in which we operate or increases in interest rates may adversely affect our financial performance by reducing the number or average purchase amount of transactions made using electronic payments. A reduction in the amount of consumer spending could result in a decrease in our revenue and profits. If our merchants make fewer sales of their products and services using electronic payments or people spend less money per transaction, we will have fewer transactions to process at lower dollar amounts, resulting in lower revenue.

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A downturn in the economy could force retailers to close, resulting in exposure to potential credit losses and future transaction declines. Furthermore, credit card issuers may reduce credit limits and be more selective with respect to which they issue credit cards. We also have a certain amount of fixed and other costs, including rent, debt service, operations, processing contractual minimums and salaries, which could limit our ability to quickly adjust costs and respond to changes in our business and the economy. Changes in economic conditions could also adversely impact our future revenues and profits and cause a materially adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, a recessionary economic environment could affect our merchants through a higher rate of bankruptcy filings, resulting in lower revenues and earnings for us. Our merchants are liable for any charges properly reversed by the card issuer on behalf of the cardholder. Our associated third parties are also liable for any fines, or penalties, that may be assessed by any card networks. In the event that we are not able to collect such amounts from the associated third parties, due to fraud, breach of contract, insolvency, bankruptcy or any other reason, we may be liable for any such charges.

Reject losses arise from the fact that, in most markets, we collect our fees from our merchants on the first day after the monthly billing period. This results in the build-up of a substantial receivable from our customers. If a merchant has gone out of business during the billing period, we may be unable to collect such fees, which negatively impacts our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Increases in credit card network fees may result in the loss of customers or a reduction in our earnings.

From time to time, the card networks, including Visa and MasterCard, increase the fees that they charge processors such as us. We could attempt to pass these increases along to our merchant customers, but this strategy might result in the loss of those customers to our competitors who do not pass along the increases. If competitive practices prevent our passing along such increased fees to our merchant customers in the future, we may have to absorb all or a portion of such increases thereby increasing our operating costs and reducing our earnings.

Any new or changes made to laws, regulations, card network rules or other industry standards affecting our business in any of the geographic regions in which we operate may require significant development efforts or have an unfavorable impact to our financial results.

Our business is impacted by laws and regulations that affect our industry in the countries in which we operate. Regulation and proposed regulation of the payments industry has increased significantly in recent years. Failure to comply with regulations may result in the suspension or revocation of a license or registration, the limitation, suspension or termination of service, and the imposition of civil and criminal penalties, including fines which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition. For example, we are subject to the card network rules of Visa, MasterCard, and other card networks, Interac, and various debit networks; applicable privacy and information security regulations in the regions where we operate and of the card networks; the Payment Services Directive in Europe; The Code of Conduct for the Credit and Debit Card Industry in Canada (issued by Canada's Department of Finance); Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008, which requires information returns to be made for each calendar year by merchant acquiring entities, along with a myriad of consumer protection laws and escheat regulations, to name a few. We are also subject to examination by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council or FFIEC (as a result of our provision of data processing services to financial institutions).

Interchange fees (which are typically paid by the acquirer to the issuer in connection with transactions) are subject to increasingly intense legal, regulatory, and legislative scrutiny worldwide. For instance, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was signed into law in July 2010, significantly changes the U.S. financial regulatory system. Changes affecting the payment processing industry include restricting amounts of debit card fees that certain issuing institutions can charge merchants and allowing merchants to set minimum dollar

amounts for the acceptance of credit cards and to offer discounts for different payment methods. On June 29, 2011, the Federal Reserve Board adopted the final rules implementing the debit interchange fee and routing and exclusivity provisions in Dodd-Frank. The overall impact of Dodd-Frank on us is difficult to estimate because it will take some time for the market to react and adjust to the new regulations. These decisions and regulatory actions, even if not directed at us, may require significant efforts to change our systems and products and may require changes to how we price our services to customers. Until final decisions around implementation are announced, we cannot predict the impact of any of these changes on our operations and financial condition.

Changes to legal rules and regulations, or interpretation or enforcement thereof, could have a negative financial effect on our business. In addition, even an inadvertent failure to comply with laws and regulations, as well as rapidly evolving social expectations of corporate fairness, could damage our business or our reputation.

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Risks associated with foreign operations and investments outside the United States could adversely affect our business, financial position and results of operations.

We are subject to risks related to the changes in currency exchange rates as a result of our investments in foreign operations and from revenues generated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Revenue and profit generated by international operations will increase or decrease compared to prior periods as a result of changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Volatility in currency exchange rates has affected and may continue to affect our financial results. For example, for fiscal year 2012, currency exchange rate fluctuations increased our revenues by \$2.2 million and our earnings by \$0.01 per diluted share. We historically have not used forward contracts or other derivative instruments to mitigate the risks associated with currency exchange risk.

We also have indirect foreign investments, which are subject to country risk (such as sovereign, economic, political, and location risks). These investments are short term in nature and with private sector issuers. Country risk could impact the valuation and liquidity of those investments.

In addition, in certain of the jurisdictions in which we operate, we may become subject to exchange control regulations that might restrict or prohibit the conversion of our foreign currency into United States dollars or limit our ability to freely move currency in or out of particular jurisdictions. The occurrence of any of these factors could decrease the value of revenues we receive from our international operations and have a material adverse impact on our business.

We conduct a portion of our business in various European and Asia-Pacific countries, and the Russian Federation, where the risk of continued political, economic and regulatory change that could impact our operating results is greater than in the United States.

We expect to continue to expand our operations into various countries in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Some of these countries, and other foreign countries in which we operate such as Russia, have undergone significant political, economic and social change in recent years, and the risk of new, unforeseen changes in these countries remains greater than in the United States. In particular, changes in laws or regulations or in the interpretation of existing laws or regulations, whether caused by a change in government or otherwise, could materially adversely affect our business, growth, financial condition or results of operations.

Transmittal of data by electronic means and telecommunications is subject to specific regulation in many countries. Although these regulations have not had a material impact on us to date, changes in these regulations, including taxation or limitations on transfers of data between countries, could have a material adverse effect on our business, growth, financial condition or results of operations.

The integration and conversion of our acquired operations, or other future acquisitions, if any, could result in increased operating costs if the anticipated synergies of operating both businesses as one are not achieved, a loss of strategic opportunities if management is distracted by the integration process, and a loss of customers if our service levels drop during or following the integration process.

The acquisition, integration, and conversion of businesses involves a number of risks. Core risks are in the area of valuation (negotiating a fair price for the business based on inherently limited diligence) and integration and conversion (managing the complex process of integrating the acquired company's people, products, technology, and other assets to realize the projected value of the acquired company and the synergies projected to be realized in connection with the acquisition). In addition, international acquisitions often involve additional or increased risks including, for example: managing geographically separated organizations, systems, and facilities; integrating personnel with diverse business backgrounds and organizational cultures; complying with foreign regulatory

requirements; fluctuations in currency exchange rates; enforcement of intellectual property rights in some foreign countries; difficulty entering new foreign markets due to, among other things, customer acceptance and business knowledge of those new markets; and general economic and political conditions.

If the integration and conversion process does not proceed smoothly, the following factors, amongst others, could reduce our revenues and earnings, increase our operating costs, and result in a loss of projected synergies:

If we are unable to successfully integrate the benefits plans, duties and responsibilities, and other factors of interest to the management and employees of the acquired business, we could lose employees to our competitors in the region, which could significantly affect our ability to operate the business and complete the integration;

If the integration process causes any delays with the delivery of our services, or the quality of those services, we could lose customers to our competitors, which would reduce our revenues and earnings; and

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The acquisition and the related integration could divert the attention of our management from other strategic matters including possible acquisitions and alliances and planning for new product development or expansion into new electronic payments markets.

If we lose key personnel or are unable to attract additional qualified personnel as we grow, our business could be adversely affected.

All of our businesses function at the intersection of rapidly changing technological, social, economic, and regulatory developments that requires a wide ranging set of expertise and intellectual capital. To successfully compete and grow, we must retain, recruit, and develop the necessary personnel who can provide the needed expertise across the entire spectrum of intellectual capital needs. In addition, we must develop our personnel to provide succession plans capable of maintaining continuity in the midst of the inevitable unpredictability of human capital. However, the market for qualified personnel is competitive and we may not succeed in recruiting additional personnel or may fail to effectively replace current personnel who depart with qualified or effective successors. Our efforts to retain and develop personnel may also result in significant additional expenses, which could negatively affect our profitability. We cannot assure that key personnel, including executive officers, will continue to be employed or that we will be able to attract and retain qualified personnel in the future. Failure to retain or attract key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Our balance sheet includes significant amounts of goodwill and intangible assets. The impairment of a significant portion of these assets would negatively affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

As a result of our acquisitions, a significant portion of our total assets consist of intangible assets (including goodwill). Goodwill and intangible assets, net of amortization, together accounted for approximately 38% and 33% of the total assets on our balance sheet as of May 31, 2012 and May 31, 2011, respectively. We may not realize the full fair value of our intangible assets and goodwill. We expect to engage in additional acquisitions, which may result in our recognition of additional intangible assets and goodwill. We evaluate on a regular basis whether all or a portion of our goodwill and other intangible assets may be impaired. Under current accounting rules, any determination that impairment has occurred would require us to write-off the impaired portion of goodwill and such intangible assets, resulting in a charge to our earnings. An impairment of a significant portion of goodwill or intangible assets could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Unfavorable resolution of tax contingencies or changes to enacted tax rates could adversely affect our tax expense.

Our tax returns and positions are subject to review and audit by federal, state, local, and international taxing authorities. An unfavorable outcome to a tax audit could result in higher tax expense, thereby negatively impacting our results of operations. We have established contingent liabilities for material known tax exposures relating to deductions, transactions and other matters involving some uncertainty as to the proper tax treatment of the item. These liabilities reflect what we believe to be reasonable assumptions as to the likely final resolution of each issue if raised by a taxing authority. While we believe that the liabilities are adequate to cover reasonably expected tax risks, there can be no assurance that, in all instances, an issue raised by a tax authority will be finally resolved at a financial cost less than any related liability. An unfavorable resolution, therefore, could negatively impact our financial position, results of operations and cash flows in the current and/or future periods.

We record deferred income taxes to reflect the impact of temporary differences between the amounts of assets and liabilities for financial accounting and income tax purposes. Deferred income taxes are determined using enacted tax rates. Changes in enacted tax rates may negatively impact our results of operations.

We may become subject to additional United States, state or foreign taxes that cannot be passed through to our merchant services customers, in which case our earnings could be adversely affected.

Payment processing companies like us may be subject to taxation by various jurisdictions on our net income or certain portions of our fees charged to customers for our services. Application of these taxes is an emerging issue in our industry and the taxing authorities have not yet all adopted uniform regulations on this topic. If we are required to pay such taxes and are not able to pass the tax expense through to our merchant customers, our costs will increase, reducing our earnings.

We have structured our business in accordance with existing tax laws and interpretations of such laws which have been confirmed through either tax rulings or opinions obtained in various jurisdictions including those related to value added taxes in Europe. Changes in tax laws or their interpretations could decrease the value of revenues we receive, the amount of our cash flow, and have a material adverse impact on our business.

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Failure to maintain effective internal controls in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act could have a material adverse effect on our business and stock price.

Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act requires us to evaluate annually the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting as of the end of each fiscal year and to include a management report assessing the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting in our annual report. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, we may not be able to ensure that we can conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Further, this assessment may be complicated by any acquisitions we may complete. In certain markets in the Asia-Pacific region and in Spain, our member sponsors perform payment processing operations and related support services pursuant to services agreements. We expect that the member sponsors will continue to provide these services until such time as we may integrate these functions into our operations. Accordingly, we rely on our member sponsors to provide financial data, such as revenue billed to merchants, to assist us with compiling our accounting records. As such, our internal controls over financial reporting could be materially affected, or are reasonably likely to be materially affected, by the internal controls and procedures of our member sponsors in these markets. In order to mitigate this risk, we have implemented internal controls over financial reporting which monitor the accuracy of the financial data being provided by our member sponsors

While we continue to dedicate resources and management time to ensuring that we have effective controls over financial reporting, failure to achieve and maintain an effective internal control environment could have a material adverse effect on the market's perception of our business and our stock price.

Anti-takeover provisions of our articles of incorporation and by-laws and provisions of Georgia law could delay or prevent a change of control that individual shareholders favor.

Provisions of our articles of incorporation and by-laws, our rights agreement and provisions of applicable Georgia law may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or other change of control that shareholders may consider favorable. The provisions of our articles and by-laws, among other things:

divide our Board of Directors into three classes, with members of each class to be elected in staggered three-year terms:

limit the right of shareholders to remove directors;

regulate how shareholders may present proposals or nominate directors for election at annual meetings of shareholders; and

authorize our Board of Directors to issue preferred shares in one or more series, without shareholder approval.

We may not be able to or we may decide not to pay dividends at a level anticipated by shareholders on our common stock, which could reduce shareholder returns.

The payment of dividends on our common stock in the future is at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on, among other factors, our earnings, stockholder's equity, cash position, and financial condition. No assurance can be given that we will be able to or will choose to pay any dividends in the foreseeable future.

Our risk management policies and procedures may not be fully effective in mitigating our risk exposure in all market environments or against all types of risk.

We operate in a rapidly changing industry. Accordingly our risk management policies and procedures may not be fully effective to identify, monitor, and manage our risks. If our policies and procedures are not fully effective or we

are not always successful in capturing all risks to which we are or may be exposed, we may suffer uninsured liability, harm to our reputation or be subject to litigation or regulatory actions that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operation.

Continued consolidation in the banking and retail industries could adversely affect our growth.

Historically, the banking industry has been the subject of consolidation, regardless of overall economic conditions, while the retail industry has been the subject of consolidation due to cyclical economic events. Since 2008, there have been multiple bank failures and government-encouraged consolidation. Larger banks and larger merchants with greater transaction volumes may demand lower fees which could result in lower revenues and earnings for us.

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ITEM 2- PROPERTIES

The following summarizes the type of facilities we use to operate our business as of May 31, 2012:

| Type of Facility | Leased | Owned |
|---|--------|-------|
| Facilities in the United States: | | |
| Multi-Purpose (Operations, Sales, Administrative) | 4 | _ |
| Operations/Customer Support | 1 | _ |
| Sales and retail branches | 4 | |
| | 9 | |
| | | |
| International Facilities: | | |
| Multi-Purpose (Operations, Sales, Administrative) | 4 | 2 |
| Operations/Customer Support | 11 | _ |
| Sales and retail branches | 14 | _ |
| | 29 | 2 |
| Total | 38 | 2 |

Our principal facilities in the United States are located in Atlanta, Georgia and Owings Mills, Maryland. Our principal international facilities are located in Toronto, Canada; Prague, Czech Republic; Leicester, England; London, England; the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Manila, Philippines; Moscow, Russian Federation; and Barcelona, Spain.

We believe that all of our facilities and equipment are suitable and adequate for our business as presently conducted.

ITEM 3- LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In addition to the class action suit described below, we are party to a number of claims and lawsuits incidental to our business. In our opinion, the liabilities, if any, which may ultimately result from the outcome of such matters, individually or in the aggregate, are not expected to have a material adverse impact on our financial position, liquidity or results of operations.

A class action arising out of the data breach we experienced earlier this year was filed against us on April 4, 2012 by Natalie Willingham (individually and on behalf of a putative nationwide class). Specifically, Ms. Willingham alleged that the Company failed to maintain reasonable and adequate procedures to protect her personally identifiable information ("PII") which she claims resulted in two fraudulent charges on her credit card in March 2012. Further, Ms. Willingham asserted that the Company failed to timely notify the public of the data breach. Based on these allegations, Ms. Willingham asserted claims for negligence, violation of the Federal Stored Communications Act, willful violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, negligent violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, violation of Georgia's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, negligence per se, breach of third-party beneficiary contract, and breach of implied contract. Plaintiffs seek an unspecified amount of damages and injunctive relief. The suit was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. On May 14, 2012, the Company filed a motion to dismiss. On July 11, 2012, Plaintiff filed a motion for leave to amend her complaint, and on July 16, 2012, the Court granted that motion. Plaintiff filed an amended complaint on July 16, 2012. The amended complaint does not add any new causes of action. Instead, it adds two new named Plaintiffs (Nadine and Robert Hielscher) and drops Plaintiffs' claim for negligence per se. The Company's deadline for responding to the amended complaint is August 2, 2012. At this stage of the proceedings we cannot predict the outcome of the matter, but we intend to defend the matter vigorously.

Part II

ITEM 5- MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "GPN." The table set forth below provides the intraday high and low sales prices and dividends paid per share of our common stock for the four quarters during fiscal 2012 and 2011. We expect to continue to pay our shareholders a dividend per share, on a quarterly basis, in an amount comparable to the dividends indicated in the table. However, any future determination to pay cash dividends will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon our results of operations, financial condition, capital requirements and such other factors as the Board of Directors deems relevant.

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| | High | Low | Dividend Per Share |
|----------------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Fiscal 2012: | | | |
| First Quarter | \$52.75 | \$41.02 | \$ 0.02 |
| Second Quarter | 47.70 | 38.26 | 0.02 |
| Third Quarter | 52.55 | 43.69 | 0.02 |
| Fourth Quarter | 53.93 | 41.19 | 0.02 |
| | | | |
| Fiscal 2011: | | | |
| First Quarter | \$42.88 | \$34.61 | \$ 0.02 |
| Second Quarter | 43.52 | 37.68 | 0.02 |
| Third Quarter | 49.95 | 41.73 | 0.02 |
| Fourth Quarter | 53.67 | 45.54 | 0.02 |

The number of shareholders of record of our common stock as of July 16, 2012 was 2,248.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The information regarding our compensation plans under which equity securities are authorized for issuance is set forth in "Item 12- Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters" of this Report.

Sale of Unregistered Securities

We have not issued any unregistered securities during our fiscal year ended May 31, 2012.

Stock Performance Graph

The following line-graph presentation compares our cumulative shareholder returns with the Standard & Poor's Information Technology Index and the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index for the past five years. The line graph assumes the investment of \$100 in our common stock, the Standard & Poor's Information Technology Index, and the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index on May 31, 2007 and assumes reinvestment of all dividends.

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| | Global Payments | S&P 500 | S&P Information Technology |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| May 31, 2007 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| May 31, 2008 | 118.16 | 93.30 | 102.56 |
| May 31, 2009 | 90.18 | 62.92 | 73.06 |
| May 31, 2010 | 105.99 | 76.12 | 93.86 |
| May 31, 2011 | 130.77 | 95.87 | 113.70 |
| May 31, 2012 | 107.10 | 95.48 | 122.30 |

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

On August 8, 2011, our Board of Directors approved a share repurchase program that authorized the purchase of up to \$100.0 million of Global Payments' stock in the open market at the current market price, subject to market conditions, business opportunities, and other factors. Under this authorization, we repurchased 2,290,059 shares of our common stock at a cost of \$99.6 million, or an average of \$43.49 per share, including commissions during fiscal 2012. This share repurchase program has concluded.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, we used the \$13.0 million remaining under the authorization from our original share repurchase program initiated during fiscal 2007 to repurchase 344,847 shares of our common stock a cost of \$13.0 million, or an average of \$37.64 per share, including commissions.

The shares repurchased in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012, the average price paid, including commissions, and the dollar value remaining available for purchase are as follows:

Maximum

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| Period | Total Number of Price P | , | Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (c) | Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | (c) | Programs (d) |
| March 1, 2012 | _ | _ | _ | _ |
| April 1, 2012 | _ | | _ | |
| May 1, 2012 | _ | | _ | |
| Total | | | | _ |

ITEM 6- SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

You should read the selected financial data set forth below in conjunction with "Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" included elsewhere in this annual report. As a result of our disposition of the money transfer business, this segment has been accounted for as a discontinued operation. The income statement data for fiscal years ended May 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010 and the balance sheet data as of May 31, 2012 and 2011 are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report. The income statement data for fiscal years 2009 and 2008 and the balance sheet data as of May 31, 2010 and 2009 were derived from consolidated financial statements included in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2010. The balance sheet data as of May 31, 2008 was derived from audited consolidated financial statements included in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2009. Amounts related to our discontinued operations in our statements of income for fiscal years 2009 and 2008 were reclassified in fiscal year 2010 to conform to the current presentation.

| | Year Ended May 31, | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | | |
| | (in thousands, except per share data) | | | | | | |
| Income statement data: | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | \$2,203,847 | \$1,859,802 | \$1,642,468 | \$1,462,306 | \$1,130,608 | | |
| Operating income ⁽¹⁾ | 307,349 | 331,594 | 323,279 | 292,546 | 237,723 | | |
| Income from continuing operations ⁽¹⁾ | 217,566 | 229,131 | 223,010 | 207,017 | 161,198 | | |
| Net income attributable to Global | 188,161 | 209,238 | 203,317 | 37,217 | 162,754 | | |
| Payments ^{(1).(2)} | 100,101 | 209,236 | 203,317 | 37,217 | 102,734 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Per share data: | | | | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share | \$2.39 | \$2.62 | \$2.51 | \$0.46 | \$2.04 | | |
| Diluted earnings per share | 2.37 | 2.60 | 2.48 | 0.46 | 2.01 | | |
| Dividends per share | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Balance sheet data (at year end): | | | | | | | |
| Total assets | \$2,688,143 | \$3,350,531 | \$2,039,326 | \$1,676,821 | \$1,445,907 | | |
| Borrowings under lines of credit | 215,391 | 270,745 | 79,187 | 10,174 | 1,527 | | |
| Long-term debt | 312,985 | 354,019 | 421,134 | 197,003 | _ | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Total equity⁽³⁾ 1,300,921 1,337,817 871,517 678,243 1,054,152

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- (1) Includes processing system intrusion charges of \$84,438 in fiscal 2012. Also includes impairment, restructuring and other charges of \$2,583 and \$1,317 in fiscal 2010 and 2008, respectively.
- Also includes a pre-tax impairment charge of \$147,664 in fiscal 2009 related to our money transfer business that has been reclassified to discontinued operations.
- (3) Includes the impact of the retrospective adoption of new accounting guidance concerning noncontrolling interests adopted in fiscal year 2010.

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

The following discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements about our plans and expectations of what may happen in the future. Forward-looking statements are based on a number of assumptions and estimates that are inherently subject to significant risks and uncertainties, and our results could differ materially from the results anticipated by our forward-looking statements as a result of many known and unknown factors, including but not limited to those discussed in "Item 1A - Risk Factors" of this report. See also "Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" located above "Item 1 - Business."

You should read the following discussion and analysis in conjunction with "Item 6 - Selected Financial Data" and "Item 8 - Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" appearing elsewhere in this annual report.

General

We are a provider of electronic payments transaction processing services for consumers, merchants, Independent Sales Organizations (ISOs), financial institutions, government agencies and multi-national corporations located throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, the Asia-Pacific region, the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation. We serve as an intermediary to facilitate payments transactions and operate in two business segments, North America Merchant Services and International Merchant Services. We were incorporated in Georgia as Global Payments Inc. in September 2000 and spun-off from our former parent company on January 31, 2001. Including our time as part of our former parent company, we have been in business since 1967.

Our North America Merchant Services and International Merchant Services segments target customers in many vertical industries including financial institutions, gaming, government, health care, professional services, restaurants, retail, universities, nonprofit organizations and utilities.

Our offerings provide merchants, ISOs and financial institutions with credit and debit card transaction processing and check-related services. The majority of our business model provides payment products and services directly to merchants as our end customers. We also provide similar products and services to financial institutions and a limited number of ISOs that, in turn, resell our products and services, in which case, the financial institutions and select ISOs are our end customers. These particular services are marketed in the United States, Canada, and parts of Eastern Europe.

The majority of merchant services revenue is generated on services priced as a percentage of transaction value or a specified fee per transaction, depending on card type. We also charge other fees based on specific services that are unrelated to the number of transactions or the transaction value. Revenue from credit cards and signature debit cards, which are only a U.S. based card type, is generally based on a percentage of transaction value along with other related fees, while revenue from PIN debit cards is typically based on a fee per transaction.

Our products and services are marketed through a variety of sales channels that include a dedicated direct sales force, ISOs, an internal telesales group, retail outlets, trade associations, alliance bank relationships and financial institutions. We seek to leverage the continued shift to electronic payments by expanding market share in our existing markets through our distribution channels or through acquisitions in North America, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe, and investing in and leveraging technology and people, thereby maximizing shareholder value. We also seek to enter new markets through acquisitions in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, and Latin America.

Our business does not have pronounced seasonality in which more than 30% of our revenues occur in one quarter. However, each geographic channel has somewhat higher and lower quarters given the nature of the portfolio. While

there is some variation in seasonality across markets, the first and fourth quarters are generally the strongest, and the third quarter tends to be the weakest due to lower volumes in the months of January and February.

Executive Overview

In early March of this year, we identified and self-reported unauthorized access into a limited portion of our North America card processing system.

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As a result of this event, certain card networks removed us from their list of PCI DSS compliant service providers. We have hired a QSA to conduct an independent review of the PCI DSS compliance of our systems. Once that review is complete and we conclude the required remediation, we will work closely with the networks to return to the lists of PCI DSS compliant service providers as quickly as possible. We continue to sign new merchants and process transactions around the world for all card networks.

The investigation also revealed potential unauthorized access to servers containing personal information collected from a subset of merchant applicants. It is unclear whether any such information was exported; however, we notified potentially-affected individuals and made available credit monitoring and identity protection insurance at no cost to the individual.

For the year ended May 31, 2012, we have recorded \$84.4 million of expense associated with this incident. Of this amount, \$19.0 million represents the costs we have incurred through May 31, 2012 for legal fees, fees of consultants and other professional advisors engaged to conduct the investigation and various other costs associated with the investigation and remediation. The remaining \$67.4 million represents an accrual of our estimate of fraud losses, fines and other charges that will be imposed upon us by the card networks. We have also recorded \$2.0 million of insurance recoveries based on claims submitted to date.

In fiscal 2012 revenue increased 18% to \$2,203.8 million from \$1,859.8 million in fiscal 2011. This revenue growth was primarily due to growth in most of markets around the world and the impact of our acquisition in Spain on December 20, 2010. Fiscal 2012 Canadian revenues were flat when compared with the prior year.

Consolidated operating income was \$307.3 million for fiscal 2012, compared to \$331.6 million for fiscal 2011. Consolidated operating income for fiscal 2012 includes processing system intrusion costs of \$84.4 million. Net income attributable to Global Payments decreased \$21.0 million, or 10%, to \$188.2 million in fiscal 2012 from \$209.2 million in the prior year, resulting in a \$0.23 decrease in diluted earnings per share to \$2.37 in fiscal 2012 from \$2.60 in fiscal 2011.

North America merchant services segment revenue increased \$204.4 million or 15% to \$1,567.3 million in fiscal 2012 from \$1,362.9 million in fiscal 2011. North America merchant services segment operating income increased to \$281.3 million in fiscal 2012 from \$268.2 million in fiscal 2011, with operating margins of 17.9% and 19.7% for fiscal 2012 and 2011, respectively.

International merchant services segment revenue increased \$139.7 million or 28% to \$636.6 million in fiscal 2012 from \$496.9 million in fiscal 2011. International merchant services operating income also increased to\$196.1 million in fiscal 2012 from \$143.9 million in fiscal 2011, with operating margins of 30.8% and 29.0% for fiscal 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Operating income decreased \$24.2 million during fiscal year 2012 compared to the prior year period. Consolidated operating margins for fiscal 2012 decreased to 13.9% compared to 17.8% during fiscal year 2011. The decline in operating margins is due to costs associated with the processing system intrusion and, to a lesser extent, the effect of our U.S. ISO business.

During the fiscal year 2012 we completed three targeted acquisitions which expand our International and e-commerce presence. In December 2011, our UCS subsidiary acquired Alfa-Bank's merchant acquiring business. Alfa-Bank is the largest privately owned bank in Russia. In December 2011, we also acquired a merchant acquiring business in Malta and in January 2012 acquired a U.S. e-commerce portfolio. The aggregate purchase price for these three transactions was approximately \$44 million.

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Results of Operations

Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2012 Compared to Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2011

The following table shows key selected financial data for the fiscal years ended May 31, 2012 and 2011, this data as a percentage of total revenues, and the changes between fiscal years in dollars and as a percentage of fiscal 2011. Comercia's results of operations are included in our consolidated results of operations and results of operations of our International merchant services segment from December 20, 2010, the date we acquired our controlling financial interest. Accordingly, results of operations for the year ended May 31, 2012 reflect the results of Comercia's operations, while results of operations for the year ended May 31, 2011 do not reflect these results for the entire year.

| | 2012 | | % of Revenue(1 | 2011 | | % of Revenue ⁽¹⁾ | Change | | % Chan | ge |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| | (dollar amou | ınts | in thousand | ds) | | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | \$1,234,818 | | 56 | \$1,031,997 | | 55 | \$202,821 | | 20 | |
| Canada | 332,434 | | 15 | 330,872 | | 18 | 1,562 | | _ | |
| North America merchant services | 1,567,252 | | 71 | 1,362,869 | | 73 | 204,383 | | 15 | |
| Europe | 489,300 | | 22 | 359,567 | | 19 | 129,733 | | 36 | |
| Asia-Pacific | 147,295 | | 7 | 137,366 | | 7 | 9,929 | | 7 | |
| International merchant services | 636,595 | | 29 | 496,933 | | 27 | 139,662 | | 28 | |
| Total revenues | \$2,203,847 | | 100 | \$1,859,802 | | 100 | \$344,045 | | 18 | |
| Consolidated operating expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cost of service | \$784,756 | | 35.6 | 665,017 | | 35.8 | \$119,739 | | 18 | |
| Sales, general and administrative | 1,027,304 | | 46.6 | 863,191 | | 46.4 | 164,113 | | 19 | |
| Processing system intrusion | 84,438 | | 3.8 | | | NM | _ | | NM | |
| Operating income | \$307,349 | | 13.9 | \$331,594 | | 17.8 | \$(24,245 |) | (7 |) |
| Operating income for segments: | | | | | | | | | | |
| North America merchant services | \$281,305 | | | \$268,233 | | | \$13,072 | | 5 | |
| International merchant services | 196,137 | | | 143,911 | | | 52,226 | | 36 | |
| Corporate ⁽²⁾ | (170,093 |) | | (80,550 |) | | (89,543 |) | 111 | |
| Operating income | \$307,349 | | | \$331,594 | | | \$(24,245 |) | (7 |) |
| Operating margin for segments: | | | | | | | | | | |
| North America merchant services | 17.9 | % | | 19.7 | % | | (1.8 |)% | | |
| International merchant services | 30.8 | % | | 29.0 | % | | 1.8 | % | | |
| (1) 5 | | | 4.1 | | | | | | | |

⁽¹⁾ Percentage amounts may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Processing System Intrusion

In early March of this year, we identified and self-reported unauthorized access into a limited portion of our North America card processing system.

⁽²⁾ Includes processing system intrusion costs of \$84.4 million in fiscal 2012.

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As a result of this event, certain card brands removed us from their list of PCI DSS compliant service providers. We have hired a QSA to conduct an independent review of the PCI DSS compliance of our systems. Once that review is complete and we conclude the required remediation, we will work closely with the networks to return to the lists of PCI DSS compliant service providers as quickly as possible. We continue to sign new merchants and process transactions around the world for all card networks.

The investigation also revealed potential unauthorized access to servers containing personal information collected from a subset of merchant applicants. It is unclear whether any information was exported; however, we notified potentially-affected individuals and made available credit monitoring and identity protection insurance at no cost to the individual.

For the year ended May 31, 2012, we have recorded \$84.4 million of expense associated with this incident. Of this amount, \$19.0 million represents the costs we have incurred through May 31, 2012 for legal fees, fees of consultants and other professional advisors engaged to conduct the investigation and various other costs associated with the investigation and remediation. An additional \$67.4 million represents an accrual of our estimate of fraud losses, fines and other charges that will be imposed upon us by the card networks. We have also recorded \$2.0 million of insurance recoveries based on claims submitted to date as discussed below. We based our estimate of fraud losses, fines and other charges on our understanding of the rules and operating regulations published by the networks and preliminary settlement discussions with the networks. As such, the final settlement amounts and our ultimate costs associated with fraud losses, fines and other charges that will be imposed by the networks could differ from the amount we have accrued as of May 31, 2012. Any such difference could have a material impact on our results of operations in the period in which the associated claims are actually settled, or in the period in which we receive additional information that would cause us to refine our estimate of losses and adjust our accrual. Currently we do not have sufficient information to estimate the amount or range of additional possible loss.

A class action arising out of the data breach we experienced earlier this year was filed against us on April 4, 2012 by Natalie Willingham (individually and on behalf of a putative nationwide class). Specifically, Ms. Willingham alleged that the Company failed to maintain reasonable and adequate procedures to protect her personally identifiable information ("PII") which she claims resulted in two fraudulent charges on her credit card in March 2012. Further, Ms. Willingham asserted that the Company failed to timely notify the public of the data breach. Based on these allegations, Ms. Willingham asserted claims for negligence, violation of the Federal Stored Communications Act, willful violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, negligent violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, violation of Georgia's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, negligence per se, breach of third-party beneficiary contract, and breach of implied contract. Plaintiffs seek an unspecified amount of damages and injunctive relief. The suit was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. On May 14, 2012, the Company filed a motion to dismiss. On July 11, 2012, Plaintiff filed a motion for leave to amend her complaint, and on July 16, 2012, the Court granted that motion. Plaintiff filed an amended complaint on July 16, 2012. The amended complaint does not add any new causes of action. Instead, it adds two new named Plaintiffs (Nadine and Robert Hielscher) and drops Plaintiffs' claim for negligence per se. The Company's deadline for responding to the amended complaint is August 2, 2012. At this stage of the proceedings we cannot predict the outcome of the matter, but we intend to defend the matter vigorously. We have not recorded a loss accrual related to this matter because we have not determined that a loss is probable. Currently we do not have sufficient information to estimate the amount or range of possible loss associated with this matter.

This event could result in additional lawsuits in the future. In addition, governmental entities have made inquiries and may initiate investigations related to the event. We have not recorded any loss accruals related to these items or any other claims (except as described above) that have been or may be asserted against us in relation to this incident as we have not determined that losses associated with any such claims or potential claims are probable. Further, we do not have sufficient information to estimate the amount or range of possible losses associated with such matters. As more

information becomes available, if we should determine that an unfavorable outcome is probable on such a claim and that the amount of such probable loss that we will incur on that claim is reasonably estimable, we will accrue our estimate of such loss. If and when we record such an accrual, it could be material and could adversely impact our results of operations.

We are insured under policies that we believe may provide coverage of certain costs associated with this event. The policies provide a total of \$30.0 million in policy limits and contain various sub-limits of liability and other terms, conditions and limitations, including a \$1.0 million deductible per claim. The insurers have been advised of the circumstances surrounding our recent event. As of May 31, 2012 we have recorded \$2.0 million in insurance recoveries based on claims submitted to date. We expect to receive

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additional recoveries as we receive assessments from the networks and submit additional claims. We will record receivables for such recoveries in the periods in which we determine such recovery is probable and the amount can be reasonably estimated.

We expect to incur additional costs associated with investigation, remediation and demonstrating PCI DSS compliance and for the credit monitoring and identity protection insurance we are providing to potentially-affected individuals. We will expense such costs as they are incurred in accordance with our accounting policies for such costs. We currently anticipate that such additional costs may be \$55 to \$65 million in fiscal 2013. We anticipate that we may receive additional insurance recoveries of up to \$28 million.

Revenues

We derive our revenues from three primary sources: charges based on volumes and fees for services, charges based on transaction quantity, and equipment sales and rentals. Revenues generated by these areas depend upon a number of factors, such as demand for and price of our services, the technological competitiveness of our product offerings, our reputation for providing timely and reliable service, competition within our industry and general economic conditions.

For fiscal 2012, revenues increased 18% to \$2,203.8 million compared to the prior year period primarily due to strong performance across most of of our regions, and the impact of our acquisition in Spain on December 20, 2010.

North America Merchant Services Segment

For fiscal 2012, revenue from our North America merchant services segment increased 15% compared to the prior year period to \$1,567.3 million. North America revenue growth was driven by our U.S. ISO channel, reduced interchange expense as explained below, strong growth from our gaming business and solid performance from our direct sales channel.

We grow our United States revenue by adding small and mid-market merchants in diversified vertical markets, primarily through our ISO channel. For fiscal 2012, our United States direct credit and debit card processed transactions grew 13% compared to the prior year period. Increased spreads, primarily driven by lower interchange expense due to the Durbin amendment, have offset the impact of lower average ticket, which decreased by 3% in fiscal 2012. This decline in average ticket is primarily due to a shift toward smaller merchants added through our ISO channel. Smaller merchants tend to have lower average tickets than larger merchants. Based on our mix of merchants, slightly more than half of our United States transactions are comprised of a combination of signature- and PIN-based debit transactions, with PIN-based debit transactions representing less than 10% of our total transactions.

On June 29, 2011, the Federal Reserve board adopted the final rule implementing Section 1075 ("the Durbin amendment") of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Effective October 1, 2011, the Durbin amendment capped the amount of debit interchange that large card issuers may charge on debit transactions. Our interchange expense decreased as a result of the Durbin amendment. We recognize revenue net of interchange expense; therefore, our revenues increased for fiscal 2012, as a result of lower interchange expense. We believe that any future benefits resulting from the Durbin amendment are uncertain due to our competitive marketplace.

For fiscal 2012, our Canadian revenue remained flat while our credit and debit card processed transactions grew 5% compared to the prior year period. Our Canadian business experienced reduced spreads due to market-driven pricing pressure as compared to the prior year.

International Merchant Services Segment

For fiscal 2012, International merchant services revenue increased 28% to \$636.6 million compared to the prior year period.

Our Europe merchant services revenue for fiscal 2012 increased 36% to \$489.3 million compared to the prior year period. These revenue increases were driven primarily by the impact of our acquisition in Spain on December 20, 2010, pricing benefits in the United Kingdom and favorable foreign currency trends during fiscal 2012.

Asia-Pacific merchant services revenue for fiscal 2012 increased 7% to \$147.3 million compared to the prior year period. The growth was due to solid business performance across the region. Revenues in the prior year included the roll-out of new products

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by a major retailer with both physical and e-commerce transactions in several markets in the region, continued growth of our installment payment plan and regional roll out of our dynamic currency conversion products.

Consolidated Operating Expenses

Cost of service consists primarily of the following costs: operations- and technology-related personnel, including those who monitor our transaction processing systems and settlement functions; assessment fees paid to card networks; transaction processing systems, including third-party services; network telecommunications capability; depreciation and occupancy costs associated with the facilities performing these functions; amortization of intangible assets; and provisions for operating losses. Cost of service increased 18% during fiscal 2012, compared to the prior year period primarily driven by revenue growth. As a percentage of revenues, cost of service decreased to 35.6% for fiscal 2012 from 35.8% in the prior year.

Sales, general and administrative expenses consists primarily of salaries, wages and related expenses paid to sales personnel; non-revenue producing customer support functions and administrative employees and management; commissions paid to ISOs, independent contractors, and other third parties; advertising costs; other selling expenses; share-based compensation expense and occupancy of leased space directly related to these functions. Sales, general and administrative expenses increased 19% for fiscal 2012 compared to the prior year period. This increase is primarily due to employee termination costs, charges for two contractual disputes, and an increase in commission payments to ISOs. As a percentage of revenues, sales, general and administrative expenses increased to 46.6% for fiscal 2012 from 46.4% in the prior year.

Operating Income and Operating Margin for Segments

For the purpose of discussing segment operations, we refer to operating income as calculated by subtracting segment direct expenses from segment revenue. Overhead and shared expenses, including share-based compensation costs, are not allocated to segment operations; they are reported in the caption "Corporate." Similarly, references to operating margin regarding segment operations mean segment operating income divided by segment revenue.

North America Merchant Services Segment

Operating income in the North America merchant services segment increased 5% for fiscal 2012 compared to the prior year period. The increase in operating income was driven by growth in the U.S. primarily driven by our ISO and direct channels partially offset by market-based spread compression in Canada and, to a lesser extent, increased investment in Brazil. This resulted in operating margins decreasing during fiscal 2012. The operating margin was 17.9% and 19.7% for the fiscal years 2012 and 2011, respectively. The decrease in operating margin was primarily driven by ISO channel dilution, including the impact of the Durbin amendment Canadian spread compression and investment in Brazil.

Effective October 1, 2011, the new debit interchange legislation capped the amount of interchange that card issuers may charge on transactions. Our interchange expenses decreased as a result of this. We recognize revenue net of interchange expense; therefore, our revenues increased as a result of lower interchange expense with a resulting increase in operating income as well. Increased revenues came primarily through our ISO channel, where reduced interchange fees led to higher revenues and a dollar-for-dollar increase in ISO commission expense, with an associated reduction in our operating margin.

International Merchant Services Segment

Operating income in the International merchant services segment increased 36% to \$196.1 million for fiscal 2012 compared to the prior year period. The operating margin was 30.8% and 29.0% for the fiscal years 2012 and 2011, respectively. The increase in operating margin is due to the strong segment results, strong organic operating income growth in our Asia Pacific region, pricing benefits in the United Kingdom and a marketing fee true-up in Spain.

Corporate

Our corporate expenses include costs associated with our Atlanta headquarters, expenses related to our Global Service Center in Manila, Philippines that have not been allocated to our business segments, insurance, employee incentive programs, and certain corporate staffing areas, including finance, accounting, information technology, legal, human resources, marketing, and executive.

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Corporate also includes expenses associated with our share-based compensation programs. Our corporate costs increased 111% to \$170.1 million for fiscal 2012 compared to the prior year. This increase is primarily due to costs associated with the processing system intrusion, employee termination costs and charges for two contractual disputes. The prior year corporate costs included expenses related to our Global Service Center in Manila, Philippines and employee and termination benefits.

Consolidated Operating Income

During the fiscal year 2012, our consolidated operating income decreased \$24.2 million to \$307.3 million compared to the prior year. The decrease in our consolidated operating income is primarily due to costs associated with the processing system intrusion.

Consolidated Other Income/Expense, Net

Other expense, net, decreased to \$6.9 million for fiscal 2012 compared to \$7.4 million in the prior year period. Interest expense decreased during fiscal 2012 due to lower term loan borrowings.

Provision for Income Taxes

Our effective tax rates were 27.6% and 29.3% for the years ended May 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The effective tax rates for the years ended May 31, 2012 and 2011 reflect adjustments to our UK deferred tax asset due to legislated enacted corporate tax rate reductions in the United Kingdom of 2% and 1%, respectively. Our effective tax rates differ from U.S. statutory rates due to domestic and international tax planning initiatives and the increasing amount of income being generated in lower tax jurisdictions due to international expansion.

We have net deferred tax assets associated with our UK business of \$92.8 million. The measurement of such deferred tax assets is based, in part, on the current enacted corporate tax rate in the United Kingdom. The 2012 United Kingdom budget includes a reduction in the corporate tax rate from 25% to 23%. Upon enactment of this rate, which is expected during the first half of our fiscal year 2013, we estimate that we will record a reduction in our UK deferred tax asset and a corresponding increase to our deferred income tax provision of approximately \$5 million.

Noncontrolling Interests, Net of Tax

Noncontrolling interests, net of tax increased to \$29.4 million from \$18.9 million for the fiscal year 2012 and 2011, respectively. This increase is primarily due to our spanish acquisition of a 51% controlling financial interest in Comercia on December 20, 2010.

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Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2011 Compared to Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2010

The following table shows key selected financial data for the fiscal years ended May 31, 2011 and 2010, this data as a percentage of total revenues, and the changes between fiscal years in dollars and as a percentage of fiscal 2010. Comercia's results of operations are included in our consolidated results of operations and results of operations of our International merchant services segment from December 20, 2010, the date we acquired our controlling financial interest. Accordingly, results of operations for the year ended May 31, 2011 reflect the results of Comercia's operations for five months, while results of operations for the year ended May 31, 2010 do not reflect these results.

| | 2011 (dollar amounts in thousands) | % of Revenue ⁽¹⁾ | 2010 | % of Revenue ⁽¹⁾ | Change | % Change |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Revenues: | | | | | | |
| United States | \$1,031,997 | 55 | \$902,844 | 55 | \$129,153 | 14 |
| Canada | 330,872 | 18 | 317,272 | 19 | 13,600 | 4 |
| North America merchant services | 1,362,869 | 73 | 1,220,116 | 74 | 142,753 | 12 |
| T. | 250 565 | 10 | 215.022 | 10 | 44.544 | 1.1 |
| Europe | 359,567 | 19 | 315,023 | 19 | 44,544 | 14 |
| Asia-Pacific | 137,366 | 7 | 107,329 | 7 | 30,037 | 28 |
| International merchant services | 496,933 | 27 | 422,352 | 26 | 74,581 | 18 |
| Total revenues | \$1,859,802 | 100 | \$1,642,468 | 100 | \$217,334 | 13 |
| Consolidated operating expenses: | | | | | | |
| Cost of service | \$665,017 | 35.8 | \$584,609 | 35.6 | \$80,408 | 143 |
| Sales, general and administrative | 863,191 | 46.4 | 734,580 | 44.7 | 128,611 | 18 |
| Operating income | \$331,594 | 17.8 | \$323,279 | 19.7 | \$8,315 | 3 |
| Operating income for segments: | | | | | | |
| North America merchant services | \$268,233 | | \$275,386 | | \$(7,153) | (3) |
| International merchant services | 143,911 | | 113,699 | | 30,212 | 27 |
| Corporate | (80,550) | | (65,806) | | (14,744) | |
| Operating income | \$331,594 | | \$323,279 | | \$8,315 | 3 |
| | , | | * | | * | |

Operating margin for segments: