

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD
Form ARS
May 03, 2004

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD. 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

[RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LOGO OMITTED]

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
44%	43%	30%	25%	19%	20%	21%	18%	29%	29%

TEN YEARS OF
MARKET-LEADING RETURNS ON
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

The cover indicates the Company's operating return on average shareholders' equity for the ten full fiscal years since the Company's founding. Operating return reflects net income excluding realized gains and losses, for 2002 excludes the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle relating to goodwill and for 1998 excludes the impact of an after-tax charge related to our Stonington subsidiary taken in the fourth quarter of 1998. Including the charge, operating return on average shareholders' equity would have been 13% for 1998.

We determine the average shareholders' equity for each year by taking the average of common shareholders' equity for the first day of the year and the last day of each calendar quarter. The Company started business in June 1993, and, for that partial year of operation, the operating return on equity was 36% (not annualized).

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Leading the Industry Through Ten Years of Change 6 At a Glance 10
Questions & Answers 11 Financial Information 25 Corporate Information 67

COMPANY OVERVIEW

IN 2003, RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

CELEBRATED TEN CONSECUTIVE
YEARS OF OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE.

THIS RESULTED FROM OUR SUPERIOR RISK ANALYSIS
AND EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS.

GROSS WRITTEN
MANAGED PREMIUMS
BY LINE
(IN MILLIONS)

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

RenaissanceRe was established in June 1993 to write property catastrophe reinsurance. By pioneering the use of sophisticated computer models to construct our portfolio, we have become one of the world's largest and most successful catastrophe reinsurers. We have leveraged our expertise to establish leading franchises in additional selected areas of insurance and reinsurance where we believe we can enjoy a competitive advantage.

Today, we provide Catastrophe Reinsurance and Specialty Reinsurance. Our subsidiary, Renaissance Underwriting Managers, has formed and manages several joint ventures which assume Catastrophe Reinsurance and other reinsurance. We also write primary insurance and quota share reinsurance through our Individual Risk unit.

SERVING CUSTOMERS

RenaissanceRe has earned a reputation for excellent customer service. We provide superior risk advisory services, customized products, consistent pricing in all market conditions and dependable capacity. We pay claims quickly and reliably.

REWARDING SHAREHOLDERS

RenaissanceRe has an admirable record of rewarding shareholders. Our fundamental benchmark is growth in tangible book value per share, plus accumulated dividends, which we believe measures the real value we have created. Since our initial public offering in 1995, we have produced a compounded annual growth rate in tangible book value per share, plus accumulated dividends, of 27%, while our annualized total return to shareholders was 30%.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

1

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

(In thousands, except per share data)	2003	2002	2001	2000
Gross premiums written	\$1,382,209	\$1,173,049	\$501,321	\$433,000
Operating income available to common shareholders*	524,143	363,824	146,270	134,370
Net income available to common shareholders	604,647	364,814	164,366	127,220
PER COMMON SHARE AMOUNTS				
Operating income* - diluted	\$ 7.38	\$ 5.18	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.20
Net income - diluted	8.52	5.20	2.63	2.10
Book value	29.61	21.39	15.83	11.90
Dividends declared	0.60	0.57	0.53	0.50
OPERATING RATIOS				
Operating return on average common equity*	29.2%	29.0%	17.8%	21.0%
Claims and claim expense ratio .	33.0%	38.1%	45.0%	40.6%
Underwriting expense ratio	23.4%	19.0%	25.2%	28.5%
Combined ratio	56.4%	57.1%	70.2%	69.1%

* In this annual report we refer to various non-GAAP measures, which are explained on page 65. Operating income excludes net realized gains (losses) on investments. Operating income and operating ratios also exclude the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle relating to goodwill in 2002, and exclude a fourth quarter after-tax charge of \$40.1 million relating to Stonington in 1998.

OPERATING
RETURN ON
COMMON EQUITY

TANGIBLE BOOK
VALUE PER
COMMON SHARE

OPERATING
EARNINGS
PER SHARE

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

2

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

This annual report marks RenaissanceRe's tenth full year in business and our eighth as a public company. These have been ten very successful years, and by several measures 2003 was one of our best yet. Our operating income of \$524 million was 48% higher than our previous best year, net income of \$605 million was 66% higher, operating earnings per share of \$7.38 was 42% higher and gross written managed premium of \$1.5 billion was 17% higher. Finally, at 29%, our operating return on equity was within a point of our best ever as a public company and led our peer group for the eleventh straight year.

In early 2004 we increased our dividend by 27%, the ninth consecutive annual

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

dividend increase since our initial public offering. In addition, Renaissance Reinsurance was upgraded to AA- by Standard & Poor's, one of a very few insurance industry companies to have received a rating agency upgrade in the last three years, which along with our A+ rating from AM Best places our reinsurance business among a handful of reinsurers to be so highly rated.

PROGRESS ON 2003 GOALS

In last year's letter I listed five priorities for 2003. I think we did a good job on all five:

1. Continue to build RenaissanceRe's position as the world's leading property catastrophe reinsurance market. Gross property catastrophe premium written by Renaissance Reinsurance and our related joint ventures (which we refer to as "managed cat premium") was \$720 million, which we believe continues to make us the world's largest writer of this business. This compares to an exceptionally strong \$717 million of premium written in 2002, which was up 62% compared with 2001. While property insurance and reinsurance prices have begun to fall this year after four years of generally increasing prices, the quality of our portfolio remains high and well within our historic levels for adequate returns.

2. Continue to meet or exceed our joint venture partners' expectations. Top Layer Re and DaVinci Re, our two property catastrophe joint ventures, performed well, beating budgeted profits, due to low losses.

3. Continue to build our Specialty Reinsurance and Individual Risk businesses into sustainable franchises. In Specialty Reinsurance, we hired two executives with deep experience in surety and medical malpractice, respectively, and we became one of the leading reinsurance markets for three of our specialty classes of US business. Managed Specialty Reinsurance premium grew 18% to \$292 million, compared to \$247 million in 2002, and this business unit contributed over 20% of our operating profit. While prices are continuing to rise in some types of business, the rate of increase is slowing, and our book continues to grow in a few focused areas.

In Individual Risk, we made several key staffing additions and initiated two large programs with top quality managers. For the year, total written Individual Risk premium grew 58% to \$447 million, from the \$283 million written for 2002. In this market, property insurance prices are declining and as a result we are decreasing the amount we write; at the same time, liability insurance pricing continues to increase, and we are growing our specialty liability business in select areas.

4. Successfully enter a small number of additional lines of business. During the year, we announced one new business venture, Channel Re, in financial guaranty reinsurance. This venture officially launched in February 2004, and is described on page 16.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

3

5. Develop our management talent and organizational structure to maintain our entrepreneurial culture as our business and financial scale expand. I believe we made great strides in taking the same management culture, client focus and risk control that we have always exhibited in our cat business and instituting them in our newer business units.

OUR FIRST TEN YEARS -- A SHORT SUMMARY

Our first ten years breaks into three periods. In the first, we focused on building a successful property cat business, in the second we institutionalized

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

our business discipline, and in the third we began to broaden our business in response to market need.

From our formation in 1993 through 1995, we grew our property cat business very rapidly in a very "hard market" (an industry term meaning high prices). As a new company, we established the three "success factors" that would define our business: superior risk selection, superior marketing and superior capital management. We worked hard to develop the leading catastrophe management computer system (REMS(C)) and the risk management culture to use it effectively. We focused on meeting our clients' needs through creative products and responsive service. And we carefully managed our capital in the interests of our long-term shareholders.

[PHOTO OF JAMES N. STANARD
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer OMITTED]

From 1996 through 1998, we focused on maintaining our underwriting discipline in a period of falling prices, becoming the first major cat reinsurer to begin cutting back risk exposure in 1996. We started Glencoe, which, with a lot of patience, has grown to be a big success. We also acquired Nobel Insurance Company (now called "Stonington"), which was not a successful transaction. When our stock price sagged, we aggressively bought back shares -- thinking like long-term shareholders. We also established the "strategic principles" that we still use to evaluate new businesses: there must be a market opportunity, we must be able to develop a competitive advantage, and the management required must fit with our culture. We did not expand much beyond our core cat business because of the first of these principles -- there was a lack of market opportunity.

As cat market prices started to rise following market losses in 1998 and 1999, we began to grow our cat premium again, becoming the world's largest writer in 2000. The hardening market conditions, which accelerated in late 2001 following the World Trade Center tragedy, Enron's collapse, billions of dollars of industry loss reserve shortfalls and the falling stock market, also allowed us to grow Individual Risk and Specialty Reinsurance, and our joint venture activity through Renaissance Underwriting Managers -- meeting all three "strategic principles" in each case.

THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Although it is satisfying to reflect over a successful ten-year history, it is only relevant to the extent it helps guide us over our next ten years. To describe where I see us going, I have imagined some comments that might be in the Chairman's letter in 2013 -- ten years from now. My goal is that we will be able to say that:

4

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

1. We continue to maintain an excellent reputation with our clients, providing them quick and fair claims payment, offering outstanding security, solving their problems responsively and creatively, and providing them consistent capacity and pricing.
2. Our franchise in catastrophe reinsurance is stronger than ever. We are a leader in a number of select lines of specialty reinsurance and in a few specific types of individual risk insurance. Most of these businesses are run as wholly owned subsidiaries, while others are held in partially owned joint ventures.
3. Our businesses are managed by small, stand-alone management teams, operating

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

with the same hands-on, client-focused, entrepreneurial culture that made us successful in our first ten years.

4. For the ten-year period from 2004 - 2013, we continued to lead the industry in the growth of book value per share (plus accumulated dividends).

I also expect that RenaissanceRe will remain a leader in risk management. But being a leader in risk management does not always guarantee great results. We may experience a big hurricane or earthquake, which could result in our first annual loss in history -- such a loss might occur in a peak exposure area for us (where pricing is especially favorable) and so produce relatively worse losses than our competitors. We may also find that some of the new segments or joint ventures that we enter do not turn into profitable businesses. We may even experience a loss that we failed to adequately model.

However, I believe that we will continue to be distinguished as a risk management leader by the way we handle these losses: we try to avoid what we call "gratuitous exposure" -- broad coverage exposed to losses but not reflected in the price; we seek to quickly identify developing exposures; we plan our capital management actions following large losses; and we have a culture and a track record of exiting ventures when they do not work, and sitting on our hands when business is underpriced. By focusing on a limited number of specialties, RenaissanceRe has fewer things that can go wrong, and we can better focus on the unique risks of each specialty. I cannot think of any company in our industry that is better equipped to handle the changing risk environment of the next ten years.

CHALLENGES FOR 2004

As we enter our second decade, we are pleased with our position but not overconfident. We recognize that most of the markets in which we operate are growing more difficult, and that our competitors keep getting smarter and tougher -- in many cases emulating the strategies that have made us successful (just as we try to learn from their successes).

We are on a good course, and so I would list for 2004 the same priorities as last year, with one addition: to prepare for more competitive conditions in all of our markets.

Our excellent reputation and satisfied client base, our deep and smoothly functioning management team, and our balance sheet -- one of the strongest and cleanest in the industry -- will continue to be great competitive advantages, both in the catastrophe reinsurance sector and in other areas where we pursue opportunities.

Sincerely,

/s/ James N. Stanard

James N. Stanard
Chairman of the Board
Chief Executive Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

5

RENAISSANCERE:
LEADING THE INDUSTRY THROUGH TEN YEARS OF CHANGE

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS,
RENAISSANCERE HAS
LED THE CATASTROPHE
REINSURANCE INDUSTRY
IN THE WAY WE EVALUATE RISK, USE TECHNOLOGY,
ASSEMBLE TALENTED PROFESSIONALS AND ALLOCATE CAPITAL.
WE ARE NOW APPLYING OUR UNIQUE
APPROACH AND DISCIPLINE TO OTHER SECTORS.

1992

Hurricane Andrew causes the largest catastrophe loss to date (\$16 billion in 1992 dollars), resulting in industry-wide withdrawal of capacity.

1993

RenaissanceRe is founded with an initial investment of \$141 million from Warburg, Pincus; General Electric Pension Fund; and USF&G Corporation.

1994

RenaissanceRe completes first version of its dynamic financial analysis computer model.

1995

Initial Public Offering: RenaissanceRe lists on NYSE and sells 3.1 million common shares at a split-adjusted price of \$6.33 per share.

6

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

1996

Company launches Glencoe subsidiary to write primary insurance.

1997

Share buybacks (beginning late '96) return capital during soft market.

1998

Company opens Dublin office to take advantage of catastrophe reinsurance opportunities in Europe. Acquisition of Nobel Insurance Company.

1999

RenaissanceRe launches first joint ventures: Top Layer Re formed with State Farm, and OPCat formed with Overseas Partners. Achieves 20% operating ROE despite year of above-average cat losses.

TANGIBLE BOOK

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

VALUE PER
COMMON SHARE
PLUS ACCUMULATED
DIVIDENDS
(U.S. DOLLARS)

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

Hurricane Andrew hit the coast of Florida in 1992, causing tremendous destruction and resulting in a \$16 billion loss (in 1992 dollars) for the insurance industry, the largest on record until that time. Many in the industry had not believed -- or allowed themselves to believe -- that such large-scale losses were even possible.

Existing reinsurers withdrew capacity from the market, creating an opportunity for new participants, with fresh capital, to enter. In 1993, RenaissanceRe was one of a handful of new reinsurers to emerge.

OPERATING
EARNINGS
PER SHARE

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

REASSESSING THE NATURE OF RISK. Driving our new business model was a fundamental reassessment of the nature of risk. As reinsurers learned from Hurricane Andrew -- a lesson soon reinforced by California's Northridge earthquake -- the risks that companies faced were enormous, and capable of wiping out poorly constructed portfolios in a matter of minutes. These risks were not well understood by senior management at many companies.

For RenaissanceRe, this need to better appreciate risk was one of our paramount pursuits, and the use of advanced information technology was the key to arriving at a more sophisticated understanding of our exposures. Harnessing computer models, and using advanced software to simulate the impact of catastrophes on portfolios of insurance, RenaissanceRe developed proprietary techniques to examine both the expected loss for individual contracts and, just as importantly, to understand their correlation with other contracts within a portfolio.

USING COMPUTER MODELS. Although models of catastrophic risk had been available since the 1980's, they had generally been regarded with skepticism in the industry, viewed more as academic exercises than tools to be used by working practitioners in the evaluation and pricing of risk. Although the models were later vindicated, most insurers did not take them seriously since they produced estimates of potential losses that were sometimes much greater than ever experienced.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

7

Initially, these models were rudimentary. The first ones merely projected expected losses for a limited set of natural disasters. But over time, and with support from customers like RenaissanceRe, they grew in sophistication: increasing the types of perils considered, extending the geographic regions examined, and capable of mining data to a much greater level of refinement.

More importantly, they evolved from being merely deterministic models -- that projected a specific outcome for a specific event or series of events -- to incorporate probabilities that could project an entire distribution of potential outcomes for portfolios composed of multiple exposures.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

2000

RenaissanceRe writes more catastrophe excess treaty reinsurance than any competitor.

2001

RenaissanceRe is the first reinsurer to raise capital following WTC terrorist attack, bringing to \$827 million the total raised during the year. Launches DaVinci Re joint venture.

2002

RenaissanceRe buys 9.2% stake in Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd. Specialty Reinsurance premiums jump to \$247 million from \$77 million in prior year.

2003

With several partners, RenaissanceRe announces intent to form Channel Re, a financial guaranty joint venture, which begins business in February 2004.

Drawing upon these models, RenaissanceRe created a proprietary system, called REMS(C), or Renaissance Exposure Management System. The result of many man-years of work, and millions of dollars of investment, this proprietary software has a variety of competitive advantages:

- o Incorporating multiple vendor models, it allows us to compare different assessments of risk, and thus to avoid bias toward any single model;
- o It enables us to see the effect of a portfolio change in just a few seconds -- far better than standard computer simulations that would take hours or even days;
- o The software can readily assess unusual contract features that could not be modeled in standard software;
- o While technically very sophisticated, REMS(C) produces simple "scores" that allow our underwriters to make quick and effective judgments about the relative ranking of prospective transactions -- reflecting for each transaction both its expected margin and its correlation with our existing portfolio.

OPERATING
RETURN ON
COMMON EQUITY

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

CREATING A NEW PARADIGM. Before RenaissanceRe was formed, the typical reinsurer of catastrophe risks commanded a relatively small pool of capital, but fielded a large and dispersed group of underwriters. These underwriters were endowed more with marketing and relational abilities than with quantitative skills, and made contract decisions based upon judgment, intuition and standardized guide-

8

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

MANAGED CAT
PREMIUMS
(IN MILLIONS)

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

lines. Their objective was to capture a small percentage of a wide range of transactions -- which they believed would ensure diversification -- and to gain market share, which they relied upon for generating sufficient profits in hard markets to compensate for inadequate pricing during soft ones.

We at RenaissanceRe developed a different approach. Using our computer technology, we could readily identify superior transactions and greatly reduce the number of decision-makers we required. We could construct a more diversified portfolio whose risks were less correlated with one another. Furthermore, we were determined to sell our product only at prices that reflected the true nature of the risks we assumed, and if this meant writing less business in soft markets, we were fully prepared to do so.

Constantly upgrading, expanding and incorporating new data into REMS(C), we have continually enhanced our capabilities. We have also maintained discipline, consistently using our models for underwriting decisions.

This use of models, however, has not made RenaissanceRe a slave to its system. We recognize that our systems produce only estimates of risk -- not "facts"-- and that the models we use are based on assumptions that must be factored into consideration. Our underwriters appreciate that an apparently precise answer does not necessarily mean an accurate one. Rather, our system serves as a guide, helping us to determine which risks are relatively superior, so that we may construct a portfolio with the greatest potential for the highest possible risk-adjusted return.

GROSS WRITTEN
MANAGED
PREMIUMS BY LINE
(IN MILLIONS)

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

Working with our customers, RenaissanceRe has become a driving force for better data capture throughout our industry. Seeking to assume those risks we can analyze in depth, we partner with customers whose systems are sufficiently robust to capture an intensive amount of data, and who are capable of mining that data down to a detailed level of understanding.

In an industry that has finally recognized the validity of computer models, RenaissanceRe stands out as the company most adept at using them. Across our Company, there is buy-in among all our professionals regarding our framework for risk management and underwriting, and we have nurtured the integration of sophisticated quantitative talent with practical risk-taking decisions. Such a cohesive approach to risk-taking is difficult to achieve, and has been critical to our success.

GROWTH IN CAPITAL
(IN MILLIONS)

[BAR GRAPH OMITTED]

NEXT STEPS. In 1993, RenaissanceRe started out by applying its strengths to catastrophe reinsurance and became the leader in that field. Using our unique abilities, we branched out into related areas, including other lines of reinsurance, often having a low frequency/high severity risk profile similar to catastrophe risk. We also entered the field of primary insurance, underwriting in selected areas, often writing business with catastrophe-related exposures, where our underwriting discipline and technological skill could be applied to take advantage of attractive market conditions. Now, the Company is focused on

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

applying these skills to additional areas that are equally ripe for the RenaissanceRe approach. In all endeavors, our goal is the same -- to achieve a superior understanding of risk.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

9

AT A GLANCE

BY LEVERAGING OUR CORE CATASTROPHE EXPERTISE,

RENAISSANCERE

HAS ESTABLISHED MAJOR

MARKET POSITIONS

IN SELECTED AREAS OF INSURANCE

AND REINSURANCE.

CATASTROPHE AND SPECIALTY REINSURANCE

RenaissanceRe is one of the world's leading reinsurers of natural and man-made catastrophe risks, commanding an estimated market share of over 10%. In Specialty Reinsurance, we focus on selected areas, such as catastrophe-exposed workers' compensation, surety, aviation and terrorism.

RENAISSANCE UNDERWRITING MANAGERS

This includes three business activities. First, with outside investors, RenaissanceRe has created catastrophe reinsurance joint ventures DaVinci Re and Top Layer Re, in which we own 25% and 50%, respectively. Second, we invest in other companies, and participate in joint ventures, directed at other classes of reinsurance; these include our 9.2% stake in Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd., a Bermuda-based reinsurer, and our 33% interest in Channel Re, a Bermuda-based financial guaranty reinsurer. Third, we engage in structured product transactions, in which we sell non-traditional participation in our catastrophe portfolio and also assume reinsurance risk through the purchase of catastrophe-linked securities.

INDIVIDUAL RISK

The Company writes primary insurance and quota share reinsurance in a small number of specialty areas, through our Glencoe, Lantana and Stonington subsidiaries. Initially, we focused on catastrophe-exposed property insurance and recently we have also begun to write specialty lines of liability insurance. Our Individual Risk business unit, Glencoe Group Holdings Ltd., provides active oversight of underwriting activities, partnering with program managers and other vendors that perform various outsourced functions, such as customer relations, marketing, back office processing and claims handling.

10

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

CATASTROPHE AND SPECIALTY REINSURANCE

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

THIS YEAR, RENAISSANCERE AGAIN PROVED TO BE

THE LEADING

CATASTROPHE REINSURER

AND

SHOWED SIGNIFICANT

GROWTH IN OUR

SPECIALTY REINSURANCE

ACTIVITIES.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

11

[PHOTOS OMITTED]

ROSS A. CURTIS
Vice President
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

JAMES R. LEWIS
Vice President
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

DAVID A. EKLUND
President
Chief Underwriting
Officer
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

KEVIN J. O'DONNELL
Senior Vice President
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

MICHAEL W. CASH
Senior Vice President
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

RUSSELL M. SMITH
Senior Vice President
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

ROBERT J. LAMENDOLA
Senior Vice President
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

JON D. PARADINE
Vice President
Renaissance
Reinsurance Ltd.

IAN D. BRANAGAN
Managing Director
Renaissance
Reinsurance of Europe

WHAT HAS ENABLED RENAISSANCERE TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION AS THE WORLD'S LEADING
CATASTROPHE REINSURER?

A combination of things. In addition to our financial position and strong

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

reputation for risk management, we are very service oriented, providing clients with customized products and sound advice about catastrophe risks. They appreciate our consistent approach to pricing, our high credit quality and our capacity for large lines.

WHY WAS YOUR CATASTROPHE BUSINESS ONLY FLAT THIS YEAR?

We are actually very pleased with that performance. In 2003, new capacity came into the market and prices began to soften. In that environment, the fact that we sustained the high level of business we achieved in 2002 -- up 62% from 2001 -- was a considerable accomplishment. In such an environment, flat premium is often the best that we can expect; we won't write business just to gain or maintain market share, and are very disciplined about entering contracts that meet our hurdle rates.

WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREND YOU SEE UNFOLDING?

We have never before seen such focus on long-term credit quality. Customers want reinsurers who they know will be in business ten years from now, still willing and able to pay claims. As a result, we continue to see a flight to quality, which plays to one of our strengths.

WHAT STRATEGY IS DRIVING YOUR GROWTH IN SPECIALTY REINSURANCE?

We target a few areas very carefully, where we see longer term opportunity and can leverage our expertise. We ramped up our specialty business after September 11th, as opportunities emerged in a number of areas, and in 2003 our specialty business increased 18%. Due to the nature of insurance market conditions, we often do not see adequately priced business unless there is a material loss event. When such instances arise, we seek to provide capacity and develop our involvement as a long-term, consistent market in those lines of business, at stable and sensible prices.

WHICH SPECIALTIES ARE YOU CURRENTLY FOCUSING ON?

After September 11th, we took significant positions in catastrophe-related workers' compensation and terrorism coverage, and aviation to a lesser extent. After the Enron accounting scandal, we expanded into surety, on an excess of loss basis. This year we brought in seasoned underwriters in surety and medical malpractice reinsurance, two areas where we expect growth. Both fit our style: other reinsurers have suffered large losses and withdrawn capacity. We recognize that these areas -- such as medical malpractice -- have proven challenging to others, but believe our underwriting skills will enable us to evaluate those risks realistically, price our products accordingly and profit from currently attractive market conditions, while building analytic tools to attempt to generate a long-term franchise from the opportunity.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

13

RENAISSANCE UNDERWRITING MANAGERS:

JOINT VENTURES AND STRUCTURED PRODUCTS

THE COMPANY'S JOINT VENTURE AND

STRUCTURED PRODUCTS INITIATIVES

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

DEMONSTRATE RENAISSANCERE'S
INNOVATIVE, UNCONVENTIONAL
THINKING.

THEY EXTEND THE VALUE OF THE COMPANY'S
EXPERTISE, IDENTIFY AND MAKE USE OF LARGE POOLS OF
ADDITIONAL CAPITAL, ENHANCE REVENUES AND
ENABLE RENAISSANCERE TO BENEFIT FROM PARTNERING
WITH OTHER LEADING COMPANIES. IN TURN,
THIS GENERATES SHAREHOLDER VALUE.

14

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

[PHOTOS OMITTED]

LAURENCE B. RICHARDSON, II
Vice President
Renaissance Underwriting
Managers, Ltd.

JOHN D. NICHOLS
President
Renaissance Underwriting
Managers, Ltd.

RICHARD G. WEECH
Vice President
Renaissance Underwriting
Managers, Ltd.

THOMAS M. TREZISE
Vice President
Renaissance Services, Ltd.

15

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CREATING JOINT VENTURES IN THE SAME BUSINESSES IN WHICH YOU ALREADY HAVE CORE ACTIVITIES? DOESN'T THIS DOUBLE YOUR RISK?

Our catastrophe-related joint ventures act as "turbo-chargers" to our core reinsurance business, enabling us to leverage our underwriting skills, gain additional market share and earn added income -- all with a manageable amount of extra effort. Because the joint ventures have their own balance sheets and access different pools of capital, they can underwrite the same risks we have already evaluated, and we and our clients collectively benefit from placing the

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

risks in a different portfolio and on a different balance sheet. We earn fee income for managing these ventures and we exercise operating and management control; we also benefit through our equity position. In the case of DaVinci, the joint venture insures the same risks as RenaissanceRe, whereas Top Layer writes only non-U.S. business at high layers (i.e. with a low probability of loss). In either case, our corporate financial and risk-management models take our equity participation and fee income into account.

HOW DID DAVINCI RE AND TOP LAYER RE PERFORM IN 2003?

Both performed exceptionally well, surpassing expectations. DaVinci experienced only light losses, given the limited catastrophe losses for the year, and Top Layer continued its record of being loss-free since inception. Both ventures have been a winning proposition for our company, our partners and our customers.

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS?

We look for a long-term, viable partnership. We select our partners based upon their interest in investing for the long term, an expertise that enhances our capabilities for understanding the complexities of the business, and the potential that they might provide increased access to markets.

HOW HAS YOUR 9.2% EQUITY INVESTMENT IN PLATINUM UNDERWRITERS HOLDINGS, LTD. PERFORMED SINCE YOU BOUGHT IT LAST YEAR?

It has worked out very well. Platinum provides reinsurance in a number of areas in which we don't participate, and has executed well. At the same time, we have given them advice on their catastrophe-related business. We invested \$84 million, and our investment now has a market value of \$146 million.

WHAT IS THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE NEW CHANNEL RE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP?

Together with MBIA, Koch Financial Corporation and Partner Re Ltd, we announced this new entity in October 2003 and it commenced business in February 2004. It will focus on financial guaranty reinsurance and has assumed an in-force portfolio from MBIA. This is an opportune way to participate in the financial guaranty reinsurance business, which has experienced a significant loss of reinsurance capacity at a time of improving terms and conditions -- our favorite time to enter a market. By partnering with MBIA, we were able to more easily surmount the considerable barriers to entry that exist in this area, thus immediately deploying capital and generating attractive returns.

16

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

INDIVIDUAL RISK

IN 2003, RENAISSANCERE SIGNIFICANTLY

EXPANDED ITS PRESENCE IN

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

THE INDIVIDUAL RISK MARKET.
WE NOW HAVE IN PLACE THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND
OPERATING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND
THE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS, TO DELIVER VALUE
IN OUR CHOSEN FIELDS.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

17

[Photos Omitted]

RICHARD B. PRIMERANO
Senior Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
Glencoe U.S Holdings Inc.

JOSEPH J. GEORGE
Vice President
Glencoe Insurance Ltd.

WILLIAM I. RIKER
President
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

DAVID A. HEATHERLY
President
Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc.

WILLIAM B. ASHLEY
Senior Vice President
Chief Operating Officer
Glencoe Insurance Ltd.

MICHAEL S. NUENKE
Vice President
Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc.

18

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

WHY HAS RENAISSANCERE SO DRAMATICALLY INCREASED ITS INVOLVEMENT IN INDIVIDUAL RISK?

We started our Individual Risk business in 1996, but only recently has pricing become attractive for large-scale participation. After September 11th, significant market dislocation created excellent entry opportunities, and our business more than quintupled in 2002. This year, it rose another 51%. We are now targeting specific areas that we had been following closely for several years but that had not been attractive until now.

WHICH AREAS HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED FOR GROWTH?

During 2003, our Individual Risk business was mostly in property insurance, with smaller positions in commercial auto, claims-made liability and occurrence liability. We believe the property segment, which has been strong for the past few years, will decline, but certain classes of liability insurance are now very attractive and our position should grow considerably.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

GIVEN THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CATASTROPHE REINSURANCE AND WRITING PRIMARY INSURANCE, WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS DO YOU BRING THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO ACHIEVE ABOVE-AVERAGE RETURNS?

We believe that the same paradigm shift that occurred in catastrophe reinsurance ten years ago is now underway in Individual Risk. Companies that employ computer risk modeling, and capture and deeply analyze data, will be the beneficiaries.

WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO ENTRUST YOUR INDIVIDUAL RISK UNDERWRITING TO OUTSIDE MANAGERS? ARE YOU GIVING UP THE DISCIPLINED CONTROL THAT HAS ALWAYS ENABLED YOU TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL?

Our Individual Risk business actually comes from three sources: directly from brokers, from program managers, and from primary insurers for whom we provide quota share reinsurance. The broker business is underwritten by us in-house. In the case of program managers and our quota share reinsurance, we partner with the industry's best people. We have identified a small handful of underwriters who share our passion for data, who understand where the industry is heading, and who have in place the systems for data gathering and mining that let them robustly evaluate risks. We impose strict underwriting standards and maintain ongoing oversight. This combines well with their unique understanding of specialized markets. Moreover, we are not building a new business with them, but are picking up mature books of business.

WHY DO YOU INCLUDE QUOTA SHARE REINSURANCE TOGETHER WITH PRIMARY INSURANCE IN THIS BUSINESS UNIT?

They share basic similarities: in order to succeed you have to perform a thorough analysis to fully understand the individual risks that you are insuring and the price adequacy of each individual policy. That leads us to define "Individual Risk" a little differently from the way others do.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

19

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

RENAISSANCERE IS KNOWN FOR ITS

ACTIVE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

AND PRUDENT INVESTMENTS.

AT THE END OF 2003, WE WERE WELL POSITIONED

TO PURSUE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND

OUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO HAD OUTPERFORMED

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

ITS BENCHMARK INDICES.

20

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

[Photos Omitted]

JOHN R. WINEINGER
Vice President
Renaissance Services Ltd.

STEPHEN H. WEINSTEIN
Vice President
General Counsel
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

JOHN M. LUMMIS
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

MARK A. WILCOX
Vice President
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

PETER C. DURHAGER
Senior Vice President
Chief Administrative Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

TODD R. FONNER
Vice President
Treasurer
Renaissance Holdings Ltd.

W. PRESTON HUTCHINGS
Senior Vice President
Chief Investment Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

MARTIN J. MERRITT
Senior Vice President
Controller
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

21

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

RenaissanceRe is known for its active approach to managing capital.
We seek to optimize our capital structure by understanding our risk portfolio
and by anticipating opportunities in our operations and opportunities in the
capital markets.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

We recognize that our key constituents -- customers, creditors and shareholders -- each have an interest in our capital structure, and we manage our risk portfolio and capital base with each of their interests in mind. This past year, recognizing the increased importance of the credit quality of key operating subsidiaries, we refined our risk tests as they apply at the subsidiary level.

At the start of 2003, January contract renewals were particularly strong. Additionally, financial markets were uncertain, due to a looming war in Iraq. As a result, we determined it was prudent to raise additional capital, to ensure that we would be adequately capitalized for potential opportunities. In January 2003, we issued \$100 million in Series B Preference Shares and \$100 million in 5.875% Senior Notes, and received a total of \$196 million in net proceeds. The biggest capital-raising event of the year was again our earnings, which added \$605 million to our capital base.

As we closed 2003, we were pleased with our capital position. We produced a 29% operating return on equity in 2003, and have the flexibility to pursue potential new opportunities in 2004.

In February of 2004, Standard and Poor's recognized our operating success and the strength of our capital position by upgrading the ratings of our reinsurance company, our senior debt and our preferred securities.

INVESTMENTS

Our investment portfolio returned 6.2% during 2003, and we again outperformed our relevant indices. Our investment philosophy remains unchanged -- to assume prudent risks and to contribute to a steady growth in RenaissanceRe's book value per share. At the close of 2003, approximately 21% of the portfolio was invested in short-term securities, 62% in longer-dated investment grade issues, 11% in domestic high yield and the sovereign debt of emerging market borrowers and 6% in alternative assets (principally a diversified portfolio of hedge funds). We maintained a duration that averaged only slightly more than 2 years during 2003, short of our target range of 2.75 - 3 years. Consistent with our underwriting philosophy of avoiding gratuitous risk exposures, we are cautious about the prospect for rising interest rates. We will certainly accept investment risk, as shown by increased contributions to our non-investment grade portfolio (which returned 28.2% in 2003) and our alternative portfolio (which returned 17.4%), but we do seek to be adequately compensated for taking investment risk.

Renaissance continues to manage its investment portfolio as before: we make the strategic calls on asset allocation and duration, and manage the very high-grade component of our fixed income portfolio internally, and we employ external managers for the fixed income sectors and asset classes for which special skills and/or extensive resources are required.

CREDIT RATINGS	S&P	A.M. Best	Moody's

REINSURANCE SEGMENT (1)			
Renaissance Reinsurance	AA-*	A+	A1
DaVinci Re	A	A	--
Top Layer Re	AA	A+	--
Renaissance Europe	--	A+	--
INDIVIDUAL RISK SEGMENT (1)			
Glencoe	--	A	--
Glencoe U.S.	--	A	--
Stonington	--	A	--
Lantana	--	A	--
RenaissanceRe (2)	A*	--	A3

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

* Upgraded in February 2004

- (1) The A.M. Best, S&P and Moody's ratings for the companies in the Reinsurance and Individual Risk segments reflect the insurer financial strength rating.
- (2) The S&P and Moody's ratings for RenaissanceRe represent the credit ratings on its senior unsecured debt.

22

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

[Photos Omitted]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

JAMES N. STANARD
Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
RenaissanceRe
Holdings Ltd.

THOMAS A. COOPER
TAC Associates

BRIAN R. HALL
Retired
Johnson & Higgins

WILLIAM F. HECHT
Chairman, President
and CEO
PPL Corporation

EDMUND B. GREENE
Retired
General Electric Company

W. JAMES MACGINNITIE
Actuary and Independent
Consultant

SCOTT E. PARDEE
Alan R. Holmes
Professor of
Monetary Economics
Middlebury College

WILLIAM RIKER
President
RenaissanceRe
Holdings Ltd.

23

OFFICERS
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

WILLIAM B. ASHLEY
Senior Vice President
Chief Operating Officer
Glencoe Insurance Ltd.

IAN D. BRANAGAN
Managing Director

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Renaissance Reinsurance of Europe

MICHAEL W. CASH
Senior Vice President
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

ROSS A. CURTIS
Vice President
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

PETER C. DURHAGER
Senior Vice President
Chief Administrative Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

DAVID A. EKLUND
President
Chief Underwriting Officer
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

TODD R. FONNER
Vice President
Treasurer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

JOSEPH J. GEORGE
Vice President
Glencoe Insurance Ltd.

DAVID A. HEATHERLY
President
Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc.

W. PRESTON HUTCHINGS
Senior Vice President
Chief Investment Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

ROBERT J. LAMENDOLA
Senior Vice President
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

JAMES R. LEWIS
Vice President
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

JOHN M. LUMMIS
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

MARTIN J. MERRITT
Senior Vice President
Controller
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

JOHN D. NICHOLS
President
Renaissance Underwriting Managers, Ltd.

MICHAEL S. NUENKE
Vice President

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc.

KEVIN J. O'DONNELL
Senior Vice President
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

JON D. PARADINE
Vice President
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

RICHARD B. PRIMERANO
Senior Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc.

LAURENCE B. RICHARDSON II
Vice President
Renaissance Underwriting Managers, Ltd.

WILLIAM I. RIKER
President
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

RUSSELL M. SMITH
Senior Vice President
Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

JAMES N. STANARD
Chairman of the Board
Chief Executive Officer
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

THOMAS M. TREZISE
Vice President
Renaissance Services Ltd.

RICHARD G. WEECH
Vice President
Renaissance Underwriting Managers, Ltd.

STEPHEN H. WEINSTEIN
Vice President
General Counsel
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

MARK A. WILCOX
Vice President
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

JOHN R. WINEINGER
Vice President
Renaissance Services Ltd.

24

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

TABLE OF CONTENTS: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Selected Financial Data	26
Management's Discussion and Analysis	27
Management's Responsibility for Financial Statements	42
Report of Independent Auditors	42
Consolidated Balance Sheets	43
Consolidated Statements of Income	44
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity	45
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	46
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	47
Glossary of Selected Insurance and Reinsurance Terms	61
Comments on Regulation G	65
Financial and Investor Information	67
RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.	25

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

	Year Ended December		
(In thousands, except per share data)	2003	2002	2001
STATEMENT OF INCOME DATA:			
Gross premiums written	\$1,382,209	\$1,173,049	\$ 501,321
Net premiums written	1,152,523	923,711	339,547
Net premiums earned	1,115,743	760,905	333,065
Net investment income	129,542	102,686	75,156
Net realized gains (losses) on sales of investments	80,504	10,177	18,096
Claims and claim expenses incurred	367,744	289,525	149,917
Acquisition costs	194,140	95,644	45,359
Operational expenses	67,397	49,159	38,603
Income before taxes and change in accounting principle	623,430	386,070	180,046
Net income available to common shareholders	604,647	364,814	164,366
Earnings per common share - diluted(1)	8.52	5.20	2.63
Dividends per common share	0.60	0.57	0.53
Weighted average common shares			

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

	71,002	70,211	62,391
outstanding			
At December 31,			
(In thousands)	2003	2002	2001
BALANCE SHEET DATA:			
Total investments and cash	\$4,187,617	\$3,128,879	\$2,194,430
Total assets	4,729,702	3,745,736	2,643,652
Reserve for claims and claim expenses	977,892	804,795	572,877
Reserve for unearned premiums	349,824	331,985	125,053
Debt	350,000	275,000	183,500
Subordinated obligation to capital trust	103,093	--	--
Company obligated mandatorily redeemable capital securities of a subsidiary trust holding solely junior subordinated debentures of RenaissanceRe	--	84,630	87,630
Preferred shares	250,000	150,000	150,000
Total shareholders' equity attributable to common shareholders	2,084,643	1,492,035	1,075,024
Common shares outstanding	70,399	69,750	67,893

(1) Earnings per common share - diluted was calculated by dividing net income available to common shareholders by the number of weighted average common shares and common share equivalents outstanding. Common share equivalents are calculated on the basis of the treasury stock method.

26

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

=====
The following is a discussion and analysis of our results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared with the years ended December 31, 2002 and December 31, 2001. The following also includes a discussion of our financial condition at December 31, 2003. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and related notes included in this report. This report contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results described or implied by these forward-looking statements (see "Note on Forward-Looking Statements"). In addition, we refer you to our Risk Factors included in other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time.

OVERVIEW

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

RenaissanceRe was established in 1993 to write property catastrophe reinsurance. By pioneering the use of sophisticated computer models to construct our portfolio, we have become one of the world's largest and most successful catastrophe reinsurers. We are seeking to leverage our expertise to establish leading franchises in additional selected areas of insurance and reinsurance.

Since a substantial portion of the reinsurance and insurance we write provides protection from damages relating to natural and man-made catastrophes, our results depend to a large extent on the frequency and severity of such catastrophic events, and the coverages we offer to clients impacted by these events. Currently, we conduct our business through two reportable segments, Reinsurance and Individual Risk.

Our revenues are principally derived from three sources: 1) net premiums earned from the reinsurance and insurance policies we sell; 2) net investment income and realized gains and losses from the investment of our capital funds and the investment of the cash we receive on the policies which we sell; and 3) other income received from our joint ventures and other structured products.

Our expenses primarily consist of: 1) claims and claim expenses incurred on the policies of reinsurance and insurance we sell; 2) acquisition costs which typically represent a percentage of the premiums we write; 3) operational expenses which primarily consist of personnel expenses, rent and other operating expenses; and 4) interest and dividend costs related to our debt, preference shares and subordinated obligation to capital trust.

The operational results, also known as the underwriting results, of an insurance or reinsurance company are discussed frequently by reference to its claims and claim expense ratio, underwriting expense ratio, and combined ratio. The claims and claim expense ratio is the result of dividing claims and claim expenses incurred by net premiums earned. The underwriting expense ratio is the result of dividing underwriting expenses (acquisition expenses and operational expenses) by net premiums earned. The combined ratio is the sum of the claims and claim expense ratio and the underwriting expense ratio. A combined ratio below 100% generally indicates profitable underwriting prior to the consideration of investment income. A combined ratio over 100% generally indicates unprofitable underwriting prior to the consideration of investment income.

SUMMARY OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

CLAIMS AND CLAIM EXPENSE RESERVES

We believe that the most significant accounting judgment made by management is our estimate of the claims and claim expense reserves. Claim reserves represent estimates, including actuarial and statistical projections at a given point in time, of the ultimate settlement and administration costs of claims incurred, and it is likely that the ultimate liability will exceed or be less than such estimates. It is also possible that the ultimate liability may materially exceed or be materially less than such estimates. Such estimates are not precise in that, among other things, they are based on predictions of future developments and estimates of future trends in claim severity and frequency and other variable factors such as inflation.

Adjustments to our prior year estimated ultimate claims reserves will impact our current year net income by increasing our net income if the prior year estimated ultimate claims reserves are determined to be overstated, or by reducing our net income if the prior year estimated ultimate claims reserves prove to be insufficient. During the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, changes to prior year estimated ultimate claims reserves had the following impact on our net income; during 2003, prior years estimated ultimate claims reserves were reduced by \$95.1 million and accordingly, our 2003 net income was increased by

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

\$95.1 million; during 2002, prior years estimated ultimate claims reserves were reduced by \$2.0 million, and our 2002 net income was increased by \$2.0 million; and during 2001, prior years estimated ultimate claims reserves were reduced by \$16.0 million, and our 2001 net income was increased by \$16.0 million. (also see Reserves for Claims and Claim Expenses.)

For our property catastrophe reinsurance operations, we initially set our claims reserves based on case reserves and other reserve estimates reported by insureds and ceding companies.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

27

We then add to these case reserves, our estimates for additional case reserves, and an estimate for incurred but not reported reserves ("IBNR"). These estimates are generally based upon our experience with similar claims, our knowledge of potential industry loss levels for each loss, and industry information which we gather and retain in our REMS(C) modeling system. The estimation of claims resulting from catastrophic events is inherently difficult because of the variability and uncertainty associated with property catastrophe claims. During 2003, with the accumulation of ten years of historical information on our claims and claim expenses, we adopted a new system to reassess our property catastrophe reserves on our older accident years.

In reserving for our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk coverages we do not have the benefit of a significant amount of our own historical experience in these lines, and therefore we estimate our IBNR for our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk coverages by utilizing an actuarial method known as the Bornhuetter-Ferguson technique, a widely used method for lines of business in which a company may have limited historical loss experience. The utilization of the Bornhuetter-Ferguson technique requires a company to estimate an ultimate claims and claim expense ratio and select an estimated loss reporting pattern for each line of business that it offers. The expected loss ratio is modified to the extent that reported losses to date differ from what would be expected based on the selected loss reporting pattern. This method gives more weight to the actual reported loss experience as the underwriting period matures. We select our estimates of the ultimate claims and claim expense ratios and estimated loss reporting patterns by reviewing industry standards and adjusting these standards based upon the coverages and terms of the coverages we offer.

Because any reserve estimate is simply an insurer's estimate of its ultimate liability, and because there are numerous factors which affect reserves but can not be determined with certainty in advance, our ultimate payments will vary, perhaps materially, from our initial estimate of reserves. Therefore, because of these inherent uncertainties, we have developed a reserving philosophy which attempts to incorporate prudent assumptions and estimates. In future periods, assuming future reported and paid claims activity is consistent with that of recent quarters, and barring unforeseen circumstances, we believe that, as our reserves on older accident years continue to age, we may experience further reduction to our older accident year reserves.

All of our estimates are reviewed annually with an independent actuarial firm. We also review our assumptions and our methodologies on a quarterly basis. If we determine that an adjustment to an earlier estimate is appropriate, such adjustments are recorded in the quarter in which they are identified. Although we believe we are cautious in our assumptions, and in the application of our methodologies, we cannot be certain that our ultimate payments will not vary, perhaps materially, from the estimates we have made.

At December 31, 2003, our total gross reserves for claims and claim expenses was \$977.9 million and our estimated IBNR reserves were \$596.6 million. A 5% change in such IBNR reserves would equate to a \$29.8 million adjustment to claims and

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

claim expenses incurred, which would represent 4.9% of our 2003 net income and 1.3% of shareholders' equity at December 31, 2003.

PREMIUMS

We recognize premiums as income over the terms of the related contracts and policies. Our written premiums are based on policy and contract terms and include estimates based on information received from both insureds and ceding companies. We record adjustment premiums in the period in which they occur.

We book premiums on non-proportional contracts in accordance with the contract terms. Premiums written on losses occurring contracts are typically earned over the contract period. Premiums on risks attaching contracts are generally earned as reported by the cedants, which typically is over double the contract period. Management makes estimates based on judgment and historical experience for periods during which information has not yet been received. Such estimates are subject to adjustment in subsequent periods when actual figures are recorded.

The minimum and deposit premium on excess policies are usually determined by the contract wording. In the absence of defined amounts in the contract, management estimates written premium on these contracts based on historical experience and judgment. Actual amounts are determined in subsequent periods based on actual exposures and any adjustments are recorded in the period in which they occur.

In our Individual Risk business, it is often necessary to estimate portions of premiums written from quota-share contracts and by program managers. Management estimates this premium based on discussions with ceding companies and program managers and also based on historical experience and judgment. Total premiums estimated at December 31, 2003 and 2002 were \$103.7 million and \$74.6 million, respectively.

We record ceded premiums on the same basis as assumed premiums. Reinstatement premiums are estimated by management, based on the contract terms, at the time of the loss occurrence giving rise to the reinstatement.

28

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR 2003, 2002 AND 2001:

The following table presents our consolidated results by segment.

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31		
	Reinsurance	Individual Risk	Eliminations (Income)
Gross premiums written	\$ 956,257	\$ 446,724	\$ (20,772)
Net premiums written	\$ 789,769	\$ 362,754	

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Net premiums earned	\$ 809,360	\$ 306,383
Claims and claim expenses incurred	209,197	158,547
Acquisition expenses	93,227	100,913
Operational expenses	52,504	14,893

Underwriting income	\$ 454,432	\$ 32,030

Net investment income		
Other income		
Other items, net		
Interest, preferred share dividends, Capital Securities minority interest		
Minority interest - DaVinciRe		
Net realized gains on investments		

Net income available to common shareholders ...		

Claims and claim expense ratio	25.8%	51.7%
Underwriting expense ratio	18.0%	37.8%

Combined ratio	43.8%	89.5%

(1) Represents premium ceded from Individual Risk segment to Reinsurance segment

	Year ended December 31		
(in thousands)	Reinsurance	Individual Risk	Eliminations (1)

Gross premiums written	\$ 912,695	\$ 282,579	\$ (22,225)

Net premiums written	\$ 696,610	\$ 227,101	

Net premiums earned	\$ 667,926	\$ 92,979	
Claims and claim expenses incurred	249,316	40,209	
Acquisition expenses	70,698	24,946	
Operational expenses	39,264	9,895	

Underwriting income	\$ 308,648	\$ 17,929	

Net investment income			
Other income			
Other items, net			
Interest, preferred share dividends, Capital Securities minority interest			
Minority interest - DaVinciRe			
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle			
Net realized gains on investments			

Net income available to common shareholders ...			

Claims and claim expense ratio	37.3%	43.2%	
Underwriting expense ratio	16.5%	37.5%	

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Combined ratio 53.8% 80.7%

(1) Represents premium ceded from Individual Risk segment to Reinsurance segment

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

29

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31, 2001		
	Reinsurance	Individual Risk	Other
Gross premiums written	\$ 451,364	\$ 49,957	\$ --
Net premiums written	\$ 326,680	\$ 12,867	--
Net premiums earned	\$ 325,223	\$ 7,842	--
Claims and claim expenses incurred	152,341	(2,424)	--
Acquisition expenses	44,029	1,330	--
Operational expenses	28,198	10,405	--
Underwriting income	\$ 100,655	\$ (1,469)	--
Net investment income			75,156
Other income			16,244
Other items, net			\$ (27,414)
Interest, preferred share dividends, Capital Securities minority interest			(16,151)
Minority interest - DaVinciRe			(751)
Net realized gains on investments			18,096
Net income available to common shareholders ..			\$ 65,180
Claims and claim expense ratio	46.8%	(30.9%)	--
Underwriting expense ratio	22.2%	149.6%	--
Combined ratio	69.0%	118.7%	--

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

For the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 our net premiums earned increased by \$354.8 million and \$427.8 million, respectively, or 47% and 128%, respectively. These increases were primarily due to the market dislocation which occurred after the World Trade Center disaster, and the significant losses stemming from this event. These losses caused an imbalance in the supply and demand for our insurance and reinsurance products, and as a result, we increased our written premiums, in both our established property catastrophe line and our specialty reinsurance line, and also increased our premiums in our Individual Risk operations. Contributing to the increase in Individual Risk operations during 2003 was the continued growth of: 1) our Program Manager distribution channel, where we write primary insurance through specialized program managers; and 2) our Quota Share Reinsurance distribution channel, where we write quota share reinsurance with primary insurers (see below for underwriting results by segment).

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

With our increase in premiums written, we generally have also experienced related increases in: 1) claims and claim expenses incurred; 2) acquisition expenses; 3) operational expenses; and 4) net income. However, during 2003, we produced a claims and claim expense ratio of 33.0%, which was aided by reductions of prior years estimated ultimate claims reserves of \$95 million, and by an estimate of approximately \$40 million of reduced losses due to a reduced level of catastrophe loss events occurring in 2003.

NET INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year ended December 31,		
(in thousands)	2003	2002	2001
Net investment income	\$ 129,542	\$ 102,686	\$ 75,156

During 2003 we increased the amount of investments allocated to other investments. These investments are carried at fair value, with interest, dividend income, realized gains (losses) and unrealized gains (losses) included in investment income. During 2003, we recorded \$25.9 million of net investment income from these other investments (2002 - \$0.4 million loss), which were largely responsible for the increase in net investment income during 2003 (see Investments). The increase in our net investment income in 2002 as compared with 2001 was due to the significant increase in our invested assets from \$2.2 billion at December 31, 2001 to \$3.1 billion at December 31, 2002, which was generated primarily from strong cash flows from operations of \$778 million. Also, in the latter half of 2001 we raised \$785 million from financing activities which was available for us for investment purposes for the full year of 2002.

30

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

OTHER INCOME

	Year ended December 31,		
(in thousands)	2003	2002	2001
Property catastrophe business -			
fee income	\$ 7,655	\$ 3,882	\$ 8,643
Property catastrophe business -			
equity earnings -			
Top Layer Re	21,167	22,339	9,663
Other items	(1,752)	6,600	(2,062)
Total other income	\$ 27,070	\$ 32,821	\$ 16,244

The majority of our other income is generated from our 50% equity ownership in Top Layer Re. The increase in property catastrophe business - fee income during 2003 was primarily due to the \$4 million annual fee we receive related to services provided to Platinum. The reduction in other items is primarily related to the derivative income we received in 2002 (as noted below), which did not repeat in 2003.

During 2002, the significant increase in our equity earnings from Top Layer Re was due to the increase in the premiums written by Top Layer Re, from \$38.8 million in 2001 to \$73.0 million in 2002, and the resultant net income from

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

those premiums. Also in 2002, income from other items increased due primarily to \$7.2 million of income related to derivative instruments under which recoveries are triggered by an industry loss index or geological or physical variables.

CORPORATE EXPENSES

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Corporate expenses	\$ 16,043	\$ 14,327	\$ 11,485

Corporate expenses include expenses related to legal and certain consulting expenses, costs for research and development, and other miscellaneous costs associated with operating as a publicly traded company. The increase in corporate expenses during 2003 primarily related to an increase in the cost for directors' and officers' insurance and increases in fees to comply with recently adopted regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including those related to complying with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The majority of the increase in corporate expenses in 2002 primarily related to \$1.9 million increase in legal costs and \$1.2 million of costs related to accelerated vesting of equity compensation.

INTEREST, CAPITAL SECURITIES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Interest - revolving credit facilities	\$ 2,318	\$ 2,569	\$2,378
Interest - \$150 million 7.0%			
Senior Notes	10,500	10,500	4,871
Interest - \$100 million			
5.875% Senior Notes	5,434	--	--
Dividends - \$103.1 million			
Capital Securities	7,470	7,605	7,484
Dividends - \$150 million 8.1%			
Series A - Preference Shares	12,150	12,184	1,418
Dividends - \$100 million 7.3%			
Series B - Preference Shares	6,651	--	--
Total interest and Capital Securities and preferred share dividends	\$44,523	\$32,858	\$16,151

Our interest payments and preferred dividends increased during 2003, primarily as a result of the issuance of \$100 million 5.875% Senior Notes and the issuance of \$100 million 7.3% Series B Preference Shares. This capital was raised to support the growth in our insurance and reinsurance operations.

Our interest payments and preferred dividends increased during 2002, primarily as a result of the timing of our capital raising activities, which occurred in the latter half of 2001. Accordingly, during 2002, the balance of the 7.0% Senior Notes and the 8.1% Series A - Preference Shares were outstanding for the

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

entire year, and we incurred a full year of charges related to these securities during 2002 as compared to a partial year of charges during 2001.

INCOME TAX EXPENSE (BENEFIT)

	Year ended December 31,		
(in thousands)	2003	2002	2001
Income tax expense (benefit)	\$ (18)	\$ (115)	\$ 14,262

During 2003 and 2002, we wrote a limited amount of business in our U.S. operations, and, therefore, our U.S. net income was minimal and the related tax impact for 2003 and 2002 was also minimal.

During 2001, we also had little or no net income in the U.S., however, at December 31, 2001 we had accumulated a \$26.9 million deferred tax asset. As a result of the limited number of attractive opportunities in the U.S. primary insurance market at that time, we decided to increase our valuation allowance by \$14.0 million. At December 31, 2003, the gross and net balance of the deferred tax asset was \$33.3 million and \$4.0 million, respectively.

We currently plan to continue to increase the business written by our U.S. insurance subsidiary. If, as a result, our U.S. operations begin to generate taxable income, the appropriateness of the valuation allowance will be reassessed and, accordingly,

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

31

potential profits from our U.S. operations would possibly not have a corresponding offset for tax expenses, up to the \$29.3 million valuation allowance recorded at December 31, 2003.

NET REALIZED GAINS ON INVESTMENTS

	Year ended December 31,		
(in thousands)	2003	2002	2001
Net realized gains on investments	\$ 80,504	\$ 10,177	\$ 18,096

Because our investment portfolio is structured to preserve capital and provide us with a high level of liquidity, a large majority of our investments are invested in the fixed income markets and, therefore, our realized holding gains and losses on investments are highly correlated to fluctuations in interest rates. Therefore, as interest rates decline, as occurred in 2003, 2002 and 2001, we will tend to have realized gains from the turn over of our investment portfolio, and as interest rates increase, we will tend to have realized losses from the turnover of our investment portfolio, although the actual amount of realized gains (losses) on sales of investments can be reduced depending on which specific securities we choose to sell.

The amount of the realized gains or realized losses that will be recorded in the future will be dependent upon the level of our investments, the changes in the interest rate environment and how quickly or slowly we choose to turn over our investment portfolio.

CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF A CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE - GOODWILL

Effective January 1, 2002, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Standard ("SFAS") 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." In the second quarter of 2002, the Company completed its initial impairment review in compliance with the transition provisions of SFAS 142 and, as a result, the Company decided to record goodwill at zero value, the low end of an estimated range of values, and wrote off the balance of its goodwill during the second quarter of 2002, which totaled \$9.2 million. In accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142, this is required to be recorded as a cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle in the consolidated statement of income and is required to be recorded retroactive to January 1, 2002.

UNDERWRITING RESULTS BY SEGMENT

We conduct our business through two reportable segments, Reinsurance and Individual Risk. Our Reinsurance segment provides reinsurance through our catastrophe reinsurance and specialty reinsurance business units and through Renaissance Underwriting Managers. Our Individual Risk segment provides primary insurance and quota share reinsurance.

Our underwriting results by segment are provided below:

REINSURANCE SEGMENT

Our Reinsurance operations are comprised of three business units: 1) property catastrophe reinsurance, primarily written through Renaissance Reinsurance and DaVinci; 2) specialty reinsurance, primarily written through Renaissance Reinsurance and DaVinci; and 3) certain activities of Renaissance Underwriting Managers.

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and ratios for the Reinsurance segment for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001:

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
<hr/>			
Property catastrophe premium(1)			
Renaissance	\$488,124	\$455,628	\$373,896
DaVinci	155,541	187,822	--
<hr/>			
Total property catastrophe premium	643,665	643,450	373,896
Specialty premium			
Renaissance	268,506	247,020	77,468
DaVinci	23,314	--	--
<hr/>			
Total specialty premium	291,820	247,020	77,468
<hr/>			
Total Renaissance gross premium written	\$935,485	\$890,470	\$451,364
<hr/>			
Net premium written	\$789,769	\$696,610	\$326,680
<hr/>			
Net premium earned - property catastrophe	\$498,747	\$462,471	\$261,054
Net premium earned - specialty	310,613	205,455	64,169
<hr/>			
Total net premium earned	809,360	667,926	325,223
Claims and claim expenses incurred	209,197	249,316	152,341
Acquisition expenses	93,227	70,698	44,029
Operational expenses	52,504	39,264	28,198
<hr/>			
Underwriting income	\$454,432	\$308,648	\$100,655

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Claims and claim expense ratio	25.8%	37.3%	46.8%
Underwriting expense ratio	18.0%	16.5%	22.2%

Combined ratio	43.8%	53.8%	69.0%

(1) Excludes combined premium assumed from the Individual Risk segment of \$20.8 million and \$22.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Premiums

Property catastrophe - During 2003 our consolidated property catastrophe premiums remained relatively flat, primarily due to increased competition and due to some softening of prices in the market, where we accordingly chose not to renew certain policies.

The increase in our property catastrophe premiums during 2002 was primarily due to an improving market following 1) the World Trade Center disaster in 2001 and 2) insured losses from nine significant worldwide catastrophic events in 1999. Because of these events, as with many large losses, two changes occurred in 2002: 1) many reinsurers recorded significant losses and were forced to, or chose to, withdraw their underwriting capacity from these regions; and 2) these losses raised the awareness of the severity of the losses which could

32

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

impact these geographic locations. As a result of these factors, prices for reinsurance coverages in these and other geographic locations increased, in some cases significantly. Accordingly, our 2002 reinsurance premiums also increased, firstly from the increased prices on renewing policies and secondly by enabling us to write new business which was previously priced at an uneconomical rate of return.

During 2004 we expect this market to remain relatively competitive which would cause a corresponding reduction in pricing. Accordingly, we expect that the level of our property catastrophe premiums will decrease in 2004.

Specialty reinsurance - During 2003 our consolidated specialty reinsurance premiums increased by \$45 million or 18%. This increase was primarily due to our continued focus on a few targeted areas of this market where we believe we can leverage our expertise. The markets representing the majority of the increase were the catastrophe exposed workers' compensation market and the market for terrorism-specific reinsurance.

During 2002, the factors that caused the improved market conditions in the property catastrophe market also contributed to improving market conditions in the lines of specialty reinsurance which we write, and subsequent to the World Trade Center disaster, we significantly increased our participation in this market. We categorize our specialty reinsurance premiums as reinsurance coverages that are not specifically property catastrophe coverages. Examples of specialty lines of reinsurance coverages provided by us include catastrophe exposed workers' compensation, surety, aviation and terrorism.

Gross premiums written by geographic region

The following is a summary of our reinsurance premiums by geographic region.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Property catastrophe			
United States and Caribbean	\$297,954	\$310,090	\$180,305
Europe	156,156	86,461	20,414
Worldwide	126,541	169,790	93,474
Australia and New Zealand	26,588	2,127	12,159
Worldwide (excluding U.S.) (1)	14,968	56,628	45,111
Other	21,458	18,354	22,433
Specialty reinsurance(2)	291,820	247,020	77,468
Total reinsurance gross			
premiums written(3)	\$935,485	\$890,470	\$451,364

- (1) The category "Worldwide (excluding U.S.)" consists of contracts that cover more than one geographic region (other than the U.S.). The exposure in this category for gross written premiums written to date is predominantly from Europe and Japan.
- (2) The category specialty reinsurance consists of contracts that are predominantly exposed to U.S. risks, with a small portion of the risks being Worldwide.
- (3) Excludes \$20.8 million and \$22.2 million of total premium assumed by the Reinsurance segment from the Individual Risk segment in 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Ceded premiums written

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Ceded premiums written	\$ 166,488	\$ 216,085	\$ 124,684

Because of the potential volatility of the property catastrophe reinsurance business, we purchase reinsurance to reduce our exposure to large losses. We use our REMS(C) modeling system to evaluate how each purchase interacts with our portfolio of reinsurance contracts we write, and with the other ceded reinsurance contracts we purchase, to determine the appropriateness of the pricing of each contract. During 2003, we reduced the level of reinsurance purchased because of the reduction in the availability of appropriately priced opportunities.

During 2002, the majority of the increase in our ceded reinsurance premiums was from placements of quota share reinsurance agreements for participations in our property catastrophe book of business. In accordance with these agreements we retain fees and have the right to receive profit commissions associated with these cessions. The fees and profit commissions are reflected as a reduction to operating expenses and acquisition expenses, respectively.

Although we would remain liable to the extent that any of our reinsurers fail to pay our claims, before placing reinsurance we evaluate the financial condition of our reinsurers. At December 31, 2003, the majority of the \$149.2 million of net losses recoverable relates to outstanding claims reserves on our books, and, in accordance with the terms of the policies, we generally must wait to collect

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

from our reinsurers until we pay the underlying claims. We expect to fully collect the recorded net balance of the losses recoverable.

To the extent that appropriately priced coverage is available, we anticipate continued use of reinsurance to reduce the potential volatility of our results.

Underwriting results

The increase in our 2003 net underwriting income from our Reinsurance segment was primarily the result of three factors: 1) the comparably low level of property catastrophe losses during 2003 which contributed approximately \$40 million of a reduction in claims and claim expenses; 2) favorable development on prior period reserves which contributed \$70 million of a reduction in claims and claim expenses; and 3) the increase in our net reinsurance premiums earned during 2003, as a result of our increase in gross written property catastrophe premiums in 2002 and the increase in our gross written specialty reinsurance premiums in 2002 and 2003 (see "Premiums" above).

The increase in our 2002 net underwriting income from our Reinsurance segment was primarily the result of three factors: 1) the low level of property catastrophe losses during 2002; 2) the increase in our net reinsurance premiums earned during 2002, a result of our increase in gross written property catastrophe and specialty reinsurance premiums; and 3) the inception of DaVinci's operations during 2002.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

33

Losses from our property catastrophe reinsurance and specialty reinsurance policies can be infrequent, but severe; however during periods with benign property catastrophe loss activity, such as 2003 and 2002, we have the potential to produce a low level of losses and a related increase in underwriting income. Although this occurred during 2003 and 2002, there can be no guarantee that this reduced level of losses will occur in 2004 or beyond.

Also during 2003 and 2002, as discussed in the "Premiums" section above, we significantly increased our specialty reinsurance premiums written. Although specialty reinsurance premiums will normally produce higher claims and claim expenses than the property catastrophe reinsurance business, the reduction in our losses resulting from the low level of catastrophe losses during 2003 and 2002 and the reductions in prior year property catastrophe reserves during 2003 more than offset the increased level of loss activity arising from our specialty reinsurance premiums.

Our underwriting expenses consist of acquisition expenses and operational expenses. Acquisition expenses consist of costs to acquire premiums and are principally comprised of broker commissions and excise taxes. Acquisition expenses are driven by contract terms and are normally a set percentage of premiums and, accordingly, these costs will normally fluctuate in line with the fluctuation in premiums. Operational expenses consist of salaries and other general and administrative expenses. Our reinsurance business operates with a limited number of employees and we were able to grow our written premiums without proportionally increasing our operating expenses during 2002. The increase in underwriting expenses during 2003 was primarily due to an increase in acquisition costs on our specialty reinsurance business, which is attributable to commission costs related to certain quota share premiums written in 2003 which typically carry higher acquisition costs than our excess of loss contracts.

Recently, we have entered into joint ventures and specialized quota share cessions of our book of business. In accordance with the joint venture and quota share agreements, we are entitled to certain fee income and profit commissions. We record these fees and profit commissions as a reduction in acquisition

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

expenses or operating expenses and accordingly these fees have also contributed to the reduction in our expense ratio.

INDIVIDUAL RISK SEGMENT

We define our Individual Risk segment to include underwriting that involves understanding the characteristics of the original underlying insurance policy. Our principal products include: 1) commercial and homeowners property coverages, including catastrophe-exposed lines; 2) commercial liability coverages, including general, automobile, professional and various specialty lines; and 3) reinsurance to other insurers on a quota share basis. We operate through the Glencoe Group of companies, whose principal operating subsidiaries are Glencoe, Stonington and Lantana.

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and ratios for the Individual Risk segment for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002, and 2001:

(in thousands)	Year ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Gross premiums written	\$446,724	\$282,579	\$ 49,957
Net premiums written	\$362,754	\$227,101	\$ 12,867
Net premiums earned	\$306,383	\$ 92,979	\$ 7,842
Claims and claim expenses			
incurred	158,547	40,209	(2,424)
Acquisition expenses	100,913	24,946	1,330
Operational expenses	14,893	9,895	10,405
Underwriting income	\$ 32,030	\$ 17,929	\$ (1,469)
Claims and claim expense ratio	51.7%	43.2%	(30.9)%
Underwriting expense ratio	37.8%	37.5%	149.6%
Combined ratio	89.5%	80.7%	118.7%

Premiums

The increase in our premiums from our Individual Risk operations was as a result of an improving market environment due primarily to: 1) the increase in demand for insurance and reinsurance protection, and the withdrawal of supply, as a result of the substantial losses stemming from the World Trade Center disaster in 2001; 2) the ongoing increase to prior year reserves for many companies with asbestos and environmental liabilities; and 3) the continuing increases to prior year reserves for companies who participated in the casualty market of the late 1990's. As a result of these items, many insurance companies in the U.S. have withdrawn from the U.S. insurance market, and many insurance companies have had their credit ratings substantially reduced. In response to these dislocations, we received numerous opportunities to partner with program managers who were looking for high quality, stable companies with which to do business. Also, because of our financial strength and our strong credit ratings, we received increasing opportunities to work with existing insurance companies on a quota share basis.

Ceded premiums written

Year ended December 31,

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

(in thousands)	2003	2002	2001
Ceded premiums written(1)	\$ 63,198	\$ 33,253	\$ 37,090

(1) Excludes \$20.8 million and \$22.2 million of premium ceded to Renaissance Reinsurance and DaVinci in 2003 and 2002, respectively.

We purchase reinsurance to reduce our exposure to large losses. With the continued growth in the gross written premiums of our Individual Risk segment, we continued to look for and were able to find opportunities to purchase appropriately priced reinsurance coverage. To the extent that appropriately priced coverage is available, we anticipate continued use of reinsurance to reduce the potential volatility of our results.

34

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

Underwriting results

The increases in the 2003 and 2002 net underwriting income of our Individual Risk segment were primarily due to the growth in net earned premiums by \$213.4 million and \$85.1 million, respectively (as discussed above). In the future, the combined ratio in our Individual Risk segment could fluctuate due to catastrophe losses, adverse development or losses from other coverages that we write. During 2003 we began issuing insurance policies for certain commercial liability coverages, including general, automobile and professional liability risks. The claim reporting and claim development periods of these risks are longer than the reporting and development periods for our property risks, and accordingly there is normally greater uncertainty in the estimation of the reserves associated with these policies.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

RenaissanceRe is a holding company, and we therefore rely on dividends from our subsidiaries and investment income to make principal and interest payments on our debt and capital securities, and to make dividend payments to our preference and common shareholders.

The payment of dividends by our Bermuda subsidiaries is, under certain circumstances, limited under U.S. statutory regulations and Bermuda insurance law, which require our Bermuda insurance subsidiaries to maintain certain measures of solvency and liquidity. At December 31, 2003, the statutory capital and surplus of our Bermuda insurance subsidiaries was \$2.4 billion, and the amount of capital and surplus required to be maintained was \$457.5 million. During 2003, Renaissance Reinsurance, DaVinci and Glencoe declared aggregate cash dividends of \$322.3 million, \$81.6 million and \$18.0 million, respectively, compared with \$224.3 million, \$3.5 million and \$nil, respectively, in 2002.

Our U.S. insurance subsidiary, Stonington, is also required to maintain certain measures of solvency and liquidity. This is determined using risk based capital tests, which is the threshold that constitutes the authorized control level. If Stonington's statutory capital and surplus falls below the authorized control level, the commissioner is authorized to take whatever regulatory actions are considered necessary to protect policyholders and creditors. At December 31, 2003, the statutory capital and surplus of Stonington was \$28.8 million and the maximum dividend we can pay in 2004 without prior approval is \$2.6 million.

Our operating subsidiaries have historically produced sufficient cash flows to meet their own expected claims payments and operational expenses and to provide dividend payments to us. Our subsidiaries also maintain a concentration of investments in high quality liquid securities, which management believes will provide additional liquidity for extraordinary claims payments should the need

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

arise. Additionally, we maintain a \$400 million credit facility to meet additional liquidity and capital requirements, if necessary.

CASH FLOWS

Cash flows from operating activities for 2003 were \$820.4 million, which principally consisted of net income of \$623.4 million (prior to dividends on preference shares), plus \$223.4 million for increases to net reserves for claims and claim expenses. The 2003 cash flows from operations were primarily used to increase the investment portfolio, including fixed income securities and other investments.

We have generated cash flows from operations in 2003, 2002 and 2001 significantly in excess of our operating commitments. Because a large portion of the coverages we provide typically can produce losses of high severity and low frequency, it is not possible to accurately predict our future cash flows from operating activities. As a consequence, cash flows from operating activities may fluctuate, perhaps significantly, between individual quarters and years.

RESERVES FOR CLAIMS AND CLAIM EXPENSES

As discussed in the Summary of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates, for insurance and reinsurance companies, the most significant accounting judgment made by management is the estimation of the claims and claim expense reserves. Because of the variability and uncertainty associated with loss estimation, it is possible that our individual case reserves are incorrect, possibly materially.

A large portion of our coverages provide protection from natural and man-made catastrophes which are generally infrequent, but can be significant, such as losses from hurricanes and earthquakes. Our claims and claim expense reserves will generally fluctuate, sometimes materially, based upon the occurrence of a significant natural or man-made catastrophic loss for which we provide reinsurance. Our claims reserves will also fluctuate based on the payments we make for these large loss events. The timing of our payments on loss events can be affected by the event causing the loss, the location of the loss, and whether our losses are from policies with insurers or reinsurers.

During 2002 and 2003 we increased our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk gross written premiums (see "Premiums"). The addition of these lines of business adds complexity to our claims reserving process and therefore adds uncertainty to our claims reserve estimates as the reporting of information, the setting of initial reserves and the loss settlement process for these lines of business vary from our traditional property catastrophe line of business.

For our Reinsurance and Individual Risk operations, our estimates of claims reserves include case reserves reported to us as well as our estimate of IBNR losses to us. Our case reserve and our estimates for IBNR reserves are based on 1) claims reports from insureds and program managers; 2) our underwriters' experience in setting claims reserves; 3) the use of computer models where applicable; and 4) historical industry claims experience. For some classes of business we also use statistical and actuarial methods to estimate ultimate expected claims and claim expenses. We review our claims reserves on a regular basis. (Also see "Summary of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates.")

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

35

CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our total capital resources at December 31, 2003 and 2002 were as follows:

	At December 31,	

(in thousands)	2003	2002

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Common shareholders' equity	\$2,084,643	\$1,492,035
Preference shares	250,000	150,000
Total shareholders' equity	2,334,643	1,642,035
7.0% Senior Notes	150,000	150,000
8.54% subordinated obligation to Capital Trust	103,093	84,630
5.875% Senior Notes	100,000	--
DaVinci revolving credit facility - borrowed	100,000	100,000
Revolving credit facility - unborrowed	400,000	310,000
Term and revolving loan facility ..	--	25,000
Total capital resources	\$3,187,736	\$2,311,665

During 2003, our capital resources increased primarily as a result of three items: 1) our net income available to common shareholders of \$604.6 million; 2) the issuance of \$100.0 million of 5.875% Senior Notes; and 3) the issuance of \$100.0 million of Series B preference shares.

In February 2003, we raised \$100 million through the issuance of 4,000,000 Series B preference shares, and in November 2001, we raised \$150 million through the issuance of 6,000,000 Series A Preference Shares. The Series B and Series A preference shares may be redeemed at \$25 per share at our option on or after February 4, 2008 and November 19, 2006, respectively; however we have no current intentions to redeem the shares. Dividends on the Series B and Series A preference shares are cumulative from the date of original issuance and are payable quarterly in arrears at 7.3% and 8.1%, respectively, when, if, and as declared by the Board of Directors. If we submit a proposal to our shareholders concerning an amalgamation or submit any proposal that, as a result of any changes to Bermuda law, requires approval of the holders of our preference shares to vote as a single class, we may redeem the Series B and Series A preference shares prior to February 4, 2008 and November 19, 2006, respectively, at \$26 per share. The preference shares have no stated maturity and are not convertible into any other of our securities.

In January 2003, we issued \$100 million of 5.875% Senior Notes due February 15, 2013, with interest on the notes payable on February 15 and August 15 of each year, commencing August 15, 2003. In July 2001, we issued \$150 million of 7.0% Senior Notes due July 15, 2008 with interest on the notes payable on January 15 and July 15 of each year. The notes can be redeemed by us prior to maturity subject to payment of a "make-whole" premium; however, we have no current intentions of calling the notes. The notes, which are senior obligations, contain various covenants, including limitations on mergers and consolidations, restriction as to the disposition of stock of designated subsidiaries and limitations on liens on the stock of designated subsidiaries. RenaissanceRe was in compliance with the related covenants at December 31, 2003 and 2002.

Our Capital Trust has issued Capital Securities which pay cumulative cash distributions at an annual rate of 8.54%, payable semi-annually. During 2003, RenaissanceRe did not purchase any of the Capital Securities (2002 - \$3.0 million purchased). RenaissanceRe has purchased an aggregate \$15.4 million of the Capital Securities since their issuance in 1997. The sole asset of the Capital Trust consists of our junior subordinated debentures. The Indenture relating to these junior subordinated debentures contains certain covenants, including a covenant prohibiting us from the payment of dividends if we are in default under the Indenture. We were in compliance with all of the covenants of the Indenture at December 31, 2003. The Capital Securities mature on March 1,

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

2027.

Effective December 31, 2003, we adopted FASB Interpretation No. 46, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities - an interpretation of ARB No. 51" ("FIN 46"). FIN 46 requires consolidation of all Variable Interest Entities ("VIE") by the investor that will absorb a majority of the VIE's expected losses or residual returns. As further discussed in Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, the Capital Trust was determined to be a VIE under FIN 46 and the Company has been determined not to be the primary beneficiary of the Capital Trust. Accordingly, the Capital Trust has been deconsolidated effective December 31, 2003. As a result, the accounts of the Capital Trust, principally the Capital Securities previously classified as minority interest, are not included in our consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2003. Our \$103.1 million subordinated obligation to the Capital Trust, previously eliminated in consolidation, is recorded on our consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2003 as a liability.

On April 19, 2002, DaVinciRe entered into a credit agreement providing for a \$100 million committed revolving credit facility. On May 10, 2002, DaVinciRe borrowed the full \$100 million available under this facility to repay \$100 million of bridge financing provided by RenaissanceRe. Neither RenaissanceRe nor Renaissance Reinsurance is a guarantor of this facility and the lenders have no recourse against us or our subsidiaries other than DaVinciRe and its subsidiary under the DaVinciRe facility. Pursuant to the terms of the \$400 million facility maintained by RenaissanceRe, a default by DaVinciRe in its obligations will not result in a default under the RenaissanceRe facility. At December 31, 2003, the full amount was outstanding under this facility. Interest rates on the facility are based on a spread above LIBOR, and averaged approximately 2.09% during 2003 (2002 - 2.63%). The credit agreement contains certain covenants requiring DaVinciRe to maintain a debt to capital ratio of 30% or below and a minimum net worth of \$230 million. At December 31, 2003, DaVinciRe was in compliance with the covenants of this agreement.

36

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

Under the terms of certain reinsurance contracts, we may be required to provide letters of credit to reinsureds in respect of reported claims and/or unearned premiums. At December 31, 2003, we had outstanding letters of credit aggregating \$346.9 million. Also, in connection with our Top Layer Re joint venture we have committed \$37.5 million of collateral to support a letter of credit.

Our principal letter of credit facility is a \$485 million syndicated secured facility which accepts as collateral shares issued by our subsidiary RIHL. Our participating operating subsidiaries and our managed joint ventures have pledged (and must maintain) RIHL shares issued to them with a sufficient collateral value to support their respective obligations under the facility, including reimbursement obligations for outstanding letters of credit. The participating subsidiaries and joint ventures also have the option to post alternative forms of collateral. In addition, for liquidity purposes, each participating subsidiary and joint venture must maintain additional unpledged RIHL shares that have a net asset value at least equal to 15% of its facility usage, and in the aggregate the net asset value of all unpledged RIHL shares must be maintained at least equal to 15% of all of the outstanding RIHL shares. In the case of a default under the facility, or in other circumstances in which the rights of our lenders to collect on their collateral may be impaired, the lenders may exercise certain remedies under the facility agreement, in accordance with and subject to its terms, including redemption of pledged shares and conversion of the collateral into cash or eligible marketable securities. The redemption of shares by the collateral agent takes priority over any pending redemption of unpledged shares by us or other holders. In November 2003, the term of this facility was extended through March 31, 2004, and in January 2004, this facility was

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

increased to \$485 million from \$385 million. On March 12, 2004, we accepted a commitment letter from Wachovia and Wachovia Securities in which Wachovia confirmed its commitment to provide up to \$150 million of an amended facility in the amount of \$585 million and having a term of 365 days from closing. Wachovia Securities also agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to arrange for a syndicate of lenders to provide the balance of the increased facility. The syndication and closing of the facility are subject to customary terms and conditions for letter of credit facilities of this type and size and Wachovia's commitment is also subject to the receipt of commitments from other lenders for the balance of the increased facility.

On August 8, 2003, we amended and restated our committed revolving credit agreement to increase the facility from \$310 million to \$400 million and to make certain other changes. The interest rates on this facility are based on a spread above LIBOR. No balance was outstanding at December 31, 2003. As amended, the agreement contains certain financial covenants. These covenants generally provide that consolidated debt to capital shall not exceed the ratio (the "Debt to Capital Ratio") of 0.35:1 and that the consolidated net worth (the "Net Worth Requirements") of RenaissanceRe and Renaissance Reinsurance shall equal or exceed \$1 billion and \$500 million, respectively, subject to certain adjustments under certain circumstances in the case of the Debt to Capital Ratio and certain grace periods in the case of the Net Worth Requirements, all as more fully set forth in the agreement. The scheduled commitment termination date under the amended agreement is August 8, 2006.

Our subsidiary, Glencoe U.S., had a \$10.0 million term loan and \$15.0 million revolving loan facility with a syndicate of commercial banks. The term loan and revolving credit facility were repaid in full in June 2003 in accordance with the mandatory repayment provisions and the facility was terminated.

SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

During 2003, shareholders' equity increased by \$692.6 million to \$2.3 billion at December 31, 2003, from \$1.6 billion at December 31, 2002. The significant components of the change in shareholders' equity included net income available to common shareholders of \$604.6 million and the issuance of \$100 million Series B preference shares.

From time to time, we have returned capital to our shareholders through share repurchases. In August 2003, the Board authorized a share repurchase program of \$150 million. This authorization includes the remaining amounts available under prior authorizations. No shares were repurchased during 2003 or 2002. In the future, we may purchase shares under our current authorization, or increase the size of our repurchase program. Any such determination will be subject to market conditions and numerous other factors.

INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2003, we held investments and cash totaling \$4.2 billion, compared to \$3.1 billion in 2002.

The table below shows the aggregate amounts of our invested assets:

	At December 31,		
(in thousands)	2003	2002	2001
Fixed maturities investments			
available for sale,			
at fair value	\$2,947,841	\$2,221,109	\$1,282,483
Short-term investments,			
at cost	660,564	570,497	733,925
Other investments,			
at fair value	370,280	129,918	38,307

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Equity investments in reinsurance company,			
at fair value	145,535	120,288	--
Cash and cash equivalents	63,397	87,067	139,715
Total investments			
and cash	\$4,187,617	\$3,128,879	\$2,194,430

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

37

The \$1.1 billion growth in our portfolio of invested assets for the year ended December 31, 2003 resulted primarily from net cash provided by operating activities of \$820.4 million, the issuance of \$100 million of 5.875% Senior Notes and the issuance of \$100 million Series B preference shares.

Because our coverages include substantial protection for damages resulting from natural and man-made catastrophes, we may become liable for substantial claim payments on short notice. Accordingly, our investment portfolio is structured to preserve capital and provide a high level of liquidity which means that the large majority of our investment portfolio consists of highly rated fixed income securities, including U.S. Treasuries, highly-rated sovereign and supranational securities, high-grade corporate securities and mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. At December 31, 2003, our invested asset portfolio of fixed maturities and short term investments had a dollar weighted average rating of AA, an average duration of 2.0 years and an average yield to maturity of 2.7%.

The equity investments in reinsurance company relate to our November 1, 2002 purchase of 3,960,000 common shares of Platinum in a private placement transaction. In addition, we received ten-year warrants to purchase up to 2.5 million additional common shares of Platinum for \$27.00 per share. We purchased the common shares and warrants for an aggregate price of \$84.2 million. At December 31, 2003, we owned 9.2% of Platinum's outstanding common shares. We have recorded our investment in Platinum at fair value, and at December 31, 2003 the aggregate fair value was \$145.5 million. The aggregate unrealized gain of \$61.3 million on the Platinum investment is included in accumulated other comprehensive income, of which \$26.7 million represents our best estimate of the value of the warrants.

At December 31, 2003, \$56.4 million of cash and cash equivalents and investments were invested in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, which represented 1.3% of our invested assets.

A portion of our investment assets are directly held by our subsidiary RIHL, a Bermuda company we organized for the primary purpose of holding the investments in high quality marketable securities for RenaissanceRe, our operating subsidiaries and certain of our joint venture affiliates. We believe that RIHL permits us to consolidate and substantially facilitate our investment management operations. RenaissanceRe and each of our participating operating subsidiaries and affiliates have transferred to RIHL marketable securities or other assets, in return for a subscription of RIHL equity interests. Each RIHL share is redeemable by the subscribing companies for cash or in marketable securities. Over time, the subsidiaries and joint ventures which participate in RIHL are expected to both subscribe for additional shares and redeem outstanding shares, as our and their respective liquidity needs change. RIHL is currently rated AAAf/S2 by S&P.

Other investments

Included in other investments are investments in hedge funds of \$170.1 million (2002 - \$61.4 million), a fund that invests in senior secured bank loans of \$77.2 million (2002 - \$20.4 million), a European high yield credit fund of \$38.3

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

million (2002 - \$nil) and private equity partnerships of \$24.2 million (2002 - \$14.6 million) (collectively "Investment Funds"). Also included in other investments are investments in a medium term note, representing an interest in a pool of European fixed income securities, of \$30.0 million (2002 - \$nil), catastrophe bonds of \$26.3 million (2002 - \$33.5 million) and miscellaneous investments of \$4.2 million (2002 - \$nil).

Fair values of Investment Funds noted above are generally established on the basis of the net valuation criteria established by the managers of the Investment Funds. These net valuations are determined based upon the valuation criteria established by the governing documents of such Investment Funds. Due to a lag in the valuations reported by the fund managers the majority of our Investment Funds are reported on a one month or one quarter lag. Such valuations may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had ready markets existed for the shares, partnership interests or notes of the Investment Funds. Many of the Investment Funds are subject to restrictions on redemptions which are determined by the governing documents and limit the Company's ability to liquidate these investments in the short term. Interest income, income distributions and realized and unrealized gains and losses on other investments, including Investment Funds, are included in net investment income and totaled \$25.9 million (2002 - loss of \$0.4 million) of which \$21.2 million (2002 - loss of \$1.4 million) was related to net unrealized gains (losses).

The hedge funds are engaged in various investment strategies, including event driven, diversified arbitrage, distressed, US long/short, global long/short and sector long/short with original capital contributed by us, generally in the range of \$5 million to \$15 million per fund. The loan fund primarily invests in senior secured floating rate loans. The medium term note is issued by an investment company which invests predominantly in investment-grade European fixed income securities and passes through a variable U.S. dollar return on the note based on the performance of the underlying securities. The European high yield credit fund is denominated in Euros and primarily invests in unlisted and listed fixed and floating rate debt securities issued by entities that are domiciled in or have a substantial portion of their total assets or operations in a European country. The private equity funds are primarily engaged in U.S. private equity, real estate, distressed securities and secondary investment strategies with initial capital commitments ranging from \$1.5 million to \$15 million. Catastrophe bonds generally include variable rate notes where the return is contingent upon climatical or geological events.

38

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

We have committed capital to private equity partnerships of \$109.1 million, of which \$20.3 million has been contributed at December 31, 2003.

NON-INDEMNITY INDEX TRANSACTIONS

We have assumed risk through catastrophe and derivative instruments under which losses could be triggered by an industry loss index or geological or physical variables. During 2003, 2002 and 2001 we recorded income (loss) on non-indemnity catastrophe index transactions of \$0.8 million, \$7.2 million, and (\$4.6 million). We report income (loss) from these transactions in other income.

EFFECTS OF INFLATION

The potential exists, after a catastrophe loss, for the development of inflationary pressures in a local economy. The anticipated effects on us are considered in our catastrophe loss models. The effects of inflation are also considered in pricing and in estimating reserves for unpaid claims and claim expenses. The actual effects of this post-event inflation on our results cannot be accurately known until claims are ultimately settled.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

OFF BALANCE SHEET AND SPECIAL PURPOSE ENTITY ARRANGEMENTS

At December 31, 2003, we have not entered into any off- balance sheet arrangements, as defined by Item 303 (a) (4) of Regulation S-K.

NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

Effective January 1, 2002, we adopted SFAS 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." (see Cumulative Effect of a Change in Accounting Principle - Goodwill.)

In December 2002, the FASB issued SFAS 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation - Transition and Disclosure" ("SFAS 148"), which amends SFAS 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" ("SFAS 123") and provides transitional disclosure requirements. For the years ended December 31, 2002 and for the prior years, we followed Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees" ("APB 25") and related interpretations in accounting for its employee stock compensation. Effective January 1, 2003, we adopted, prospectively, the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123 for all stock-based employee compensation granted, modified or settled after January 1, 2003. Under the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123, we estimate the fair value of employee stock options and other stock-based compensation on the date of grant and amortize this value as an expense over the vesting period.

In accordance with the transitional disclosure provisions of SFAS 148, the following table sets out the effect on our net income and earnings per share for all reported periods had the compensation cost been calculated based upon the fair value method recommended in SFAS 123:

(in thousands except per share data)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Net income available to common shareholders, as reported			
	\$ 604,647	\$ 364,814	\$ 164,366
add: stock-based employee compensation cost included in determination of net income			
	13,892	8,243	6,561
less: fair value compensation cost under SFAS 123			
	19,151	22,307	22,116
Pro forma net income available to common shareholders			
	\$ 599,388	\$ 350,750	\$ 148,811
Earnings per share			
Basic - as reported	\$ 8.76	\$ 5.40	\$ 2.76
Basic - pro forma	\$ 8.68	\$ 5.19	\$ 2.50
Diluted - as reported	\$ 8.52	\$ 5.20	\$ 2.63
Diluted - pro forma	\$ 8.44	\$ 5.00	\$ 2.39

Effective December 31, 2003, we adopted FASB Interpretation No. 46, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities - an interpretation of ARB No. 51" ("FIN 46"). FIN 46 requires consolidation of all Variable Interest Entities ("VIE") by the investor that will absorb a majority of the VIE's expected losses or residual returns. As further discussed in Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements, the Capital Trust was determined to be a VIE under FIN 46

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

and has been deconsolidated effective December 31, 2003. This has resulted in reclassifying certain balances. The adoption of FIN 46 did not have a material impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

CURRENT OUTLOOK

Although prices in the property insurance and reinsurance markets are beginning to decline, and the rate of increase in prices of the casualty insurance and reinsurance markets are also beginning to decline, we believe that the principal components of our operations continue to display strong fundamentals. (see Item 1. Business - "Industry Trends" for additional commentary about the overall market environment.) We currently anticipate the following developments in our business:

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

39

Reinsurance segment

We expect that our property catastrophe reinsurance premium will decline because a declining price environment will result in fewer transactions that meet our hurdle rate. We expect that specialty reinsurance premium will continue to increase both as a function of increasing prices and additions to our specialty underwriting staff. In addition, we believe that our position in the reinsurance market is increasingly strong as a result of our reputation for service, prompt claims payments, proprietary analytic tools and financial strength.

Individual Risk segment

We expect prices in the property insurance markets to decrease in 2004, and prices in certain specialty casualty insurance markets to continue to increase in 2004. Accordingly, in 2004 we expect our property insurance premiums to decrease and our premiums from the casualty insurance market to increase. Also, we believe that our strong infrastructure, our strong credit ratings and our financial strength will enable us to attract additional program managers who control attractive books of business and who are currently concerned with the credit ratings of their current insurance carriers. Because of these opportunities, we believe that our premiums in our Individual Risk segment for the full year 2004 will increase as compared with the total Individual Risk premiums for 2003.

Recognizing that there are many segments of the casualty market that remain unattractive even after recent price increases, we intend to be selective and write business only in those segments that we believe can produce an acceptable return on capital.

New business

The current market environment is also providing us with increased opportunities for our joint venture and structured product initiatives. In evaluating these initiatives, we may consider opportunities in other areas of the insurance and reinsurance markets, or in other financial markets, either through organic growth, the formation of new joint ventures, or the acquisition of other companies or books of business of other companies. We are currently in the process of reviewing certain opportunities and periodically engage in discussions regarding possible transactions, although there can be no assurance that we will complete any such transactions or that any such transaction would contribute materially to our results of operations or financial condition.

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

At December 31, 200

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

(in thousands)	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-
Long-term debt obligations(1)				
7.0% Senior Notes	\$202,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 21,000	\$
5.875% Senior Notes	153,615	5,875	11,750	
Capital Securities	297,800	8,540	17,080	
DiVinciRe revolving credit facility(2) .	102,586	1,950	100,636	
Private equity commitments	88,800	88,800	--	
Operating lease obligations	57,623	3,363	7,192	
Obligations under derivative contracts	7,146	1,553	3,104	
Total Contractual Obligations	\$910,070	\$120,581	\$160,762	\$

(1) Includes contractual interest and dividend payments.

(2) The interest on this facility is based on a spread above LIBOR. We reflected the interest due in 2004 and 2005 based upon the current interest rate on the facility.

40

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which, with respect to future business decisions, are subject to change. These uncertainties and contingencies can affect actual results and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, us.

In particular, statements using words such as "may," "should," "estimate," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "believe," "predict," "potential," or words of similar import generally involve forward-looking statements. For example, we have included certain forward-looking statements in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" with regard to trends in results, prices, volumes, operations, investment results, margins, combined ratios, reserves, overall market trends, risk management and exchange rates. This Annual Report also contains forward-looking statements with respect to our business and industry, such as those relating to our strategy and management objectives, trends in market conditions, prices, market standing and product volumes, investment results and pricing conditions in the reinsurance and insurance industries.

In light of the risks and uncertainties inherent in all future projections, the inclusion of forward-looking statements in this report should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our objectives or plans will be achieved. Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements, including the following:

- (1) the occurrence of natural or man-made catastrophic events with a frequency or severity exceeding our estimates;

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

- (2) risks associated with implementing our business strategies and initiatives for organic growth, including risks relating to managing that growth;
- (3) risks associated with the growth of our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk businesses, particularly the development of our infrastructure to support this growth;
- (4) risks relating to our strategy of relying on program managers, third party administrators, and other vendors to support our Individual Risk operations;
- (5) other risks of doing business with program managers, including the risk we might be bound to policyholder obligations beyond our underwriting intent, and the risk that our program managers or agents may elect not to continue or renew their programs with us;
- (6) possible challenges in maintaining our fee-based operations, including risks associated with retaining our existing partners and attracting potential new partners;
- (7) emerging claim and coverage issues, which could expand our obligations beyond the amount we intend to underwrite;
- (8) acts of terrorism, war or political unrest;
- (9) a decrease in the level of demand for our reinsurance or insurance business, or increased competition in the industry;
- (10) the inherent uncertainties in our reserving process, which we believe are increasing as we diversify into new product classes;
- (11) changes in economic conditions, including interest rate, currency, equity and credit conditions which could affect our investment portfolio;
- (12) actions of competitors, including industry consolidation, the launch of new entrants and the development of competing financial products;
- (13) extraordinary events affecting our clients, such as bankruptcies and liquidations, and the risk that we may not retain or replace our large clients;
- (14) the lowering or loss of any of the financial or claims-paying ratings of RenaissanceRe or of one or more of our subsidiaries or changes in the policies or practices of the rating agencies;
- (15) loss of services of any one of our key executive officers;
- (16) risks relating to the collectibility of our reinsurance, including both our Reinsurance and Individual Risk operations, as well as risks relating to the availability of coverage from creditworthy providers;
- (17) failures of our reinsurers, brokers or program managers to honor their obligations, including their obligations to make third party payments for which we might be liable;
- (18) changes in insurance regulations in the United States ("U.S.") or other jurisdictions in which we operate, including potential challenges to Renaissance Reinsurance's claim of exemption from insurance regulation under current laws, and the risk of increased global regulation of the insurance and reinsurance industry;

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

- (19) the passage of federal or state legislation subjecting Renaissance Reinsurance to supervision or regulation, including additional tax regulation, in the U.S. or other jurisdictions in which we operate; and
- (20) a contention by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service that our Bermuda subsidiaries, including Renaissance Reinsurance and Glencoe, are subject to U.S. taxation.

The factors listed above should not be construed as exhaustive. Certain of these factors are described in more detail in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, under the caption "Risk Factors." We undertake no obligation to release publicly the results of any future revisions we may make to forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

41

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the integrity of the consolidated financial statements and other financial information presented in this Annual Report. The accompanying consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, applying certain estimates and judgments as required.

The Company's internal controls are designed so that transactions are authorized and executed in accordance with management's authorization, to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the financial statements and to adequately safeguard the assets against unauthorized use or disposition. Such controls are based on established policies and procedures and are implemented by qualified personnel with an appropriate segregation of duties.

Ernst & Young, independent auditors, are retained to audit the Company's consolidated financial statements and express their opinion thereon. Their accompanying report is based on audits conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, which includes the consideration of the Company's internal controls and an examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These procedures enable them to obtain a reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and provide a reasonable basis for their opinion.

The Board of Directors exercises its responsibility for these financial statements through its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee meets periodically with the independent auditors, both privately and with management present, to review accounting, auditing, internal controls and financial reporting matters.

/s/ James N. Stanard
James N. Stanard
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ John M. Lummis
John M. Lummis
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

 TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS OF
 RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, in 2003 the Company changed its method of accounting for stock compensation and in 2002 the Company changed its method of accounting for goodwill.

/s/ Ernst & Young

Hamilton, Bermuda
 January 30, 2004

42
 RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.
 CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
 RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

	At December	

(In thousands of United States dollars, except per share amounts)	2003	-----

ASSETS		
Fixed maturity investments available for sale, at fair value		
(Amortized cost \$2,895,795 and \$2,153,715 at December 31, 2003 and		
December 31, 2002, respectively) (Note 3)	\$2,947,841	\$2
Short term investments, at cost	660,564	
Other investments, at fair value	370,280	

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Equity investments in reinsurance company, at fair value (Cost \$84,199 at December 31, 2003 and 2002)	145,535	
Cash and cash equivalents	63,397	
<hr/>		
TOTAL INVESTMENTS AND CASH	4,187,617	3
Premiums receivable	167,996	
Ceded reinsurance balances	56,852	
Losses recoverable (Note 4)	149,201	
Accrued investment income	22,793	
Deferred acquisition costs	75,261	
Other assets	69,982	
<hr/>		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,729,702	\$3
<hr/>		
LIABILITIES, MINORITY INTEREST AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Reserve for claims and claim expenses (Note 5)	\$977,892	
Reserve for unearned premiums	349,824	
Debt (Note 6)	350,000	
Subordinated obligation to capital trust (Note 7)	103,093	
Reinsurance balances payable	131,629	
Other liabilities	52,123	
<hr/>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,964,561	1
<hr/>		
Minority Interest - mandatorily redeemable capital securities of a subsidiary trust holding solely junior subordinated debentures of the Company (Note 7)	--	
Minority Interest - DaVinci (Note 8)	430,498	
<hr/>		
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (Note 9)		
Preference Shares: \$1.00 par value - 10,000,000 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2003 (2002 - 6,000,000)	250,000	
Common shares and additional paid-in capital: \$1.00 par value - 70,398,699 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2003 - (2002 - 69,749,826 shares)	314,414	
Unearned stock grant compensation	--	
Accumulated other comprehensive income	113,382	
Retained earnings	1,656,847	1
<hr/>		
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	2,334,643	1
<hr/>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES, MINORITY INTEREST AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$4,729,702	\$3
<hr/>		

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

43

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

	Years Ended Decem	
(In thousands of United States dollars, except per share amounts)	2003	2002
REVENUES		
Gross premiums written	\$1,382,209	\$1,173,049
Net premiums written	\$1,152,523	\$923,711
Increase in unearned premiums	(36,780)	(162,806)
Net premiums earned	1,115,743	760,905
Net investment income (Note 3)	129,542	102,686
Net foreign exchange gains (losses)	13,631	3,861
Other income	27,070	32,821
Net realized gains on investments (Note 3)	80,504	10,177
TOTAL REVENUES	1,366,490	910,450
EXPENSES		
Claims and claim expenses incurred (Note 5)	367,744	289,525
Acquisition expenses	194,140	95,644
Operational expenses	67,397	49,159
Corporate expenses	16,043	14,327
Interest expense	18,252	13,069
TOTAL EXPENSES	663,576	461,724
Income before minority interest, taxes and change in accounting principle	702,914	448,726
Minority interest - mandatorily redeemable capital securities of a subsidiary trust holding solely junior subordinated debentures of the Company (Note 7)	(7,470)	(7,605)
Minority interest - DaVinci (Note 8)	(72,014)	(55,051)
Income before taxes and change in accounting principle	623,430	386,070
Income tax benefit (expense) (Note 14)	18	115
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle	--	(9,187)
NET INCOME	623,448	376,998
Dividends on preference shares	(18,801)	(12,184)
NET INCOME AVAILABLE TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS	\$604,647	\$364,814
Earnings per Common Share - basic	\$8.76	\$5.40
Earnings per Common Share - diluted	\$8.52	\$5.20

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

(In thousands of United States dollars)	Years Ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
PREFERENCE SHARES			
Balance - January 1	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$ --
Issuance of shares	100,000	--	150,000
Balance - December 31	250,000	150,000	150,000
COMMON SHARES AND ADDITIONAL PAID-IN CAPITAL			
Balance - January 1	320,936	264,623	22,999
Issuance of common shares	--	--	232,525
Exercise of options, and issuance of restricted stock awards (Note 17)	15,096	10,675	14,652
Offering expenses	(3,150)	(73)	(5,553)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting for unearned stock grant compensation (Note 17)	(18,468)	--	--
Stock dividend	--	45,711	--
Balance - December 31	314,414	320,936	264,623
UNEARNED STOCK GRANT COMPENSATION			
Balance - January 1	(18,468)	(20,163)	(11,716)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting for unearned stock grant compensation (Note 17)	18,468	--	--
Net stock grants awarded, cancelled	--	(7,607)	(15,653)
Amortization	--	9,302	7,206
Balance - December 31	--	(18,468)	(20,163)
ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Balance - January 1	95,234	16,295	6,831
Net unrealized gains on securities, net of adjustment (see disclosure below)	18,148	78,939	9,464
Balance - December 31	113,382	95,234	16,295
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Balance - January 1	1,094,333	814,269	682,704
Net income	623,448	376,998	165,784
Dividends paid on common shares	(42,133)	(39,039)	(32,801)
Dividends paid on preference shares	(18,801)	(12,184)	(1,418)
Stock dividend	--	(45,711)	--
Balance - December 31	1,656,847	1,094,333	814,269
Total Shareholders' Equity	\$2,334,643	\$1,642,035	\$1,225,024
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Net income	\$623,448	\$376,998	\$165,784
Other comprehensive income	18,148	78,939	9,464
Comprehensive income	\$641,596	\$455,937	\$175,248
DISCLOSURE REGARDING NET UNREALIZED GAINS			
Net unrealized holding gains arising during the year ..	\$98,652	\$89,116	\$27,560
Net realized gains included in net income	(80,504)	(10,177)	(18,096)

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Net unrealized gains on securities \$18,148 \$78,939 \$9,464

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

45

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

(In thousands of United States dollars)	Years Ended	
	2003	2002
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	\$ 623,448	\$ 377,000
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Amortization and depreciation	13,091	11,000
Unrealized losses (gains) included in net investment income	(21,230)	(1,000)
Net realized investment gains	(80,504)	(1,000)
Minority interest in undistributed net income of DaVinci	72,014	5,000
Change in:		
Premiums receivable	31,453	(9,000)
Ceded reinsurance balances	16,508	(2,000)
Reserve for claims and claim expenses, net	223,429	23,000
Reserve for unearned premiums	17,839	18,000
Deferred acquisition costs	(19,408)	(5,000)
Reinsurance balances payable	(15,103)	3,000
Other	(41,128)	5,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	820,409	777,000
CASH FLOWS USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sales of investments available for sale	12,507,381	5,770,000
Purchases of investments available for sale	(13,155,414)	(6,720,000)
Net purchases of short-term investments	(90,067)	16,000
Net purchases of other investments	(216,039)	(1,000)
Equity investments in reinsurance company	--	(8,000)
Acquisition of subsidiary, net of cash acquired	--	(2,000)
Net cash used in investing activities	(954,139)	(890,000)
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Issuance of debt, net of expenses	99,144	10,000
Issuance of preference shares, net of expenses	96,850	(1,000)
Payment of bank loan	(25,000)	(1,000)
Dividends paid - Common Shares	(42,133)	(3,000)
Dividends paid - Preference Shares	(18,801)	(1,000)
Net increase in minority interests	--	2,000
Issuance of common shares, net of expenses	--	(1,000)
Net cash provided by financing activities	110,060	6,000

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(23,670)	(5)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	87,067	13
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 63,397	\$ 8

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

46

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

December 31, 2003 (amounts in tables expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except per share amounts)

NOTE 1. ORGANIZATION

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. ("RenaissanceRe", or the "Company"), was formed under the laws of Bermuda on June 7, 1993. Through its subsidiaries, the Company provides reinsurance and insurance to a broad range of customers.

- o Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd. ("Renaissance Reinsurance") is the Company's principal subsidiary and provides property catastrophe and specialty reinsurance coverage to insurers and reinsurers on a worldwide basis.
- o The Company also manages property catastrophe reinsurance written on behalf of joint ventures, principally including Top Layer Reinsurance Ltd. ("Top Layer Re") and DaVinci Reinsurance Ltd. ("DaVinci"). The results of DaVinci, and the results of DaVinci's parent, DaVinciRe Holdings Ltd. ("DaVinciRe"), are consolidated in the Company's financial statements (Note 8). Renaissance Underwriting Managers, Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary, acts as exclusive underwriting manager for these joint ventures in return for fee-based income and profit participation.
- o The Company's Individual Risk operations include direct insurance written on both an admitted basis through Stonington Insurance Company ("Stonington") and on an excess and surplus lines basis through Glencoe Insurance Ltd. ("Glencoe") and Lantana Insurance Ltd. ("Lantana"), and also provide reinsurance coverage, principally on a quota share basis, which is analyzed on an Individual Risk basis.

NOTE 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP") and include the accounts of RenaissanceRe and its wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries and DaVinciRe, which are collectively referred to herein as the "Company." All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated on consolidation. Certain prior year comparatives have been reclassified to conform to current presentations. Minority interest represents the interests of external

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

parties in respect of net income and shareholders' equity of DaVinciRe, and, for periods prior to December 31, 2003, the interests of external parties in respect of net income and shareholders' equity of RenaissanceRe Capital Trust (the "Capital Trust") (Note 7).

USE OF ESTIMATES IN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported and disclosed amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates. The most significant accounting judgment made by management is the estimation of reserves for claims and claim expense. Other material accounting judgments made by management include the estimation of certain written premiums.

PREMIUMS AND RELATED EXPENSES

Premiums are recognized as income, net of any applicable retrocessional coverage, over the terms of the related contracts and policies. Premiums written are based on contract and policy terms and include estimates based on information received from both insureds and ceding companies. Subsequent differences arising on such estimates are recorded in the period in which they are determined. Reserves for unearned premiums represents the portion of premiums written that relate to the unexpired terms of contracts and policies in force. Such reserves are computed by pro-rata methods based on statistical data or reports received from ceding companies.

Acquisition costs, consisting principally of commissions and brokerage expenses incurred at the time a contract or policy is issued, are deferred and amortized over the period in which the related premiums are earned. Deferred policy acquisition costs are limited to their estimated realizable value based on the related unearned premiums. Anticipated claims and claim expenses, based on historical and current experience, and anticipated investment income related to those premiums are considered in determining the recoverability of deferred acquisition costs.

REINSURANCE

Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the claim liability associated with the reinsured policies. The Company evaluates the financial condition of its reinsurers through internal evaluation by senior management.

CLAIMS AND CLAIM EXPENSES

The reserve for claims and claim expenses includes estimates for unpaid claims and claim expenses on reported losses as well as an estimate of losses incurred but not reported. The reserve is based on individual claims, case reserves and other reserve estimates reported by insureds and ceding companies as well as management estimates of ultimate losses. Inherent in the estimates of ultimate losses are expected trends in claim

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

47

severity and frequency and other factors which could vary significantly as claims are settled. Also, the Company has recently increased its specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk premiums, but does not have the benefit of a significant amount of its own historical experience in these lines of business. Accordingly, the setting and reserving for incurred losses in these lines of business could be subject to greater variability.

Ultimate losses may vary materially from the amounts provided in the consolidated financial statements. These estimates are reviewed regularly and,

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

as experience develops and new information becomes known, the reserves are adjusted as necessary. Such adjustments, if any, are reflected in the consolidated statement of income in the period in which they become known and are accounted for as changes in estimates.

INVESTMENTS AND CASH

Investments in fixed maturities and the equity investments in reinsurance company are classified as available for sale and are reported at fair value. The net unrealized appreciation or depreciation on these investments is included in accumulated other comprehensive income. Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date with balances pending settlement reflected in the balance sheet as a component of other assets or other liabilities.

Realized gains or losses on the sale of investments are determined on the basis of the specific identification method and include adjustments to the cost basis of investments for declines in value that are considered to be other-than-temporary. Net investment income includes interest and dividend income together with amortization of market premiums and discounts and is net of investment management and custody fees. The amortization of premium and accretion of discount for fixed maturity securities is computed using the interest method. The effective yield used in the interest method is adjusted when sufficient information exists to estimate the probability and timing of prepayments. Fair values of investments are based on quoted market prices, or when such prices are not available, by reference to broker or underwriter bid indications and/or internal pricing valuation techniques.

Short term investments, which are managed as part of the Company's investment portfolio and have a maturity of one year or less when purchased, are carried at cost which approximates fair value. Cash equivalents include money market instruments with a maturity of ninety days or less when purchased.

Other investments are carried at fair value with interest and dividend income, income distributions and realized and unrealized gains and losses included in net investment income.

During 2003, the Company changed the classification of equity appreciation on certain hedge funds and private equity funds previously recorded as realized gains and losses. The equity appreciation on these investments has been reclassified to net investment income for all periods presented.

GOODWILL

Effective January 1, 2002, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets" ("SFAS 142"). In the second quarter of 2002, the Company completed its initial impairment review in compliance with the transition provisions of SFAS 142 and, as a result, the Company decided to reflect goodwill at zero value, the low end of an estimated range of values. In accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142, this is required to be reflected as a cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle in the statement of income and is required to be reflected as if this adjustment was recorded in the first quarter of 2002.

EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share is based on weighted average common shares and excludes any dilutive effects of options and restricted stock. Diluted earnings per share assumes the exercise of all dilutive stock options and restricted stock grants.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The Company's functional currency is the United States dollar. Revenues and expenses denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the prevailing exchange rate at the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date, which may result in the recognition of exchange gains or

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

losses which are included in the determination of net income.

VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITIES

Effective December 31, 2003, the Company adopted FASB Interpretation No. 46, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities - an interpretation of ARB No. 51" ("FIN 46"). FIN 46 requires consolidation of all Variable Interest Entities ("VIE") by the investor that will absorb a majority of the VIE's expected losses or residual returns. As further discussed in Note 7, the Capital Trust was determined to be a VIE under FIN 46 and has been deconsolidated effective December 31, 2003. This has resulted in reclassifying certain balances. The adoption of FIN 46 did not have a material impact on the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

STOCK INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PLANS

For the year ended December 31, 2002 and for the prior years, the Company followed Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees" ("APB 25"), and related interpretations in accounting for its employee stock compensation. Effective January 1, 2003, the Company adopted, prospectively, the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" ("SFAS 123"), for all stock-based employee compensation granted, modified or settled after January 1, 2003. Under the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123, the Company estimates the fair value of employee stock options and other stock-based compensation on the date of grant and amortizes this value as an expense over the vesting period (see Note 17).

48

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

During 2003, as a result of the Company's adoption of SFAS 123, the value of the restricted stock grants awarded are no longer reflected as unearned stock grant compensation as a separate component of shareholders' equity. Accordingly the balance of unearned stock grant compensation of \$18.5 million at January 1, 2003 has been reclassified from its separate account in shareholders' equity and reflected as a reduction in additional paid-in capital.

In December 2002, the FASB issued SFAS 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation - Transition and Disclosure" ("SFAS 148"), which amends SFAS 123 and provides transitional disclosure requirements. In accordance with the transitional disclosure provisions of SFAS 148, the following table sets out the effect on the Company's net income and earnings per share for all reported periods had the compensation cost been calculated based upon the fair value method recommended in SFAS 123:

Year ended December 31,	2003	2002	2001
Net income available to common shareholders, as reported	\$604,647	\$364,814	\$164,366
add: stock-based employee compensation cost included in determination of net income	13,892	8,243	6,566
less: fair value compensation cost under SFAS 123	19,151	22,307	21,111
Pro forma net income available to common shareholders	\$599,388	\$350,750	\$148,811
Earnings per share			
Basic - as reported	\$ 8.76	\$ 5.40	\$ 2.76
Basic - pro forma	\$ 8.68	\$ 5.19	\$ 2.56
Diluted - as reported	\$ 8.52	\$ 5.20	\$ 2.66
Diluted - pro forma	\$ 8.44	\$ 5.00	\$ 2.36

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

TAXATION

The Company uses the liability method of accounting for income taxes. Under the liability method, deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. A valuation allowance against the deferred tax asset is provided for if and when the Company believes that a portion of the deferred tax asset may not be realized in the near term.

NOTE 3. INVESTMENTS

The amortized cost, fair value and related unrealized gains and losses on fixed maturity investments are as follows:

At December 31, 2003	Amortized cost	Gross unrealized gains	Gross unrealized losses	Fa
U.S. treasuries and agencies .	\$ 797,229	\$ 2,385	\$ (303)	\$
Non-U.S. government	281,231	9,726	(600)	
Corporate	810,078	39,027	(2,729)	
Mortgage-backed	213,491	2,350	(478)	
Asset-backed	793,766	3,556	(888)	
	<u>\$ 2,895,795</u>	<u>\$ 57,044</u>	<u>\$ (4,998)</u>	<u>\$ 2</u>

At December 31, 2002	Amortized cost	Gross unrealized gains	Gross unrealized losses	Fa
U.S. treasuries and agencies .	\$ 644,826	\$ 14,647	\$ (122)	\$
Non-U.S. government	367,638	13,507	(1,473)	
Corporate	536,053	29,235	(3,943)	
Mortgage-backed	292,551	9,106	(25)	
Asset-backed	312,647	6,567	(105)	
	<u>\$ 2,153,715</u>	<u>\$ 73,062</u>	<u>\$ (5,668)</u>	<u>\$</u>

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

49

Contractual maturities of fixed maturity securities are shown below. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

At December 31, 2003	Amortized cost	Fair value
Due in less than one year	\$ 24,248	\$ 24,912
Due after one through five years	1,456,758	1,469,428
Due after five through ten years	276,117	296,796

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Due after ten years	131,415	144,908
Mortgage-backed	213,491	215,363
Asset-backed	793,766	796,434
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Total	\$2,895,795	\$2,947,841

NET INVESTMENT INCOME

The components of net investment income are as follows:

Year ended December 31,	2003	2002	2001
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Fixed maturities	\$ 100,666	\$ 91,784	\$ 65,168
Short term investments	8,158	11,137	7,785
Cash and cash equivalents	1,852	3,238	3,285
Dividends on equity investments			
in reinsurance company	950	--	--
Other investments	25,920	(383)	955
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
	137,546	105,776	77,193
Investment expenses	8,004	3,090	2,037
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Net investment income	\$ 129,542	\$ 102,686	\$ 75,156

The analysis of realized gains (losses) and the change in unrealized gains on investments is as follows:

Year ended December 31,	2003	2002	2001
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Gross realized gains	\$ 114,834	\$ 67,294	\$ 78,247
Gross realized losses	(34,330)	(57,117)	(60,151)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Net realized gains on investments .	80,504	10,177	18,096
Change in unrealized gains	18,148	78,939	9,464
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Total realized and change in unrealized gains on investments	\$ 98,652	\$ 89,116	\$ 27,560

At December 31, 2003 \$36.8 million of cash and investments at fair value were on deposit with, or in trust accounts for the benefit of, various regulatory authorities as required by law (2002 - \$29.7 million).

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Included in other investments are investments in hedge funds of \$170.1 million (2002 - \$61.4 million), a fund that invests in senior secured bank loans of \$77.2 million (2002 - \$20.4 million), a European high yield credit fund of \$38.3 million (2002 - \$nil) and private equity partnerships of \$24.2 million (2002 - \$14.6 million) (collectively "Investment Funds").

Also included in other investments are investments in a medium term note, representing an interest in a pool of European fixed income securities, of \$30.0 million (2002 - \$nil), catastrophe bonds of \$26.3 million (2002 - \$33.5 million), and miscellaneous investments of \$4.2 million (2002 - \$nil).

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Fair values of Investment Funds are generally established on the basis of the net valuation criteria established by the managers of the Investment Funds. These net valuations are determined based upon the valuation criteria established by the governing documents of such Investment Funds. Due to a lag in the valuations reported by the fund managers the majority of our Investment Funds are reported on a one month or one quarter lag. Such valuations may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had ready markets existed for the shares, partnership interests or notes of the Investment Funds. Many of the Investment Funds are subject to restrictions on redemptions which are determined by the governing documents and limit the Company's ability to liquidate these investments in the short term. Interest income, income distributions and realized and unrealized gains and losses on other investments, including Investment Funds, are included in net investment income and totaled \$25.9 million (2002 - a loss of \$0.4 million) of which \$21.2 million (2002 - loss of \$1.4 million) was related to net unrealized gains (losses).

The Company has committed capital to private equity partnerships of \$109.1 million, of which \$20.3 million has been contributed at December 31, 2003.

EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN REINSURANCE COMPANY

On November 1, 2002, the Company purchased 3,960,000 common shares of Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd. ("Platinum") in a private placement transaction and received ten-year warrants to purchase up to 2.5 million additional common shares of Platinum for \$27.00 per share. The Company purchased the common shares and warrants for an aggregate price of \$84.2 million. At December 31, 2003, the Company owns 9.2% of Platinum's outstanding common shares. The Company records its investments in Platinum at fair value, and at December 31, 2003 the aggregate fair value was \$145.5 million (2002 - \$120.3 million). The aggregate unrealized gain of \$61.3 million (2002 - \$36.1 million) is included in accumulated other comprehensive income and includes \$26.7 million (2002 - \$15.9 million) of value estimated for the warrants using the Black-Scholes option pricing model.

DERIVATIVES RELATED TO PHYSICAL VARIABLES

The Company has assumed and ceded risk through catastrophe linked securities and derivative instruments under which losses or recoveries are triggered by an industry loss index or geological or physical variables. During 2003, 2002 and 2001, the Company recognized gains on these contracts of \$0.8 million, \$7.2 million, and a loss of \$4.6 million, respectively, which are included in other income.

50

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS

From time to time the Company invests in credit default swaps. The Company accounts for these credit derivatives at fair value and records them on its consolidated balance sheet as other assets or other liabilities depending on the rights or obligations. The fair value of these credit derivatives, as recognized in other liabilities in our balance sheet, at December 31, 2003 was a liability of \$3.5 million. During 2003, we recorded losses of \$4.2 million in our consolidated statement of income, including the \$3.5 million liability on the balance sheet at December 31, 2003.

NOTE 4. CEDED REINSURANCE

The Company uses reinsurance to reduce its exposure to large losses. The Company currently has in place contracts that provide for recovery of a portion of certain claims and claim expenses from reinsurers in excess of various retentions and loss warranties. The Company would remain liable to the extent that any reinsurance company fails to meet its obligations. The earned

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

reinsurance premiums ceded were \$246.0 million, \$218.0 million and \$155.7 million for 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Other than loss recoveries, certain of the Company's ceded reinsurance contracts also provide for recoveries of additional premiums, reinstatement premiums and lost no claims bonuses, which are incurred when losses are ceded to reinsurance contracts. Total recoveries netted against premiums and claims and claim expenses incurred were \$21.6 million, \$63.0 million and \$160.4 million for 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively. At December 31, 2003, the Company has recorded a \$11.6 million valuation allowance against losses recoverable (2002 - \$7.8 million).

NOTE 5. RESERVE FOR CLAIMS AND CLAIM EXPENSES

For the Company's Reinsurance operations, estimates of claims and claim expenses are based in part upon the estimation of claims resulting from catastrophic events. Estimation by the Company of claims resulting from catastrophic events is inherently difficult because of the potential severity of property catastrophe claims. Additionally, the Company has recently increased its Individual Risk and specialty reinsurance premiums but does not have the benefit of a significant amount of its own historical experience in these lines. Therefore, the Company uses both proprietary and commercially available models, as well as historical reinsurance industry property catastrophe claims experience, for purposes of evaluating future trends and providing an estimate of ultimate claims costs.

For both the Company's Reinsurance and Individual Risk operations, the Company uses statistical and actuarial methods to estimate ultimate expected claims and claim expenses. The period of time from the reporting of a loss to the Company and the settlement of the Company's liability may be several years. During this period, additional facts and trends will be revealed. As these factors become apparent, case reserves will be adjusted, sometimes requiring an increase or decrease in the overall reserves of the Company, and at other times requiring a reallocation of incurred but not reported ("IBNR") reserves to specific case reserves. These estimates are reviewed regularly, and such adjustments, if any, are reflected in results of operations in the period in which they become known and are accounted for as changes in estimates. Adjustments to the Company's claims and claim expense reserves can impact current year net income by either increasing net income if the estimates of prior year claims and claim expense reserves prove to be overstated or by decreasing net income if the estimates of prior year claims and claim expense reserves prove to be insufficient.

Activity in the liability for unpaid claims and claim expenses is summarized as follows:

Year ended December 31,	2003	2002	2001
Net reserves as of January 1	\$ 605,262	\$ 355,321	\$ 237,014
Net reserves assumed (released) in acquisition (sale) of subsidiary	(2,090)	33,579	--
Net incurred related to:			
Current year	462,816	291,520	165,914
Prior years	(95,072)	(1,995)	(15,997)
Total net incurred	367,744	289,525	149,917
Net paid related to:			
Current year	61,770	10,017	20,470
Prior years	80,455	63,146	11,140

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Total net paid	142,225	73,163	31,610

Total net reserves as of			
December 31	828,691	605,262	355,321
Losses recoverable as of			
December 31	149,201	199,533	217,556

Total gross reserves as of			
December 31	\$ 977,892	\$ 804,795	\$ 572,877

The prior year favorable development in 2003 was due primarily to the reduced level of payment and loss activity associated with our property catastrophe reserves from older accident years. The prior year favorable development in 2001 was due primarily to net additional recoveries on 1999 property catastrophe loss events. The Company's total gross reserve for IBNR claims was \$596.6 million at December 31, 2003 (2002 - \$462.9 million).

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

51

Claims and claim expenses incurred were reduced by \$23.0 million during 2003 (2002 - \$15.0 million) related to income earned on an assumed reinsurance contract that is classified as an underwriting-risk only deposit contract. A deposit liability of \$80.0 million is included in reinsurance balances payable at December 31, 2003 (2002 - \$103.0 million).

NOTE 6. DEBT

In January 2003, the Company issued \$100 million of 5.875% Senior Notes due February 15, 2013, with interest on the notes payable on February 15 and August 15 of each year, commencing August 15, 2003. In July 2001, the Company issued \$150 million of 7.0% Senior Notes due July 15, 2008 with interest on the notes payable on January 15 and July 15 of each year. The notes can be redeemed by the Company prior to maturity subject to payment of a "make-whole" premium; however, the Company has no current intentions of calling the notes. The notes, which are senior obligations, contain various covenants, including limitations on mergers and consolidations, restriction as to the disposition of stock of designated subsidiaries and limitations on liens on the stock of designated subsidiaries. The Company was in compliance with the related covenants at December 31, 2003 and 2002. At December 31, 2003, the fair value of the 5.875% Senior Notes was \$103.1 million and the fair value of the 7.0% Senior Notes was \$167.7 million (2002 - \$164.0 million).

In April 2002, DaVinciRe entered into a credit agreement providing for a \$100 million committed revolving credit facility. In May 2002, DaVinciRe borrowed the full \$100 million available under this facility to repay \$100 million bridge financing provided by RenaissanceRe. Neither RenaissanceRe nor Renaissance Reinsurance is a guarantor of this facility and the lenders have no recourse against RenaissanceRe or its subsidiaries other than DaVinciRe under this facility. Pursuant to the terms of the \$400 million credit facility maintained by RenaissanceRe, a default by DaVinciRe on its obligations will not result in a default under the RenaissanceRe facility (see below). At December 31, 2003, the full amount was outstanding under the DaVinciRe facility and the fair value approximated the carrying value. Interest rates on the facility are based on a spread above LIBOR, and averaged approximately 2.09% during 2003 (2002 - 2.63%). The credit agreement contains certain covenants requiring DaVinciRe to maintain a debt to capital ratio of 30% or below and a minimum net worth of \$230 million. At December 31, 2003, DaVinciRe was in compliance with the covenants of this agreement.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

On August 8, 2003, RenaissanceRe amended and restated its committed revolving credit agreement to increase the facility from \$310 million to \$400 million and to make certain other changes. The interest rates on this facility are based on a spread above LIBOR. No balance was outstanding at December 31, 2003. As amended, the agreement contains certain financial covenants. These covenants generally provide that consolidated debt to capital shall not exceed the ratio (the "Debt to Capital Ratio") of 0.35:1 and that the consolidated net worth (the "Net Worth Requirements") of RenaissanceRe and Renaissance Reinsurance shall equal or exceed \$1 billion and \$500 million, respectively, subject to certain adjustments under certain circumstances in the case of the Debt to Capital Ratio and certain grace periods in the case of the Net Worth Requirements, all as more fully set forth in the agreement. The scheduled commitment termination date under the amended agreement is August 8, 2006.

Glencoe U.S. had a \$10 million term loan and a \$15 million revolving loan facility with a syndicate of commercial banks. Interest rates on the facility were based upon a spread above LIBOR, and averaged 1.85% during 2003 (2002 - 2.35%). The outstanding balances of the term loan and revolving credit facility, totaling \$25 million, were repaid in full in June 2003 and the term loan and revolving loan facility were terminated.

Aggregate interest payments on the above debt totaled \$15.9 million, \$12.9 million and \$1.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

NOTE 7. SUBORDINATED OBLIGATION TO CAPITAL TRUST (CAPITAL SECURITIES)

In March 1997, the Company issued \$100 million aggregate liquidation amount of mandatorily redeemable capital securities ("Capital Securities") through a subsidiary trust holding solely \$103.1 million of the Company's 8.54% junior subordinated debentures due March 1, 2027. The Capital Securities pay cumulative cash distributions at an annual rate of 8.54%, payable semi-annually. The Capital Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company and was consolidated into the Company's consolidated financial statements up until the Company's adoption of FIN 46 at December 31, 2003. For periods prior to the adoption of FIN 46, the Capital Securities and the related dividends are reflected in the consolidated financial statements as a minority interest. The Company's guarantee of the distributions on the Capital Securities issued by the Capital Trust, when taken together with the Company's obligations under an expense reimbursement agreement with the Capital Trust, provides full and unconditional guarantee of amounts due on the Capital Securities issued by the Capital Trust.

Upon the adoption of FIN 46 at December 31, 2003, the Capital Trust was determined to be a variable interest entity and the Company was determined not to be the primary beneficiary of the Capital Trust. Accordingly the Capital Trust was deconsolidated from the Company's consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2003. As a result, the balance of

the Capital Securities, previously classified as minority interest, has been reclassified in the Company's consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2003 and the \$103.1 million subordinated obligation to the Capital Trust is recognized on the Company's consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2003 as a liability. In addition, equity interests in the Capital Trust and purchased Capital Securities held by the Company are included in investments at December 31, 2003. These investments include \$15.4 million of Capital Securities purchased by the Company and \$3.1 million of common stock issued by the Capital

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Trust to the Company in March 1997, both of which are eliminated on consolidation for periods prior to the adoption of FIN 46 on December 31, 2003. The adjustments required to deconsolidate the Capital Trust represent reclassifications and there was no impact on consolidated net income.

During 2003, the Company did not purchase any Capital Securities (2002 - \$3.0 million). The Company has purchased an aggregate \$15.4 million of the Capital Securities since their issuance in 1997.

NOTE 8. MINORITY INTEREST

In October 2001, the Company formed DaVinciRe and DaVinci with other equity investors. RenaissanceRe owns a minority economic interest in DaVinciRe; however, because RenaissanceRe controls a majority of DaVinciRe's outstanding voting rights, the consolidated financial statements of DaVinciRe are included in the consolidated financial statements of the Company. The 75% portion of DaVinciRe's earnings and shareholders' equity held by third parties is recorded in the consolidated financial statements as minority interest.

NOTE 9. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

The aggregate authorized capital of the Company is 325,000,000 shares consisting of 225,000,000 common shares and 100,000,000 preference shares. The Company's 225,000,000 authorized \$1.00 par value common shares consist of three separate series with differing voting rights as follows:

At December 31, 2003	Remaining authorized	Outstanding

Full Voting Common Shares		
(includes all shares registered and available to the public)	127,971,133	66,849,099
Diluted Voting Class I		
Common Shares	10,224,185	3,549,600
Diluted Voting Class II		
Common Shares	185,532	--

	138,380,850	70,398,699

In October 2001, the Company issued 7.5 million common shares for proceeds, net of fees, discounts and commissions, of \$232.5 million. Costs associated with the sale of the shares of \$3.2 million were deducted from the related proceeds. The net amount received in excess of common share par value was recorded in additional paid-in capital.

In February 2003, the Company raised \$100 million through the issuance of 4,000,000 Series B preference shares at \$25 per share, and in November 2001, the Company raised \$150 million through the issuance of 6,000,000 Series A preference shares at \$25 per share. The Series B and Series A preference shares may be redeemed at \$25 per share at the Company's option on or after February 4, 2008 and November 19, 2006, respectively. Dividends on the Series B and Series A preference shares are cumulative from the date of original issuance and are payable quarterly in arrears at 7.3% and 8.1%, respectively, when, if, and as declared by the Board of Directors. If the Company submits a proposal to its shareholders concerning an amalgamation or submits any proposal that, as a result of any changes to Bermuda law, requires approval of the holders of these preference shares to vote as a single class, the Company may redeem the Series B and Series A preference shares prior to February 4, 2008 and November 19, 2006, respectively, at \$26 per share. The preference shares have no stated maturity and are not convertible into any other securities of the Company.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

The Diluted Voting shareholders vote together with the common shareholders. The Diluted Voting I Shares are limited to a fixed voting interest in the Company of up to 9.9% on most corporate matters. The Diluted Voting shareholders are entitled to the same rights, including receipt of dividends and the right to vote on certain significant corporate matters, and are subject to the same restrictions as the common shareholders. During 2001, \$0.9 million of the Diluted Voting I Shares were sold pursuant to shelf registrations on Form S-3. The Diluted Voting I Shares sold were subsequently converted into common shares. The Company currently does not intend to register or list the Diluted Voting Shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

In August 2003, the Board authorized a share repurchase program of \$150 million. This authorization includes the remaining amounts available under prior authorizations. The Company's decision to repurchase common shares will depend on, among other matters, the market price of the common shares and the capital requirements of the Company. No shares were repurchased during 2003, 2002 or 2001. Common shares repurchased by the Company are normally cancelled and retired.

NOTE 10. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The Company uses SFAS 128, "Earnings per Share" to account for its weighted average shares. The numerator in both the Company's basic and diluted earnings per share calculations

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

53

is identical. The following table sets forth the reconciliation of the denominator from basic to diluted weighted average shares outstanding (in thousands of per share amounts):

Year ended at December 31,	2003	2002	2001
Weighted average shares - basic	69,039	67,555	59,490
Per share equivalents of employee stock			
options and restricted shares	1,963	2,656	2,901
Weighted average shares - diluted	71,002	70,211	62,391

NOTE 11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND MAJOR CUSTOMERS

Other assets include the Company's investment in Top Layer Re of \$34.9 million (2002 - \$36.1 million), which is 50% owned by Renaissance Reinsurance and is carried using the equity method. The Company's earnings from Top Layer Re totaled \$21.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 (2002 - \$22.3 million) and are included in other income. During 2003, the Company also received distributions from Top Layer Re of \$22.4 million (2002 - \$9.7 million), and a management fee of \$3.0 million (2002 - \$2.9 million).

During the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, the Company received 80.4%, 71.1% and 76.9%, respectively, of its reinsurance premium assumed from four reinsurance brokers. Subsidiaries and affiliates of Marsh Inc., the

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Benfield Group Limited, the Willis Group and AON Corporation accounted for approximately 24.7%, 24.4%, 15.7% and 15.6%, respectively, of the Reinsurance segment's gross premiums written in 2003.

NOTE 12. GOODWILL

In connection with the Company's adoption of SFAS 142, the Company wrote-off the balance of its goodwill during the second quarter of 2002, which totaled \$9.2 million. As required by SFAS 142, this charge has been reflected in the statement of income as a cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle. The following table sets forth the effect of goodwill amortization on comparative period earnings:

Year ended December 31,	2001

Net income available to common shareholders, as reported	\$164,366
Add back: goodwill amortization expense	557

Adjusted net income available to common shareholders	\$164,923
Average common shares outstanding - basic ..	59,490
Average common shares outstanding - diluted.	62,391
Adjusted per common share data	
Earnings per common share - basic	\$ 2.77
Earnings per common share - diluted	\$ 2.64

NOTE 13. DIVIDENDS

Dividends declared and paid on Common Shares amounted to \$0.60, \$0.57 and \$0.53 per common share for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002, and 2001, respectively.

During the second quarter of 2002, RenaissanceRe effected a three-for-one stock split through a stock dividend of two additional common shares for each common share owned. All of the common share and per common share information provided in these financial statements is presented as if the stock dividend had occurred for all periods.

The total amount of dividends paid to holders of the common shares during 2003, 2002 and 2001 was \$42.1 million, \$39.0 million and \$32.8 million, respectively.

NOTE 14. TAXATION

Under current Bermuda law, the Company is not required to pay taxes in Bermuda on either income or capital gains. Income from the Company's U.S.-based subsidiaries is subject to taxes imposed by U.S. authorities. Renaissance Reinsurance of Europe is subject to the taxation laws of Ireland.

Income tax expense (benefit) for 2003, 2002 and 2001 is comprised as follows:

Year ended December 31, 2003	Current	Deferred	Total

U.S. federal	\$ --	\$(18)	\$(18)
U.S. state and local	--	--	--

	\$ --	\$(18)	\$(18)

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Year ended December 31, 2002			
U.S. federal	\$ --	\$ (115)	\$ (115)
U.S. state and local	--	--	--

	\$ --	\$ (115)	\$ (115)

Year ended December 31, 2001			
U.S. federal	\$2,369	\$11,872	\$14,241
U.S. state and local	21	--	21

	\$2,390	\$11,872	\$14,262

54

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are presented below:

At December 31,	2003	2002

Deferred tax assets		
Allowance for doubtful accounts .	\$ 533	\$ 1,683
Unearned premium adjustment	1,215	330
Claims reserves, principally		
due to discounting for tax ...	1,641	1,409
Retroactive reinsurance gain	1,492	1,892
Net operating loss carryforwards	24,775	22,392
Goodwill	3,542	3,924
Others	568	1,509

	\$ 33,766	\$ 33,139

Deferred tax liabilities		
Other	(419)	(1,428)

Net deferred tax asset before		
valuation allowance	\$ 33,347	\$ 31,711
Valuation allowance	(29,342)	(27,724)

Net deferred tax asset	\$ 4,005	\$ 3,987

The net deferred tax asset is included in other assets in the consolidated balance sheet. Net operating loss carryforwards of \$72.9 million (2002 - \$65.9 million) are available to offset regular taxable U.S. income during the carryforward period (through 2023).

During 2003, the Company recorded additions to the valuation allowance of \$1.6 million. The Company's deferred tax asset relates primarily to net operating loss carryforwards that are available to offset future taxes payable by the Company's U.S. subsidiaries. Although the net operating losses, which gave rise to a deferred tax asset have a carryforward period through 2023, the Company's U.S. operations did not generate taxable income during the year ended December 31, 2003 or during prior years. Accordingly, under the circumstances, and until the Company's U.S. operations begin to generate significant taxable income, the

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Company believes that it is necessary to establish and maintain a valuation allowance against a significant portion of the net deferred tax asset.

The Company was not liable for and accordingly paid no income taxes in the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

NOTE 15. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Financial information relating to gross premiums written by geographic region is as follows:

Year ended December 31,	2003	2002	2001
Property catastrophe			
United States and Caribbean	\$ 297,954	\$ 310,090	\$ 180,305
Europe	156,156	86,461	20,414
Worldwide	126,541	169,790	93,474
Australia and New Zealand	26,588	2,127	12,159
Worldwide (excluding U.S.) (1)	14,968	56,628	45,111
Other	21,458	18,354	22,433
Specialty reinsurance(2)	291,820	247,020	77,468
Total reinsurance(3)	935,485	890,470	451,364
Individual Risk(4)	446,724	282,579	49,957
Total gross written premium	\$1,382,209	\$1,173,049	\$ 501,321

- (1) The category Worldwide (excluding U.S.) consists of contracts that cover more than one geographic region (other than the U.S.). The exposure in this category for gross written premiums written to date is predominantly from Europe and Japan.
- (2) The category specialty reinsurance consists of contracts that are predominantly exposed to U.S. risks, with a small portion of the risks being Worldwide.
- (3) Excludes \$20.8 million and \$22.2 million of premium assumed from the Individual Risk segment in 2003 and 2002, respectively.
- (4) The category Individual Risk consists of contracts that are primarily exposed to U.S. risks.

NOTE 16. SEGMENT REPORTING

The Company has two reportable segments: Reinsurance operations and Individual Risk operations. The Reinsurance segment, which includes the results of DaVinciRe, primarily provides property catastrophe reinsurance and specialty reinsurance to selected insurers and reinsurers on a worldwide basis. We define the Individual Risk segment to include underwriting that involves understanding the characteristics of the original underlying insurance policy. The Individual Risk segment currently provides insurance written on both an admitted basis and an excess and surplus lines basis, and also provides reinsurance on a quota share basis.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

55

Data for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 is as follows:

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Year ended December 31, 2003	Reinsurance	Individual Risk	Eliminations (1)
Gross premiums written	\$956,257	\$446,724	\$ (20,772)
Net premiums written	\$789,769	\$362,754	--
Net premiums earned	\$809,360	\$306,383	--
Claims and claim expenses incurred	209,197	158,547	--
Acquisition expenses	93,227	100,913	--
Operational expenses	52,504	14,893	--
Underwriting income	\$454,432	\$32,030	--
Other items			
Net income available to common shareholders ..			
Claims and claim expense ratio	25.8%	51.7 %	--
Underwriting expense ratio	18.0%	37.8 %	--
Combined ratio	43.8%	89.5 %	--

(1) Represents premium ceded from Individual Risk segment to Reinsurance segment

(2) The Other segment consists of other items, which includes net investment income, net foreign exchange gains, other income, net realized gains on investments, corporate expenses, interest expense, minority interests, income tax benefit and dividends on preference shares.

Year ended December 31, 2002	Reinsurance	Individual Risk	Eliminations (1)
Gross premiums written	\$ 912,695	\$ 282,579	\$ (22,225)
Net premiums written	\$ 696,610	\$ 227,101	--
Net premiums earned	\$ 667,926	\$ 92,979	--
Claims and claim expenses incurred	249,316	40,209	--
Acquisition expenses	70,698	24,946	--
Operational expenses	39,264	9,895	--
Underwriting income	\$ 308,648	\$ 17,929	--
Other items			
Net income available to common shareholders			
Claims and claim expense ratio	37.3%	43.2%	--
Underwriting expense ratio	16.5%	37.5%	--
Combined ratio	53.8%	80.7%	--

(1) Represents premium ceded from Individual Risk segment to Reinsurance

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

segment

- (2) The Other segment consists of other items, which includes net investment income, net foreign exchange gains, other income, net realized gains on investments, corporate expenses, interest expense, minority interests, income tax benefit and dividends on preference shares.

Year ended December 31, 2001	Reinsurance	Individual Risk	Other (1)	
Gross premiums written	\$451,364	\$ 49,957	\$ --	\$5
Net premiums written	\$326,680	\$ 12,867	--	\$3
Net premiums earned	\$325,223	\$ 7,842	--	\$3
Claims and claim expenses incurred	152,341	(2,424)	--	1
Acquisition expenses	44,029	1,330	--	
Operational expenses	28,198	10,405	--	
Underwriting income	\$100,655	(1,469)	--	
Other items			\$ 65,180	
Net income available to common shareholders				\$1
Claims and claim expense ratio	46.8%	(30.9%)	--	
Underwriting expense ratio	22.2%	149.6%	--	
Combined ratio	69.0%	118.7%	--	

- (1) The Other segment consists of other items, which includes net investment income, net foreign exchange gains, other income, net realized gains on investments, corporate expenses, interest expense, minority interests, income tax benefit and dividends on preference shares.

The Company does not manage its assets by segment and therefore total assets are not allocated to the segments.

56

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

NOTE 17. STOCK INCENTIVE COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

The Company has a stock incentive plan under which all employees of the Company and its subsidiaries may be granted stock options and restricted stock awards. A stock option award under the Company's stock incentive plan allows for the purchase of the Company's common shares at a price that is generally equal to the five day average closing price of the common shares immediately prior to the date of grant. Options to purchase common shares are granted periodically by the Board of Directors, generally vest over four years and generally expire ten years from the date of grant.

The fair value of option grants is estimated on the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions used for grants in 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively: dividend yield of 1.4%, 1.4% and 1.7%; expected option life of five years for all years;

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

expected volatility of 30%, 30% and 31%; and a risk-free interest rate of 1.8%, 2.7% and 4.8%.

The following is a table of the changes in options outstanding for 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively:

	Awards available for grant	Weighted options outstanding	Average exercise price	Fair value of options
<hr/>				
Balance, December 31, 2000 ...	595,062	6,068,553	\$15.50	
Authorized	2,850,000	--		
Options granted	(1,500,867)	1,500,867	\$30.61	\$8.56
Options forfeited	97,668	(97,668)	\$18.27	
Options exercised	--	(2,195,037)	\$18.44	
Shares turned in or withheld .	1,346,178	--		
Restricted stock issued	(716,748)	--		
Restricted stock forfeited ...	47,394	--		
<hr/>				
Balance, December 31, 2001 ...	2,718,687	5,276,715	\$18.97	
Authorized	2,550,000	--		
Options granted	(2,637,929)	2,637,929	\$39.30	\$6.47
Options forfeited	137,655	(137,655)	\$18.95	
Options exercised	--	(3,597,769)	\$22.09	
Shares turned in or withheld .	2,114,379	--		
Restricted stock issued	(380,233)	--		
Restricted stock forfeited ...	68,660	--		
<hr/>				
Balance, December 31, 2002 ...	4,571,219	4,179,220	\$28.93	
Authorized	--	--		
Options granted	(435,762)	435,762	\$45.38	\$10.99
Options forfeited	23,000	(23,000)	\$12.40	
Options exercised	--	(295,627)	\$13.01	
Shares turned in or withheld .	74,344	--		
Restricted stock issued	(359,727)	--		
Restricted stock forfeited ...	571	--		
<hr/>				
Balance, December 31, 2003 ...	3,873,645	4,296,355	\$31.73	
Total options exercisable at December 31, 2003 ...		2,737,916		
<hr/>				

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

57

The Company's 2001 Stock Incentive Plan allows for the issuance of share-based awards, the issuance of restricted common shares, the issuance of reload options for shares tendered in connection with option exercises and a provision in the calculation of shares available for issuance thereunder by deeming the number of shares tendered to or withheld by the Company in connection with certain option

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

exercises to be so available.

The Company has also established a Non-Employee Director Stock Incentive Plan to issue stock options and shares of restricted stock. Under the plan, the total number of shares available for distribution at December 31, 2003 was 643,494 shares. At December 31, 2003, the number of options issued to directors and unexercised was 300,000. In 2003, no options to purchase common shares were granted and 13,206 restricted common shares were granted. In 2002, 12,000 options to purchase common shares were granted and 3,132 restricted common shares were granted. In 2001, 12,000 options to purchase common shares and 5,616 restricted common shares were granted. The options and restricted common shares vest ratably over three years.

Restricted common shares issued to employees normally vest ratably over a four to five year period. During the restricted period, the employee receives dividends and votes the restricted common shares, but the restricted shares may not be sold, transferred or assigned. In 2003, 2002 and 2001 the Board of Directors granted 359,727, 380,233 and 716,748 restricted shares with a value of \$16.0 million, \$14.6 million and \$17.2 million to certain employees. Prior to 2003, the value of the restricted shares awarded was recorded as unearned stock grant compensation and was presented as a separate component of shareholders' equity. During 2003 the Company adopted SFAS 123, as amended by SFAS 148, and in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 123 the value of the restricted stock grants awarded are no longer reflected as unearned stock grant compensation as a separate component of shareholders' equity.

Accordingly the balance of unearned stock grant compensation of \$18.5 million at January 1, 2003 has been reclassified from its separate account in shareholders' equity and reflected as a reduction in additional paid-in capital. Under SFAS 123 the Company estimates the fair value of restricted stock awards at the date of grant and amortizes this value as an expense over the vesting period. Compensation expense related to the issuance of restricted stock was \$13.0 million, \$8.2 million and \$6.6 million in 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

All of the Company's employees are eligible for defined contribution pension plans. Contributions are primarily based upon a percentage of eligible compensation.

NOTE 18. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Under the Insurance Act 1978, amendments thereto and Related Regulations of Bermuda ("the Act"), certain subsidiaries of the Company are required to prepare statutory financial statements and to file in Bermuda a statutory financial return. The Act also requires these subsidiaries of the Company to maintain certain measures of solvency and liquidity. At December 31, 2003 the statutory capital and surplus of the Bermuda subsidiaries was \$2.4 billion and the amount required to be maintained under Bermuda law was \$457.5 million.

Under the Act, Renaissance Reinsurance and DaVinci are classified as Class 4 insurers, and are, therefore, restricted as to the payment of dividends in the amount of 25% of the prior year's statutory capital and surplus, unless at least two members of the Board of Directors attest that a dividend in excess of this

58

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

amount would not cause the company to fail to meet its relevant margins. During 2003, Renaissance Reinsurance declared aggregate cash dividends to the Company of \$322.3 million (2002 - \$224.3 million). During 2003 DaVinci declared aggregate cash dividends of \$81.6 million (2002 - \$3.5 million).

Under the Act, Glencoe is classified as a Class 3 insurer and Glencoe is also eligible as an excess and surplus lines insurer in a number of states in the

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

U.S. Under the various capital and surplus requirements in Bermuda and in these states, Glencoe is required to maintain a minimum of capital and surplus. In this regard, the declaration of dividends from retained earnings and distributions from additional paid-in capital are limited to the extent that the above requirement is met. During 2003, Glencoe declared aggregate cash dividends to the Company of \$18.0 million (2002 - \$nil).

The Company's U.S. insurance subsidiary, Stonington, is subject to various statutory and regulatory restrictions regarding the payment of dividends. The restrictions are determined using risk based capital tests, which is the threshold that constitutes the authorized control level. If Stonington's statutory capital and surplus falls below the authorized control level, the commissioner is authorized to take whatever regulatory actions considered necessary to protect policyholders and creditors. At December 31, 2003, the statutory capital and surplus of Stonington was \$28.8 million and the maximum dividend it could pay in 2004 without prior approval was \$2.6 million.

NOTE 19. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Company to concentration of credit risk consist principally of investments, cash and reinsurance balances. The Company limits the amount of credit exposure to any one financial institution and, except for U.S. Government securities, none of the Company's investments exceeded 10% of shareholders' equity at December 31, 2003. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to reinsurance balances are limited due to their dispersion across various companies and geographies.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITH OFF-BALANCE SHEET RISK

The Company's investment guidelines permit, subject to specific approval, investments in derivative instruments such as futures, options, foreign currency forward contracts and swap agreements, which may be used to assume risk or for hedging purposes.

LETTERS OF CREDIT

At December 31, 2003, the Company's bankers have issued letters of credit of approximately \$346.9 million in favor of certain ceding companies. Also, in connection with the Top Layer Re joint venture, the Company has committed \$37.5 million of capital in the form of a letter of credit. The letters of credit are secured by cash and investments of similar amounts.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

The Board of Directors has authorized the execution of employment agreements between the Company and certain officers. These agreements provide for severance payments under certain circumstances, as well as accelerated vesting of options and restricted stock grants, upon a change in control, as defined therein and by the Company's 2001 Stock Incentive Plan.

LITIGATION

The Company is party to various lawsuits arising in the normal course of business. The Company does not believe that any of its pending litigation will have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

59

NOTE 20. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

Quarter Ended
March 31,

Quarter Ended
June 30,

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

	2003	2002	2003	2002	
Gross premiums written	\$ 685,167	\$ 460,834	\$ 212,560	\$ 270,294	\$ 3
Net premiums written	\$ 590,370	\$ 379,096	\$ 160,223	\$ 198,517	\$ 2
Net premiums earned	\$ 263,474	\$ 150,308	\$ 275,535	\$ 184,742	\$ 2
Net investment income	31,434	23,129	34,109	26,155	
Net foreign exchange gains (losses)	3,951	(1,950)	7,640	3,650	
Other income	5,505	8,129	7,238	8,147	
Net realized investment gains (losses) .	21,112	340	49,660	3,177	
Total revenues	325,476	179,956	374,182	225,871	3
Claims and claim expenses incurred	82,780	43,118	100,076	73,149	
Acquisition costs	42,133	18,549	40,704	20,368	
Operational expenses	14,907	10,663	16,332	9,962	
Corporate expenses	3,468	2,690	4,677	4,688	
Interest expense	4,499	2,714	5,335	3,433	
Total expenses	147,787	77,734	167,124	111,600	1
Income before minority interest and taxes	177,689	102,222	207,058	114,271	1
Minority interest - Capital securities .	1,455	1,833	1,827	1,831	
Minority interest - DaVinci	20,885	9,477	20,150	13,470	
Income before taxes	155,349	90,912	185,081	98,970	1
Income tax benefit (expense)	55	(596)	--	273	
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--		(9,187)	--	--
Net income	155,404	81,129	185,081	99,243	1
Dividends on preference shares	4,119	3,038	4,917	3,003	
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 151,285	\$ 78,091	\$ 180,164	\$ 96,240	\$ 1
Earnings per common share - basic	\$ 2.21	\$ 1.17	\$ 2.62	\$ 1.43	\$
Earnings per common share - diluted	\$ 2.14	\$ 1.12	\$ 2.54	\$ 1.37	\$
Weighted average shares - basic	68,593	66,788	68,914	67,326	
Weighted average shares - diluted	70,564	69,787	71,056	70,209	
Claims and claim expense ratio	31.4%	28.7%	36.3%	39.6%	
Underwriting expense ratio	21.6%	19.4%	20.7%	16.4%	
Combined ratio	53.0%	48.1%	57.0%	56.0%	
	Quarter Ended December 31,				
	2003	2002			

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Gross premiums written	\$ 171,165	\$ 159,324
Net premiums written	\$ 165,360	\$ 153,411
Net premiums earned	\$ 299,370	\$ 234,545
Net investment income	35,719	29,665
Net foreign exchange gains (losses)	1,788	1,273
Other income	6,348	8,594
Net realized investment gains (losses) .	8,560	(3,559)
Total revenues	351,785	270,518
Claims and claim expenses incurred	88,032	90,327
Acquisition costs	54,986	32,925
Operational expenses	18,276	18,918
Corporate expenses	3,442	3,483
Interest expense	4,086	3,423
Total expenses	168,822	149,076
Income before minority interest and taxes	182,963	121,442
Minority interest - Capital securities .	2,375	2,182
Minority interest - DaVinci	15,768	14,415
Income before taxes	164,820	104,845
Income tax benefit (expense)	--	497
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--	--
Net income	164,820	105,342
Dividends on preference shares	4,862	3,105
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 159,958	\$ 102,237
Earnings per common share - basic	\$ 2.31	\$ 1.50
Earnings per common share - diluted	\$ 2.25	\$ 1.45
Weighted average shares - basic	69,341	68,241
Weighted average shares - diluted	71,202	70,574
Claims and claim expense ratio	29.4%	38.5%
Underwriting expense ratio	24.5%	22.1%
Combined ratio	53.9%	60.6%

60

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

GLOSSARY OF SELECTED INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE TERMS

Acquisition expenses	The aggregate expenses incurred by a company acquiring new business, including commissions, underwriting expenses and administrative expenses.
Attachment point	The dollar amount of loss (per occurrence or in the aggregate, as the case may be) above which excess of

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

loss reinsurance becomes operative.

Broker	An intermediary who negotiates contracts of insurance or reinsurance, receiving a commission for placement and other services rendered, between (1) a policy holder and a primary insurer, on behalf of the insured party, (2) a primary insurer and reinsurer, on behalf of the primary insurer, or (3) a reinsurer and a retrocessionaire, on behalf of the reinsurer.
Capacity	The percentage of surplus, or the dollar amount of exposure, that an insurer or reinsurer is willing or able to place at risk. Capacity may apply to a single risk, a program, a line of business or an entire book of business. Capacity may be constrained by legal restrictions, corporate restrictions or indirect restrictions.
Case reserves	Loss reserves, established with respect to specific, individual reported claims.
Casualty insurance or reinsurance	Insurance or reinsurance that is primarily concerned with the losses caused by injuries to third persons and their property (in other words, persons other than the policyholder) and the legal liability imposed on the insured resulting therefrom. Also referred to as liability insurance.
Catastrophe	A severe loss, typically involving multiple claimants. Common perils include earthquakes, hurricanes, hailstorms, severe winter weather, floods, fires, tornadoes, explosions and other natural or man-made disasters. Catastrophe losses may also arise from acts of war, acts of terrorism and political instability.
Catastrophe excess of loss reinsurance	A form of excess of loss reinsurance that, subject to a specified limit, indemnifies the ceding company for the amount of loss in excess of a specified retention with respect to an accumulation of losses resulting from a "catastrophe."
Cede; cedant; ceding company	When a party reinsures its liability with another, it "cedes" business and is referred to as the "cedant" or "ceding company."
Claim	Request by an insured or reinsured for indemnification by an insurance company or a reinsurance company for loss incurred from an insured peril or event.
Claims and claim expense ratio	The ratio of claims and claim expenses to net premiums earned determined in accordance with either SAP or GAAP.
Claim expenses	The expenses of settling claims, including legal and other fees and the portion of general expenses allocated to claim settlement costs (also known as claim adjustment expenses) plus losses incurred with respect to claims.
Claim reserves	Liabilities established by insurers and reinsurers to reflect the estimated costs of claim payments and the related expenses that the insurer or reinsurer will ultimately be required to pay in respect of insurance or

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

reinsurance policies it has issued. Claims reserves consist of case reserves, established with respect to individual reported claims, and "IBNR" reserves. For reinsurers, loss expense reserves are generally not significant because substantially all of the loss expenses associated with particular claims are incurred by the primary insurer and reported to reinsurers as losses.

Combined ratio The combined ratio is the sum of the claims and claim expense ratio and the underwriting expense ratio. A combined ratio below 100% generally indicates profitable underwriting prior to the consideration of investment income. A combined ratio over 100% generally indicates unprofitable underwriting prior to the consideration of investment income.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD. 61

Earned Premium (1) That part of the premium applicable to the expired part of the policy period, including the short-rate premium on cancellation, the entire premium on the amount of loss paid under some contracts, and the entire premium on the contract on the expiration of the policy, which is recognized as income during the period.

(2) That portion of the reinsurance premium calculated on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis which is to be retained by the reinsurer and recognized as income in the period should their cession be canceled.

(3) When a premium is paid in advance for a certain time, the company is said to "earn" the premium as the time advances. For example, a policy written for three years and paid for in advance would be one-third earned at the end of the first year.

Excess and surplus Any type of coverage that cannot be placed with an insurer admitted to do business in a certain jurisdiction. Risks placed in excess and surplus lines markets are often substandard as respects adverse loss experience, unusual, or unable to be placed in conventional markets due to a shortage of capacity.

Excess of loss Reinsurance or insurance that indemnifies the reinsured or insured against all or a specified portion of losses on underlying insurance policies in excess of a specified amount, which is called a "level" or "retention." Also known as non-proportional reinsurance. Excess of loss reinsurance is written in layers. A reinsurer or group of reinsurers accepts a layer of coverage up to a specified amount. The total coverage purchased by the cedant is referred to as a "program" and will typically be placed with predetermined reinsurers in pre-negotiated layers. Any liability exceeding the outer limit of the program reverts to the ceding company, which also bears the credit risk of a reinsurer's insolvency.

Exclusions Those risk, perils, or classes of insurance with respect to which the reinsurer will not pay loss or provide reinsurance, notwithstanding the other terms and

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

	conditions of reinsurance.
Frequency	The number of claims occurring during a given coverage period.
Generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP")	Accounting principles as set forth in opinions of the Accounting Principles Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and/or statements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board and/or their respective successors and which are applicable in the circumstances as of the date in question. Also referred to as GAAP.
Gross premiums written	Total premiums for insurance written and assumed reinsurance during a given period.
Incurred but not reported ("IBNR")	Reserves for estimated losses that have been incurred by insureds and reinsureds but not yet reported to the insurer or reinsurer including unknown future developments on losses which are known to the insurer or reinsurer.
Layer	The interval between the retention or attachment point and the maximum limit of indemnity for which a reinsurer is responsible.
Line of Business	The general classification of insurance written by insurers, i.e., fire, allied lines, homeowners, among others.
Loss; losses	An occurrence that is the basis for submission and/or payment of a claim. Whether losses are covered, limited or excluded from coverage is dependant on the terms of the policy.
Loss ratio	Claims incurred expressed as a percentage of net earned premiums.
Loss reserve	For an individual loss, an estimate of the amount the insurer expects to pay for the reported claim. For total losses, estimates of expected payments for reported and unreported claims. May include amounts for claims expenses.
Net premiums earned	The portion of net premiums written during or prior to a given period that was actually recognized as income during such period.
Net premiums written	Gross premiums written for a given period less premiums ceded to reinsurers and retrocessionaires during such period.
No claims bonus	A reduction of premiums assumed or ceded if no claims have been made within a specified period.
62	RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.
Perils	This term refers to the causes of possible loss in the property field, such as fire, windstorm, collision, hail, etc. In the casualty field, the term "hazard" is

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

more frequently used.

Premiums; written, earned and unearned	The amount charged during the term on policies and contracts issued, renewed or reinsured by an insurance company or reinsurance company. Written premium is premium registered on the books of an issuer or reinsurer at the time a policy is issued and paid for. Unearned premium is premium for a future exposure period. Earned premium is written premium minus unearned premium for an individual policy.
Property insurance or reinsurance	Insurance or reinsurance that provides coverage to a person with an insurable interest in tangible property for that person's property loss, damage or loss of use.
Property per risk treaty reinsurance	Reinsurance on a treaty basis of individual property risks insured by a ceding company.
Proportional reinsurance	A generic term describing all forms of reinsurance in which the reinsurer shares a proportional part of the original premiums and losses of the reinsured. (Also known as pro rata reinsurance, quota share reinsurance or participating reinsurance.) In proportional reinsurance the reinsurer generally pays the ceding company a ceding commission. The ceding commission generally is based on the ceding company's cost of acquiring the business being reinsured (including commissions, premium taxes, assessments and miscellaneous administrative expense) and also may include a profit factor. See also "Quota Share Reinsurance" and "Surplus Share Reinsurance."
Quota Share Reinsurance	A form of proportional reinsurance in which the reinsurer assumes an agreed percentage of each insurance being reinsured and shares all premiums and losses according with the reinsured. See also "Proportional Reinsurance" and "Surplus Share Reinsurance."
Reinstatement premium	The premium charged for the restoration of the reinsurance limit of a catastrophe contract to its full amount after payment by the reinsurer of losses as a result of an occurrence.
Reinsurance	An arrangement in which an insurance company, the reinsurer, agrees to indemnify another insurance or reinsurance company, the ceding company, against all or a portion of the insurance or reinsurance risks underwritten by the ceding company under one or more policies. Reinsurance can provide a ceding company with several benefits, including a reduction in net liability on individual risks and catastrophe protection from large or multiple losses. Reinsurance also provides a ceding company with additional underwriting capacity by permitting it to accept larger risks and write more business than would be possible without a concomitant increase in capital and surplus, and facilitates the maintenance of acceptable financial ratios by the ceding company. Reinsurance does not legally discharge the primary insurer from its liability with respect to its obligations to the insured.
Retention	The amount or portion of risk that an insurer retains

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

for its own account. Losses in excess of the retention level are paid by the reinsurer. In proportional treaties, the retention may be a percentage of the original policy's limit. In excess of loss business, the retention is a dollar amount of loss, a loss ratio or a percentage.

Retrocessional
reinsurance;
retrocessionaire

A transaction whereby a reinsurer cedes to another reinsurer, the retrocessionaire, all or part of the reinsurance that the first reinsurer has assumed. Retrocessional reinsurance does not legally discharge the ceding reinsurer from its liability with respect to its obligations to the reinsured. Reinsurance companies cede risks to retrocessionaires for reasons similar to those that cause primary insurers to purchase reinsurance: to reduce net liability on individual risks, to protect against catastrophic losses, to stabilize financial ratios and to obtain additional underwriting capacity.

Risk excess of loss
reinsurance

A form of excess of loss reinsurance that covers a loss of the reinsured on a single "risk" in excess of its retention level of the type reinsured, rather than to aggregate losses for all covered risks, as does catastrophe excess of loss reinsurance. A "risk" in this context might mean the insurance coverage on one building or a group of buildings or the insurance coverage under a single policy, which the reinsured treats as a single risk.

Risks

A term used to denote the physical units of property at risk or the object of insurance protection that are not perils or hazards. Also defined as chance of loss or uncertainty of loss.

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

63

Specialty lines

Lines of insurance and reinsurance that provide coverage for risks that are often unusual or difficult to place and do not fit the underwriting criteria of standard commercial products carriers.

Statutory accounting
principles ("SAP")

Recording transactions and preparing financial statements in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed or permitted by Bermuda and/or the U.S. state insurance regulatory authorities including the NAIC, which in general reflect a liquidating, rather than going concern, concept of accounting.

Stop Loss

A form of reinsurance under which the reinsurer pays some or all of a cedant's aggregate retained losses in excess of a predetermined dollar amount or in excess of a percentage of premium.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

Submission	An unprocessed application for (i) insurance coverage forwarded to a primary insurer by a prospective policyholder or by a broker on behalf of such prospective policyholder, (ii) reinsurance coverage forwarded to a reinsurer by a prospective ceding insurer or by a broker or intermediary on behalf of such prospective ceding insurer or (iii) retrocessional coverage forwarded to a retrocessionaire by a prospective ceding reinsurer or by a broker or intermediary on behalf of such prospective ceding reinsurer.
Surplus share reinsurance	A form of pro rata reinsurance (proportional) indemnifying the ceding company against loss to the extent of the surplus insurance liability ceded, on a share basis similar to quota share. See also "Proportional Reinsurance" and "Quota Share Reinsurance."
Total Managed Catastrophe Premium	The total catastrophe reinsurance premiums written on a gross basis by our managed catastrophe joint ventures as well as by our wholly owned subsidiaries.
Treaty	A reinsurance agreement covering a book or class of business that is automatically accepted on a bulk basis by a reinsurer. A treaty contains common contract terms along with a specific risk definition, data on limit and retention, and provisions for premium and duration.
Underwriting	The insurer's or reinsurer's process of reviewing applications submitted for insurance coverage, deciding whether to accept all or part of the coverage requested and determining the applicable premiums.
Underwriting capacity	The maximum amount that an insurance company can underwrite. The limit is generally determined by the company's retained earnings and investment capital. Reinsurance serves to increase a company's underwriting capacity by reducing its exposure from particular risks.
Underwriting expense ratio	The ratio of the sum of the acquisition expenses and operational expenses to net premiums earned, determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
Underwriting expenses	The aggregate of policy acquisition costs, including commissions, and the portion of administrative, general and other expenses attributable to underwriting operations.
Unearned premium	The portion of premiums written representing the unexpired portions of the policies or contracts which the insurer or reinsurer has on its books as of a certain date.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

In addition to the GAAP financial measures set forth in this Annual Report, the Company has included certain non-GAAP financial measures in this Annual Report within the meaning of Regulation G. The Company has consistently provided these financial measurements in previous annual reports and the Company's management believes that these measurements are important to investors and other interested persons, and that investors and such other persons benefit from having a consistent basis for comparison between quarters and for the comparison with other companies within the industry. These measures may not, however, be comparable to similarly titled measures used by companies outside of the insurance industry. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these non-GAAP measures in assessing the Company's overall financial performance.

The Company uses "operating income" as a measure to evaluate the underlying fundamentals of its operations and believes it to be a useful measure of its corporate performance. "Operating income" differs from "net income applicable to common shareholders", which the Company believes is the most directly comparable GAAP measure, only by the exclusion of net realized gains and losses on investments, the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - goodwill and a charge relating to our Stonington subsidiary taken in 1998. The Company's management believes that "operating income" is useful to investors because it more accurately measures and predicts the Company's results of operations by removing the variability arising from fluctuations in the Company's investment portfolio and by removing non-recurring matters such as changes in accounting principles - goodwill, which are not considered by management to be a relevant indicator of business operations. The Company also uses operating income to calculate operating income per common share and operating return on average common equity. The following is a reconciliation of 1) net income applicable to common shareholders to operating income; 2) net income per common share to net operating income per common share; and 3) return on average common equity to operating return on average common equity:

(In thousands of U.S. dollars)	2003	2002	2001
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 604,647	\$ 364,814	\$ 164,366
Adjustment for net realized (gains) losses on investments	(80,504)	(10,177)	(18,096)
Adjustment for cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--	9,187	--
Adjustment for fourth-quarter after-tax charge related to Stonington in 1998	--	--	--
Operating income	\$ 524,143	\$ 363,824	\$ 146,270
Net income per common share (diluted)	\$ 8.52	\$ 5.20	\$ 2.63
Adjustment for net realized (gains) losses on investments	(1.14)	(0.14)	(0.29)
Adjustment for cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--	0.13	--
Adjustment for fourth-quarter			

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

after-tax charge related to Stonington in 1998	--	--	--
Operating income per common share (diluted)	\$ 7.38	\$ 5.18	\$ 2.34
Return on average common equity (annualized)	33.7%	29.1%	20.0%
Adjustment for net realized (gains) losses on investments	(4.5%)	(0.8%)	(2.2%)
Adjustment for cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--	0.7%	--
Adjustment for fourth-quarter after-tax charge related to Stonington in 1998	--	--	--
Operating return on average common equity (annualized)	29.2%	29.0%	17.8%

	Year Ended			
(In thousands of U.S. dollars)	1998	1997	1996	
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 74,57	\$ 139,249	\$ 156,160	\$ 1
Adjustment for net realized (gains) losses on investments	6,890	2,895	2,938	
Adjustment for cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--	--	--	
Adjustment for fourth-quarter after-tax charge related to Stonington in 1998	40,080	--	--	
Operating income	\$ 121,547	\$ 142,144	\$ 159,098	\$ 1
Net income per common share (diluted)	\$ 1.11	\$ 2.02	\$ 2.00	\$
Adjustment for net realized (gains) losses on investments	0.10	0.04	0.04	
Adjustment for cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--	--	--	
Adjustment for fourth-quarter after-tax charge related to Stonington in 1998	0.60	--	--	
Operating income per common share (diluted)	\$ 1.81	\$ 2.06	\$ 2.04	\$
Return on average common				

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

equity (annualized)	11.8%	24.5%	29.2%
Adjustment for net realized (gains) losses on investments	1.1%	.5%	.6%
Adjustment for cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle - SFAS 142 - Goodwill	--	--	--
Adjustment for fourth-quarter after-tax charge related to Stonington in 1998	6.6%	--	--

Operating return on average common equity (annualized)	19.5%	25.0%	29.8%

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

65

The Company has also included in this Annual Report "managed cat premium" and "gross written managed premium". "Managed cat premium" is defined as gross catastrophe premium written by Renaissance Reinsurance and its related joint ventures. "Gross managed premium" differs from gross written premium, which the Company believes is the most directly comparable GAAP measure, due to the inclusion of premiums written on behalf of our joint ventures Top Layer Re, which is accounted for under the equity method of accounting, and OPCat, which was accounted for under the equity method of accounting prior to 2002. "Managed cat premium" differs from total catastrophe premium, which the Company believes is the most directly comparable GAAP measure, due to the inclusion of catastrophe premium written on behalf of our joint venture Top Layer Re, which is accounted for under the equity method of accounting, and OPCat, which was accounted for under the equity method of accounting prior to 2002. The following is a reconciliation of 1) gross managed premium to gross written premium; and 2) managed cat premium to total catastrophe premium:

(In thousands of U.S. dollars)	Year Ended*		
	2003	2002	2001
Total catastrophe premium	\$ 643,665	\$ 643,450	\$ 373,896
Catastrophe premium written by OP Cat.	--	--	29,129
Catastrophe premium written by Top Layer Re	76,735	73,099	38,761
Managed catastrophe premium	\$ 720,400	\$ 716,549	\$ 441,786
Gross written premium	\$ 1,382,209	\$ 1,173,049	\$ 501,321
Premium written by OP Cat	--	--	29,129
Premium written by Top Layer Re	76,735	73,099	38,761
Gross managed premium	\$ 1,458,944	\$ 1,246,148	\$ 569,211

* In the years 1993 - 1998, there is no difference between gross managed premium and gross written premium, and managed catastrophe premium and total catastrophe premium.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

The Company has also included in this Annual Report "tangible book value per share plus accumulated dividends". This is defined as book value per share excluding intangible assets such as goodwill. "Tangible book value per share plus accumulated dividends" differs from book value per share, which the Company believes is the most directly comparable GAAP measure, due to the exclusion of goodwill and, in 2002, the effect of a cumulative adjustment due to a change in accounting principle.

(In thousands of U.S. dollars)	Year Ended*					
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Book value per share	\$ 29.61	\$ 21.39	\$ 15.83	\$ 11.91	\$ 10.17	\$ 9.90
Adjustment for goodwill	--	--	(0.14)	(0.17)	(0.11)	(0.11)
Adjustment for accumulated dividends ...	0.60	0.57	0.53	0.50	0.47	0.47
Tangible book value per share plus accumulated dividends	\$ 30.21	\$ 21.96	\$ 16.22	\$ 12.24	\$ 10.53	\$ 9.90

* In the years 1993 - 1994, there is no difference between book value per share and tangible book value per share plus accumulated dividends.

66

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

FINANCIAL AND INVESTOR INFORMATION
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Subsidiaries

For copies of the Company's Annual Report, press releases, Forms 10-K and 10-Q or other filings, please visit our website:

www.renre.com
or contact:
Kekst and Company
437 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Tel. 212-521-4800

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY CONTACT:
Martin J. Merritt
Senior Vice President
Tel. 441-299-7230
Email: mjm@renre.com

STOCK INFORMATION

The Company's stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RNR.

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low closing prices per

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form ARS

share of our common shares as reported in
composite New York Stock Exchange trading.

	2003 PRICE RANGE		2002 Price Range	
	HIGH	LOW	High	Low
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
First Quarter	\$ 40.78	\$ 34.40	\$ 36.35	\$ 28.90
Second Quarter	46.93	40.07	39.65	33.85
Third Quarter	48.69	41.15	39.40	31.30
Fourth Quarter	49.35	44.45	43.24	37.49
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Ernst & Young
Hamilton, Bermuda

TRANSFER AGENT

Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C.
Overpeck Centre
85 Challenger Road
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660
USA
Tel. 1-800-756-3353
www.melloninvestor.com

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:

The Company Secretary
RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.
Renaissance House
8-12 East Broadway
P.O. Box HM2527
Hamilton HMGX, Bermuda
Tel. 441-295-4513
Fax. 441-292-9453

Designed and produced by Taylor & Ives, Inc., NYC

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

Renaissance House
8-12 East Broadway
P.O. Box HM 2527
Hamilton HMGX, Bermuda

Tel: 441 295 4513
Fax 441 292 9453

