

SKYWEST INC  
Form 10-Q  
August 08, 2012  
Table of Contents

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## Form 10-Q

**QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2012

OR

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

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

Commission file number 0-14719

**SKYWEST, INC.**

Incorporated under the laws of Utah

**87-0292166**  
(I.R.S. Employer ID No.)

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

444 South River Road

St. George, Utah 84790

(435) 634-3000

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class	Outstanding at August 1, 2012
Common stock, no par value	51,253,324

Table of Contents

SKYWEST, INC.

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PART I</u>	<u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION:</u>		3
	<u>Item 1.</u>	<u>Financial Statements</u>	3
		<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of June 30, 2012 (unaudited) and December 31, 2011</u>	3
		<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations (unaudited) for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011</u>	5
		<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited) for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011</u>	6
		<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	7
	<u>Item 2.</u>	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	15
	<u>Item 3.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	27
	<u>Item 4.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	27
<u>PART II</u>	<u>OTHER INFORMATION:</u>		28
	<u>Item 1.</u>	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	28
	<u>Item 1A.</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u>	29
	<u>Item 6.</u>	<u>Exhibits</u>	29
		<u>Signature</u>	30
Exhibit 31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer		
Exhibit 31.2	Certification of Chief Accounting Officer		
Exhibit 32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer		
Exhibit 32.2	Certification of Chief Accounting Officer		

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(Dollars in Thousands)

**ASSETS**

	<b>June 30, 2012 (unaudited)</b>	<b>December 31, 2011</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 108,714	\$ 129,526
Marketable securities	501,332	497,552
Restricted cash	19,445	19,434
Income tax receivable	285	1,568
Receivables, net	139,261	130,510
Inventories, net	114,076	115,211
Prepaid aircraft rents	329,874	285,737
Deferred tax assets	79,551	69,519
Other current assets	31,217	31,407
Total current assets	1,323,755	1,280,464
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:</b>		
Aircraft and rotatable spares	3,986,412	3,973,027
Buildings and ground equipment	294,199	291,294
	4,280,611	4,264,321
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,483,375)	(1,380,846)
Total property and equipment, net	2,797,236	2,883,475
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Intangible assets, net	18,373	19,497
Other assets	99,446	98,472
Total other assets	117,819	117,969
Total assets	\$ 4,238,810	\$ 4,281,908

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents**SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(Dollars in Thousands)

**LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

	<b>June 30, 2012 (unaudited)</b>	<b>December 31, 2011</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 205,524	\$ 208,398
Accounts payable	231,196	220,784
Accrued salaries, wages and benefits	117,613	112,987
Accrued aircraft rents	18,489	22,285
Taxes other than income taxes	18,215	21,186
Other current liabilities	38,980	38,508
Total current liabilities	630,017	624,148
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	48,775	50,194
LONG-TERM DEBT, net of current maturities	1,525,269	1,606,993
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES PAYABLE	589,610	567,874
DEFERRED AIRCRAFT CREDITS	94,509	98,438
<b>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</b>		
<b>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:</b>		
Preferred stock, 5,000,000 shares authorized; none issued		
Common stock, no par value, 120,000,000 shares authorized; 76,224,130 and 75,833,696 shares issued, respectively	603,491	598,985
Retained earnings	1,116,346	1,104,144
Treasury stock, at cost, 25,279,790 and 25,221,481 shares, respectively	(371,206)	(370,309)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	1,999	1,441
Total stockholders' equity	1,350,630	1,334,261
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 4,238,810	\$ 4,281,908

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

## SKYWEST, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Dollars and Shares in Thousands, Except per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
<b>OPERATING REVENUES:</b>				
Passenger	\$ 920,633	\$ 919,690	\$ 1,822,989	\$ 1,764,166
Ground handling and other	16,581	14,007	35,399	35,482
Total operating revenues	937,214	933,697	1,858,388	1,799,648
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>				
Salaries, wages and benefits	290,676	290,126	581,490	576,273
Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs	167,150	176,399	346,786	339,573
Aircraft fuel	153,544	161,408	300,994	288,149
Aircraft rentals	83,944	88,072	168,846	174,494
Depreciation and amortization	64,182	63,697	128,497	126,890
Station rentals and landing fees	44,254	42,322	88,187	84,948
Ground handling services	29,615	32,875	64,930	69,728
Merger and integration related costs		1,364		2,395
Other	57,043	58,394	111,395	117,932
Total operating expenses	890,408	914,657	1,791,125	1,780,382
OPERATING INCOME	46,806	19,040	67,263	19,266
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):</b>				
Interest income	2,043	2,114	3,996	4,080
Interest expense	(19,387)	(20,052)	(39,167)	(40,272)
Other, net	(815)	(2,859)	(4,667)	(3,365)
	(18,159)	(20,797)	(39,838)	(39,557)
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	28,647	(1,757)	27,425	(20,291)
<b>PROVISION (BENEFIT) FOR INCOME TAXES</b>				
TAXES	11,687	(3,336)	11,147	(10,806)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 16,960	\$ 1,579	\$ 16,278	\$ (9,485)
<b>BASIC EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE</b>				
BASIC EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.32	\$ (0.18)
<b>DILUTED EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE</b>				
DILUTED EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.32	\$ (0.18)
Weighted average common shares:				
Basic	50,944	52,698	50,912	53,271
Diluted	51,789	53,371	51,335	53,271
Dividends declared per share	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.08
<b>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS):</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$ 16,960	\$ 1,579	\$ 16,278	\$ (9,485)
Proportionate share of other companies foreign currency translation adjustment, net of taxes	141	130	448	290
Net unrealized appreciation on marketable securities, net of taxes	35	333	111	642
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 17,136	\$ 2,042	\$ 16,837	\$ (8,553)

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents**SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(UNAUDITED)**

(In Thousands)

	<b>Six Months Ended June 30</b>	
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ 109,347</b>	<b>\$ 51,324</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Purchases of marketable securities	(222,616)	(234,342)
Sales of marketable securities	219,362	382,351
Proceeds from the sale of equipment	630	191
Acquisition of property and equipment:		
Aircraft and rotatable spare parts	(27,555)	(29,029)
Deposits on aircraft		(13,500)
Buildings and ground equipment	(3,252)	(5,009)
Increase in other assets	(9,397)	(3,850)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(42,828)</b>	<b>96,812</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Principal payments on long-term debt	(84,598)	(79,363)
Tax benefit from exercise of common stock options	73	2
Return of deposits on aircraft and rotatable spare parts		400
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	2,161	2,203
Purchase of treasury stock	(897)	(40,259)
Payment of cash dividends	(4,070)	(4,326)
<b>NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(87,331)</b>	<b>(121,343)</b>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(20,812)	26,793
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	129,526	112,338
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 108,714</b>	<b>\$ 139,131</b>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:</b>		
Cash paid (received) during the year for:		
Interest, net of capitalized amounts	\$ 39,261	\$ 41,370
Income taxes	\$ (1,477)	\$ 698

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents

**SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(UNAUDITED)**

Note A Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

The condensed consolidated financial statements of SkyWest, Inc. ( SkyWest or the Company ) and its operating subsidiaries, SkyWest Airlines, Inc. ( SkyWest Airlines ) and ExpressJet Airlines Inc. ( ExpressJet ) included herein have been prepared, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( GAAP ) have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations, although the Company believes that the following disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. These condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments that, in the opinion of management, are necessary to present fairly the results of operations for the interim periods presented. All adjustments are of a normal recurring nature, unless otherwise disclosed. The Company suggests that these condensed consolidated financial statements be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. The results of operations for the three and six-months ended June 30, 2012 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported 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 will differ and may differ materially from those estimates and assumptions.

Effective December 31, 2011, ExpressJet Airlines, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of SkyWest ( ExpressJet Delaware ) was merged into Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc., another wholly-owned subsidiary of SkyWest ( Atlantic Southeast ). On January 1, 2012, Atlantic Southeast, the surviving entity of such merger (the ExpressJet Combination ), changed its name to ExpressJet Airlines, Inc. In this Report, Atlantic Southeast refers to Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc., a Georgia corporation, for periods prior to the ExpressJet Combination, ExpressJet Delaware refers to ExpressJet Airlines, Inc., a Delaware corporation, for periods prior to the ExpressJet Combination, and ExpressJet refers to ExpressJet Airlines, Inc., the Utah corporation resulting from the combination of Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet Delaware, for periods subsequent to the consummation of the ExpressJet Combination.

Note B Passenger and Ground Handling Revenue

***Passenger and Ground Handling Revenues***

The Company recognizes passenger and ground handling revenues when the service is provided. Under the Company's contract and pro-rate flying agreements with Delta Airlines, Inc. ( Delta ), United Air Lines, Inc. ( United ), Continental Airlines, Inc. ( Continental ), US Airways

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Group, Inc. ( US Airways ) and Alaska Airlines ( Alaska ), revenue is considered earned when the flight is completed. Revenue is recognized under the Company's pro-rate flying agreements based upon the portion of the pro-rate passenger fare the Company anticipates that it will receive.

### *Delta Connection Agreements*

SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet are each parties to a Delta Connection Agreement with Delta, pursuant to which SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet provide contract flight services for Delta. The Delta Connection Agreements provide for fifteen-year terms, subject to early termination by Delta, SkyWest Airlines or ExpressJet, as applicable, upon the occurrence of certain events. Delta's termination rights include (i) cross-termination rights between the two Delta Connection Agreements, (ii) the right to terminate each of the Delta Connection Agreements upon the occurrence of certain force majeure events, including certain labor-related events, that prevent SkyWest Airlines or ExpressJet from performance for certain periods, and (iii) the right to terminate each of the Delta Connection Agreements if SkyWest Airlines or ExpressJet fails to maintain competitive base rate costs, subject to certain adjustment rights. The SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreements contain multi-year rate reset provisions beginning in 2010 and each 5th year thereafter. In addition to the termination rights, Delta has the right to extend the term of the Delta Connection Agreements upon the occurrence of certain events or at the expiration of the initial term. SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet have the right to terminate their respective Delta Connection Agreement upon the occurrence of certain breaches by Delta, including the failure to cure payment defaults. SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet also have cross-termination rights between the two Delta Connection Agreements.

Table of Contents

Under the terms of the SkyWest Airlines Delta Connection Agreement, Delta has agreed to compensate SkyWest Airlines for the direct costs associated with operating the Delta Connection flights, plus a payment based on block hours flown. Under the terms of the ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreement, Delta has agreed to compensate ExpressJet for its direct costs associated with operating the Delta Connection flights, plus, if ExpressJet completes a certain minimum percentage of its Delta Connection flights, an additional percentage of such costs. Additionally, ExpressJet's Delta Connection Agreement provides for the payment of incentive compensation upon satisfaction of certain performance goals. The incentives are defined in the ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreement as being measured and determined on a monthly and quarterly basis. At the end of each quarter, the Company calculates the incentives achieved during the quarter and recognizes revenue accordingly. The parties to the Delta Connection Agreements made customary representations, warranties and covenants, including with respect to various operational, marketing and administrative matters.

In the event that the contractual rates under the Delta Connection Agreements have not been finalized at quarterly or annual financial statement dates, the Company records revenues based on the lower of prior periods' approved rates, as adjusted to reflect any contract negotiations and the Company's estimate of rates that will be implemented in accordance with revenue recognition guidelines.

The Delta Connection Agreements also provide that, beginning with the fifth anniversary of the execution of the agreements (September 8, 2010), Delta has the right to require that certain contractual rates under those agreements shall not exceed the second lowest of all carriers within the Delta Connection program. During the fourth quarter of 2010, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast reached an agreement with Delta on contractual rates satisfying the 2010 rate reset provision and the second-lowest rate provision and agreed to rates through December 31, 2015. Delta additionally waived its right to require that the contractual rates payable under the Delta Connection Agreements shall not exceed the second-lowest rates of all carriers within the Delta Connection program through December 31, 2015.

In the event the Company has a reimbursement dispute with a major partner, the Company evaluates the dispute under its established revenue recognition criteria and, provided the revenue recognition criteria have been met, the Company recognizes revenue based on management's estimate of the resolution of the dispute. During the quarter ended December 31, 2007, Delta notified the Company, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast of a dispute under the Delta Connection Agreements executed by Delta with SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast. The dispute relates to allocation of liability for certain irregular operations ( IROP ) expenses that are paid by SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet to their passengers under certain situations. As a result, Delta withheld a combined total of approximately \$25 million (pre-tax) from one of the weekly scheduled wire payments to SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast during December 2007. Delta continues to withhold a portion of the funds the Company believes are payable as weekly scheduled wire payments to SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet (See Note 1 for additional details).

***United Express Agreements***

SkyWest Airlines and United have entered into a United Express Agreement, which sets forth the principal terms and conditions governing SkyWest Airlines' United Express operations. Under the terms of the United Express Agreement, SkyWest Airlines is compensated primarily on a fee-per-completed-block hour and departure basis and is reimbursed for fuel and other costs. Additionally, SkyWest Airlines is eligible for incentive compensation upon the achievement of certain performance criteria. The incentives are defined in the United Express Agreement as being measured and determined on a monthly basis. At the end of each month, the Company calculates the incentives achieved during the month and recognizes revenue accordingly.

On February 10, 2010, Atlantic Southeast and United entered into a United Express Agreement, pursuant to which ExpressJet, as successor to Atlantic Southeast, operates 14 CRJ200s as a United Express carrier. The ExpressJet United Express Agreement is a capacity purchase agreement with a five-year term, and other terms which are generally consistent with the SkyWest Airlines United Express Agreement.

On December 1, 2009, ExpressJet Delaware and United also entered into a United Express Agreement, which sets forth the principal terms and conditions governing the United Express operations presently conducted by ExpressJet. Under the terms of that United Express Agreement, to which ExpressJet became a party through the ExpressJet Combination, ExpressJet is compensated primarily on a fee-per-completed-block hour and departure basis and is reimbursed for fuel and other costs. Additionally, ExpressJet is eligible for incentive compensation upon the achievement of certain performance criteria. The incentives are defined in that ExpressJet United Express Agreement as being measured and determined on a monthly basis. At the end of each month, the Company calculates the incentives achieved during the month and recognizes revenue accordingly.

*Continental CPA*

Effective November 12, 2010, ExpressJet Delaware entered into a Capacity Purchase Agreement with Continental (the *Continental CPA* ), whereby ExpressJet Delaware agreed to provide regional airline service in the Continental flight system. Under

Table of Contents

the terms of the Continental CPA, to which ExpressJet became a party through the ExpressJet Combination, ExpressJet operates 227 aircraft in the Continental flight system and Continental has agreed to compensate ExpressJet on a monthly basis based on the block hours flown by ExpressJet and the weighted average number of aircraft operated by ExpressJet under the Continental CPA. Additionally, ExpressJet may earn incentive compensation for good operating performance, but is subject to financial penalties for poor operating performance. At the end of each month, the Company calculates the incentives achieved during the month under the Continental CPA and recognizes revenue accordingly.

***Alaska Capacity Purchase Agreement***

SkyWest Airlines and Alaska have entered into a Capacity Purchase Agreement, which sets forth the principal terms and conditions governing SkyWest Airlines' operations for Alaska. Under the terms of the Alaska Capacity Purchase Agreement, SkyWest Airlines is compensated primarily on a fee-per-completed-block hour and departure basis and is reimbursed for fuel and other costs. Additionally, SkyWest Airlines is eligible for incentive compensation upon the achievement of certain performance criteria. The incentives are defined in the Alaska Capacity Purchase Agreement as being measured and determined on a monthly basis. At the end of each month, the Company calculates the incentives achieved during the month and recognizes revenue accordingly.

***US Airways Express Agreement***

SkyWest Airlines and US Airways have entered into a US Airways Express Agreement, which sets forth the principal terms and conditions governing SkyWest Airlines' US Airways Express operations. Under the terms of the US Airways Express Agreement, SkyWest Airlines is compensated primarily on a fee-per-completed-block hour and departure basis and is reimbursed for fuel and other costs. Additionally, SkyWest Airlines is eligible to receive incentive compensation upon the achievement of certain performance criteria. The incentives are defined in the US Airways Express Agreement as being measured and determined on a quarterly basis. At the end of each quarter, the Company calculates the incentives achieved during the quarter and recognizes revenue accordingly.

***Other Revenue Items***

The Company's passenger and ground handling revenues could be impacted by a number of factors, including changes to the Company's code-share agreements with Delta, United, Continental, Alaska or US Airways, integration of the operations of Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet Delaware and the implementation of the ExpressJet Combination, contract modifications resulting from contract re-negotiations, the Company's ability to earn incentive payments contemplated under the Company's code-share agreements and settlement of reimbursement disputes with the Company's major partners.

Note C Share-Based Compensation

The fair value of stock options granted by the Company has been estimated as of the grant date using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, the Company granted options to purchase 200,115 shares of common stock under the SkyWest, Inc. 2010 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the 2010 Incentive Plan). The following table shows the assumptions used and weighted average fair value for

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

stock option grants during the six months ended June 30, 2012.

Expected annual dividend rate		1.23%
Risk-free interest rate		0.81%
Average expected life (years)		5.6
Expected volatility of common stock		.409
Forfeiture rate		0.0%
Weighted average fair value of option grants	\$	4.43

During the six months ended June 30, 2012, the Company granted 290,265 restricted stock units to the Company's employees under the 2010 Incentive Plan. The restricted stock units have a three-year vesting period, during which the recipient must remain employed with the Company or one of the Company's subsidiaries. Upon vesting, a restricted stock unit will be replaced with a common share of stock. Additionally, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, the Company granted 27,874 fully-vested shares of common stock to the Company's directors. The weighted average fair value of the shares of restricted stock on the date of grant was \$13.06 per share.

The Company records share-based compensation expense only for those options and restricted stock units that are expected to vest. The estimated fair value of the stock options and restricted stock units is amortized over the applicable vesting periods. During the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company recorded pre-tax share-based compensation expense of \$1.1 million and \$1.2 million, respectively. During the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company recorded pre-tax share-based compensation expense of \$2.4 million and \$3.0 million, respectively.



Table of Contents

## Note D Net Income (Loss) Per Common Share

Basic net income (loss) per common share ( Basic EPS ) excludes dilution and is computed by dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income (loss) per common share ( Diluted EPS ) reflects the potential dilution that could occur if stock options or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. The computation of Diluted EPS does not assume exercise or conversion of securities that would have an anti-dilutive effect on net income (loss) per common share. During the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, options to acquire 3,952,000 and 3,282,000 shares, respectively, were excluded from the computation of Diluted EPS as their impact was anti-dilutive. During the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, options to acquire 3,971,000 and 4,510,000 shares, respectively, were excluded from the computation of Diluted EPS as their impact was anti-dilutive.

The calculation of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for Basic EPS and Diluted EPS for the periods indicated (in thousands, except per share data) is as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 (Unaudited)		2011		Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 (Unaudited)		2011	
<b>Numerator</b>								
Net Income (Loss)	\$	16,960	\$	1,579	\$	16,278	\$	(9,485)
<b>Denominator</b>								
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding		50,944		52,698		50,912		53,271
Effect of outstanding share-based awards		845		673		423		
Weighted average number of shares for diluted net income (loss) per common share		51,789		53,371		51,335		53,271
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$	0.33	\$	0.03	\$	0.32	\$	(0.18)
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$	0.33	\$	0.03	\$	0.32	\$	(0.18)

## Note E Segment Reporting

Generally accepted accounting principles require disclosures related to components of a company for which separate financial information is available to and regularly evaluated by the company's chief operating decision maker ( CODM ) when deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance.

The Company's two operating segments consist of the operations of its two operating subsidiaries, SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet. On December 31, 2011, ExpressJet Delaware and Atlantic Southeast merged through the ExpressJet Combination. In conjunction with the ExpressJet Combination, ExpressJet became a reportable segment. Prior year amounts have been revised to conform to the current year segment presentation. Corporate overhead expense incurred by the Company is allocated to the operating expenses of its two operating subsidiaries. The following represents the Company's segment data for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands).

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Three months ended June 30,2012

	SkyWest Airlines	ExpressJet	Other	Consolidated
Operating revenues	509,135	425,445	2,634	937,214
Operating expense	467,497	421,640	1,271	890,408
Depreciation and amortization expense	38,646	25,536		64,182
Interest expense	12,353	5,959	1,075	19,387
Segment profit (loss)(1)	29,285	(2,154)	288	27,419
Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill		18,373		18,373
Total assets	2,604,012	1,634,798		4,238,810
Capital expenditures (including non-cash)	6,700	4,579		11,279

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

	Three months ended June 30, 2011			
	SkyWest Airlines	ExpressJet	Other	Consolidated
Operating revenues	513,326	417,497	2,874	933,697
Operating expense	479,905	433,371	1,381	914,657
Depreciation and amortization expense	36,825	26,872		63,697
Interest expense	12,621	6,332	1,099	20,052
Segment profit (loss) (1)	20,800	(22,206)	394	(1,012)
Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill		20,622		20,622
Total assets	2,545,336	1,794,405		4,339,741
Capital expenditures (including non-cash)	11,318	7,729		19,047

(1) Segment profit is operating income less interest expense

The following represents the Company's segment data for the six-months periods ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands).

	Six months ended June 30, 2012			
	SkyWest Airlines	ExpressJet	Other	Consolidated
Operating revenues	1,004,046	849,074	5,268	1,858,388
Operating expense	940,403	848,192	2,530	1,791,125
Depreciation and amortization expense	77,429	51,068		128,497
Interest expense	24,915	12,005	2,247	39,167
Segment profit (loss)(1)	38,728	(11,123)	491	28,096
Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill		18,373		18,373
Total assets	2,604,012	1,634,798		4,238,810
Capital expenditures (including non-cash)	21,953	8,541		30,494

	Six months ended June 30, 2011			
	SkyWest Airlines	ExpressJet	Other	Consolidated
Operating revenues	992,944	800,956	5,748	1,799,648
Operating expense	936,720	840,962	2,700	1,780,382
Depreciation and amortization expense	73,280	53,610		126,890
Interest expense	25,351	12,711	2,210	40,272
Segment profit (loss) (1)	30,873	(52,717)	838	(21,006)
Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill		20,622		20,622
Total assets	2,545,336	1,794,405		4,339,741
Capital expenditures (including non-cash)	21,618	15,048		36,666

(1) Segment profit is operating income less interest expense

Note F Fair Value Measurements

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

The Company holds certain assets that are required to be measured at fair value in accordance with United States GAAP. The Company determined fair value of these assets based on the following three levels of inputs:

- Level 1* Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2* Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. Some of the Company's marketable securities primarily utilize broker quotes in a non-active market for valuation of these securities.
- Level 3* Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

As of June 30, 2012, the Company held certain assets that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below (in thousands):

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

	Total	Fair Value Measurements as of June 30, 2012		Level 3
		Level 1	Level 2	
<b>Marketable Securities</b>				
Bond and bond fund	\$ 497,410	\$	\$ 497,410	\$
Commercial paper	3,543		3,543	
Asset backed securities	379		379	
	501,332		501,332	
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash	128,159	128,159		
Other Assets (a)	3,825			3,825
<b>Total Assets Measured at Fair Value</b>	<b>\$ 633,316</b>	<b>\$ 128,159</b>	<b>\$ 501,332</b>	<b>\$ 3,825</b>

(a) Auction rate securities included in Other assets in the unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet

Based on market conditions, the Company uses a discounted cash flow valuation methodology for auction rate securities. Accordingly, for purposes of the foregoing condensed consolidated financial statements, these securities were categorized as Level 3 securities. The Company's Marketable Securities classified as Level 2 primarily utilize broker quotes in a non-active market for valuation of these securities.

The Company did not make any significant transfers of securities between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during the six months ended June 30, 2012. The Company's policy regarding the recording of transfers between levels is to record any such transfers at the end of the reporting period.

The following table presents the Company's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) at June 30, 2012 (in thousands):

**Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs**

**(Level 3)**

	Auction Rate Securities
Balance at January 1, 2012	\$ 3,793
Total realized and unrealized gains or (losses)	
Included in earnings	
Included in other comprehensive income	32
Transferred out	
Settlements	
Balance at June 30, 2012	\$ 3,825

The fair value of the Company's long-term debt classified as Level 2 was estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based on the Company's current estimated incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements. The fair value of the Company's long-term debt is estimated based on current rates offered to the Company for similar debt and was estimated to be \$1,834.5 million as of June 30, 2012, as

compared to the carrying amount of \$1,730.8 million as of June 30, 2012.

Note G Income Taxes

Primarily as a result of decreases in the Company's estimated pre-tax income, the Company's estimated annual effective tax rate for the three and six-month periods ended June 30, 2011 varied from the federal statutory rate of 35%. The variance also reflected proportionate increase in expenses with limited tax deductibility relative to the Company's pre-tax income for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Note H Investment in Other Companies

In September 2008, the Company entered into an agreement to acquire a 20% interest in Trip Linhas Aereas, a regional airline operating in Brazil (TRIP). As of June 30 2012, the Company's investment balance in TRIP was \$24.1 million, which represented a 20% voting ownership interest in TRIP common stock and a 6% non-voting ownership interest in TRIP preferred stock. In connection with the investment in TRIP, the Company entered into a put option agreement with the majority shareholder of TRIP that allows the Company to put its investment to TRIP's majority shareholder at an established price based on a 5% annual rate of return over the investment period.

Table of Contents

As a subsequent event, on July 12, 2012, the Company sold its interest in TRIP for a price of \$42 million. The purchase price is scheduled to be paid in three installments over a two-year period and may be accelerated upon the occurrence of certain conditions identified in the purchase agreement. As part of the sale transaction, the Company also received an option to acquire 15.38% of the ownership in Trip Investimentos Ltda., the purchaser of the Company's TRIP shares. The option has an initial exercise price per share, the exercise price escalates annually at a specified rate and the Company can exercise the option, in its discretion, between the fourth and sixth anniversaries of the Company's receipt of the required installment payments from Trip Investimentos Ltda. under the purchase agreement.

On September 29, 2010, the Company invested \$7 million for a 30% ownership interest in Mekong Aviation Joint Stock Company, an airline operating in Vietnam ( Air Mekong ). During 2011, the Company invested an additional \$3 million in Air Mekong. As of June 30, 2012, the Company's investment balance in Air Mekong was \$2.1 million. These investments were recorded as an Other asset on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. The Company accounts for its interest in Trip and Air Mekong using the equity method of accounting. The Company records its equity in Trip's and Air Mekong's earnings on a one-quarter lag. The Company's portion of the losses incurred by Trip and Air Mekong for the six months ended June 30, 2012 was \$5.3 million.

Note I Legal Matters

The Company is subject to certain legal actions which it considers routine to its business activities. As of June 30, 2012, the Company's management believed, after consultation with legal counsel, that the ultimate outcome of such legal matters is not likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, liquidity or results of operations. However, the following is a significant outstanding legal matter.

*SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet v. Delta*

During the quarter ended December 31, 2007, Delta notified the Company, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast, of a dispute under the Delta Connection Agreements executed by Delta with SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast. The dispute relates to the allocation of liability for certain irregular operation ( IROP ) expenses paid by SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast (now ExpressJet) to their passengers and vendors under certain situations. During the period between the execution of the Delta Connection Agreements in September 2005 and December 2007, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast passed through to Delta IROP expenses that were paid pursuant to Delta's policies, and Delta accepted and reimbursed those expenses. Delta now claims it is obligated to reimburse only a fraction of those IROP expenses. As a result, Delta withheld a combined total of approximately \$25 million (pre-tax) from one of the weekly scheduled wire payments to SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast during December 2007. Since December 2007, Delta has continued to withhold payments from the weekly scheduled wire payments to SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast (now ExpressJet), and has disputed subsequent billings for IROP expenses. As of June 30, 2012, the Company had recognized a cumulative total of \$31.7 million of revenue associated with the funds withheld by Delta. Since July 1, 2008, the Company has not recognized revenue related to IROP expense reimbursements withheld by Delta because collection of those reimbursements is the subject of litigation and is not reasonably assured. On February 1, 2008, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast filed a Complaint in the Superior Court for Fulton County, Georgia ( Superior Court ) challenging Delta's treatment of the matter and seeking recovery of the payments withheld by Delta and any future withholdings related to this issue. Delta filed an Answer to the SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast Complaint and a Counterclaim against SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast on March 24, 2008. Delta's Counterclaim alleged that SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast breached the Delta Connection Agreements by invoicing Delta for IROP expenses that were paid pursuant to Delta's policies, and claims only a portion of those expenses may be invoiced to Delta.

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

After proceedings that included contested motions, document discovery, and depositions, Delta voluntarily dismissed its Counterclaim. Discovery in that action was not complete at the time of dismissal. On February 14, 2011, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast exercised their statutory rights to voluntarily dismiss their claims in the Superior Court, and filed a new complaint (the State Court Complaint ) in the Georgia State Court of Fulton County (the State Court ). The claims continue to include breach of contract, breach of contract based on mutual departure, breach of contract based on voluntary payment, and breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing. Delta moved for partial dismissal of the State Court Complaint, which motion was denied in its entirety. Delta also filed a separate action in the Superior Court containing claims for declaratory judgment and breach of the confidentiality provisions of the Delta Connection Agreements. SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast moved for dismissal of Delta's claims in the Superior Court. The Superior Court dismissed Delta's complaint in its entirety. Discovery in the lawsuit is ongoing.

On October 18, 2011, Delta filed a counterclaim (the Counterclaim ) against SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast. The Counterclaim contains claims for unjust enrichment and breach of contract related to alleged non-revenue positive space flying by SkyWest and Atlantic Southeast employees for non-Delta related business. Delta's Counterclaim does not specify an amount of damages, but the Counterclaim alleges, on information and belief, that Delta's damages exceed \$4.5 million. SkyWest and Atlantic Southeast filed their reply to the Counterclaim on November 21, 2011, stating the allegations contained in the Counterclaim stand



Table of Contents

denied by operation of law and asserting SkyWest's and Atlantic Southeast's affirmative defenses. An estimated loss is accrued if the loss is probable and reasonably estimable. Because these conditions have not been satisfied, the Company has not recorded a loss in its consolidated financial statements with respect to the dispute. As of June 30, 2012, a range of reasonably possible loss is not determinable related to this Counterclaim.

During 2010, the Company and Delta began preliminary settlement discussions related to the dispute. Notwithstanding the legal merits of the case, the Company offered to settle the claim for approximately \$5.9 million less than the cumulative total of revenue recognized related to this matter. Those settlement discussions were not successful; however, as a result of the settlement offer, the Company wrote off \$5.9 million of related receivables as of December 31, 2010. As of June 30, 2012, the Company's estimated range of reasonably possible loss related to the dispute was \$0 to \$25.8 million.

SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet continue to vigorously pursue their claims set forth in the State Court Complaint and their defenses against Delta's Counterclaim.

Table of Contents

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

*The following discussion and analysis presents factors that had a material effect on the results of operations of SkyWest, Inc. ( SkyWest we or us ) during the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2012 and 2011. Also discussed is our financial position as of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. You should read this discussion in conjunction with our condensed consolidated financial statements for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2012, including the notes thereto, appearing elsewhere in this Report. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements. Please refer to the section of this Report entitled Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements for discussion of the uncertainties, risks and assumptions associated with these statements.*

*Effective December 31, 2011, our subsidiary, ExpressJet Airlines, Inc. was merged into our subsidiary, Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc., with the surviving corporation named ExpressJet Airlines, Inc. (the ExpressJet Combination ). In this Report, Atlantic Southeast refers to Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc. for periods prior to the ExpressJet Combination, ExpressJet Delaware refers to ExpressJet Airlines, Inc., a Delaware corporation, for periods prior to the ExpressJet Combination, and ExpressJet refers to ExpressJet Airlines, Inc., the Utah corporation resulting from the combination of Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet Delaware, for periods subsequent to the consummation of the ExpressJet Combination.*

**Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain of the statements contained in this Report should be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements may be identified by words such as may, will, expect, intend, anticipate, believe, estimate, plan, project, could, should, hope, likely, and continue and similar terms used in connection with statements regarding SkyWest's outlook, the revenue environment, SkyWest's contract relationships, and SkyWest's expected financial performance. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements about SkyWest's future growth and development plans, including SkyWest's future financial and operating results, SkyWest's plans for SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet, SkyWest's objectives, expectations and intentions, and other statements that are not historical facts. You should also keep in mind that all forward-looking statements are based on SkyWest's existing beliefs about present and future events outside of SkyWest's control and on assumptions that may prove to be incorrect. If one or more risks identified in this Report materializes, or any other underlying assumption proves incorrect, SkyWest's actual results will vary, and may vary materially, from those anticipated, estimated, projected, or intended.

There may be other factors not identified above of which SkyWest is not currently aware that may affect matters discussed in the forward-looking statements, and may also cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed. SkyWest assumes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting these statements other than as required by law.

**Overview**

Through SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet, we operate the largest regional airline in the United States. As of June 30, 2012, SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet offered scheduled passenger and air freight service with approximately 4,000 total daily departures to destinations in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. As of June 30, 2012, we operated a combined fleet of 725 aircraft consisting of the following:

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

	CRJ 200	ERJ 135/145	CRJ700	CRJ 900	EMB 120	Total
Delta	158		55	31	9	253
United Continental	92	249	70		34	445
US Airways	15					15
Alaska			5			5
Maintenance spare	1					1
Subleased to an un-affiliated entity	2					2
Subleased to an affiliated entity				4		4
Total	268	249	130	35	43	725

For the three months ended June 30, 2012, approximately 65.3% of our aggregate capacity was operated under United Express Agreements executed between United Airlines, Inc. ( United ) and each of SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet and a Capacity Purchase Agreement between Continental Airlines, Inc. ( Continental ) and ExpressJet, approximately 31.7% of our aggregate

Table of Contents

capacity was operated under Delta Connection Agreements executed between Delta Airlines, Inc. ( Delta ) and each of SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet (as successor to Atlantic Southeast), approximately 1.4% of our aggregate capacity was operated under capacity purchase agreement with Alaska Airlines ( Alaska ) and approximately 1.6% of our aggregate capacity was operated under code-share agreement with U.S. Airways Group, Inc. (US Airways ).

SkyWest Airlines has been a code-share partner with Delta in Salt Lake City and United in Los Angeles since 1987 and 1997, respectively. In 1998, SkyWest Airlines expanded its relationship with United to provide service in Portland, Seattle/Tacoma, San Francisco and additional Los Angeles markets. In 2004, SkyWest Airlines expanded its United Express operations to provide service in Chicago. In May 2011, SkyWest Airlines entered into a capacity purchase agreement with Alaska. In addition, during November 2011 SkyWest Airlines entered into a code share agreement with US Airways. As of June 30, 2012, SkyWest Airlines operated as a Delta Connection carrier in Salt Lake City and Minneapolis, a United Express carrier in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Houston, Chicago and the Pacific Northwest, an Alaska carrier in Seattle/Tacoma and Portland and a US Airways carrier in Phoenix.

On November 17, 2011, Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet Delaware consolidated their operations under a single operating certificate, and on December 31, 2011, Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet Delaware completed the ExpressJet Combination. At the time of the ExpressJet Combination, Atlantic Southeast had been a code-share partner with Delta in Atlanta since 1984 and a code-share partner with United since February 2010. As of June 30, 2012, ExpressJet operated as a Delta Connection carrier in Atlanta and Cincinnati and a United Express carrier in Chicago (O'Hare), Washington, D.C. (Dulles International Airport), Cleveland, Newark and Houston.

Historically, multiple contractual relationships have enabled us to reduce reliance on any single major airline code and to enhance and stabilize operating results through a mix of contract flying and our controlled or pro-rate flying. For the three months ended June 30, 2012, contract flying revenue and pro-rate revenue represented approximately 92% and 8%, respectively, of our total passenger revenues. On contract routes, the major airline partner controls scheduling, ticketing, pricing and seat inventories and we are compensated by the major airline partner at contracted rates based on the completed block hours, flight departures and other operating measures.

**Second Quarter Summary**

We had revenues of \$937.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2012, a 0.4% increase, compared to revenues of \$933.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2011. We had a net income of \$17.0 million, or \$0.33 per diluted share, for the three months ended June 30, 2012, an increase of 974.1%, compared to \$1.6 million of net income, or \$0.03 per diluted share, for the three months ended June 30, 2011.

The significant items affecting our financial performance during the three months ended June 30, 2012 are outlined below:

Our passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements from major partners, increased \$14.1 million, or 1.9%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements, was primarily due to our receipt of higher incentive payments and favorable settlements with our major partners.

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Excluding fuel and engine overhaul costs and CRJ200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rates, our total airline expenses decreased \$7.0 million, or 1.0%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. During the three months ended June 30, 2012, SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet experienced improved efficiencies with respect to labor and pilot training costs compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. During the three months ended June 30, 2011, SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet incurred higher than normal pilot training costs for aircraft deliveries scheduled for the last six months of 2011 and experienced labor inefficiencies in order to accommodate significant scheduling changes made by our major partners.

During the three months ended June 30, 2012, our CRJ200 engine expense under our SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet United Express Agreements decreased \$1.6 million compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease in CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at a fixed hourly rate was principally due to fewer scheduled engine maintenance events.

The combination of the factors identified above was the principal source of the significant improvement in our financial results during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011.

Other expenses, net decreased \$2.0 million during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. Other expense primarily consist of earnings and losses from our investments in Trip Linhas Aereas ( TRIP ) and Mekong Aviation Joint Stock Company ( Air Mekong ), which we account for under the equity method of accounting. The decrease in other expense was due primarily to our recognition of our portion of the losses incurred by TRIP and Air Mekong that we

Table of Contents

recognized during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the amount of such losses that we recognized for the three months ended June 30, 2011.

Total available seat miles ( ASMs ) for the three months ended June 30, 2012 decreased 0.5%, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. During the three months ended June 30, 2012, we generated 9.3 billion ASMs, compared to 9.4 billion ASMs during the three months ended June 30, 2011.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

Our significant accounting policies are summarized in Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011, which are presented in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. Critical accounting policies are those policies that are most important to the preparation of our consolidated financial statements and require management's subjective and complex judgments due to the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Our critical accounting policies relate to revenue recognition, maintenance, aircraft leases, impairment of long-lived assets and intangibles, stock-based compensation expense and fair value. The application of these accounting policies involves the exercise of judgment and the use of assumptions as to future uncertainties and, as a result, actual results will differ, and could differ materially, from such estimates.

**Results of Operations****Our Business Segments**

For the three months ended June 30, 2012, we had two reportable segments which are the basis of our internal financial reporting: SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet (which reflects the combined operations of Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet Delaware). On December 31, 2011, we completed the ExpressJet Combination, which ended ExpressJet Delaware's existence as a separate entity.

	2012 Amount	2011 Amount	\$ Change Amount	% Change Percent
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>				
SkyWest Airlines Operating Revenue	\$ 509,135	\$ 513,326	\$ (4,191)	(0.8)%
ExpressJet Operating Revenues	425,445	417,497	7,948	1.9%
Other Operating Revenues	2,634	2,874	(240)	(8.4)%
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 937,214</b>	<b>\$ 933,697</b>	<b>\$ 3,517</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Airline Expenses:</b>				
SkyWest Airlines Expense	\$ 479,850	\$ 492,526	\$ (12,676)	(2.6)%
ExpressJet Expense	427,599	439,703	(12,104)	(2.8)%
Other Airline Expense	2,346	2,480	(134)	(5.4)%
<b>Total Airline Expense(1)</b>	<b>\$ 909,795</b>	<b>\$ 934,709</b>	<b>\$ (24,914)</b>	<b>(2.7)%</b>
<b>Segment profit (loss):</b>				

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

SkyWest Airlines segment profit	\$	29,285	\$	20,800	\$	8,485	40.8%
ExpressJet segment loss		(2,154)		(22,206)		20,052	90.3%
Other profit		288		394		(106)	(26.9)%
Total Segment profit (loss)	\$	27,419	\$	(1,012)	\$	28,431	N/A
Interest Income		2,043		2,114		(71)	(3.4)%
Other		(815)		(2,859)		2,044	71.5%
Consolidated Income (Loss) before taxes	\$	28,647	\$	(1,757)	\$	30,404	N/A

---

(1) Total Airline Expense includes operating expense and interest expense

**Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 and 2011**

*Operational Statistics.* The following table sets forth our major operational statistics and the associated percentages-of-change for the periods identified below.

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

	For the three months ended June 30,		
	2012	2011	% Change
Revenue passenger miles (000)	7,689,573	7,546,662	1.9
Available seat miles ( ASMs ) (000)	9,344,407	9,393,724	(0.5)
Block hours	574,884	574,372	0.1
Departures	360,733	354,880	1.6
Passengers carried	15,014,037	14,491,292	3.6
Passenger load factor	82.3%	80.3%	2.0Pts
Revenue per available seat mile	10.0¢	9.9¢	1.0
Cost per available seat mile	9.7¢	10.0¢	(3.0)
Cost per available seat mile excluding fuel	8.1¢	8.3¢	(2.4)
Fuel cost per available seat mile	1.6¢	1.7¢	(5.9)
Average passenger trip length (miles)	512	521	(1.7)

*Revenues.* Operating revenues increased \$3.5 million, or 0.4%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. We are reimbursed for our actual fuel costs by our major partners under our contract flying arrangements. For financial reporting purposes, we record these reimbursements as operating revenue. Under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreements and the Continental CPA, we are reimbursed for our engine overhaul expenses as incurred. We also record those engine overhaul reimbursements as operating revenue. The following table summarizes the amount of fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements included in our passenger revenues for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands).

	For the three months ended June 30,			
	2012	2011	\$ Change	% Change
Passenger revenues	\$ 920,633	\$ 919,690	\$ 943	0.1%
Less: Fuel reimbursement from major partners	129,293	133,927	(4,634)	(3.5)%
Less: Engine overhaul reimbursement from major partners	40,160	48,642	(8,482)	(17.4)%
Passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhauls reimbursements	\$ 751,180	\$ 737,121	\$ 14,059	1.9%

*Passenger revenues.* Passenger revenues increased \$0.9 million, or 0.1%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. Our passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements from major partners, increased \$14.1 million, or 1.9%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements, was primarily due to our receipt of higher incentive payments, favorable settlements with our major partners and annual contractual inflation increases in our flying contracts.

*Ground handling and other.* Total ground handling and other revenues increased \$2.6 million, or 18.4%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. Revenue attributed to ground handling services for our aircraft is reflected in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss under the heading Passenger revenues and revenue attributed to handling third party aircraft is reflected in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss under the heading Ground handling and other. The increase was primarily related to the increase in our ground handling for other airlines.

Individual expense components attributable to our operations are expressed in the following table on the basis of cents per ASM. ASM is a common metric used in the airline industry to measure an airline's passenger capacity. ASMs reflect both the number of aircraft in an airline's fleet and the seat capacity for the aircraft in the fleet. As the size of our fleet is the underlying driver of our operating costs, the primary basis for our presentation of the following information on a cost per ASM basis is to discuss significant changes in our costs not proportionate to the relative changes in our fleet size (dollar amounts in thousands).





Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

	For the three months ended June 30,				2012	2011
	2012 Amount	2011 Amount	\$ Change Amount	% Change Percent	Cents Per ASM	Cents Per ASM
Aircraft fuel	\$ 153,544	\$ 161,408	\$ (7,864)	(4.9)%	1.6	1.7
Salaries, wages and benefits	290,676	290,126	550	0.2%	3.1	3.1
Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs	167,150	176,399	(9,249)	(5.2)%	1.8	1.9
Aircraft rentals	83,944	88,072	(4,128)	(4.7)%	0.9	0.9
Depreciation and amortization	64,182	63,697	485	0.8%	0.7	0.7
Station rentals and landing fees	44,254	42,322	1,932	4.6%	0.5	0.5
Ground handling services	29,615	32,875	(3,260)	(9.9)%	0.3	0.3
Merger and integration-related costs		1,364	(1,364)	(100.0)%		
Other	57,043	58,394	(1,351)	(2.3)%	0.6	0.7
Total operating expenses	890,408	914,657	(24,249)	(2.7)%	9.5	9.8
Interest	19,387	20,052	(665)	(3.3)%	0.2	0.2
Total airline expenses	\$ 909,795	\$ 934,709	(24,914)	(2.7)%	9.7	10.0

*Fuel.* Fuel costs decreased \$7.9 million, or 4.9%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The average cost per gallon of fuel decreased to \$3.44 per gallon during the three months ended June 30, 2012, from \$3.64 during the three months ended June 30, 2011. The following table summarizes the gallons of fuel we purchased directly, and the change in fuel price per gallon on our fuel expense, for the periods indicated:

(in thousands, except per gallon amounts)	For the three months ended June 30,			% Change
	2012	2011		
Fuel gallons purchased	44,585	44,369		0.5%
Average price per gallon	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.64		(5.5)%
Fuel expense	\$ 153,544	\$ 161,408		(4.9)%

*Salaries Wages and Employee Benefits.* Salaries, wages and employee benefits increased \$0.6 million, or 0.2%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The average number of full-time equivalent employees increased 2.7% to 18,813 for the three months ended June 30, 2012, from 18,322 for the three months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in labor costs for the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011, was less than the increase in block hour production between the two periods, due primarily to improved scheduling efficiencies and lower acquisition related transition expenses incurred during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011.

*Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs.* Maintenance costs decreased \$9.3 million, or 5.2%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The following table summarizes the amount of engine overhauls and engine overhaul reimbursements included in our aircraft maintenance expense for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands).

	For the three months ended June 30,			
	2012	2011	\$ Change	% Change
Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs	\$ 167,150	\$ 176,399	\$ (9,249)	(5.2)%
Less: Engine overhaul reimbursement from major partners	40,160	48,642	(8,482)	(17.4)%
	13,850	15,451	(1,601)	(10.4)%

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Less: CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rates

Aircraft maintenance excluding reimbursed

engine overhauls and CRJ 200 engine

overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rate	\$	113,140	\$	112,306	\$	834	0.7%
---	----	---------	----	---------	----	-----	------

Aircraft maintenance expense, excluding reimbursed engine overhauls and CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rates, increased \$0.8 million, or 0.7%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. Aircraft maintenance expense excluding engine overhaul costs remained relatively flat for the three months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011 primarily due to a consistent level of scheduled maintenance events during the two quarters.

Table of Contents

We recognize engine maintenance expense on our CRJ200 regional jet engines on an as-incurred basis as maintenance expense. Under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet United Express Agreements, we recognize revenue at fixed hourly rates for mature engine maintenance on regional jet engines. Accordingly, the timing of engine maintenance events associated with aircraft under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet United Express Agreements can have a significant impact on our financial results. During the three months ended June 30, 2012, our CRJ200 engine expense under our SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet United Express Agreements decreased \$1.6 million compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease in CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at a fixed hourly rate was principally due to fewer scheduled engine maintenance events. We expect a relatively steady reduction in the number of scheduled engine maintenance events after September 30, 2012 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2012.

Under our Delta Connection Agreements we are reimbursed for engine overhaul costs by Delta at the time the maintenance event occurs. Under our Continental Express Agreement, we are also reimbursed for actual engine overhaul costs by Continental at the time the expense is incurred. Such reimbursements are reflected as passenger revenue in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

*Aircraft rentals.* Aircraft rentals decreased \$4.1 million, or 4.7%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease was primarily due to aircraft lease renewals at lower rates subsequent to July 1, 2011 and the return of certain aircraft at the lease expiration.

*Depreciation and amortization.* Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$0.5 million, or 0.8%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in depreciation expense was primarily due to the acquisition of four CRJ700s between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 that were financed through long-term debt.

*Station rentals and landing fees.* Station rentals and landing fees expense increased \$1.9 million, or 4.6%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in station rentals and landing fees expense was primarily due to increase in departures for the three months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011.

*Ground handling service.* Ground handling service expense decreased \$3.3 million, or 9.9%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease in ground handling service expense was primarily due to the termination of a code share agreement SkyWest Airlines previously maintained with AirTran Airways, Inc. ( AirTran ), which was terminated in September 2011.

*Acquisition-related costs.* During the three months ended June 30, 2011, we incurred \$1.4 million of direct severance, legal and advisor fees associated with Atlantic Southeast's acquisition of ExpressJet Delaware in November 2010. We did not incur comparable expenses during the three months ended June 30, 2012.

*Other expenses.* Other expenses, primarily consisting of property taxes, hull and liability insurance, crew simulator training and crew hotel costs, decreased \$1.4 million, or 2.3%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease in other expenses was primarily due to the reduction in simulator training expense during the three months ended June 30, 2012.

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

*Total Airline Expenses.* Total airline expenses (consisting of total operating and interest expenses) decreased \$24.9 million, or 2.7%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. We are reimbursed for our actual fuel costs by our major partners under our contract flying arrangements. We record the amount of those reimbursements as revenue. Under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreements and the Continental CPA, we are reimbursed for our engine overhaul expense, which we record as revenue. The following table summarizes the amount of fuel and engine overhaul expenses which are included in our total airline expenses for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands).

	For the three months ended June 30,			
	2012	2011	\$ Change	% Change
Total airline expense	\$ 909,795	\$ 934,709	\$ (24,914)	(2.7)%
Less: Fuel expense	153,544	161,408	(7,864)	(4.9)%
Less: Engine overhaul reimbursement from major partners	40,160	48,642	(8,482)	(17.4)%
Less: CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rate	13,850	15,451	(1,601)	(10.4)%
Total airline expense excluding fuel and engine overhauls and CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rate	\$ 702,241	\$ 709,208	\$ (6,967)	(1.0)%

Table of Contents

Excluding fuel and engine overhaul costs and CRJ200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rates, our total airline expenses decreased \$7.0 million, or 1.0%, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. The percentage decrease in total airline expenses excluding fuel and engine overhauls, was different than the percentage increase in passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements from major partners due to factors described above.

*Other expenses, net.* Other expenses, net decreased \$2.0 million during the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011. Our other expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2012 primarily consisted of earnings and losses attributable to our investments in TRIP and Air Mekong, which we account for under the equity method of accounting. The increase in other expenses for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, compared to the quarter ended June 30, 2011, was due primarily to our recognition of our portion of the losses incurred by TRIP and Air Mekong.

As a subsequent event, on July 12, 2012, we sold our interest in TRIP for a price of \$42 million. The purchase price is scheduled to be paid in three installments over a two-year period and may be accelerated upon the occurrence of certain conditions identified in the purchase agreement. As part of the sale transaction, we also received an option to acquire 15.38% of the ownership in Trip Investimentos Ltda., the purchaser of our TRIP shares. The option has an initial exercise price per share, the exercise price escalates annually at a specified rate and we can exercise the option, in our discretion, at any time between the forth and the sixth anniversaries of our receipt of the required installment payments from Trip Investimentos Ltda., under the purchase agreement.

*Income Taxes Expense.* Our effective tax rate for the three months ended June 30, 2012 was higher than the federal statutory rate of 35%, primarily because we incurred expenses with limited tax deductibility relative to our pre-tax income for the three-month period, which was lower than we had previously estimated. We also incurred state income taxes, which contributed to a higher effective tax rate. Our annual effective tax rate for the three months ended June 30, 2011 varied from the federal statutory rate of 35%, primarily as a result of lower pre-tax income for 2011 than we had estimated. The variance also reflected a proportionate increase in expenses with limited tax deductibility relative to our pre-tax income for the year ended December 31, 2011.

*Net Income.* Primarily due to factors described above, net income increased to \$17.0 million, or \$0.33 per diluted share, for the three months ended June 30, 2012, compared to \$1.6 million, or \$0.03 per diluted share, for the three months ended June 30, 2011.

**Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 and 2011**

**Our Business Segments**

For the six months ended June 30, 2012, we had two reportable segments which are the basis of our internal financial reporting: SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet (which reflects the combined operations of Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet Delaware). On December 31, 2011, we completed the ExpressJet Combination, which ended ExpressJet Delaware's existence as a separate entity.

2012	2011	\$ Change
------	------	-----------

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

	Amount	Amount	Amount	% Change Percent
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>				
SkyWest Airlines Operating Revenue	\$ 1,004,046	\$ 992,944	\$ 11,102	1.1%
ExpressJet Operating Revenues	849,074	800,956	48,118	6.0%
Other Operating Revenues	5,268	5,748	(480)	(8.4)%
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,858,388</b>	<b>\$ 1,799,648</b>	<b>\$ 58,740</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>Airline Expenses:</b>				
SkyWest Airlines Expense	\$ 965,318	\$ 962,071	\$ 3,247	0.3%
ExpressJet Expense	860,197	853,673	6,524	0.8%
Other Airline Expense	4,777	4,910	(133)	(2.7)%
<b>Total Airline Expense(1)</b>	<b>\$ 1,830,292</b>	<b>\$ 1,820,654</b>	<b>\$ 9,638</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Segment profit (loss):</b>				
SkyWest Airlines segment profit	\$ 38,728	\$ 30,873	\$ 7,855	25.4%
ExpressJet segment loss	(11,123)	(52,717)	41,594	78.9%
Other profit	491	838	(347)	(41.4)%
<b>Total Segment profit (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 28,096</b>	<b>\$ (21,006)</b>	<b>\$ 49,102</b>	<b>233.8%</b>
Interest Income	3,996	4,080	(84)	(2.1)%
Other	(4,667)	(3,365)	(1,302)	(38.7)%
<b>Consolidated Income (Loss) before taxes</b>	<b>\$ 27,425</b>	<b>\$ (20,291)</b>	<b>\$ 47,716</b>	<b>235.2%</b>

Table of Contents

- (1) Total Airline Expense includes operating expense and interest expense

*Operational Statistics.* The following table sets forth our major operational statistics and the associated percentages-of-change for the periods identified below.

	For the six months ended June 30,			% Change
	2012	2011		
Revenue passenger miles (000)	14,628,486	13,994,818		4.5
Available seat miles (000)	18,347,889	17,956,917		2.2
Block hours	1,131,305	1,114,327		1.5
Departures	701,873	687,255		2.1
Passengers carried	28,380,283	27,048,352		4.9
Passenger load factor	79.7%	77.9%		1.8Pts
Revenue per available seat mile	10.1¢	10.0¢		1.0
Cost per available seat mile	10.0¢	10.1¢		(1.0)
Cost per available seat mile excluding fuel	8.4¢	8.5¢		(1.2)
Fuel cost per available seat mile	1.6¢	1.6¢		0.0
Average passenger trip length (miles)	515	517		(0.4)

*Revenues.* Operating revenues increased \$58.7 million, or 3.3%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. We are reimbursed for our actual fuel costs by our major partners under our contract flying arrangements. For financial reporting purposes, we record these reimbursements as operating revenue. Under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreements and the Continental CPA, we are reimbursed for our engine overhaul expenses as incurred. We also record those engine overhaul reimbursements as operating revenue. The following table summarizes the amount of fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements included in our passenger revenues for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands).

	For the six months ended June 30,			
	2012	2011	\$ Change	% Change
Passenger revenues	\$ 1,822,989	\$ 1,764,166	\$ 58,823	3.3%
Less: Fuel reimbursement from major partners	253,585	236,088	17,497	7.4%
Less: Engine overhaul reimbursement from major partners	89,307	86,575	2,732	3.2%
Passenger revenue excluding fuel and engine overhauls reimbursements	\$ 1,480,097	\$ 1,441,503	\$ 38,594	2.7%

*Passenger revenues.* Passenger revenues increased \$58.8 million, or 3.3%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. Our passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements from major partners, increased \$38.6 million, or 2.7%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements, was primarily due to an increase in block hours of 1.5% during the six months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. In addition, our passenger revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2012 were higher than our passenger revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2011, primarily due to our receipt of higher incentive payments, favorable settlements with our major partners and contractual inflation increases in our flying contracts.



## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Individual expense components attributable to our operations are expressed in the following table on the basis of cents per ASM. (dollar amounts in thousands).

	For the six months ended June 30,					
	2012 Amount	2011 Amount	\$ Change Amount	% Change Percent	2012 Cents Per ASM	2011 Cents Per ASM
Aircraft fuel	\$ 300,994	\$ 288,149	\$ 12,845	4.5%	1.6	1.6
Salaries, wages and benefits	581,490	576,273	5,217	0.9%	3.2	3.2
Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs	346,786	339,573	7,213	2.1%	1.9	1.9
Aircraft rentals	168,846	174,494	(5,648)	(3.2)%	0.9	1.0
Depreciation and amortization	128,497	126,890	1,607	1.3%	0.7	0.7
Station rentals and landing fees	88,187	84,948	3,239	3.8%	0.5	0.5
Ground handling services	64,930	69,728	(4,798)	(6.9)%	0.4	0.4
Merger and integration-related costs		2,395	(2,395)	(100.0)%		
Other	111,395	117,932	(6,537)	(5.5)%	0.6	0.6
Total operating expenses	1,791,125	1,780,382	10,743	0.6%	9.8	9.9
Interest	39,167	40,272	(1,105)	(2.7)%	0.2	0.2
Total airline expenses	\$ 1,830,292	\$ 1,820,654	9,638	0.5%	10.0	10.1

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

### Table of Contents

*Fuel.* Fuel costs increased \$12.8 million, or 4.5%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The average cost per gallon of fuel increased to \$3.53 during the six months ended June 30, 2012, from \$3.49 during the six months ended June 30, 2011. The following table summarizes the gallons of fuel we purchased directly, and the change in fuel price per gallon on our fuel expense, for the periods indicated:

(in thousands, except per gallon amounts)	For the six months ended June 30,			% Change
	2012	2011		
Fuel gallons purchased	85,253	82,461		3.4%
Average price per gallon	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.49		1.1%
Fuel expense	\$ 300,994	\$ 288,149		4.5%

*Salaries Wages and Employee Benefits.* Salaries, wages and employee benefits increased \$5.2 million, or 0.9%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The average number of full-time equivalent employees increased 3.7% to 18,821 for the six months ended June 30, 2012, from 18,151 for the six months ended June 30, 2011. The slight increase in labor costs for the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011, was less than the increase in block hour production between the two periods, due primarily to improved scheduling efficiencies and lower acquisition related transition expense incurred during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011.

*Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs.* Maintenance costs increased \$7.2 million, or 2.1%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The following table summarizes the amount of engine overhauls and engine overhaul reimbursements included in our aircraft maintenance expense for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands).

	For the six months ended June 30,			
	2012	2011	\$ Change	% Change
Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs	\$ 346,786	\$ 339,573	\$ 7,213	2.1%
Less: Engine overhaul reimbursement from major partners	89,307	86,575	2,732	3.2%
Less: CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rate	31,465	30,060	1,405	4.7%
Aircraft maintenance excluding reimbursed engine overhauls and CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rate	\$ 226,014	\$ 222,938	\$ 3,076	1.4%

Aircraft maintenance expense, excluding reimbursed engine overhauls and CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rates, increased \$3.1 million, or 1.4%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in aircraft maintenance expense excluding engine overhaul costs, was due primarily to the increase in aircraft departures and block hours for the three months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011.

We recognize engine maintenance expense on our CRJ200 regional jet engines on an as-incurred basis as maintenance expense. Under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet United Express Agreements, we recognize revenue at fixed hourly rates for mature engine maintenance on regional jet engines. Accordingly, the timing of engine maintenance events associated with aircraft under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet United Express Agreements can have a significant impact on our financial results. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, our CRJ200 engine expense under our SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet United Express Agreements increased \$1.4 million compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at a fixed hourly rate was principally due to fewer scheduled engine maintenance events. We expect a relatively steady reduction in the number of scheduled engine maintenance events after September 30, 2012

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

compared to the six months ended June 30, 2012.

Under our Delta Connection Agreements we are reimbursed for engine overhaul costs by Delta at the time the maintenance event occurs. Under our Continental Express Agreement, we are also reimbursed for actual engine overhaul costs by Continental at the time the expense is incurred. Such reimbursements are reflected as passenger revenue in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

### Table of Contents

*Aircraft rentals.* Aircraft rentals decreased \$5.6 million, or 3.2%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease was primarily due to aircraft lease renewals at lower rates subsequent to July 1, 2011.

*Depreciation and amortization.* Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$1.6 million, or 1.3%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in depreciation expense was primarily due to the acquisition of four CRJ700s between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 that were financed through long-term debt.

*Station rentals and landing fees.* Station rentals and landing fees expense increased \$3.2 million, or 3.8%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in station rentals and landing fees expense was primarily due to increase in departures for the six months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011.

*Ground handling service.* Ground handling service expense decreased \$4.8 million, or 6.9%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease in ground handling service expense was primarily due to the termination of SkyWest Airlines' AirTran code share agreement during the three months ended September 30, 2011.

*Acquisition-related costs.* During the six months ended June 30, 2011, we incurred \$2.4 million of direct severance, legal and advisor fees associated with Atlantic Southeast's acquisition of ExpressJet Delaware in November 2010. We did not incur comparable expenses during the six months ended June 30, 2012.

*Other expenses.* Other expenses, primarily consisting of property taxes, hull and liability insurance, crew simulator training and crew hotel costs, decreased \$6.5 million, or 5.5%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease in other expenses was primarily due to the reduction in property tax expense due to refunds received during the six months ended June 30, 2012.

*Total Airline Expenses.* Total airline expenses (consisting of total operating and interest expenses) increased \$9.6 million, or 0.5%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. We are reimbursed for our actual fuel costs by our major partners under our contract flying arrangements. We record the amount of those reimbursements as revenue. Under the SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreements and the Continental CPA, we are reimbursed for our engine overhaul expense, which we record as revenue. The following table summarizes the amount of fuel and engine overhaul expenses which are included in our total airline expenses for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands).

	For the six months ended June 30,				% Change
	2012	2011	\$ Change		
Total airline expense	\$ 1,830,292	\$ 1,820,654	\$ 9,638	0.5%	
Less: Fuel expense	300,994	288,149	12,845	4.5%	
Less: Engine overhaul reimbursement from major partners	89,307	86,575	2,732	3.2%	
Less: CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rate	31,465	30,060	1,405	4.7%	

Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Total airline expense excluding fuel and engine overhauls and CRJ 200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rate	\$	1,408,526	\$	1,415,870	\$	(7,344)	(0.5)%
--	----	-----------	----	-----------	----	---------	--------

Excluding fuel and engine overhaul costs and CRJ200 engine overhauls reimbursed at fixed hourly rates, our total airline expenses decreased \$7.3 million, or 0.5%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The percentage decrease in total airline expenses excluding fuel and engine overhauls, was different than the percentage increase in passenger revenues, excluding fuel and engine overhaul reimbursements from major partners due to factors described above.

*Other Expenses, net.* Other expenses, net increased \$1.3 million during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. Other expenses primarily consist of earnings and losses from our investments in TRIP and Air Mekong, which we account for under the equity method of accounting. The increase in other expenses was due primarily to our recognition of our portion of the losses incurred by TRIP and Air Mekong.

As a subsequent event, on July 12, 2012, we sold our interest in TRIP for a price of \$42 million. The purchase price is scheduled to be paid in three installments over a two-year period and may be accelerated upon occurrence of certain conditions identified in the purchase agreement. As part of the sale transaction, we also received an option to acquire 15.38% of the ownership in Trip Investimentos Ltda., the purchaser of our TRIP shares. The option has an initial exercise price per share, the exercise price

Table of Contents

escalates annually at a specified rate and we can exercise the option, in our discretion, at any time between the fourth and sixth anniversaries or our receipt of the required installment payments from Trip Inwestimentos Ltda., under the purchase agreement.

*Income Taxes Expense.* Our effective tax rate for the six months ended June 30, 2012 was higher than the federal statutory rate of 35%, primarily because we incurred expenses with limited tax deductibility relative to our pre-tax income for the six-month period, which was lower than we had previously estimated. We also incurred state income taxes, which contributed to a higher effective tax rate. Our annual effective tax rate for the six months ended June 30, 2011 varied from the federal statutory rate of 35%, primarily as a result of lower pre-tax income for 2011 than we had estimated. The variance also reflected a proportionate increase in expenses with limited tax deductibility relative to our pre-tax income for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Net Income (loss). Primarily due to factors described above, we had net income of \$16.3 million, or \$0.32 per diluted share, for the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to net loss of \$9.5 million, or (\$0.18) per diluted share, for the six months ended June 30, 2011.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources***Sources and Uses of Cash*

*Cash Position and Liquidity.* The following table provides a summary of the net cash provided by (used in) operating, investing and financing activities for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 and total cash and marketable securities position as of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 (in thousands).

	2012		For the six months ended June 30, 2011		% Change
				\$ Change	
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$	109,347	\$	51,324	\$ 58,023 113.1%
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(42,828)		96,812	(136,640) (144.2)%
Net cash used in financing activities		(87,331)		(121,343)	34,012 28.0%

	June 30, 2012		December 31, 2011		\$ Change	% Change
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	108,714	\$	129,526	\$ (20,812)	(16.1)%
Restricted cash		19,445		19,434	11	0.1%
Marketable securities		501,332		497,552	3,780	0.8%
Total	\$	629,491	\$	646,512	\$ (17,021)	(2.6)%

*Cash Flows from Operating Activities.*

## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

Net cash provided by operating activities increased \$58.0 million or 113.1%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the pre-tax income during the six months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the pretax loss during the six months ended June 30, 2011. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, we had a pretax income of \$27.4 million compared to a pretax loss of \$20.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2011. The remainder of the increase was due primarily to changes in our working capital accounts.

### *Cash Flows from Investing Activities.*

Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities decreased \$136.6 million or 144.2%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, net sales of marketable securities decreased \$151.3 million as compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, we did not make any deposits on aircraft, compared to \$13.5 million of deposits on aircraft that we made during the six months ended June 30, 2011.

### *Cash Flows from Financing Activities.*

Net cash used in financing activities decreased \$34.0 million or 28.0%, during the six months ended June 30, 2012, compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011. The decrease was primarily related to a decrease in the amount we spent to repurchase outstanding shares of common stock. During the six months ended June 30, 2012 we spent \$0.9 million to repurchase shares of common stock, compared to \$40.3 million for stock repurchases during the six months ended June 30, 2011.

Table of Contents*Liquidity and Capital Resources*

We believe that in the absence of unusual circumstances, the working capital currently available to us will be sufficient to meet our present financial requirements, including anticipated expansion, planned capital expenditures, and scheduled lease payments and debt service obligations for at least the next 12 months.

At June 30, 2012, our total capital mix was 47.0% equity and 53.0% long-term debt, compared to 45.4% equity and 54.6% long-term debt at December 31, 2011.

**Significant Commitments and Obligations***General*

The following table summarizes our commitments and obligations stated in calendar years except as noted for each of the next five years and thereafter (in thousands):

	Total	July-Dec 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Thereafter
Operating lease payments for aircraft and facility obligations	\$ 2,365,419	\$ 168,231	\$ 382,199	\$ 358,818	\$ 309,142	\$ 239,731	\$ 907,298
Interest commitments	474,920	38,636	71,325	64,882	58,099	50,977	191,001
Principal maturities on long-term debt	1,730,793	123,800	162,978	168,984	176,180	181,623	917,228
Total commitments and obligations	\$ 4,571,132	\$ 330,667	\$ 616,502	\$ 592,684	\$ 543,421	\$ 472,331	\$ 2,015,527

*Purchase Commitments and Options*

We have not historically funded a substantial portion of our aircraft acquisitions with working capital. Rather, we have generally funded our aircraft acquisitions through a combination of operating leases and long-term debt financing. At the time of each aircraft acquisition, we evaluate the financing alternatives available to us, and select one or more of these methods to fund the acquisition. In the event that alternative financing cannot be arranged at the time of delivery, Bombardier Aerospace has typically financed our aircraft acquisitions until more permanent arrangements can be made. Subsequent to this initial acquisition of an aircraft, we may also refinance the aircraft or convert one form of financing to another (e.g., replacing debt financing with leveraged lease financing).



## Edgar Filing: SKYWEST INC - Form 10-Q

At present, we intend to fund our acquisition of any additional aircraft through a combination of operating leases and debt financing, consistent with our historical practices. Based on current market conditions and discussions with prospective leasing organizations and financial institutions, we currently believe that we will be able to obtain financing for our committed acquisitions, as well as additional aircraft, without materially reducing the amount of working capital available for our operating activities. Nonetheless, recent disruptions in the credit markets have resulted in greater volatility, decreased liquidity and limited availability of capital, and there is no assurance that we will be able to obtain necessary funding or that, if we are able to obtain necessary capital, the corresponding terms will be favorable or acceptable to us.

### *Aircraft Lease and Facility Obligations*

We also have significant long-term lease obligations primarily relating to our aircraft fleet. At June 30, 2012, we had 549 aircraft under lease with remaining terms ranging from one to 17 years. Future minimum lease payments due under all long-term operating leases were approximately \$2.4 billion at June 30, 2012. Assuming a 5.2% discount rate, which is the average rate used to approximate the implicit rates within the applicable aircraft leases, the present value of these lease obligations would have been equal to approximately \$1.8 billion at June 30, 2012.

### *Long-term Debt Obligations*

As of June 30, 2012, we had \$1,730.8 million of long term debt obligations related to the acquisition of CRJ200, CRJ700 and CRJ900 aircraft. The average effective interest rate on the debt related to the CRJ aircraft was approximately 4.5% at June 30, 2012.

Table of Contents

**Seasonality**

Our results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of those for an entire year, since the airline industry is subject to seasonal fluctuations and general economic conditions. Our operations are somewhat favorably affected by increased travel on our pro-rate routes, historically occurring during the summer months, and unfavorably affected by decreased travel during the months November through February and by inclement weather, which occasionally results in cancelled flights during the winter months.

**ITEM 3: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

**Aircraft Fuel**

In the past, we have not experienced difficulties with fuel availability and we currently expect to be able to obtain fuel at prevailing prices in quantities sufficient to meet our future needs. Pursuant to our contract flying arrangements, United, Delta, Alaska and US Airways have agreed to bear the economic risk of fuel price fluctuations on our contracted flights. We bear the economic risk of fuel price fluctuations on our pro-rate operations. For the six months ended June 30, 2012, approximately 5% of our ASMs were flown under pro-rate arrangements. The average price per gallon of aircraft fuel decreased 5.5% to \$3.44 for the three months ended June 30, 2012, from \$3.64 for the three months ended June 30, 2011. The average price per gallon of aircraft fuel increased 1.1% to \$3.53 for the six months ended June 30, 2012, from \$3.49 for the six months ended June 30, 2011. For illustrative purposes only, we have estimated the impact of the market risk of fuel on our pro-rate operations using a hypothetical increase of 25% in the price per gallon we purchase. Based on this hypothetical assumption, we would have incurred an additional \$6.1 million and \$11.8 million in fuel expense for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2012, respectively

**Interest Rates**

Our earnings are affected by changes in interest rates due to the amounts of variable rate long-term debt and the amount of cash and securities held. The interest rates applicable to variable rate notes may rise and increase the amount of interest expense. We would also receive higher amounts of interest income on cash and securities held at the time; however, the market value of our available-for-sale securities would likely decline. At June 30, 2012, we had variable rate notes representing 30.8% of our total long-term debt compared to 33.0% of our long-term debt at December 31, 2011. For illustrative purposes only, we have estimated the impact of market risk using a hypothetical increase in interest rates of one percentage point for both variable rate long-term debt and cash and securities. Based on this hypothetical assumption, we would have incurred an additional \$1.4 million in interest expense and received \$1.5 million in additional interest income for the three months ended June 30, 2012. Based on this same hypothetical assumption, we would have incurred an additional \$2.9 million in interest expense and received \$3.0 million additional interest income for the six months ended June 30, 2012. However, under our contractual arrangement with our major partners, the majority of the increase in interest expense would be passed through and recorded as passenger revenue in our consolidated statements of operations. If interest rates were to decline, our major partners would receive the principal benefit of the decline, since interest expense is generally passed through to our major partners, resulting in a reduction to passenger revenue in our consolidated statement of operations.

We currently intend to finance the acquisition of aircraft through manufacturer financing, third-party leases or long-term borrowings. Changes in interest rates may impact our actual costs of acquiring these aircraft.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

a) Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures

Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief accounting officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), as of June 30, 2012. Our chief accounting officer performs functions that are substantially similar to the functions of a chief financial officer with respect to the oversight of our disclosure controls and procedures. Consequently, as permitted by applicable rules, our chief accounting officer, along with our chief executive officer, performed the evaluations described in this Item and executed the certifications filed as exhibits to this Report. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In addition, the design of disclosure controls and procedures must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and that management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.

Based on that evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief accounting officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are designed at a reasonable assurance level and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within

Table of Contents

the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief accounting officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

b) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

During the three months ended June 30, 2012, there were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act).

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are subject to certain legal actions which we consider routine to our business activities. As of June 30, 2012, our management believed, after consultation with legal counsel, that the ultimate outcome of such legal matters is not likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, liquidity or results of operations. However, the following are significant outstanding legal matters, which if not resolved consistent with the position we have taken in those matters, would negatively impact our financial results.

***SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet v. Delta***

During the quarter ended December 31, 2007, Delta notified SkyWest, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast of a dispute under the Delta Connection Agreements executed by Delta with SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast. The dispute relates to the allocation of liability for certain irregular operation ( IROP ) expenses paid by SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast (now ExpressJet) to their passengers and vendors under certain situations. During the period between the execution of the Delta Connection Agreements in September 2005 and December 2007, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast passed through to Delta IROP expenses that were paid pursuant to Delta's policies, and Delta accepted and reimbursed those expenses. Delta now claims it is obligated to reimburse only a fraction of the IROP expenses. As a result, Delta withheld a combined total of approximately \$25 million (pre-tax) from one of the weekly scheduled wire payments to SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast during December 2007. Since December 2007, Delta has continued to withhold payments from the weekly scheduled wire payments to SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast (now ExpressJet), and has disputed subsequent billings for IROP expenses. As of June 30, 2012, we had recognized a cumulative total of \$31.7 million of revenue associated with the funds withheld by Delta. Since July 1, 2008, we have not recognized revenue related to IROP expense reimbursements withheld by Delta because collection of those reimbursements is the subject of litigation and is not reasonably assured. On February 1, 2008, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast filed a Complaint in the Superior Court for Fulton County, Georgia ( Superior Court ) challenging Delta's treatment of the matter and seeking recovery of the payments withheld by Delta and any future withholdings related to this issue. Delta filed an Answer to the SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast Complaint and a Counterclaim against SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast on March 24, 2008. Delta's Counterclaim alleged that SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast breached the Delta Connection Agreements by invoicing Delta for IROP expenses that were paid pursuant to Delta's policies, and claims only a portion of those expenses may be invoiced to Delta.

After proceedings that included contested motions, document discovery, and depositions, Delta voluntarily dismissed its Counterclaim. Discovery in that action was not complete at the time of dismissal. On February 14, 2011, SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast exercised their statutory rights to voluntarily dismiss their claims in the Superior Court, and filed a new complaint (the State Court Complaint) in the Georgia State Court of Fulton County (the State Court). The claims continue to include breach of contract, breach of contract based on mutual departure, breach of contract based on voluntary payment, and breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing. Delta moved for partial dismissal of the State Court Complaint, which motion was denied in its entirety. Delta also filed a separate action in the Superior Court containing claims for declaratory judgment and breach of the confidentiality provisions of the Delta Connection Agreements. SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast moved for dismissal of Delta's claims in the Superior Court. The Superior Court dismissed Delta's complaint in its entirety. Discovery in the lawsuit is ongoing.

On October 18, 2011, Delta filed a counterclaim (the Counterclaim) against SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast. The Counterclaim contains claims for unjust enrichment and breach of contract related to alleged non-revenue positive space flying by SkyWest and Atlantic Southeast employees for non-Delta related business. Delta's Counterclaim does not specify an amount of damages, but the Counterclaim alleges, on information and belief, that Delta's damages exceed \$4.5 million. SkyWest Airlines and Atlantic Southeast filed their reply to the Counterclaim on November 21, 2011, stating the allegations contained in the Counterclaim stand denied by operation of law and asserting SkyWest's and Atlantic Southeast's affirmative defenses. An estimated loss is accrued if the loss is probable and reasonably estimable. Because these conditions have not been satisfied, we have not recorded a loss in our

Table of Contents

consolidated financial statements with respect to the dispute. As of June 30, 2012, a range of reasonably possible loss is not determinable related to the Counterclaim.

During 2010, we began preliminary settlement discussions with Delta related to the dispute. Notwithstanding the legal merits of the case, we offered to settle the claim for approximately \$5.9 million less than the cumulative total of revenue recognized related to this matter. Those settlement discussions were not successful; however, as a result of the settlement offer, we wrote off \$5.9 million of related receivables as of December 31, 2010. As of June 30, 2012, our estimated range of reasonably possible loss related to the dispute was \$0 to \$25.8 million.

SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet continue to vigorously pursue their claims set forth in the State Court Complaint and their defenses against Delta's Counterclaim.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

There have been no material changes to the factors disclosed in Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

**ITEM 6: EXHIBITS**

31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer
31.2	Certification of Chief Accounting Officer
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer
32.2	Certification of Chief Accounting Officer
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on August 8, 2012.

SKYWEST, INC.

By

/s/ Eric Woodward  
Eric Woodward  
Chief Accounting Officer