

REINSURANCE GROUP OF AMERICA INC

Form 424B2

November 04, 2009

Table of Contents

**Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration Nos. 333-156052, 333-156052-01 and 333-156052-02**

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated December 10, 2008)

\$400,000,000

6.45% Senior Notes due 2019

This is an offering by Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated of \$400,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its 6.45% Senior Notes due 2019. Interest is payable on the notes on November 15 and May 15 of each year, commencing May 15, 2010.

We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at any time under a make-whole redemption provision, at the redemption price described beginning on page S-32. The notes are not subject to any sinking fund payments.

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with RGA's other existing and future senior indebtedness. The notes will be issued only in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement.

	Per Note	Total
Public Offering Price(1)	99.83%	\$ 399,320,000
Underwriting Discount	0.65%	\$ 2,600,000
Proceeds to RGA (before expenses)(1)	99.18%	\$ 396,720,000

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from November 6, 2009, if settlement occurs after that date.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these notes or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes in book entry form only through The Depository Trust Company, Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, and Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, against payment in New York, New York on or about November 6, 2009.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Barclays Capital

UBS Investment Bank

Co-Managers

CALYON

Keefe, Bruyette & Woods

Dowling and Partners Securities LLC

SOCIETE GENERALE

Raymond James

Sterne Agee

November 3, 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About this prospectus supplement</u>	S-i
<u>Prospectus supplement summary</u>	S-1
<u>The offering</u>	S-5
<u>Ratios of earnings to fixed charges</u>	S-7
<u>Risk factors</u>	S-8
<u>Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements</u>	S-25
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	S-27
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-28
<u>Selected consolidated financial information</u>	S-29
<u>Description of the notes</u>	S-31
<u>Material United States federal income tax consequences</u>	S-41
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-44
<u>Legal matters</u>	S-46

Prospectus

Risk Factors	1
About This Prospectus	19
Where You Can Find More Information	20
Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference	21
Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	22
Information About RGA	23
Information About the RGA Trusts	24
Use of Proceeds	25
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Combined Fixed Charges and Preference Dividends to Earnings	26
Description of the Securities We May Offer	27
Description of Debt Securities of RGA	27
Description of Capital Stock of RGA	41
Description of Depositary Shares of RGA	51
Description of Warrants of RGA	54
Description of Purchase Contracts of RGA	55
Description of Units	56
Description of Preferred Securities of the RGA Trusts	56
Description of the Preferred Securities Guarantees of RGA	57
Effect of Obligations Under the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities and the Preferred Securities Guarantees	61
Selling Shareholders	63
Our Relationship with MetLife	64
Plan of Distribution	66
Legal Matters	68
Experts	68

Table of Contents

About this prospectus supplement

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the notes that we are offering and other matters relating to us and our financial condition. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information about securities we may offer from time to time, some of which does not apply to the notes we are offering. Generally, when we refer to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. The description of the terms of the notes contained in this prospectus supplement supplements the description under the Description of Debt Securities of RGA in the accompanying prospectus, and to the extent it is inconsistent with that description, the information in this prospectus supplement replaces the information in the accompanying prospectus. If the description of the notes in the prospectus supplement differs from the description of the notes in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

When we use the terms RGA, we, us or our in this prospectus supplement, we mean Reinsurance Group of America Incorporated and its subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis (but excluding the RGA Trusts), unless we state or the context implies otherwise.

Unless we indicate otherwise, we base the information concerning our industry contained or incorporated by reference herein on our general knowledge of and expectations concerning the industry. Our market position, market share and industry market size is based on our estimates using our internal data and estimates, based on data from various industry analyses, our internal research and adjustments and assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. We have not independently verified data from industry analyses and cannot guarantee their accuracy or completeness. In addition, we believe that data regarding the industry, market size and our market position and market share within such industry provide general guidance but are inherently imprecise. Further, our estimates and assumptions involve risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on various factors, including those discussed in the Risk Factors section of this prospectus supplement and the other information contained or incorporated by reference herein. These and other factors could cause results to differ materially from those expressed in the estimates and assumptions.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any written communication from us or the underwriters specifying the final terms of this offering. We have not and the underwriters have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be used where it is legal to sell the notes. The information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be accurate as of their respective dates and the information in the incorporated documents is only accurate as of their respective dates. The forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus are only made as of the date of this prospectus or as of the date of such statement contained in the respective documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, respectively, and we disclaim any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement to reflect subsequent events or circumstances, unless we are obligated under the federal securities laws to update and disclose material developments related to previously disclosed information.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons who come into possession of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus should inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person

making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

S-i

Table of Contents

Prospectus supplement summary

The following summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus and does not contain all the information you will need in making your investment decision. You should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in the prospectus. Our principal subsidiaries are RGA Reinsurance Company, which we refer to as RGA Reinsurance, RGA Life Reinsurance Company of Canada, RGA Americas Reinsurance Company, Ltd. and RGA Reinsurance Company (Barbados) Ltd.

RGA

We believe we are one of the largest life reinsurers in North America based on premiums and life reinsurance in force. At September 30, 2009, we had consolidated assets of \$24.2 billion, stockholders' equity of \$3.8 billion and assumed reinsurance in force of approximately \$2.3 trillion. The term "in force" refers to insurance policy face amounts or net amounts at risk. According to an industry survey of 2008 information prepared by Munich American at the request of the Society of Actuaries Reinsurance Section, we believe that we have the second largest market share in North America as measured by life insurance in force. Our operations have grown significantly since 2000. Net premiums increased from \$1,404.1 million in 2000 to \$5,349.3 million in 2008. After-tax income from continuing operations have increased from \$105.8 million in 2000 to \$187.8 million in 2008. Assumed reinsurance in force grew from \$545.9 billion as of December 31, 2000 to \$2.1 trillion as of December 31, 2008. For additional information on our financial results, please see the selected consolidated financial data and other unaudited financial data contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus.

Reinsurance is an arrangement under which an insurance company, the reinsurer, agrees to indemnify another insurance company, the ceding company, for all or a portion of certain insurance risks underwritten by the ceding company. Reinsurance is designed to:

- reduce the net liability on individual risks, thereby enabling the ceding company to increase the volume of business it can underwrite, as well as to increase the maximum risk it can underwrite on a single life or risk;
- transfer mortality risk, thus reducing volatility in the ceding company's operating results;
- assist the ceding company in meeting applicable regulatory requirements; and
- enhance the ceding company's financial strength and capital position.

Reinsurance generally is written on a facultative or automatic treaty basis. Facultative reinsurance is individually underwritten by the reinsurer for each policy to be reinsured, with the pricing and other terms established at the time the policy is underwritten based upon rates negotiated in advance. Facultative reinsurance normally is purchased by insurance companies for medically impaired lives, unusual risks, or liabilities in excess of the binding limits specified in their automatic reinsurance treaties. An automatic reinsurance treaty provides that the ceding company will cede risks to a reinsurer on specified blocks of policies where the underlying policies meet the ceding company's underwriting criteria. In contrast to facultative reinsurance, the reinsurer does not approve each individual policy being reinsured. Automatic reinsurance treaties generally provide that the reinsurer will be liable for a portion of the risk associated with the specified policies written by the ceding company. Automatic reinsurance treaties specify the ceding company's binding limit, which is the maximum amount of risk on a given life that can be ceded automatically and that the reinsurer must accept. The binding limit may be stated either as a multiple of the ceding company's

retention or as a stated dollar amount.

Position in North America. We believe, based on an industry survey of 2008 information prepared by Munich American at the request of the Society of Actuaries Reinsurance Section, that we have the second largest market share in North America as measured by life insurance in force. We refer to that survey as the Munich American SOA survey. We conduct business in North America with the majority of the largest

S-1

Table of Contents

U.S. and Canadian life insurance companies, with no single client representing more than 10% of 2008 consolidated gross premiums.

Based on discussions with our clients and our knowledge about the industry, we believe we have the largest facultative underwriting franchise in North America. In the U.S., our largest market, we estimate that approximately 20% of gross premiums were written on a facultative basis in 2008. As part of our approach to deliver responsive and flexible service, we have also developed our capacity and expertise in the reinsurance of asset-intensive products and financial reinsurance. In 2008, our North American reinsurance business earned \$168.4 million of income from continuing operations before income taxes. In 2008, the U.S. and Canadian life operations assumed \$134.4 billion and \$51.2 billion, respectively, in new business, predominately representing recurring new business, as opposed to in-force transactions.

Position in International Markets. In 1994, we began using our North American underwriting expertise and industry knowledge to expand into selected international markets and now have subsidiaries, branches or offices in 18 countries, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan and the UK. We conduct business in these markets with many of the largest U.S. and international life insurance companies, with no single client representing more than 10% of 2008 consolidated gross premiums. In 2008, our Asia Pacific and Europe & South Africa segments combined earned \$151.2 million of income from continuing operations before income taxes.

For additional financial information about our operating segments, see Note 17 to our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008 contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which we have incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus.

RGA was formed on December 31, 1992. Through a predecessor, we have been engaged in the business of life reinsurance since 1973. Our executive office is located at 1370 Timberlake Manor Parkway, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017-6039, and our telephone number is (636) 736-7000.

Industry Trends

We believe that the following trends in the life insurance industry will continue to create demand for life reinsurance.

Outsourcing of Mortality. The Munich American SOA survey indicates that U.S. life reinsurance in force has almost tripled from \$2.7 trillion in 1998 to \$8.1 trillion at year-end 2008. We believe this trend reflects the continued utilization by life insurance companies of reinsurance to manage capital and mortality risk and to develop competitive products. However, the survey results indicate a smaller percentage of new business was reinsured in 2008 than previous years, which has caused premium growth rates in the U.S. life reinsurance market to moderate from previous years. We believe the decline in new business being reinsured is likely a reaction by ceding companies to a broad-based increase in reinsurance rates in the market and stronger capital positions maintained by ceding companies in recent years. However, we believe reinsurers will continue to be an integral part of the life insurance market due to their ability to efficiently aggregate a significant volume of life insurance in force, creating economies of scale and greater diversification of risk. As a result of having larger amounts of data at their disposal compared to primary life insurance companies, reinsurers tend to have better insights into mortality trends, creating more efficient pricing for mortality risk.

Capital Management. Regulatory environments, rating agencies and competitive business pressures are causing life insurers to reinsure as a means to:

manage risk-based capital by shifting mortality and other risks to reinsurers, thereby reducing amounts of reserves and capital they need to maintain;

release capital to pursue new business initiatives;

unlock the capital supporting, and value embedded in, non-core product lines; and

enhance the ceding company's financial strength and surplus position.

S-2

Table of Contents

Consolidation and Reorganization Within the Life Reinsurance and Life Insurance Industry. As a result of consolidations in recent years within the life reinsurance industry, there are fewer competitors. According to the SOA survey, as of December 31, 2008, the top five companies held approximately 71.0% of the market share in North America based on life reinsurance in force, whereas in 1998, the top five companies held approximately 54.2% of the market share. As a consequence, we believe the life reinsurance pricing environment will remain attractive for the remaining life reinsurers, particularly those with a significant market presence and strong ratings.

The SOA surveys indicate that the authors obtained information from participating or responding companies and do not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of their information. Additionally, the surveys do not survey all reinsurance companies, but we believe most of our principal competitors were included. While we believe these surveys to be generally reliable, we have not independently verified their data.

Additionally, merger and acquisition transactions within the life insurance industry continue. We believe that reorganizations and consolidations of life insurers will continue. As reinsurance services are increasingly used to facilitate these transactions and manage risk, we expect demand for our products to continue.

Changing Demographics of Insured Populations. The aging of the population in North America is increasing demand for financial products among baby boomers who are concerned about protecting their peak income stream and are considering retirement and estate planning. We believe that this trend is likely to result in continuing demand for annuity products and life insurance policies, larger face amounts of life insurance policies and higher mortality risk taken by life insurers, all of which should fuel the need for insurers to seek reinsurance coverage.

Business Strategy

We continue to follow a two-part business strategy to capitalize on industry trends.

Continue Growth of North American Business. Our strategy includes continuing to grow each of the following components of our North American operations:

Facultative Reinsurance. Based on discussions with our clients, an industry survey and informal knowledge about the industry, we believe RGA is a leader in facultative underwriting in North America. We intend to maintain that status by emphasizing our underwriting standards, prompt response on quotes, competitive pricing, capacity and flexibility in meeting customer needs. We believe our facultative business has allowed us to develop close, long-standing client relationships and generate additional business opportunities with our facultative clients. During both 2007 and 2008, our U.S. facultative operation processed over 100,000 facultative submissions.

Automatic Reinsurance. We intend to expand our presence in the North American automatic reinsurance market by using our mortality expertise and breadth of products and services to gain additional market share.

In Force Block Reinsurance. There are occasions to grow the business by reinsuring in force blocks, as insurers and reinsurers seek to exit various non-core businesses and increase financial flexibility in order to, among other things, redeploy capital and pursue merger and acquisition activity.

Continue Expansion Into Selected Markets and Products. Our strategy includes building upon the expertise and relationships developed in our North American business platform to continue our expansion into selected markets and products, including:

International Markets. Management believes that international markets offer opportunities for growth, and we intend to capitalize on these opportunities by establishing a presence in selected markets. Since 1994, we have entered new markets internationally, including, in the mid-to-late 1990 s, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan and the UK, and beginning in 2002, China, India and South Korea. We received regulatory approval to open a representative office in

S-3

Table of Contents

China in 2005, opened representative offices in Poland and Germany in 2006 and opened new offices in France and Italy in 2007. Before entering new markets, we evaluate several factors including:

the size of the insured population,

competition,

the level of reinsurance penetration,

regulation,

existing clients with a presence in the market, and

the economic, social and political environment.

As previously indicated, we generally start new operations in these markets from the ground up as opposed to acquiring existing operations, and we often enter these markets to support our large international clients as they expand into additional markets. Many of the markets that we have entered since 1994, or may enter in the future, are not utilizing life reinsurance, including facultative life reinsurance, at the same levels as the North American market, and therefore, we believe these markets represent opportunities for increasing reinsurance penetration. In particular, management believes markets such as Japan and South Korea are beginning to realize the benefits that reinsurers bring to the life insurance market. Additionally, we believe that in certain European markets, ceding companies may want to reduce counterparty exposure to their existing life reinsurers, creating opportunities for us.

Asset-intensive and Other Products. We intend to continue leveraging our existing client relationships and reinsurance expertise to create customized reinsurance products and solutions. Industry trends, particularly the increased pace of consolidation and reorganization among life insurance companies and changes in products and product distribution, are expected to enhance existing opportunities for asset-intensive and other products. We began reinsuring annuities with guaranteed minimum benefits on a limited basis in 2007. To date, most of our asset-intensive business and other products have been written in the United States; however, we believe opportunities outside of the U.S. may further develop in the near future.

Recent Developments

On October 16, 2009, we announced an agreement with ReliaStar Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of ING Groep N.V., whereby we will acquire ReliaStar's U.S. and Canadian group life, accident and health reinsurance business. The acquisition was structured as an indemnity coinsurance agreement and is expected to be effective January 1, 2010, subject to regulatory approvals. We will fund the acquisition with existing capital of approximately \$115 million and expect the business to generate returns of between 15 and 19 percent beginning in 2010. The acquisition is expected to enhance our expertise and product offerings in the North American market, but is expected to contribute less than 3 percent to our consolidated assets, liabilities and income in 2010.

Table of Contents**The offering**

The summary below describes the principal terms of the notes. Some of the terms and conditions described below are subject to important limitations and exceptions. See Description of the notes for a more detailed description of the terms and conditions of the notes.

Issuer	Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated
Securities Offered	\$400,000,000 million aggregate principal amount of 6.45% Senior Notes due 2019.
Interest Rate	The notes will bear interest at the rate of 6.45% per year, payable semiannually in arrears on November 15 and May 15, commencing May 15, 2010.
Maturity Date	November 15, 2019
Ranking	The notes will be senior unsecured obligations of RGA and will rank equally in right of payment with all of the current and future other senior unsecured debt of RGA. The notes will not be obligations of or guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. As a result, the notes will be effectively subordinated to the current and future indebtedness and other liabilities of RGA's subsidiaries and preferred stock of our subsidiaries held by third parties. In addition, the notes will be effectively subordinated to any debt that is secured by assets of RGA to the extent of the value of these assets, unless the notes are also secured by these assets. As of September 30, 2009, our consolidated short- and long-term debt and trust preferred securities aggregated approximately \$975.8 million, and our subsidiaries had approximately \$19.2 billion of outstanding liabilities, which includes \$850.0 million of liabilities associated with the floating rate insured notes issued by our subsidiary, Timberlake Financial, L.L.C.
Certain Covenants	<p>The indenture under which we will issue the notes will contain covenants that, among other things, restrict RGA's ability to incur indebtedness secured by a lien on the voting stock of any restricted subsidiary, limit RGA's ability to issue or otherwise dispose of shares of capital stock of any restricted subsidiary and limit RGA's ability to consolidate with or merge into, or transfer substantially all of its assets to, another corporation.</p> <p>The covenants are subject to important exceptions. The cross-acceleration provision that will be contained in the indenture for the notes will be less restrictive than the comparable provisions relating to our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2011 and our 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017.</p>
Optional Redemption	We may redeem the notes at any time under a make-whole redemption provision, at the redemption price described beginning on page S-32 of

this prospectus supplement.

Sinking Fund

None.

Use of Proceeds

We anticipate that we will use the net proceeds from the offering of the notes for general corporate purposes.

S-5

Table of Contents

Form and Denomination	The notes will be issued only as fully registered, global securities. The notes will be issued in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.
Risk Factors	Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement.

S-6

Table of Contents**Ratios of earnings to fixed charges**

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to fixed charges, excluding interest credited under reinsurance contracts, for the periods indicated.

For purposes of computing the consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of net earnings from continuing operations adjusted for the provision for income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest and discount on all indebtedness, distribution requirements of wholly-owned subsidiary trust preferred securities and floating rate insured notes and one-third of annual rentals, which we believe is a reasonable approximation of the interest factor of such rentals. We have not paid a preference security dividend for any of the periods presented and accordingly have not separately shown the ratio of combined fixed charges and preference dividends to earnings for these periods.

The information below regarding RGA's ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding interest credited under reinsurance contracts is not required; however, we believe it provides useful information on the coverage of fixed charges that are not related to our products.

	Years Ended December 31,					Nine Months Ended September 30,
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.7
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding interest credited under reinsurances contracts	10.0	9.2	6.0	4.6	3.6	8.6

S-7

Table of Contents

Risk factors

You should consider carefully all of the information set forth below in this prospectus supplement, in the accompanying prospectus, and in the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. The risks described below and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement are not the only ones we are facing. We consider the risks described below to be the most material. However, there may be other unknown or unpredictable economic, business, competitive, regulatory or other factors that could have material adverse effects on our future results. Past financial performance may not be a reliable indicator of future performance and historical trends should not be used to anticipate results or trends in future periods.

Risks related to our business

Adverse capital and credit market conditions may significantly affect our ability to meet liquidity needs, access to capital and cost of capital.

The capital and credit markets have been experiencing extreme volatility and disruption. In some cases, the markets have exerted downward pressure on availability of liquidity and credit capacity for certain issuers.

We need liquidity to pay our operating expenses, interest on our debt and dividends on our capital stock and to replace certain maturing liabilities. Without sufficient liquidity, we will be forced to curtail our operations, and our business will suffer. The principal sources of our liquidity are reinsurance premiums under reinsurance treaties and cash flow from our investment portfolio and other assets. Sources of liquidity in normal markets also include proceeds from the issuance of a variety of short- and long-term instruments, including medium- and long-term debt, junior subordinated debt securities, capital securities and common stock.

In the event current resources do not satisfy our needs, we may have to seek additional financing. The availability of additional financing will depend on a variety of factors such as market conditions, the general availability of credit, the volume of trading activities, the overall availability of credit to the financial services industry, our credit ratings and credit capacity, as well as the possibility that customers or lenders could develop a negative perception of our long- or short-term financial prospects if we incur large investment losses or if the level of our business activity decreased due to a market downturn. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities or rating agencies take negative actions against us. Our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient, and in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms, or at all.

Disruptions, uncertainty or volatility in the capital and credit markets may also limit our access to capital required to operate our business, most significantly our reinsurance operations. Such market conditions may limit our ability to replace, in a timely manner, maturing liabilities; satisfy statutory capital requirements; generate fee income and market-related revenue to meet liquidity needs; and access the capital necessary to grow our business. As such, we may be forced to delay raising capital, issue shorter tenor securities than we prefer, or bear an unattractive cost of capital which could decrease our profitability and significantly reduce our financial flexibility. At various points during the past twelve months, our credit spreads widened considerably. Further, our ability to finance our statutory reserve requirements is limited in the current marketplace. If capacity continues to be limited for a prolonged period of time, our ability to obtain new funding for such purposes may be hindered and, as a result, it may limit or adversely affect our ability to write additional business in a cost-effective manner. Our results of operations, financial condition, cash flows and statutory capital position could be materially adversely affected by disruptions in the financial markets.

Difficult conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally may materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our results of operations are materially affected by conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally, both in the United States and elsewhere around the world. Fixed income markets have experienced a period of extreme volatility, which negatively affected market liquidity conditions. Fixed income instruments have experienced decreased liquidity, increased price volatility, credit downgrade events,

S-8

Table of Contents

and increased probability of default. Many fixed income securities are less liquid and more difficult to value and sell. Domestic and international equity markets also have experienced heightened volatility and turmoil, with issuers (such as us) that have exposure to the mortgage and credit markets particularly affected. These events and the continuing market upheavals may have an adverse effect on us, in part because we have a large investment portfolio and are also dependent upon customer behavior. Our revenues may decline in such circumstances and our profit margins may erode. In addition, in the event of extreme prolonged market events, such as the global credit crisis, we could incur significant investment-related losses. Even in the absence of a market downturn, we are exposed to substantial risk of loss due to market volatility.

The demand for financial and insurance products could be adversely affected in an economic downturn. Adverse changes in the economy could affect earnings negatively and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. The current financial crisis has also raised the possibility of future legislative and regulatory actions in addition to the enactment of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA) that could further impact our business. There can be no assurance as to what impact the EESA or other such actions, if any, will have on the financial markets, including the extreme levels of volatility currently being experienced. Continued volatility could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, or the trading price of our common stock.

The liquidity and value of some of our investments has significantly diminished as volatility has increased.

We hold certain investments that may lack liquidity, such as privately placed fixed maturity securities; mortgage loans; policy loans; and equity real estate. Even some of our very high quality assets have been more illiquid as a result of the recent challenging market conditions.

If we require significant amounts of cash on short notice in excess of normal cash requirements or are required to post or return collateral in connection with our investment portfolio, derivatives transactions or securities lending activities, we may have difficulty selling these investments in a timely manner, be forced to sell them for less than we otherwise would have been able to realize, or both.

The impairment of other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including brokers and dealers, insurance companies, commercial banks, investment banks, investment funds and other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty. In addition, with respect to secured and other transactions that provide for us to hold collateral posted by the counterparty, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral we hold cannot be liquidated at prices sufficient to recover the full amount of our exposure. We also have exposure to these financial institutions in the form of unsecured debt instruments, derivative transactions and equity investments. There can be no assurance that any such losses or impairments to the carrying value of these assets would not materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our requirements to post collateral or make payments related to declines in market value of specified assets may expose us to counterparty risk and adversely affect our liquidity.

Some of our transactions with financial and other institutions specify the circumstances under which the parties are required to post collateral. The amount of collateral we may be required to post under these agreements may increase under certain circumstances, which could adversely affect our liquidity. In addition, under the terms of some of our transactions we may be required to make payment to our counterparties related to any decline in the market value of the specified assets.

Table of Contents

Defaults on our mortgage loans and volatility in performance may adversely affect our profitability.

Our mortgage loans face default risk and are principally collateralized by commercial properties. Mortgage loans are stated on our balance sheet at unpaid principal balance, adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, and are net of valuation allowances. We establish valuation allowances for estimated impairments as of the balance sheet date. Such valuation allowances are based on the excess carrying value of the loan over the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's original effective interest rate, the value of the loan's collateral if the loan is in the process of foreclosure or otherwise collateral dependent, or the loan's market value if the loan is being sold. At September 30, 2009, we had valuation allowances of \$5.1 million related to our mortgage loans. The performance of our mortgage loan investments, however, may fluctuate in the future. An increase in the default rate of our mortgage loan investments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Further, any geographic or sector concentration of our mortgage loans may have adverse effects on our investment portfolios and consequently on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition. While we seek to mitigate this risk by having a broadly diversified portfolio, events or developments that have a negative effect on any particular geographic region or sector may have a greater adverse effect on the investment portfolios to the extent that the portfolios are concentrated. Moreover, our ability to sell assets relating to such particular groups of related assets may be limited if other market participants are seeking to sell at the same time.

Our investments are reflected within the consolidated financial statements utilizing different accounting bases and accordingly we may not have recognized differences, which may be significant, between cost and fair value in our consolidated financial statements.

Our principal investments are in fixed maturity and equity securities, short-term investments, mortgage loans, policy loans, funds withheld at interest and other invested assets. The carrying value of such investments is as follows:

Fixed maturity and equity securities are classified as available-for-sale and are reported at their estimated fair value. Unrealized investment gains and losses on these securities are recorded as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income or loss, net of related deferred acquisition costs and deferred income taxes.

Short-term investments include investments with remaining maturities of one year or less, but greater than three months, at the time of acquisition and are stated at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Mortgage and policy loans are stated at unpaid principal balance. Additionally, mortgage loans are adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, net of valuation allowances.

Funds withheld at interest represent amounts contractually withheld by ceding companies in accordance with reinsurance agreements. The value of the assets withheld and interest income are recorded in accordance with specific treaty terms.

We primarily use the cost method of accounting for investments in real estate joint ventures and other limited partnership interests since we have a minor equity investment and virtually no influence over the joint ventures or the partnership's operations. These investments are reflected in other invested assets on the balance sheet.

Investments not carried at fair value in our consolidated financial statements—principally, mortgage loans, policy loans, real estate joint ventures, and other limited partnerships—may have fair values which are substantially higher or lower than the carrying value reflected in our consolidated financial statements. Each of such asset classes is regularly

evaluated for impairment under the accounting guidance appropriate to the respective asset class.

S-10

Table of Contents

Our valuation of fixed maturity and equity securities and derivatives include methodologies, estimations and assumptions which are subject to differing interpretations and could result in changes to investment valuations that may materially adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition.

Fixed maturity, equity securities and short-term investments which are reported at fair value on the consolidated balance sheet represent the majority of our total cash and invested assets. We have categorized these securities into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of the inputs to the respective valuation technique. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). An asset or liability's classification within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of significant input to its valuation. For example, a Level 3 fair value measurement may include inputs that are observable (Levels 1 and 2) and unobservable (Level 3). Therefore, gains and losses for such assets and liabilities categorized within Level 3 may include changes in fair value that are attributable to both observable market inputs (Levels 1 and 2) and unobservable market inputs (Level 3).

The determination of fair values in the absence of quoted market prices is based on: (i) valuation methodologies; (ii) securities we deem to be comparable; and (iii) assumptions deemed appropriate given the circumstances. The fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on available market information and judgments about financial instruments, including estimates of the timing and amounts of expected future cash flows and the credit standing of the issuer or counterparty. Factors considered in estimating fair value include: coupon rate, maturity, estimated duration, call provisions, sinking fund requirements, credit rating, industry sector of the issuer, and quoted market prices of comparable securities. The use of different methodologies and assumptions may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

During periods of market disruption including periods of significantly rising or high interest rates, rapidly widening credit spreads or illiquidity, it may be difficult to value certain of our securities, for example alternative residential mortgage loan (Alt-A) securities and sub-prime mortgage-backed securities, if trading becomes less frequent and/or market data becomes less observable. There may be certain asset classes that were in active markets with significant observable data that become illiquid due to the current financial environment. In such cases, more securities may fall to Level 3 and thus require more subjectivity and management judgment. As such, valuations may include inputs and assumptions that are less observable or require greater estimation as well as valuation methods which are more sophisticated or require greater estimation thereby resulting in values which may be less than the value at which the investments may be ultimately sold. Further, rapidly changing and unprecedented credit and equity market conditions could materially impact the valuation of securities as reported within our consolidated financial statements and the period-to-period changes in value could vary significantly. Decreases in value may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

The reported value of our relatively illiquid types of investments, our investments in the asset classes described in the paragraph above and, at times, our high quality, generally liquid asset classes, do not necessarily reflect the lowest current market price for the asset. If we were forced to sell certain of our assets in the current market, there can be no assurance that we will be able to sell them for the prices at which we have recorded them and we may be forced to sell them at significantly lower prices.

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments taken on our investments is highly subjective and could materially impact our results of operations or financial position.

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments vary by investment type and is based upon our periodic evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available. Management updates its evaluations regularly and reflects changes in allowances and impairments in operations as such evaluations

are revised. There can be no assurance that our management has accurately assessed the level of impairments taken, allowances reflected in our financial statements and potential impact

S-11

Table of Contents

on regulatory capital. Furthermore, additional impairments may need to be taken or allowances provided for in the future. Historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments or allowances.

For example, the cost of our fixed maturity and equity securities is adjusted for impairments in value deemed to be other-than-temporary in the period in which the determination is made. The assessment of whether impairments have occurred is based on management's case-by-case evaluation of the underlying reasons for the decline in fair value. Our management considers a wide range of factors about the security issuer and uses their best judgment in evaluating the cause of the decline in the estimated fair value of the security and in assessing the prospects for near-term recovery. Inherent in management's evaluation of the security are assumptions and estimates about the operations of the issuer and its future earnings potential. Considerations in the impairment evaluation process include, but are not limited to:

the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been below cost or amortized cost;

the potential for impairments of securities when the issuer is experiencing significant financial difficulties;

the potential for impairments in an entire industry sector or sub-sector;

the potential for impairments in certain economically depressed geographic locations;

the potential for impairments of securities where the issuer, series of issuers or industry has suffered a catastrophic type of loss or has exhausted natural resources;

for fixed maturity securities, whether or not we have the intent to sell, or more likely than not, would be required to sell the security before the recovery of its value to an amount equal to or greater than cost or amortized cost;

for equity securities, our ability and intent to hold the security for a period of time sufficient to allow for the recovery of its value to an almost equal to or greater than cost or amortized cost;

unfavorable changes in forecasted cash flows on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities; and

other subjective factors, including concentrations and information obtained from regulators and rating agencies.

Defaults, downgrades or other events impairing the value of our fixed maturity securities portfolio may reduce our earnings.

We are subject to the risk that the issuers, or guarantors, of fixed maturity securities we own may default on principal and interest payments they owe us. At September 30, 2009, the fixed maturity securities of \$11.0 billion in our investment portfolio represented 59% of our total cash and invested assets. The occurrence of a major economic downturn (such as the current downturn in the economy), acts of corporate malfeasance, widening risk spreads, or other events that adversely affect the issuers or guarantors of these securities could cause the value of our fixed maturity securities portfolio and our net income to decline and the default rate of the fixed maturity securities in our investment portfolio to increase. A ratings downgrade affecting issuers or guarantors of particular securities, or similar trends that could worsen the credit quality of issuers, such as the corporate issuers of securities in our investment portfolio, could also have a similar effect. With economic uncertainty, credit quality of issuers or guarantors could be adversely affected. Any event reducing the value of these securities other than on a temporary basis could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Levels of write down or impairment are affected by our assessment of the intent and ability to hold securities which have declined in value

until recovery. If we determine to reposition or realign portions of the portfolio where we determine not to hold certain securities in an unrealized loss position to recovery, then we will incur an other-than-temporary impairment.

S-12

Table of Contents

A downgrade in our ratings or in the ratings of our reinsurance subsidiaries could adversely affect our ability to compete.

Ratings are an important factor in our competitive position. Rating organizations periodically review the financial performance and condition of insurers, including our reinsurance subsidiaries. These ratings are based on an insurance company's ability to pay its obligations and are not directed toward the protection of investors. Rating organizations assign ratings based upon several factors. While most of the factors considered relate to the rated company, some of the factors relate to general economic conditions and circumstances outside the rated company's control. The various rating agencies periodically review and evaluate our capital adequacy in accordance with their established guidelines and capital models. In order to maintain our existing ratings, we may commit from time to time to manage our capital at levels commensurate with such guidelines and models. If our capital levels are insufficient to fulfill any such commitments, we could be required to reduce our risk profile by, for example, retroceding some of our business or by raising additional capital by issuing debt, hybrid, or equity securities. Any such actions could have a material adverse impact on our earnings or materially dilute our shareholders' equity ownership interests.

Any downgrade in the ratings of our reinsurance subsidiaries could adversely affect their ability to sell products, retain existing business, and compete for attractive acquisition opportunities. Ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. A rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities, and each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. We believe that the rating agencies consider the ratings of a parent company when assigning a rating to a subsidiary of that company. The ability of our subsidiaries to write reinsurance partially depends on their financial condition and is influenced by their ratings. In addition, a significant downgrade in the rating or outlook of RGA, among other factors, could adversely affect our ability to raise and then contribute capital to our subsidiaries for the purpose of facilitating their operations and growth. A significant downgrade could increase our own cost of capital. For example, the facility fee and interest rate for our credit facilities are based on our senior long-term debt ratings. A decrease in those ratings could result in an increase in costs for the credit facilities. Also, if there is a downgrade in the rating of RGA, some of our reinsurance contracts would require us to post collateral to secure our obligations under these reinsurance contracts. Accordingly, we believe a ratings downgrade of RGA, or of our affiliates, could have a negative effect on our ability to conduct business.

We cannot assure you that actions taken by our ratings agencies would not result in a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. In addition, it is unclear what effect, if any, a ratings change would have on the price of our securities in the secondary market.

We make assumptions when pricing our products relating to mortality, morbidity, lapsation and expenses, and significant deviations in experience could negatively affect our financial results.

Our reinsurance contracts expose us to mortality risk, which is the risk that the level of death claims may differ from that which we assumed in pricing our life, critical illness and annuity reinsurance contracts. Some of our reinsurance contracts expose us to morbidity risk, which is the risk that an insured person will become critically ill or disabled. Our risk analysis and underwriting processes are designed with the objective of controlling the quality of the business and establishing appropriate pricing for the risks we assume. Among other things, these processes rely heavily on our underwriting, our analysis of mortality and morbidity trends, lapse rates, expenses and our understanding of medical impairments and their effect on mortality or morbidity.

We expect mortality, morbidity and lapse experience to fluctuate somewhat from period to period, but believe they should remain fairly constant over the long term. Mortality, morbidity or lapse experience that is less favorable than the mortality, morbidity or lapse rates that we used in pricing a reinsurance agreement will negatively affect our net income because the premiums we receive for the risks we assume may not be sufficient to cover the claims and profit margin. Furthermore, even if the total benefits paid over the life of the contract do not exceed the expected amount,

unexpected increases in the incidence of deaths or illness can cause us to pay more benefits in a given reporting period than expected, adversely affecting our net income in any particular reporting period. Likewise, adverse experience could impair our ability to offset certain unamortized deferred acquisition costs and adversely affect our net income in any particular reporting period.

S-13

Table of Contents

If our investment strategy is unsuccessful, we could suffer losses.

The success of our investment strategy is crucial to the success of our business. In particular, we structure our investments to match our anticipated liabilities under reinsurance treaties to the extent we believe necessary. If our calculations with respect to these reinsurance liabilities are incorrect, or if we improperly structure our investments to match such liabilities, we could be forced to liquidate investments prior to maturity at a significant loss.

Our investment guidelines also permit us to invest up to 10% of our investment portfolio in non-investment grade fixed maturity securities. While any investment carries some risk, the risks associated with lower-rated securities are greater than the risks associated with investment grade securities. The risk of loss of principal or interest through default is greater because lower-rated securities are usually unsecured and are often subordinated to an issuer's other obligations. Additionally, the issuers of these securities frequently have high debt levels and are thus more sensitive to difficult economic conditions, individual corporate developments and rising interest rates which could impair an issuer's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on such lower-rated securities. As a result, the market price of these securities may be quite volatile, and the risk of loss is greater.

The success of any investment activity is affected by general economic conditions, which may adversely affect the markets for interest-rate-sensitive securities and equity securities, including the level and volatility of interest rates and the extent and timing of investor participation in such markets. Unexpected volatility or illiquidity in the markets in which we directly or indirectly hold positions could adversely affect us.

Interest rate fluctuations could negatively affect the income we derive from the difference between the interest rates we earn on our investments and interest we pay under our reinsurance contracts.

Significant changes in interest rates expose reinsurance companies to the risk of reduced investment income or actual losses based on the difference between the interest rates earned on investments and the credited interest rates paid on outstanding reinsurance contracts. Both rising and declining interest rates can negatively affect the income we derive from these interest rate spreads. During periods of rising interest rates, we may be contractually obligated to increase the crediting rates on our reinsurance contracts that have cash values. However, we may not have the ability to immediately acquire investments with interest rates sufficient to offset the increased crediting rates on our reinsurance contracts. During periods of falling interest rates, our investment earnings will be lower because new investments in fixed maturity securities will likely bear lower interest rates. We may not be able to fully offset the decline in investment earnings with lower crediting rates on underlying annuity products related to certain of our reinsurance contracts. While we develop and maintain asset/liability management programs and procedures designed to reduce the volatility of our income when interest rates are rising or falling, we cannot assure you that changes in interest rates will not affect our interest rate spreads.

Changes in interest rates may also affect our business in other ways. Lower interest rates may result in lower sales of certain insurance and investment products of our customers, which would reduce the demand for our reinsurance of these products.

The availability and cost of collateral, including letters of credit, asset trusts and other credit facilities, could adversely affect our operations and financial condition.

Regulatory reserve requirements in various jurisdictions in which we operate may be significantly higher than the reserves required under GAAP. Accordingly, we reinsure, or retrocede, business to affiliated and unaffiliated reinsurers to reduce the amount of regulatory reserves and capital we are required to hold in certain jurisdictions. A regulation in the United States, commonly referred to as Regulation XXX, requires a relatively high level of regulatory, or statutory, reserves that U.S. life insurance and life reinsurance companies must hold on their statutory

financial statements for various types of life insurance business, primarily certain level term life products. The reserve levels required under Regulation XXX increase over time and are normally in excess of reserves required under GAAP. The degree to which these reserves will increase and the ultimate level of reserves will depend upon the mix of our business and future production levels in the United

S-14

Table of Contents

States. Based on the assumed rate of growth in our current business plan, and the increasing level of regulatory reserves associated with some of this business, we expect the amount of required regulatory reserves to grow significantly.

In order to reduce the effect of Regulation XXX, our principal U.S. operating subsidiary, RGA Reinsurance, has retroceded Regulation XXX-related reserves to affiliated and unaffiliated reinsurers. Additionally, some of our reinsurance subsidiaries in other jurisdictions enter into various reinsurance arrangements with affiliated and unaffiliated reinsurers from time to time in order to reduce their statutory capital and reserve requirements. As a general matter, for us to reduce regulatory reserves on business that we retrocede, the affiliated or unaffiliated reinsurer must provide an equal amount of collateral. Such collateral may be provided through a capital markets securitization, in the form of a letter of credit from a commercial bank or through the placement of assets in trust for our benefit.

In connection with these reserve requirements, we face the following risks:

The availability of collateral and the related cost of such collateral in the future could affect the type and volume of business we reinsure and could increase our costs.

We may need to raise additional capital to support higher regulatory reserves, which could increase our overall cost of capital.

If we, or our retrocessionaires, are unable to obtain or provide sufficient collateral to support our statutory ceded reserves, we may be required to increase regulatory reserves. In turn, this reserve increase could significantly reduce our statutory capital levels and adversely affect our ability to satisfy required regulatory capital levels that apply to us, unless we are able to raise additional capital to contribute to our operating subsidiaries.

Because term life insurance is a particularly price-sensitive product, any increase in insurance premiums charged on these products by life insurance companies, in order to compensate them for the increased statutory reserve requirements or higher costs of insurance they face, may result in a significant loss of volume in their life insurance operations, which could, in turn, adversely affect our life reinsurance operations.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to implement actions to mitigate the effect of increasing regulatory reserve requirements.

We could be forced to sell investments at a loss to cover policyholder withdrawals, recaptures of reinsurance treaties or other events.

Some of the products offered by our insurance company customers allow policyholders and contract holders to withdraw their funds under defined circumstances. Our reinsurance subsidiaries manage their liabilities and configure their investment portfolios so as to provide and maintain sufficient liquidity to support anticipated withdrawal demands and contract benefits and maturities under reinsurance treaties with these customers. While our reinsurance subsidiaries own a significant amount of liquid assets, a portion of their assets are relatively illiquid. Unanticipated withdrawal or surrender activity could, under some circumstances, require our reinsurance subsidiaries to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms, which could have an adverse effect on us. Reinsurance agreements may provide for recapture rights on the part of our insurance company customers. Recapture rights permit these customers to reassume all or a portion of the risk formerly ceded to us after an agreed upon time, usually ten years, subject to various conditions.

Recapture of business previously ceded does not affect premiums ceded prior to the recapture, but may result in immediate payments to our insurance company customers and a charge for costs that we deferred when we acquired the business but are unable to recover upon recapture. Under some circumstances, payments to our insurance company customers could require our reinsurance subsidiaries to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms.

S-15

Table of Contents

Changes in the equity markets, interest rates and/or volatility affects the profitability of variable annuities with guaranteed living benefits that we reinsure; therefore, such changes may have a material adverse effect on our business and profitability.

We reinsure variable annuity products that include guaranteed minimum living benefits. These include guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefits (GMWB), guaranteed minimum accumulation benefits (GMAB) and guaranteed minimum income benefits (GMIB). The amount of reserves related to these benefits is based on their fair value and is affected by changes in equity markets, interest rates and volatility. Accordingly, strong equity markets, increases in interest rates and decreases in volatility will generally decrease the fair value of the liabilities underlying the benefits.

Conversely, a decrease in the equity markets along with a decrease in interest rates and an increase in volatility will generally result in an increase in the fair value of the liabilities underlying the benefits, which has the effect of increasing the amount of reserves that we must carry. Such an increase in reserves would result in a charge to our earnings in the quarter in which we increase our reserves. We maintain a customized dynamic hedge program that is designed to mitigate the risks associated with income volatility around the change in reserves on guaranteed benefits. However, the hedge positions may not be effective to exactly offset the changes in the carrying value of the guarantees due to, among other things, the time lag between changes in their values and corresponding changes in the hedge positions, high levels of volatility in the equity markets and derivatives markets, extreme swings in interest rates, contract holder behavior different than expected, and divergence between the performance of the underlying funds and hedging indices. We also must consider our own credit spreads, which are not hedged, in the valuation of certain of these liabilities. A decrease in our own credit spread could cause the value of these liabilities to increase, resulting in a reduction to net income. These factors, individually or collectively, may have a material adverse effect on our net income, financial condition or liquidity.

We are exposed to foreign currency risk.

We are a multi-national company with operations in numerous countries and, as a result, are exposed to foreign currency risk to the extent that exchange rates of foreign currencies are subject to adverse change over time. The U.S. dollar value of our net investments in foreign operations, our foreign currency transaction settlements and the periodic conversion of the foreign-denominated earnings to U.S. dollars (our reporting currency) are each subject to adverse foreign exchange rate movements. Approximately 37% of our revenues and 34% of our fixed maturity securities available for sale were denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2009.

We depend on the performance of others, and their failure to perform in a satisfactory manner would negatively affect us.

In the normal course of business, we seek to limit our exposure to losses from our reinsurance contracts by ceding a portion of the reinsurance to other insurance enterprises or retrocessionaires. We cannot assure you that these insurance enterprises or retrocessionaires will be able to fulfill their obligations to us. As of September 30, 2009, the retrocession pool members participating in our excess retention pool that have been reviewed by A.M. Best Company, were rated A- , the fourth highest rating out of fifteen possible ratings, or better. We are also subject to the risk that our clients will be unable to fulfill their obligations to us under our reinsurance agreements with them.

We rely upon our insurance company clients to provide timely, accurate information. We may experience volatility in our earnings as a result of erroneous or untimely reporting from our clients. We work closely with our clients and monitor their reporting to minimize this risk. We also rely on original underwriting decisions made by our clients. We cannot assure you that these processes or those of our clients will adequately control business quality or establish appropriate pricing.

For some reinsurance agreements, the ceding company withholds and legally owns and manages assets equal to the net statutory reserves, and we reflect these assets as funds withheld at interest on our balance sheet. In the event that a ceding company were to become insolvent, we would need to assert a claim on the

S-16

Table of Contents

assets supporting our reserve liabilities. We attempt to mitigate our risk of loss by offsetting amounts for claims or allowances that we owe the ceding company with amounts that the ceding company owes to us. We are subject to the investment performance on the withheld assets, although we do not directly control them. We help to set, and monitor compliance with, the investment guidelines followed by these ceding companies. However, to the extent that such investment guidelines are not appropriate, or to the extent that the ceding companies do not adhere to such guidelines, our risk of loss could increase, which could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. During the nine months ended September 30, 2009, interest earned on funds withheld represented 5.2% of our consolidated revenues. Funds withheld at interest totaled \$4.8 billion at September 30, 2009 and \$4.5 billion as of December 31, 2008.

We use the services of third-party investment managers to manage certain assets where our investment management expertise is limited. We rely on these investment managers to provide investment advice and execute investment transactions that are within our investment policy guidelines. Poor performance on the part of our outside investment managers could negatively affect our financial performance.

As with all financial services companies, our ability to conduct business depends on consumer confidence in the industry and our financial strength. Actions of competitors, and financial difficulties of other companies in the industry, and related adverse publicity, could undermine consumer confidence and harm our reputation.

Natural and man-made disasters, catastrophes, and events, including the threat of terrorist attacks, epidemics and pandemics, may adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Natural disasters and terrorist attacks, as well as epidemics and pandemics, can adversely affect our business and results of operations because they accelerate mortality and morbidity risk. Terrorist attacks on the United States and in other parts of the world and the threat of future attacks could have a negative effect on our business.

We believe our reinsurance programs are sufficient to reasonably limit our net losses for individual life claims relating to potential future natural disasters and terrorist attacks. However, the consequences of further natural disasters, terrorist attacks, armed conflicts, epidemics and pandemics are unpredictable, and we may not be able to foresee events that could have an adverse effect on our business.

We operate in a competitive industry which could adversely affect our market share.

The reinsurance industry is highly competitive, and we encounter significant competition in all lines of business from other reinsurance companies, as well as competition from other providers of financial services. Our competitors vary by geographic market. We believe our primary competitors in the North American life reinsurance market are currently the following, or their affiliates: Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Aegon, N.V., Swiss Re Life and Munich Reinsurance Company. We believe our primary competitors in the international life reinsurance markets are Swiss Re Life and Health Ltd., General Re, Munich Reinsurance Company, Hannover Reinsurance and SCOR Global Reinsurance. Many of our competitors have greater financial resources than we do. Our ability to compete depends on, among other things, our ability to maintain strong financial strength ratings from rating agencies, pricing and other terms and conditions of reinsurance agreements, and our reputation, service, and experience in the types of business that we underwrite. However, competition from other reinsurers could adversely affect our competitive position.

Our target market is generally large life insurers. We compete based on the strength of our underwriting operations, insights on mortality trends based on our large book of business, and responsive service. We believe our quick response time to client requests for individual underwriting quotes and our underwriting expertise are important elements to our strategy and lead to other business opportunities with our clients. Our business will be adversely

affected if we are unable to maintain these competitive advantages or if our international strategy is not successful.

S-17

Table of Contents

Tax law changes or a prolonged economic downturn could reduce the demand for insurance products, which could adversely affect our business.

Under the Internal Revenue Code, income tax payable by policyholders on investment earnings is deferred during the accumulation period of some life insurance and annuity products. To the extent that the Internal Revenue Code is revised to reduce the tax-deferred status of life insurance and annuity products, or to increase the tax-deferred status of competing products, all life insurance companies would be adversely affected with respect to their ability to sell such products, and, depending on grandfathering provisions, by the surrenders of existing annuity contracts and life insurance policies. In addition, life insurance products are often used to fund estate tax obligations. Congress has adopted legislation to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the estate tax. Under this legislation, our U.S. life insurance company customers could face reduced demand for some of their life insurance products, which in turn could negatively affect our reinsurance business. Further, the Obama Administration has proposed certain changes to individual income tax rates and rules applicable to certain policies. We cannot predict what future tax initiatives may be proposed and enacted that could affect us.

Changes in tax laws, Treasury and other regulations promulgated thereunder, or interpretations of such laws or regulations could increase our corporate taxes. The Obama Administration has proposed corporate tax changes. Changes in corporate tax rates could affect the value of deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities. Furthermore, the value of deferred tax assets could be impacted by future earnings levels.

We cannot predict whether any tax legislation impacting corporate taxes or insurance products will be enacted, what the specific terms of any such legislation will be or whether, if at all, any legislation would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, a general economic downturn or a downturn in the equity and other capital markets could adversely affect the market for many annuity and life insurance products. Because we obtain substantially all of our revenues through reinsurance arrangements that cover a portfolio of life insurance products, as well as annuities, our business would be harmed if the market for annuities or life insurance was adversely affected. In addition, the market for annuity reinsurance products is currently not well developed, and we cannot assure you that such market will develop in the future.

Our reinsurance subsidiaries are highly regulated, and changes in these regulations could negatively affect our business.

Our reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to government regulation in each of the jurisdictions in which they are licensed or authorized to do business. Governmental agencies have broad administrative power to regulate many aspects of the insurance business, which may include premium rates, marketing practices, advertising, policy forms, and capital adequacy. These agencies are concerned primarily with the protection of policyholders rather than shareholders or holders of debt securities. Moreover, insurance laws and regulations, among other things, establish minimum capital requirements and limit the amount of dividends, tax distributions, and other payments our reinsurance subsidiaries can make without prior regulatory approval, and impose restrictions on the amount and type of investments we may hold. The State of Missouri also regulates RGA as an insurance holding company.

Recently, insurance regulators have increased their scrutiny of the insurance regulatory framework in the United States and some state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that alter, and in many cases increase, state authority to regulate insurance holding companies and insurance companies. In light of recent legislative developments, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, or NAIC, and state insurance regulators have begun re-examining existing laws and regulations, specifically focusing on insurance company investments and solvency issues, guidelines imposing minimum capital requirements based on business levels and asset mix,

interpretations of existing laws, the development of new laws, the implementation of non-statutory guidelines, and the definition of extraordinary dividends, including a more stringent standard for allowance of extraordinary dividends. We are unable to predict whether, when or in what form the State of Missouri will enact a new measure for extraordinary dividends, and we cannot assure you that more stringent restrictions will not be adopted from time to time in other jurisdictions in which our reinsurance

S-18

Table of Contents

subsidiaries are domiciled, which could, under certain circumstances, significantly reduce dividends or other amounts payable to us by our subsidiaries unless they obtain approval from insurance regulatory authorities. We cannot predict the effect that any NAIC recommendations or proposed or future legislation or rule-making in the United States or elsewhere may have on our financial condition or operations.

Acquisitions and significant transactions involve varying degrees of risk that could affect our profitability.

We have made, and may in the future make, strategic acquisitions, either of selected blocks of business or other companies. Acquisitions may expose us to operational challenges and various risks, including:

the ability to integrate the acquired business operations and data with our systems;

the availability of funding sufficient to meet increased capital needs;

the ability to fund cash flow shortages that may occur if anticipated revenues are not realized or are delayed, whether by general economic or market conditions or unforeseen internal difficulties; and

the possibility that the value of investments acquired in an acquisition, may be lower than expected or may diminish due to credit defaults or changes in interest rates and that liabilities assumed may be greater than expected (due to, among other factors, less favorable than expected mortality or morbidity experience).

A failure to successfully manage the operational challenges and risks associated with or resulting from significant transactions, including acquisitions, could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations.

Our international operations involve inherent risks.

In the first nine months of 2009, approximately 30.8% of our net premiums and \$87.9 million of income from continuing operations before income taxes came from our operations in Europe & South Africa and Asia Pacific. One of our strategies is to grow these international operations. International operations subject us to various inherent risks. In addition to the regulatory and foreign currency risks identified above, other risks include the following:

managing the growth of these operations effectively, particularly given the recent rates of growth;

changes in mortality and morbidity experience and the supply and demand for our products that are specific to these markets and that may be difficult to anticipate;

political and economic instability in the regions of the world where we operate;

uncertainty arising out of foreign government sovereignty over our international operations; and

potentially uncertain or adverse tax consequences, including the repatriation of earnings from our non-U.S. subsidiaries.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to manage these risks effectively or that they will not have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our risk management policies and procedures could leave us exposed to unidentified or unanticipated risk, which could negatively affect our business or result in losses.

Our risk management policies and procedures to identify, monitor, and manage both internal and external risks may not predict future exposures, which could be different or significantly greater than expected. These identified risks may not be the only risks facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us, or that we currently deem to be immaterial, may adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results.

S-19

Table of Contents

Unanticipated events in our disaster recovery systems and management continuity planning could impair our ability to conduct business.

In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, an industrial accident, a blackout, a computer virus, a terrorist attack or war, unanticipated problems with our disaster recovery systems could have a material adverse impact on our ability to conduct business and on our results of operations and financial position, particularly if those problems affect our computer-based data processing, transmission, storage and retrieval systems and destroy valuable data. We depend heavily upon computer systems to provide reliable service, data and reports. Despite our implementation of a variety of security measures, our servers could be subject to physical and electronic break-ins, and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems. In addition, in the event that a significant number of our managers were unavailable in the event of a disaster, our ability to effectively conduct business could be severely compromised. These interruptions also may interfere with our clients' ability to provide data and other information and our employees' ability to perform their job responsibilities.

Certain provisions in our agreement with MetLife relating to the tax-free distribution, or split-off, could result in potentially significant limitations on our ability to execute certain aspects of our business plan and could potentially result in significant tax-related liabilities.

In connection with the split-off of our capital stock by MetLife, RGA agreed to certain tax-related restrictions and indemnities set forth in our recapitalization and distribution agreement with MetLife dated as of June 1, 2008. Under that agreement, we may be restricted or deterred from (i) redeeming or purchasing our stock in excess of certain agreed-upon amounts, (ii) issuing any equity securities in excess of certain agreed upon amounts, or (iii) taking any other action that would be inconsistent with the representations and warranties made in connection with the IRS ruling and the tax opinion (as those terms are defined in the agreement). Except in specified circumstances, we have agreed to indemnify MetLife for taxes and tax-related losses it incurs as a result of the divestiture failing to qualify as tax-free, if the taxes and related losses are attributable solely to any breach of, or inaccuracy in, any representation, covenant or obligation of RGA under the recapitalization and distribution agreement or that will be made in connection with the tax opinion. This indemnity could result in significant liabilities to RGA.

The acquisition restrictions contained in our articles of incorporation and our Section 382 shareholder rights plan, which are intended to help preserve RGA and its subsidiaries' net operating losses (NOLs) and other tax attributes, may not be effective or may have unintended negative effects.

We have recognized and may continue to recognize substantial NOLs, and other tax attributes, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and under the Internal Revenue Code, we may carry forward these NOLs, in certain circumstances to offset any current and future taxable income and thus reduce our federal income tax liability, subject to certain requirements and restrictions. To the extent that the NOLs do not otherwise become limited, we believe that we will be able to carry forward a substantial amount of NOLs and, therefore, these NOLs are a substantial asset to RGA. However, if RGA and its subsidiaries experience an ownership change, as defined in Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code and related Treasury regulations, their ability to use the NOLs could be substantially limited, and the timing of the usage of the NOLs could be substantially delayed, which consequently could significantly impair the value of that asset.

To reduce the likelihood of an ownership change, in light of MetLife's recent divestiture of most of its RGA stock, we have established acquisition restrictions in our articles of incorporation and our board of directors adopted a Section 382 shareholder rights plan. The Section 382 shareholder rights plan is designed to protect shareholder value by attempting to protect against a limitation on the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to use their existing NOLs and other tax attributes. The acquisition restrictions in our articles of incorporation are also intended to restrict certain acquisitions of RGA stock to help preserve the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to utilize their NOLs and other tax

attributes by avoiding the limitations imposed by Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations. The acquisition restrictions and the Section 382 shareholder rights plan are generally designed to restrict or deter direct and indirect acquisitions of RGA stock if such acquisition would result in an RGA shareholder becoming a 5-percent

S-20

Table of Contents

shareholder or increase the percentage ownership of RGA stock that is treated as owned by an existing 5-percent shareholder.

Although the acquisition restrictions and the Section 382 shareholder rights plan are intended to reduce the likelihood of an ownership change that could adversely affect RGA and its subsidiaries, we can give no assurance that such restrictions would prevent all transfers that could result in such an ownership change. In particular, we have been advised by our counsel that, absent a court determination, there can be no assurance that the acquisition restrictions will be enforceable against all of the RGA shareholders, and that they may be subject to challenge on equitable grounds. In particular, it is possible that the acquisition restrictions may not be enforceable against the RGA shareholders who voted against or abstained from voting on the restrictions at our recent special meeting of shareholders or who do not have notice of the restrictions at the time when they subsequently acquire their shares.

Under certain circumstances, our board of directors may determine it is in the best interest of RGA and its shareholders to exempt certain 5-percent shareholders from the operation of the Section 382 shareholder rights plan, in light of the provisions of the recapitalization and distribution agreement. After the split-off by MetLife, we may, under certain circumstances, incur significant indemnification obligations under the recapitalization and distribution agreement in the event that the Section 382 shareholder rights plan is triggered following the split-off in a manner that would result in MetLife's divestiture failing to qualify as tax-free. Accordingly, our board of directors may determine that the consequences of enforcing the Section 382 shareholder rights plan and enhancing its deterrent effect by not exempting a 5-percent shareholder in order to provide protection to RGA's and its subsidiaries' NOLs and other tax attributes, are more adverse to RGA and its shareholders.

The acquisition restrictions and Section 382 shareholder rights plan also require any person attempting to become a holder of 5% or more (by value) of RGA stock, as determined under the Internal Revenue Code, to seek the approval of our board of directors. This may have an unintended anti-takeover effect because our board of directors may be able to prevent any future takeover. Similarly, any limits on the amount of stock that a shareholder may own could have the effect of making it more difficult for shareholders to replace current management. Additionally, because the acquisition restrictions and Section 382 shareholder rights plan have the effect of restricting a shareholder's ability to dispose of or acquire RGA stock, the liquidity and market value of RGA stock might suffer. The acquisition restrictions and the Section 382 shareholder rights plan will remain in effect for the restriction period, which is until the earlier of (a) September 13, 2011, or (b) such other date as our board of directors in good faith determines they are no longer in the best interests of RGA and its shareholders. The acquisition restrictions may be waived by our board of directors.

The occurrence of various events may adversely affect the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to fully utilize NOLs and other tax attributes.

RGA and its subsidiaries have a substantial amount of NOLs and other tax attributes, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, that are available both currently and in the future to offset taxable income and gains. Events outside of our control may cause RGA (and, consequently, its subsidiaries) to experience an ownership change under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations, and limit the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to utilize fully such NOLs and other tax attributes. Moreover, the MetLife split-off increased the likelihood of RGA experiencing such an ownership change.

In general, an ownership change occurs when, as of any testing date, the percentage of stock of a corporation owned by one or more 5-percent shareholders, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations, has increased by more than 50 percentage points over the lowest percentage of stock of the corporation owned by such shareholders at any time during the three-year period preceding such date. In general, persons who own 5% or more (by value) of a corporation's stock are 5-percent shareholders, and all other persons who own less than 5% (by value)

of a corporation's stock are treated, together, as a single, public group 5-percent shareholder, regardless of whether they own an aggregate of 5% or more (by value) of a corporation's stock. If a corporation experiences an ownership change, it is generally subject to an

S-21

Table of Contents

annual limitation, which limits its ability to use its NOLs and other tax attributes to an amount equal to the equity value of the corporation multiplied by the federal long-term tax-exempt rate.

If we were to experience an ownership change, we could potentially have in the future higher U.S. federal income tax liabilities than we would otherwise have had and it may also result in certain other adverse consequences to RGA. In this connection, we have adopted the Section 382 shareholder rights plan and the acquisition restrictions set forth in Article Fourteen to our articles of incorporation, in order to reduce the likelihood that RGA and its subsidiaries will experience an ownership change under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code. There can be no assurance, however, that these efforts will prevent the MetLife split-off, together with certain other transactions involving our stock, from causing us to experience an ownership change and the adverse consequences that may arise therefrom, as described above under . The acquisition restrictions contained in our articles of incorporation and our Section 382 shareholder rights plan, which are intended to help preserve RGA and its subsidiaries' NOLs and other tax attributes, may not be effective or may have unintended negative effects.

Risks related to ownership of the notes

The notes will be effectively subordinated to all obligations of our subsidiaries.

The notes will not be guaranteed by our subsidiaries, and therefore they will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments of our subsidiaries, including claims under reinsurance contracts, debt obligations and other liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business. As of September 30, 2009, our consolidated short-and long-term debt and trust preferred securities aggregated approximately \$975.8 million, which consisted of:

\$497.9 million of borrowings outstanding under our credit facilities, letters of credit, 6.75% Senior Notes due 2011 and 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017, which will rank equally with the notes; and

\$477.9 million aggregate amount of our 6.75% Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2065 and trust preferred securities, which will rank junior in right of payment to the notes,

and our subsidiaries had approximately \$19.2 billion of outstanding liabilities, which includes \$850.0 million of liabilities associated with the floating rate insured notes issued by our subsidiary, Timberlake Financial, L.L.C. For more information, see Capitalization, below, as well as Schedule II-Condensed Financial Information of the Registrant and Notes 15 and 16 to the consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which are incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus.

In addition, the indenture for the notes will not prohibit or limit any of our subsidiaries from incurring any indebtedness or other obligations. In the event of the insolvency, liquidation, reorganization, dissolution or other winding up of a subsidiary, including an insurance company subsidiary, all creditors of that subsidiary would be entitled to payment in full out of the assets of such subsidiary before we, as shareholder would be entitled to any payment. Following payment by the subsidiary of its liabilities, the subsidiary may not have sufficient assets to make payments to us to allow us to make payments on the notes and our other debt. See RGA is an insurance holding company, and payments on the notes will only be made from our earnings and assets, and not those of our subsidiaries.

RGA is an insurance holding company, and payments on the notes will only be made from our earnings and assets, and not those of our subsidiaries.

RGA is an insurance holding company, with our principal assets consisting of the stock of our reinsurance company subsidiaries, and substantially all of our income is derived from those subsidiaries. The notes will be solely our obligations, and our subsidiaries will have no obligation to pay any amount in respect of the notes or to make any funds available for any such payment. Accordingly, we will be dependent on dividends and other distributions or loans from our subsidiaries or new capital raising transactions to generate the funds necessary to meet obligations with respect to the notes, including the payment of principal and interest, and if

S-22

Table of Contents

these sources are not adequate, we may be unable to make payments of principal or interest in respect of the notes.

Our ability to pay principal and interest on any debt securities, including the notes, is limited and depends in part on the ability of our insurance company subsidiaries, our principal sources of cash flow, to declare and distribute dividends or to advance money to us in the form of intercompany loans, other payments or new capital raising transactions. Our insurance company subsidiaries are subject to various statutory and regulatory restrictions, applicable to insurance companies generally, that limit the amount of cash dividends, loans and advances that those subsidiaries may pay to us. Covenants contained in some of our debt agreements and regulations relating to capital requirements affecting some of our most significant subsidiaries also restrict the ability of certain subsidiaries to pay dividends and other distributions and make loans to us. As of January 1, 2009, the amount of dividends that may be paid to us by RGA Reinsurance, our largest operating subsidiary, without prior approval from Missouri insurance regulators, was approximately \$110.4 million. We cannot assure you that more stringent dividend restrictions will not be adopted, as discussed under Risks related to our business. Our reinsurance subsidiaries are highly regulated, and changes in these regulations could negatively affect our business.

As a result of our insurance holding company structure, in the event of the insolvency, liquidation, reorganization, dissolution or other winding-up of one of our reinsurance subsidiaries, all creditors of that subsidiary would be entitled to payment in full out of the assets of such subsidiary before we, as shareholder, would be entitled to any payment. Our subsidiaries would have to pay their direct creditors in full before our creditors, including holders of any class of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities of RGA, could receive any payment from the assets of such subsidiaries.

We may redeem the notes prior to the maturity date, and you may not be able to reinvest in a comparable security.

We have the option to redeem the notes for cash, in whole or in part, at any time at the make-whole redemption price set forth under Description of the notes Optional Redemption in this prospectus supplement. In the event we choose to redeem your notes, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as the interest rate on the notes.

We may incur additional indebtedness in the future.

Neither we nor any of our subsidiaries are restricted from incurring additional debt or other liabilities, including additional senior debt, under the indenture relating to the notes. If we incur additional debt or liabilities, our ability to pay our obligations on the notes could be adversely affected. We expect that we will from time to time incur additional debt and other liabilities. In addition, we are not restricted from paying dividends or issuing or repurchasing our securities under the indenture. Furthermore, there are no financial covenants in the indenture, and you will not be protected under the indenture in the event of a highly leveraged transaction or similar transaction.

An active trading market for the notes may not develop or be sustained.

The notes are new securities for which there currently is no market. Although the underwriters have advised us that they currently intend to make a market in the notes after completion of the offering, they have no obligation to do so, and such market making activities may be discontinued at any time and without notice. We cannot assure you that any market for the notes will develop or be sustained, that holders of the notes will be able to sell their notes or that holders of the notes will be able to sell their notes at favorable prices.

Table of Contents

An increase in interest rates could cause a decrease in the market price of the notes.

A variety of factors may influence the price of the notes in public trading markets. We believe that investors generally perceive companies engaged in the reinsurance business as yield-driven investments and compare the annual yield from distributions by such companies with yields on various other types of financial instruments. Thus, an increase in market interest rates generally could adversely affect the market price of the notes.

Downgrades or other changes in our credit ratings could affect our financial results and reduce the market value of the notes.

The credit ratings assigned to our unsecured indebtedness, including the notes upon issuance, may affect our ability to obtain new financing and the costs of our financing. It is possible that rating agencies may downgrade our credit ratings or change their outlook about us, which could increase our cost of capital and make our efforts to raise capital more difficult and, in turn, adversely affect our financial results. Such a downgrade in rating may also reduce the price that a subsequent purchaser may be willing to pay for the notes.

S-24

Table of Contents

Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain and incorporate by reference a number of forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 relating to, among others:

projections of our strategies, earnings, revenues, income or loss, ratios, future financial performance, and our growth potential; and

assumptions relating to the foregoing.

The words intend, expect, project, estimate, predict, anticipate, should, believe and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified. Future events and actual results, performance and achievements could differ materially from those set forth in, contemplated by or underlying the forward-looking statements.

Numerous important factors could cause actual results and events to differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements including, without limitation:

adverse capital and credit market conditions and their impact on our liquidity, access to capital and cost of capital;

the impairment of other financial institutions and its effect on the our business;

requirements to post collateral or make payments due to declines in market value of assets subject to our collateral arrangements;

the fact that the determination of allowances and impairments taken on the our investments is highly subjective;

adverse changes in mortality, morbidity, lapsation or claims experience;

changes in our financial strength and credit ratings and the effect of such changes on our future results of operations and financial condition;

inadequate risk analysis and underwriting;

general economic conditions or a prolonged economic downturn affecting the demand for insurance and reinsurance in our current and planned markets;

the availability and cost of collateral necessary for regulatory reserves and capital;

market or economic conditions that adversely affect the value of our investment securities or result in the impairment of all or a portion of the value of certain of our investment securities, that in turn could affect regulatory capital;

market or economic conditions that adversely affect our ability to make timely sales of investment securities;

risks inherent in our risk management and investment strategy, including changes in investment portfolio yields due to interest rate or credit quality changes;

fluctuations in U.S. or foreign currency exchange rates, interest rates, or securities and real estate markets;

adverse litigation or arbitration results;

the adequacy of reserves, resources and accurate information relating to settlements, awards and terminated and discontinued lines of business;

the stability of and actions by governments and economies in the markets in which we operate;

competitive factors and competitors' responses to our initiatives;

S-25

Table of Contents

the success of our clients;

successful execution of our entry into new markets;

successful development and introduction of new products and distribution opportunities;

our ability to successfully integrate and operate reinsurance business that we acquire;

regulatory action that may be taken by state Departments of Insurance with respect to us;

our dependence on third parties, including those insurance companies and reinsurers to which we cede some reinsurance, third-party investment managers and others;

the threat of natural disasters, catastrophes, terrorist attacks, epidemics or pandemics anywhere in the world where we or our clients do business;

changes in laws, regulations and accounting standards applicable to us, our subsidiaries, or our business;

the effect of our status as an insurance holding company and regulatory restrictions on our ability to pay principal of and interest on our debt obligations; and

other risks and uncertainties described under the caption **Risk Factors** and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materializes, or if underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual outcomes may vary materially from those indicated.

You should not place undue reliance on those statements, which are only made as of the date of this prospectus or as of the date of such statement contained in the respective documents incorporated by reference herein, respectively. We may not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future, unless we are obligated under the federal securities laws to update and disclose material developments related to previously disclosed information. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. For a discussion of those risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements, we advise you to see **Risk Factors** in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Use of proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the notes will be approximately \$395.9 million, after deducting the underwriters' discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses. We anticipate that we will use the net proceeds from the offering of the notes for general corporate purposes. As a result, we will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds of the offering.

Pending the use of the net proceeds from the offering, we intend to invest the net proceeds in interest-bearing, investment-grade securities.

S-27

Table of Contents**Capitalization**

We present in the table below the capitalization of RGA and its subsidiaries:

on an actual consolidated basis as of September 30, 2009; and

as adjusted to give effect to this offering.

The adjusted column gives effect to the application of the net proceeds from this offering as described under "Use of Proceeds" in this prospectus supplement.

You should read this table in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements, the notes relating to them and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" which are contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2009, each of which is incorporated by reference in the attached prospectus.

	September 30, 2009	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(\$ in millions)	
Debt:		
Borrowings under revolving credit facilities	\$	\$
6.75% junior subordinated debentures due 2065	318.7	318.7
6.75% senior notes due 2011	200.0	200.0
5.625% senior notes due 2017	297.9	297.9
6.45% senior notes due 2019		400.0
Total short- and long-term debt	816.6	1,216.6
5.75% cumulative trust preferred securities due 2051(1)	159.2	159.2
Collateral finance facility(2)	850.0	850.0
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share; 10,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued or outstanding		
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share; 140,000,000 shares authorized, 73,363,523 shares issued at September 30, 2009	0.7	0.7
Warrants(1)	66.9	66.9
Additional paid-in capital	1,460.4	1,460.4
Retained earnings	1,952.9	1,952.9
Accumulated other comprehensive income	317.4	317.4
Treasury stock	(25.6)	(25.6)
Total stockholders' equity	3,772.7	3,772.7
Total capitalization	\$ 5,598.5	\$ 5,998.5

- (1) Each Trust PIERS unit consists of a 5.75% cumulative trust preferred security, stated liquidation amount \$50 per security, issued by RGA Capital Trust I, a wholly-owned subsidiary of RGA, with a detachable warrant to purchase shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$50 per warrant at maturity, subject to adjustment. PIERS and Preferred Income Equity Redeemable Securities are service marks of Lehman Brothers Inc.
- (2) Consists of Series A Floating Rate Insured Notes due June 2036 (Timberlake Notes) issued in June 2006 by our subsidiary, Timberlake Financial, L.L.C., to fund the collateral requirements for statutory reserves required by so-called Regulation XXX, which is described under the caption Risk Factors Risks related to our business The availability and cost of collateral, including letters of credit, asset trusts and other credit facilities, could adversely affect our operations and financial condition above. The Timberlake Notes represent senior secured indebtedness of Timberlake Financial with no recourse to RGA or its other subsidiaries. For a description of that transaction, see Note 16 Collateral Finance Facility in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents**Selected consolidated financial information**

We present in the table below our selected consolidated financial data and other data which should be read in conjunction with and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the consolidated financial statements and unaudited consolidated financial statements and the related notes which are contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2009, each of which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. The selected consolidated financial data for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 have been derived from our financial statements which have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. The selected consolidated financial data for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009 have been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of our management, the unaudited information reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal and recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of the results for those periods. Results for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full fiscal year.

Selected Consolidated Financial and Operating Data

	Years Ended December 31,					Nine Months Ended	
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
	(In millions, except per share and operating data)						
Income Statement Data							
Revenues:							
Net premiums	\$ 3,347.4	\$ 3,866.8	\$ 4,346.0	\$ 4,909.0	\$ 5,349.3	\$ 3,960.2	\$ 4,126.4
Investment income, net of related expenses	580.5	639.2	779.7	907.9	871.3	674.6	807.3
Investment related gains (losses), net	55.6	21.0	2.5	(178.7)	(647.2)	(403.6)	48.3
Other revenues	55.4	57.7	65.5	80.2	107.8	82.0	141.0
Total revenues	4,038.9	4,584.7	5,193.7	5,718.4	5,681.2	4,313.2	5,123.0
Benefits and expenses:							
Claims and other policy benefits	2,678.5	3,187.9	3,488.4	3,984.0	4,461.9	3,311.3	3,449.3
Interest credited	198.9	208.4	244.8	246.1	233.2	146.2	195.0
Policy acquisition costs and other insurance expenses	613.9	636.3	716.3	647.8	357.9	330.4	779.0
Other operating expenses	140.0	154.4	204.4	236.7	242.9	189.2	214.2
Interest expense	38.4	41.4	62.0	76.9	76.2	54.6	46.9

Edgar Filing: REINSURANCE GROUP OF AMERICA INC - Form 424B2

Collateral finance facility expense(1)			26.4	52.0	28.7	21.3	6.4
Total benefits and expenses	3,669.7	4,228.4	4,742.3	5,243.5	5,400.8	4,053.0	4,690.8
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	369.2	356.3	451.4	474.9	280.4	260.2	432.2
Provision for income taxes	123.9	120.7	158.1	166.6	92.6	87.6	137.5
Income from continuing operations	245.3	235.6	293.3	308.3	187.8	172.6	294.7
Loss from discontinued accident and health operations, net of income taxes	(23.0)	(11.4)	(5.1)	(14.5)	(11.0)	(5.2)	
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, net of income taxes	(0.4)						
Net income	\$ 221.9	\$ 224.2	\$ 288.2	\$ 293.8	\$ 176.8	\$ 167.4	\$ 294.7

S-29

Table of Contents

	Years Ended December 31,						Nine Months Ended	
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009	
(In millions, except per share and operating data)								
Basic Earnings Per Share								
Continuing operations	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.77	\$ 4.79	\$ 4.98	\$ 2.94	\$ 2.77	\$ 4.05	
Discontinued operations	(0.37)	(0.19)	(0.08)	(0.23)	(0.17)	(0.08)		
Accounting change	(0.01)							
Net income	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.58	\$ 4.71	\$ 4.75	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.69	\$ 4.05	
Diluted Earnings Per Share								
Continuing operations	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.70	\$ 4.65	\$ 4.80	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.70	\$ 4.03	
Discontinued operations	(0.37)	(0.18)	(0.08)	(0.23)	(0.17)	(0.08)		
Accounting change	(0.01)							
Net income	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.52	\$ 4.57	\$ 4.57	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.62	\$ 4.03	
Weighted average diluted shares, in thousands	62,964	63,724	63,062	64,231	65,271	63,940	73,037	
Dividends per share on common stock	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.27	
Balance Sheet Data								
Total investments	\$ 10,564.2	\$ 12,331.5	\$ 14,612.9	\$ 16,397.7	\$ 15,610.7	16,224.9	18,228.8	
Total assets	14,048.1	16,193.9	19,036.8	21,598.0	21,658.8	21,844.3	24,162.1	
Policy liabilities	10,314.5	11,726.3	13,354.5	15,045.5	16,045.5	16,134.9	17,054.9	
Long-term debt	349.7	674.4	676.2	896.1	918.2	923.0	816.6	
Collateral finance facility(1)			850.4	850.4	850.0	850.1	850.0	
Company-obligated mandatorily redeemable preferred securities of subsidiary trust holding solely junior subordinated debentures of the Company	158.4	158.6	158.7	158.9	159.0	159.0	159.2	
Total stockholders equity	2,279.0	2,527.5	2,815.4	3,189.8	2,616.8	2,606.9	3,772.7	
Total stockholders equity per share	\$ 36.50	\$ 41.38	\$ 45.85	\$ 51.42	\$ 36.03	\$ 41.83	\$ 51.83	
Operating Data (in billions)								
Assumed ordinary life reinsurance in force	\$ 1,458.9	\$ 1,713.2	\$ 1,941.4	\$ 2,119.9	\$ 2,108.1	\$ 2,176.5	\$ 2,274.6	
Assumed new business production	279.1	364.4	374.6	302.4	305.0	221.8	216.9	

- (1) During 2006, our subsidiary, Timberlake Financial, issued \$850.0 million floating rate insured notes. See Note 16 Collateral Finance Facility in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus.

S-30

Table of Contents

Description of the notes

RGA will issue the notes under the senior indenture dated as of December 19, 2001, supplemented by a third supplemental senior indenture dated as of November 6, 2009, in each case, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee to The Bank of New York, as trustee, which we refer to collectively as the indenture. The following description of certain terms of the notes and certain provisions of the indenture in this prospectus supplement supplements the description under Description of Debt Securities of RGA in the accompanying prospectus and, to the extent it is inconsistent with that description, replaces the description in the accompanying prospectus. This description is only a summary of the material terms and does not purport to be complete. We urge you to read these documents in their entirety because they, and not this description, will define your rights as a beneficial holder of the notes. We will file the third supplemental senior indenture and the notes as exhibits to a Current Report on Form 8-K, which will be incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. You may also request copies of these documents from us at our address set forth in the accompanying prospectus under Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference. Unless otherwise specified, when we refer to RGA, we, us, or our, in the following description, we mean only RGA and not its subsidiaries.

Certain terms of the notes are defined in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Principal, maturity and interest

We will initially issue \$400,000,000 million aggregate principal amount of the notes. The notes will mature on November 15, 2019.

Interest on the notes will accrue at the rate of 6.45% per year and will be payable semiannually in arrears on November 15 and May 15 of each year, commencing on May 15, 2010. Interest on the notes will accrue from their issue date, or if interest has already been paid, from the date it was most recently paid. We will make each interest payment on the notes to the holders of record on the immediately preceding November 1 and May 1. Interest on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. Principal of and interest on the notes will be payable, and the notes will be exchangeable and transfers thereof will be registrable, at the corporate trust office or agency of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. located at 2 North LaSalle, Suite 1020, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

The notes will be issued only in registered form, without coupons and in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000. The notes may be transferred or exchanged without service charges, other than any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection with such transfer or exchange. We have initially appointed The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N. A., as successor trustee to The Bank of New York, as the registrar and paying agent for the notes.

We may from time to time, without the consent of the existing holders, create and issue further notes having the same terms and conditions as the notes being offered hereby in all respects, except for issue date, public offering price and, if applicable, the first payment of interest thereon. Additional notes issued in this manner will be consolidated with, and will form a single series with, the previously outstanding notes.

Ranking

The notes:

will be our senior unsecured obligations;

will rank senior to all of our existing and future subordinated debt, including our 6.75% Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2065 and 5.75% Junior Subordinated Interest Debentures due 2051; and

will rank equally in right of payment with all our existing and future senior unsecured debt, including our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2011 and our 5.635% Senior Notes due 2017.

The indenture will not preclude our subsidiaries from issuing secured or unsecured indebtedness. If RGA issues secured indebtedness, to the extent the security granted consists of voting stock in restricted subsidiaries,

S-31

Table of Contents

the indenture will require the notes to rank equally as to security. However, to the extent the security consists of other assets, the indenture will not provide corresponding protection for the notes. The notes will not be obligations of or guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. Therefore, indebtedness or preferred stock held by third parties issued by our subsidiaries or indebtedness issued by us secured by assets other than voting stock of restricted subsidiaries may be paid ahead of the notes in the event of our or our subsidiaries' insolvency.

Because RGA is an insurance holding company, its principal assets consist of the stock of its insurance company subsidiaries, and, absent any additional capital raising or borrowing, its principal cash flow would be derived from dividends and other distributions or loans from its insurance company subsidiaries or new capital raising transactions. Therefore, RGA may rely primarily on dividends or other payments from its operating subsidiaries to pay principal and interest on its outstanding debt obligations, including the notes. The principal source of funds from these operating subsidiaries comes from their current operations. RGA can also utilize investment securities maintained in its portfolio for these payments. In addition, regulatory and other legal restrictions may limit the amount of dividends and other payments its subsidiaries can make to it.

Our insurance company subsidiaries are subject to various state statutory and regulatory restrictions, applicable to insurance companies generally, that limit the amount of cash dividends, loans and advances that those subsidiaries may pay to us. See **Business Corporate Structure, Regulation and Restrictions on Dividends and Distributions** in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus, and **Risk Factors Risks related to ownership of the notes** RGA is an insurance holding company, and payments on the notes will only be made from our earnings and assets, and not those of our subsidiaries in this prospectus supplement.

As a result of RGA being an insurance holding company, the notes will be effectively subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments of RGA's subsidiaries existing and future obligations, including claims under reinsurance contracts, debt obligations and other liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business. RGA only has a shareholder's claim in the assets of its subsidiaries. This shareholder's claim is junior to claims that creditors or holders of preferred stock of RGA's subsidiaries have against those subsidiaries. Holders of the notes will only be creditors of RGA, and such holders will not be creditors of RGA's subsidiaries, where most of RGA's consolidated assets are located. As of September 30, 2009, our consolidated short- and long-term debt and trust preferred securities aggregated approximately \$975.8 million, which consisted of:

\$497.9 million of borrowings outstanding under our credit facilities, letters of credit, 6.75% Senior Notes due 2011 and 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017, which will rank equally with the notes; and

\$477.9 million aggregate amount of our 6.75% Junior Subordinated Debentures due 2065 and trust preferred securities, which will rank junior in right of payment to the notes,

and our subsidiaries had approximately \$19.2 billion of outstanding liabilities, which includes \$850.0 million of liabilities associated with the floating rate insured notes issued by our subsidiary, Timberlake Financial, L.L.C. For more information, see **Capitalization**, above, as well as **Schedule II-Condensed Financial Information of the Registrant and Notes 14 and 15** to the consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which are incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. Also, see **Business Regulation Default or Liquidation** in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus and **Risk Factors Risks related to ownership of the notes** The notes will be effectively subordinated to all obligations of our subsidiaries, and RGA is an insurance holding company, and payments on the notes will only be made from our earnings and assets, and not those of our subsidiaries in this prospectus supplement.

Optional redemption

The notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at our option at any time at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, and (ii) as determined by the Quotation Agent (as defined below), the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest thereon (not including any portion of those payments of interest accrued as of the date of redemption) discounted to the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting

S-32

Table of Contents

of twelve 30-day months) at the Adjusted Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus 45 basis points plus, in each case, accrued interest thereon to the date of redemption.

Adjusted Treasury Rate means, with respect to any date of redemption, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for that date of redemption.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Quotation Agent as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of those notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any date of redemption, (i) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for the date of redemption, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (ii) if the Quotation Agent obtains fewer than three Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations.

Quotation Agent means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (i) Barclays Capital Inc. and UBS Securities LLC and three additional primary U.S. Government securities dealers in the United States (each a Primary Treasury Dealer) selected by us and their successors; provided, however, that if any of them shall cease to be a Primary Treasury Dealer, we shall substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer; and (ii) any other Primary Treasury Dealers selected by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any date of redemption, the average, as determined by the Quotation Agent, after consultation with us, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Quotation Agent by that Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding that date of redemption.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the date of redemption to each holder of the notes to be redeemed. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the date of redemption, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption. If less than all of the notes are to be redeemed, the notes shall be selected by the trustee by such method as the trustee shall deem fair and appropriate.

Sinking fund

There will be no sinking fund for the notes.

Covenants of RGA

The indenture will not contain any provisions which will restrict us from incurring, assuming or becoming liable with respect to any indebtedness or other obligations, whether secured or unsecured, or from paying dividends or making other distributions on our capital stock or purchasing or redeeming our capital stock. The indenture also will not contain any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity to which we must adhere. In addition, the indenture will not contain any provision which would require that we repurchase or redeem or otherwise modify the terms of any of the notes upon a change in control or other events involving RGA which may adversely affect the

creditworthiness of the notes.

The indenture will contain, among others, the following covenants, which use some defined terms, whose meanings we provide below. Unlike the comparable covenants relating to our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2011 (but identical to our 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017), the definition of *Subsidiary* that will be contained in the indenture for the notes will not include any corporation (a *Special Reserve Subsidiary*) established in connection with a transaction structured to satisfy the regulatory or operational reserve requirements of another *Subsidiary* that is an insurance company. As a result, holders of the notes will not have the benefit of the covenants summarized below to the extent such a *Special Reserve Subsidiary* would otherwise be covered and limited by these covenants.

S-33

Table of Contents

Limitations on Liens

We will not, and will not permit any Subsidiary to, incur, issue, assume or guaranty any indebtedness if such indebtedness is secured by a mortgage, pledge of, lien on, security interest in or other encumbrance upon any shares of Voting Stock of any Restricted Subsidiary, whether that Voting Stock is now owned or is hereafter acquired, without providing that the notes (together with, if we shall so determine, any other indebtedness or obligations of RGA or any Subsidiary ranking equally with the notes and then existing or thereafter created) shall be secured equally and ratably with, or prior to, that indebtedness. The indenture excepts from this limitation secured debt which we or our Subsidiaries may incur, issue, assume, guarantee or permit to exist up to 10% of the value of our Consolidated Tangible Net Worth.

The foregoing limitation on liens will not apply to:

- (1) indebtedness secured by a pledge of, lien on or security interest in any shares of Voting Stock of any corporation if such pledge, lien or security interest is made or granted prior to or at the time such corporation becomes a Restricted Subsidiary; provided that such pledge, lien or security interest was not created in anticipation of the transfer of such shares of Voting Stock to us or our Subsidiaries;
- (2) liens or security interests securing indebtedness of a Restricted Subsidiary to us or another Restricted Subsidiary; or
- (3) the extension, renewal or replacement (or successive extensions, renewals or replacements), in whole or in part, of any lien or security interest referred to in the foregoing clauses (1) and (2) but only if the principal amount of indebtedness secured by the liens or security interests immediately prior thereto is not increased and the lien or security interest is not extended to other property.

Limitations on Issuance or Disposition of Stock of Restricted Subsidiaries

We will not, nor will we permit any Restricted Subsidiary to, issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of capital stock (other than non-voting preferred stock) of any Restricted Subsidiary (or of any Subsidiary having direct or indirect control of any Restricted Subsidiary), except, subject to the covenant relating to Limitation on Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance, Sale of Assets and Other Transfers discussed below, for:

- (1) director s qualifying shares;
- (2) a sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition of any capital stock of any Restricted Subsidiary (or of any Subsidiary having direct or indirect control of any Restricted Subsidiary) to us or to one or more Restricted Subsidiaries;
- (3) a sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition of all or part of the capital stock of any Restricted Subsidiary (or of any Subsidiary having direct or indirect control of any Restricted Subsidiary) for consideration which is at least equal to the fair value of such capital stock as determined by our board of directors acting in good faith;
- (4) the issuance, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition made in compliance with an order of a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction, other than an order issued at the request of RGA or any Restricted Subsidiary; or
- (5) issuance for consideration which is at least equal to fair value as determined by our board of directors acting in good faith.

Limitation on Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance, Sale of Assets and Other Transfers

We will not consolidate with or merge with or into or wind up into, whether or not we are the surviving corporation, or sell, assign, convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

(1) the surviving corporation or other person is organized and existing under the laws of the United States or one of the 50 states, any U.S. territory or the District of Columbia;

S-34

Table of Contents

(2) the surviving corporation or other person assumes the obligation to pay the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on the notes, and to perform or observe all covenants under the indenture; and

(3) immediately after the transaction, there is no event of default under the indenture.

Upon the consolidation, merger or sale, the successor corporation formed by the consolidation, or into which we are merged or to which the sale is made, will succeed to, and be substituted for us under the indenture.

No quantitative or other established meaning has been given to the phrase "all or substantially all" by courts that have interpreted this phrase in various contexts. In interpreting this phrase, courts, among other things, make a subjective determination as to the portion of assets conveyed, considering such factors as the value of assets conveyed, the proportion of an entity's income derived from the assets conveyed and the significance of those assets to the ongoing business of the entity. Due to that uncertainty, it may be difficult for holders of the notes to ascertain whether a viable claim exists under the indenture with respect to any given transaction.

We will not be required pursuant to the indenture to repurchase the notes, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of any sale, transfer or other disposition of any shares of capital stock of any Restricted Subsidiary (or of any Subsidiary having direct or indirect control of any Restricted Subsidiary). Furthermore, the indenture will not provide for any restrictions on our use of any such proceeds.

Certain definitions

We provide below certain defined terms which are used in the covenants above and which will be used in the indenture. You should refer to the indenture for a full disclosure of all of these terms.

Consolidated Tangible Net Worth means the total stockholders' equity appearing on RGA's most recent publicly filed consolidated balance sheet prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles less intangible assets such as goodwill, trademarks, tradenames, patents and unamortized debt discount and expense.

Restricted Subsidiary means:

- (1) any Significant Subsidiary of RGA existing on the date of the indenture;
- (2) any Subsidiary of RGA, organized or acquired after the date of the indenture which is a Significant Subsidiary; and
- (3) an Unrestricted Subsidiary which is reclassified as a Restricted Subsidiary by a resolution adopted by the board of directors of RGA.

Significant Subsidiary means a Subsidiary, including its direct and indirect Subsidiaries, which meets any of the following conditions (in each case determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles):

- (1) RGA's and its other Subsidiaries' investment in and advances to the Subsidiary exceed 10% of the total assets of RGA and its Subsidiaries consolidated as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal year;
- (2) RGA's and its other Subsidiaries' proportionate share of the total assets, after inter-company eliminations, of the Subsidiary exceeds 10% of the total assets of RGA and its Subsidiaries consolidated as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal year; or

(3) RGA's and its other Subsidiaries' equity interest in the income from continuing operations before income taxes, extraordinary items and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principles of the Subsidiary exceed 10% of such income of RGA and its Subsidiaries consolidated for the most recently completed fiscal year.

S-35

Table of Contents

Subsidiary includes a corporation more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by RGA, one or more Subsidiaries, or RGA and one or more Subsidiaries, but shall not include such a corporation established in connection with a transaction structured to satisfy the regulatory or operational reserve requirements of another Subsidiary that is an insurance company.

Unrestricted Subsidiary means any Subsidiary which is not a Restricted Subsidiary.

Voting Stock means capital stock, the holders of which have general voting power under ordinary circumstances to elect at least a majority of the board of directors of a corporation, provided that, for the purposes of this definition, capital stock which by a resolution adopted by the board of directors of RGA carries only the right to vote conditioned on the happening of an event shall not be considered voting stock whether or not such event shall have happened.

Events of default

The event of default provisions of the indenture will apply to the notes. You should refer to the description of the events of defaults and the related remedies of the holders of notes and the trustee under Description of Debt Securities of RGA– Events of Default in the accompanying prospectus.

The notes will also provide that (i) any failure by RGA or any subsidiary to pay indebtedness in an aggregate principal amount exceeding \$100,000,000 at the later of final maturity or upon expiration of any applicable period of grace with respect to that principal amount, and the failure to pay shall not have been cured by RGA within 30 days after such failure, or (ii) an acceleration of the maturity of any indebtedness of RGA or any subsidiary, in excess of \$100,000,000, if such failure to pay is not discharged or such acceleration is not annulled within 15 days after due notice, will constitute an event of default with respect to the notes.

The cross-acceleration provisions summarized above are triggered by threshold amounts of \$100,000,000. These amounts are higher than the threshold amounts of \$25,000,000 contained in the comparable cross-acceleration provision relating to our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2011 and \$50,000,000 contained in the comparable cross-acceleration provision relating to our 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017. As a result, holders of the notes may not have a cross-acceleration right and remedy when holders of our other notes do. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, approximately \$200,000,000 in aggregate principal was outstanding on our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2011 and approximately \$300,000,000 in aggregate principal was outstanding on our 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017.

Defeasance; Satisfaction and discharge

The defeasance, satisfaction and discharge provisions of the indenture will apply to the notes. You should refer to the description of these provisions under Description of Debt Securities of RGA Defeasance; Satisfaction and Discharge in the accompanying prospectus.

Governing law

The indenture and the notes will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Book-entry procedures and settlement

The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, will act as securities depository for the notes. The notes will be issued as fully-registered securities in the name of Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. This means that certificates will not be issued to each holder of the notes. One or more

certificates in fully registered form will be issued in an aggregate principal amount of the notes, and will be deposited with DTC. See Description of debt securities of RGA Book Entry Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

Following the issuance of a global security in registered form, the depositary will credit the accounts of its participants with the notes upon our instructions. Only persons who hold directly or indirectly through

S-36

Table of Contents

financial institutions that are participants in the depositary can hold beneficial interests in the global securities. Because the laws of some jurisdictions require certain types of purchasers to take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form, you may encounter difficulties in your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as the depositary or its nominee is the registered owner of a global security, we and the relevant trustee will treat the depositary as the sole owner or holder of the notes for purposes of the indenture. Therefore, except as set forth below, you will not be entitled to have notes registered in your name or to receive physical delivery of certificates representing the notes. Accordingly, you will have to rely on the procedures of the depositary and the participant in the depositary through whom you hold your beneficial interest in order to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture. We understand that under existing practices, the depositary would act upon the instructions of a participant or authorize that participant to take any action that a holder is entitled to take.

You may elect to hold interests in the global securities either in the United States through DTC or outside the United States through Clearstream Banking, société anonyme (Clearstream) or Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V., or its successor, as operator of the Euroclear System (Euroclear), if you are a participant of such system, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. Interests held through Clearstream and Euroclear will be recorded on DTC's books as being held by the U.S. depositary for each of Clearstream and Euroclear, which U.S. depositaries will in turn hold interests on behalf of their participants' customers' securities accounts.

As long as the notes are represented by the global securities, we will pay principal of and interest on those securities to or as directed by DTC as the registered holder of the global securities. Payments to DTC will be in immediately available funds by wire transfer. DTC, Clearstream or Euroclear, as applicable, will credit the relevant accounts of their participants on the applicable date. Neither we nor the trustee will be responsible for making any payments to participants or customers of participants or for maintaining any records relating to the holdings of participants and their customers, and you will have to rely on the procedures of the depositary and its participants.

We have been advised by DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, respectively, as follows:

DTC

DTC has advised us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 2 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues and money market instruments from over 85 countries that DTC's participants deposit with DTC.

DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, or DTCC. DTCC is owned by a number of participants of DTC and members of the national Securities Clearing Corporation, Government Securities Clearing Corporation, MBS Clearing Corporation and Emerging Markets Clearing Corporation, as well as by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

Table of Contents

Clearstream

Clearstream has advised us that it is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as an international clearing system. Clearstream holds securities for its participating organizations, or Clearstream Participants, and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Clearstream Participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of Clearstream Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides to Clearstream Participants, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic securities markets in several countries. As a professional depository, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector (Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier). Clearstream Participants are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Clearstream's U.S. Participants are limited to securities brokers and dealers and banks. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream Participant either directly or indirectly.

Distributions with respect to the notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream Participants in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. Depository for Clearstream.

Euroclear

Euroclear has advised us that it was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear, or Euroclear Participants, and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear Participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear performs various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interacts with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., or the Euroclear Operator, under contract with Euroclear plc, a U.K. corporation. All operations are conducted by the Euroclear Operator, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear Operator, not Euroclear plc. Euroclear plc establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear Participants. Euroclear Participants include banks, including central banks, securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear Participant, either directly or indirectly. Euroclear is an indirect participant in DTC.

The Euroclear Operator is a Belgian bank. As such it is regulated by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission and the National Bank of Belgium.

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear Operator are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law, which we will refer to herein as the Terms and Conditions. The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear Operator acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear Participants, and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear Participants.

Distributions with respect to debt securities held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of Euroclear Participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the Euroclear

Operator.

Euroclear has further advised us that investors that acquire, hold and transfer interests in the notes by book-entry through accounts with the Euroclear Operator or any other securities intermediary are subject to the laws and contractual provisions governing their relationship with their intermediary, as well as the laws

S-38

Table of Contents

and contractual provisions governing the relationship between such an intermediary and each other intermediary, if any, standing between themselves and the global securities.

Settlement

You will be required to make your initial payment for the notes in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds using DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers and/or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected in DTC in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by U.S. depository; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (based on European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to the U.S. depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving notes in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their respective U.S. depositories.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of notes received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in such notes settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of notes by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of notes among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. See "Description of debt securities of RGA— Book-Entry Debt Securities" in the accompanying prospectus.

Reports

We must file with the trustee copies of our annual reports and the information and other documents which we may be required to file with the SEC under Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These documents must be filed with the trustee within 15 days after they are required to be filed with the SEC. We must also file with the trustee and the SEC, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed from time to time by the SEC, additional information, documents and reports with respect to compliance by RGA with the conditions and covenants of the indenture, as may be required from time to time by such rules and regulations.

About the trustee

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as successor to The Bank of New York, is the indenture trustee, and will be the principal paying agent and registrar for the notes. We have entered, and from time to time may

continue to enter, into banking or other relationships with The Bank of New York or its affiliates. For example, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. is successor trustee of the indentures relating to our 6.75% notes due 2011, our 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017, our 6.75% junior subordinated debentures due 2065, and the trust and underlying junior subordinated debentures relating to our

S-39

Table of Contents

PIERs units, a lender under our principal credit agreement, and provides other banking and financial services to us. Mellon Investor Services LLC is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock, and also serves as the rights agent under our Section 382 shareholder rights plan.

If the trustee is or becomes one of our creditors, the indenture limits the right of the trustee to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claims as security or otherwise. The trustee will be permitted to engage in other transactions. However, if after a specified default has occurred and is continuing, it acquires or has a conflicting interest (such as continuing to serve as trustee with respect to outstanding PIERs units or junior subordinated debentures or continuing to be a creditor of RGA in certain circumstances), it must eliminate such conflict within 90 days, apply to the SEC for permission to continue as a trustee, or resign.

The trustee may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities under the indenture, and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to such series.

Miscellaneous

RGA will have the right at all times to assign any of its respective rights or obligations under the indenture to a direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of RGA; provided that, in the event of any such assignment, RGA will remain liable for all of its respective obligations. Subject to the foregoing, the indenture will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties thereto and their respective successors and assigns. The indenture provides that it may not otherwise be assigned by the parties thereto.

Table of Contents

Material United States federal income tax consequences

The following is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes, but is not a complete analysis of all the potential tax consequences relating thereto. This summary is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Code, Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all as of the date hereof. These authorities may be changed, possibly retroactively, so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those set forth below. We have not sought any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, which we refer to as the IRS, with respect to the statements made and the conclusions reached in the following summary, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with such statements and conclusions.

This summary is limited to holders who purchase notes for cash at their initial offering price and who hold the notes as capital assets. This summary also does not address the tax consequences arising under the laws of any foreign, state or local jurisdiction. In addition, this summary does not address tax consequences applicable to a holder's particular circumstances or to holders that may be subject to special tax rules, including, without limitation:

- partnerships or other pass-through entities or investors in such entities;
- banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;
- persons subject to the U.S. federal alternative minimum tax;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- dealers in securities or currencies;
- traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings;
- certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;
- persons who hold the notes in connection with a straddle, hedging, conversion or other risk reduction transaction; or
- persons deemed to sell the notes under the constructive sale provisions of the Code.

The following summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences only applies to you if you are a non-U.S. holder of the notes. For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of notes other than:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- a partnership or other entity taxable as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust if (i) the administration of the trust is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (ii) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

Non-U.S. holder does not include an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition of the notes and is not otherwise a resident of the United States for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such an individual is urged to consult his or her own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the notes.

If a holder is an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax treatment of each partner of such partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the

Table of Contents

partnership. A holder that is a partnership, and partners in such a partnership, should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes.

Investors considering the purchase of the notes should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to their particular situations as well as any tax consequences arising under the U.S. federal estate or gift tax rules or under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction or under any applicable tax treaty.

Payments of Interest

Interest paid on a note to you will qualify for the portfolio interest exemption and will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax, provided that such interest income is not effectively connected with your conduct of a U.S. trade or business and provided that you:

do not actually or by attribution own 10% or more of the combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

are not a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is related to us actually or by attribution through stock ownership;

are not a bank that acquired the notes in consideration for an extension of credit made pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of business; and

either (i) provide an IRS Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form) signed under penalties of perjury that includes your name and address and certifies as to your non-United States status in compliance with applicable law and regulations, or (ii) a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business provides a statement to us or our agent under penalties of perjury in which it certifies that it has received such a Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form) from you or a qualifying intermediary and furnishes us or our agent with a copy. The Treasury regulations provide special certification rules for notes held by a foreign partnership and other intermediaries.

If you cannot satisfy the requirements described above, payments of interest made to you will be, except as described below, subject to the 30% U.S. federal withholding tax unless you provides us with a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN claiming an exemption from (or a reduction of) withholding under the benefit of a treaty.

If you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States and interest on a note is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business, you generally will not be subject to withholding if you comply with applicable IRS certification requirements (by delivering a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI) and generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at regular graduated rates in the same manner as if you were a U.S. person. If you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty between the U.S. and your country of residence, any interest income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the manner specified by the treaty and generally will only be subject to such tax if such income is attributable to a permanent establishment (or a fixed base in the case of an individual) maintained by you in the U.S. and you claim the benefit of the treaty by properly submitting an IRS Form W-8BEN. If you are a corporation, effectively connected income also may be subject to the additional branch profits tax, which generally is imposed on a foreign corporation on the deemed repatriation from the United States of effectively connected earnings and profits at a 30% rate (or such lower rate as may be prescribed by an applicable tax treaty).

Sale, Exchange, Redemption, Repurchase or Other Taxable Disposition of the Notes

Any gain realized by you on the sale, exchange, redemption, repurchase or other taxable disposition of the notes generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless the gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a permanent establishment (or a fixed base in the case of an individual) maintained by you in the U.S.)

If you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States, and if gain realized on a sale, exchange redemption, repurchase or other taxable disposition of notes is effectively connected with the conduct of this

S-42

Table of Contents

trade or business (and if required by applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a permanent establishment (or a fixed base in the case of an individual) maintained by you in the U.S.), you generally will recognize gain or loss to the extent of the difference between (i) the sum of the cash and the fair market value of any property received on such disposition (except to the extent attributable to the payment of accrued and unpaid interest on the note, which generally will be taxed as ordinary income to the extent that you have not previously recognized this income), and (ii) your adjusted tax basis in the note. Your adjusted tax basis in a note generally will equal the cost of the note. Any such gain or loss you recognize upon such taxable disposition of a note will be capital gain or loss.

If you are a foreign corporation you are urged to consult your own tax advisors with respect to other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of notes including the possible imposition of branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate).

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information Reporting

The payment of interest to a non-U.S. holder is generally not subject to information reporting on IRS Form 1099, if applicable certification requirements (for example, by delivering a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN) are satisfied. The payment of proceeds from the sale or other disposition of the notes by a broker to a non-U.S. holder generally is not subject to information reporting if:

the beneficial owner of the notes certifies the owner's non-U.S. status under penalties of perjury (i.e., by providing a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN), or otherwise establishes an exemption; or

the sale or other disposition of the notes is effected outside the United States by a foreign office, unless the broker is:

a U.S. person;

a foreign person that derives 50% or more of its gross income for certain periods from activities that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States;

a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes; or

a foreign partnership more than 50% of the capital or profits of which is owned by one or more U.S. persons or which engages in a U.S. trade or business.

In addition to the foregoing, we must report annually to the IRS and to each non-U.S. holder on IRS Form 1042-S the entire amount of interest paid to you. This information may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which you reside under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty or other agreement.

Backup Withholding

Backup withholding (currently at a rate of 28%) is required only on payments that are subject to the information reporting requirements, discussed above, and only if other requirements are satisfied. Even if the payment of proceeds from the sale or other disposition of notes is subject to the information reporting requirements, the payment of proceeds from a sale or other disposition outside the United States will not be subject to backup withholding unless the payor has actual knowledge that the payee is a U.S. person. Backup withholding generally will not apply if the beneficial owner of the notes certifies the owner's non-U.S. status under penalties of perjury (i.e., by providing a

properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN) or otherwise establishes an exemption. In addition, backup withholding does not apply when any other provision of the Code requires withholding. For example, if interest payments are subject to the withholding tax described above under Payments of Interest backup withholding will not also be imposed. Thus, backup withholding may be required on payments subject to information reporting, but not otherwise subject to withholding.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amount withheld from a payment to a non-U.S. holder under these rules will be allowed as a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle such holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished timely to the IRS.

S-43

Table of Contents**Underwriting**

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated November 3, 2009, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters named below the following respective principal amounts of the notes:

Underwriters	Principal Amount
Barclays Capital Inc.	\$ 140,000,000
UBS Securities LLC	\$ 140,000,000
Calyon Securities (USA) Inc.	\$ 20,000,000
Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.	\$ 20,000,000
Dowling and Partners Securities LLC	\$ 20,000,000
SG Americas Securities, LLC	\$ 20,000,000
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.	\$ 20,000,000
Sterne, Agee & Leach, Inc.	\$ 20,000,000
Total	\$ 400,000,000

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters are severally obligated to purchase all of the notes if any are purchased. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the offering of notes may be terminated.

The underwriters propose to offer the notes initially at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and may offer the notes to dealers at that price less a concession not to exceed 40 basis points of the aggregate principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and those dealers may reallocate, a concession not to exceed 25 basis points of the aggregate principal amount of the notes. After the initial public offering the underwriters may change the public offering price and concession and discount to broker/dealers.

The following table shows the underwriting discount that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering.

	Paid by RGA
Per Note	0.65%
Total	\$ 2,600,000

We estimate that our total expenses for this offering, excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$800,000.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. One or more of the underwriters intends to make a secondary market for the notes. However, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue making a secondary market for the notes at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to how liquid the trading market for the notes will be.

The underwriters and/or their affiliates have provided and in the future may provide investment banking, commercial banking, advisory, reinsurance and/or other financial services to us and our affiliates from time to time for which they have received and in the future may receive customary fees and expenses and may have entered into and in the future may enter into other transactions with us.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or contribute to payments which the underwriters may be required to make in that respect.

In connection with the offering the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, over-allotment transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids under the Exchange Act.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

S-44

Table of Contents

Over-allotment involves sales by the underwriters of notes in excess of the aggregate principal amount of the notes the underwriters are obligated to purchase, which creates a syndicate short position.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Penalty bids permit the representative to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the notes originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a stabilizing transaction or a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions.

These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the notes or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes. As a result, the price of the notes may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the notes which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (i) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (ii) to any legal entity which has two or more of (a) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (b) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (c) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or
- (iii) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the Issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/ EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (i) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FMSA)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FMSA does not apply to us; and

(ii) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FMSA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

S-45

Table of Contents

Legal matters

The validity of the notes offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Bryan Cave LLP, St. Louis, Missouri. Bryan Cave LLP, together with William L. Hutton, Esq., Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel of RGA, have represented us in connection with the offering contemplated herein. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, New York, New York. Mr. Hutton is paid a salary by us, is a participant in various employee benefit plans offered by us to our employees generally and owns and has options to purchase shares of our common stock.

S-46

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$1,500,000,000

Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated
1370 Timberlake Manor Parkway
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017-6039
(636) 736-7000

Debt Securities, Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock,
Purchase Contracts, Warrants and Units

RGA Capital Trust III
RGA Capital Trust IV

Preferred Securities Fully, Irrevocably and Unconditionally Guaranteed
on a Subordinated Basis as described in this Document by
Reinsurance Group Of America, Incorporated

3,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated and RGA Capital Trust III and RGA Capital Trust IV may offer up to \$1,500,000,000 of the securities listed above, including units consisting of any two or more of such securities, from time to time.

Up to 3,000,000 shares of common stock may be sold from time to time in one or more offerings by certain selling shareholders named in the Selling Shareholders section of this prospectus, or their transferees.

When RGA, RGA Capital Trust III or RGA Capital Trust IV decide to sell a particular series of securities, we will prepare a prospectus supplement or other offering material describing those securities. You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any other offering material carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities by us or, where required, by the selling shareholders, unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement and any applicable other offering material.

Investing in these securities involves risks. Consider carefully the risk factors beginning on page 1 of this prospectus.

We may offer or sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or through a combination of any of these methods, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The details of any such offering and the plan of distribution will be set forth in a prospectus supplement for such offering.

The selling shareholders or their transferees may from time to time offer and sell the shares of our common stock held by them or interests in the shares on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise in accordance with the plan of distribution described in this prospectus and,

where applicable, a prospectus supplement. These dispositions may be at fixed prices, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market price, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares, but we have agreed to bear the expenses of registration of the shares under Federal and state securities laws. See Use of Proceeds, Selling Shareholders and Plan of Distribution.

Holders of our common stock are subject to certain acquisition restrictions as described in Description of Capital Stock of RGA Acquisition Restrictions.

Our common stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RGA . As of December 9, 2008, the closing price of our common stock was \$37.54.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is December 10, 2008.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	19
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	20
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	21
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	22
<u>Information About RGA</u>	23
<u>Information About the RGA Trusts</u>	24
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	25
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Combined Fixed Charges and Preference</u>	
<u>Dividends to Earnings</u>	26
<u>Description of the Securities We May Offer</u>	27
<u>Description of Debt Securities of RGA</u>	27
<u>Description of Capital Stock of RGA</u>	41
<u>Description of Depositary Shares of RGA</u>	51
<u>Description of Warrants of RGA</u>	54
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts of RGA</u>	55
<u>Description of Units</u>	56
<u>Description of Preferred Securities of the RGA Trusts</u>	56
<u>Description of the Preferred Securities Guarantees of RGA</u>	57
<u>Effect of Obligations Under the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities and the Preferred Securities Guarantees</u>	61
<u>Selling Shareholders</u>	63
<u>Our Relationship with MetLife</u>	64
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	66
<u>Legal Matters</u>	68
<u>Experts</u>	68

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in securities offered by this prospectus involves certain risks. Any of the following risks could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, or financial condition and could result in a loss of your investment.

For a discussion of additional uncertainties associated with (1) RGA's businesses and (2) forward-looking statements in this document, see Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements. In addition, you should consider the risks associated with RGA's business that appear in RGA's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K as such risks may be updated or supplemented in RGA's subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or Current Reports on Form 8-K, which have been or will be incorporated by reference into this document.

Risks Related to Our Business

Adverse capital and credit market conditions may significantly affect our ability to meet liquidity needs, access to capital and cost of capital.

The capital and credit markets have been experiencing extreme volatility and disruption for more than twelve months. In recent weeks, the volatility and disruption have reached unprecedented levels. In some cases, the markets have exerted downward pressure on availability of liquidity and credit capacity for certain issuers.

We need liquidity to pay our operating expenses, interest on our debt and dividends on our capital stock and replace certain maturing liabilities. Without sufficient liquidity, we will be forced to curtail our operations, and our business will suffer. The principal sources of our liquidity are reinsurance premiums, annuity considerations under reinsurance treaties and cash flow from our investment portfolio and assets, consisting mainly of cash or assets that are readily convertible into cash. Sources of liquidity in normal markets also include a variety of short- and long-term instruments, including medium- and long-term debt, junior subordinated debt securities, capital securities and shareholders' equity.

In the event current resources do not satisfy our needs, we may have to seek additional financing. The availability of additional financing will depend on a variety of factors such as market conditions, the general availability of credit, the volume of trading activities, the overall availability of credit to the financial services industry, our credit ratings and credit capacity, as well as the possibility that customers or lenders could develop a negative perception of our long- or short-term financial prospects if we incur large investment losses or if the level of our business activity decreased due to a market downturn. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities or rating agencies take negative actions against us. Our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient, and in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms, or at all.

Disruptions, uncertainty or volatility in the capital and credit markets may also limit our access to capital required to operate our business, most significantly our reinsurance operations. Such market conditions may limit our ability to replace, in a timely manner, maturing liabilities; satisfy statutory capital requirements; generate fee income and market-related revenue to meet liquidity needs; and access the capital necessary to grow our business. As such, we may be forced to delay raising capital, issue shorter tenor securities than we prefer, or bear an unattractive cost of capital which could decrease our profitability and significantly reduce our financial flexibility. Recently our credit spreads have widened considerably. Further, our ability to finance our statutory reserve requirements is limited in the current marketplace. If capacity continues to be limited for a prolonged period of time, our ability to obtain new funding for such purposes may be hindered and, as a result, our ability to write additional business in a cost-effective

manner may be impacted. Our results of operations, financial condition, cash flows and statutory capital position could be materially adversely affected by disruptions in the financial markets.

Table of Contents

Difficult conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally may materially adversely affect our business and results of operations and we do not expect these conditions to improve in the near future.

Our results of operations are materially affected by conditions in the global capital markets and the economy generally, both in the United States and elsewhere around the world. The stress experienced by global capital markets that began in the second half of 2007 continued and substantially increased during the third quarter of 2008. Recently, concerns over inflation, energy costs, geopolitical issues, the availability and cost of credit, the U.S. mortgage market and a declining real estate market in the United States have contributed to increased volatility and diminished expectations for the economy and the markets going forward. These factors, combined with volatile oil prices, declining business and consumer confidence and increased unemployment, have precipitated an economic slowdown and fears of a possible recession. In addition, the fixed-income markets are experiencing a period of extreme volatility which has negatively impacted market liquidity conditions. Initially, the concerns on the part of market participants were focused on the subprime segment of the mortgage-backed securities market. However, these concerns have since expanded to include a broad range of mortgage-and asset-backed and other fixed income securities, including those rated investment grade, the U.S. and international credit and interbank money markets generally, and a wide range of financial institutions and markets, asset classes and sectors. As a result, the market for fixed income instruments has experienced decreased liquidity, increased price volatility, credit downgrade events, and increased probability of default. Securities that are less liquid are more difficult to value and may be hard to dispose of. Domestic and international equity markets have also been experiencing heightened volatility and turmoil, with issuers (such as our company) that have exposure to the mortgage and credit markets particularly affected. These events and the continuing market upheavals may have an adverse effect on us, in part because we have a large investment portfolio and are also dependent upon customer behavior. Our revenues may decline in such circumstances and our profit margins may erode. In addition, in the event of extreme prolonged market events, such as the global credit crisis, we could incur significant losses. Even in the absence of a market downturn, we are exposed to substantial risk of loss due to market volatility.

Factors such as consumer spending, business investment, government spending, the volatility and strength of the capital markets, and inflation all affect the business and economic environment and, indirectly, the amount and profitability of our business. In an economic downturn characterized by higher unemployment, lower family income, lower corporate earnings, lower business investment and lower consumer spending, the demand for financial and insurance products could be adversely affected. Adverse changes in the economy could affect earnings negatively and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. The current mortgage crisis has also raised the possibility of future legislative and regulatory actions in addition to the recent enactment of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA) that could further impact our business. We cannot predict whether or when such actions may occur, or what impact, if any, such actions could have on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

There can be no assurance that actions of the U.S. Government, Federal Reserve and other governmental and regulatory bodies for the purpose of stabilizing the financial markets will achieve the intended effect.

In response to the financial crises affecting the banking system and financial markets and going concern threats to investment banks and other financial institutions, on October 3, 2008, President Bush signed the EESA into law. Pursuant to the EESA, the U.S. Treasury has the authority to, among other things, purchase up to \$700 billion of mortgage-backed and other securities from financial institutions in order to make direct investments in financial institutions for the purpose of stabilizing the financial markets. The Federal Government, Federal Reserve and other governmental and regulatory bodies have taken or are considering taking other actions to address the financial crisis. There can be no assurance as to what impact such actions will have on the financial markets, including the extreme levels of volatility currently being experienced. Such continued volatility could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, or the trading price of our common stock.

Table of Contents

The impairment of other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including brokers and dealers, insurance companies, commercial banks, investment banks, investment funds and other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty. In addition, with respect to secured transactions, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized upon or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure due to it. We also have exposure to these financial institutions in the form of unsecured debt instruments, derivative transactions and equity investments. There can be no assurance that any such losses or impairments to the carrying value of these assets would not materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our requirements to post collateral or make payments related to declines in market value of specified assets may adversely affect our liquidity and expose us to counterparty credit risk.

Some of our transactions with financial and other institutions specify the circumstances under which the parties are required to post collateral. The amount of collateral we may be required to post under these agreements may increase under certain circumstances, which could adversely affect our liquidity. In addition, under the terms of some of our transactions we may be required to make payment to our counterparties related to any decline in the market value of the specified assets.

Defaults on our mortgage loans and volatility in performance may adversely affect our profitability.

Our mortgage loans face default risk and are principally collateralized by commercial properties. Mortgage loans are stated on our balance sheet at unpaid principal balance, adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, and are net of valuation allowances. We establish valuation allowances for estimated impairments as of the balance sheet date. Such valuation allowances are based on the excess carrying value of the loan over the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's original effective interest rate, the value of the loan's collateral if the loan is in the process of foreclosure or otherwise collateral dependent, or the loan's market value if the loan is being sold. We also establish allowances for loan losses when a loss contingency exists for pools of loans with similar characteristics, such as mortgage loans based on similar property types or loan to value risk factors. At September 30, 2008, we had not established any valuation allowances and no loans were in process of foreclosure. The performance of our mortgage loan investments, however, may fluctuate in the future. An increase in the default rate of our mortgage loan investments could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Further, any geographic or sector concentration of our mortgage loans may have adverse effects on our investment portfolios and consequently on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition. While we seek to mitigate this risk by having a broadly diversified portfolio, events or developments that have a negative effect on any particular geographic region or sector may have a greater adverse effect on the investment portfolios to the extent that the portfolios are concentrated. Moreover, our ability to sell assets relating to such particular groups of related assets may be limited if other market participants are seeking to sell at the same time.

Our investments are reflected within the consolidated financial statements utilizing different accounting basis and accordingly we may not have recognized differences, which may be significant, between cost and fair value in our consolidated financial statements.

Our principal investments are in fixed maturity and equity securities, short-term investments, mortgage loans, policy loans, funds withheld at interest, and other invested assets. The carrying value of such investments is as follows:

Fixed maturity and equity securities are classified as available-for-sale and are reported at their estimated fair value. Unrealized investment gains and losses on these securities are recorded as a

Table of Contents

separate component of other comprehensive income or loss, net of related deferred acquisition costs and deferred income taxes.

Short-term investments include investments with remaining maturities of one year or less, but greater than three months, at the time of acquisition and are stated at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Mortgage and policy loans are stated at unpaid principal balance. Additionally, mortgage loans are adjusted for any unamortized premium or discount, deferred fees or expenses, net of valuation allowances.

Funds withheld at interest represent amounts contractually withheld by ceding companies in accordance with reinsurance agreements. The value of the assets withheld and interest income are recorded in accordance with specific treaty terms. We use the cost method of accounting for investments in real estate joint ventures and other limited partnership interests since we have a minor equity investment and virtually no influence over the joint ventures or the partnership's operations. These investments are reflected in other invested assets on the balance sheet.

Investments not carried at fair value in our consolidated financial statements—principally, mortgage loans, policy loans, real estate joint ventures, and other limited partnerships—may have fair values which are substantially higher or lower than the carrying value reflected in our consolidated financial statements. Each of such asset classes is regularly evaluated for impairment under the accounting guidance appropriate to the respective asset class.

Our valuation of fixed maturity and equity securities may include methodologies, estimations and assumptions which are subject to differing interpretations and could result in changes to investment valuations that may materially adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition.

Fixed maturity, equity securities and short-term investments which are reported at fair value on the consolidated balance sheet represented the majority of our total cash and invested assets. We have categorized these securities into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of the inputs to the respective valuation technique. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). An asset or liability's classification within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of significant input to its valuation. SFAS 157 defines the input levels as follows:

Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Our Level 1 assets and liabilities include investment securities and derivative contracts that are traded in exchange markets.

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 market standard valuation methodologies and assumptions with significant inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. Our Level 2 assets and liabilities include investment securities with quoted prices that are traded less frequently than exchange-traded instruments and derivative contracts whose values are determined using market standard valuation methodologies. This category primarily includes U.S. and foreign corporate securities, Canadian and Canadian provincial government securities, and residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities, among others. We value most of these securities using inputs that are market observable

Level 3 Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the related assets or liabilities. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose value is determined using market standard valuation methodologies described above. When observable inputs are not available, the market standard methodologies for determining the estimated fair value of certain securities that trade infrequently, and therefore have little transparency, rely on inputs that are significant to the estimated fair value and that are not

observable in the market or cannot be derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data. These unobservable inputs can be based in large part on management judgment or estimation and cannot be supported by reference to market activity. Even though unobservable,

Table of Contents

management believes these inputs are based on assumptions deemed appropriate given the circumstances and consistent with what other market participants would use when pricing similar assets and liabilities. For our invested assets, this category generally includes U.S. and foreign corporate securities (primarily private placements), asset-backed securities (including those with exposure to subprime mortgages), and to a lesser extent, certain residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities, among others. Additionally, our embedded derivatives, all of which are associated with reinsurance treaties, are classified in Level 3 since their values include significant unobservable inputs associated with actuarial assumptions regarding policyholder behavior. Embedded derivatives are reported with the host instruments on the condensed consolidated balance sheet.

As required by SFAS 157, when inputs used to measure fair value fall within different levels of the hierarchy, the level within which the fair value measurement is categorized is based on the lowest priority level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. For example, a Level 3 fair value measurement may include inputs that are observable (Levels 1 and 2) and unobservable (Level 3). Therefore, gains and losses for such assets and liabilities categorized within Level 3 may include changes in fair value that are attributable to both observable inputs (Levels 1 and 2) and unobservable inputs (Level 3).

Prices provided by independent pricing services and independent broker quotes can vary widely even for the same security.

The determination of fair values in the absence of quoted market prices is based on: (i) valuation methodologies; (ii) securities we deem to be comparable; and (iii) assumptions deemed appropriate given the circumstances. The fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on available market information and judgments about financial instruments, including estimates of the timing and amounts of expected future cash flows and the credit standing of the issuer or counterparty. Factors considered in estimating fair value include: coupon rate, maturity, estimated duration, call provisions, sinking fund requirements, credit rating, industry sector of the issuer, and quoted market prices of comparable securities. The use of different methodologies and assumptions may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

During periods of market disruption including periods of significantly rising or high interest rates, rapidly widening credit spreads or illiquidity, it may be difficult to value certain of our securities, for example Alt-A and subprime mortgage backed securities, if trading becomes less frequent and/or market data becomes less observable. There may be certain asset classes that were in active markets with significant observable data that become illiquid due to the current financial environment. In such cases, more securities may fall to Level 3 and thus require more subjectivity and management judgment. As such, valuations may include inputs and assumptions that are less observable or require greater estimation as well as valuation methods which are more sophisticated or require greater estimation thereby resulting in values which may be less than the value at which the investments may be ultimately sold. Further, rapidly changing and unprecedented credit and equity market conditions could materially impact the valuation of securities as reported within our consolidated financial statements and the period-to-period changes in value could vary significantly. Decreases in value may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Some of our investments are relatively illiquid and are in asset classes that have been experiencing significant market valuation fluctuations.

We hold certain investments that may lack liquidity, such as privately placed fixed maturity securities; mortgage loans; policy loans and equity real estate, including real estate joint venture; and other limited partnership interests. Even some of our very high quality assets have been more illiquid as a result of the recent challenging market conditions.

If we require significant amounts of cash on short notice in excess of normal cash requirements or are required to post or return collateral in connection with our investment portfolio, derivatives transactions or securities lending activities, we may have difficulty selling these investments in a timely manner, be forced to sell them for less than we otherwise would have been able to realize, or both.

Table of Contents

The reported value of our relatively illiquid types of investments, our investments in the asset classes described in the paragraph above and, at times, our high quality, generally liquid asset classes, do not necessarily reflect the lowest current market price for the asset. If we were forced to sell certain of our assets in the current market, there can be no assurance that we will be able to sell them for the prices at which we have recorded them and we may be forced to sell them at significantly lower prices.

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments taken on our investments is highly subjective and could materially impact our results of operations or financial position.

The determination of the amount of allowances and impairments vary by investment type and is based upon our periodic evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available. Management updates its evaluations regularly and reflects changes in allowances and impairments in operations as such evaluations are revised. There can be no assurance that our management has accurately assessed the level of impairments taken and allowances reflected in our financial statements. Furthermore, additional impairments may need to be taken or allowances provided for in the future. Historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments or allowances.

For example, the cost of our fixed maturity and equity securities is adjusted for impairments in value deemed to be other-than-temporary in the period in which the determination is made. The assessment of whether impairments have occurred is based on management's case-by-case evaluation of the underlying reasons for the decline in fair value. The review of our fixed maturity and equity securities for impairments includes an analysis of the total gross unrealized losses by three categories of securities: (i) securities where the estimated fair value had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by less than 20%; (ii) securities where the estimated fair value had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by 20% or more for less than six months; and (iii) securities where the estimated fair value had declined and remained below cost or amortized cost by 20% or more for six months or greater.

Additionally, our management considers a wide range of factors about the security issuer and uses their best judgment in evaluating the cause of the decline in the estimated fair value of the security and in assessing the prospects for near-term recovery. Inherent in management's evaluation of the security are assumptions and estimates about the operations of the issuer and its future earnings potential. Considerations in the impairment evaluation process include, but are not limited to: (i) the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been below cost or amortized cost; (ii) the potential for impairments of securities when the issuer is experiencing significant financial difficulties; (iii) the potential for impairments in an entire industry sector or sub-sector; (iv) the potential for impairments in certain economically depressed geographic locations; (v) the potential for impairments of securities where the issuer, series of issuers or industry has suffered a catastrophic type of loss or has exhausted natural resources; (vi) our ability and intent to hold the security for a period of time sufficient to allow for the recovery of its value to an amount equal to or greater than cost or amortized cost; (vii) unfavorable changes in forecasted cash flows on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities; and (viii) other subjective factors, including concentrations and information obtained from regulators and rating agencies.

Gross unrealized losses may be realized or result in future impairments.

Our gross unrealized losses on fixed maturity securities at September 30, 2008 are \$960.6 million pre-tax. Since September 30, 2008, the bond and equity markets have continued to deteriorate. As of October 29, 2008, the Company estimates that the market value of RGA's investment portfolios, excluding funds withheld, has declined by approximately \$300 million, pre-tax since September 30, 2008, primarily due to continued spread widening in credit markets. Realized losses or impairments may have a material adverse impact on our results of operation and financial position.

Table of Contents

Defaults, downgrades or other events impairing the value of our fixed maturity securities portfolio may reduce our earnings.

We are subject to the risk that the issuers, or guarantors, of fixed maturity securities we own may default on principal and interest payments they owe us. At September 30, 2008, the fixed maturity securities of \$9.1 billion in our investment portfolio represented 55% of our total cash and invested assets. The occurrence of a major economic downturn (such as the current downturn in the economy), acts of corporate malfeasance, widening risk spreads, or other events that adversely affect the issuers or guarantors of these securities could cause the value of our fixed maturity securities portfolio and our net income to decline and the default rate of the fixed maturity securities in our investment portfolio to increase. A ratings downgrade affecting issuers or guarantors of particular securities, or similar trends that could worsen the credit quality of issuers, such as the corporate issuers of securities in our investment portfolio, could also have a similar effect. With economic uncertainty, credit quality of issuers or guarantors could be adversely affected. Any event reducing the value of these securities other than on a temporary basis could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Levels of write down or impairment are impacted by our assessment of the intent and ability to hold securities which have declined in value until recovery. If we determine to reposition or realign portions of the portfolio where we determine not to hold certain securities in an unrealized loss position to recovery, then we will incur an other than temporary impairment.

A downgrade in our ratings or in the ratings of our reinsurance subsidiaries could adversely affect our ability to compete.

Ratings are an important factor in our competitive position. Rating organizations periodically review the financial performance and condition of insurers, including our reinsurance subsidiaries. These ratings are based on an insurance company's ability to pay its obligations and are not directed toward the protection of investors. Rating organizations assign ratings based upon several factors. While most of the factors considered relate to the rated company, some of the factors relate to general economic conditions and circumstances outside the rated company's control. The various rating agencies periodically review and evaluate our capital adequacy in accordance with their established guidelines and capital models. In order to maintain our existing ratings, we may commit from time to time to manage our capital at levels commensurate with such guidelines and models. If our capital levels are insufficient to fulfill any such commitments, we could be required to reduce our risk profile by, for example, retroceding some of our business or by raising additional capital by issuing debt, hybrid, or equity securities. Any such actions could have a material adverse impact on our earnings or materially dilute our shareholders' equity ownership interests.

Any downgrade in the ratings of our reinsurance subsidiaries could adversely affect their ability to sell products, retain existing business, and compete for attractive acquisition opportunities. Ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. A rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities, and each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. We believe that the rating agencies consider the ratings of a parent company when assigning a rating to a subsidiary of that company. The ability of our subsidiaries to write reinsurance partially depends on their financial condition and is influenced by their ratings. In addition, a significant downgrade in the rating or outlook of RGA, among other factors, could adversely affect our ability to raise and then contribute capital to our subsidiaries for the purpose of facilitating their operations as well as the cost of capital. For example, the facility fee and interest rate for our credit facilities are based on our senior long-term debt ratings. A decrease in those ratings could result in an increase in costs for the credit facilities. Accordingly, we believe a ratings downgrade of RGA, or of our affiliates, could have a negative effect on our ability to conduct business.

We cannot assure you that any action taken by our ratings agencies would not result in a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. In addition, it is unclear what effect, if any, a ratings change would have on the price of our securities in the secondary market.

Table of Contents

The recent tax-free distribution of our capital stock by our former majority shareholder, MetLife, could result in potentially significant limitations on the ability of RGA to execute certain aspects of its business plan and could potentially result in significant tax-related liabilities to RGA.

In connection with the recent distribution, or split-off, of our capital stock by our former majority shareholder, MetLife, Inc., or MetLife, MetLife and RGA have agreed to certain tax-related restrictions and indemnities set forth in a recapitalization and distribution agreement dated as of June 1, 2008. Under that agreement, we may be restricted or deterred from (i) redeeming or purchasing our stock in excess of certain agreed-upon amounts, (ii) issuing any equity securities in excess of certain agreed upon amounts, or (iii) taking any other action that would be inconsistent with the representations and warranties made in connection with the IRS ruling and the tax opinion (as those terms are defined in the agreement). Except in specified circumstances, we have agreed to indemnify MetLife for taxes and tax-related losses it incurs as a result of the divestiture failing to qualify as tax-free, if the taxes and related losses are attributable solely to any breach of, or inaccuracy in, any representation, covenant or obligation of RGA under the recapitalization and distribution agreement or that will be made in connection with the tax opinion. This indemnity could result in significant liabilities to RGA.

The acquisition restrictions contained in our articles of incorporation and our Section 382 shareholder rights plan, which are intended to help preserve RGA and its subsidiaries net operating losses and other tax attributes, may not be effective or may have unintended negative effects.

We have recognized and may continue to recognize substantial net operating losses, or NOLs, and other tax attributes, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and under the Internal Revenue Code, we may carry forward these NOLs, in certain circumstances to offset any current and future taxable income and thus reduce our federal income tax liability, subject to certain requirements and restrictions. To the extent that the NOLs do not otherwise become limited, we believe that we will be able to carry forward a substantial amount of NOLs and, therefore, these NOLs are a substantial asset to RGA. However, if RGA and its subsidiaries experience an ownership change, as defined in Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code and related Treasury regulations, their ability to use the NOLs could be substantially limited, and the timing of the usage of the NOLs could be substantially delayed, which consequently could significantly impair the value of that asset.

To reduce the likelihood of an ownership change, in light of MetLife's recent divestiture of most of its RGA stock, we have established acquisition restrictions in our articles of incorporation and our board of directors adopted a Section 382 shareholder rights plan. The Section 382 shareholder rights plan is designed to protect shareholder value by attempting to protect against a limitation on the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to use their existing NOLs and other tax attributes. The acquisition restrictions in our articles of incorporation are also intended to restrict certain acquisitions of RGA stock to help preserve the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to utilize their NOLs and other tax attributes by avoiding the limitations imposed by Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations. The acquisition restrictions and the Section 382 shareholder rights plan are generally designed to restrict or deter direct and indirect acquisitions of RGA stock if such acquisition would result in an RGA shareholder becoming a 5-percent shareholder or increase the percentage ownership of RGA stock that is treated as owned by an existing 5-percent shareholder.

Although the acquisition restrictions and the Section 382 shareholder rights plan are intended to reduce the likelihood of an ownership change that could adversely affect RGA and its subsidiaries, we can give no assurance that such restrictions would prevent all transfers that could result in such an ownership change. In particular, we have been advised by our counsel that, absent a court determination, there can be no assurance that the acquisition restrictions will be enforceable against all of the RGA shareholders, and that they may be subject to challenge on equitable grounds. In particular, it is possible that the acquisition restrictions may not be enforceable against the RGA shareholders who voted against or abstained from voting on the restrictions at our special meeting of shareholders in

September 2008 or who do not have notice of the restrictions at the time when they subsequently acquire their shares.

Table of Contents

Further, the acquisition restrictions and Section 382 shareholder rights plan did not apply to, among others, any Class B common stock (which has subsequently been converted into common stock) acquired by any person in the split-off. Accordingly, the acquisition restrictions and Section 382 shareholder rights plan may not prevent an ownership change in connection with the divestiture.

Moreover, under certain circumstances, our board of directors may determine it is in the best interest of RGA and its shareholders to exempt certain 5-percent shareholders from the operation of the Section 382 shareholder rights plan, in light of the provisions of the recapitalization and distribution agreement. After the split-off by MetLife, we may, under certain circumstances, incur significant indemnification obligations under the recapitalization and distribution agreement in the event that the Section 382 shareholder rights plan is triggered following the split-off in a manner that would result in MetLife's divestiture failing to qualify as tax-free. Accordingly, our board of directors may determine that the consequences of enforcing the Section 382 shareholder rights plan and enhancing its deterrent effect by not exempting a 5-percent shareholder in order to provide protection to RGA's and its subsidiaries' NOLs and other tax attributes, are more adverse to RGA and its shareholders.

The acquisition restrictions and Section 382 shareholder rights plan also require any person attempting to become a holder of 5% or more (by value) of RGA stock, as determined under the Internal Revenue Code, to seek the approval of our board of directors. This may have an unintended anti-takeover effect because our board of directors may be able to prevent any future takeover. Similarly, any limits on the amount of stock that a shareholder may own could have the effect of making it more difficult for shareholders to replace current management. Additionally, because the acquisition restrictions and Section 382 shareholder rights plan have the effect of restricting a shareholder's ability to dispose of or acquire RGA stock, the liquidity and market value of RGA stock might suffer. The acquisition restrictions and the Section 382 shareholder rights plan will remain in effect for the restriction period, which is until the earlier of (a) September 13, 2011, or (b) such other date as our board of directors in good faith determines that they are no longer in the best interests of RGA and its shareholders. The acquisition restrictions may be waived by our board of directors. Shareholders are advised to monitor carefully their ownership of RGA stock and consult their own legal advisors and/or RGA to determine whether their ownership of RGA stock approaches the proscribed level.

We make assumptions when pricing our products relating to mortality, morbidity, lapsation and expenses, and significant deviations in actual experience could negatively affect our financial results.

Our reinsurance contracts expose us to mortality risk, which is the risk that the level of death claims may differ from that which we assumed in pricing our life, critical illness and annuity reinsurance contracts. Some of our reinsurance contracts expose us to morbidity risk, which is the risk that an insured person will become critically ill or disabled. Our risk analysis and underwriting processes are designed with the objective of controlling the quality of the business and establishing appropriate pricing for the risks we assume. Among other things, these processes rely heavily on our underwriting, our analysis of mortality and morbidity trends, lapse rates, expenses and our understanding of medical impairments and their effect on mortality or morbidity.

We expect mortality, morbidity and lapse experience to fluctuate somewhat from period to period, but believe they should remain fairly constant over the long term. Mortality, morbidity or lapse experience that is less favorable than the mortality, morbidity or lapse rates that we used in pricing a reinsurance agreement will negatively affect our net income because the premiums we receive for the risks we assume may not be sufficient to cover the claims and profit margin. Furthermore, even if the total benefits paid over the life of the contract do not exceed the expected amount, unexpected increases in the incidence of deaths or illness can cause us to pay more benefits in a given reporting period than expected, adversely affecting our net income in any particular reporting period. Likewise, adverse experience could impair our ability to offset certain unamortized deferred acquisition costs and adversely affect our net income in any particular reporting period.

Table of Contents

RGA is an insurance holding company, and our ability to pay principal, interest and/or dividends on securities is limited.

RGA is an insurance holding company, with our principal assets consisting of the stock of our insurance company subsidiaries, and substantially all of our income is derived from those subsidiaries. Our ability to pay principal and interest on any debt securities or dividends on any preferred or common stock depends in part on the ability of our insurance company subsidiaries, our principal sources of cash flow, to declare and distribute dividends or to advance money to RGA. We are not permitted to pay common stock dividends or make payments of interest or principal on securities which rank equal or junior to our subordinated debentures, until we pay any accrued and unpaid interest on our subordinated debentures. Our insurance company subsidiaries are subject to various statutory and regulatory restrictions, applicable to insurance companies generally, that limit the amount of cash dividends, loans and advances that those subsidiaries may pay to us. As of December 31, 2007, the amount of dividends that may be paid to us by those subsidiaries, without prior approval from regulators, was estimated at \$270.3 million. Covenants contained in some of our debt agreements and regulations relating to capital requirements affecting some of our more significant subsidiaries also restrict the ability of certain subsidiaries to pay dividends and other distributions and make loans to us. In addition, we cannot assure you that more stringent dividend restrictions will not be adopted, as discussed below under "Our reinsurance subsidiaries are highly regulated, and changes in these regulations could negatively affect our business."

As a result of our insurance holding company structure, in the event of the insolvency, liquidation, reorganization, dissolution or other winding-up of one of our reinsurance subsidiaries, all creditors of that subsidiary would be entitled to payment in full out of the assets of such subsidiary before we, as shareholder, would be entitled to any payment. Our subsidiaries would have to pay their direct creditors in full before our creditors, including holders of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities of RGA, could receive any payment from the assets of such subsidiaries.

If our investment strategy is not successful, we could suffer unexpected losses.

The success of our investment strategy is crucial to the success of our business. In particular, we structure our investments to match our anticipated liabilities under reinsurance treaties to the extent we believe necessary. If our calculations with respect to these reinsurance liabilities are incorrect, or if we improperly structure our investments to match such liabilities, we could be forced to liquidate investments prior to maturity at a significant loss.

Our investment guidelines also permit us to invest up to 5% of our investment portfolio in non-investment grade fixed maturity securities. While any investment carries some risk, the risks associated with lower-rated securities are greater than the risks associated with investment grade securities. The risk of loss of principal or interest through default is greater because lower-rated securities are usually unsecured and are often subordinated to an issuer's other obligations. Additionally, the issuers of these securities frequently have high debt levels and are thus more sensitive to difficult economic conditions, individual corporate developments and rising interest rates which could impair an issuer's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on such lower-rated securities. As a result, the market price of these securities may be quite volatile, and the risk of loss is greater.

The success of any investment activity is affected by general economic conditions, which may adversely affect the markets for interest-rate-sensitive securities and equity securities, including the level and volatility of interest rates and the extent and timing of investor participation in such markets. Unexpected volatility or illiquidity in the markets in which we directly or indirectly hold positions could adversely affect us.

The occurrence of various events may adversely affect the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to fully utilize their net operating losses and other tax attributes.

RGA and its subsidiaries have a substantial amount of NOLs and other tax attributes, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, that are available both currently and in the future to offset taxable income and gains. Events outside of our control, such as certain acquisitions and dispositions of our common stock, may cause RGA (and, consequently, its subsidiaries) to experience an ownership change under Section 382 of the

Table of Contents

Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations, and limit the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to utilize fully such NOLs and other tax attributes. Moreover, the MetLife split-off increased the likelihood of RGA experiencing such an ownership change.

In general, an ownership change occurs when, as of any testing date, the percentage of stock of a corporation owned by one or more 5-percent shareholders, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations, has increased by more than 50 percentage points over the lowest percentage of stock of the corporation owned by such shareholders at any time during the three-year period preceding such date. In general, persons who own 5% or more (by value) of a corporation's stock are 5-percent shareholders, and all other persons who own less than 5% (by value) of a corporation's stock are treated, together, as a single, public group 5-percent shareholder, regardless of whether they own an aggregate of 5% or more (by value) of a corporation's stock. If a corporation experiences an ownership change, it is generally subject to an annual limitation, which limits its ability to use its NOLs and other tax attributes to an amount equal to the equity value of the corporation multiplied by the federal long term tax-exempt rate.

If we were to experience an ownership change, we could potentially have in the future higher U.S. federal income tax liabilities than we would otherwise have had and it may also result in certain other adverse consequences to RGA. In this connection, we have adopted the Section 382 shareholder rights plan and the acquisition restrictions set forth in Article Fourteen to our articles of incorporation, in order to reduce the likelihood that RGA and its subsidiaries will experience an ownership change under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code. There can be no assurance, however, that these efforts will prevent the MetLife split-off, together with certain other transactions involving our stock, from causing us to experience an ownership change and the adverse consequences that may arise therefrom, as described above under . The acquisition restrictions contained in our articles of incorporation and our Section 382 shareholder rights plan, which are intended to help preserve RGA and its subsidiaries' net operating losses and other tax attributes, may not be effective or may have unintended negative effects.

Interest rate fluctuations could negatively affect the income we derive from the difference between the interest rates we earn on our investments and interest we pay under our reinsurance contracts.

Significant changes in interest rates expose reinsurance companies to the risk of reduced investment income or actual losses based on the difference between the interest rates earned on investments and the credited interest rates paid on outstanding reinsurance contracts. Both rising and declining interest rates can negatively affect the income we derive from these interest rate spreads. During periods of rising interest rates, we may be contractually obligated to increase the crediting rates on our reinsurance contracts that have cash values. However, we may not have the ability to immediately acquire investments with interest rates sufficient to offset the increased crediting rates on our reinsurance contracts. During periods of falling interest rates, our investment earnings will be lower because new investments in fixed maturity securities will likely bear lower interest rates. We may not be able to fully offset the decline in investment earnings with lower crediting rates on underlying annuity products related to certain of our reinsurance contracts. While we develop and maintain asset/liability management programs and procedures designed to reduce the volatility of our income when interest rates are rising or falling, we cannot assure you that changes in interest rates will not affect our interest rate spreads.

Changes in interest rates may also affect our business in other ways. Lower interest rates may result in lower sales of certain insurance and investment products of our customers, which would reduce the demand for our reinsurance of these products.

Natural disasters, catastrophes, and disasters caused by humans, including the threat of terrorist attacks and related events, epidemics and pandemics may adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Natural disasters and terrorist attacks, as well as epidemics and pandemics, can adversely affect our business and results of operations because they accelerate mortality and morbidity risk. Terrorist attacks on the

Table of Contents

United States and in other parts of the world and the threat of future attacks could have a negative effect on our business.

We believe our reinsurance programs are sufficient to reasonably limit our net losses for individual life claims relating to potential future natural disasters and terrorist attacks. However, the consequences of further natural disasters, terrorist attacks, armed conflicts, epidemics and pandemics are unpredictable, and we may not be able to foresee events that could have an adverse effect on our business.

We operate in a highly competitive industry, which could limit our ability to gain or maintain market share.

The reinsurance industry is highly competitive, and we encounter significant competition in all lines of business from other reinsurance companies, as well as competition from other providers of financial services. Our competitors vary by geographic market. We believe our primary competitors in the North American life reinsurance market are currently the following, or their affiliates: Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Aegon, N.V., Swiss Re Life of America and Munich American Reinsurance Company. We believe our primary competitors in the international life reinsurance markets are Swiss Re Life and Health Ltd., General Re, Munich Reinsurance Company, Hannover Reinsurance and SCOR Global Reinsurance. Many of our competitors have greater financial resources than we do. Our ability to compete depends on, among other things, our ability to maintain strong financial strength ratings from rating agencies, pricing and other terms and conditions of reinsurance agreements, and our reputation, service, and experience in the types of business that we underwrite. However, competition from other reinsurers could adversely affect our competitive position.

Our target market is large life insurers. We compete based on the strength of our underwriting operations, insights on mortality trends based on our large book of business, and responsive service. We believe our quick response time to client requests for individual underwriting quotes and our underwriting expertise are important elements to our strategy and lead to other business opportunities with our clients. Our business will be adversely affected if we are unable to maintain these competitive advantages or if our international strategy is not successful.

Tax law changes or a prolonged economic downturn could reduce the demand for some insurance products, which could adversely affect our business.

Under the Internal Revenue Code, income tax payable by policyholders on investment earnings is deferred during the accumulation period of some life insurance and annuity products. To the extent that the Internal Revenue Code is revised to reduce the tax-deferred status of life insurance and annuity products, or to increase the tax-deferred status of competing products, all life insurance companies would be adversely affected with respect to their ability to sell such products, and, depending on grandfathering provisions, by the surrenders of existing annuity contracts and life insurance policies. In addition, life insurance products are often used to fund estate tax obligations. Congress has adopted legislation to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the estate tax. Under this legislation, our U.S. life insurance company customers will face reduced demand for some of their life insurance products, which in turn could negatively affect our reinsurance business. We cannot predict what future tax initiatives may be proposed and enacted that could affect us.

In addition, a general economic downturn or a downturn in the equity and other capital markets could adversely affect the market for many annuity and life insurance products. Because we obtain substantially all of our revenues through reinsurance arrangements that cover a portfolio of life insurance products, as well as annuities, our business would be harmed if the market for annuities or life insurance were adversely affected. In addition, the market for annuity reinsurance products is currently not well developed, and we cannot assure you that such market will develop in the future.

The availability and cost of collateral, including letters of credit, asset trusts and other credit facilities, could adversely affect our financial condition, operating costs, and new business volume.

Regulatory requirements in various jurisdictions in which we operate may be significantly higher than the reserves required under GAAP. Accordingly, we reinsure, or retrocede, business to affiliated and unaffiliated

Table of Contents

reinsurers to reduce the amount of regulatory reserves and capital we are required to hold in certain jurisdictions. A regulation in the U.S., commonly referred to as Regulation XXX, has significantly increased the level of regulatory, or statutory, reserves that U.S. life insurance and life reinsurance companies must hold on their statutory financial statements for various types of life insurance business, primarily certain level term life products. The reserve levels required under Regulation XXX increase over time and are normally in excess of reserves required under GAAP. The degree to which these reserves will increase and the ultimate level of reserves will depend upon the mix of our business and future production levels in the United States. Based on the assumed rate of growth in our current business plan, and the increasing level of regulatory reserves associated with some of this business, we expect the amount of required regulatory reserves to grow significantly.

In order to reduce the effect of Regulation XXX, our principal U.S. operating subsidiary, RGA Reinsurance, has retroceded Regulation XXX-related reserves to affiliated and unaffiliated reinsurers. Additionally, some of our reinsurance subsidiaries in other jurisdictions enter into various reinsurance arrangements with affiliated and unaffiliated reinsurers from time to time in order to reduce their statutory capital and reserve requirements. As a general matter, for us to reduce regulatory reserves on business that we retrocede, the affiliated or unaffiliated reinsurer must provide an equal amount of collateral. Such collateral may be provided through a capital markets securitization, in the form of a letter of credit from a commercial bank or through the placement of assets in trust for our benefit.

In connection with these reserve requirements, we face the following risks:

The availability of collateral and the related cost of such collateral in the future could affect the type and volume of business we reinsure and could increase our costs.

We may need to raise additional capital to support higher regulatory reserves, which could increase our overall cost of capital.

If we, or our retrocessionaires, are unable to obtain or provide sufficient collateral to support our statutory ceded reserves, we may be required to increase regulatory reserves. In turn, this reserve increase could significantly reduce our statutory capital levels and adversely affect our ability to satisfy required regulatory capital levels that apply to us, unless we are able to raise additional capital to contribute to our operating subsidiaries.

Because term life insurance is a particularly price-sensitive product, any increase in insurance premiums charged on these products by life insurance companies, in order to compensate them for the increased statutory reserve requirements or higher costs of insurance they face, may result in a significant loss of volume in their life insurance operations, which could, in turn, adversely affect our life reinsurance operations.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to implement actions to mitigate the effect of increasing regulatory reserve requirements.

We could be forced to sell investments at a loss to cover policyholder withdrawals, recaptures of reinsurance treaties or other events.

Some of the products offered by our insurance company customers allow policyholders and contract holders to withdraw their funds under defined circumstances. Our reinsurance subsidiaries manage their liabilities and configure their investment portfolios so as to provide and maintain sufficient liquidity to support anticipated withdrawal demands and contract benefits and maturities under reinsurance treaties with these customers. While our reinsurance subsidiaries own a significant amount of liquid assets, a portion of their assets are relatively illiquid. Unanticipated

withdrawal or surrender activity could, under some circumstances, require our reinsurance subsidiaries to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms, which could have an adverse effect on us. Reinsurance agreements may provide for recapture rights on the part of our insurance company customers. Recapture rights permit these customers to reassume all or a portion of the risk formerly ceded to us after an agreed upon time, usually ten years, subject to various conditions.

Table of Contents

Recapture of business previously ceded does not affect premiums ceded prior to the recapture, but may result in immediate payments to our insurance company customers and a charge for costs that we deferred when we acquired the business but are unable to recover upon recapture. Under some circumstances, payments to our insurance company customers could require our reinsurance subsidiaries to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms.

Our reinsurance subsidiaries are highly regulated, and changes in these regulations could negatively affect our business.

Our reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to government regulation in each of the jurisdictions in which they are licensed or authorized to do business. Governmental agencies have broad administrative power to regulate many aspects of the insurance business, which may include premium rates, marketing practices, advertising, policy forms, and capital adequacy. These agencies are concerned primarily with the protection of policyholders rather than shareholders or holders of debt securities. Moreover, insurance laws and regulations, among other things, establish minimum capital requirements and limit the amount of dividends, tax distributions, and other payments our reinsurance subsidiaries can make without prior regulatory approval, and impose restrictions on the amount and type of investments we may hold. The State of Missouri also regulates RGA as an insurance holding company.

Recently, insurance regulators have increased their scrutiny of the insurance regulatory framework in the United States and some state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that alter, and in many cases increase, state authority to regulate insurance holding companies and insurance companies. In light of recent legislative developments, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, or NAIC, and state insurance regulators have begun re-examining existing laws and regulations, specifically focusing on insurance company investments and solvency issues, guidelines imposing minimum capital requirements based on business levels and asset mix, interpretations of existing laws, the development of new laws, the implementation of non-statutory guidelines, and the definition of extraordinary dividends, including a more stringent standard for allowance of extraordinary dividends. We are unable to predict whether, when or in what form the State of Missouri will enact a new measure for extraordinary dividends, and we cannot assure you that more stringent restrictions will not be adopted from time to time in other jurisdictions in which our reinsurance subsidiaries are domiciled, which could, under certain circumstances, significantly reduce dividends or other amounts payable to us by our subsidiaries unless they obtain approval from insurance regulatory authorities. We cannot predict the effect that any NAIC recommendations or proposed or future legislation or rule-making in the United States or elsewhere may have on our financial condition or operations.

We are exposed to foreign currency risk.

We are a multi-national company with operations in numerous countries and, as a result, are exposed to foreign currency risk to the extent that exchange rates of foreign currencies are subject to adverse change over time. The U.S. dollar value of our net investments in foreign operations, our foreign currency transaction settlements and the periodic conversion of the foreign-denominated earnings to U.S. dollars (our reporting currency) are each subject to adverse foreign exchange rate movements. Approximately 44% of our revenues and 32% of our fixed maturity securities available for sale were denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

Acquisitions and significant transactions involve varying degrees of inherent risk that could affect our profitability.

We have made, and may in the future make, strategic acquisitions, either of selected blocks of business or other companies. Acquisitions may expose us to operational challenges and various risks, including:

the ability to integrate the acquired business operations and data with our systems;

the availability of funding sufficient to meet increased capital needs;

Table of Contents

the ability to fund cash flow shortages that may occur if anticipated revenues are not realized or are delayed, whether by general economic or market conditions or unforeseen internal difficulties; and

the possibility that the value of investments acquired in an acquisition, may be lower than expected or may diminish due to credit defaults or changes in interest rates and that liabilities assumed may be greater than expected (due to, among other factors, less favorable than expected mortality or morbidity experience).

A failure to successfully manage the operational challenges and risks associated with or resulting from significant transactions, including acquisitions, could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations.

We depend on the performance of others, and their failure to perform in a satisfactory manner would negatively affect us.

In the normal course of business, we seek to limit our exposure to losses from our reinsurance contracts by ceding a portion of the reinsurance to other insurance enterprises or retrocessionaires. We cannot assure you that these insurance enterprises or retrocessionaires will be able to fulfill their obligations to us. As of December 31, 2007, the reinsurers participating in our retrocession facilities that have been reviewed by A.M. Best Company, were rated A- , the fourth highest rating out of fifteen possible ratings, or better. We are also subject to the risk that our clients will be unable to fulfill their obligations to us under our reinsurance agreements with them.

We rely upon our insurance company clients to provide timely, accurate information. We may experience volatility in our earnings as a result of erroneous or untimely reporting from our clients. We work closely with our clients and monitor their reporting to minimize this risk. We also rely on original underwriting decisions made by our clients. We cannot assure you that these processes or those of our clients will adequately control business quality or establish appropriate pricing.

For some reinsurance agreements, the ceding company withholds and legally owns and manages assets equal to the net statutory reserves, and we reflect these assets as funds withheld at interest on our balance sheet. In the event that a ceding company were to become insolvent, we would need to assert a claim on the assets supporting our reserve liabilities. We attempt to mitigate our risk of loss by offsetting amounts for claims or allowances that we owe the ceding company with amounts that the ceding company owes to us. We are subject to the investment performance on the withheld assets, although we do not directly control them. We help to set, and monitor compliance with, the investment guidelines followed by these ceding companies. However, to the extent that such investment guidelines are not appropriate, or to the extent that the ceding companies do not adhere to such guidelines, our risk of loss could increase, which could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. During 2007, interest earned on funds withheld represented 4.8% of our consolidated revenues. Funds withheld at interest totaled \$4.8 billion at September 30, 2008 and \$4.7 billion as of December 31, 2007.

We use the services of third-party investment managers to manage certain assets where our investment management expertise is limited. These investment managers are required to provide investment advice and execute investment transactions that are within our investment policy guidelines. Poor performance on the part of our outside investment managers could negatively affect our financial performance.

As with all financial services companies, our ability to conduct business depends on consumer confidence in the industry and our financial strength. Actions of competitors, and financial difficulties of other companies in the industry, and related adverse publicity, could undermine consumer confidence and harm our reputation.

The occurrence of events unanticipated in our disaster recovery systems and management continuity planning could impair our ability to conduct business effectively.

In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, an industrial accident, a blackout, a computer virus, a terrorist attack or war, unanticipated problems with our disaster recovery systems could have a material adverse impact on our ability to conduct business and on our results of operations and financial

Table of Contents

position, particularly if those problems affect our computer-based data processing, transmission, storage and retrieval systems and destroy valuable data. We depend heavily upon computer systems to provide reliable service, data and reports. Despite our implementation of a variety of security measures, our servers could be subject to physical and electronic break-ins, and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems. In addition, in the event that a significant number of our managers were unavailable in the event of a disaster, our ability to effectively conduct business could be severely compromised. These interruptions also may interfere with our clients ability to provide data and other information and our employees ability to perform their job responsibilities.

We have risks associated with our international operations.

In 2007, approximately 31.4% of our net premiums and \$107.6 million of income from continuing operations before income taxes came from our operations in Europe, South Africa and Asia Pacific. For the first nine months of 2008, approximately 33.4% of our net premiums and \$104.9 million of income from continuing operations before income taxes came from international operations. One of our strategies is to grow these international operations. International operations subject us to various inherent risks. In addition to the regulatory and foreign currency risks identified above, other risks include the following:

managing the growth of these operations effectively, particularly given the recent rates of growth;

changes in mortality and morbidity experience and the supply and demand for our products that are specific to these markets and that may be difficult to anticipate;

political and economic instability in the regions of the world where we operate;

uncertainty arising out of foreign government sovereignty over our international operations; an

potentially uncertain or adverse tax consequences, including regarding the repatriation of earnings from our non-U.S. subsidiaries.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to manage these risks effectively or that they will not have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

After the divestiture by MetLife, we no longer benefit from MetLife's stature and industry recognition.

After the divestiture by MetLife, we ceased to be a majority-owned subsidiary of MetLife. MetLife has substantially greater stature and financial resources than RGA. By becoming independent from MetLife, we have lost any positive perceptions from which we may have benefited as a result of being associated with a company of MetLife's stature and industry recognition.

Risks Related to Ownership of Our Common Stock

We may not pay dividends on our common stock.

Our shareholders may not receive future dividends. Historically, we have paid quarterly dividends ranging from \$0.027 per share in 1993 to \$0.09 per share in 2008 to date. All future payments of dividends, however, are at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our earnings, capital requirements, insurance regulatory conditions, operating conditions, and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant. The amount of dividends that we can pay will depend in part on the operations of our reinsurance subsidiaries. Under certain circumstances, we may be contractually prohibited from paying dividends on our common stock due to restrictions in

certain debt and trust preferred securities.

RGA's anti-takeover provisions may delay or prevent a change in control of RGA, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

Certain provisions in our articles of incorporation and bylaws, as well as Missouri law, may delay or prevent a change of control of RGA, which could adversely affect the prices of our common stock. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws contain some provisions that may make the acquisition of control of RGA

Table of Contents

without the approval of our board of directors more difficult, including provisions relating to the nomination, election and removal of directors, the structure of the board of directors and limitations on actions by our shareholders. In addition, Missouri law also imposes some restrictions on mergers and other business combinations between RGA and holders of 20% or more of our outstanding common stock.

Furthermore, our articles of incorporation are intended to limit stock ownership of RGA stock (other than shares acquired through the divestiture by MetLife or other exempted transactions) to less than 5% of the value of the aggregate outstanding shares of RGA stock during the restriction period. We have also adopted a Section 382 shareholder rights plan designed to deter shareholders from becoming a 5-percent shareholder (as defined by Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations) without the approval of our board of directors. See Description of Capital Stock of RGA Acquisition Restrictions and Section 382 Shareholder Rights Plan for more information about the acquisition restrictions in our articles of incorporation and our Section 382 shareholder rights plan.

See Description of Capital Stock of RGA for a summary of these provisions, which may have unintended anti-takeover effects. These provisions of our articles of incorporation and bylaws and Missouri law may delay or prevent a change in control of RGA, which could adversely affect the price of our common stock.

Future stock sales, including sales by any selling shareholders, may affect the stock price of our common stock.

MetLife has retained an approximate 4.1% interest in RGA through the retention of 3,000,000 shares of common stock. MetLife has agreed that it will sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of the recently acquired stock within 60 months from the completion of the split-off, which occurred September 12, 2008. Any disposition by MetLife of its remaining shares of common stock could result in a substantial amount of RGA equity securities entering the market, which may adversely affect the price of such common stock.

The market price for our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

The market price for our old common stock had fluctuated, ranging between \$40.98 and \$59.37 per share for the 52 weeks ended September 12, 2008; for our old Class A common stock, ranging between \$26.15 and \$64.10 from September 15 through November 25, 2008; for our old Class B common stock, ranging between \$25.55 and \$51.10 from September 15 through November 25, 2008; and for our new common stock, ranging between \$33.40 and \$44.90 from November 26 through December 8, 2008. The overall market and the price of our common stock may continue to fluctuate as a result of many factors in addition to those discussed in the preceding risk factors. These factors, some or all of which are beyond our control, include:

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our operating results;

changes in expectations as to our future financial performance or changes in financial estimates of securities analysts;

success of our operating and growth strategies;

investor anticipation of strategic and technological threats, whether or not warranted by actual events;

operating and stock price performance of other comparable companies; and

realization of any of the risks described in these risk factors or those set forth in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K or subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or Current Reports on Form 8-K.

In addition, the stock market has historically experienced volatility that often has been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance.

Future sales of our common stock or other securities may dilute the value of the common stock.

Our board of directors has the authority, without action or vote of the shareholders, to issue any or all authorized but unissued shares of our common stock, including securities convertible into or exchangeable for our

Table of Contents

common stock and authorized but unissued shares under our stock option and other equity compensation plans. In the future, we may issue such additional securities, through public or private offerings, in order to raise additional capital. Any such issuance will dilute the percentage ownership of shareholders and may dilute the per share projected earnings or book value of the common stock. In addition, option holders may exercise their options at any time when we would otherwise be able to obtain additional equity capital on more favorable terms.

Applicable insurance laws may make it difficult to effect a change of control of RGA.

Before a person can acquire control of a U.S. insurance company, prior written approval must be obtained from the insurance commission of the state where the domestic insurer is domiciled. Missouri insurance laws and regulations provide that no person may acquire control of us, and thus indirect control of our Missouri reinsurance subsidiaries, including RGA Reinsurance Company, unless:

such person has provided certain required information to the Missouri Department of Insurance; and

such acquisition is approved by the Director of Insurance of the State of Missouri, whom we refer to as the Missouri Director of Insurance, after a public hearing.

Under Missouri insurance laws and regulations, any person acquiring 10% or more of the outstanding voting securities of a corporation, such as our common stock, is presumed to have acquired control of that corporation and its subsidiaries.

Canadian federal insurance laws and regulations provide that no person may directly or indirectly acquire control of or a significant interest in our Canadian insurance subsidiary, RGA Life Reinsurance Company of Canada, unless:

such person has provided information, material and evidence to the Canadian Superintendent of Financial Institutions as required by him, and

such acquisition is approved by the Canadian Minister of Finance.

For this purpose, significant interest means the direct or indirect beneficial ownership by a person, or group of persons acting in concert, of shares representing 10% or more of a given class, and control of an insurance company exists when:

a person, or group of persons acting in concert, beneficially owns or controls an entity that beneficially owns securities, such as our common stock, representing more than 50% of the votes entitled to be cast for the election of directors and such votes are sufficient to elect a majority of the directors of the insurance company, or

a person has any direct or indirect influence that would result in control in fact of an insurance company.

Prior to granting approval of an application to directly or indirectly acquire control of a domestic or foreign insurer, an insurance regulator may consider such factors as the financial strength of the applicant, the integrity of the applicant's board of directors and executive officers, the applicant's plans for the future operations of the domestic insurer and any anti-competitive results that may arise from the consummation of the acquisition of control.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we and RGA Capital Trust III and RGA Capital Trust IV, which we refer to as the RGA trusts, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total amount of \$1,500,000,000 or the equivalent of this amount in foreign currencies or foreign currency units. In addition, selling shareholders may sell some or all of their 3,000,000 shares of common stock in one or more transactions from time to time pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. A prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other specific considerations applicable to those securities or to us. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference therein as described under Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference and additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

We are not offering the securities in any state where the offer is prohibited.

You should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement and in any other offering material, including the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not, and the selling shareholders have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any supplement to this prospectus, or any other offering material is accurate at any date other than the date indicated on the cover page of these documents.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

RGA is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. As a result, RGA files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Because our common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RGA , those materials can also be inspected and copied at the offices of that organization. Here are ways you can review and obtain copies of this information:

What is Available

Where to Get it

Paper copies of information

SEC's Public Reference Room
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549

The New York Stock Exchange
20 Broad Street
New York, New York 10005

On-line information, free of charge

SEC's Internet website at
<http://www.sec.gov>

Information about the SEC's Public Reference Rooms

Call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330

We and the RGA trusts have filed with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 that registers the distribution of these securities. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about us and the securities. The rules and regulations of the SEC allow us to omit certain information included in the registration statement from this prospectus. You can get a copy of the registration statement, at prescribed rates, from the sources listed above. The registration statement and the documents referred to below under Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference are also available on our Internet website, <http://www.rgare.com>, under Investor Relations SEC filings. Information contained in our Internet website does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, except for any information that is superseded by other information that is included in or incorporated by reference into this document.

This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (File No. 1-11848). These documents contain important information about us.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008.

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed April 17, 2008, June 2, 2008, June 5, 2008, July 21, 2008, August 11, 2008, August 29, 2008, September 5, 2008, September 12, 2008, September 17, 2008, September 25, 2008, October 7, 2008, October 29, 2008 (regarding Item 8.01), October 31, 2008 and November 25, 2008 (as amended on Form 8-K/A filed November 26, 2008) (other than the portions of those documents not deemed to be filed, except with respect to the Form 8-K filed on September 17, 2008, which shall be incorporated by reference herein).

The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated November 17, 2008, including any other amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

The description of our Series A-1 preferred stock purchase rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated July 17, 2008, as amended on Form 8-A/A dated August 4, 2008 and Form 8-A/A dated November 25, 2008, including any other amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

The information set forth under the captions, Proposal One: Approval of the Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement Interests of Certain Persons in the Divestiture, The Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement and Other Arrangements and Relationships between MetLife and RGA in our Proxy Statement/Prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) (Registration No. 333-151390) on August 4, 2008 and deemed filed under Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

We incorporate by reference any additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (other than those made pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K or other information furnished to the SEC) on or after the date of this prospectus, and the termination of the offering of the securities. These documents may include periodic reports, like Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as Proxy Statements. Any material that we subsequently file with the SEC will automatically update and replace the information previously filed with the SEC.

For purposes of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent

that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated herein by reference modifies or supersedes such statement in such document. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC on its website (<http://www.sec.gov>). You can also obtain these documents from us, without charge (other than exhibits, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference), by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following address:

Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated
1370 Timberlake Manor Parkway
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017-6039
Attention: Jack B. Lay
Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(636) 736-7000

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document and the documents incorporated by reference into this document contain both historical and forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not based on historical facts, but rather reflect our current expectations, estimates and projections concerning future results and events. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts and include, without limitation, words such as believe, expect, anticipate, may, could, intend, intent, belief, estimate, plan, fores, similar words or phrases. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors that are difficult to predict and that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to vary materially from what is expressed in or indicated by such forward-looking statements. We cannot make any assurance that projected results or events will be achieved.

The risk factors set forth above in the section entitled Risk Factors, and the matters discussed in RGA's SEC filings, including the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations sections of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which reports are incorporated by reference in this document, among others, could affect future results, causing these results to differ materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements included and incorporated by reference in this document are only made as of the date of this document or the respective documents incorporated by reference herein, as applicable, and we disclaim any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement to reflect subsequent events or circumstances.

See Risk Factors and Where You Can Find More Information.

Numerous important factors could cause our actual results and events to differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements including, without limitation:

adverse capital and credit market conditions and their impact on our liquidity, access to capital and cost of capital;

the impairment of other financial institutions and its effect on our business;

requirements to post collateral or make payments due to declines in market value of assets subject to our collateral arrangements;

the fact that the determination of allowances and impairments taken on our investments is highly subjective;

adverse changes in mortality, morbidity, lapsation or claims experience;

changes in our financial strength and credit ratings, and the effect of such changes on our future results of operations and financial condition;

inadequate risk analysis and underwriting;

general economic conditions or a prolonged economic downturn affecting the demand for insurance and reinsurance in our current and planned markets;

the availability and cost of collateral necessary for regulatory reserves and capital;

market or economic conditions that adversely affect the value of the our investment securities or result in the impairment of all or a portion of the value of certain of the our investment securities;

market or economic conditions that adversely affect our ability to make timely sales of investment securities;

risks inherent in our risk management and investment strategy, including changes in investment portfolio yields due to interest rate or credit quality changes;

fluctuations in U.S. or foreign currency exchange rates, interest rates, or securities and real estate markets;

Table of Contents

adverse litigation or arbitration results;

the adequacy of reserves, resources and accurate information relating to settlements, awards and terminated and discontinued lines of business;

the stability of and actions by governments and economies in the markets in which we operate;

competitive factors and competitors' responses to our initiatives;

the success of our clients;

successful execution of our entry into new markets;

successful development and introduction of new products and distribution opportunities;

our ability to successfully integrate and operate reinsurance business that RGA acquires;

regulatory action that may be taken by state Departments of Insurance with respect to RGA, or any of its subsidiaries;

our dependence on third parties, including those insurance companies and reinsurers to which we cede some reinsurance, third-party investment managers and others;

the threat of natural disasters, catastrophes, terrorist attacks, epidemics or pandemics anywhere in the world where we or our clients do business;

changes in laws, regulations, and accounting standards applicable to RGA, its subsidiaries, or its business;

the effect of our status as an insurance holding company and regulatory restrictions on our ability to pay principal of and interest on its debt obligations; and

other risks and uncertainties described in this document, including under the caption "Risk Factors" and in our other filings with the SEC.

INFORMATION ABOUT RGA

We are an insurance holding company that was formed on December 31, 1992. Through our operating subsidiaries, we are primarily engaged in life reinsurance in North America and select international locations. In addition, we provide reinsurance of non-traditional business including asset-intensive products and financial reinsurance. Through a predecessor, we have been engaged in the business of life reinsurance since 1973. As of September 30, 2008, we had approximately \$21.8 billion in consolidated assets.

Reinsurance is an arrangement under which an insurance company, the reinsurer, agrees to indemnify another insurance company, the ceding company, for all or a portion of the insurance risks underwritten by the ceding company. Reinsurance is designed to:

reduce the net liability on individual risks, thereby enabling the ceding company to increase the volume of business it can underwrite, as well as increase the maximum risk it can underwrite on a single life or risk;

stabilize operating results by leveling fluctuations in the ceding company's loss experience;
assist the ceding company in meeting applicable regulatory requirements; and
enhance the ceding company's financial strength and surplus position.

We are a holding company, the principal assets of which consist of the common stock of our principal operating subsidiaries, RGA Reinsurance and RGA Canada, as well as investments in several other subsidiaries.

We have five main operational segments segregated primarily by geographic region: United States, Canada, Europe and South Africa, Asia Pacific, and Corporate and Other. Our United States operations provide traditional life reinsurance, reinsurance of asset-intensive products and financial reinsurance, primarily to large U.S. life insurance companies. Asset-intensive products include reinsurance of annuities and reinsurance of corporate-owned life insurance. We conduct reinsurance business in Canada through RGA Life

Table of Contents

Reinsurance Company of Canada (RGA Canada), a wholly-owned subsidiary. RGA Canada assists clients with capital management activity and mortality and morbidity risk management, and is primarily engaged in traditional individual life reinsurance, as well as creditor, critical illness, and group life and health reinsurance. Creditor insurance covers the outstanding balance on personal, mortgage or commercial loans in the event of death, disability or critical illness and is generally shorter in duration than traditional life insurance. Our Europe and South Africa operations provide primarily reinsurance of traditional life products through yearly renewable term and coinsurance agreements and the reinsurance of critical illness coverage that provides a benefit in the event of the diagnosis of a pre-defined critical illness. Our Asia Pacific operations provide life, critical illness, disability income, superannuation, and non-traditional reinsurance. Superannuation is the Australian government mandated compulsory retirement savings program. Superannuation funds accumulate retirement funds for employees, and in addition, offer life and disability insurance coverage. Corporate and Other operations include investment income from invested assets not allocated to support segment operations and undeployed proceeds from our capital raising efforts, unallocated realized investment gains and losses, and the results of RGA Technology Partners, a wholly-owned subsidiary that develops and markets technology solutions for the insurance industry, and the Argentine privatized pension business, which is currently in run-off, the investment income and expense associated with our collateral finance facility and an insignificant amount of direct insurance operations in Argentina.

Our executive office is located at 1370 Timberlake Manor Parkway, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017-6039, and its telephone number is (636) 736-7000.

In this prospectus, we, us, our, the Company and RGA refer to Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we, the RGA trusts or selling shareholders may offer. Each time we or either of the RGA trusts sell securities, we will provide and, in the case of selling shareholders, we may provide a prospectus supplement or other offering material that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. We will file each prospectus supplement with the SEC. The prospectus supplement or other offering material may also add, update or supplement information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any other offering material, together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** on page 20.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RGA TRUSTS

Each of the RGA trusts is a statutory trust formed under Delaware law. Each RGA trust exists for the exclusive purposes of:

- issuing and selling its preferred securities and common securities;
- using the proceeds from the sale of its preferred securities and common securities to acquire RGA's junior subordinated debt securities; and
- engaging in only those other activities that are related to those purposes.

All of the common securities of each trust will be directly or indirectly owned by RGA. The common securities will rank equally, and payments will be made proportionally, with the preferred securities. However, if an event of default under the amended and restated trust agreement of the respective RGA trust has occurred and is continuing, the cash distributions and liquidation, redemption and other amounts payable on the common securities will be subordinated to the preferred securities in right of payment. We will directly or indirectly acquire common securities in an amount equal to at least 3% of the total capital of each RGA trust. The preferred securities will represent the remaining 97% of such trusts' capital.

RGA will guarantee the preferred securities of each RGA trust as described later in this prospectus.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, each RGA trust has a term of up to 55 years but may terminate earlier, as provided in its amended and restated trust

Table of Contents

agreement. Each RGA trust's business and affairs will be conducted by the trustees appointed by us. According to the amended and restated trust agreement of each RGA trust, as the holder of all of the common securities of an RGA trust, we can increase or decrease the number of trustees of each trust, subject to the requirement under Delaware law that there be a trustee in the State of Delaware and to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The amended and restated trust agreement will set forth the duties and obligations of the trustees. A majority of the trustees of each RGA trust will be employees or officers of or persons who are affiliated with RGA, whom we refer to as administrative trustees.

One trustee of each RGA trust will be an institution, which we refer to as the property trustee, that is not affiliated with RGA and has a minimum amount of combined capital and surplus of not less than \$50,000,000, which will act as property trustee and as indenture trustee for the purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, under the terms of the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the property trustee will maintain exclusive control of a segregated, non-interest bearing payment account established with The Bank of New York to hold all payments made on the junior subordinated debt securities for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities of each RGA trust. In addition, unless the property trustee maintains a principal place of business in the State of Delaware and otherwise meets the requirements of applicable law, one trustee of each RGA trust will be an institution having a principal place of business in, or a natural person resident of, the State of Delaware, which we refer to as the Delaware trustee. As the direct or indirect holder of all of the common securities, RGA will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace any of, or increase or reduce the number of, the trustees of each RGA trust, except that if an event of default under the junior subordinated indenture has occurred and is continuing, only the holders of preferred securities may remove the Delaware trustee or the property trustee. RGA will pay all fees and expenses related to the RGA trust and the offering of the preferred securities and the common securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, the property trustee for each RGA trust will be The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as successor to The Bank of New York. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Delaware trustee for each RGA trust will be BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware, an affiliate of The Bank of New York, and its address in the state of Delaware is White Clay Center, Route 273, Newark, Delaware 19711. The principal place of business of each RGA trust is c/o Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated, 1370 Timberlake Manor Parkway, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017-6039, telephone (636) 736-7000.

The RGA trusts will not have separate financial statements. The statements would not be material to holders of the preferred securities because the trusts will not have any independent operations. Each of the trusts exists solely for the reasons provided in the amended and restated trust agreement and summarized above. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, RGA will pay all fees and expenses related to each RGA trust and the offering of its preferred securities, including the fees and expenses of the trustee.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement or other offering material, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of any securities offered by RGA for general corporate purposes, including the funding of our reinsurance operations. Except as otherwise described in a prospectus supplement or other offering material, the proceeds from the sale by any RGA trust of any preferred securities, together with any capital contributed in respect of common securities, will be loaned to RGA in exchange for RGA's junior subordinated debt securities. Unless otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement or other offering material, we will use the borrowings from the RGA trusts for general corporate purposes, including the funding of our reinsurance operations. Such general corporate purposes may include, but are not limited to, repayments of our indebtedness or the indebtedness of our subsidiaries. Pending such use, the proceeds may be invested temporarily in short-term, interest-bearing, investment-grade securities or similar

assets. The prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to an offering will contain a more detailed description of the use of proceeds of any specific offering of securities.

Table of Contents

We will not receive any proceeds from any sales of our common stock by the selling shareholders. Pursuant to the recapitalization and distribution agreement with MetLife, Inc. dated as of June 1, 2008, all expenses incurred with registering the shares of common stock owned by the selling shareholders, which will be described in the prospectus supplement for any such offering, will be borne by us. However, we will not be obligated to pay any internal legal expenses of MetLife, certain legal fees of MetLife or any underwriters, any fees or expenses in connection with a road show or marketing efforts, or any underwriting discounts or commissions in connection with the registration and sale by the selling shareholders, all of which will be borne by MetLife.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND
RATIO OF COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERENCE DIVIDENDS TO EARNINGS**

The following table sets forth RGA's ratios of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to fixed charges, excluding interest credited under reinsurance contracts, for the periods indicated.

For purposes of computing the consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of net earnings from continuing operations adjusted for the provision for income taxes, minority interest and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest and discount on all indebtedness, distribution requirements of wholly-owned subsidiary trust preferred securities and one-third of annual rentals, which we believe is a reasonable approximation of the interest factor of such rentals. We have not paid a preference security dividend for any of the periods presented, and accordingly have not separately shown the ratio of combined fixed charges and preference dividends to earnings for these periods.

The information below regarding RGA's ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding interest credited under reinsurance contracts is not required; however, we believe it provides useful information on the coverage of fixed charges that are not related to our products.

	Years Ended December 31,					Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding interest credited under reinsurance contracts	7.9	10.0	9.2	6.0	4.6	4.3

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

We may issue from time to time, in one or more offerings, the following securities:

debt securities, which may be senior, subordinated or junior subordinated;

shares of common stock;

shares of preferred stock;

depository shares;

warrants exercisable for debt securities, common stock or preferred stock;

purchase contracts; or

purchase units.

This prospectus contains a summary of the material general terms of the various securities that we may offer. The specific terms of the securities will be described in a prospectus supplement or other offering material, which may be in addition to or different from the general terms summarized in this prospectus. Where applicable, the prospectus supplement or other offering material will also describe any material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the securities offered and indicate whether the securities offered are or will be listed on any securities exchange. The summaries contained in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplements or other offering material do not contain all of the information or restate the agreements under which the securities may be issued and do not contain all of the information that you may find useful. We urge you to read the actual agreements relating to any securities because they, and not the summaries, define your rights as a holder of the securities. If you would like to read the agreements, they will be on file with the SEC, as described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference](#) on pages 20 and 21, respectively.

The terms of any offering, the initial offering price, the net proceeds to us and any other relevant provisions will be contained in the prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to such offering.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES OF RGA

The following description of the terms of the debt securities sets forth the material terms and provisions of the debt securities to which any prospectus supplement or other offering material may relate. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which such general provisions may apply to the debt securities so offered and any changes to or differences from those general terms will be described in the prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to such debt securities. The debt securities will be either our senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, or our junior subordinated debt securities, which may, but need not be, issued in connection with the issuance by an RGA trust of its trust preferred securities.

The Indentures

The senior debt securities will be issued in one or more series under a Senior Indenture, dated as of December 19, 2001, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to The Bank of New York,

as trustee. The subordinated debt securities will be issued in one or more series under a subordinated indenture, to be entered into by us with a financial institution as trustee. The junior subordinated debt securities will be issued in one or more series under a Junior Subordinated Indenture, dated as of December 18, 2001, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to The Bank of New York, as trustee. The statements herein relating to the debt securities and the indentures are summaries and are subject to the detailed provisions of the applicable indenture. Each of the indentures will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The description of the indentures set forth below assumes that we have entered into the indentures. We will execute the subordinated indenture when and if we issue subordinated debt securities. We will execute the junior subordinated indenture when and if we

Table of Contents

issue junior subordinated debt securities in connection with the issuance by an RGA trust of its preferred securities. See Description of Preferred Securities of the RGA Trusts below.

General

The indentures do not limit the aggregate amount of debt securities which we may issue. We may issue debt securities under the indentures up to the aggregate principal amount authorized by our board of directors from time to time. Except as may be described in a prospectus supplement or other offering material, the indentures will not limit the amount of other secured or unsecured debt that we may incur or issue.

The debt securities will be our unsecured general obligations. The senior debt securities will rank with all our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated and junior in right of payment to all our present and future senior indebtedness to the extent and in the manner set forth in the subordinated indenture. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, the junior subordinated debt securities that we may issue to one of the RGA trusts will be subordinated and junior in right of payment to all our present and future indebtedness, including any senior and subordinated debt securities issued under the senior or subordinated indenture to the extent and in the manner set forth in the junior subordinated indenture. See

Subordination under the Subordinated Indenture and the Junior Subordinated Indenture, beginning on page 34. The indentures will provide that the debt securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. We may authorize the issuance and provide for the terms of a series of debt securities pursuant to a supplemental indenture.

We are a holding company. As a result, we may rely primarily on dividends or other payments from our operating subsidiaries to pay principal and interest on our outstanding debt obligations, and to make dividend distributions on our capital stock. The principal source of funds for these operating subsidiaries comes from their current operations. We can also utilize investment securities maintained in our portfolio for these payments.

Applicable insurance regulatory and other legal restrictions limit the amount of dividends and other payments our subsidiaries can make to us. Our subsidiaries have no obligation to guarantee or otherwise pay amounts due under the debt securities. Therefore, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments of our subsidiaries, including claims under reinsurance contracts, debt obligations and other liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business. As of September 30, 2008, our consolidated indebtedness aggregated approximately \$524.3 million, all of which was senior unsecured indebtedness that will rank equally with any future senior debt securities, and our subsidiaries had approximately \$18.0 billion of outstanding liabilities, including \$850.1 million of liabilities associated with the floating rate insured notes issued by our subsidiary, Timberlake Financial, L.L.C. At that time, we also had a face amount of approximately \$225.0 million of junior subordinated indebtedness that we had issued to RGA Capital Trust I in connection with its issuance of our Trust PIERS® units in December 2001, which will rank at least equally with any other junior subordinated debt that we might issue in the future, but which is subordinated and junior in right of payment to our current and future senior and subordinated debt securities. On December 8, 2005, we completed an offering of \$400 million of junior subordinated debentures due 2065, which are junior to the junior subordinated indebtedness that we had issued in connection with the Trust PIERS® units. We will disclose material changes to these amounts in any prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to an offering of our debt securities. In the event of a default on any debt securities, the holders of the debt securities will have no right to proceed against the assets of any insurance subsidiary. If the subsidiary were to be liquidated, the liquidation would be conducted under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction. Our right to receive distributions of assets in any liquidation of a subsidiary would be subordinated to the claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent any claims of ours as a creditor would be recognized. Any recognized claims of ours would be subordinated to any prior security interest held by any other creditors of the subsidiary and obligations of the subsidiary that are senior to those owing to us.

Table of Contents

The applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to the particular series of debt securities will describe specific terms of the debt securities offered thereby, including any terms that are additional or different from those described in this prospectus (Section 3.1 of each indenture).

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

None of our shareholders, officers or directors, past, present or future, will have any personal liability with respect to our obligations under the indenture or the debt securities on account of that status. (Section 1.14 of each indenture).

Form and Denominations

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, debt securities will be issued only in fully registered form, without coupons, and will be denominated in U.S. dollars issued only in denominations of U.S. \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. (Section 3.2 of each indenture).

Global Debt Securities

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement or other offering material for a particular series of debt securities, each series of debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in global form that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to that series. Global securities will be registered in the name of the depository, which will be the sole direct holder of the global securities. Any person wishing to own a debt security must do so indirectly through an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that, in turn, has an account with the depository.

Special Investor Considerations for Global Securities. Under the terms of the indentures, our obligations with respect to the debt securities, as well as the obligations of each trustee, run only to persons who are registered holders of debt securities. For example, once we make payment to the registered holder, we have no further responsibility for that payment even if the recipient is legally required to pass the payment along to an individual investor but fails to do so. As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to transfers of debt securities.

An investor should be aware that when debt securities are issued in the form of global securities:

the investor cannot have debt securities registered in his or her own name;

the investor cannot receive physical certificates for his or her debt securities;

the investor must look to his or her bank or brokerage firm for payments on the debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities;

the investor may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance or other institutions that are required by law to hold the physical certificates of debt that they own;

the depository's policies will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to the investor's interest in the global security; and

the depository will usually require that interests in a global security be purchased or sold within its system using same-day funds.

Neither we nor the trustees have any responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in the global security, and neither we nor the trustees supervise the depositary in any way.

Special Situations When the Global Security Will Be Terminated. In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate, and interests in the global security will be exchanged for physical certificates representing debt securities. After that exchange, the investor may choose whether to hold debt securities directly or indirectly through an account at the investor's bank or brokerage firm. In that event,

Table of Contents

investors must consult their banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in debt securities transferred to their own names so that they may become direct holders.

The special situations where a global security is terminated are:

when the depository notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depository, unless a replacement is named;

when an event of default on the debt securities has occurred and has not been cured; or

when and if we decide to terminate a global security. (Section 3.4 of each indenture).

A prospectus supplement or other offering material may list situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to a particular series of debt securities. When a global security terminates, the depository, and not us or one of the trustees, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

Original Issue Discount Securities

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount and may bear no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. Important federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Indexed Securities

If the amount of payments of principal of, and premium, if any, or any interest on, debt securities of any series is determined with reference to any type of index or formula or changes in prices of particular securities or commodities, the federal income tax consequences, specific terms and other information with respect to such debt securities and such index or formula and securities or commodities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

Foreign Currencies

If the principal of, and premium, if any, or any interest on, debt securities of any series are payable in a foreign or composite currency, the restrictions, elections, federal income tax consequences, specific terms and other information with respect to such debt securities and such currency will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

Payment

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, payments in respect of the debt securities will be made in the designated currency at the office or agency of RGA maintained for that purpose as RGA may designate from time to time, except that, at the option of RGA, interest payments, if any, on debt securities in registered form may be made by checks mailed to the holders of debt securities entitled thereto at their registered addresses. (Section 3.7 of each indenture).

Payment of Interest With Respect to Registered Debt Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, payment of any installment of interest on debt securities in registered form will be made to the person in whose name such debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for such interest. (Section 3.7 of each indenture).

Transfer and Exchange

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, debt securities in registered form will be transferable or exchangeable at the agency of RGA maintained for such

Table of Contents

purpose as designated by RGA from time to time. Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged without service charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection with such transfer or exchange. (Section 3.5 of each indenture).

Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance, Sale of Assets and Other Transfers

We may not consolidate with or merge with or into or wind up into, whether or not we are the surviving corporation, or sell, assign, convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

the surviving corporation or other person is organized and existing under the laws of the United States or one of the 50 states, any U.S. territory or the District of Columbia, and assumes the obligation to pay the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on all the debt securities and coupons, if any, and to perform or observe all covenants of each indenture; and

immediately after the transaction, there is no event of default under each indenture. (Section 10.1 of each indenture).

Upon the consolidation, merger or sale, the successor corporation formed by the consolidation, or into which we are merged or to which the sale is made, will succeed to, and be substituted for us under each indenture. (Section 10.2 of each indenture).

Unless a prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to a particular series of debt securities provides otherwise, the indenture and the terms of the debt securities will not contain any covenants designed to afford holders of any debt securities protection in a highly leveraged or other transaction involving us, whether or not resulting in a change of control, which may adversely affect holders of the debt securities.

Option to Extend Interest Payment Period

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, we will have the right, as long as no event of default under the applicable series of debt securities has occurred and is continuing, at any time and from time to time during the term of the series of debt securities to defer the payment of interest on one or more series of debt securities for the number of consecutive interest payment periods specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, subject to the terms, conditions and covenants, if any, specified in the prospectus supplement or other offering material, provided that no extension period may extend beyond the stated maturity of the debt securities. Material United States federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to these debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, at the end of the extension period, we will pay all interest then accrued and unpaid together with interest on accrued and unpaid interest compounded semiannually at the rate specified for the debt securities to the extent permitted by applicable law. However, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, during the extension period neither we nor any of our subsidiaries may:

declare or pay dividends on, make distributions regarding, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, other than:

(1) purchases of our capital stock in connection with any employee or agent benefit plans or the satisfaction of our obligations under any contract or security outstanding on the date of the event requiring us to purchase capital stock,

(2) in connection with the reclassifications of any class or series of our capital stock, or the exchange or conversion of one class or series of our capital stock for or into another class or series of our capital stock,

(3) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of our capital stock in connection with the conversion or exchange provisions of that capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged,

Table of Contents

(4) dividends or distributions in our capital stock, or rights to acquire capital stock, or repurchases or redemptions of capital stock solely from the issuance or exchange of capital stock, or

(5) any non-cash dividends declared in connection with the implementation of a shareholder rights plan by us;

make any payment of interest, principal or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities issued by us that rank equally with or junior to the debt securities;

make any guarantee payments regarding the foregoing, other than payments under our guarantee of the preferred securities of any RGA trust; or

redeem, purchase or acquire less than all of the junior subordinated debt securities or any preferred securities of an RGA trust.

Prior to the termination of any extension period, as long as no event of default under the applicable indenture has occurred and is continuing, we may further defer payments of interest, subject to the above limitations set forth in this section, by extending the interest payment period; provided, however, that, the extension period, including all previous and further extensions, may not extend beyond the maturity of the debt securities.

Upon the termination of any extension period and the payment of all amounts then due, we may commence a new extension period, subject to the terms set forth in this section. No interest during an extension period, except at the end of the extension period, will be due and payable, but we may prepay at any time all or any portion of the interest accrued during an extension period. We do not currently intend to exercise our right to defer payments of interest by extending the interest payment period on the debt securities. In the case of our junior subordinated debt securities, if the property trustee is the sole holder of such debt securities, we will give the administrative trustees and the property trustee notice of our selection of an extension period two business days before the earlier of (1) the next succeeding date on which distributions on the preferred securities are payable or (2) the date the administrative trustees are required to give notice to the New York Stock Exchange, or other applicable self-regulatory organization, or to holders of the preferred securities of the record or payment date of the distribution, but in any event, at least one business day before such record date. The administrative trustees will give notice of our selection of the extension period to the holders of the preferred securities. If the property trustee is not the sole holder of such debt securities, or in the case of the senior and subordinated debt securities, we will give the holders of these debt securities notice of our selection of an extension period at least two business days before the earlier of (1) the next succeeding interest payment date or (2) the date upon which we are required to give notice to the New York Stock Exchange, or other applicable self-regulatory organization, or to holders of such debt securities of the record or payment date of the related interest payment. (Article XVIII of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures).

Modification or Amendment of the Indentures

Supplemental Indentures Without Consent of Holders. Without the consent of any holders, we and the trustee may enter into one or supplemental indentures for certain purposes, including:

(1) to evidence the succession of another corporation to our rights and the assumption by such successor of the covenants contained in each indenture;

(2) to add to our covenants for the benefit of all or any series of debt securities, or to surrender any of our rights or powers;

(3) to add any additional events of default;

(4) to add or change any provisions to permit or facilitate the issuance of debt securities of any series in uncertificated or bearer form;

Table of Contents

(5) to change or eliminate any provisions, as long as any such change or elimination is effective only when there are no outstanding debt securities of any series created before the execution of such supplemental indenture which is entitled to the benefit of the provisions being changed or eliminated;

(6) to provide security for or guarantee of the debt securities;

(7) to supplement any of the provisions to permit or facilitate the defeasance and discharge of any series of debt securities in accordance with such indenture as long as such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities in any material respect;

(8) to establish the form or terms of debt securities in accordance with each indenture;

(9) to provide for the acceptance of the appointment of a successor trustee for any series of debt securities or to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the indenture by more than one trustee;

(10) to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision of any indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision, to eliminate any conflict with the Trust Indenture Act or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under such indenture which are not inconsistent with any provision of the indenture, as long as the additional provisions do not adversely affect the interests of the holders in any material respect; or

(11) in the case of the subordinated and the junior subordinated indentures, to modify the subordination provisions thereof, except in a manner which would be adverse to the holders of subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities of any series then outstanding. (Section 11.1 of each indenture).

Supplemental Indentures with Consent of Holders. If we receive the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected, we may enter into supplemental indentures with the trustee for the purpose of adding any provisions to or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of each indenture or of modifying in any manner the rights of the holders under the indenture of such debt securities and coupons, if any. As long as any of the preferred securities of an RGA trust remain outstanding, no modification of the related junior subordinated indenture may be made that requires the consent of the holders of the related junior subordinated debt securities, no termination of the related junior subordinated indenture may occur, and no waiver of any event of default under the related junior subordinated indenture may be effective, without the prior consent of the holders of a majority of the aggregate liquidation amount of the preferred securities of such RGA trust.

However, unless we receive the consent of all of the affected holders, we may not enter into supplemental indentures that would, with respect to the debt securities of such holders:

(1) conflict with the required provisions of the Trust Indenture Act;

(2) except as described in any prospectus supplement or other offering material:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or installment of interest, if any, on, any debt security,

reduce the principal amount thereof or the interest thereon or any premium payable upon redemption thereof; provided, however, that a requirement to offer to repurchase debt securities will not be deemed a redemption for this purpose,

change the stated maturity of or reduce the amount of any payment to be made with respect to any coupon,

change the currency or currencies in which the principal of, and premium, if any, or interest on such debt security is denominated or payable,

Table of Contents

reduce the amount of the principal of a discount security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof or reduce the amount of, or postpone the date fixed for, any payment under any sinking fund or analogous provisions for any debt security,

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity thereof, or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date,

limit our obligation to maintain a paying agency outside the United States for payment on bearer securities, or

adversely affect the right to convert any debt security into shares of our common stock if so provided;

(3) reduce the requirement for majority approval of supplemental indentures, or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of either indenture or certain defaults; or

(4) modify any provisions of either indenture relating to waiver of past defaults with respect to that series, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of such indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holders of each such debt security of each series affected thereby. (Section 11.2 of each indenture).

It is not necessary for holders of the debt securities to approve the particular form of any proposed supplemental indenture, but it is sufficient if the holders approve the substance thereof. (Section 11.2 of each indenture).

A supplemental indenture which changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the indenture to which it relates with respect to one or more particular series of debt securities and coupons, if any, or which modifies the rights of the holders of debt securities or any coupons of such series with respect to such covenant or other provision, will be deemed not to affect the rights under such indenture of the holders of debt securities and coupons, if any, of any other series. (Section 11.2 of each indenture).

Subordination under the Subordinated Indenture and the Junior Subordinated Indenture

In the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures, RGA has covenanted and agreed that any subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities issued thereunder are subordinated and junior in right of payment to all present and future senior indebtedness to the extent provided in the indenture. (Section 17.1 of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures). Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures define the term **senior indebtedness** with respect to each respective series of subordinated and junior subordinated debt securities, to mean the principal, premium, if any, and interest on:

all indebtedness of RGA, whether outstanding on the date of the issuance of subordinated debt securities or thereafter created, incurred or assumed, which is for money borrowed, or which is evidenced by a note or similar instrument given in connection with the acquisition of any business, properties or assets, including securities;

any indebtedness of others of the kinds described in the preceding clause for the payment of which RGA is responsible or liable as guarantor or otherwise; and

amendments, modifications, renewals, extensions, deferrals and refundings of any such indebtedness.

In the case of the junior subordinated indenture, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, senior indebtedness also includes all subordinated debt securities issued under the subordinated indenture. The senior indebtedness will continue to be senior indebtedness and entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of the senior indebtedness or extension or renewal of the senior indebtedness. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, senior indebtedness will not include (A) indebtedness incurred for the purchase of goods or materials or for services obtained in the ordinary course of business and (B) any indebtedness which by its

Table of Contents

terms is expressly made pari passu, or equal in rank and payment, with or subordinated to the applicable debt securities. (Section 17.2 of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures).

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, no direct or indirect payment, in cash, property or securities, by set-off or otherwise, shall be made or agreed to be made on account of the subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities or interest thereon or in respect of any repayment, redemption, retirement, purchase or other acquisition of subordinated debt securities, if:

RGA defaults in the payment of any principal, or premium, if any, or interest on any senior indebtedness, whether at maturity or at a date fixed for prepayment or declaration or otherwise; or

an event of default occurs with respect to any senior indebtedness permitting the holders to accelerate the maturity and written notice of such event of default, requesting that payments on subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities cease, is given to RGA by the holders of senior indebtedness,

unless and until such default in payment or event of default has been cured or waived or ceases to exist. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, the foregoing limitations will also apply to payments in respect of the junior subordinated debt securities in the case of an event of default under the subordinated indebtedness (Section 17.4 of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures).

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, all present and future senior indebtedness, which shall include subordinated indebtedness in the case of our junior subordinated debt securities, including, without limitation, interest accruing after the commencement of any proceeding described below, assignment or marshaling of assets, shall first be paid in full before any payment or distribution, whether in cash, securities or other property, shall be made by RGA on account of subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities in the event of:

any insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership, liquidation, reorganization, readjustment, composition or other similar proceeding relating to RGA, its creditors or its property;

any proceeding for the liquidation, dissolution or other winding-up of RGA, voluntary or involuntary, whether or not involving insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings;

any assignment by RGA for the benefit of creditors; or

any other marshaling of the assets of RGA.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering materials, in any such event, payments or distributions which would otherwise be made on subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities will generally be paid to the holders of senior indebtedness, or their representatives, in accordance with the priorities existing among these creditors at that time until the senior indebtedness is paid in full. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering materials, if the payments or distributions on subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities are in the form of RGA's securities or those of any other corporation under a plan of reorganization or readjustment and are subordinated to outstanding senior indebtedness and to any securities issued with respect to such senior indebtedness under a plan of reorganization or readjustment, they will be made to the holders of the subordinated debt securities and then, if any amounts remain, to the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities. (Section 17.3 of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures). No present or future holder of any senior indebtedness will be prejudiced in the right to enforce the subordination of subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities by any act or failure to act on the part of RGA. (Section 17.9 of the subordinated and

junior subordinated indentures).

Senior indebtedness will only be deemed to have been paid in full if the holders of such indebtedness have received cash, securities or other property which is equal to the amount of the outstanding senior indebtedness. After payment in full of all present and future senior indebtedness, holders of subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of any holders of senior indebtedness to receive any further payments or distributions that are applicable to the senior indebtedness until all the subordinated debt

Table of Contents

securities are paid in full. In matters between holders of subordinated debt securities and any other type of RGA's creditors, any payments or distributions that would otherwise be paid to holders of senior debt securities and that are made to holders of subordinated debt securities because of this subrogation will be deemed a payment by RGA on account of senior indebtedness and not on account of subordinated debt securities. (Section 17.7 of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures).

Subordinated indebtedness will only be deemed to have been paid in full if the holders of such indebtedness have received cash, securities or other property which is equal to the amount of the outstanding subordinated indebtedness. After payment in full of all present and future subordinated indebtedness, holders of junior subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of any holders of subordinated indebtedness to receive any further payments or distributions that are applicable to the subordinated indebtedness until all the junior subordinated debt securities are paid in full. In matters between holders of junior subordinated debt securities and any other type of RGA's creditors, any payments or distributions that would otherwise be paid to holders of subordinated debt securities and that are made to holders of junior subordinated debt securities because of this subrogation will be deemed a payment by RGA on account of subordinated indebtedness and not on account of junior subordinated debt securities. (Section 17.7 of the junior subordinated indenture).

The subordinated and junior subordinated indentures provide that the foregoing subordination provisions may be changed, except in a manner which would be adverse to the holders of subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities of any series then outstanding. (Sections 11.1 and 11.2 of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures). The prospectus supplement or other offering materials relating to such subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities would describe any such change.

The prospectus supplement or other offering materials delivered in connection with the offering of a series of subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities will set forth a more detailed description of the subordination provisions applicable to any such debt securities.

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with the offering of a series of subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or other offering materials or information incorporated by reference will set forth the approximate amount of indebtedness senior to such subordinated or junior subordinated indebtedness outstanding as of a recent date. The subordinated and junior subordinated indentures place no limitation on the amount of additional senior indebtedness that may be incurred by RGA. RGA expects from time to time to incur additional indebtedness constituting senior indebtedness. See **General** on page 28 for a summary of our indebtedness at September 30, 2008.

Events of Default

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities issued under each of the indentures means:

default for 30 days in the payment of any interest upon any debt security or any payment with respect to the coupons, if any, of such series when it becomes due and payable, except where we have properly deferred the interest, if applicable;

default in the payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, on, any debt security of such series when due;

default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment when due by the terms of a debt security of such series;

default for 90 days after we receive notice as provided in the applicable indenture in the performance of any covenant or breach of any warranty in the indenture governing that series;

Table of Contents

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership, or, with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities, the dissolution of the RGA trust; or

any other events which we specify for that series, which will be indicated in the prospectus supplement or other offering material for that series. (Section 5.1 of each indenture).

Within 90 days after a default in respect of any series of debt securities, the trustee, or property trustee, if applicable, must give to the holders of such series notice of all uncured and unwaived defaults by us known to it. However, except in the case of default in payment, the trustee may withhold such notice if it determines that such withholding is in the interest of such holders. (Section 6.2 of each indenture).

If an event of default occurs in respect of any outstanding series of debt securities and is continuing, the trustee of the senior or subordinated indentures, the property trustee under the junior subordinated indenture or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount, or, if the debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities or indexed securities, such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of those securities, of all of the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately by written notice thereof to us, and to the trustee or property trustee, if applicable, if given by the holders of the debt securities. Upon any such declaration, such principal or specified amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, and premium, if payable, will become immediately due and payable. However, with respect to any debt securities issued under the subordinated or junior subordinated indenture, the payment of principal and interest on such debt securities shall remain subordinated to the extent provided in Article XVII of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures. In addition, at any time after such a declaration of acceleration but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the holders of a majority in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of that series may, subject to specified conditions, rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal, or premium, if any, or interest on debt securities of such series have been cured or waived as provided in the indenture. (Section 5.2 of each indenture).

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, may waive any past default and its consequences, except that they may not waive an uncured default in payment or a default which cannot be waived without the consent of the holders of all outstanding securities of that series. (Section 5.13 of each indenture).

Within four months after the close of each fiscal year, we must file with the trustee a statement, signed by specified officers, stating whether or not such officers have knowledge of any default under the indenture and, if so, specifying each such default and the nature and status of each such default. (Section 12.2 of each indenture).

Subject to provisions in the applicable indenture relating to its duties in case of default, the trustee, or property trustee, if applicable, is not required to take action at the request of any holders of debt securities, unless such holders have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. (Section 6.3 of each indenture).

Subject to such indemnification requirements and other limitations set forth in the applicable indenture, if any event of default has occurred, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting proceedings for remedies available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, in respect of such series. (Section 5.12 of each indenture).

Defeasance; Satisfaction and Discharge

Legal or Covenant Defeasance. Each indenture provides that we may be discharged from our obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series, as described below. These provisions will apply to any registered securities that are denominated and payable only in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement or other offering material. The prospectus supplement or other offering material will describe any defeasance provisions that apply to other types of debt securities. (Section 15.1 of each indenture).

Table of Contents

At our option, we may choose either one of the following alternatives:

We may elect to be discharged from any and all of our obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series, except for, among other things, certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of such series, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of such series, and to maintain paying agencies and certain provisions relating to the treatment of funds held by the trustee for defeasance. We refer to this as legal defeasance.

Alternatively, we may omit to comply with the covenants described under the heading Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance, Sale of Assets and Other Transfers and any additional covenants which may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and any omission to comply with those covenants will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series. We refer to this as covenant defeasance.

In either case, we will be so discharged upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money and/or U.S. Government Obligations that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge each installment of principal, including any mandatory sinking fund payments, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities. This discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel or an Internal Revenue Service ruling to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the defeasance. (Section 15.2 of each indenture).

In addition, with respect to the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures, in order to be discharged, no event or condition shall exist that, pursuant to certain provisions described under Subordination under the Subordinated Indenture and the Junior Subordinated Indenture above, would prevent us from making payments of principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities and coupons at the date of the irrevocable deposit referred to above. (Section 15.2 of the subordinated and junior subordinated indentures).

Covenant Defeasance and Events of Default. In the event we exercise our option to effect covenant defeasance with respect to any series of debt securities and the debt securities of that series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default, the amount of money and/or U.S. Government Obligations on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of the acceleration resulting from the event of default. However, we will remain liable for those payments.

U.S. Government Obligations means securities which are (1) direct obligations of the United States for the payment of which its full faith and credit is pledged, or (2) obligations of a person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the United States, the payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by the United States, which, in either case, are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof, and will also include a depository receipt issued by a bank or trust company as custodian with respect to any such U.S. Government Obligation or a specific payment of interest on or principal of any such U.S. Government Obligation held by such custodian for the account of the holder of a depository receipt, provided that, except as required by law, such custodian is not authorized to make any deduction from the amount payable to the holder of such depository receipt from any amount received by the custodian in respect of the U.S. Government Obligation or the specific payment of interest on or principal of the U.S. Government Obligation evidenced by such depository receipt. (Section 15.2 of each indenture).

We may exercise our legal defeasance option even if we have already exercised our covenant defeasance option.

Table of Contents

There may be additional provisions relating to defeasance which we will describe in the prospectus supplement or other offering material. (Section 15.1 of each indenture).

Conversion or Exchange

Any series of the senior or subordinated debt securities may be convertible or exchangeable into common or preferred stock or other debt securities registered under the registration statement relating to this prospectus. The specific terms and conditions on which such debt securities may be so converted or exchanged will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material. Those terms may include the conversion or exchange price, provisions for conversion or exchange, either mandatory, at the option of the holder, or at our option, whether we have an option to convert debt securities into cash, rather than common stock, and provisions under which the number of shares of common or preferred stock or other securities to be received by the holders of debt securities would be calculated as of a time and in the manner stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. (Section 16.1 of each indenture).

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York. (Section 1.11 of each indenture).

Regarding the Trustee

We will designate the trustee under the senior and subordinated indentures in a prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. will be the successor trustee under the junior subordinated indenture relating to the junior subordinated debt securities which may be offered to the RGA trusts. We have entered, and from time to time may continue to enter, into banking or other relationships with such trustees or their affiliates, including The Bank of New York and Mellon Investor Services LLC. For example, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. is successor trustee of the indentures relating to our 6.75% notes due 2011, our 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017, our 6.75% junior subordinated debentures due 2065, and the trust and underlying junior subordinated debentures relating to our PIERs units, a lender under our principal credit agreement, and provides other banking and financial services to us. Mellon Investor Services LLC is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock, and also serves as the rights agent under our Section 382 shareholder rights plan.

If the trustee is or becomes one of our creditors, the indenture limits the right of the trustee to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claims as security or otherwise. The trustee will be permitted to engage in other transactions. However, if after a specified default has occurred and is continuing, it acquires or has a conflicting interest (such as continuing to serve as trustee with respect to outstanding notes, debentures or PIERs units or continuing to be a creditor of RGA in certain circumstances), it must eliminate such conflict within 90 days or receive permission from the SEC to continue as a trustee or resign.

There may be more than one trustee under each indenture, each with respect to one or more series of debt securities. (Section 1.1 of each indenture). Any trustee may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities, and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to such series. (Section 6.10 of each indenture).

If two or more persons are acting as trustee with respect to different series of debt securities, each trustee will be a trustee of a trust under the indenture separate from the trust administered by any other such trustee. Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus, any action to be taken by the trustee may be taken by each such trustee with

respect to, and only with respect to, the one or more series of debt securities for which it is trustee under the indenture. (Section 6.1 of each indenture).

Table of Contents

Book-Entry Debt Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement or other offering material, The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, will act as securities depository for the debt securities. The debt securities will be issued as fully-registered securities in the name of Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. This means that certificates will not be issued to each holder of debt securities. One fully-registered security certificate will be issued for each debt security, each in the aggregate principal amount of such security and will be deposited with DTC.

Purchases of debt securities under the DTC system must be made by or through participants (for example, your broker) who will receive credit for the securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each debt security will be recorded on the records of the participant. Beneficial owners of the debt securities will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the participant through which the beneficial owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the debt securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the debt securities except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the debt securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all debt securities deposited by participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of debt securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the debt securities; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the participants to whose accounts the debt securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to participants and by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Proceeds, distributions or other payments on the debt securities will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of such participant and not DTC, RGA or the RGA trusts, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the debt securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to us or the RGA trusts. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, certificates representing the debt securities are required to be printed and delivered. We may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC, or successor depository. In that event, certificates representing the debt securities will be printed and delivered.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 2 million

issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues and money market instruments from over 85 countries that DTC's participants deposit with DTC.

DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Participants include both

Table of Contents

U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, or DTCC. DTCC is owned by a number of participants of DTC and members of the national Securities Clearing Corporation, Government Securities Clearing Corporation, MBS Clearing Corporation and Emerging Markets Clearing Corporation, as well as by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF RGA

The following is a summary of the material terms of our capital stock and the provisions of our amended and restated Articles of Incorporation and bylaws. It also summarizes some relevant provisions of the Missouri General and Business Corporation Law, which we refer to as Missouri law. Since the terms of our articles of incorporation, and bylaws, and Missouri law, are more detailed than the general information provided below, you should only rely on the actual provisions of those documents and Missouri law. If you would like to read those documents, they are on file with the SEC, as described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 20.

General

RGA's authorized capital stock consists of 150 million shares of capital stock, of which:

140 million shares are designated as common stock, par value \$0.01 per share; and

10 million shares are designated as preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

As of November 30, 2008, RGA had 72,560,570 shares of common stock issued and outstanding, and approximately 9.3 million shares issuable upon exercise or settlement of outstanding options or other awards and warrants.

The outstanding shares of common stock are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Common Stock

Subject to the prior rights of the holders of any shares of preferred stock which later may be issued and outstanding, holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends as and when declared by us out of legally available funds, and, if we liquidate, dissolve, or wind up RGA, to share ratably in all remaining assets after we pay liabilities. We are prohibited from paying dividends under our credit agreement unless, at the time of declaration and payment, certain defaults would not exist under such agreement. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters presented to a vote of shareholders, including the election of directors. Holders of common stock have no cumulative voting rights or preemptive rights to purchase or subscribe for any stock or other securities and there are no conversion rights or redemption or sinking fund provisions for the common stock.

We may issue additional shares of authorized common stock without shareholder approval, subject to applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange.

Mellon Investor Services LLC, 200 N. Broadway, Suite 1722, St. Louis, Missouri 63102, is the registrar and transfer agent for our common stock. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RGA .

Table of Contents

Acquisition Restrictions

Our articles of incorporation generally restrict the accumulation of 5% or more (by value) of RGA stock until September 13, 2011, or such shorter period as may be determined by our board of directors (which is referred to as the restriction period). The acquisition restrictions impose restrictions on the acquisition of our common stock (and any other equity securities that RGA issues in the future) by designated persons. Without these restrictions, it is possible that certain changes in ownership of our stock could result in the imposition of limitations on the ability of RGA and its subsidiaries to fully utilize the net operating losses and other tax attributes currently available for U.S. federal and state income tax purposes to RGA and its subsidiaries. Our board of directors believes it is in our best interests to attempt to prevent the imposition of such limitations.

During the restriction period, no RGA shareholder may be or become a 5-percent shareholder of RGA as defined in the Internal Revenue Code (applying certain attribution and constructive ownership rules). However, this restriction will not apply to:

- any stock acquired in connection with the divestiture of our class B common stock by MetLife, Inc. (MetLife);
- any transaction directly with RGA, including pursuant to the exercise of outstanding options or warrants;
- any tender or exchange offers for all of the common stock meeting certain fairness criteria; or
- any transaction approved in advance by the RGA board of directors.

Any person permitted to acquire or own RGA stock representing 5% or more (by value) of RGA stock pursuant to any of the preceding bullet points will not be permitted to acquire any additional RGA stock at any time during the restriction period without the approval of our board of directors, unless and until such person owns less than 5% (by value) of RGA stock, at which point such person may acquire RGA stock only to the extent that, after such acquisition, such person owns less than 5% (by value) of RGA stock.

Preferred Stock

Our articles of incorporation vest our board of directors with authority to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series, with such voting powers, full or limited, or no voting powers, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, as may be stated in the resolution or resolutions providing for the issuance of such stock adopted from time to time by the board of directors. Our board of directors is expressly authorized to fix or determine:

- the specific designation of the shares of the series;
- the consideration for which the shares of the series are to be issued;
- the rate and times at which, and the conditions under which, dividends will be payable on shares of that series, and the status of those dividends as cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date or dates from which dividends shall be cumulative;
- the price or prices, times, terms and conditions, if any, upon which the shares of the series may be redeemed;
- the rights, if any, which the holders of shares of the series have in the event of our dissolution or upon distribution of our assets;

from time to time, whether to include the additional shares of preferred stock which we are authorized to issue in the series;

whether or not the shares of the series are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of RGA, including shares of our common stock or shares of any other series of our preferred stock, the price or

Table of Contents

prices or the rate or rates at which conversion or exchange may be made, and the terms and conditions upon which the conversion or exchange right may be exercised;

if a sinking fund will be provided for the purchase or redemption of shares of the series and, if so, to fix the terms and the amount or amounts of the sinking fund; and

any other preferences and rights, privileges and restrictions applicable to the series as may be permitted by law.

All shares of the same series of preferred stock will be identical and of equal rank except as to the times from which cumulative dividends, if any, on those shares will be cumulative. The shares of different series may differ, including as to rank, as may be provided in our articles of incorporation, or as may be fixed by our board of directors as described above. We may from time to time amend our articles of incorporation to increase or decrease the number of authorized shares of preferred stock.

A total of 1,400,000 of these authorized preferred shares have been designated as Series A-1 Junior Participating Preferred Stock.

The material terms of any series of preferred stock being offered by us will be described in the prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to that series of preferred stock. If so indicated in the prospectus supplement or other offering material and if permitted by the articles of incorporation and by law, the terms of any such series may differ from the terms set forth below. That prospectus supplement may not restate the amendment to our articles of incorporation or the board resolution that establishes a particular series of preferred stock in its entirety. We urge you to read that amendment or board resolution because it, and not the description in the prospectus supplement or other offering material, will define your rights as a holder of preferred stock. The certificate of amendment to our articles of incorporation or board resolution will be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri and with the SEC.

Dividend Rights. One or more series of preferred stock may be preferred as to payment of dividends over our common stock or any other stock ranking junior to the preferred stock as to dividends. In that case, before any dividends or distributions on our common stock or stock of junior rank, other than dividends or distributions payable in common stock, are declared and set apart for payment or paid, the holders of shares of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors. We will pay those dividends either in cash, shares of common stock or preferred stock or otherwise, at the rate and on the date or dates indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. With respect to each series of preferred stock entitled to cumulative dividends, the dividends on each share of that series will be cumulative from the date of issue of the share unless some other date is set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the series. Accruals of dividends will not bear interest. We are prohibited from paying dividends under our credit agreement unless, at the time of declaration and payment, a default would not exist under the agreement.

Rights upon Liquidation. The preferred stock may be preferred over common stock, or any other stock ranking junior to the preferred stock with respect to distribution of assets, as to our assets so that the holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to be paid, upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up and before any distribution is made to the holders of common stock or stock of junior rank, the amount set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, in this case the holders of preferred stock will not be entitled to any other or further payment. If upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up our net assets are insufficient to permit the payment in full of the respective amounts to which the holders of all outstanding preferred stock are entitled, our entire remaining net assets will be distributed among the holders of each series of preferred stock in an amount proportional to the full amounts to which the holders of each series are entitled.

Redemption. All shares of any series of preferred stock will be redeemable, if at all, to the extent set forth in the prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to the series.

Table of Contents

Conversion or Exchange. Shares of any series of preferred stock will be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock or preferred stock or other securities, if at all, to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

Preemptive Rights. No holder of shares of any series of preferred stock will have any preemptive or preferential rights to subscribe to or purchase shares of any class or series of stock, now or hereafter authorized, or any securities convertible into, or warrants or other evidences of optional rights to purchase or subscribe to, shares of any series, now or hereafter authorized.

Voting Rights. Except as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material and subject to provisions in our articles of incorporation relating to the rights of our common stock, the holders of voting preferred stock will be entitled to one vote for each share of preferred stock held by them on all matters properly presented to shareholders. Except as otherwise provided in the amendment to our articles of incorporation or the directors resolution that creates a specified class of preferred stock, the holders of common stock and the holders of all series of preferred stock will vote together as one class. In addition, currently under Missouri law, even if shares of a particular class or series of stock are not otherwise entitled to a vote on any matters submitted to the shareholders, amendments to the articles of incorporation which adversely affect those shares require a vote of the class or series of which such shares are a part, including amendments which would:

increase or decrease the aggregate number or par value of authorized shares of the class or series;

create a new class of shares having rights and preferences prior or superior to the shares of the class or series;

increase the rights and preferences, or the number of authorized shares, of any class having rights and preferences prior to or superior to the rights of the class or series; or

alter or change the powers, preferences or special rights of the shares of such class or series so as to affect such shares adversely.

Most of our operations are conducted through our subsidiaries, and thus our ability to pay dividends on any series of preferred stock is dependent on their financial condition, results of operations, cash requirements and other related factors. Our subsidiaries are also subject to restrictions on dividends and other distributions contained under applicable insurance laws and related regulations.

Depending upon the rights of holders of the preferred stock, an issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect holders of common stock by delaying or preventing a change of control of RGA, making removal of the management of RGA difficult, or restricting the payment of dividends and other distributions to the holders of common stock. We presently have no intention to issue any shares of preferred stock.

As described under *Description of Depositary Shares of RGA*, we may, at our option, elect to offer depositary shares evidenced by depositary receipts, each representing an interest, to be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for the particular series of the preferred stock, in a share of the particular series of the preferred stock issued and deposited with a preferred stock depository. All shares of preferred stock offered by this prospectus, or issuable upon conversion, exchange or exercise of securities, will, when issued, be fully paid and non-assessable.

Certain Effects of Authorized but Unissued Stock

We may issue additional shares of common stock or preferred stock without shareholder approval, subject to applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange, for a variety of corporate purposes, including raising additional

capital, corporate acquisitions, and employee benefit plans. The existence of unissued and unreserved common and preferred stock may enable us to issue shares to persons who are friendly to current management, which could discourage an attempt to obtain control of RGA through a merger, tender offer, proxy contest, or otherwise, and protect the continuity of management and possibly deprive you of opportunities to sell your shares at prices higher than the prevailing market prices. We could also use additional shares to dilute the stock ownership of persons seeking to obtain control of RGA pursuant to the operation of the

Table of Contents

rights plan or otherwise. See also Anti-Takeover Provisions in the RGA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws below.

Section 382 Shareholder Rights Plan

On September 12, 2008, RGA entered into an Amended and Restated Section 382 Rights Agreement (the Amended Rights Agreement) with Mellon Investor Services LLC as Rights Agent (the Rights Agent). The Amended Rights Agreement, among other things, (i) clarified that one preferred share purchase right is outstanding for each share of class A common stock outstanding and that each such right entitles the registered holder to purchase from RGA, under certain circumstances, one one-hundredth of a share of Series A-1 Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (which is referred to as the series A-1 junior participating preferred stock), of RGA at a price of \$200 per one one-hundredth of a share of series A-1 junior participating preferred stock, subject to adjustment, and (ii) provided holders of class B common stock with a preferred share purchase right that entitles the registered holder to purchase from RGA, under certain circumstances, one one-hundredth of a share of Series B-1 Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (which is referred to as the series B-1 junior participating preferred stock), of RGA at a price of \$200 per one one-hundredth of a share of series B-1 junior participating preferred stock, subject to adjustment.

On November 25, 2008, the shareholders of RGA held a special meeting where the shareholders approved, among other things: (i) the conversion (the conversion) of RGA's dual class common stock structure into a single class common stock structure, whereby RGA's class B common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the class B common stock), converted into RGA's class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the class A common stock), on a one-for-one basis (with such class A common stock being automatically redesignated as common stock) and (ii) a proposal to amend and restate RGA's amended and restated articles of incorporation to eliminate provisions relating to class B common stock and RGA's dual class common stock structure.

Also on November 25, 2008, in connection with the conversion, RGA and the Rights Agent entered into a Second Amended and Restated Section 382 Rights Agreement (the Section 382 shareholder rights plan) which amended and restated the Amended Rights Agreement and, among other things, clarified that one preferred share purchase right is outstanding for each share of common stock outstanding and that each such right entitles the registered holder to purchase from RGA, under certain circumstances, one one-hundredth of a share of series A-1 junior participating preferred stock at a price of \$200 per one one-hundredth of a share of series A-1 junior participating preferred stock, subject to adjustment.

The Section 382 shareholder rights plan is intended to act as a deterrent to any person being or becoming a 5-percent shareholder (as defined in Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations) without the approval of our board of directors (such person is referred to as an acquiring person). The meaning of the term acquiring person does not include:

RGA, any subsidiary of RGA, any employee benefit plan or compensation arrangement of RGA or any subsidiary of RGA, or any entity holding securities of RGA to the extent organized, appointed or established by RGA or any subsidiary of RGA for or pursuant to the terms of any such employee benefit plan or compensation arrangement;

any grandfathered person (as defined below);

any exempted person (as defined below); or

any person who or which inadvertently may become a 5-percent shareholder or otherwise becomes such a 5-percent shareholder, so long as such person promptly enters into, and delivers to RGA, an irrevocable

commitment promptly to divest, and thereafter promptly divests (without exercising or retaining any power, including voting, with respect to such securities), sufficient securities of RGA so that such person ceases to be a 5-percent shareholder of RGA.

Table of Contents

Shareholders who owned 5% or more (by value) of common stock outstanding on June 2, 2008, the time of adoption of the original Section 382 shareholder rights plan, will not trigger the Section 382 shareholder rights plan so long as they do not acquire any additional shares of RGA stock (except for any such shares that are acquired in a transaction that also results in such person being an exempted person). These shareholders, which include MetLife and its subsidiaries, are referred to as grandfathered persons.

For purposes of the Section 382 shareholder rights plan, RGA stock means: (i) common stock, (ii) preferred stock (other than preferred stock described in Section 1504(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code), (iii) warrants, rights, or options (including options within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(h)(4)(v)) to purchase stock (other than preferred stock described in Section 1504(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code), and (iv) any other interest that would be treated as stock of RGA pursuant to Treasury Regulation § 1.382-2T(f)(18).

MetLife security holders who received our class B common stock (which was subsequently converted into common stock) directly from MetLife in the split-off (the Split-Off) that occurred in September 2008 in connection with the Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement, dated June 1, 2008, between RGA and MetLife (the Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement), which caused them to hold 5% or more (by value) of RGA stock, did not trigger the rights plan. However, the rights plan does not exempt any future acquisitions of RGA stock by such persons. In addition, RGA may, in its sole discretion, exempt any person or group from being deemed an acquiring person for purposes of the rights plan at any time prior to the time the rights are no longer redeemable. The persons described in this paragraph are exempted persons.

Under certain circumstances, our board of directors may determine it is in the best interest of RGA and its shareholders to exempt 5-percent shareholders from the operation of the Section 382 shareholder rights plan, in light of the provisions of the Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement. RGA may, in certain circumstances, incur significant indemnification obligations under the Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement in the event that the Section 382 shareholder rights plan is triggered following the Split-Off in a manner that would result in the Split-Off failing to qualify as tax-free. Accordingly, our board of directors may determine that the consequences of enforcing the Section 382 shareholder rights plan and enhancing its deterrent effect by not exempting a 5-percent shareholder in order to provide protection to RGA's and its subsidiaries' net operating losses and other tax attributes, are more adverse to RGA and its shareholders.

The Rights. RGA has issued one preferred share purchase right (which is referred to as a right) for each outstanding share of common stock. Shares of common stock issued while the Section 382 rights plan is in effect will be issued with rights attached. Each right, when exercisable, will entitle the registered holder to purchase from RGA one one-hundredth of a share of Series A-1 Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (which is referred to as the junior participating preferred stock), of RGA at a price of \$200 per one one-hundredth of a share of junior participating preferred stock (which is referred to as the purchase price), subject to adjustment.

No right is exercisable until the earliest to occur of (1) the close of business on the tenth business day following the date of the earlier of either public announcement that a person has become, or RGA first has notice or otherwise determines that a person has become, an acquiring person without the prior express written consent of RGA; or (2) the close of business on the tenth business day following the commencement of a tender offer or exchange offer, without the prior written consent of RGA, by a person which, upon consummation, would result in such person becoming an acquiring person (the earlier of the dates in clause (1) or (2) above being referred to in this document as the distribution date).

Until the distribution date, the rights will be transferred with and only with the common stock. Until the distribution date, new common stock certificates or ownership statements issued upon transfer or new issuances of common stock

will contain a notation incorporating the Section 382 shareholder rights plan by reference. As soon as practicable following the distribution date, separate certificates evidencing the rights (right certificates) will be mailed to holders of record of the common stock as of the close of business on the distribution date and such separate certificates alone will then evidence the rights.

Table of Contents

Expiration. The rights will expire, if not previously exercised, on the earlier to occur of (1) the final expiration date (as defined below) or (2) the time at which the rights are redeemed or exchanged pursuant to the Section 382 shareholder rights plan. The final expiration date is the earlier of (a) the date that is 36 months and one day following the completion of the Split-Off, or September 13, 2011, or (b) such other date as our board of directors may determine in good faith in accordance with the Section 382 shareholder rights plan.

Junior Participating Preferred Stock. Shares of junior participating preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of the rights will not be redeemable and will be junior to any other series of preferred stock RGA may issue (unless otherwise provided in the terms of such stock). Each share of junior participating preferred stock will have a preferential dividend in an amount equal to the greater of \$1.00 and 100 times any dividend declared on each share of common stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the junior participating preferred stock will receive a preferred liquidation payment per share of series junior participating preferred stock equal to the greater of \$100 and 100 times the payment made per share of the common stock. Each share of junior participating preferred stock will have 100 votes, voting together with the common stock. In the event of any merger, consolidation, combination or other transaction in which shares of common stock are converted or exchanged, each share of junior participating preferred stock will be entitled to receive 100 times the amount and type of consideration received per share of the common stock. The rights of the junior participating preferred stock as to dividends, liquidation and voting, and in the event of mergers and consolidations, are protected by customary anti-dilution provisions. Because of the nature of the junior participating preferred stock's dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the value of the one one-hundredth interest in a share of junior participating preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of each right should approximate the value of one share of the common stock.

Effects of Triggering Events. If any person or group becomes an acquiring person without the prior written consent of our board of directors (and such person or group is not an exempted person or a grandfathered person), each right, except those held by such persons, would entitle its holder to acquire such number of shares of common stock as will equal the result obtained by multiplying the then current purchase price by the number of one one-hundredths of a share of junior participating preferred stock for which a right is then exercisable and dividing that product by 50% of the then current per-share market price of the common stock.

If any person or group becomes an acquiring person without prior written consent of our board of directors, but beneficially owns less than 50% of the outstanding common stock, each right, except those held by such persons, may be exchanged by our board of directors for one share of common stock.

Redemption. At any time prior to the earlier of the 10th business day after the time an acquiring person becomes such or the date that is 36 months and one day following the completion of the Split-Off, or September 13, 2011, our board of directors may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.001 per right (which is referred to as the redemption price). Immediately upon any redemption of the rights, the right to exercise the rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of rights will be to receive the redemption price.

Adjustments. The purchase price payable, and the number of shares of junior participating preferred stock or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (1) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the junior participating preferred stock, (2) upon the grant to holders of junior participating preferred stock of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase preferred stock at a price, or securities convertible into junior participating preferred stock with a conversion price, less than the then-current market price of junior participating preferred stock or (3) upon the distribution to holders of junior participating preferred stock of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular periodic cash dividends or dividends payable in junior participating preferred stock) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above).

The number of outstanding rights and the number of one one-hundredths of a share of junior participating preferred stock issuable upon exercise of each right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split of the common stock or a stock dividend on the common stock payable in shares of common stock or

Table of Contents

subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the common stock (other than the conversion related to the Split-Off) occurring, in any such case, prior to the distribution date.

The terms of the rights may be amended by RGA without the consent of the holders of the rights, except that from and after such time as any person becomes an acquiring person, no such amendment may adversely affect the interests of the holders of the rights.

Until a right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a shareholder of RGA, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

Anti-Takeover Effect. The Section 382 shareholder rights plan may have an anti-takeover effect because it will restrict the ability of a person or entity, or group of persons or entities, from accumulating in the aggregate 5% or more (by value) of our stock and the ability of persons, entities or groups now owning 5% or more (by value) of our stock from acquiring additional RGA stock. Like the acquisition restrictions in our articles of incorporation, the Section 382 shareholder rights plan could discourage or prohibit a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or accumulations of substantial blocks of shares for which some shareholders might receive a premium above market value. In addition, the Section 382 shareholder rights plan may delay the assumption of control by a holder of a large block of our stock and the removal of incumbent directors and management, even if such removal may be beneficial to some or all RGA shareholders.

Possible Effect on Liquidity. The Section 382 shareholder rights plan will restrict an RGA shareholder's ability to acquire, directly or indirectly, additional RGA stock in excess of the specified limitations. Further, a shareholder's ownership of our stock may become subject to the effects of the Section 382 shareholder rights plan upon the actions taken by related persons. A legend reflecting the existence of the Section 382 shareholder rights plan is and will be placed on certificates or ownership statements representing newly issued or transferred shares of RGA stock. These restrictions may also result in a decreased valuation of our stock due to the resulting restrictions on transfers to persons directly or indirectly owning or seeking to acquire a significant block of our stock.

Limitation on Liability of Directors; Indemnification

Our articles of incorporation limit the liability of our directors to RGA and its shareholders to the fullest extent permitted by Missouri law. Our articles of incorporation provide that RGA will indemnify each person (other than a party plaintiff suing on his own behalf or in the right of RGA) who at any time is serving or has served as a director or officer of RGA against any claim, liability or expense incurred as a result of this service, or as a result of any other service on behalf of RGA, or service at the request of RGA as a director, officer, employee, member or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, trade or industry association or other enterprise (whether incorporated or unincorporated, for-profit or not-for-profit), to the maximum extent permitted by law. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, RGA will indemnify any such person who was or is a party (other than a party plaintiff suing on his own behalf or in the right of RGA), or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (including, but not limited to, an action by or in the right of RGA) by reason of such service against expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding. We have entered into indemnification agreements with our officers and directors providing for indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The inclusion of these provisions in our articles of incorporation may have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against our directors and may discourage or deter RGA or its shareholders from bringing a lawsuit against our directors for breach of their duty of care, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise have benefited RGA and its shareholders.

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Provisions in the RGA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Some of the provisions in our articles of incorporation and bylaws and Section 351.459 of the Missouri corporation statute could have the following effects, among others:

delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of RGA;

delaying, deferring or preventing the removal of our existing management or directors;

detering potential acquirors from making an offer to our shareholders; and

limiting our shareholders opportunity to realize premiums over prevailing market prices of our common stock in connection with offers by potential acquirors.

The following is a summary of some of the provisions in our articles of incorporation and bylaws that could have the effects described above.

Classified Board of Directors. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that our board of directors will be divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. Each class, to the extent possible, will be equal in number. The size of our board of directors will not be less than three and our board of directors can amend the number of directors by majority vote. Each class holds office until the third annual shareholders meeting for election of directors following the most recent election of such class.

Directors, and Not Shareholders, Fix the Size of the Board of Directors of RGA. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that the number of directors will be fixed from time to time exclusively pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of our board of directors, but in no event will it consist of less than three directors. In accordance with our bylaws, our board of directors has fixed the number of directors at five.

Directors are Removed for Cause Only. Missouri law provides that, unless a corporation's articles of incorporation provide otherwise, the holders of a majority of the corporation's voting stock may remove any director from office. Our articles of incorporation provide that shareholders may remove a director only for cause and with the approval of the holders of 85% of RGA's voting stock. Our board of directors may remove a director, with or without cause, only in the event the director fails to meet the qualifications stated in the bylaws for election as a director or in the event the director is in breach of any agreement between such director and RGA relating to such director's service as RGA's director or employee.

Board Vacancies to Be Filled by Remaining Directors and Not Shareholders. Any vacancy created by any reason prior to the expiration of the class in which the vacancy occurs will be filled by a majority of the remaining directors, even if less than a quorum. A director elected to fill a vacancy will be elected for the unexpired term of his predecessor. Any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of directors may be filled by the board of directors and will be added to such class of directors so that all classes of directors will be as nearly equal in number as possible.

Ownership Limitations. Our articles of incorporation will provide that shareholders are subject to stock ownership limitations, which would generally limit shareholders from owning or acquiring 5% or more (by value) of the aggregate outstanding shares of our stock prior to September 13, 2011 (it being understood that such limitation, among other things, would not prohibit a person from acquiring or owning 5% or more (by value) of the aggregate outstanding shares of RGA stock in connection with the Split-Off by MetLife. Any person permitted to acquire or own 5% or more (by value) of the RGA stock pursuant to the preceding sentence will not be permitted to acquire any

additional RGA stock at any time prior to September 13, 2011, unless and until such person owns less than 5% (by value) of the aggregate outstanding shares of our stock, at which point such person may acquire RGA stock only to the extent that, after such acquisition, such person owns less than 5% (by value) of the aggregate outstanding shares of our stock. See Acquisition Restrictions above.

Shareholders May Only Act by Written Consent Upon Unanimous Written Consent. As required by Missouri law, our articles of incorporation and bylaws provide for shareholder action by unanimous written consent only.

Table of Contents

No Special Meetings Called by Shareholders. Our articles of incorporation provide that special meetings may only be called by the chairman of our board of directors, our president, or a majority of our board of directors. Only such business will be conducted, and only such proposals acted upon, as are specified in the notice of the special meeting.

Advance Notice for Shareholder Proposals. Our articles of incorporation contain provisions requiring that advance notice be delivered to RGA of any business to be brought by a shareholder before an annual meeting and providing for procedures to be followed by shareholders in nominating persons for election to our board of directors. Ordinarily, the shareholder must give notice at least 60 days but not more than 90 days before the meeting, but if we give less than 70 days notice of the meeting, then the shareholder must give notice within ten days after we mail notice of the meeting or make other public disclosure of the meeting. The notice must include a description of the proposal, the reasons for the proposal, and other specified matters. Our board may reject any proposals that have not followed these procedures or that are not a proper subject for shareholder action in accordance with the provisions of applicable law.

Supermajority Vote Required to Amend Specified Provisions. Our articles of incorporation provide that amendment of the following provisions requires an affirmative vote of at least 85% of the outstanding capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class:

- provisions regarding certain shareholder rights;
- provisions relating to directors;
- provisions related to shareholders meetings;
- provisions specifying the procedure for amendment of bylaws;
- provisions relating to indemnification and related matters; and
- provisions relating to the amendment of the articles of incorporation.

Missouri Statutory Provisions

Missouri law also contains certain provisions which may have an anti-takeover effect and otherwise discourage third parties from effecting transactions with us, including control share acquisition and business combination statutes.

Business Combination Statute. Missouri law contains a business combination statute which restricts certain business combinations between us and an interested shareholder, or affiliates of the interested shareholder, for a period of five years after the date of the transaction in which the person becomes an interested shareholder, unless either such transaction or the interested shareholder's acquisition of stock is approved by our board on or before the date the interested shareholder obtains such status.

The statute also prohibits business combinations after the five-year period following the transaction in which the person becomes an interested shareholder unless the business combination or purchase of stock prior to becoming an interested shareholder is approved by our board prior to the date the interested shareholder obtains such status.

The statute also provides that, after the expiration of such five-year period, business combinations are prohibited unless:

- the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting stock, other than the stock owned by the interested shareholder, or any affiliate or associate of such interested shareholder, approve the business combination; or

the business combination satisfies certain detailed fairness and procedural requirements.

A business combination for this purpose includes a merger or consolidation, some sales, leases, exchanges, pledges and similar dispositions of corporate assets or stock and any reclassifications or recapitalizations that generally increase the proportionate voting power of the interested shareholder. An interested

Table of Contents

shareholder for this purpose generally means any person who, together with his or her affiliates and associates, owns or controls 20% or more of the outstanding shares of the corporation's voting stock.

A Missouri corporation may opt out of coverage by the business combination statute by including a provision to that effect in its governing corporate documents. We have not done so.

The business combination statute may make it more difficult for a 20% beneficial owner to effect other transactions with us and may encourage persons that seek to acquire us to negotiate with our board prior to acquiring a 20% interest. It is possible that such a provision could make it more difficult to accomplish a transaction which shareholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interest.

Control Share Acquisition Statute. Missouri also has a control share acquisition statute that would limit the rights of a shareholder to vote some or all of the shares that it holds, in case of a shareholder whose acquisition of shares results in that shareholder having voting power, when added to the shares previously held by such shareholder, to exercise or direct the exercise of more than a specified percentage of RGA's outstanding stock (beginning at 20%). The statute exempts some types of acquisitions and provides a procedure for an acquiring shareholder to obtain shareholder approval to permit such shareholder to vote these shares. However, as permitted by the statute, RGA previously amended its bylaws to provide that the control share acquisition statute will not apply to control share acquisitions of RGA's stock.

Takeover Bid Disclosure Statute. Missouri's takeover bid disclosure statute requires that, under some circumstances, before making a tender offer that would result in the offeror acquiring control of us, the offeror must file certain disclosure materials with the Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Securities.

Insurance Holding Companies Act. We are regulated in Missouri as an insurance holding company. Under the Missouri Insurance Holding Companies Act and related regulations, the acquisition of control of a domestic insurer must receive prior approval by the Missouri Department of Insurance. Missouri law provides that a transaction will be approved if the Department of Insurance finds that the transaction would, among other things, not violate the law or be contrary to the interests of the insureds of any participating domestic insurance corporations. The Department of Insurance may approve any proposed change of control subject to conditions.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES OF RGA

The description of any deposit agreement and any related depositary shares and depositary receipts in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement or other offering material of certain provisions are summaries of the material provisions of that deposit agreement and of the depositary shares and depositary receipts.

General

We may elect to have shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares. The shares of any series of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company we select. The prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to a series of depositary shares will set forth the name and address of this preferred stock depositary. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, proportionately, to all the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock represented by such depositary share, including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion, exchange and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement, each of which will represent the applicable interest in a number of shares of a particular series of the preferred stock described

in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

A holder of depositary shares will be entitled to receive the shares of preferred stock, but only in whole shares of preferred stock, underlying those depositary shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the whole number of shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to that holder at the same time a new depositary receipt for the excess number of depositary shares.

Table of Contents

Dividends and Other Distributions

The preferred stock depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the series of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion, to the extent possible, to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders. The depositary, however, will distribute only the amount that can be distributed without attributing to any depositary share a fraction of one cent, and any undistributed balance will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record holders of depositary receipts then outstanding.

If there is a distribution other than in cash in respect of the preferred stock, the preferred stock depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion, insofar as possible, to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders, unless the preferred stock depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such a distribution. In that case, the preferred stock depositary may, with our approval, adopt any method that it deems equitable and practicable to effect the distribution, including a public or private sale of the property and distribution of the net proceeds from the sale to the holders.

The amount distributed in any of the above cases will be reduced by any amount we or the preferred stock depositary are required to withhold on account of taxes.

Conversion and Exchange

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to provisions relating to its conversion or exchange as set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, each record holder of depositary receipts will have the right or obligation to convert or exchange the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipts pursuant to those provisions.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the preferred stock depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of the preferred stock held by the preferred stock depositary. Whenever we redeem a share of preferred stock held by the preferred stock depositary, the preferred stock depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date a proportionate number of depositary shares representing the shares of preferred stock that were redeemed. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the aggregate redemption price payable with respect to the number of shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or proportionately as we may determine.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the redemption price. Any funds that we deposit with the preferred stock depositary relating to depositary shares which are not redeemed by the holders of the depositary shares will be returned to us after a period of two years from the date the funds are deposited by us.

Voting

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of any shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares are entitled to vote, the preferred stock depositary will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the depositary receipts. Each record holder of the depositary receipts on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, may then instruct the preferred stock depositary as to the

exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of shares of preferred stock underlying that holder's depositary shares. The preferred stock depositary will try to vote the number of shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares in accordance with the instructions, and we will agree to take all reasonable action which the preferred stock depositary deems necessary to enable the preferred stock depositary to do so. The preferred stock depositary will abstain from voting the preferred stock

Table of Contents

to the extent that it does not receive specific written instructions from holders of depositary receipts representing the preferred stock.

Record Date

Subject to the provisions of the deposit agreement, whenever

any cash dividend or other cash distribution becomes payable,

any distribution other than cash is made,

any rights, preferences or privileges are offered with respect to the preferred stock,

the preferred stock depositary receives notice of any meeting at which holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote or of which holders of preferred stock are entitled to notice, or

the preferred stock depositary receives notice of the mandatory conversion of or any election by us to call for the redemption of any preferred stock, the preferred stock depositary will in each instance fix a record date, which will be the same as the record date for the preferred stock, for the determination of the holders of depositary receipts:

who will be entitled to receive dividend, distribution, rights, preferences or privileges or the net proceeds of any sale, or

who will be entitled to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights at any such meeting or to receive notice of the meeting or the redemption or conversion.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the preferred stock depositary, upon payment of any unpaid amount due the preferred stock depositary, and subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, the owner of the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipts is entitled to delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by the depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the preferred stock depositary will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock that are withdrawn will not be entitled to deposit the shares that have been withdrawn under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary receipts.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

We and the preferred stock depositary may at any time agree to amend the form of depositary receipt and any provision of the deposit agreement. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The deposit agreement may be terminated by us or by the preferred stock depositary only if all outstanding shares have been redeemed or if a final distribution in respect of the underlying preferred stock has been made to the holders of the depositary shares in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Charges of Preferred Stock Depositary

We will pay all charges of the preferred stock depositary including charges in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock, the initial issuance of the depositary receipts, the distribution of information to the holders of depositary receipts with respect to matters on which preference stock is entitled to vote, withdrawals of the preferred stock by the holders of depositary receipts or redemption or conversion of the preferred stock, except for taxes (including transfer taxes, if any) and other governmental charges and any

Table of Contents

other charges expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be at the expense of holders of depositary receipts or persons depositing preferred stock.

Miscellaneous

Neither we nor the preferred stock depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing any obligations under the deposit agreement. The obligations of the preferred stock depositary under the deposit agreement are limited to performing its duties under the agreement without negligence or bad faith. Our obligations under the deposit agreement are limited to performing our duties in good faith. Neither we nor the preferred stock depositary is obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the preferred stock depositary may rely on advice of or information from counsel, accountants or other persons that they believe to be competent and on documents that they believe to be genuine.

The preferred stock depositary may resign at any time or be removed by us, effective upon the acceptance by its successor of its appointment. If we have not appointed a successor preferred stock depositary and the successor depositary has not accepted its appointment within 60 days after the preferred stock depositary delivered a resignation notice to us, the preferred stock depositary may terminate the deposit agreement. See Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement above.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS OF RGA

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. We may issue warrants independently or as part of a unit with other securities, including, without limitation, preferred securities issued by the RGA trusts. Warrants sold with other securities as a unit may be attached to or separate from the other securities. We will issue warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a warrant agent that we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

The prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to any warrants we are offering will include specific terms relating to the offering, including a description of any other securities sold together with the warrants. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the prices of the warrants may be payable;

the designation, number and terms of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities or rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies or indices, purchasable upon exercise of the warrants and procedures by which those numbers may be adjusted;

the exercise price of the warrants and the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which such price is payable;

the dates or periods during which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of any securities with which the warrants are issued as a unit;

if the warrants are issued as a unit with another security, the date on and after which the warrants and the other security will be separately transferable;

if the exercise price is not payable in U.S. dollars, the foreign currency, currency unit or composite currency in which the exercise price is denominated;

Table of Contents

any minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

any terms relating to the modification of the warrants; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange, exercise or redemption of the warrants.

Warrants issued for securities other than our debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or the preferred securities of an RGA trust will not be exercisable until at least one year from the date of sale of the warrant.

The applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material will describe the specific terms of any warrant units.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS OF RGA

We may issue purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, a number or amount of debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or depository shares or warrants or trust preferred securities of an RGA trust at a future date or dates. The price per equity security and the number of securities may be fixed at the time the purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula stated in the purchase contracts. The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the purchase contracts. These payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis to be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

The prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to any purchase contracts we are offering will specify the material terms of the purchase contracts and any applicable pledge or depository arrangements, including one or more of the following:

The stated amount that a holder will be obligated to pay under the purchase contract in order to purchase our debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depository shares or warrants, or trust preferred securities of an RGA Trust or the formula by which such amount shall be determined.

The settlement date or dates on which the holder will be obligated to purchase such securities. The prospectus supplement will specify whether the occurrence of any events may cause the settlement date to occur on an earlier date and the terms on which an early settlement would occur.

The events, if any, that will cause our obligations and the obligations of the holder under the purchase contract to terminate.

The settlement rate, which is a number that, when multiplied by the stated amount of a purchase contract, determines the number of securities that we or an RGA trust will be obligated to sell and a holder will be obligated to purchase under that purchase contract upon payment of the stated amount of that purchase contract. The settlement rate may be determined by the application of a formula specified in the prospectus supplement. If a formula is specified, it may be based on the market price of such securities over a specified period or it may be based on some other reference statistic.

Whether the purchase contracts will be issued separately or as part of units consisting of a purchase contract and an underlying security with an aggregate principal amount equal to the stated amount. Any underlying securities will be pledged by the holder to secure its obligations under a purchase contract.

The type of underlying security, if any, that is pledged by the holder to secure its obligations under a purchase contract. Underlying securities may be our debt securities, depositary shares, preferred securities, common stock, warrants or debt obligations, trust preferred securities of an RGA trust or government securities.

The terms of the pledge arrangement relating to any underlying securities, including the terms on which distributions or payments of interest and principal on any underlying securities will be retained by a collateral agent, delivered to us or be distributed to the holder.

Table of Contents

The amount of the contract fee, if any, that may be payable by us to the holder or by the holder to us, the date or dates on which the contract fee will be payable and the extent to which we or the holder, as applicable, may defer payment of the contract fee on those payment dates.

The contract fee may be calculated as a percentage of the stated amount of the purchase contract or otherwise.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, we may issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit may also include debt obligations of third parties, such as U.S. Treasury securities. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The prospectus supplement or other offering material will describe:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be held or transferred separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SECURITIES OF THE RGA TRUSTS

Each RGA trust may issue, from time to time, one series of preferred securities having terms described in the prospectus supplement or other offering material. Preferred securities may be issued either independently or as part of a unit with other securities, including, without limitation, warrants to purchase common stock of RGA. Preferred securities sold with other securities as a unit may be attached to or separate from the other securities. The proceeds from the sale of each trust's preferred and common securities will be used by such trust to purchase a series of junior subordinated debt securities issued by RGA. The junior subordinated debt securities will be held in trust by the trust's property trustee for the benefit of the holders of such preferred and common securities. Each amended and restated trust agreement has been or will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. The property trustee for each trust, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to The Bank of New York, an independent trustee, will act as indenture trustee for the preferred securities for purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act. The preferred securities will have the terms, including distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights, maturity date or dates and the other preferred, deferred or other special rights or restrictions as are established by the administrative trustees in accordance with the applicable amended and restated trust agreement or as are set forth in the amended and restated trust agreement or made part of the amended and restated trust agreement by the Trust Indenture Act. Such terms, rights and restrictions will mirror the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities held by the applicable trust and will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

All preferred securities offered by the prospectus will be guaranteed by us to the extent set forth below under

Description of the Preferred Securities Guarantees of RGA. The guarantee issued by us to each RGA trust, when taken together with our obligations under the junior subordinated debt securities issued to any RGA trust and under the applicable indenture and any applicable supplemental indentures, and our obligations under each amended and restated trust agreement, including the obligation to pay expenses of each RGA trust, will provide a full and

unconditional guarantee by us of amounts due on the preferred securities issued by each RGA trust. The payment terms of the preferred securities will be the same as the junior subordinated debt securities issued to the applicable RGA trust by us.

Each amended and restated trust agreement authorizes the administrative trustees to issue on behalf of the applicable trust one series of common securities having terms, including distributions, redemption, voting and

Table of Contents

liquidation rights, and restrictions that are established by the administrative trustees in accordance with the amended and restated trust agreement or that are otherwise set forth in the amended and restated trust agreement. The terms of the common securities issued by each RGA trust will be substantially identical to the terms of the preferred securities issued by the RGA trust. The common securities will rank equally, and payments will be made proportionately, with the preferred securities of that trust. However, if an event of default under the amended and restated trust agreement of the RGA trust has occurred and is continuing, the cash distributions and liquidation, redemption and other amounts payable on the common securities will be subordinated to the preferred securities in right of payment. The common securities will also carry the right to vote and to appoint, remove or replace any of the trustees of the RGA trust. RGA will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of each RGA trust.

The financial statements of any RGA trust that issues preferred securities will be reflected in our consolidated financial statements with the preferred securities shown as company-obligated mandatorily-redeemable preferred securities of a subsidiary trust under minority interest. We will include in a footnote to our audited consolidated financial statements, statements that the applicable RGA trust is wholly-owned by us and that the sole asset of the RGA trust is the junior subordinated debt securities, indicating the principal amount, interest rate and maturity date of the junior subordinated debt securities.

Enforcement of Certain Rights by Holders of Preferred Securities

If an event of default occurs, and is continuing, under the amended and restated trust agreement of either RGA trust, the holders of the preferred securities of that trust may rely on the property trustee to enforce its rights as a holder of the subordinated debt securities against RGA. Additionally, those who together hold a majority of the aggregate stated liquidation amount of an RGA trust's preferred securities will have the right to:

direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the property trustee; or

direct the exercise of any trust or power that the property trustee holds under the amended and restated trust agreement, including the right to direct the property trustee to exercise the remedies available to it as a holder of the junior subordinated debt securities.

If such a default occurs and the event is attributable to RGA's failure to pay interest or principal on the junior subordinated debt securities when due, including any payment on redemption, and this debt payment failure is continuing, a preferred securities holder of the trust may directly institute a proceeding for the enforcement of this payment. Such a proceeding will be limited, however, to enforcing the payment of this principal or interest only up to the value of the aggregate liquidation amount of the holder's preferred securities as determined after the due date specified in the applicable series of junior subordinated debt securities. RGA will be subrogated to the holder's rights under the applicable amended and restated trust agreement to the extent of any payment it makes to the holder in connection with such a direct action, and RGA may setoff against any such payment that it makes under the applicable preferred securities guarantee.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED SECURITIES GUARANTEES OF RGA

Set forth below is a summary of information concerning the guarantees that will be executed and delivered by us for the benefit of the holders, from time to time, of preferred securities. Summaries of any other terms of any guarantee that are issued will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material. Each guarantee has been or will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor to The Bank of New York will act as the preferred securities guarantee trustee. The terms of each guarantee will be set

forth in the guarantee and will include the terms made part of the guarantee by the Trust Indenture Act and will be available as described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 20.

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, we will agree, to the extent set forth in each guarantee, to pay in full to the holders of the preferred securities, the payments and distributions to be made with respect to the preferred securities, except to the extent paid by the applicable RGA trust, as and when due, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim which the RGA trust may have or assert. The following payments or distributions with respect to the preferred securities, to the extent not paid by the RGA trust and to the extent that such RGA trust has funds available for these payments or distributions, will be subject to the guarantee:

any accrued and unpaid distributions that are required to be paid on the preferred securities;

the redemption price for any preferred securities called for redemption by the RGA trust; and

upon a voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of the RGA trust, other than in connection with the distribution of junior subordinated debt securities to the holders of preferred securities in exchange for preferred securities or the redemption of all of the preferred securities upon maturity or redemption of the subordinated debt securities, the lesser of

(i) the sum of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the preferred securities to the date of payment, or

(ii) the amount of assets of the RGA trust remaining for distribution to holders of the preferred securities in liquidation of the RGA trust.

We may satisfy our obligation to make a guarantee payment by making a direct payment of the required amounts to the holders of preferred securities or by causing the applicable RGA trust to pay the amounts to the holders.

Each guarantee will not apply to any payment of distributions except to the extent the applicable RGA trust has funds available to make the payment. If we do not make interest or principal payments on the junior subordinated debt securities purchased by the RGA trust, the RGA trust will not pay distributions on the preferred securities issued by the RGA trust and will not have funds available to make the payments.

Covenants of RGA

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, in each guarantee of the payment obligations of an RGA trust with respect to preferred securities, we will covenant that, so long as any preferred securities issued by the RGA trust remain outstanding, if there has occurred any event which would constitute an event of default under the guarantee or under the amended and restated trust agreement of the RGA trust, then RGA will not:

declare or pay any dividends on, make any distributions with respect to, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of its capital stock, other than:

(1) dividends or distribution of shares of common stock of RGA;

(2) any declaration of a non-cash dividend in connection with the implementation of a shareholder rights plan, or the issuance of stock under any such plan in the future, or the redemption or repurchase of any such rights outstanding under a shareholder rights plan; or

(3) purchases of common stock of RGA related to the rights under any of RGA's benefits plans for its directors, officers or employees;

make any payment of interest, principal or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities issued or guaranteed by RGA that rank equal with or junior to the subordinated debt securities issued to the applicable RGA trust, other than payments made in order to satisfy RGA's obligations under the applicable preferred securities guarantee; and

redeem, purchase or acquire less than all of the debt securities issued to the applicable RGA trust or any of the preferred securities.

Table of Contents

Modification of the Guarantees; Assignment

Except for any changes that do not adversely affect the rights of holders of preferred securities, in which case no consent of the holders will be required, each guarantee of the payment obligations of an RGA trust with respect to preferred securities may be amended only with the prior approval of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the outstanding preferred securities of the RGA trust. The manner of obtaining any approval of holders of the preferred securities will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement. All guarantees and agreements contained in a guarantee of the obligations of an RGA trust with respect to preferred securities will bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of RGA and will inure to the benefit of the holders of the preferred securities of the applicable RGA trust then outstanding.

Events of Default

An event of default under a preferred securities guarantee will occur upon our failure to perform any of our payment or other obligations under the guarantee. The holders of a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the preferred securities to which the preferred securities guarantee relates will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the preferred securities guarantee trustee with respect to the guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the preferred securities guarantee trustee under the guarantee.

If we have failed to make a guarantee payment under a guarantee, a record holder of preferred securities to which the guarantee relates may directly institute a proceeding against us for enforcement of the guarantee for the payment to the record holder of the preferred securities to which the guarantee relates of the principal of or interest on the applicable subordinated debt securities on or after the respective due dates specified in the junior subordinated debt securities, and the amount of the payment will be based on the holder's proportionate share of the amount due and owing on all of the preferred securities to which the guarantee relates. We have waived any right or remedy to require that any action be brought first against the applicable RGA trust or any other person or entity before proceeding directly against us. The record holder in the case of the issuance of one or more global preferred securities certificates will be The Depository Trust Company, or its nominee, acting at the direction of the beneficial owners of the preferred securities.

We will be required to provide annually to the preferred securities guarantee trustee a statement as to the performance of our obligations under each outstanding preferred securities guarantee and as to any default in our performance.

Termination

Each preferred securities guarantee will terminate as to the preferred securities issued by the applicable RGA trust:

upon full payment of the liquidation value or redemption price of all preferred securities of the RGA trust;

upon distribution of the junior subordinated debt securities held by the RGA trust to the holders of all of the preferred securities of the RGA trust; or

upon full payment of the amounts payable in accordance with the amended and restated trust agreement of the RGA trust upon termination and liquidation of the RGA trust.

Each preferred securities guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of preferred securities issued by the applicable RGA trust must restore payment of any sums paid under the preferred securities or the preferred securities guarantee.

Status of the Guarantees

The preferred securities guarantees will constitute our unsecured obligations and, unless otherwise indicated in an applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, will rank as follows:

subordinated and junior in right of payment to all of RGA's present and future liabilities, including subordinated debt securities issued under RGA's subordinated indenture and described above under

Table of Contents

Description of Debt Securities of RGA Subordination under the Subordinated Indenture and the Junior Subordinated Indenture, except those liabilities made equivalent by their terms;

equivalently with:

(1) the most senior preferred or preference stock now or hereafter issued by us and with any guarantee now or hereafter entered into by us in respect of any preferred or preference stock of any of our affiliates;

(2) the applicable junior subordinated debt securities; and

(3) any other liabilities or obligations made equivalent by their terms; and

senior to our common stock and any preferred or preference stock or other liabilities made equivalent or subordinate by their terms.

The terms of the preferred securities provide that each holder of preferred securities by acceptance of the preferred securities agrees to the subordination provisions and other terms of our guarantee relating to the preferred securities.

Each preferred securities guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection. This means that the guaranteed party may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce its rights under the guarantee without instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity.

Information Concerning the Preferred Securities Guarantee Trustee

The preferred securities guarantee trustee, before the occurrence of a default under a preferred securities guarantee, undertakes to perform only the duties that are specifically set forth in the guarantee and, after a default under a guarantee, will exercise the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the preferred securities guarantee trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by a preferred securities guarantee at the request of any holder of preferred securities to which the guarantee relates unless it is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred by the preferred securities guarantee trustee in exercising any of its powers; but the foregoing shall not relieve the trustee, upon the occurrence of an event of default under such guarantee, from exercising the rights and powers vested in it by such guarantee.

Expense Agreement

We will, pursuant to an agreement as to expenses and liabilities entered into by us and each RGA trust under its amended and restated trust agreement, irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee to each person or entity to whom the trust becomes indebted or liable, the full payment of any costs, expenses or liabilities of the trust, other than obligations of the trust to pay to the holders of the preferred securities or other similar interests in the trust the amounts due to the holders pursuant to the terms of the preferred securities or other similar interests, as the case may be. Third party creditors of the trust may proceed directly against us under the expense agreement, regardless of whether they had notice of the expense agreement.

Governing Law

The preferred securities guarantees will be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

EFFECT OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES AND THE PREFERRED SECURITIES GUARANTEES

As set forth in the amended and restated trust agreements of each RGA trust, the sole purpose of the RGA trusts is to issue the preferred securities and common securities evidencing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of each of the trusts, and to invest the proceeds from such issuance and sale in RGA's junior subordinated debt securities.

As long as payments of interest and other payments are made when due on the junior subordinated debt securities held by the RGA trusts, such payments will be sufficient to cover distributions and payments due on the preferred securities and common securities because of the following factors:

the aggregate principal amount of such junior subordinated debt securities will be equal to the sum of the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the preferred securities and common securities;

the interest rate and the interest and other payment dates on such junior subordinated debt securities will match the distribution rate and distribution and other payment dates for the preferred securities;

RGA shall pay, and the trusts shall not be obligated to pay, directly or indirectly, all costs, expenses, debt, and obligations of the trusts, other than with respect to the preferred securities and common securities; and

the amended and restated trust agreement of each trust will further provide that the trustees shall not take or cause or permit the trust to, among other things, engage in any activity that is not consistent with the purposes of the applicable trust.

Payments of distributions, to the extent funds for such payments are available, and other payments due on the preferred securities, to the extent funds for such payments are available, are guaranteed by RGA as and to the extent set forth under Description of the Preferred Securities Guarantees of RGA. If RGA does not make interest payments on the junior subordinated debt securities purchased by the applicable trust, it is expected that the applicable trust will not have sufficient funds to pay distributions on the preferred securities and the preferred securities guarantee will not apply, since the preferred securities guarantee covers the payment of distributions and other payments on the preferred securities only if and to the extent that RGA has made a payment of interest or principal on the junior subordinated debt securities held by the applicable trust as its sole asset. However, the preferred securities guarantee, when taken together with RGA's obligations under the junior subordinated debt securities and the junior subordinated indenture and its obligations under the respective amended and restated trust agreements, including its obligations to pay costs, expenses, debts and liabilities of the trust, other than with respect to the preferred securities and common securities, provide a full and unconditional guarantee, on a subordinated basis, by RGA of amounts due on the preferred securities.

If RGA fails to make interest or other payments on the junior subordinated debt securities when due, taking account of any extension period, the amended and restated trust agreement provides a mechanism whereby the holders of the preferred securities affected thereby, using the procedures described in any accompanying prospectus supplement, may direct the property trustee to enforce its rights under the junior subordinated debt securities. If a debt payment failure has occurred and is continuing, a holder of preferred securities may institute a direct action for payment after the respective due date specified in the junior subordinated debt securities. In connection with such direct action, RGA will be subrogated to the rights of such holder of preferred securities under the amended and restated trust agreement to the extent of any payment made by RGA to such holder of preferred securities in such direct action. RGA, under the guarantee, acknowledges that the guarantee trustee shall enforce the guarantee on behalf of the holders of the

preferred securities. If RGA fails to make payments under the guarantee, the guarantee provides a mechanism whereby the holders of the preferred securities may direct the trustee to enforce its rights thereunder. Any holder of preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against RGA to enforce the guarantee trustee's rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the trust, the guarantee trustee, or any other person or entity.

Table of Contents

RGA and each of the RGA trusts believe that the above mechanisms and obligations, taken together, provide a full and unconditional guarantee by RGA on a subordinated basis of payments due on the preferred securities. See Description of the Preferred Securities Guarantees of RGA, beginning on page 57.

Upon any voluntary or involuntary termination, winding-up or liquidation of an RGA trust involving the liquidation of the junior subordinated debt securities, the holders of the preferred securities will be entitled to receive, out of assets held by such RGA trust, the liquidation distribution in cash. Upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation or bankruptcy, the property trustee, as holder of the junior subordinated debt securities, would be a subordinated creditor of ours. Therefore, the property trustee would be subordinated in right of payment to all of our senior and subordinated debt, but is entitled to receive payment in full of principal and interest before any of our shareholders receive payments or distributions. Since we are the guarantor under the preferred securities guarantees and have agreed to pay for all costs, expenses and liabilities of the RGA trusts other than the obligations of the trusts to pay to holders of the preferred securities the amounts due to the holders pursuant to the terms of the preferred securities, the positions of a holder of the preferred securities and a holder of the junior subordinated debt securities relative to our other creditors and to our shareholders in the event of liquidation or bankruptcy are expected to be substantially the same.

Table of Contents**SELLING SHAREHOLDERS**

The selling shareholders, and those persons or entities to whom they transfer, donate, devise, pledge or distribute their shares, or other successors in interest, may sell up to an aggregate of 3,000,000 shares of common stock from time to time under this prospectus. To the extent required, we will name any additional selling shareholders in a prospectus supplement. We are registering the shares of our common stock for resale by the selling shareholders to permit public secondary trading of the shares, and the selling shareholders may offer the shares for resale from time to time.

The following table sets forth information relating to the selling shareholders' beneficial ownership of our common stock. The amounts set forth below are based on information provided to us by representatives of the selling shareholders, or on our records, as of November 30, 2008, and are accurate to the best of our knowledge. These numbers do not reflect the impact of any prospective adjustments or limitations described in the foregoing paragraphs. It is possible that any of the selling shareholders may have acquired, sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of shares of our common stock in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, since the date on which it provided the information to us regarding the shares beneficially owned by it, in which case any affiliated transferee would be a selling shareholder entitled to use this prospectus. The percentage ownership data is based on 72,560,570 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding as of November 30, 2008. Because the selling shareholders may resell, pursuant to this prospectus, all or some portion of the common stock listed below, no estimate can be given as to the number of shares of common stock that will be held by the selling shareholders upon consummation of any sales.

Name of Selling Shareholder	Number of Shares of Common Stock Owned Prior to this Offering	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock Owned Prior to this Offering	Number of Shares of Common Stock Offered Under this Prospectus	Number of Shares of Common Stock Owned Upon Completion of the Offering	Percentage of Common Stock Owned Upon Completion of the Offering
				(1)(2)	(1)(3)
MetLife, Inc. and certain subsidiaries(2)(3)	3,000,000(2)	4.1%(2)	3,000,000		

(1) Assumes the sale by the selling shareholders of all of the 3,000,000 shares of common stock available for resale under this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. We cannot assure you, however, that the selling shareholders will sell any or all of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus.

(2) Based on information provided by MetLife, Inc., Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.), GenAmerica Financial, LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company), and General American Life Insurance Company (a wholly-owned subsidiary of

GenAmerica Financial, LLC) and contained in a Schedule 13D/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 5, 2008. Each of the Schedule 13D filing companies shares voting and dispositive power with each other; provided, however that these entities have granted an irrevocable proxy to RGA and certain officers of RGA and its designees to vote the 3,000,000 shares of common stock in proportion to the other holders of common stock for so long as such shares are owned by the filing parties. References to selling shareholders in this prospectus refers to each of the Schedule 13D filing companies. The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the identity of the entity or entities disposing of our shares of common stock.

(3) MetLife, Inc. s address is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

All expenses incurred with registering the shares of common stock owned by the selling shareholders, which will be described in the prospectus supplement for any such offering, will be borne by us pursuant to a registration rights agreement with MetLife. However, we will not be obligated to pay any internal legal expenses of MetLife, certain legal fees of MetLife or any underwriters, any fees or expenses in connection with a road show or marketing efforts, or any underwriting discounts or commissions in connection with the registration and sale by the selling shareholders, all of which will be bourn by MetLife.

Table of Contents

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH METLIFE

Recapitalization of RGA and Split-Off by MetLife

Prior to September 12, 2008, MetLife was our majority shareholder. On that date, we completed a recapitalization, which was effected pursuant to a recapitalization and distribution agreement dated as of June 1, 2008 between MetLife and RGA. In the recapitalization, which was approved by our shareholders at a special meeting held on September 5, 2008, each issued and outstanding share of our common stock was reclassified as class A common stock. Immediately after this reclassification, MetLife exchanged each share of our class A common stock it held (other than 3,000,000 shares of class A common stock) with RGA for one share of our class B common stock. The recapitalization was completed in conjunction with, and was conditioned upon, the completion of an offer by MetLife, Inc. to its stockholders (which we refer to as the split-off) to exchange all of the shares of our class B common stock for shares of MetLife, Inc. common stock.

In the split-off, which was also completed on September 12, 2008, MetLife made an offer to MetLife stockholders to acquire their shares of MetLife common stock in exchange for all of the 29,243,539 shares of RGA class B common stock that MetLife and its subsidiaries held after the recapitalization. For each share of MetLife common stock accepted in the exchange offer, tendering MetLife stockholders received 1.2663 shares of RGA class B common stock.

In connection with the recapitalization, our shareholders approved certain amendments to our articles of incorporation, including the acquisition restrictions described in Description of Capital Stock of RGA Acquisition Restrictions and a shareholder rights plan described in Description of Capital Stock of RGA Section 382 Shareholder Rights Plan.

Prior to the recapitalization and split-off, three of our directors were officers of MetLife. Upon completion of the recapitalization and split-off, those three directors resigned.

For additional information regarding the recapitalization and split-off, please see the information set forth under the captions under the captions Proposal One: Approval of the Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement Interests of Certain Persons in the Divestiture, The Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement and Other Arrangements and Relationships between MetLife and RGA in our Proxy Statement/Prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) (Registration No. 333-151390) on August 4, 2008, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Other Arrangements between RGA and MetLife

Reinsurance Business. RGA has direct policies and reinsurance agreements with MetLife and some of its affiliates. Under these agreements, RGA had net premiums of approximately \$250.9 million in 2007, \$227.8 million in 2006 and \$226.7 million in 2005. The net premiums reflect the net business assumed from and ceded to such affiliates of MetLife. RGA's pre-tax income (loss), excluding interest income allocated to support the business, was approximately \$16.0 million in 2007, \$10.9 million in 2006 and (\$11.3) million in 2005. RGA's reinsurance treaties with MetLife are generally terminable by either party on 90 days written notice, but only with respect to future new business; existing business generally is not terminable unless the underlying policies terminate or are recaptured. Under these treaties, MetLife is permitted to reassume all or a portion of the risk formerly ceded to RGA after an agreed-upon period of time or, in some cases, due to changes in RGA financial condition or ratings. Recapture of business previously ceded does not affect premiums ceded prior to the recapture of such business, but would reduce premiums in subsequent periods. There can be no assurance that MetLife will not terminate new business in open treaties, or recapture treaties meeting eligibility requirements.

Following MetLife's acquisition of GenAmerica Corporation (at the time, the parent of General American Life Insurance Company) on January 6, 2000, MetLife entered into an agreement with an RGA ceding company client to provide additional security to the client and certain other protections if RGA ceased to be a majority-owned subsidiary of MetLife. In accordance with this agreement and in connection with the split-off,

Table of Contents

MetLife and the RGA client entered into an arrangement whereby MetLife assumed the risks and related premiums from the RGA client that were previously ceded directly to RGA. This arrangement includes a retrocession treaty whereby MetLife retrocedes those risks to RGA. RGA expects no material financial impact as a result of this arrangement. The premiums from the ceding company client represented approximately five to six percent of RGA's consolidated gross premiums in 2007, 2006 and 2005. The arrangement became effective on October 1, 2008. RGA provides MetLife with various administrative services relating to MetLife's participation in this arrangement.

Registration Rights Agreement. At the closing of the split-off, an existing registration rights agreement between MetLife and RGA terminated. However, under the terms of the recapitalization and distribution agreement, MetLife may make one written request to RGA that RGA register, prior to the first anniversary of the completion of the divestiture, the offer and sale of all or any part of the recently acquired stock. MetLife and RGA agreed that if, during the 36 months following the earlier of the distribution of all of MetLife's shares of RGA class B common stock or the first anniversary of the recapitalization, RGA conducts a registered offering of any RGA class A common stock (subject to certain exceptions), MetLife will have certain piggyback registration rights to participate and sell all or a portion of its recently acquired stock in such offering. We have agreed to bear certain expenses of such registrations, as described under *Selling Shareholders*.

Administrative Services. General American and MetLife have historically provided RGA and its subsidiary, RGA Reinsurance Company, with certain limited administrative services, such as corporate risk management and corporate travel services. The cost of these services was approximately \$2.8 million in 2007, \$2.4 million in 2006 and \$1.7 million in 2005.

Product License Agreement. RGA Reinsurance has a product license and service agreement with MetLife, which is terminable by either party on 30 days notice. Under this agreement, RGA has licensed the use of its electronic underwriting product to MetLife and provides Internet hosting services, installation and modification services for the product. Revenue under this agreement from MetLife was approximately \$0.6 million in 2007, \$0.7 million in 2006 and \$1.6 million in 2005.

Director and Officer Insurance. MetLife maintains a policy of insurance under which the directors and officers of RGA are insured, subject to the limits of the policy, against certain losses, as defined in the policy, arising from claims made against such directors and officers by reason of any wrongful acts, as defined in the policy, in their respective capacities as directors or officers. MetLife charges RGA an allocable cost for such insurance included as part of the administrative services described above. Pursuant to the recapitalization and distribution agreement, MetLife has agreed to provide a policy of directors' and officers' liability insurance for the benefit of those individuals who are covered by the directors' and officers' liability insurance policy provided by MetLife as of the date of the recapitalization and distribution agreement. Such policy shall be in effect until September 2014.

Consultant Analyses. RGA engaged consultants to conduct certain analyses during 2008, which RGA agreed to share with MetLife. MetLife paid for the cost of such analyses, which was not expected to exceed \$4.5 million.

RGAs Policy for Approval of Related Person Transactions

In July 2007, the RGA board of directors adopted a policy as part of its corporate governance guidelines that requires advance approval by the RGA board of directors before any of the following persons knowingly enters into any transaction with RGA or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates through which such person receives any direct or indirect financial, economic or other similar benefit or interest.

The individuals covered by the policy include:

any director;

any nominee for director;

any executive officer;

Table of Contents

any holder of more than five percent of RGA's voting securities;

any immediate family member of such a person, as that term is defined in the policy; and

any charitable entity or organization affiliated with such person or any immediate family member of such person.

Transactions covered by the policy include any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, transaction, contribution or donation of goods or services, but exclude transactions with any of the following:

MetLife, if the transaction is entered into in the ordinary course of RGA's business and the terms are comparable to those that are or would be negotiated with an unrelated client or vendor; or

any charitable entity or organization affiliated with a director, nominee for director, executive officer, or any immediate family member of such a person if the amount involved is \$2,500 or less.

Each of the transactions that commenced in or after July 2007 was ratified or pre-approved in accordance with the foregoing policy, other than reinsurance agreements that fall with the exception described above regarding transactions with MetLife.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer or sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or through a combination of any of these methods, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. We will describe the details of any such offering and the plan of distribution for any securities offering by any RGA trust or us, or any changes to the plan of distribution by the selling shareholders described below, if any, in a supplement to this prospectus or other offering material.

The selling shareholders, which as used herein includes donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares of common stock or interests in shares of common stock received after the date of this prospectus from a selling shareholder as a gift, pledge, distribution or other transfer, may, from time to time, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any or all of their shares of common stock or interests in shares of common stock on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise. These dispositions may be at fixed prices, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market price, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices.

The selling shareholders may use any one or more of the following methods when disposing of shares or interests therein:

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;

privately negotiated transactions;

short sales effected after the date of this prospectus;

through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;

broker-dealers may agree with the selling shareholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share;

a combination of any such methods of sale; and

any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

Table of Contents

Such transactions may or may not involve brokers or dealers. The selling shareholders may effect such transactions by selling shares directly to purchasers or to or through broker-dealers, which may act as agents or principals. Such broker-dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions, or commissions from the selling shareholders or the purchasers of shares for whom such broker-dealers act as agent or to whom they sell as principal, or both (which compensation as to a particular broker-dealer might be in excess of customary commissions). In effecting sales, brokers and dealers engaged by the selling shareholders may arrange for other brokers or dealers to participate. Broker-dealers may agree with the selling shareholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share, and to the extent such broker-dealer is unable to do so, acting as agent for a selling shareholder, such broker-dealer may purchase, as principal, any unsold shares at the stipulated price. Broker-dealers who acquire shares as principals may thereafter resell such shares from time to time in transactions on the New York Stock Exchange at prices and on terms then prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the then-current market price or in negotiated transactions. Broker-dealers may use block transactions and sales to and through broker-dealers, including transactions of the nature described above.

The selling shareholders may, from time to time, pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the shares of common stock owned by them and, if they default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of common stock, from time to time, under this prospectus, or under a supplement to this prospectus amending the list of selling shareholders to include the pledgee, transferee or other successors in interest as selling shareholders under this prospectus. The selling shareholders also may transfer the shares of common stock in other circumstances, in which case the transferees, pledgees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of this prospectus.

In connection with the sale of our common stock or interests therein, the selling shareholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of the common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling shareholders may also sell shares of our common stock short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge the common stock to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The selling shareholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The aggregate proceeds to the selling shareholders from the sale of the common stock offered by them will be the purchase price of the common stock less discounts or commissions, if any. Each of the selling shareholders reserves the right to accept and, together with their agents from time to time, to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of common stock to be made directly or through agents. We will not receive any of the proceeds from any offering by the selling shareholders.

The selling shareholders also may resell all or a portion of the shares in open market transactions in reliance upon Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, provided that they meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of that rule.

The selling shareholders, and any underwriters, broker-dealers or agents that participate in the sale of the common stock or interests therein, may be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act. For a discussion of the securities held by the selling shareholders and certain relationships of such persons to us, see *Selling Shareholders* and *Our Relationship with MetLife* elsewhere in this prospectus. Any discounts, commissions, concessions or profit they earn on any resale of the shares may be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Selling shareholders who are underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act

will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

To the extent required, the shares of our common stock to be sold, the names of the selling shareholders, the respective purchase prices and public offering prices, the names of any agents, dealer or underwriter, any

Table of Contents

applicable commissions or discounts with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement or other offering material.

In order to comply with the securities laws of some states, if applicable, the common stock may be sold in these jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the common stock may not be sold unless it has been registered or qualified for sale or an exemption from registration or qualification requirements is available and is complied with.

We have advised the selling shareholders that the anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares in the market and to the activities of the selling shareholders and their affiliates. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus (as it may be supplemented or amended from time to time) available to the selling shareholders for the purpose of satisfying any prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. The selling shareholders may indemnify any broker-dealer that participates in transactions involving the sale of the shares against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

We have filed this registration statement pursuant to a registration rights agreement, as described under Our Relationship with MetLife Arrangements Between RGA and MetLife Registration Rights Agreement and the Recapitalization and Distribution Agreement. Pursuant to that agreement, we will pay specified expenses in connection with any offering of common stock by the selling shareholders, which we will estimate in the prospectus supplement for such offering, including certain expenses incurred by MetLife. We and MetLife have agreed to indemnify each other against, or to make contributions towards, certain liabilities and expenses arising out of or based upon the information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the related registration statement, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, William L. Hutton, Esq., Senior Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of RGA, will issue an opinion about the legality of the common stock issued by us and offered by the selling shareholders, as well as the preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants, purchase contracts and units of RGA under Missouri law, and Bryan Cave LLP will issue an opinion about the legality of the debt securities of RGA and the preferred securities guarantees of RGA. Mr. Hutton is paid a salary by RGA, is a participant in various employee benefit plans offered by RGA to employees of RGA generally and owns and has options to purchase shares of RGA common stock. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., our special Delaware counsel, will issue an opinion about the legality of the trust preferred securities.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules, incorporated by reference in this Form S-3 from Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated and subsidiaries Annual Report on Form 10-K, and the effectiveness of Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated and subsidiaries internal control over financial reporting, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules and include an explanatory paragraph regarding changes in accounting for income taxes and defined pension benefit and other postretirement plans as required by accounting guidance which was adopted on January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively, and (2) express an unqualified opinion on Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated and subsidiaries effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting) which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and

auditing.

Table of Contents

\$400,000,000

Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated

6.45% Senior Notes due 2019

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Joint Book-Running Managers

Barclays Capital

UBS Investment Bank

Co-Managers

CALYON

Keefe, Bruyette & Woods

Dowling and Partners Securities LLC

SOCIETE GENERALE

Raymond James

Sterne Agee

November 3, 2009