

Lazard Ltd
Form 10-Q
May 09, 2007
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2007

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

001-32492

(Commission File Number)

LAZARD LTD

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Bermuda
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation
or Organization)

98-0437848
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Clarendon House

2 Church Street

Hamilton HM11, Bermuda

(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number: (441) 295-1422

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer Non-Accelerated Filer

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

As of April 30, 2007, there were 51,554,068 shares of the registrant's Class A common stock and one share of the registrant's Class B common stock outstanding.

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When we use the terms "Lazard", "we", "us", "our", and "the Company", we mean Lazard Ltd, a company incorporated under the laws of Bermuda, and its subsidiaries, including Lazard Group LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Lazard Group"), that is the current holding company for our businesses. Lazard Ltd has no material assets other than indirect ownership as of March 31, 2007 of approximately 47.9% of the common membership interests in Lazard Group and its controlling interest in Lazard Group.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Table of Contents**LAZARD LTD****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION****MARCH 31, 2007 AND DECEMBER 31, 2006****(UNAUDITED)****(dollars in thousands, except for per share data)**

	March 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 682,227	\$ 969,483
Cash segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations	32,387	16,023
Securities owned at fair value:		
Bonds Corporate	472,739	527,421
Equities	106,989	23,185
Non-U.S. Government and agency securities	29,035	28,729
	<u>608,763</u>	<u>579,335</u>
Receivables net:		
Banks	424,860	721,002
Fees	314,185	417,519
Customers	83,101	77,832
Related parties	17,159	18,543
	<u>839,305</u>	<u>1,234,896</u>
Long-term investments at fair value	127,008	99,057
Property (net of accumulated amortization and depreciation of \$186,112 and \$181,812 at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively)	169,372	168,310
Goodwill	16,960	16,945
Other assets	138,768	124,616
	<u>\$ 2,614,790</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,665</u>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**LAZARD LTD****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION (Continued)****MARCH 31, 2007 AND DECEMBER 31, 2006****(UNAUDITED)****(dollars in thousands, except for per share data)**

	March 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
LIABILITIES, MINORITY INTEREST AND STOCKHOLDERS DEFICIENCY		
Liabilities:		
Deposits and other customer payables	\$ 800,718	\$ 1,195,014
Accrued compensation and benefits	186,406	437,738
Senior borrowings	1,083,508	1,087,057
Capital lease obligations	25,387	25,445
Related party payables	9,540	9,794
Other liabilities	460,371	438,473
Subordinated borrowings	200,000	200,000
Total liabilities	2,765,930	3,393,521
Commitments and contingencies		
Minority interest	55,726	55,497
STOCKHOLDERS DEFICIENCY		
Common stock:		
Class A, par value \$.01 per share (500,000,000 shares authorized; 51,554,068 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006)	516	516
Class B, par value \$.01 per share (1 share authorized, 1 share issued and outstanding at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006)		
Additional paid-in-capital	(371,238)	(396,792)
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax	32,590	32,494
Retained earnings	135,445	127,608
	(202,687)	(236,174)
Less - Class A common stock held in treasury, at cost (115,000 shares at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006)	(4,179)	(4,179)
Total stockholders' deficiency	(206,866)	(240,353)
Total liabilities, minority interest and stockholders' deficiency	\$ 2,614,790	\$ 3,208,665

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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LAZARD LTD

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIODS ENDED MARCH 31, 2007 AND 2006

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
REVENUE		
Investment banking and other advisory fees	\$215,083	\$219,583
Money management fees	135,826	110,569
Interest income	22,341	8,010
Other	27,193	22,095
Total revenue	400,443	360,257
Interest expense	31,245	23,999
Net revenue	369,198	336,258
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Compensation and benefits	220,038	200,139
Premises and occupancy costs	18,106	16,591
Professional fees	16,214	14,877
Travel and entertainment	12,547	8,887
Communications and information services	8,389	7,472
Equipment costs	5,057	5,129
Other	10,579	5,047
Total operating expenses	290,930	258,142
OPERATING INCOME	78,268	78,116
Provision for income taxes	17,061	15,940
INCOME BEFORE MINORITY INTEREST IN NET INCOME	61,207	62,176
Minority interest in net income	34,853	42,490
NET INCOME	\$ 26,354	\$ 19,686
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OF CLASS A COMMON STOCK OUTSTANDING:		
Basic	51,439,068	37,502,889
Diluted	118,216,333	41,042,544

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NET INCOME PER SHARE OF CLASS A COMMON STOCK:

Basic	\$0.51	\$0.52
Diluted	\$0.47	\$0.51
DIVIDENDS PAID PER SHARE OF CLASS A COMMON STOCK	\$0.09	\$0.09

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$ 26,354	\$ 19,686
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Noncash charges included in net income:		
Depreciation and amortization of property	3,565	3,426
Amortization of deferred expenses, stock units and interest rate hedge	24,631	4,898
Minority interest in net income	34,853	42,490
(Increase) decrease in operating assets:		
Cash segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations	(15,941)	642
Securities owned, at fair value	(24,217)	(71,103)
Receivables	399,710	143,240
Long-term investments, at fair value	(27,181)	286
Other assets	(14,032)	(5,684)
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:		
Deposits and other payables	(400,914)	(11,246)
Accrued compensation and other liabilities	(246,504)	(177,228)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(239,676)</u>	<u>(50,593)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Additions to property	(3,400)	(1,672)
Disposals and retirements of property	224	233
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(3,176)</u>	<u>(1,439)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Repayment of senior borrowings	(3,549)	(6,565)
Repayment of capital lease obligations	(338)	(285)
Distributions relating to minority interest, including \$32,096 and \$13,223 to LAZ-MD Holdings in 2007 and 2006, respectively	(34,369)	(25,432)
Class A common stock dividends	(4,629)	(3,375)
Other financing activities		(2,677)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(42,885)</u>	<u>(38,334)</u>
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH	(1,519)	2,229

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NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	<u>(287,256)</u>	<u>(88,137)</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS January 1	969,483	492,309
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS March 31	<u>\$ 682,227</u>	<u>\$ 404,172</u>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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LAZARD LTD

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
STOCKHOLDERS DEFICIENCY
FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2007**

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in- Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, Net of Tax	Retained Earnings	Class A Common Stock Held In Treasury	Total Stockholders Deficiency
	Shares(*)	\$					
Balance, as previously reported January 1, 2007	51,554,069	\$ 516	\$ (396,792)	\$ 32,494	\$ 127,608	\$ (4,179)	\$ (240,353)
Adjustment for the cumulative effect on prior years from the adoption of FIN 48					(13,221)		(13,221)
Balance, as adjusted January 1, 2007	51,554,069	516	(396,792)	32,494	114,387	(4,179)	(253,574)
Comprehensive income:							
Net income					26,354		26,354
Other comprehensive income (loss) net of tax:							
Currency translation adjustments				(179)			(179)
Amortization of interest rate hedge				275			275
Comprehensive income							26,450
Class A common stock dividends							
Amortization and issuance of stock units			23,963		(4,629)		(4,629)
RSU dividend-equivalents			667		(667)		23,963
Adjustment to reclassify minority interest share of undistributed net income to additional paid-in-capital			924				924
Balance March 31, 2007	51,554,069	\$ 516	\$ (371,238)	\$ 32,590	\$ 135,445	\$ (4,179)	\$ (206,866)

(*) Includes 51,554,068 shares of the Company's Class A common stock at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 and 1 share of the Company's Class B common stock at each such date.

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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LAZARD LTD

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

1. ORGANIZATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Organization

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements of Lazard Ltd, a Bermuda holding company, and subsidiaries (collectively referred to as "Lazard Ltd", "Lazard" or the "Company"), including Lazard Ltd's indirect investment in Lazard Group LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (collectively referred to, together with its subsidiaries, as "Lazard Group"), have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") regarding interim financial reporting. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") for complete financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in Lazard Ltd's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 (the "Form 10-K"). The December 31, 2006 unaudited condensed consolidated statement of financial condition data was derived from audited consolidated financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by U.S. GAAP. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of the financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods presented. Preparing financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts that are reported in the financial statements and the accompanying disclosures. Although these estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and actions that Lazard may undertake in the future, actual results may differ materially from the estimates. The consolidated results of operations for the three month period ended March 31, 2007 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for any future period or the full fiscal year.

The condensed consolidated financial statements include Lazard Ltd, Lazard Group and its principal operating subsidiaries: Lazard Frères & Co. LLC ("LFNY"), a New York limited liability company, along with its subsidiaries, including Lazard Asset Management LLC and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as "LAM"); Lazard Frères SAS and Maison Lazard SAS, French limited liability companies, along with their respective subsidiaries, including Lazard Group's Paris-based Lazard Frères Banque SA ("LFB") and Lazard Frères Gestion SAS ("LFG") (collectively referred to as "LFP"); and Lazard & Co., Limited ("LCL"), through Lazard & Co., Holdings Limited, an English private limited company ("LCH"); together with their jointly-owned affiliates and subsidiaries.

On May 10, 2005, Lazard Ltd consummated an equity public offering (the "equity public offering") of its Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("Class A common stock"). Lazard Ltd, through a number of newly-formed, wholly-owned subsidiaries, contributed the net proceeds from the equity public offering, along with the net proceeds it received from the financing transactions (as described in Note 2 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements), to Lazard Group in exchange for 37,500,000 Lazard Group common membership interests, representing ownership of 37.5% of Lazard Group's total common membership interests as of May 10, 2005, and, after giving effect to (i) the repurchase and forfeiture of a portion of the Lazard Group common membership interests held by LAZ-MD Holdings LLC ("LAZ-MD Holdings"), as well as (ii) certain subsequent share issuances by Lazard Ltd (principally related to the primary and secondary offerings of Class A common stock as described in Note 2 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements), it held approximately 47.9% of all outstanding Lazard Group common membership interests as of both March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006. Lazard Ltd, through its control of the managing members of Lazard Group, controls Lazard Group.

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Lazard Group is governed by an Operating Agreement dated as of May 10, 2005, as amended (the Operating Agreement).

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LAZARD LTD

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

The Company's sole operating asset is its indirect ownership of common membership interests of Lazard Group and its managing member interest of Lazard Group, whose current principal activities are divided into two business segments:

Financial Advisory, which includes providing advice on mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, capital raising and similar transactions, and

Asset Management, which includes the management of equity and fixed income securities and merchant banking funds.

In addition, Lazard Group records selected other activities in Corporate, including management of cash, certain investments and the commercial banking activities of LFB. LFB is a registered bank regulated by the Banque de France and its primary commercial banking operations include the management of the treasury positions of Lazard Group's Paris House through its money market desk and, to a lesser extent, credit activities relating to securing loans granted to clients of LFG and custodial oversight over assets of various clients. In addition, LFB operates many support functions relating to our business in Paris. Lazard Group also allocates outstanding indebtedness to Corporate.

Prior to May 10, 2005, Lazard Group also had a business segment called Capital Markets and Other, which consisted of equity, fixed income and convertibles sales and trading, broking, research and underwriting services and merchant banking fund management activities outside of France as well as other specified non-operating assets and liabilities. This business segment's assets and liabilities (referred to below as the separated businesses) were separated from Lazard Group on May 10, 2005. We refer to the transfer of the separated business as the separation.

Basis of Presentation

The condensed consolidated financial statements are prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP. The Company's policy is to consolidate (i) all majority-owned subsidiaries in which it has a controlling financial interest, (ii) variable interest entities (VIEs) where the Company has a variable interest and is deemed to be the primary beneficiary and (iii) limited partnerships where the Company is the general partner, unless the presumption of control is overcome. When the Company does not have a controlling interest in an entity, but exerts significant influence over the entity's operating and financial decisions, the Company applies the equity method of accounting. All material intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated.

The Company prepared an assessment that considered quantitative and qualitative factors that included, but was not limited to, the structure and purpose of the separation and recapitalization transactions, corporate governance and the Company's control of Lazard Group through its control of the managing members of Lazard Group, and concluded that Lazard Ltd is the entity that is most closely associated with Lazard Group and

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therefore should consolidate Lazard Group. Accordingly, the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows of Lazard Group.

Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the manner of presentation in the current year.

2. *THE SEPARATION AND RECAPITALIZATION TRANSACTIONS IN MAY, 2005, AND PRIMARY AND SECONDARY OFFERINGS IN DECEMBER, 2006*

As more fully described in the Form 10-K, on May 10, 2005, Lazard completed the separation and recapitalization transactions, including the financing transactions, pursuant to the master separation agreement.

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LAZARD LTD

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

dated as of May 10, 2005, by and among Lazard Ltd, Lazard Group, LAZ-MD Holdings and LFCM Holdings LLC (LFCM Holdings) (the master separation agreement).

The Separation

In the separation, Lazard Group transferred the separated businesses to LFCM Holdings through several steps. First, LAZ-MD Holdings was formed as the new holding company for Lazard Group. Pursuant to this formation, all of the persons who were members of Lazard Group prior to the formation became members of LAZ-MD Holdings and ceased to hold any membership interests in Lazard Group. Lazard Group then contributed the separated businesses to LFCM Holdings, which was then a subsidiary of Lazard Group, and distributed all of the LFCM Holdings interests to LAZ-MD Holdings. After the redemption of the historical partners described below, LAZ-MD Holdings distributed all of the LFCM Holdings interests to its members. Accordingly, after the separation, LFCM Holdings was wholly-owned by the members of LAZ-MD Holdings, including Lazard Group s managing directors at the time of the separation.

In the separation, Lazard Group retained all of the Company s Financial Advisory and Asset Management businesses. In addition, under the business alliance agreement, dated as of May 10, 2005, between Lazard Group and LFCM Holdings (the business alliance agreement), Lazard Group was granted the option to acquire the North American and European merchant banking fund management activities of LFCM Holdings.

The Recapitalization

On the same day as the separation, LAZ-MD Holdings and Lazard Group effected a recapitalization of their companies. The recapitalization had three principal parts the financing transactions, the redemption of the historical partners interests and mandatorily redeemable preferred interests of Lazard Group and the issuance of LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests to working members.

The Financing Transactions

On May 10, 2005, the Company completed the financing transactions, which consisted of:

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the equity public offering,

the initial offering (the ESU offering) of equity security units (the ESUs) in an aggregate principal amount of \$287,500,

the private offering of Lazard Group senior notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$550,000, and

the private placement of securities to IXIS Corporate & Investment Bank (IXIS), consisting of \$150,000 principal amount of ESUs and \$50,000 in shares of Class A common stock.

The Redemption of the Historical Partners' Interests

As noted above, a primary purpose of the financing transactions was the redemption of the historical partners' interests and mandatorily redeemable preferred interests of Lazard Group. As part of the recapitalization transactions, historical partner interests and preferred interests generally were redeemed for cash.

Exchange of Working Member Interests for LAZ-MD Holdings Interests

In connection with the formation of LAZ-MD Holdings, the working member interests were exchanged with LAZ-MD Holdings for limited liability company interests in LAZ-MD Holdings. Each holder of a working

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LAZARD LTD

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

member interest at the time of the separation and recapitalization transactions received, in exchange for his or her working member interest, a redeemable capital interest in LAZ-MD Holdings consisting of an equivalent amount of capital of LAZ-MD Holdings, an exchangeable interest in LAZ-MD Holdings and, in certain instances, a right to receive distributions from LAZ-MD Holdings. The former holders of working member interests hold all of the limited liability company interests in LAZ-MD Holdings.

Credit Facility Concurrent with the equity public offering, Lazard Group entered into a five year, \$125,000 senior revolving credit facility (the Credit Facility) with a group of lenders. On May 17, 2006, the Credit Facility was amended to provide for an increase in the aggregate commitments from \$125,000 to \$150,000.

Primary and Secondary Offerings in December, 2006 As described in more detail in the Form 10-K, on December 6, 2006, Lazard Ltd closed an underwritten public offering of additional shares of its Class A common stock. The offering was comprised of a primary offering (the Primary Offering) of 8,050,400 newly-issued shares by Lazard Ltd and a secondary offering (the Secondary Offering) of 6,000,000 shares offered to the public by certain current and former managing directors of Lazard and their permitted transferees (the Selling Shareholders).

The primary offering provided Lazard Ltd with net proceeds, after underwriters' discounts and other estimated expenses, of \$349,137. Lazard Ltd did not receive any net proceeds from the sales of common stock offered by the Selling Shareholders. Immediately following the Primary Offering, Lazard Ltd and its subsidiaries received 8,050,400 additional Lazard Group common membership interests in exchange for the net proceeds from the Primary Offering. In the Secondary Offering, Lazard Ltd and its subsidiaries received an additional 6,000,000 Lazard Group common membership interests from the exchanging LAZ-MD members in exchange for the issuance to them of 6,000,000 shares of Class A common stock. LAZ-MD members then sold those shares to the public.

As a result of the offerings, Lazard Ltd's ownership interest in Lazard Group increased from 37.7% prior to the offerings to 47.9% subsequent thereto. Correspondingly, LAZ-MD's ownership in Lazard Group decreased from 62.3% prior to the offerings to 52.1% subsequent thereto.

Lazard Capital Markets LLC (LCM), a wholly-owned subsidiary of LFCM Holdings, was a member of the underwriting group for both the Primary and Secondary Offerings, and, in such capacity, earned revenue, net of estimated underwriting expenses, of \$4,118. The business alliance agreement provides for Lazard Group to receive a referral fee equal to approximately half of the net revenue obtained by LCM in respect of any underwriting or distribution opportunity referred to it by Lazard Group. In that connection, as of December 31, 2006 Lazard Group's condensed consolidated statement of financial condition included a receivable from LFCM Holdings of \$2,059, with the portion of such amount relating to the Primary Offering of \$1,180 being recorded as an increase to its members' equity in the fourth quarter of 2006 and the portion of such amount relating to the Secondary Offering of \$879 being recorded in other revenue in such period. See Note 12 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding the business alliance agreement.

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During the three month period ended March 31, 2007, the Company invested a portion of the net proceeds from the Primary Offering in accounts managed by LAM that are primarily invested in equities. Securities owned - equities on the condensed consolidated statement of financial condition as of March 31, 2007 principally reflects such investments.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies below represent changes to the Company's significant accounting policies occurring during the quarter ended March 31, 2007. A complete discussion of the Company's significant accounting policies are included in the Form 10-K.

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LAZARD LTD

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes - an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109* ("FIN 48"). FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for and reporting of income tax uncertainties and requires additional disclosures related to uncertain tax positions. The Company's accounting policy provides that interest and penalties related to income taxes be included in income tax expense. See Note 11 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information relating to the adoption of FIN 48.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 157 *Fair Value Measurements* ("SFAS 157"). SFAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and enhances disclosures about fair value measurements. This Statement applies to other accounting pronouncements that require the use of fair value measurements. SFAS 157 is effective for interim and annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. We are currently assessing the impact of adopting SFAS 157 on the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of the Company.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159 *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities - Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* ("SFAS 159"). SFAS 159 permits an entity to choose to measure various financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. It provides entities with the opportunity to mitigate volatility in reported earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions. This Statement requires that a business entity report unrealized gains and losses, on items for which the fair value option has been elected, in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. SFAS 159 is effective as of the beginning of the first annual period beginning after November 15, 2007. We are currently assessing the impact of adopting SFAS 159 on the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of the Company.

4. MINORITY INTEREST

The Company records a charge to minority interest in net income relating to LAZ-MD Holdings' ownership interest in Lazard Group (which approximated 52.1% and 62.4% at March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively), with such minority interest in net income amounting to \$33,020 and \$37,228 for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The Company classifies LAZ-MD Holdings' ownership of Lazard Group's common membership interests as a reduction of the Company's stockholders' equity rather than as minority interest, since the balance of such minority interest as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 of \$118,739 and \$127,863, respectively, is negative. See Note 8 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements with respect to distributions paid to LAZ-MD Holdings.

Minority interest also includes minority interest in LAM and in various LAM-related general partnership interests that it controls but does not wholly own. As a result of consolidating these companies, the Company recognizes the portion of income not associated with the Company's ownership as minority interest.

5. *TERMINATION OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE IN ITALY*

On May 15, 2006, Lazard Group completed the termination of its strategic alliance with Banca Intesa S.p.A (Intesa), which conducted selected Italian investment banking business solely through Lazard & Co. S.r.l. (Lazard Italy), an indirect subsidiary of Lazard Group. In accordance with the provisions of the Termination Agreement, dated as of March 31, 2006, by and among Intesa, Lazard Group and Lazard Italy, the following

Table of Contents**LAZARD LTD****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(UNAUDITED)****(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)**

adjustments were made to the terms of Intesa's investment in Lazard Italy and Lazard Funding Limited LLC (Lazard Funding), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lazard Group:

The \$150,000 Subordinated Convertible Note Intesa purchased in March 2003 from Lazard Funding was amended and restated, among other things, to provide for its convertibility into a maximum of 2,631,570 shares of Class A common stock at an effective conversion price of \$57 per share. The amended \$150,000 subordinated convertible note (the Amended \$150,000 Subordinated Convertible Note) matures on September 30, 2016 and has a fixed interest rate of 3.25% per annum. One-third in principal amount will generally be convertible after July 1, 2008, an additional one-third after July 1, 2009 and the last one-third after July 1, 2010, and no principal amount will be convertible after June 30, 2011.

Intesa's 40% equity interest in Lazard Italy and a \$50,000 subordinated promissory note of Lazard Italy held by Intesa were acquired by Lazard Group in exchange for the issuance by Lazard Group to Intesa of a \$96,000 senior promissory note (the \$96,000 Senior Promissory Note) and a \$50,000 subordinated promissory note (the \$50,000 Subordinated Promissory Note), respectively, with both Notes due February 28, 2008. The \$96,000 Senior Promissory Note and the \$50,000 Subordinated Promissory Note have fixed interest rates of 4.25% and 4.6% per annum, respectively, and each Note contains customary events of default for indebtedness of its type. On May 15, 2006, Intesa sold and assigned all its rights and interests relating to both Notes to a commercial bank.

Lazard Group paid Intesa an amount equal to a 3% annualized return on Intesa's ownership interest from April 1, 2006 through the May 15, 2006 termination closing and the accrued and unpaid interest on the \$50,000 Subordinated Promissory Note as of the termination closing.

As a result of the termination of the strategic alliance with Intesa and Lazard Group's repurchase of Intesa's ownership interest, the Company realized a gain in the second quarter of 2006 of \$13,695 that, after transaction and other costs, resulted in an increase in operating income of \$5,274.

6. SENIOR AND SUBORDINATED DEBT

Senior Debt Senior debt is comprised of the following as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006:

Principal	Maturity	Annual	Outstanding As Of	
Amount	Date	Interest	March 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Rate	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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Lazard Group Senior Notes(a)	\$ 550,000	2015	7.125%	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000
Lazard Group Senior Note(b)	96,000	2008	4.25%	96,000	96,000
Lazard Group Notes issued in connection with the ESUs(a)	437,500	2008-2035(c)	6.12%	437,500	437,500
Other		2007-2008	Various	8	3,557
Total				\$ 1,083,508	\$ 1,087,057

(a) See Note 2 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

(b) See Note 5 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

(c) Maturity date can vary based on a remarketing of the Lazard Group Notes, and will mature (i) in the event of a successful remarketing, on any date no earlier than May 15, 2010 and no later than May 15, 2035, as we may elect, (ii) in the event of a failed remarketing, on May 15, 2008 and (iii) otherwise on May 15, 2035.

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As of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 there were no amounts outstanding under the Credit Facility. The Credit Facility bears interest at either a Eurodollar or Federal Funds rate, plus an applicable margin, which varies from 125 to 200 basis points, depending on Lazard Group's rating as determined by designated credit rating agencies. The Credit Facility contains affirmative and negative covenants. Such covenants include, among other things, limitations on the ability of Lazard Group to incur debt, grant liens, pay dividends, enter into mergers or to sell all or substantially all of its assets, as well as financial maintenance covenants.

Subordinated Debt Subordinated debt at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 amounted to \$200,000 and consists of amounts associated with the termination of the strategic alliance transaction in Italy (see Note 5 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements).

As of March 31, 2007, the Company is in compliance with all obligations under its various senior and subordinated borrowing arrangements.

7. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Leases Lazard has various leases and other contractual commitments arising in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, the fulfillment of such commitments in accordance with their terms will not have a material adverse effect on Lazard's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

With respect to abandoned lease facilities in the U.K., at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 the Company has recognized liabilities of \$29,177 and \$31,910, respectively, exclusive of the indemnification described below, which are included in other liabilities on the condensed consolidated statements of financial condition. Payments toward the liabilities continue through the remaining term of the leases. Such liabilities are based on the discounted future commitment, net of expected sublease income.

Under the master separation agreement and a related lease indemnity agreement, dated as of May 10, 2005, LFCM Holdings is obligated to indemnify Lazard Group for certain liabilities relating to abandoned leased space in the U.K. During the fourth quarter of 2005, Lazard Group entered into an agreement with LFCM Holdings which provided for LFCM Holdings to pay to Lazard Group \$25,000 in full satisfaction of its indemnification obligations with respect to the abandoned leased space. The net present value of the balance due at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 of \$10,065 and \$9,989, respectively, after giving effect to payments received through the respective dates, is included in receivables - related parties on the condensed consolidated statements of financial condition (see Note 12 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements). The balance is due based on a schedule of periodic payments through May 10, 2010.

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Guarantees On March 12, 2007, Lazard entered into an agreement to guarantee to a foreign tax jurisdiction the deferred payment of certain income tax obligations and potential tax penalties of certain managing directors of Lazard Group, which aggregate approximately \$25,600. These managing directors have pledged their interests in LAZ-MD Holdings (which are exchangeable into shares of Class A common stock) to collateralize such guarantee, with the value of such collateral exceeding the guarantee provided by Lazard.

Legal The Company's businesses, as well as the financial services industry generally, are subject to extensive regulation throughout the world. The Company is involved in a number of judicial, regulatory and arbitration proceedings and inquiries concerning matters arising in connection with the conduct of our businesses. The Company reviews such matters on a case by case basis and establishes its reserves in accordance

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with SFAS No. 5, *Accounting For Contingencies*. Management believes, based on currently available information, that the results of such matters, in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on its financial condition but might be material to its operating results or cash flows for any particular period, depending upon the operating results for such period.

In 2004, we received a request for information from the NASD as part of an industry investigation relating to gifts and gratuities, which was focused primarily on the Company's former Capital Markets business, which business was transferred to LFCM Holdings as a part of the separation. In addition, the Company received requests for information from the NASD, SEC and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts seeking information concerning gifts and entertainment involving an unaffiliated mutual fund company, which are also focused on that same business. In the course of an internal review of these matters, there were resignations or discipline of certain individuals associated with Lazard's former Capital Markets business. These investigations are continuing and the Company cannot predict their potential outcomes. Accordingly, the Company has not recorded an accrual for losses related to any such judicial, regulatory or arbitration proceedings.

Lazard Ltd and Goldman Sachs & Co., the lead underwriter of Lazard Ltd's equity public offering of its common stock, as well as several members of Lazard Ltd's management and board of directors, were named as defendants in several putative class action and stockholder derivative lawsuits filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the Supreme Court of the State of New York. Those lawsuits alleged, respectively, various violations of the federal securities laws and breaches by Lazard Ltd directors of their fiduciary duties, all in connection with matters related to the equity public offering. On February 7, 2007, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York issued a Decision and Order dismissing plaintiffs' claims in the putative class action and allowing plaintiffs twenty days to file an amended complaint replacing any of the dismissed claims. Plaintiffs allowed this twenty-day period to pass without filing an amended complaint. Subsequent to the dismissal of the putative class action in the U.S. District Court, plaintiffs in the putative class action in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, as well as plaintiffs in the putative derivative actions in both the U.S. District Court and the Supreme Court of the State of New York, voluntarily dismissed their actions. Accordingly, all of the lawsuits against Lazard Ltd and members of its management and board of directors concerning the public offering of Lazard Ltd's common stock have been dismissed.

8. STOCKHOLDERS DEFICIENCY

At March 31, 2007 and 2006, Lazard Group common membership interests held by subsidiaries of Lazard Ltd amounted to 47.9% and 37.6%, respectively, and by LAZ-MD Holdings amounted to 52.1% and 62.4%, respectively. Pursuant to provisions of its Operating Agreement, Lazard Group distributions in respect of its common membership interests are allocated to the holders of such interests on a pro rata basis. Such distributions represent amounts necessary to fund (i) any dividends the Company may declare on its Class A common stock and (ii) tax distributions in respect of income taxes that Lazard Ltd's subsidiaries and the members of LAZ-MD Holdings incur as a result of holding Lazard Group common membership interests. During the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, Lazard Group distributed \$5,049 and \$5,591, respectively, to LAZ-MD Holdings and \$4,629 and \$3,375, respectively, to the subsidiaries of Lazard Ltd, which latter amounts were used by Lazard Ltd to pay dividends to third party stockholders of its Class A common stock. In addition, during the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, Lazard Group made tax distributions of \$45,488 and \$12,239, respectively, including \$27,047 and \$7,632, respectively, paid to LAZ-MD Holdings and \$18,441 and \$4,607, respectively, paid to subsidiaries of Lazard Ltd.

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On May 8, 2007, the Board of Directors of Lazard Ltd declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.09 per share on its Class A common stock, totaling \$4,640, payable on May 31, 2007 to stockholders of record on May 18, 2007.

A description of Lazard Ltd's 2005 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Equity Incentive Plan"), and activity with respect thereto during the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, is presented below.

Shares Available Under the Equity Incentive Plan

The Equity Incentive Plan authorizes the issuance of up to 25,000,000 shares of Class A common stock pursuant to the grant or exercise of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, stock units and other equity-based awards. Each stock unit granted under the Equity Incentive Plan represents a contingent right to receive one share of Class A common stock, at no cost to the recipient. The fair value of such stock unit awards is determined based on the closing market price of Lazard Ltd's Class A common stock at the date of grant.

Restricted Stock Unit Grants (RSUs)

RSUs require future service as a condition for the delivery of the underlying shares of Class A common stock and convert into Class A common stock on a one-for-one basis after the stipulated vesting periods. The fair value of the RSUs, net of an estimated forfeiture rate, is amortized over the vesting periods or requisite service periods as required under SFAS 123, *Accounting for Share Based Compensation*, or SFAS 123R, *Share Based Payments*, and, for purposes of calculating diluted net income per share, are included in the diluted weighted average shares of Class A common stock outstanding using the treasury stock method. Expense relating to RSUs is charged to compensation and benefits within the condensed consolidated statements of income, and amounted to \$23,934 and \$4,177 for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. RSUs issued subsequent to December 31, 2005 generally include a dividend participation right that provides that during vesting periods each RSU is attributed additional RSUs (or fractions thereof) equivalent to any ordinary quarterly dividends paid on Class A common stock during such period. During the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, such dividend participation rights required the issuance of 13,118 and 6,341 RSUs, respectively, and resulted in a charge to retained earnings and a credit to additional paid-in-capital, net of estimated forfeitures, of \$667 and \$244, respectively.

Deferred Stock Unit Grants (DSUs)

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Non-executive members of the Board of Directors receive approximately 50% of their annual compensation for service on the Board of Directors and its committees in the form of DSUs, which are convertible into Class A common stock at the time of cessation of service to the Board. Their remaining compensation is paid in cash. The DSUs include a cash dividend participation right equivalent to any ordinary quarterly dividends paid on Class A common stock. DSU awards are expensed at their fair value on their date of grant, which totaled \$29 and \$64 during the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

On May 9, 2006, the Board of Directors adopted the Directors' Fee Deferral Unit Plan, which allows the Company's Non-Executive Directors to elect to receive additional DSUs pursuant to the Equity Incentive Plan in lieu of some or all of their cash fees. The number of DSUs that shall be granted to a Non-Executive Director pursuant to this election shall equal the value of cash fees that the applicable Non-Executive Director has elected to forego pursuant to such election, divided by the market value of a share of Class A common stock on the date on which the foregone cash fees would otherwise have been paid. For the three month period ended March 31, 2007, 552 DSUs were granted pursuant to the Directors' Fee Deferral Unit Plan.

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The following is a summary of activity relating to RSUs and DSUs during the three month periods ended March 31, 2006 and 2007:

	RSUs		DSUs	
	Units	Fair Value	Units	Fair Value
Balance, January 1, 2006	1,033,733	\$ 23.87	9,968	\$ 25.33
Granted (including 6,341 RSU units relating to dividend participation)	2,717,382	\$ 34.76	1,625	\$ 39.10
Forfeited	(36,943)	\$ 33.56		
Converted			(3,059)	\$ 25.33
Balance, March 31, 2006	3,714,172	\$ 31.74	8,534	\$ 27.95

	RSUs		DSUs	
	Units	Fair Value	Units	Fair Value
Balance, January 1, 2007	4,009,382	\$ 32.13	19,690	\$35.71
Granted (including 13,118 RSUs relating to dividend participation)	4,973,269	\$ 49.69	552	\$53.23
Forfeited	(38,156)	\$ 42.25		
Balance, March 31, 2007	8,944,495	\$ 42.07	20,242	\$36.19

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As of March 31, 2007, unrecognized RSU compensation expense, adjusted for estimated forfeitures, was approximately \$265,343, with such unrecognized compensation expense expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 3.0 years. The ultimate amount of such expense is dependent upon the actual number of RSUs that will vest. The Company periodically assesses the forfeiture rates used for such estimates. A change in estimated forfeiture rates would cause the aggregate amount of compensation expense recognized in future periods to differ from the estimated unrecognized compensation expense described herein.

Share Repurchase Program

On February 7, 2006, the Board of Directors of Lazard Ltd authorized the repurchase of up to \$100,000 in aggregate cost of its Class A common stock. The Company's intention is that the share repurchase program will be used primarily to offset shares to be issued under the Equity Incentive Plan. Purchases may be made in the open market or through privately negotiated transactions in 2006 and 2007. During the three month period ended June 30, 2006, Lazard Group purchased 115,000 shares of Class A common stock in the open market at an average price of \$36.34 per share, which are reported, at cost, as Class A common stock held in treasury on the condensed consolidated statements of financial condition as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006.

Preference Shares

Lazard Ltd currently has 15,000,000 authorized preference shares, par value of \$0.01 per share. As of March 31, 2007, no preference shares have been issued.

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9. NET INCOME PER SHARE OF CLASS A COMMON STOCK

The Company's basic and diluted net income per share calculations for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 are computed as described below.

Basic Net Income Per Share

Numerator utilizes net income for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006.

Denominator utilizes the weighted average shares of Class A common stock for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, which amounts to 51,439,068 and 37,502,889 shares, respectively.

Diluted Net Income Per Share

Numerator utilizes net income for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 as in the basic net income per share calculation described above, plus, to the extent applicable and dilutive, (i) interest expense on convertible debt, (ii) changes in minority interest in net income resulting from assumed share issuances in connection with DSUs, RSUs, ESUs and convertible debt and (iii) on an as-if-exchanged basis, amounts applicable to LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests, and (iv) income tax related to (i) (ii) and (iii) herein.

Denominator utilizes the weighted average number of shares of Class A common stock for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 as in the basic net income per share calculation described above, plus, to the extent dilutive, the incremental number of shares of Class A common stock to settle (i) DSU and RSU awards, as calculated using the treasury stock method, (ii) convertible debt, as calculated using the if converted method, (iii) ESUs, using the treasury stock method and (iv) LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests, on an as-if-exchanged basis.

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The calculations of the Company's basic and diluted net income per share and weighted average shares outstanding for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 are presented below:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
Basic Net Income Per Share of Class A Common Stock		
Numerator:		
Net income	\$26,354	\$19,686
Denominator:		
Weighted average number of shares of Class A common stock outstanding	51,439,068	37,502,889
Basic net income per share of Class A common stock	\$0.51	\$0.52
Diluted Net Income Per Share of Class A Common Stock		
Numerator:		
Net income	\$26,354	\$19,686
Add (deduct) dilutive effect of:		
Adjustments to income relating to interest expense on convertible debt and changes in minority interest in net income resulting from assumed share issuances in connection with DSUs, RSUs, ESUs, convertible debt and LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests, net of tax	29,556	1,125
Diluted net income	\$55,910	\$20,811
Denominator:		
Weighted average number of shares of Class A common stock, as above	51,439,068	37,502,889
Add dilutive effect of:		
Weighted average number of incremental shares issuable from DSUs, RSUs, ESUs, convertible debt and LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests	66,777,265	3,539,655
Diluted weighted average number of shares of Class A common stock outstanding	118,216,333	41,042,544
Diluted net income per share of Class A common stock	\$0.47	\$0.51

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During the three month period ended March 31, 2006, the LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests (which, as of March 31, 2006, represented the right to receive 62,118,749 shares of Class A common stock upon exchange) were antidilutive and consequently the effect of their conversion into shares of Class A common stock has been excluded from the calculation of diluted net income per share.

Prior to the issuance of the Class A common stock upon settlement of the purchase contracts, the ESUs are reflected in the Company's diluted net income per share using the treasury stock method. Under the treasury stock method, as defined by SFAS No. 128, *Earning Per Share*, the number of shares of common stock included in the calculation of diluted net income per share is the excess, if any, of the number of shares expected to be issued upon settlement of the purchase contracts, less the number of shares that could be purchased by the Company with the proceeds to be received upon settlement at the average closing market price during the reporting period. The number of shares of common stock Lazard Ltd will issue upon settlement of the forward

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purchase contract component of the ESUs is not fixed, but instead is dependent on the closing price per share of its Class A common stock for each of the 20 trading days beginning on April 15, 2008. Because the settlement terms of the purchase contracts vary, the number of shares to be issued depends on whether the closing price of the stock for the last 20 trading days in the reporting period is less than or equal to \$25 per share, greater than \$25 per share and less than \$30 per share or greater than or equal to \$30 per share. Dilution of net income per share will occur (i) in reporting periods when the average closing price of Class A common stock is over \$30 per share and (ii) in reporting periods when the average closing price of Class A common stock for a reporting period is greater than \$25 and is greater than the average market price for the last 20 days of such reporting period. During the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, the ESUs were dilutive.

10. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

The Company, through its subsidiaries, provides retirement and other post-employment benefits to certain of its employees through defined contribution and defined benefit pension plans and other post-retirement benefit plans. The Company has the right to amend or terminate its benefit plans at any time subject to the terms of such plans. Expenses (benefits) related to the Company's employee benefit plans are included in compensation and benefits expense on the condensed consolidated statements of income. The Company uses December 31 as the measurement date for its employee benefit plans.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Post-Retirement Plans, an amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106 and 132(R)* (SFAS 158), which the Company adopted as of December 31, 2006. In accordance with SFAS 158, at December 31, 2006 the Company recognized, in its condensed consolidated statements of financial condition, the funded status of its defined benefit pension and other post-retirement benefit plans, measured as the difference between the fair value of the plan assets and the corresponding benefit obligations. Additionally, pursuant to SFAS 158, the Company is required to recognize changes in the funded status of its defined benefit pension plans and other post-retirement benefit plans in accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax.

Termination of LCH's Post-Retirement Medical Plan In April 2004, LCH announced a plan to terminate its post-retirement medical plan. As a result of such action, benefits available to eligible active employees and retirees ceased on February 28, 2007. In accordance with SFAS No. 106, *Employers' Accounting for Post-Retirement Benefits Other Than Pensions*, the Company recognized the effect of such termination as a reduction of employee compensation and benefits expense over the period ending February 2007. For the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, compensation and benefits expense on the condensed consolidated statements of income was reduced by \$1,587 and \$2,134, respectively, related to the effect of such termination.

Employer Contributions to Pension Plans The Company contributed approximately \$16,000 (8.2 million British pounds) in the three month period ended March 31, 2007 in full satisfaction of its obligation to fund LCH's pension plans for the year ended December 31, 2007. No other contributions to defined benefit plans were made by the Company during the three month period ended March 31, 2007.

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The following table summarizes the components of benefit costs for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006:

	Pension Plans		Pension Plan Supplement		Post-Retirement Medical Plans	
	For The Three Months Ended		For The Three Months Ended		For The Three Months Ended	
	March 31,		March 31,		March 31,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Components of net periodic benefit costs:						
Service cost		\$ 1,518			\$ 44	\$ 50
Interest cost	\$ 6,708	5,924	\$ 15	\$ 16	111	111
Expected return on plan assets	(8,229)	(6,966)				
Amortization of:						
Prior service cost					(346)	(346)
Net actuarial loss	97	430			147	75
Net periodic benefit cost (credit)	(1,424)	906	15	16	(44)	(110)
Curtailments					(1,587)	(2,134)
Total benefit cost (credit)	\$ (1,424)	\$ 906	\$ 15	\$ 16	\$ (1,631)	(2,244)

Amendments to LCH Pension Plans Effective March 31, 2006, the LCH pension plans were amended to cease future accruals. As a result of such amendment, future service and compensation increases will not count for purposes of future benefit accruals under the plans. Vested benefits for active participants as of March 31, 2006 will be retained.

Defined Contribution Plans LFNY and LCH also contribute to employer sponsored defined contribution plans. Contributions to these plans amounted to \$3,326 and \$2,465 for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, which are included in compensation and benefits expense on the condensed consolidated statements of income.

11. INCOME TAXES

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The Company's provision for income taxes for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 was \$17,061 and \$15,940, respectively, representing effective tax rates on operating income of 21.8% and 20.4%, respectively. Such effective tax rates are blended rates comprised of (i) an estimated 28.0% effective rate in each period applicable to Lazard Ltd's ownership interest in Lazard Group's operating income (less its applicable share of LAM general partnership related revenues) and (ii) Lazard Group's estimated effective tax rates for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 of 16.7% and 17.0%, respectively, applicable to the ownership interest in Lazard Group not held by Lazard Ltd.

With respect to Lazard Ltd's ownership interest in Lazard Group, the difference between the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% and the estimated effective tax rate of 28.0% for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, principally relates to foreign source income not subject to U.S. income taxes and the amortization associated with the tax basis step-up resulting from the separation and recapitalization, partially offset by U.S. state and local taxes, which are incremental to the U.S. federal statutory tax rate.

With respect to the ownership interests in Lazard Group not held by Lazard Ltd, the difference between the U.S. federal statutory tax rate of 35% and Lazard Group's estimated effective tax rates of 16.7% and 17.0% for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, is principally due to Lazard Group's U.S.

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limited liability company status, which is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, Lazard Group's income is not subject to U.S. federal income taxes because taxes associated with its income represent obligations of the individual partners. Outside the U.S., Lazard Group operates principally through subsidiary corporations that are subject to local income taxes. Additionally, Lazard Group is subject to Unincorporated Business Tax (UBT) attributable to Lazard Group's operations apportioned to New York City, which are incremental to the U.S. federal statutory tax rate.

The cumulative effect of the Company's adoption of FIN 48 was a decrease of \$13,221 to the January 1, 2007 retained earnings balance. As of the adoption date, the Company had gross unrecognized tax benefits of \$37,520, including \$5,132 related to interest and penalties, of which \$27,352, if recognized, would favorably affect the effective tax rate. The Company recognizes interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to income tax examination by foreign tax authorities for years prior to 2002 and by U.S. federal, state and local tax authorities for years prior to 2003.

Tax Receivable Agreement

The redemption of historical partner interests in connection with the separation and recapitalization has resulted, and the exchanges of LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests for shares of Class A common stock may result, in increases in the tax basis of the tangible and/or intangible assets of Lazard Group. The tax receivable agreement dated as of May 10, 2005 with LFCM Holdings requires the Company to pay LFCM Holdings 85% of the cash savings, if any, in U.S. federal, state and local income tax or franchise tax that the Company actually realizes as a result of the above-mentioned increases in tax basis. The Company calculates this provision annually once the results of operations for the full year are known. As a result, there is no provision for such payments in the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006. If any provision is required pursuant to the tax receivable agreement, such amount would be fully offset by a reduction in the Company's income tax expense.

12. RELATED PARTIES

Amounts receivable from, and payable to, related parties as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 are set forth below:

	March 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Receivables		
LFCM Holdings	\$ 17,142	\$ 18,493
LAZ-MD Holdings	17	50

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Total	\$ 17,159	\$ 18,543
Payables		
LFCM Holdings	\$ 9,540	\$ 9,794

LFCM Holdings

LFCM Holdings owns and operates the separated businesses and is owned by the working members, including Lazard's managing directors (which also include our executive officers) who are also members of LAZ-MD Holdings. In addition to the master separation agreement which effected the separation and

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(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

recapitalization discussed in Note 2 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, LFCM Holdings entered into an insurance matters agreement and a license agreement that addressed various business matters associated with the separation, as well as several other agreements discussed below.

Under the employee benefits agreement, dated as of May 10, 2005, by and among Lazard Ltd, Lazard Group, LAZ-MD Holdings and LFCM Holdings, LFCM Holdings generally assumed, as of the completion of the separation and recapitalization transactions, all outstanding and future liabilities in respect of the current and former employees of the separated businesses. The Company retained all accrued liabilities under, and assets of, the pension plans in the U.S. and the U.K. as well as the 401(k) plan accounts of the inactive employees of LFCM Holdings and its subsidiaries.

Pursuant to the administrative services agreement dated as of May 10, 2005, by and among LAZ-MD Holdings, LFCM Holdings and Lazard Group (the administrative services agreement), Lazard Group provides selected administrative and support services to LAZ-MD Holdings and LFCM Holdings, such as cash management and debt service administration, accounting and financing activities, tax, payroll, human resources administration, financial transaction support, information technology, public communications, data processing, procurement, real estate management, and other general administrative functions. Lazard Group charges for these services based on Lazard Group's cost allocation methodology.

The services provided by Lazard Group to LFCM Holdings and by LFCM Holdings to Lazard Group under the administrative services agreement generally will be provided until December 31, 2008. LFCM Holdings and Lazard Group have a right to terminate the services earlier if there is a change of control of either party or the business alliance provided in the business alliance agreement expires or is terminated. The party receiving a service may also terminate a service earlier upon 180 days' notice as long as the receiving party pays the service provider an additional three months of service fee for terminated service.

The business alliance agreement provides among other matters, that Lazard Group will refer to LFCM Holdings selected opportunities for underwriting and distribution of securities. In addition Lazard Group will provide assistance in the execution of any such referred business. In exchange for the referral obligation and assistance, Lazard Group will receive a referral fee from LFCM Holdings equal to approximately half of the revenue obtained by LFCM Holdings in respect of any underwriting or distribution opportunity. In addition, LFCM Holdings will refer opportunities in the Financial Advisory and Asset Management businesses to Lazard Group. In exchange for this referral, LFCM Holdings will be entitled to a customary finders' fee from Lazard Group. The business alliance agreement further provides that, during the term of the business alliance, LFCM Holdings and Lazard Asset Management Securities, LLC, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of LFCM Holdings, will introduce execution and settlement transactions to newly-formed broker-dealer entities affiliated with LFCM Holdings. The term of the business alliance will expire on the fifth anniversary of the equity public offering, subject to periodic automatic renewal, unless either party elects to terminate in connection with any such renewal or elects to terminate on account of a change of control of either party.

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Amounts recorded by Lazard Group in its condensed consolidated statements of income relating to administrative and support services and referral fees for underwriting transactions amounted to \$939 and \$4,380, respectively, for the three month period ended March 31, 2007, and \$1,015 and \$551, respectively, for the three month period ended March 31, 2006. Such amounts are reported as reductions to operating expenses and as other revenue, respectively.

Receivables from LFCM Holdings and its subsidiaries as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 include \$10,065 and \$9,989, respectively, related to the lease indemnity agreement. The remaining receivables of \$7,077 and

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LAZARD LTD

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

\$8,504 at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively, relate primarily to administrative and support services and reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of LFCM Holdings (\$1,395 and \$3,061 as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively) and referral fees for underwriting transactions (\$4,459 and \$4,091 as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, respectively). Payables to LFCM Holdings and its subsidiaries at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 principally relates to obligations pursuant to the tax receivable agreement described in Note 11 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

LAZ-MD Holdings

LAZ-MD Holdings held approximately 52.1% of the common membership interest in Lazard Group as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 and Lazard Ltd held the remaining 47.9% of the common membership interest at such dates. Additionally, LAZ-MD Holdings is the sole owner of the one issued and outstanding share of Class B common stock (the Class B common stock) of Lazard Ltd at both dates. As of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, the Class B common stock provides LAZ-MD Holdings with approximately 52.1% of the voting power but no economic rights in Lazard Ltd. Subject to certain limitations, LAZ-MD Holdings exchangeable interests are exchangeable for Class A common stock. However, the Class B common stock will represent no less than 50.1% of the voting power until December 31, 2007.

Lazard Group provides selected administrative and support services to LAZ-MD Holdings through the administrative services agreement as discussed above, with such services generally to be provided until December 31, 2014 unless terminated earlier because of a change in control of either party. Lazard Group charges LAZ-MD Holdings for these services based on Lazard Group's cost allocation methodology and, for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, such charges amounted to \$50 in each period.

13. REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

LFNY is a U.S. registered broker-dealer and is subject to the net capital requirements of Rule 15c3-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Under the basic method permitted by this rule, the minimum required net capital, as defined, is a specified fixed percentage of total aggregate indebtedness recorded on LFNY's statement of financial condition, or \$5, whichever is greater. At March 31, 2007, LFNY's regulatory net capital was \$63,863 which exceeded the minimum requirement by \$58,566.

Certain U.K. subsidiaries of the Company, including LCL, Lazard Fund Managers Limited and Lazard Asset Management Limited (the U.K. Subsidiaries) are regulated by the Financial Services Authority (the FSA). At March 31, 2007, the aggregate regulatory net capital of the U.K. Subsidiaries was \$186,066, which exceeded the minimum requirement by \$136,304.

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The Financial Advisory activities of Lazard Frères SAS (LF) and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including LFB, are authorized by the Comité des Établissements de Crédit et des Entreprises d Investissement and are regulated by the Comité de la Réglementation Bancaire et Financière. Supervision is exercised by the Commission Bancaire, which is responsible, in liaison with the Banque de France, for ensuring compliance with the regulations. In this context LF has the status of a bank holding company (Compagnie Financière) and LFB is a registered bank (Etablissement de Crédit). In addition, the investment services activities of the Paris group, exercised through LFB and other subsidiaries, primarily LFG (asset management) and Fonds Partenaires Gestion (private equity, merchant banking), are subject to regulation and supervision by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers. At March 31, 2007, the consolidated regulatory net capital of LF was \$178,446, which exceeded the minimum requirement set for regulatory capital levels by \$80,991.

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LAZARD LTD

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(UNAUDITED)

(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)

Certain other U.S. and non-U.S. subsidiaries are subject to various other capital adequacy requirements promulgated by various regulatory and exchange authorities in the countries in which they operate. At March 31, 2007, for those subsidiaries with regulatory capital requirements, their aggregate net capital was \$48,819, which exceeded the minimum required capital by \$34,394.

At March 31, 2007, each of these subsidiaries individually was in compliance with its regulatory capital requirements.

14. SEGMENT OPERATING RESULTS

The Company's reportable segments offer different products and services and are managed separately as different levels and types of expertise are required to effectively manage the segments' transactions. Each segment is reviewed to determine the allocation of resources and to assess its performance. The Company has two segments: Financial Advisory which includes providing advice on mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, capital raising and similar transactions, and Asset Management which includes the management of equity and fixed income securities and merchant banking funds. In addition, the Company records selected other activities in Corporate, including management of cash, certain investments and the commercial banking activities of LFB. The Company also allocates outstanding indebtedness to Corporate.

The Company's segment information for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 is prepared using the following methodology:

Revenue and expenses directly associated with each segment are included in determining operating income.

Expenses not directly associated with specific segments are allocated based on the most relevant measures applicable, including headcount, square footage and other factors.

Segment assets are based on those directly associated with each segment, and include an allocation of certain assets relating to various segments, based on the most relevant measures applicable, including headcount, square footage and other factors.

The Company allocates investment gains and losses, interest income and interest expense among the various segments based on the segment in which the underlying asset or liability is reported.

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Each segment's operating expenses include (i) compensation and benefits expenses, including amounts for certain senior advisors that are incurred directly in support of the businesses and (ii) other operating expenses, which include directly incurred expenses for premises and occupancy, professional fees, travel and entertainment, communications and information services, equipment and indirect support costs (including compensation and other operating expenses related thereto) for administrative services. Such administrative services include, but are not limited to, accounting, tax, legal, facilities management and senior management activities.

Table of Contents**LAZARD LTD****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****(UNAUDITED)****(dollars in thousands, except for per share data, unless otherwise noted)**

Management evaluates segment results based on net revenue and operating income and believes that the following information provides a reasonable representation of each segment's contribution to operations with respect to net revenue, operating income and total assets:

		Three Months Ended March 31,	
		2007	2006
Financial Advisory	Net Revenue	\$ 222,585	\$ 222,131
	Operating Expenses	172,998	164,270
	Operating Income	\$ 49,587	\$ 57,861
Asset Management	Net Revenue	\$ 148,528	\$ 124,402
	Operating Expenses	111,012	92,430
	Operating Income	\$ 37,516	\$ 31,972
Corporate	Net Revenue	\$ (1,915)	\$ (10,275)
	Operating Expenses	6,920	1,442
	Operating Loss	\$ (8,835)	\$ (11,717)
Total	Net Revenue	\$ 369,198	\$ 336,258
	Operating Expenses	290,930	258,142
	Operating Income	\$ 78,268	\$ 78,116

		As of	
		March 31,	December 31,
		2007	2006
Total Assets:			
Financial Advisory		\$ 364,916	\$ 452,627
Asset Management		374,324	418,538

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Corporate	<u>1,875,550</u>	<u>2,337,500</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,614,790</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,665</u>

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with Lazard Ltd's condensed consolidated financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q.

Forward-Looking Statements and Certain Factors that May Affect Our Business

Management has included in Parts I and II of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (the "Form 10-Q"), including in its Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (the "MD&A"), statements that are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as may, might, will, should, expect, plan, anticipate, believe, estimate, potential or continue, and the negative of these terms and other comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements, which are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us, may include projections of our future financial performance based on our growth strategies and anticipated trends in our business. These statements are only predictions based on our current expectations and projections about future events. There are important factors that could cause our actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, those discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 (the "Form 10-K") under the caption "Risk Factors," including the following:

a decline in general economic conditions or the global financial markets,

losses caused by financial or other problems experienced by third parties,

losses due to unidentified or unanticipated risks,

a lack of liquidity, *i.e.*, ready access to funds, for use in our businesses, and

competitive pressure.

The Company operates in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for our management to predict all risks and uncertainties, nor can management assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

Although we believe the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, level of activity, performance or achievements. Moreover, neither we nor any other person assumes responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any of these forward-looking statements. You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. We are under no duty to update any of these forward-looking statements after the date of this Form 10-Q to conform our prior statements to actual results or revised expectations and we do not intend to do so.

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Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about the:

business possible or assumed future results of operations and operating cash flows,

business strategies and investment policies,

business financing plans and the availability of short-term borrowing,

business competitive position,

potential growth opportunities available to our businesses,

recruitment and retention of managing directors and employees,

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target levels of compensation expense,

business potential operating performance, achievements, productivity improvements, efficiency and cost reduction efforts,

likelihood of success and impact of litigation,

expected tax rate,

changes in interest and tax rates,

expectation with respect to the economy, securities markets, the market for mergers and acquisitions activity, the market for asset management activity and other industry trends,

effects on our businesses resulting from the separation and recapitalization transactions, including the equity public offering and the financing transactions,

effects of competition on our business, and

impact of future legislation and regulation on our business.

Lazard Ltd is committed to providing timely and accurate information to the investing public, consistent with our legal and regulatory obligations. To that end, the Company uses its websites to convey information about its businesses, including the anticipated release of quarterly financial results, quarterly financial, statistical and business-related information and the posting of updates of assets under management (AUM) in various mutual funds, hedge funds and other investment products managed by Lazard Asset Management LLC and its subsidiaries. Monthly updates of these funds are posted to the Lazard Asset Management website (*www.lazardnet.com*) on the 3rd business day following the end of each month. Investors can link to Lazard and its operating company websites through *www.lazard.com*. Our websites and the information contained therein or connected thereto shall not be deemed to be incorporated into this quarterly report.

Business Summary

The Company's principal sources of revenue are derived from activities in the following business segments:

Financial Advisory, which includes providing advice on mergers and acquisitions (M&A), restructurings, capital raising and other transactions, and

Asset Management which includes the management of equity and fixed income securities and merchant banking funds.

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In addition, the Company records selected other activities in Corporate, including management of cash, certain investments, and the commercial banking activities of Lazard Group's Paris-based Lazard Frères Banque SA (LFB). LFB is a registered bank regulated by the Banque de France. LFB's primary commercial banking operations include the management of the treasury positions of the Company's Paris House through its money market desk and, to a lesser extent, credit activities relating to securing loans granted to clients of Lazard Frères Gestion SAS (LFG) and custodial oversight over assets of various clients. In addition, LFB also operates many support functions of the Paris House. The Company also allocates outstanding indebtedness to Corporate.

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For the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 the Company's consolidated net revenue was derived from the following business segments:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
Financial Advisory	60%	66%
Asset Management	40	37
Corporate	-	(3)
Total	100%	100%

Business Environment

Economic and market conditions, particularly global M&A activity, can significantly affect our financial performance. Lazard operates in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for Lazard's management to predict all risks and uncertainties, nor can Lazard assess the impact of all factors on its business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. See the section entitled "Risk Factors" in the Form 10-K. Net income and revenue in any period may not be indicative of full-year results or the results of any other period and may vary significantly from year to year and quarter to quarter.

Financial Advisory

Activity in the global M&A industry for the three month period ended March 31, 2007 versus the corresponding period last year increased modestly for global and trans-atlantic completed transactions and increased more significantly for announced M&A transactions, as evidenced by the following industry statistics regarding the volume of transactions:

	Three Months Ended March 31,		
	2007	2006	Incr / (Decr)
	(\$ in billions)		
Completed M&A Transactions:			%
Global	\$ 744	\$ 709	5%
Trans-Atlantic	54	53	2%
Announced M&A Transactions:			
Global	1,052	865	22%
Trans-Atlantic	105	80	31%

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Source: Thomson Financial as of April 16, 2007

Lazard believes that its Financial Advisory business should continue to benefit from any sustained increase in M&A volume.

Activity in financial restructuring in the first quarter of 2007 continued at decade-low levels, with the amount of corporate debt defaults, according to Moody's Investors Service, Inc, at \$1 billion versus \$2 billion in the corresponding 2006 period.

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As shown in the table below, global market indices at March 31, 2007 in general increased moderately as compared to such indices at December 31, 2006, and increased more significantly as compared to March 31, 2006.

	Percentage Change March 31, 2007 vs.	
	December 31, 2006	March 1, 2006
MSCI World Index	2%	13%
CAC 40	2	8
DAX	5	16
FTSE 100	2	6
Dow Jones Industrial Average	(1)	11
NASDAQ	0	4
S&P 500	0	10

Lazard's market-related changes in its AUM during the three month and twelve month periods ended March 31, 2007 generally correspond to the changes in global market indices.

Key Financial Measures and Indicators**Net Revenue**

The majority of Lazard's Financial Advisory net revenue is earned from the successful completion of mergers, acquisitions, restructurings, capital raising and similar transactions. The main driver of Financial Advisory net revenue is overall M&A, the level of corporate debt defaults and the environment for capital raising activities, particularly in the industries and geographic markets in which Lazard focuses. In some client engagements, often those involving financially distressed companies, revenue is earned in the form of retainers and similar fees that are contractually agreed upon with each client for each assignment and are not necessarily linked to the completion of a transaction. In addition, Lazard also earns fees from providing strategic advice to clients, with such fees not being dependent on a specific transaction. Lazard's Financial Advisory segment also earns revenue from public and private securities offerings in conjunction with activities of its former Capital Markets and Other segment. In general, such fees are shared equally with Lazard Capital Markets, a wholly-owned subsidiary of LFCM Holdings, LLC (LFCM Holdings). Subsequent to the equity public offering, Lazard has an arrangement with LFCM Holdings under which it will continue to distribute securities in public offerings originated by Lazard's Financial Advisory business in a manner similar to its practice prior to the equity public offering.

Lazard's Asset Management segment includes Lazard Asset Management LLC and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as LAM), LFG and merchant banking operations. Asset Management net revenue is derived from fees for investment management and advisory services provided to institutional and private clients. The main driver of Asset Management net revenue is the level of AUM, which is influenced in large part by Lazard's investment performance and by Lazard's ability to successfully attract and retain assets, as well as the broader performance of the global equity markets and, to a lesser extent, fixed income markets. As a result, fluctuations in financial markets and client asset inflows and outflows have a direct effect on Asset Management net revenue and operating income. In addition, as Lazard's AUM include significant assets that are

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denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars, changes in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to non-U.S. currencies will impact the value of Lazard's AUM. Fees vary with the type of assets managed, with higher fees earned on equity assets, alternative investments (such as hedge funds) and merchant banking products, and lower fees earned on fixed income and cash management products. Lazard also earns performance-based incentive fees on some investment products, such as hedge funds, merchant banking funds and other investment products. Incentive fees on hedge funds are typically calculated based on a specified percentage of a fund's net appreciation during a fiscal period and can be subject to loss carry-forward provisions in which losses incurred in the current period are applied against future period net appreciation. Incentive fees on merchant banking funds also may be earned in

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the form of a carried interest if profits from merchant banking investments exceed a specified threshold. Incentive fees earned for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004 of \$59 million, \$45 million and \$27 million, respectively, demonstrate the volatility that incentive fees may have on total net revenue.

Corporate net revenue consists primarily of investment income generated from investments, including investments in LAM managed equity funds and principal investments in merchant banking and alternative investment funds, net interest income generated by LFB, interest income related to cash and interest expense related to outstanding indebtedness. Corporate net revenue can fluctuate due to fair value adjustments, changes in interest rates and in interest rate spreads earned by LFB and changes in the levels of cash, investments and indebtedness. Although Corporate net revenue during the three month period ended March 31, 2007 represented less than (1)% of Lazard's net revenue, total assets in Corporate represented 72% of Lazard's consolidated total assets as of March 31, 2007, principally attributable to assets associated with LFB and, to a lesser extent, investments in LAM managed funds and cash.

Lazard expects to experience significant fluctuations in net revenue and operating income during the course of any given year. These fluctuations arise because a significant portion of Financial Advisory net revenue is earned upon the successful completion of a transaction, financial restructuring or capital raising activity, the timing of which is uncertain and is not subject to Lazard's control. Asset Management net revenue is also subject to periodic fluctuations. Asset Management fees are generally based on AUM measured as of the end of a quarter or month, and an increase or reduction in AUM at such dates, due to market price fluctuations, currency fluctuations, net client asset flows or otherwise, will result in a corresponding increase or decrease in management fees. In addition, incentive fees earned on AUM are generally not recorded until potential uncertainties regarding the ultimate realizable amounts have been determined. For most of our funds that determination is made at year-end, and therefore such incentive fees are recorded in the fourth quarter of Lazard's fiscal year.

Operating Expenses

The majority of Lazard's operating expenses relate to compensation and benefits for employees and managing directors. The balance of Lazard's operating expenses is referred to below as non-compensation expense, which includes costs for premises and occupancy, professional fees, travel and entertainment, communications and information services, equipment, depreciation and amortization and other expenses.

Provision for Income Taxes

Lazard Group operates in the U.S. as a limited liability company that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, it is not subject to U.S. federal income taxes. Taxes related to income earned by partnership represent obligations of the individual partners. Outside the U.S., Lazard Group operates principally through corporations and is subject to local income taxes. Income taxes shown on Lazard's condensed consolidated statements of income are attributable to taxes incurred by non-U.S. entities and by New York City Unincorporated Business Tax (UBT) attributable to Lazard's operations apportioned to New York City. The Company's provision for income taxes also includes a U.S. income tax provision attributable to Lazard Ltd's ownership interest in Lazard Group's operating income.

Minority Interest In Net Income

Minority interest in net income principally consists of a charge relating to LAZ-MD Holdings' ownership interest in Lazard Group, which approximated 52.1% and 62.4% at March 31, 2007 and March 31, 2006, respectively, with such expense amounting to \$33 million and \$37

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million for the three month periods then ended. Also included in minority interest in net income are minority interests in various LAM-related general partnerships held directly by certain of our LAM managing directors.

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See Note 4 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding minority interest.

Consolidated Results of Operations

Lazard's consolidated financial statements are presented in U.S. dollars. Many of our non-U.S. subsidiaries have a functional currency (*i.e.*, the currency in which operational activities are primarily conducted) that is other than the U.S. dollar, generally the currency of the country in which the subsidiaries are domiciled. Such subsidiaries' assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars using exchange rates as of the respective balance sheet date while revenue and expenses are translated at average exchange rates during the respective periods based on the daily closing exchange rates. Adjustments that result from translating amounts from a subsidiary's functional currency are reported as a component of members' or stockholders' equity. Foreign currency remeasurement gains and losses on transactions in non-functional currencies are included in the consolidated statements of income.

A discussion of the Company's consolidated results of operations for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 is set forth below, followed by a more detailed discussion of business segment results.

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
	(\$ in thousands)	
Revenue		
Investment banking and other advisory fees	\$ 215,083	\$ 219,583
Money management fees	135,826	110,569
Interest income	22,341	8,010
Other	27,193	22,095
Total revenue	400,443	360,257
Interest expense	31,245	23,999
Net revenue	369,198	336,258
Operating Expenses		
Compensation and benefits	220,038	200,139
Non-compensation expense	70,892	58,003
Total operating expenses	290,930	258,142
Operating Income	78,268	78,116
Provision for income taxes	17,061	15,940
Income Before Minority Interest in Net Income	61,207	62,176
Minority interest in net income	34,853	42,490

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<i>Net Income</i>	\$ 26,354	\$ 19,686
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The Company calculates operating revenue for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
	(\$ in thousands)	
Total revenue	\$ 400,443	\$ 360,257
Deduct:		
LFB Interest expense	(10,415)	(3,875)
Revenue related to consolidation of LAM general partnerships	(1,831)	(5,259)
Operating revenue	\$ 388,197	\$ 351,123

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Certain key ratios, statistics and headcount information for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 are set forth below:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
As a % of Net Revenue, By Revenue Category:		
Investment banking and other advisory fees	58%	65%
Money management fees	37	33
Interest income	6	2
Other	7	7
Interest expense	(8)	(7)
Net Revenue	100%	100%
As a % of Net Revenue:		
Operating Income	21%	23%
As of March 31,		
	2007	2006
Headcount:		
Managing Directors:		
Financial Advisory	142	128
Asset Management	50	43
Corporate	8	8
Limited Managing Directors	4	5
Other Employees:		
Business segment professionals	788	753
All other professionals and support staff	1,189	1,228
Total	2,181	2,165

Three Months Ended March 31, 2007 versus March 31, 2006

Revenue and Operating Expenses

Net revenue was \$369 million for the three month period ended March 31, 2007, up \$33 million, or 10%, versus net revenue of \$336 million in the corresponding period in 2006. During the 2007 period, fees from investment banking and other advisory activities were \$215 million, a decrease of \$5 million, or 2%, versus fees of \$220 million in the corresponding period in 2006. Although industry-wide there was a slight increase in global completed M&A transactions, the timing of closings on transactions on which we advised, including non-public and restructuring transactions, will cause our period-to-period results to vary. Money management fees were \$136 million, an increase of \$25 million, or 23%, versus \$111 million in the corresponding period in 2006. The increase in money management fees was principally the result of

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a \$26 billion, or 28%, increase in average AUM for the three month period ended March 31, 2007 as compared to the corresponding period in 2006. Interest income of \$22 million increased \$14 million, or 179%, principally due to commercial banking activities in LFB and higher average cash balances in the 2007 period, which includes the net proceeds of the primary offering of Class A common stock in December, 2006. Other revenue of \$27 million increased by \$5 million, or 23%, versus the corresponding period in 2006 principally due to increased dividends and net investment gains. Other revenue also includes approximately \$2 million recorded from LAM general partnerships held directly by certain of our LAM managing directors versus \$5 million in the corresponding period in 2006, with these amounts also included as minority interest in net income. Interest expense of \$31 million increased by \$7 million primarily from higher average customer deposits in LFB.

The Company's quarterly revenue and profits can fluctuate materially depending on the number, size and timing of completed transactions on which it advised, as well as seasonality and other factors. Accordingly, the

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revenue and profits in any particular quarter may not be indicative of future results. Lazard management believes that annual results are the most meaningful basis for comparison among present, historical and future periods.

Compensation and benefits expense was \$220 million for the three month period ended March 31, 2007, an increase of \$20 million, or 10%, versus expense of \$200 million for the corresponding period in 2006, consistent with the increase in operating revenue. The increase was primarily due to increased incentive compensation, including amortization of restricted stock units and, to a lesser extent, additional compensation associated with headcount increases in managing directors and business segment professionals.

Non-compensation expense was \$71 million for the three month period ended March 31, 2007, or 18% of operating revenue of \$388 million in the period, compared with \$58 million, or 17% of operating revenue of \$351 million for the corresponding period in 2006. The change in non-compensation expenses primarily reflects \$4 million of cost recoveries which served to reduce expenses in the first quarter of 2006, as well as current period increases in (i) professional fees related to increased business activity, including fund administration and services associated with the increase in AUM, (ii) investments in our businesses, such as increased recruitment costs, travel and other business development costs, and (iii) overall non-compensation expenses related to the strengthening of the Euro, Pound and other currencies against the U.S. Dollar.

The percentage of non-compensation expenses to operating revenue can vary from quarter to quarter due to quarterly fluctuation in revenue, among other things. Accordingly, the results in a particular quarter may not be indicative of future results. Lazard management believes that annual results are the most meaningful basis for comparison among present, historical and future periods.

Operating income, was \$78 million for the three month period ended March 31, 2007, flat versus the corresponding period in 2006. Operating income as a percentage of net revenue was 21% for three month period ended March 31, 2007 versus 23% for the 2006 period.

Income Taxes

For the three month period ended March 31, 2007, the provision for income taxes was \$17 million, an increase of approximately \$1 million, versus \$16 million for the corresponding period in 2006. The increase in 2007 was principally due to additional entity level income taxes incurred by Lazard Ltd resulting from the increase in Lazard Ltd's ownership interest in Lazard Group's operating income to approximately 47.9% for the three month period ended March 31, 2007 from 37.6% for the corresponding period in 2006, with such increase being the result of the primary and secondary offerings of Lazard Ltd's Class A common stock in December, 2006.

Minority Interest In Net Income

For the three month period ended March 31, 2007, minority interest was \$35 million, a decrease of approximately \$8 million, versus approximately \$43 million in the corresponding period in 2006. The decrease was principally due to the minority interest in net income related to LAZ-MD Holdings' ownership interest of Lazard Group, which declined to approximately 52.1% for the three month period ended March 31, 2007, from 62.4% for the corresponding period in 2006, as a result of the primary and secondary offerings of Lazard Ltd's Class A common stock in December, 2006.

Business Segments

The following data discusses net revenue and operating income for the Company's operations by business segment. The operating results exclude a discussion of Corporate, due to its relatively minor contribution to operating results. Each segment's operating expenses include (i) compensation and benefits expenses that are incurred directly in support of the businesses and (ii) other operating expenses, which include directly incurred expenses for premises and occupancy, professional fees, travel and entertainment, communications and information services, equipment, and indirect support costs (including compensation and benefits expense and other operating expenses related thereto) for administrative services. Such administrative services include, but are not limited to, accounting, tax, legal, facilities management and senior management activities. Such support costs are allocated to the relevant segments based on various statistical drivers such as, among other items, headcount, square footage and transactional volume.

Table of Contents**Financial Advisory**

The following table summarizes the operating results of the Financial Advisory segment.

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
	(\$ in thousands)	
M&A	\$ 196,068	\$193,983
Financial Restructuring	9,620	13,593
Corporate Finance and Other	16,897	14,555
Net Revenue	222,585	222,131
Direct Compensation and Benefits	119,958	119,165
Other Operating Expenses(a)	53,040	45,105
Total Operating Expenses	172,998	164,270
Operating Income	\$ 49,587	\$57,861
Operating Income as a Percentage of Net Revenue	22%	26%
	As of March 31,	
	2007	2006
Headcount (b):		
Managing Directors	142	128
Limited Managing Directors	2	2
Other Employees:		
Business segment professionals	492	464
All other professionals and support staff	245	250
Total	881	844

(a) Includes indirect support costs (including compensation and benefits expense and other operating expenses related thereto).

(b) Excludes headcount related to indirect support functions. Such headcount is included in the Corporate headcount.

Net revenue trends in Financial Advisory for M&A and Financial Restructuring generally are correlated to the volume of completed industry-wide mergers and acquisitions activity and restructurings occurring subsequent to corporate debt defaults, respectively. However, deviations from this relationship can occur in any given year for a number of reasons. For instance, material variances in the level of mergers and acquisitions activity in a particular geography where Lazard has significant market share or the number of its advisory engagements with respect to larger-sized transactions can cause its results to diverge from industry-wide activity. Certain Lazard client statistics and global industry statistics are set forth below:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
Lazard Statistics:		
Number of Clients:		
Total	194	171
With Fees Greater than \$1 million	48	51
Percentage of Total Financial Advisory Revenue from Top 10 Clients	42%	42%
Number of M&A Transactions Completed Greater than \$1 billion (a)	11	14

(a) Source: Thomson Financial as of April 16, 2007

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The geographical distribution of Financial Advisory net revenue is set forth below in percentage terms. The offices that generate Financial Advisory net revenue are located in North America, Europe (principally in the U.K., France, Italy, Spain and Germany) and the rest of the world (principally in Asia).

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
North America	43%	59%
Europe	54	40
Rest of World	3	1
Total	100%	100%

The change in the distribution of geographical revenues demonstrates that our revenue can fluctuate materially from quarter to quarter due to the number, size and timing of closings of completed transactions, as well as seasonality and other factors. As such, the geographical distribution of revenues in any particular quarter may not be indicative of future results.

The Company's managing directors and many of its professionals have significant experience, and many of them are able to use this experience to advise on both mergers and acquisitions and financial restructuring transactions, depending on clients' needs. This flexibility allows Lazard to better match its professional staff with the counter-cyclical business cycles of mergers and acquisitions and financial restructurings. While Lazard measures revenue by practice area, Lazard does not separately measure the separate costs or profitability of mergers and acquisitions services as compared to financial restructuring services. Accordingly, Lazard measures performance in its Financial Advisory segment based on overall segment net revenue and operating income margins.

Financial Advisory Results of Operations***Three Months Ended March 31, 2007 versus March 31, 2006***

In the 2007 period, Financial Advisory net revenue was \$223 million, flat as compared to the corresponding period in 2006. M&A net revenue of \$196 million increased \$2 million, or 1%, versus the 2006 period. Corporate Finance and Other net revenue of \$17 million increased by approximately \$2 million, or 16%, versus net revenue of \$15 million in the corresponding period in 2006. Financial Restructuring net revenue declined by \$4 million, or 29%, versus the 2006 period.

The increase in M&A revenue in the 2007 period was generally consistent with the slight increase experienced in global completed M&A transactions. Clients which, in the aggregate, accounted for a significant portion of our M&A revenue for the three month period ended March 31, 2007 included Eurazeo, Dollar General Stores, Groupe Alpha, Hypnion, Max Bahr, Metaldyne, Millicom International Cellular, Schneider Electric, Suelos Industriales La Hita and TransCanada.

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Financial Restructuring revenue in the 2007 period decreased as compared to the corresponding period in 2006, principally due to the continued low level of debt defaults experienced in the current period. We have recently been retained to advise New Century Financial Corporation in connection with its Chapter 11 filing, a highly visible assignment for the company that is a leader in sub-prime lending. Restructuring assignments generating fees in the 2007 period include Nortel Networks, New Century Financial, Northwest Airlines, SunCom Wireless and Calpine Corp.

Operating expenses were \$173 million in the 2007 period, an increase of approximately \$9 million, or 5%, versus operating expenses of \$164 million in the corresponding period in 2006. Compensation and benefits expense remained flat, as compared to the 2006 period, consistent with levels of operating revenue. All other operating expenses increased by \$8 million, or 18%, primarily due to higher business development-related activities. In addition, the 2006 period included approximately \$1 million of cost recoveries which served to reduce expenses in that period.

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Financial Advisory operating income was \$50 million for the 2007 period, a decrease of \$8 million, or 14%, versus operating income of \$58 million in the corresponding period in 2006. Operating income as a percentage of segment net revenue was 22% for the 2007 period versus 26% in the 2006 period.

Asset Management

The following table shows the composition of AUM for the Asset Management segment:

	As of	
	March 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
	(\$ in millions)	
AUM:		
International Equities	\$ 53,802	\$ 52,033
Global Equities	30,476	26,453
U.S. Equities	21,205	13,708
Total Equities	105,483	92,194
European and International Fixed Income	9,023	8,418
Global Fixed Income	1,249	1,095
U.S. Fixed Income	2,315	2,310
Total Fixed Income	12,587	11,823
Alternative Investments	3,292	3,457
Merchant Banking	936	883
Cash Management	2,554	2,080
Total AUM	\$ 124,852	\$ 110,437

Average AUM for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006 is set forth below. Average AUM is based on an average of quarterly ending balances for the respective periods.

Three Months Ended March 31,	
2007	2006

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	(\$ in millions)	
Average AUM	\$ 117,645	\$ 91,684

The following is a summary of changes in AUM for the three month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006.

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
	(\$ in millions)	
AUM Beginning of Period	\$ 110,437	\$ 88,234
Net Flows	11,564	863
Market Appreciation	2,708	5,757
Foreign Currency Adjustments	143	279
AUM End of Period	\$ 124,852	\$ 95,133

AUM as of March 31, 2007 was \$124.9 billion, an increase of \$14.4 billion as compared to AUM as of December 31, 2006. Merchant banking AUM as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 includes approximately \$0.6 billion at both dates of assets held by an investment company for which Lazard may earn

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carried interests. During the three month period ended March 31, 2007, net inflows of \$11.6 billion were accompanied by market appreciation of \$2.7 billion and the positive impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates of approximately \$0.1 billion. Net inflows were experienced primarily in U.S. and Global Equity products, principally the result of being named as sub-advisor to the Vanguard Windsor II fund in January 2007. During the three month period in 2007, average AUM was \$117.6 billion, an increase of approximately \$26 billion, or 28%, versus average AUM of \$91.7 billion in the corresponding period in 2006.

The following table summarizes the operating results of the Asset Management segment.

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
	(\$ in thousands)	
Management Fees	\$ 130,639	\$ 103,805
Incentive Fees	5,006	6,483
Other Income	11,052	8,855
Sub-total	146,697	119,143
LAM GP-Related Revenue	1,831	5,259
Net Revenue	148,528	124,402
Direct Compensation and Benefits	66,224	53,810
Other Operating Expenses(a)	44,788	38,620
Total Operating Expenses	111,012	92,430
Operating Income	37,516	31,972
Less LAM GP-Related Revenue	(1,831)	(5,259)
Operating Income, excluding LAM GP-Related Revenue (b)	\$ 35,685	\$ 26,713
Operating Income as a Percentage of Net Revenue	25%	26%
Operating Income, as a Percentage of Net Revenue, each excluding LAM GP-Related Revenue (b)	24%	22%
	As of March 31,	
	2007	2006
Headcount(c):		
Managing Directors	50	43
Limited Managing Directors	1	2
Other Employees:		
Business segment professionals	288	278
All other professionals and support staff functions	346	323

Total	685	646
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- (a) Includes indirect support costs (including compensation and benefits expense and other operating expenses related thereto).
- (b) Management also evaluates the results of Asset Management based on revenue and operating income excluding the LAM GP-related revenue since such revenue is offset entirely by minority interest expense which is not a charge to operating income.
- (c) Excludes headcount related to indirect support functions. Such headcount is included in the Corporate headcount.

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The geographical distribution of Asset Management net revenue is set forth below in percentage terms:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
North America	52%	60%
Europe	40	34
Rest of World	8	6
Total	100%	100%

Asset Management Results of Operations*Three Months Ended March 31, 2007 versus March 31, 2006*

Asset Management net revenue was \$149 million for the three month period in 2007, an increase of \$24 million, or 19%, versus the corresponding period in 2006. Management fees for the 2007 period were \$131 million, up \$27 million, or 26%, generally corresponding with the increase in average AUM for the 2007 period. Incentive fees earned for the 2007 period were \$5 million, slightly lower than the \$6 million recorded for the 2006 period. Other income was \$11 million, an increase of \$2 million versus the corresponding period in 2006. In addition, during the three month period ended March 31, 2007, revenue of \$2 million was recorded from LAM general partnerships held directly by certain of our LAM managing directors, with these amounts also included as minority interest in net income, versus \$5 million for the corresponding period in 2006.

Operating expenses were \$111 million for the 2007 period, an increase of approximately \$19 million, or 20%, versus operating expenses of \$92 million for the 2006 period. Compensation and benefits expense increased by \$12 million, or 23%, as compared to the 2006 period. The increase was principally due to increases in incentive compensation as a result of the increase in operating revenues, as well as additional compensation as a result of headcount increases of managing directors, business segment professionals and other staff. Other operating expenses increased by \$6 million, or 16%, versus for the corresponding period in 2006, principally due to higher professional fees for recruiting, fund administration and servicing associated with increased AUM and outsourced services.

Asset Management operating income was approximately \$38 million in the 2007 period, an increase of approximately \$6 million as compared to operating income of \$32 million for the 2006 period. Operating income as a percentage of segment net revenue was 25% for the 2007 period versus 26% for the 2006 period. Excluding LAM GP-related revenue, operating income was approximately \$36 million, or 24% of net revenue, excluding LAM GP-related revenue, as compared to approximately \$27 million, or 22% for the 2006 period.

Cash Flows

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The Company's cash flows are influenced primarily by the timing of the receipt of Financial Advisory and Asset Management fees, the timing of distributions to shareholders and payment of incentive compensation bonuses to managing directors and employees. The M&A and Asset Management fee receivable collection periods generally are 60 days or less. However, the collection time for restructuring transactions may extend beyond 60 days, particularly those that involve bankruptcies due to issues such as court-ordered holdbacks. In addition, fee receivables from our private fund advisory activities are generally collected over a four year period.

Lazard Group traditionally makes payments for employee incentive compensation and distributions to members primarily in the first four months of the year with respect to the prior year's results.

Table of Contents**Summary of Cash Flows:**

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2007	2006
(\$ in millions)		
Cash Provided By (Used In):		
Operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 26.4	\$ 19.7
Noncash charges (a)	63.1	50.8
Other operating activities (b)	(329.2)	(121.1)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net cash used in operating activities	(239.7)	(50.6)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Investing activities (c)	(3.2)	(1.4)
Financing activities (d)	(42.9)	(38.3)
Effect of exchange rate changes	(1.5)	2.2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(287.3)	(88.1)
Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
Beginning of Period	969.5	492.3
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
End of Period	\$ 682.2	\$ 404.2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(a) Consists of the following:		
Depreciation and amortization of property	\$ 3.6	\$ 3.4
Amortization of deferred expenses, stock units and interest rate hedge	24.6	4.9
Minority interest in net income	34.9	42.5
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	\$ 63.1	\$ 50.8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

(b) Includes net changes in operating assets and liabilities.

(c) Relates to the net additions and disposals of property.

(d) Primarily includes distributions to minority interest holders, repayments of senior borrowings and Class A common stock dividends.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

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Historically, the Company's source of liquidity has been cash provided by operations, with a traditional seasonal pattern of cash flow. While employee salaries are paid throughout the year, annual incentive compensation has historically been paid to employees in the early months following year-end. The Company's managing directors are paid a salary during the year, but a majority of their annual cash distributions with respect to the prior year have historically been paid to them in three monthly installments in February, March and April following year-end. In addition, and to a lesser extent, during the year we pay certain tax advances on behalf of our managing directors, and these advances serve to reduce the amounts due to the managing directors in the three installments described above. As a consequence, our level of cash on hand generally decreases significantly during the first four months of the year and gradually builds up over the remainder of the year. We expect this seasonal pattern of cash flow to continue.

We regularly monitor our liquidity position, including cash levels, credit lines, principal investment commitments, interest and principal payments on debt, capital expenditures and matters relating to liquidity and to compliance with regulatory net capital requirements. We maintain lines of credit in excess of anticipated liquidity requirements. As of March 31, 2007, Lazard had approximately \$238 million in unused lines of credit available to it, including \$55 million of unused lines of credit available to LFB.

Lazard's annual cash flow generated from operations historically has been sufficient to enable it to meet its annual obligations. We believe that our cash flows from operating activities, including use of our credit lines as

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needed, should be sufficient for us to fund our current obligations for the next 12 months and beyond. As noted above, we intend to maintain lines of credit that can be utilized should the need arise. Concurrent with the equity public offering, Lazard Group entered into a five year, \$125 million senior revolving credit facility with a group of lenders, with such revolving credit facility being amended on May 17, 2006 to provide for aggregate commitments of \$150 million. As of March 31, 2007 there were no amounts outstanding under this credit facility. The senior revolving credit facility contains customary affirmative and negative covenants and events of default for facilities of this type. In addition, the senior revolving credit facility, among other things, limits the ability of the borrower to incur debt, grant liens, pay dividends, enter into mergers or to sell all or substantially all of its assets and contains financial covenants that must be maintained. We may, to the extent required and subject to restrictions contained in our financing arrangements, use other financing sources in addition to any new credit facilities.

As of March 31, 2007, Lazard was in compliance with all of its obligations under its various borrowing arrangements.

We actively monitor our regulatory capital base. Our principal subsidiaries are subject to regulatory requirements in their respective jurisdictions to ensure their general financial soundness and liquidity, which require, among other things, that we comply with certain minimum capital requirements, record-keeping, reporting procedures, relationships with customers, experience and training requirements for employees and certain other requirements and procedures. These regulatory requirements may restrict the flow of funds to affiliates. Regulatory approval is generally required for paying dividends in excess of certain established levels. See Note 13 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information. These regulations differ in the U.S., the U.K., France, and other countries in which we operate. Our capital structure is designed to provide each of our subsidiaries with capital and liquidity consistent with its business and regulatory requirements. For a discussion of regulations relating to us, see Item 1-Business Regulation included in the Form 10-K.

Net revenue and operating income historically have fluctuated significantly between quarters. This variability arises from the fact that transaction completion fees comprise the majority of our net revenue, with the billing and recognition of such fees being dependent upon the successful completion of client transactions, the occurrence and timing of which is irregular and not subject to Lazard's control. In addition, incentive fees earned on AUM and compensation related thereto are generally not recorded until the end of the applicable measurement period, which is generally the fourth quarter of Lazard's fiscal year, when potential uncertainties regarding the ultimate realizable amounts have been determined.

Table of Contents**Contractual Obligations**

The following table sets forth information relating to Lazard's contractual obligations as of March 31, 2007:

	Contractual Obligations Payment Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 Years
	(\$ in thousands)				
Operating Leases (exclusive of \$71,868 of sublease income)	\$ 475,159	\$ 61,182	\$ 101,371	\$ 82,806	\$ 229,800
Capital Leases (including interest)	35,592	2,844	5,651	5,630	21,467
Senior Debt (including interest)(a)	1,438,231	167,897	519,498	78,375	672,461
Subordinated Loans (including interest) (b)	248,409	56,971	9,750	9,750	171,938
Merchant Banking Commitments LAI managed funds (c)	93,634	35,110	58,524		
Merchant Banking Commitments company sponsored funds	3,662	3,008		617	37
Contractual Commitments to Managing Directors, Senior Advisors and Employees (d)	64,607	47,824	12,737	1,493	2,553
Total (e)	\$ 2,359,294	\$ 374,836	\$ 707,531	\$ 178,671	\$ 1,098,256

- (a) Includes \$437.5 million relating to Lazard Group Notes issued in connection with the issuance of the ESUs, for which the maturity date of the debt component can vary based on a remarketing of the Lazard Group Notes, and will mature (1) in the event of a successful remarketing, on any date no earlier than May 15, 2010 and no later than May 15, 2035, as we may elect, (2) in the event of a failed remarketing, on May 15, 2008 and (3) otherwise on May 15, 2035. While the Company currently expects a successful remarketing of the Lazard Group Notes, for purposes of the table above, a maturity in 2008, the earliest possible date, was assumed to be the maturity date of the Lazard Group Notes. See Notes 2 and 6 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (b) The Amended \$150 million Subordinated Convertible Note matures on September 30, 2016, has a fixed interest rate of 3.25% per annum and is convertible into shares of Class A common stock at an effective conversion price of \$57 per share. One-third in principal amount will generally be convertible after July 1, 2008, an additional one-third after July 1, 2009 and the last one-third after July 1, 2010, and no principal amount will be convertible after June 30, 2011. For purposes of the table above, the Amended \$150 million Subordinated Convertible Note was considered to remain outstanding until its maturity date, with no assumed conversions into Class A common stock prior thereto. See Note 5 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (c) Pursuant to the business alliance agreement, Lazard Group has commitments to fund certain investment funds managed by Lazard Alternative Investments Holdings LLC (LAI). Amounts in the table above relate to (1) obligations related to Corporate Partners II Limited, a private equity fund formed in February 2005, with \$1 billion of institutional capital commitments and a \$100 million capital commitment from Lazard Group, the principal portion of which may require funding at any time through 2010. As of March 31, 2007, Lazard Group contributed approximately \$14.2 million of its capital commitment, with Lazard's remaining commitment of approximately \$85.8 million as of March 31, 2007 estimated to be funded in the amounts of \$29.9 million, \$30 million, and \$25.9 million in the twelve month periods ending March 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively; (2) obligations related to Lazard Senior Housing Partners LP, a private equity fund which closed during 2006, with \$201 million of capital commitments from institutional investors, including \$10 million from Lazard Group, the principal portion of which will require funding at any time through 2008. As of March 31, 2007, Lazard Group contributed approximately \$2.2 million of its capital commitment, with Lazard's remaining commitment of approximately \$7.8 million as of March 31,

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2007 estimated to be funded in the amounts of \$5.2 million and \$2.6 million in the twelve month periods ending March 31, 2008 and 2009, respectively.

- (d) The Company has agreements relating to future minimum payments to certain managing directors, senior advisors and employees incurred for the purpose of recruiting and retaining these senior professionals.
- (e) The table above does not include:
 - (1) any contingent obligations relating to the LAM equity rights;
 - (2) any potential payment related to the IXIS cooperation arrangement. The level of this contingent payment to IXIS would depend, among other things, on the level of revenue generated by the cooperation activities, and the potential payment is limited, as of March 31, 2007, to a maximum of approximately 7 million (subject to further reduction in certain circumstances) which would only occur if the cooperation activities generate no revenue over the course of the remaining initial period of such activities, the cooperation agreement is not renewed and Lazard Ltd's Class A common stock price fails to sustain certain price levels;
 - (3) the contingent limited partner capital commitment as described in Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Form 10-K;
 - (4) the lending commitments and indemnifications provided by LFB to third parties as described in Note 12 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Form 10-K; and
 - (5) the 2008 pension fund obligation of approximately \$16.1 million as described in Note 15 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Form 10-K.

In addition the table above does not include any recognition of the May, 2008 settlement of the purchase contracts component of the ESUs which require the holders to purchase an aggregate of \$437.5 million of the Company's Class A common stock for cash or exchange of outstanding debt, depending on the success of the remarketing of such debt see (a) above. This obligation is collateralized by the entire \$437.5 million principal amount of Lazard Group Notes outstanding. See Note 2 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. Also, the table above does not include any possible payments for uncertain tax positions. See Note 11 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Management's discussion and analysis of our consolidated financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP. The preparation of Lazard's consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an ongoing basis, Lazard evaluates its estimates, including those related to revenue recognition, compensation liabilities, income taxes, investing activities and goodwill. Lazard bases these estimates on historical experience and various other assumptions that it believes to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Lazard believes that the critical accounting policies set forth below comprise the most significant estimates and judgments used in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

Lazard generates substantially all of its net revenue from providing financial advisory and asset management services to clients. Lazard recognizes revenue when the following criteria are met:

there is persuasive evidence of an arrangement with a client,

the agreed-upon services have been provided,

fees are fixed or determinable, and

collection is probable.

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Lazard's clients generally enter into agreements with Lazard that vary in duration depending on the nature of the service provided. Lazard typically bills clients for the full amounts due under the applicable agreements on or after the dates on which the specified service has been provided. Generally, payments are collected within 60 days of billing (or over longer periods of time with respect to billings related to restructurings and our private fund advisory activities). The Company also earns performance-based incentive fees on some investment products, such as hedge funds and merchant banking funds. Incentive fees on hedge funds generally are recorded at the end of the year, when potential uncertainties regarding the ultimate realizable amounts have been determined, and typically are calculated based on a specified percentage of a fund's net appreciation during the year. Incentive fees on hedge funds generally are subject to loss carry-forward provisions in which losses incurred by the funds in any year are applied against future period net appreciation before any incentive fees can be earned.

Lazard assesses whether collection is probable based on a number of factors, including past transaction history with the client and an assessment of the client's current creditworthiness. If, in Lazard's judgment, collection of a fee is not probable, Lazard will not recognize revenue until the uncertainty is removed. In rare cases, an allowance for doubtful accounts may be established, for example, if a fee is in dispute or litigation has commenced.

Income Taxes

As part of the process of preparing its consolidated financial statements, Lazard is required to estimate its income taxes in each of the jurisdictions in which it operates. This process requires Lazard to estimate its actual current tax liability and to assess temporary differences resulting from differing book versus tax treatment of items, such as deferred revenue, compensation and benefits expense, unrealized gains on long-term investments and depreciation. These temporary differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are included within Lazard's consolidated statements of financial condition. In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will be realized and, when necessary, valuation allowances are established. Significant management judgment is required in determining Lazard's provision for income taxes, its deferred tax assets and liabilities and any valuation allowance recorded against its net deferred tax assets. The ultimate realization of the deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which temporary differences become deductible. Management considers the level of historical taxable income, scheduled reversals of deferred taxes, projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies that can be implemented by the Company in making this assessment. If actual results differ from these estimates or Lazard adjusts these estimates in future periods, Lazard may need to adjust its valuation allowance, which could materially impact Lazard's consolidated financial position and results of operations.

In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") issued Interpretation No. 48 *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes - an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109* ("FIN 48"), which became effective beginning in 2007 and clarifies the more likely than not criteria included in FASB Statement No. 109 *Accounting for Income Taxes*, that must be met prior to recognition of the financial statement benefit of a tax position taken in a tax return. FIN 48 also requires the recognition of a liability for differences between tax positions taken in a tax return and amounts recognized in the financial statements. Management applies the more likely than not criteria included in FIN 48 when estimating its income taxes in each of the jurisdictions in which it operates. See Note 11 of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements herein regarding the adoption of FIN 48.

In addition, in order to determine its quarterly tax rate, Lazard is required to estimate full year pre-tax income and the related annual income tax expense in each jurisdiction. Tax exposures can involve complex issues and may require an extended period of time to resolve. Changes in the geographic mix or estimated level of annual pre-tax income can affect Lazard's overall effective tax rate. Significant management judgment is required in determining Lazard's provision for income taxes, its deferred tax assets and liabilities and any valuation allowance recorded against its net deferred tax assets. Furthermore, Lazard's interpretation of complex tax laws may impact its measurement of current and deferred income taxes.

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Valuation of Investments

Long-term investments consist principally of investments in merchant banking and alternative investment funds, and other privately managed investments. These investments as well as those included in securities owned, are carried at fair value on the consolidated statements of financial condition, with unrealized gains and losses reflected net on the consolidated statements of income. Gains and losses on positions held in long-term investments and securities owned, which arise from sales or changes in the fair value of the investments, are not predictable and can cause periodic fluctuations in net income.

Where applicable, the fair value of a publicly traded investment is determined by quoted market prices. Most of the Company's investments included in long-term investments, however, are not publicly traded and, as a result, are valued based upon management's best estimate. The fair value of such investments is based upon an analysis of the investee's financial results, condition, cash flows and prospects. The carrying value of such investments is adjusted when changes in the underlying fair values are readily ascertainable, generally as evidenced by third party transactions or transactions that directly affect the value of such investments. Adjustments also are made, in the absence of third-party transactions, if Lazard determines that the expected realizable value of the investment differs from its carrying value. In reaching that determination, Lazard considers many factors, including, but not limited to, the operating cash flows and financial performance of the investee, expected exit timing and strategy, and any specific rights or terms associated with the investment, such as conversion features and liquidation preferences. The Company's investments in partnership interests, including general partnership and limited partnership interests in real estate funds, are recorded at fair value based on changes in the fair value of the partnerships' underlying net assets.

Because of the inherent uncertainty in the valuation of investments that are not readily marketable, estimated values may differ significantly from the values that would have been reported had a ready market for such investments existed. Lazard seeks to maintain the necessary resources, with the appropriate experience and training, to ensure that control and independent price verification functions are adequately performed.

Goodwill

In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if circumstances indicate impairment may have occurred. In this process, Lazard makes estimates and assumptions in order to determine the fair value of its assets and liabilities and to project future earnings using valuation techniques, including a discounted cash flow model. Lazard uses its best judgment and information available to it at the time to perform this review. Because Lazard's assumptions and estimates are used in projecting future earnings as part of the valuation, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Consolidation of VIEs

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Lazard Group and all other entities in which we are the primary beneficiary or control. Lazard determines whether it has a controlling financial interest in an entity by first evaluating whether the entity is a voting interest entity or a variable interest entity (VIE) under U.S. GAAP.

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Voting Interest Entities. Voting interest entities are entities in which (i) the total equity investment at risk is sufficient to enable the entity to finance itself independently and (ii) the equity holders have the obligation to absorb losses, the right to receive residual returns and the right to make decisions about the entity's activities. Voting interest entities are consolidated in accordance with Accounting Research Bulletin (ARB) No. 51, *Consolidated Financial Statements*, as amended by SFAS No. 94, *Consolidated Financial Statements*. ARB No. 51 states that the usual

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condition for a controlling financial interest in an entity is ownership of a majority voting interest. SFAS No. 94 amends ARB No. 51 to require consolidation of all majority-owned subsidiaries unless control is temporary or does not rest with the majority owner. SFAS No. 94 also requires consolidation of a majority-owned subsidiary even if it has non-homogeneous operations, a large minority interest, or a foreign location. Accordingly, Lazard consolidates voting interest entities in which it has the majority of the voting interest in accordance with ARB No. 51 and SFAS No. 94.

Variable Interest Entities. VIEs are entities that lack one or more of the characteristics of a voting interest entity. A controlling financial interest in a VIE is present when an enterprise has a variable interest, or a combination of variable interests, that will absorb a majority of the VIE's expected losses, receive a majority of the VIE's expected residual returns, or both. The enterprise with a controlling financial interest, known as the primary beneficiary, consolidates the VIE.

Lazard determines whether it is the primary beneficiary of a VIE by first performing a qualitative analysis of the VIE that includes, among other factors, its capital structure, contractual terms, and related party relationships. Where qualitative analysis is not conclusive, Lazard performs a quantitative analysis. For purposes of allocating a VIE's expected losses and expected residual returns to the VIE's variable interest holders, Lazard calculates its share of the VIE's expected losses and expected residual returns using a cash flows model that allocates those expected losses and residual returns to it, based on contractual arrangements and/or Lazard's position in the capital structure of the VIE under various scenarios. Lazard would reconsider its assessment of whether it is the primary beneficiary if there are changes to any of the variables used in determining the primary beneficiary. Those variables may include changes to financial arrangements, contractual terms, capital structure and related party relationships.

In accordance with FASB Interpretation No. 46R the assets, liabilities and results of operations of the VIE are included in the consolidated financial statements of Lazard if it is determined that we are the primary beneficiary. Any third party interest in these consolidated entities is reflected as minority interest in our consolidated financial statements.

Risk Management

We encounter risk as part of the normal course of our business and we design risk management processes to help manage such risks considering both the nature of our business and our operating model. The Company is subject to varying degrees of credit, market, operational and liquidity risks (see [Liquidity and Capital Resources](#)) and monitors these risks on a consolidated basis. Management within each of Lazard's operating locations are principally responsible for managing the risks within its respective businesses on a day-to-day basis.

Market and Credit Risks

Lazard, in general, is not a capital-intensive organization and is not subject to significant credit or market risks. Nevertheless, Lazard has established procedures to assess both the credit and market risk, as well as specific interest rate, currency and credit limits related to various positions.

With respect to LFB's operations, LFB engages in commercial banking activities that primarily include investing in securities, deposit taking and lending. In addition, LFB may take open foreign exchange positions with a view to profit, but does not sell foreign exchange options in this context, and enters into forward foreign exchange contracts, interest rate swaps, and other derivative contracts to hedge exposures to interest rate and currency fluctuations.

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At March 31, 2007, approximately 81% of the \$609 million of securities owned, at fair value, were in LFB's portfolio, substantially all of which were fixed-income securities, 87% of which were rated investment grade credit quality. Most of the remaining 19% of securities owned represent the Company's investment in accounts managed by LAM. These funds primarily invest in marketable equity securities and are therefore subject to market risk which is monitored daily by management. At December 31, 2006, approximately 95% of the \$579

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million of securities owned, at fair value, were in LFB's portfolio, substantially all of which were fixed-income securities, 88% of which were rated investment grade credit quality. The remaining 5% of securities owned represent the Company's investment in accounts managed by LAM.

At March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, derivative contracts related to LFB's operations were recorded at fair value. Derivative assets amounted to \$8 million and \$7 million, respectively, with derivative liabilities amounting to \$4 million and approximately \$2 million, respectively.

The primary market risks associated with LFB's securities portfolio, foreign exchange, hedging and lending activities is sensitivity to changes in the general level of credit spreads and, with respect to foreign currency risk, specific exchange rate spreads. The risk management strategies that we employ use various risk sensitivity metrics to measure such risks and to examine behavior under significant adverse market conditions.

LFB's interest rate risk as measured by a 1% +/- change in interest rates totaled \$600 thousand as of March 31, 2007 and \$65 thousand as of December 31, 2006.

Foreign currency risk associated with LFB's open positions, in aggregate, as measured by a 2% +/- change against the U.S. dollar, totaled approximately \$20 thousand as of March 31, 2007 and \$80 thousand as of December 31, 2006.

LFB fully collateralizes its collateralized financing transactions with fixed income securities.

Risks Related to Receivables

We maintain an allowance for bad debts to provide coverage for probable losses from our fee and customer receivables. We determine the adequacy of the allowance by estimating the probability of loss based on management's analysis of the client's creditworthiness and specifically reserve against exposures where, in our judgment, the receivables are impaired. At March 31, 2007 total receivables amounted to \$839 million, net of an allowance for bad debts of \$13 million. As of that date, inter-bank lending, financial advisory and asset management fee, customer and related party receivables comprised 51%, 37%, 10% and 2% of total receivables, respectively. At December 31, 2006 total receivables amounted to \$1,235 million, net of allowance for bad debts of \$11 million. As of that date, inter-bank lending, financial advisory and asset management fee, customer and related party receivables comprised 58%, 34%, 6% and 2% of total receivables, respectively. The M&A and asset management fee receivables collection periods generally are within 60 days of invoice. However, as discussed above, the collection period for restructuring transactions may extend beyond 60 days, and fee receivables from our private fund advisory activities are generally collected over a four year period.

Credit Concentration

To reduce the exposure to concentrations of credit from banking activities within LFB, the Company has established limits for corporate counterparties and monitors the exposure against such limits. At March 31, 2007 the Company had no exposure to an individual counterparty that exceeded \$44 million, in the aggregate, excluding inter-bank counterparties.

Risks Related to Short-Term Investments and Corporate Indebtedness

A significant portion of the Company's liabilities has fixed interest rates or maximum interest rates, while its cash and short-term investments generally have floating interest rates. Lazard estimates that operating income relating to cash and short-term investments and corporate indebtedness would change by approximately \$7 million, on an annual basis, in the event interest rates were to increase or decrease by 1%.

Operational Risks

Operational risk is inherent in our business and may, for example, manifest itself in the form of errors, breaches in the system of internal controls, business interruptions, fraud or legal actions due to operating deficiencies or noncompliance. The Company maintains a framework including policies and a system of internal

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controls designed to monitor and manage operational risk and provide management with timely and accurate information. Management within each of the operating companies is primarily responsible for its operational risk programs. The Company has in place a business continuity and disaster recovery programs that manages its capabilities to provide services in the case of a disruption. We purchase insurance programs designed to protect the Company against accidental loss and losses, which may significantly affect our financial objectives, personnel, property, or our ability to continue to meet our responsibilities to our various stakeholder groups.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157 *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS 157). SFAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and enhances disclosures about fair value measurements. This Statement applies to other accounting pronouncements that require the use of fair value measurements. SFAS 157 is effective for interim and annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. We are currently assessing the impact of adopting SFAS 157 on the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of the Company.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159 *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* (SFAS 159). SFAS 159 permits an entity to choose to measure various financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. It provides entities with the opportunity to mitigate volatility in reported earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions. This Statement requires that a business entity report unrealized gains and losses, on items for which the fair value option has been elected, in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. SFAS 159 is effective as of the beginning of the first annual period beginning after November 15, 2007. We are currently assessing the impact of adopting SFAS 159 on the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of the Company.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Risk Management