

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC

Form 10-Q

October 28, 2008

[Table of Contents](#)

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 September 30, 2008
OR

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 1-8606

Verizon Communications Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction)

23-2259884
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

of incorporation or organization)

140 West Street

New York, New York
(Address of principal executive offices)

10007
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 395-1000

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

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

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, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ☒

Accelerated filer ☐

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

Smaller Reporting Company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

☐ Yes ☒ No

At September 30, 2008, 2,840,484,291 shares of the registrant's Common Stock were outstanding, after deducting 127,125,828 shares held in treasury.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
Item 1. <u>Financial Statements (Unaudited)</u>	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income</u>	1
<i>Three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007</i>	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	2
<i>At September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007</i>	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>	3
<i>Nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007</i>	
<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	4
Item 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	19
Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	41
Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	41
<u>PART II - OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	41
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	41
Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	42
Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u>	43
<u>Signature</u>	44
<u>Certifications</u>	

Table of Contents**Part I - Financial Information****Item 1. Financial Statements****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income**

Verizon Communications Inc. and Subsidiaries

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
(dollars in millions, except per share amounts) (unaudited)				
Operating Revenues	\$ 24,752	\$ 23,772	\$ 72,709	\$ 69,629
Operating Expenses				
Cost of services and sales (exclusive of items shown below)	10,048	9,608	29,031	27,751
Selling, general and administrative expense	6,879	6,349	19,808	19,012
Depreciation and amortization expense	3,652	3,605	10,818	10,711
Total Operating Expenses	20,579	19,562	59,657	57,474
Operating Income	4,173	4,210	13,052	12,155
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated businesses	211	147	458	492
Other income and (expense), net	105	49	220	124
Interest expense	(440)	(450)	(1,302)	(1,390)
Minority interest	(1,530)	(1,298)	(4,459)	(3,720)
Income Before Provision For Income Taxes, Discontinued Operations and Extraordinary Item	2,519	2,658	7,969	7,661
Provision for income taxes	(850)	(1,387)	(2,776)	(3,223)
Income Before Discontinued Operations and Extraordinary Item	1,669	1,271	5,193	4,438
Income from discontinued operations, net of tax				142
Extraordinary item, net of tax				(131)
Net Income	\$ 1,669	\$ 1,271	\$ 5,193	\$ 4,449
Basic Earnings Per Common Share⁽¹⁾				
Income before discontinued operations and extraordinary item	\$.59	\$.44	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.53
Income from discontinued operations, net of tax				.05
Extraordinary item, net of tax				(.05)
Net Income	\$.59	\$.44	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.53
Weighted-average shares outstanding (in millions)	2,844	2,896	2,852	2,902
Diluted Earnings Per Common Share⁽¹⁾				
Income before discontinued operations and extraordinary item	\$.59	\$.44	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.53
Income from discontinued operations, net of tax				.05
Extraordinary item, net of tax				(.05)
Net Income	\$.59	\$.44	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.53
Weighted-average shares outstanding (in millions)	2,845	2,900	2,854	2,906
Dividends declared per common share	\$.460	\$.430	\$ 1.320	\$ 1.240

⁽¹⁾ Total per share amounts may not add due to rounding.

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

Verizon Communications Inc. and Subsidiaries

At September 30, At December 31,

(dollars in millions, except per share amounts) (unaudited)

2008**2007****Assets**

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents \$ 696 \$ 1,153

Short-term investments 978 2,244

Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$983 and \$1,025 11,724 11,736

Inventories 2,485 1,729

Prepaid expenses and other 3,248 1,836

Total current assets 19,131 18,698

Plant, property and equipment 214,376 213,994

Less accumulated depreciation 128,687 128,700

85,689 85,294

Investments in unconsolidated businesses 3,198 3,372

Wireless licenses 61,595 50,796

Goodwill 6,124 5,245

Other intangible assets, net 5,093 4,988

Other investments 4,759

Other assets 19,272 18,566

Total assets \$ 204,861 \$ 186,959

Liabilities and Shareowners Investment

Current liabilities

Debt maturing within one year \$ 7,297 \$ 2,954

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities 13,715 14,462

Other 7,263 7,325

Total current liabilities 28,275 24,741

Long-term debt 37,478 28,203

Employee benefit obligations 28,800 29,960

Deferred income taxes 17,409 14,784

Other liabilities 6,053 6,402

Minority interest 35,892 32,288

Shareowners investment

Series preferred stock (\$.10 par value; none issued)

Common stock (\$.10 par value; 2,967,610,119 shares and 2,967,610,119 shares issued) 297 297

Contributed capital 40,290 40,316

Reinvested earnings 19,322 17,884

Accumulated other comprehensive loss (4,199) (4,506)

Common stock in treasury, at cost (4,841) (3,489)

Deferred compensation employee stock ownership plans and other 85 79

Total shareowners investment 50,954 50,581

Total liabilities and shareowners investment \$ 204,861 \$ 186,959

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

Verizon Communications Inc. and Subsidiaries

(dollars in millions) (unaudited)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net Income	\$ 5,193	\$ 4,449
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities continuing operations:		
Depreciation and amortization expense	10,818	10,711
Employee retirement benefits	1,232	1,290
Deferred income taxes	2,240	708
Provision for uncollectible accounts	724	741
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated businesses, net of dividends received	303	(268)
Extraordinary item, net of tax		131
Changes in current assets and liabilities, net of effects from acquisition/disposition of businesses	(2,458)	(2,296)
Other, net	1,026	2,553
Net cash provided by operating activities continuing operations	19,078	18,019
Net cash used in operating activities discontinued operations		(570)
Net cash provided by operating activities	19,078	17,449
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Capital expenditures (including capitalized software)	(12,575)	(12,792)
Acquisitions of licenses, investments and businesses, net of cash acquired	(15,978)	(697)
Net change in short-term investments	1,238	1,267
Other, net	(567)	981
Net cash used in investing activities continuing operations	(27,882)	(11,241)
Net cash provided by investing activities discontinued operations		757
Net cash used in investing activities	(27,882)	(10,484)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Proceeds from long-term borrowings	12,552	3,402
Repayments of long-term borrowings and capital lease obligations	(3,398)	(4,994)
Increase (decrease) in short-term obligations, excluding current maturities	4,132	(3,438)
Dividends paid	(3,687)	(3,529)
Proceeds from sale of common stock	16	794
Purchase of common stock for treasury	(1,369)	(1,734)
Other, net	101	30
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities continuing operations	8,347	(9,469)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities discontinued operations		
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	8,347	(9,469)

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(457)	(2,504)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	1,153	3,219
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 696	\$ 715

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Verizon Communications Inc. and Subsidiaries

(Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared based upon Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules that permit reduced disclosure for interim periods. For a more complete discussion of significant accounting policies and certain other information, you should refer to the financial statements included in the Verizon Communications Inc. (Verizon or the Company) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007. These financial statements reflect all adjustments that are necessary for a fair presentation of results of operations and financial condition for the interim periods shown including normal recurring accruals and other items. The results for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for the full year.

We have reclassified prior year amounts to conform to the current year presentation.

2. Acquisitions

Alltel Corporation

On June 5, 2008, Verizon Wireless entered into an agreement with Alltel Corporation (Alltel) and Atlantis Holdings LLC, an affiliate of private investment firms TPG Capital and GS Capital Partners, to acquire Alltel in a cash merger. Under the terms of the agreement, Verizon Wireless will acquire the equity of Alltel for approximately \$5.9 billion. Based on Alltel's projected net debt at closing of approximately \$22.2 billion, the aggregate value of the transaction is approximately \$28.1 billion. The parties are targeting completion of the merger by the end of the year, subject to obtaining regulatory approvals. The merger agreement contains certain termination rights for Verizon Wireless and Alltel and further provides that, upon termination of the merger agreement upon specified circumstances, Verizon Wireless may be required to pay Alltel a termination fee of \$500 million.

On June 5, 2008, Verizon Wireless entered into a \$7,550 million 364-day Credit Agreement with Morgan Stanley Senior Funding Inc. as Administrative Agent. The 364-day Credit Agreement, with a maturity date of June 4, 2009, included a \$4,800 million term facility and a \$2,750 million delayed draw facility. On June 10, 2008, Verizon Wireless borrowed \$4,795 million under the term facility in order to complete the purchase of Alltel debt obligations and pay fees and expenses incurred in connection with the 364-day Credit Agreement. During the third quarter of 2008, Verizon Wireless borrowed \$2,750 million under the delayed draw facility to finance the acquisition of Rural Cellular Corporation (Rural Cellular) and for the refinancing of Rural Cellular debt. Interest on borrowings under the 364-day Credit Agreement is calculated based on the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) for the applicable period, the level of borrowings on specified dates and a margin that is determined by reference to the long-term credit rating of Verizon Wireless issued by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. Borrowings under the 364-day Credit Agreement currently bear interest at a variable rate based on LIBOR plus 75 basis points. The 364-day Credit Agreement contains customary affirmative and negative covenants, including a requirement to maintain a certain leverage ratio and customary events of default. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, \$1,600 million of the borrowings under the 364-day Credit Agreement were repaid, and \$4,440 million was refinanced using proceeds from a Three-Year Term Loan Facility Agreement with Citibank N.A., as Administrative Agent (Note 6), reducing the size of the 364-day Credit Agreement to \$1,505 million which is classified as short-term debt on the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2008.

On June 10, 2008, Verizon Wireless purchased from third parties approximately \$5.0 billion aggregate principal amount of debt obligations of a subsidiary of Alltel for approximately \$4.8 billion, plus accrued and unpaid interest. This is included in Other Investments in the condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2008. The maturity dates of these obligations are expected to range from 2015 to 2017. These debt obligations are included in the approximately \$22.2 billion projected amount of Alltel net debt at closing referenced above. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, we recorded an unrealized loss of approximately \$9 million and \$15 million, respectively, in Other

Comprehensive Income related to this available-for-sale investment.

Table of Contents*Rural Cellular Corporation*

On August 7, 2008, Verizon Wireless acquired 100% of the outstanding common stock and redeemed all of the preferred stock of Rural Cellular in a cash transaction. Rural Cellular was a wireless communications service provider operating under the trade name of Unicel, focusing primarily on rural markets in the United States. Verizon Wireless believes that the acquisition will further enhance its network coverage in markets adjacent to its existing service areas and will enable Verizon Wireless to achieve operational benefits through realizing synergies in reduced roaming and operating expenses. Under the terms of the acquisition agreement, Rural Cellular's common shareholders received cash of \$45 per share (\$728 million in the aggregate). Additionally, the holders of all classes of Rural Cellular's preferred stock received cash in the aggregate of \$571 million.

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the results of Rural Cellular's operations from the date of the close of the transaction. Had this transaction been consummated on January 1, 2008, the results of Rural Cellular's acquired operations would not have had a significant impact on our consolidated results of operations. In connection with the acquisition, Verizon Wireless assumed \$1.5 billion of Rural Cellular's debt. This debt was repaid on September 5, 2008, using proceeds from new debt borrowings by Verizon Wireless. The aggregate value of the net assets acquired was \$1.3 billion based on the cash consideration, as well as closing and other direct acquisition-related costs of approximately \$7 million.

In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 141, *Business Combinations*, the cost of the acquisition was preliminarily allocated to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their fair values as of the close of the transaction, with the amounts exceeding the fair value being recorded as goodwill. As the values of certain assets and liabilities are preliminary in nature, they are subject to adjustment as additional information is obtained. The valuations will be finalized within 12 months of the close of the transaction. When the valuations are finalized, any changes to the preliminary valuation of assets acquired or liabilities assumed may result in material adjustments to the fair value of the identifiable intangible assets acquired and goodwill.

The following table summarizes the preliminary allocation of the cost of the acquisition to the assets acquired, including cash acquired of \$42 million, and liabilities assumed as of the close of the transaction:

(dollars in millions)

Assets acquired	
Current assets	\$ 657
Plant, property and equipment	188
Wireless licenses	1,014
Other intangible assets, net	197
Goodwill	935
Other assets	162
Total assets acquired	3,153

Liabilities assumed	
Current liabilities	92
Long-term debt	1,505
Deferred income taxes and other non-current liabilities	250
Total liabilities assumed	1,847
Net assets acquired	\$ 1,306

Wireless licenses acquired have an indefinite life, and accordingly, are not subject to amortization. Other intangible assets, net primarily includes customer relationships that are being amortized using an accelerated method over 6 years, and other intangible assets that are being amortized on a straight line basis over 12 months.

Divestiture Markets and Exchange Agreement with AT&T

As part of its approval process for the Rural Cellular acquisition, regulatory authorities required the divestiture of six operating markets, including all of Rural Cellular's operations in Vermont and New York as well as its operations in Okanogan and Ferry, WA (the Divestiture Markets). As a result of these divestiture requirements, Verizon Wireless has placed the licenses and assets of the Divestiture Markets in a management trust that will continue to operate the markets under the Unicel brand until they are sold. The Divestiture Markets will not be integrated into Verizon Wireless's operations.

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

On August 29, 2008, Verizon Wireless signed an amendment to an existing exchange agreement and a license purchase agreement with AT&T. Under the terms of these agreements, AT&T will receive the assets relating to the Divestiture Markets and a cellular license for part of the Madison, KY market. In exchange, we will receive cellular operating markets in Madison and Mason, KY and 10 MHz PCS licenses in Las Vegas, NV, Buffalo, NY, Erie, PA, Sunbury-Shamokin, PA, Youngstown, OH, Franklin, NY (except Franklin county) and the entire state of Vermont. We will also receive AT&T's minority interests in three entities in which we hold interests, plus a cash payment. The exchange with AT&T is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close by the end of the year.

The assets to be divested of \$535 million are included in Prepaid expenses and other, and Other assets on the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2008 and are based on the consideration to be received from AT&T.

Table of Contents

Other

In connection with the 2006 acquisition of MCI, Inc. (MCI), we recorded certain severance and severance-related costs and contract termination costs associated with the merger, pursuant to Emerging Issues Task Force Issue No. 95-3, *Recognition of Liabilities in Connection with a Purchase Business Combination*. As of December 31, 2007, there was approximately \$36 million for these obligations which were resolved during the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, we recorded pretax charges of \$50 million (\$32 million after-tax) and \$115 million (\$72 million after-tax), respectively, primarily related to the MCI acquisition that were comprised primarily of systems integration activities. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, we recorded pretax charges of \$45 million (\$28 million after-tax) and \$86 million (\$54 million after-tax), respectively, related to system integration activities associated with the MCI acquisition.

3. Other Dispositions, Discontinued Operations and Extraordinary Item

Other Dispositions

Telephone Access Lines Spin-off

On January 16, 2007, we announced a definitive agreement with FairPoint Communications, Inc. (FairPoint) providing for Verizon to establish a separate entity for its local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, spin-off that new entity into a newly formed company, known as Northern New England Spinco Inc. (Spinco), to Verizon's shareowners, and immediately merge it with and into FairPoint.

On March 31, 2008, we announced the completion of the spin-off of the shares of Spinco to Verizon shareowners and the merger of Spinco with FairPoint, resulting in Verizon shareowners collectively owning approximately 60 percent of FairPoint common stock. FairPoint issued approximately 53.8 million shares of FairPoint common stock to Verizon shareowners in the merger, and Verizon shareowners received one share of FairPoint common stock for every 53.0245 shares of Verizon common stock they owned as of March 7, 2008. FairPoint paid cash in lieu of any fraction of a share of FairPoint common stock.

On April 1, 2008, the number of shares of restricted stock units (RSUs) and performance stock units (PSUs) previously issued by Verizon were adjusted pursuant to the terms of the applicable Verizon equity incentive plans, taking into account the change in the value of Verizon common stock as a result of the spin-off.

We also entered into other agreements that defined responsibility for obligations arising before or that may arise after the spin-off, including, among others, obligations relating to Verizon employees whose primary duties relate to Spinco's business, certain transition services and taxes. In general, the agreements governing the exchange of services between us and FairPoint are for specified periods at cost-based or commercial rates.

As a result of the spin-off, our net debt was reduced by approximately \$1.4 billion. The condensed consolidated income statements for the periods presented include the results of operations of the local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont through March 31, 2008, the date of completion of the spin-off. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2008 reflects the spin-off as of March 31, 2008, which increased shareowners' investment by approximately \$26 million, and included approximately \$79 million (\$44 million after-tax) related to defined benefit pension and postretirement benefit plans, which is reflected as a reduction to the beginning balance of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we recorded pretax charges of \$103 million (\$81 million after-tax) for costs incurred related to the separation of the wireline facilities and operations in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont from Verizon at the closing of the transaction, as well as for professional advisory and legal fees in connection with this transaction. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, we recorded pretax charges of \$46 million (\$44 million after-tax) for costs incurred related to the separation of the wireline facilities and operations in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Table of Contents**Discontinued Operations***Telecomunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Inc.*

On March 30, 2007, we completed the sale of our 52% interest in Telecomunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Inc. (TELPRI) and received gross proceeds of approximately \$980 million. The sale resulted in a pretax gain of \$120 million (\$70 million after-tax). Verizon contributed \$100 million (\$65 million after-tax) of the proceeds to the Verizon Foundation during the three months ended March 31, 2007.

In accordance with SFAS No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*, we have classified the results of operations of TELPRI as discontinued operations in the condensed consolidated statements of income for all periods presented through the date of the sale. Income from discontinued operations, net of tax, for TELPRI presented in the condensed consolidated statements of income was comprised of the following:

	Nine months ended	
(dollars in millions)	September 30, 2007	
Operating revenues	\$	306
Income before provision for income taxes	\$	185
Provision for income taxes		(43)
Income from discontinued operations, net of tax	\$	142
Extraordinary Item		

Compañía Anónima Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela (CANTV)

In January 2007, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the Republic) declared its intent to nationalize certain companies, including CANTV. On February 12, 2007, we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Republic, which provided that the Republic offer to purchase all of the equity securities of CANTV, including our 28.5% interest, through public tender offers in Venezuela and the United States. Under the terms of the MOU, the prices in the tender offers would be adjusted downward to reflect any dividends declared and paid subsequent to February 12, 2007. During the second quarter of 2007, the tender offers were completed and Verizon received an aggregate amount of approximately \$572 million, which included \$476 million from the tender offers as well as \$96 million of dividends declared and paid subsequent to the MOU. Based upon our investment balance in CANTV, we recorded an extraordinary loss of \$131 million, including taxes of \$38 million, during the first quarter of 2007.

Table of Contents**4. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets***Goodwill*

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill were as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Wireline	Domestic Wireless	Total
Balance at December 31, 2007	\$ 4,900	\$ 345	\$ 5,245
Acquisitions (Note 2)		935	935
Reclassifications and adjustments	(56)		(56)
Balance at September 30, 2008	\$ 4,844	\$ 1,280	\$ 6,124

Reclassifications and adjustments to goodwill during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 reflect revised estimated tax bases of acquired assets and liabilities.

Other Intangible Assets

The following table displays the details of other intangible assets:

(dollars in millions)	At September 30, 2008		At December 31, 2007	
	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Amount	Accumulated Amortization
Finite-lived intangible assets:				
Customer lists (3 to 10 years)	\$ 1,415	\$ 541	\$ 1,307	\$ 459
Non-network internal-use software (2 to 7 years)	8,211	4,377	8,116	4,147
Other (1 to 25 years)	454	69	215	44
Total	\$ 10,080	\$ 4,987	\$ 9,638	\$ 4,650
Indefinite-lived intangible assets:				
Wireless licenses	\$ 61,595		\$ 50,796	

Customer lists and Other at September 30, 2008 include \$197 million related to the Rural Cellular acquisition. Amortization expense was \$352 million and \$1,022 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively. Amortization expense was \$332 million and \$1,005 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. Amortization expense is estimated to be \$1,317 million for the full year of 2008, \$1,138 million in 2009, \$922 million in 2010, \$750 million in 2011 and \$529 million in 2012.

On January 4, 2008, Verizon Wireless paid to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) an \$885 million deposit in order to obtain 590 million bidding eligibility units for participation in the FCC auction of spectrum in the 700 MHz band (Auction 73). This spectrum is currently used for UHF television operations but by law those operations must cease no later than February 17, 2009. On March 20, 2008, the FCC announced the results of its Auction 73 for wireless spectrum licenses. Verizon Wireless was the successful bidder for twenty-five 12 MHz licenses in the A-Block frequency, seventy-seven 12 MHz licenses in the B-Block frequency and seven 22 MHz licenses (nationwide with the exception of Alaska) in the C-Block frequency, with an aggregate bid price of approximately \$9.4 billion. The remaining balance due to the FCC was paid by Verizon Wireless in April 2008. Verizon Wireless expects the licenses to be granted by the FCC in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Table of Contents**5. Fair Value Measurements***SFAS No. 157*

SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS No. 157) defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and establishes a hierarchy that categorizes and prioritizes the sources to be used to estimate fair value. SFAS No. 157 also expands financial statement disclosures about fair value measurements. On February 12, 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. FAS 157-2, *Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157* (FSP 157-2), which delays the effective date of SFAS No. 157 for one year for all nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis. We elected a partial deferral of SFAS No. 157 under the provisions of FSP 157-2 related to the measurement of fair value used when evaluating goodwill, other intangible assets, wireless licenses and other long-lived assets for impairment and valuing asset retirement obligations and liabilities for exit or disposal activities. Furthermore, the impact of implementing FSP 157-2 is not expected to be material on our financial statements. The impact of partially adopting SFAS No. 157 effective January 1, 2008 was not material to our financial statements.

On October 10, 2008, the FASB issued FSP 157-3, *Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active*, (FSP 157-3), which clarifies application of SFAS No. 157 in a market that is not active. FSP 157-3 was effective upon issuance, including prior periods for which financial statements have not been issued. The adoption of this FSP had no impact on our financial statements.

Fair Value Measurements on a Recurring Basis

Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurements. Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurements requires judgment, and may affect the valuation of the assets and liabilities being measured and their placement within the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the balances of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2008:

(dollars in millions)	Level 1 ⁽¹⁾	Level 2 ⁽²⁾	Level 3 ⁽³⁾	Total
Assets:				
Short-term investments	\$ 233	\$ 745	\$	\$ 978
Investments in unconsolidated businesses	321			321
Other investments			4,759	4,759
Other assets		763		763
Liabilities:				
Other liabilities	\$	\$ 19	\$	\$ 19

⁽¹⁾ quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

⁽²⁾ observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities

⁽³⁾ no observable pricing inputs in the market

Table of Contents

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending changes in the balance of items measured at fair value using significant unobservable inputs as of September 30, 2008 is as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Level 3
Balance at January 1, 2008	\$
Total gains (losses) (realized/unrealized):	
Included in earnings	
Included in other comprehensive income	(15)
Purchases, issuances and settlements	4,767
Discount amortization included in earnings	7
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	
Ending balance at September 30, 2008	\$ 4,759

Short-term investments primarily include a fund comprised of cash equivalents held in trust for the payment of certain employee benefits and are classified as Level 2 as they are not actively traded in an established market. Short-term investments and Investments in unconsolidated businesses also include equity securities, mutual funds, United States (U.S.) Treasuries, and obligations of the U.S. government, which are generally measured using quoted prices in active markets and are classified as Level 1. Other investments is comprised of our investment in Alltel debt, which was acquired in June 2008. The fair value of Other investments is determined using inputs that are primarily unobservable (discounted cash flow model), including our current intent to complete the merger with Alltel, and cannot be corroborated by the market. As such, that investment is considered to be a Level 3 item. Other assets are primarily comprised of domestic and foreign corporate and government bonds. While quoted prices in active markets for certain of these debt securities are available, for some they are not. As permitted under SFAS No. 157, we use alternative matrix pricing as a practical expedient resulting in our debt securities being classified as Level 2. Included in Other assets and in Other liabilities are derivative contracts, primarily comprised of interest rate swaps, that are valued using models based on readily observable market parameters for all substantial terms of our derivative contracts and thus are classified within Level 2. As permitted by SFAS No. 157, we use mid-market pricing for fair value measurements of our derivative instruments.

The decrease in our short-term investments during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was primarily due to the payment of certain employee benefits.

Fair Value Measurements on a Nonrecurring Basis

As permitted by FSP 157-2, Verizon elected to defer the fair value measurement disclosure of our (a) nonfinancial assets including goodwill, wireless licenses, long-lived assets and finite-lived intangible assets in the determination of impairment under SFAS No. 142 or SFAS No. 144, (b) asset retirement obligations initially measured at fair value under SFAS No. 143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations*, (c) nonfinancial liabilities for exit or disposal activities initially measured at fair value under SFAS No. 146, *Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities* and (d) nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities initially measured at fair value in a business combination.

SFAS No. 159

SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an Amendment of SFAS No. 115* (SFAS No. 159), permits but does not require us to measure financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected are reported in earnings. As we did not elect to fair value any of our financial instruments under the provisions of SFAS No. 159, our adoption of this statement effective January 1, 2008 did not have an impact on our financial statements.

Table of Contents

6. Debt

Issuance of Debt

On September 30, 2008, Verizon Wireless entered into a \$4,440 million Three-Year Term Loan Facility Agreement (Three-Year Term Facility) with Citibank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, with a maturity date of September 30, 2011, in order to refinance a portion of the 364-day Credit Agreement described in Note 2. Interest on borrowings under the Three-Year Term Facility is calculated based on the LIBOR rate for the applicable period and a margin that is determined by reference to the long-term credit rating of Verizon Wireless issued by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services and Moody's Investor Service (if Moody's subsequently determines to provide a credit rating for the Three-Year Term Facility). Borrowings under the Three-Year Term Facility currently bear interest at a variable rate based on LIBOR plus 100 basis points. The Three-Year Term Facility contains customary affirmative and negative covenants, including a requirement to maintain a certain leverage ratio, and customary events of default. Verizon Wireless must repay \$444 million of this facility at the end of the first year, \$1,998 million at the end of the second year, and \$1,998 million upon final maturity. Borrowings under this facility were \$4,440 million at September 30, 2008.

In April 2008, we issued \$4,000 million of fixed rate notes, with varying maturities, that resulted in cash proceeds of \$3,950 million, net of discounts and issuance costs. In February 2008, we issued \$4,000 million of fixed rate notes, with varying maturities, that resulted in cash proceeds of \$3,953 million, net of discounts and issuance costs. In January 2008, Verizon utilized a \$239 million fixed rate vendor financing facility due 2010.

Interest Rate Swaps

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we entered into domestic interest rate swaps with a notional principal value of approximately \$2 billion to adjust the mix of our fixed and variable rate debt. Based on the swap agreements we receive a fixed rate and pay a variable rate based on LIBOR. These swaps were designated as fair value hedges and hedge against changes in the fair value of our debt portfolio. We record these interest rate swaps at fair value in our balance sheet as assets and liabilities and adjust debt for the change in its fair value due to changes in interest rates. The fair value of the interest rate swaps at September 30, 2008 included in Other assets, Other liabilities and Long-term debt was not material (see Note 5).

Redemption of Debt

During the second quarter of 2008, \$100 million of Verizon California Inc. 7.0% notes and \$250 million of Verizon New York Inc. 6.0% notes matured and were repaid. Additionally, during the second quarter of 2008, \$250 million of GTE Corporation 6.46% notes matured and were repaid. During the first quarter of 2008, \$125 million of Verizon South Inc. 6.0% notes and \$1,000 million of Verizon Communications Inc. 4.0% notes matured and were repaid.

Guarantees

We guarantee the debt obligations of GTE Corporation (but not the debt of its subsidiary or affiliate companies) that were issued and outstanding prior to July 1, 2003. As of September 30, 2008, \$2,200 million principal amount of these obligations remained outstanding. Verizon Communications Inc. and NYNEX Corporation are the joint and several co-obligors of the 20-Year 9.55% Debentures due 2010 previously issued by NYNEX on March 26, 1990. As of September 30, 2008, \$47 million principal amount of this obligation remained outstanding. NYNEX and GTE no longer issue public debt or file SEC reports.

Debt Covenants

We and our consolidated subsidiaries are in compliance with all of our debt covenants.

Table of Contents

7. Earnings Per Share

The following table is a reconciliation of the numerators and denominators used in computing earnings per common share:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
(dollars and shares in millions, except per share amounts)	2008	2007	2008	2007
Income Before Discontinued Operations and Extraordinary Item	\$ 1,669	\$ 1,271	\$ 5,193	\$ 4,438
Weighted-average shares outstanding basic	2,844	2,896	2,852	2,902
Effect of dilutive securities stock options	1	4	2	4
Weighted-average shares outstanding diluted	2,845	2,900	2,854	2,906
Earnings Per Common Share from Income Before Discontinued Operations and Extraordinary Item				
Basic	\$.59	\$.44	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.53
Diluted	\$.59	\$.44	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.53

Certain outstanding options to purchase shares were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per common share because to do so would have been anti-dilutive for the period, including approximately 160 million weighted-average shares and 154 million weighted-average shares for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, approximately 125 million weighted-average shares and 174 million weighted-average shares, respectively, were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per common share.

8. Stock-Based Compensation

Verizon Communications Long-Term Incentive Plan

The Verizon Communications Long-Term Incentive Plan (the Plan) permits the granting of nonqualified stock options, incentive stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance share units and other awards. The maximum number of shares for awards is 207 million.

Restricted Stock Units

The Plan provides for grants of RSUs that generally vest at the end of the third year after the grant. The RSUs are classified as liability awards because the RSUs will be paid in cash upon vesting. The RSU award liability is measured at its fair value at the end of each reporting period and, therefore, will fluctuate based on the performance of Verizon's stock. Dividend equivalent units are also paid to participants at the time the RSU award is paid.

The following table summarizes Verizon's Restricted Stock Unit activity:

	Weighted-Average Grant-Date	
	Restricted Stock Units	Fair Value
(shares in thousands)		

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Outstanding, beginning of year	21,573	\$	34.80
Granted	6,876		36.71
Payments	(6,863)		36.06
Cancelled/Forfeited	(130)		35.60
Outstanding, September 30, 2008	21,456		35.01

Performance Share Units

The Plan also provides for grants of PSUs that generally vest at the end of the third year after the grant if certain threshold performance requirements have been satisfied. The PSUs are classified as liability awards because the PSUs will be paid in cash upon vesting. Dividend equivalent units are also paid to participants at the time that the PSU award is determined and paid, and in the same proportion as the PSU award.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes Verizon's Performance Share Unit activity:

	Performance Share	Weighted-Average
(shares in thousands)	Units	Grant-Date
		Fair Value
Outstanding, beginning of year	32,135	\$ 34.80
Granted	10,647	36.72
Payments	(7,597)	36.06
Cancelled/Forfeited	(2,471)	36.02
Outstanding, September 30, 2008	32,714	35.04

As of September 30, 2008, unrecognized compensation expense related to the unvested portion of RSUs and PSUs was approximately \$386 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately two years.

Verizon Wireless Long-Term Incentive Plan

The 2000 Verizon Wireless Long-Term Incentive Plan (the Wireless Plan) provides compensation opportunities to eligible employees and other participating affiliates of Verizon Wireless. The Wireless Plan provides rewards that are tied to the long-term performance of Verizon Wireless. Under the Wireless Plan, Value Appreciation Rights (VARs) were granted to eligible employees. As of September 30, 2008, all VARs were fully vested.

The following table summarizes the Value Appreciation Rights activity:

	Value Appreciation	Weighted-Average
(shares in thousands)	Rights	Grant-Date
		Fair Value
Outstanding, beginning of year	60,412	\$ 17.58
Exercised	(12,874)	19.31
Cancelled/Forfeited	(331)	18.93
Outstanding, September 30, 2008	47,207	17.09

Stock Options

The Verizon Long-Term Incentive Plan provides for grants of stock options to employees at an option price per share of 100% of the fair market value of Verizon stock on the date of grant. Each grant has a 10 year life, vesting equally over a three year period, starting at the date of the grant. We have not granted new stock options since 2004; all stock options outstanding are vested and exercisable.

The following table summarizes our stock option activity:

	Stock Options	Weighted-Average
(shares in thousands)		Exercise Price
Outstanding, beginning of year	174,863	\$ 47.78
Exercised	(214)	38.17

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Cancelled/Forfeited	(15,025)	46.82
Outstanding, September 30, 2008	159,624	47.88

The weighted-average remaining contractual term was approximately two years for stock options outstanding as of September 30, 2008.

The total intrinsic value for stock options outstanding and exercisable was not material as of September 30, 2008. The total intrinsic value was approximately \$303 million for stock options outstanding and exercisable as of September 30, 2007.

The total intrinsic value for stock options exercised was not material for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008. The total intrinsic value for stock options exercised during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 was \$34 million and \$99 million, respectively.

The amount of cash received and the related tax benefits from the exercise of stock options were not material for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, the amount of cash received from the exercise of stock options was approximately \$243 million and \$795 million, respectively, and the related tax benefits were not material.

Table of Contents**9. Employee Benefits**

We maintain noncontributory defined benefit pension plans for many of our employees. In addition, we maintain postretirement health care and life insurance plans for certain of our retirees and their dependents, which are both contributory and non-contributory and include a limit on the company's share of cost for certain recent and future retirees.

Net Periodic Benefit (Income) Cost

The following table summarizes the benefit costs (income) related to our pension and postretirement health care and life insurance plans:

(dollars in millions)

	Pension		Health Care and Life	
Three Months Ended September 30,	2008	2007	2008	2007
Service cost	\$ 95	\$ 111	\$ 72	\$ 88
Interest cost	492	494	394	397
Expected return on plan assets	(796)	(794)	(81)	(79)
Amortization of prior service cost	17	11	99	98
Actuarial loss, net	9	24	34	78
Net periodic benefit (income) cost	(183)	(154)	518	582
Settlement loss	89			
Total (income) cost	\$ (94)	\$ (154)	\$ 518	\$ 582

(dollars in millions)

	Pension		Health Care and Life	
Nine Months Ended September 30,	2008	2007	2008	2007
Service cost	\$ 285	\$ 333	\$ 232	\$ 265
Interest cost	1,472	1,481	1,249	1,193
Expected return on plan assets	(2,390)	(2,382)	(241)	(237)
Amortization of prior service cost	44	33	296	294
Actuarial loss, net	29	73	167	237
Net periodic benefit (income) cost	(560)	(462)	1,703	1,752
Settlement loss	89			
Total (income) cost	\$ (471)	\$ (462)	\$ 1,703	\$ 1,752

Pension Settlement Charges

During the third quarter of 2008, we recorded pension settlement losses of \$89 million (\$54 million after-tax) related to employees that received lump-sum distributions primarily resulting from our separation plans. These charges were recorded in accordance with SFAS No. 88, *Employers' Accounting for Settlements and Curtailments of Defined Benefit Pension Plans and for Termination Benefits*, which requires that settlement losses be recorded once prescribed payment thresholds have been reached.

Employer Contributions

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we contributed \$155 million to our qualified pension trusts, \$23 million to our nonqualified pension plans and \$388 million to our other postretirement benefit plans. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we contributed \$332 million to our qualified pension trusts, \$122 million to our nonqualified pension plans and \$1,169 million to our other postretirement benefit plans.

The anticipated qualified pension trust contributions for 2008 disclosed in Verizon's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended 2007 continue to be accurate. Our estimate of the amount and timing of required qualified pension trust contributions for 2008 is based on current proposed Internal Revenue Service regulations under the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

Severance Benefits

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, we paid severance benefits of \$115 million and \$329 million, respectively, excluding amounts related to the MCI acquisition (see Note 2). At September 30, 2008, we had a remaining severance liability of \$915 million, which includes future contractual payments to employees separated on or prior to September 30, 2008 as well as an accrual for employee severance of \$176 million (\$110 million after-tax) recorded in the third quarter of 2008 in connection with the separation of approximately 2,700 management employees expected to occur during the remainder of 2008, in accordance with SFAS No. 112, *Employers' Accounting for Postemployment Benefits*.

Table of Contents**10. Tax and Other Item***Income Taxes*

The unrecognized tax benefits pursuant to FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, were \$2,557 million and \$2,883 million at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively. Interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits were \$511 million (after-tax) and \$598 million (after-tax), at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively. The decrease in unrecognized tax benefits and the related interest and penalties was due to the resolution of certain issues under income tax examinations. The decrease in unrecognized tax benefits was primarily offset by an increase to deferred income taxes.

As a result of the anticipated resolution of various income tax audits within the next twelve months, we believe that it is reasonably possible that the amount of unrecognized tax benefits will decrease. Any actual decrease will primarily be offset by an increase to deferred income taxes and is not expected to have a material impact on our results of operations.

International Taxes

Based on Vodafone Omnitel N.V.'s (Vodafone Omnitel) financial position and distributable reserves, the shareowners of Vodafone Omnitel began considering scenarios for potential future distributions from Vodafone Omnitel in the third quarter of 2007. As a result, Verizon recorded \$471 million of taxes in the third quarter of 2007 on its share of Vodafone Omnitel's earnings that were no longer considered indefinitely reinvested internationally. Distributions from Vodafone Omnitel were subsequently approved and paid in December 2007 and April 2008.

Other Item

As of September 30, 2008, Prepaid expenses and other included approximately \$620 million held in a money market fund managed by a third party, which is in the process of being liquidated and returned to Verizon.

11. Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income consists of net income and other gains and losses affecting shareowners' investment that, under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, are excluded from net income.

Changes in the components of Other Comprehensive Income were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007	2008	2007
Net Income	\$ 1,669	\$ 1,271	\$ 5,193	\$ 4,449
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Taxes				
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(277)	205	(128)	702
Unrealized loss on marketable securities	(62)	(1)	(106)	(5)
Defined benefit pension and postretirement plans	289	117	495	376
Dispositions of TELPRI and other	1	(5)	2	241
	(49)	316	263	1,314
Total Comprehensive Income	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,587	\$ 5,456	\$ 5,763

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Foreign currency translation adjustments during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 were primarily the result of unrealized foreign currency translation losses related to our investment in Vodafone Omnitel and from international operations at our Wireline segment. Foreign currency translation adjustments during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 were primarily the result of unrealized foreign currency translation gains related to our investment in Vodafone Omnitel, as well as the disposition of our interest in CANTV during the second quarter of 2007.

Defined benefit pension and postretirement plan reductions during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 were primarily due to amortization of the unrecognized actuarial losses and changes in actuarial assumptions for medical benefit costs. In addition to the pension and postretirement items, during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we recorded a reduction to the beginning balance of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss of \$79 million (\$44 million after-tax) in connection with the spin-off of our local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Table of Contents

The components of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss were as follows:

	At September 30,	At December 31,
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007
Foreign currency translation adjustments	\$ 1,039	\$ 1,167
Unrealized derivative losses on cash flow hedges	(8)	(10)
Unrealized gain (loss) on marketable securities	(46)	60
Defined benefit pension and postretirement plans	(5,184)	(5,723)
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	\$ (4,199)	\$ (4,506)

Net Investment Hedge

During the third quarter of 2007, we entered into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge a portion of our net investment in Vodafone Omnitel. Changes in fair value of these contracts due to Euro exchange rate fluctuations were recognized in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss which were partially offset by the impact of foreign currency changes on the value of our net investment. As of September 30, 2008, our positions in these foreign currency forward contracts were settled. The balance on the forward contracts along with the unrealized foreign currency translation balance on the investment will remain in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss until the investment is sold.

12. Segment Information

We have two reportable segments, which we operate and manage as strategic business units and organize by products and services. We previously measured and evaluated our reportable segments based on segment income. Beginning in 2008, we measure and evaluate our reportable segments based on segment operating income, which is reflected in all periods presented. The use of segment operating income is consistent with the chief operating decision makers' assessment of segment performance.

Corporate, eliminations and other includes unallocated corporate expenses, intersegment eliminations recorded in consolidation, the results of other businesses such as our investments in unconsolidated businesses, lease financing, and other adjustments and gains and losses that are not allocated in assessing segment performance due to their non-recurring or non-operational nature. Although such transactions are excluded from the business segment results, they are included in reported consolidated earnings. Gains and losses that are not individually significant are included in all segment results, since these items are included in the chief operating decision makers' assessment of segment performance.

Our segments and their principal activities consist of the following:

Segment	Description
Wireline	Wireline's communications services include voice, Internet access, broadband video and data, next generation Internet Protocol network services, network access, long distance and other services. We provide these services to consumers, carriers, businesses and government customers both domestically and internationally in 150 countries.
Domestic Wireless	Domestic Wireless's products and services include wireless voice, data products and other value-added services and equipment sales across the United States.

Table of Contents

The following table provides operating financial information for our two reportable segments:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
(dollars in millions)	September 30, 2008	September 30, 2007	September 30, 2008	September 30, 2007
External Operating Revenues				
Wireline	\$ 11,848	\$ 12,062	\$ 35,369	\$ 35,947
Domestic Wireless	12,671	11,262	36,405	32,363
Total segments	24,519	23,324	71,774	68,310
Corporate, eliminations and other	233	448	935	1,319
Total consolidated reported	\$ 24,752	\$ 23,772	\$ 72,709	\$ 69,629
Intersegment Revenues				
Wireline	\$ 310	\$ 310	\$ 928	\$ 933
Domestic Wireless	28	27	81	76
Total segments	338	337	1,009	1,009
Corporate, eliminations and other	(338)	(337)	(1,009)	(1,009)
Total consolidated reported	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Operating Revenues				
Wireline	\$ 12,158	\$ 12,372	\$ 36,297	\$ 36,880
Domestic Wireless	12,699	11,289	36,486	32,439
Total segments	24,857	23,661	72,783	69,319
Corporate, eliminations and other	(105)	111	(74)	310
Total consolidated reported	\$ 24,752	\$ 23,772	\$ 72,709	\$ 69,629
Operating Income				
Wireline	\$ 1,046	\$ 1,135	\$ 3,149	\$ 3,305
Domestic Wireless	3,466	3,054	10,184	8,792
Total segments	4,512	4,189	13,333	12,097
Reconciling items	(339)	21	(281)	58
Total consolidated reported	\$ 4,173	\$ 4,210	\$ 13,052	\$ 12,155
Assets				
(dollars in millions)	At September 30, 2008	At December 31, 2007		
Wireline	\$ 88,892	\$ 92,264		
Domestic Wireless	103,761	83,755		

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Total segments	192,653	176,019
Reconciling items	12,208	10,940
Total consolidated reported	\$ 204,861	\$ 186,959

A reconciliation of the total of the reportable segments operating income to consolidated Income Before Provision for Income Taxes, Discontinued Operations and Extraordinary Item is as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007	2008	2007
Total segment operating income	\$ 4,512	\$ 4,189	\$ 13,333	\$ 12,097
Merger integration costs (see Note 2)	(50)	(45)	(115)	(86)
Access line spin-off related charges (see Note 3)		(46)	(103)	(46)
Impact of divested operations (see Note 3)		51	44	149
Verizon Foundation contribution (see Note 3)				(100)
International taxes (see Note 10)		(13)		(13)
Severance, pension and benefit charges (see Note 9)	(265)		(265)	
Corporate and other	(24)	74	158	154
Total consolidated operating income	\$ 4,173	\$ 4,210	\$ 13,052	\$ 12,155
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated businesses	211	147	458	492
Other income and (expense), net	105	49	220	124
Interest expense	(440)	(450)	(1,302)	(1,390)
Minority interest	(1,530)	(1,298)	(4,459)	(3,720)
Income Before Provision For Income taxes, Discontinued Operations and Extraordinary item	\$ 2,519	\$ 2,658	\$ 7,969	\$ 7,661

We generally account for intersegment sales of products and services and asset transfers at current market prices. We are not dependent on any single customer.

Table of Contents

13. Other Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In April 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 142-3, *Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets* (FSP 142-3). FSP 142-3 removes the requirement under SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* to consider whether an intangible asset can be renewed without substantial cost or material modifications to the existing terms and conditions, and replaces it with a requirement that an entity consider its own historical experience in renewing similar arrangements, or a consideration of market participant assumptions in the absence of historical experience. FSP 142-3 also requires entities to disclose information that enables users of financial statements to assess the extent to which the expected future cash flows associated with the asset are affected by the entity's intent and/or ability to renew or extend the arrangement. We are required to adopt FSP 142-3 effective January 1, 2009 on a prospective basis. We are evaluating the impact FSP 142-3 will have on our financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*—an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133, (SFAS No. 161). This statement requires additional disclosures for derivative instruments and hedging activities that include how and why an entity uses derivatives, how these instruments and the related hedged items are accounted for under SFAS No. 133 and related interpretations, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations (Revised)*, (SFAS No. 141(R)), to replace SFAS No. 141, *Business Combinations*. SFAS No. 141(R) requires the use of the acquisition method of accounting, defines the acquirer, establishes the acquisition date and broadens the scope to all transactions and other events in which one entity obtains control over one or more other businesses. This statement is effective for business combinations or transactions entered into for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008. We are still evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 141(R) however, the adoption of this statement is not expected to have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements*—an amendment of ARB No. 51, (SFAS No. 160). SFAS No. 160 establishes accounting and reporting standards for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the retained interest and gain or loss when a subsidiary is deconsolidated. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008. Upon the initial adoption of this statement, we will change the classification and presentation of Noncontrolling Interest in our financial statements, which we currently refer to as Minority Interest. We are still evaluating the impact SFAS No. 160 will have, but we do not expect a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

14. Commitments and Contingencies

Several state and federal regulatory proceedings may require our telephone operations to pay penalties or to refund to customers a portion of the revenues collected in the current and prior periods. There are also various legal actions pending to which we are a party and claims which, if asserted, may lead to other legal actions. We have established reserves for specific liabilities in connection with regulatory and legal actions, including environmental matters that we currently deem to be probable and estimable. We do not expect that the ultimate resolution of pending regulatory and legal matters in future periods, including the Hicksville matter described below, will have a material effect on our financial condition, but it could have a material effect on our results of operations for a given reporting period.

During 2003, under a government-approved plan, remediation commenced at the site of a former Sylvania facility in Hicksville, New York that processed nuclear fuel rods in the 1950s and 1960s. Remediation beyond original expectations proved to be necessary and a reassessment of the anticipated remediation costs was conducted. A reassessment of costs related to remediation efforts at several other former facilities was also undertaken. In September 2005, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) accepted the Hicksville site into the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. This may result in the ACE performing some or all of the remediation effort for the Hicksville site with a corresponding decrease in costs to Verizon. To the extent that the ACE assumes responsibility for remedial work at the Hicksville site, an adjustment to a reserve previously established for the remediation may be necessary. Adjustments to the reserve may also be necessary based upon actual conditions discovered during the remediation at any of the sites requiring remediation.

During the second quarter of 2008, we entered into an agreement to acquire a non-exclusive license (the IP License) to a portfolio of intellectual property owned by an entity formed for the purpose of acquiring and licensing intellectual property. We paid an initial fee of \$100 million for the IP License, which is being amortized over the expected useful lives of the licensed intellectual property. In addition, we executed a

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

subscription agreement (with a capital commitment of up to \$250 million to be funded as required through 2012) to become a member in a limited liability company (the LLC) formed by the same entity for the purpose of acquiring and licensing additional intellectual property. In connection with this investment, we will receive non-exclusive license rights to certain intellectual property acquired by the LLC for an annual license fee.

In connection with the execution of agreements for the sales of businesses and investments, Verizon ordinarily provides representations and warranties to the purchasers pertaining to a variety of nonfinancial matters, such as ownership of the securities being sold, as well as indemnity from certain financial losses.

Table of Contents

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

Overview

Verizon Communications Inc. (Verizon or the Company) is one of the world's leading providers of communications services. Verizon's wireline business provides communications services, including voice, broadband data and video services, network access, nationwide long-distance and other communications products and services, and also owns and operates one of the most expansive end-to-end global Internet Protocol (IP) networks. Verizon's domestic wireless business, operating as Verizon Wireless, provides wireless voice and data products and services across the United States using one of the most extensive and reliable wireless networks. Stressing diversity and commitment to the communities in which we operate, we have a highly diverse workforce of approximately 228,300 employees.

The sections that follow provide information about the important aspects of our operations and investments, both at the consolidated and segment levels, and include discussions of our results of operations, financial position and sources and uses of cash. In addition, we have highlighted key trends and uncertainties to the extent practicable. The content and organization of the financial and non-financial data presented in these sections are consistent with information used by our chief operating decision makers for, among other purposes, evaluating performance and allocating resources. We also monitor several key economic indicators as well as the state of the economy in general, primarily in the United States where the majority of our operations are located, in evaluating our operating results and assessing the potential impacts of these trends on our businesses. While most key economic indicators, including gross domestic product, affect our operations to some degree, we historically have noted higher correlations to non-farm employment, personal consumption expenditures and capital spending, as well as more general economic indicators such as inflation, unemployment rates and housing starts.

Our results of operations, financial position and sources and uses of cash in the current and future periods reflect Verizon management's focus on the following strategic imperatives:

Revenue Growth Our emphasis is on revenue growth, devoting more resources to higher growth markets such as wireless, including wireless data, wireline broadband connections, including Verizon's high-capacity fiber optics to the premises network operated under the FiOS service mark, high-speed Internet lines and other data services, as well as expanded strategic services to business markets, rather than to the traditional wireline voice market. During the third quarter of 2008, we reported consolidated revenue growth of 4.1% compared to last year, primarily driven by 12.5% higher revenue at Domestic Wireless, due to increases in data revenues, which accounted for 25.5% of service revenue, and an 11.2% increase in customers. At Wireline, revenue growth in the residential market, driven by broadband and video services, coupled with growth in the business market derived from strategic services, partially offset declines in the traditional voice mass market. Operating revenues in the third quarter of 2007 include \$279 million related to the local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont that were spun-off in the first quarter of 2008.

Market Share Gains We are focused on gaining market share. In our wireline business, our goal is to become the leading broadband provider in every market in which we operate. At Wireline, as of September 30, 2008, we passed 11.9 million premises with our high-capacity fiber network of which 9.1 million premises are open for FiOS Internet sales and 8.2 million premises are open for FiOS TV sales. We added 129,000 net wireline broadband connections during the third quarter of 2008, for a total of 8,459,000 connections. We are among the top 10 video providers in the U.S. through the continued deployment of FiOS. At September 30, 2008, we had 1,615,000 FiOS TV customers, adding approximately 233,000 net new FiOS TV customers in the third quarter of 2008. Revenues from strategic services (Private IP, IP, Managed Services, Virtual Private Network or VPN, Web Hosting and Voice over IP or VoIP) grew 15.4% over the same period last year. At Domestic Wireless, we continue to add retail customers, grow revenue and gain market share while maintaining a low churn (customer turnover) rate.

Profitability Improvement Our goal is to increase operating income and margins. While our reported operating results in the third quarter of 2008 were lower compared to last year, primarily attributable to \$315 million (\$196 million after-tax) of merger integration costs, as well as severance, pension and benefit costs, operating income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 rose 7.4% compared to the same period last year, while income before provision for income taxes and discontinued operations and extraordinary item rose 4.0% over the same period. Our operating income margin during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 rose to 18.0% compared with 17.5% in the same period in 2007. Supporting these improvements, our capital spending continues to be directed primarily toward growth markets, positioning the Company for sustainable, long-term profitability. High-speed wireless data (Evolution-Data Optimized or EV-DO) services, fiber optics to the premises, as well as expanded services to enterprise customers are examples of these growth markets. During the nine months ended

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

September 30, 2008, capital expenditures were \$12,575 million compared with capital expenditures of \$12,792 million in the similar period in 2007, excluding discontinued operations. During the second quarter of 2008, Verizon Wireless completed the payment for several licenses awarded to it in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 700 MHz auction for an aggregate bid price of approximately \$9.4 billion. Verizon Wireless expects the licenses to be granted by the FCC in the fourth quarter of 2008. Domestic Wireless also expects, from time to time, to acquire operating markets and spectrum in geographic areas where it does not currently operate.

Table of Contents

Operational Efficiency While focusing our resources on revenue growth and market share gains, we are continually challenging our management team to lower expenses, particularly through technology-assisted productivity improvements, including self-service initiatives. The effect of these and other efforts, such as real estate consolidations, call center routing improvements, the formation of a centralized shared services organization, and centralizing information technology and marketing efforts, has led to changes to the Company's cost structure, thereby maintaining and improving operating income margins. With our deployment of the FiOS network, we expect to realize savings annually in our ongoing operating expenses as a result of the efficiencies gained from fiber network facilities. As the deployment of the FiOS network gains scale and installation and automation improvements occur, costs per home connected are expected to decline. Since the merger with MCI, we have gained operational benefits from sales force and product and systems integration initiatives. Workforce levels at the end of the third quarter of 2008 decreased to 228,300 primarily from reductions at Wireline due to continued productivity improvements and merger synergy savings, partially offset by an increase in headcount at Domestic Wireless.

Customer Experience Our goal is to provide the best customer experience possible and to be the leading company in customer service in every market we serve. We view superior product offerings and customer service experiences as a competitive differentiator and a catalyst to growing revenues and gaining market share. We continue developing and marketing innovative product bundles to include local wireline, long-distance, wireless and broadband services for consumer and general business retail customers. These efforts will help counter the effects of competition and technology substitution that have resulted in access line losses and will enable us to grow revenues. Also at Wireline, we continued to roll out next-generation global IP networks to meet the ongoing global enterprise market shift to IP-based products and services. Deployment of new strategic service offerings including expansion of our VoIP and international Ethernet capabilities, the introduction of video and web-based conferencing capabilities, and enhancements to our virtual private network portfolio will allow us to continue to gain share in the enterprise market. At Domestic Wireless, we continue to execute on the fundamentals of our network superiority and value proposition to deliver growth for our business and provide new and innovative products and services, such as Broadband Access, our EV-DO service. We also continue to expand our wireless data, messaging and multi-media offerings for both consumer and business customers and take advantage of the growing demand for wireless data services.

Performance-Based Culture We embrace a culture of corporate-wide accountability, based on individual and team objectives that are performance-based and tied to these imperatives. Key objectives of our compensation programs are pay-for-performance and the alignment of executives' and shareowners' long-term interests. We also employ a highly diverse workforce, since respect for diversity is an integral part of Verizon's culture and a critical element of our competitive success.

We create value for our shareowners by investing the cash flows generated by the business in opportunities and transactions that support these strategic imperatives, thereby increasing customer satisfaction and usage of our products and services. In addition, we have used our cash flows to repurchase shares and maintain and grow our dividend payout to shareowners. Reflecting continued strong cash flows and confidence in Verizon's business model, Verizon's Board of Directors increased the Company's quarterly dividend 6.2% during the third quarter of 2007 and 7.0% during the third quarter of 2008, with a goal of moving to an annual dividend increase model. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we repurchased \$1,369 million of our common stock as part of our previously announced share buyback programs. Net cash provided by operating activities—continuing operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 of \$19,078 million increased by \$1,059 million from \$18,019 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

On August 7, 2008, Verizon Wireless completed the acquisition of Rural Cellular Corporation (Rural Cellular) in a cash transaction. Rural Cellular was a wireless communications service provider focusing primarily on rural markets in the United States. Verizon Wireless believes that the transaction will further enhance its network coverage in markets adjacent to its existing service areas and will enable Verizon Wireless to achieve operational benefits through realizing synergies in reduced roaming and operations expenses. Under the terms of the acquisition agreement, Rural Cellular's common shareholders received cash of \$45 per share (\$728 million in the aggregate). Additionally, the holders of all classes of Rural Cellular's preferred stock received cash in the aggregate of \$571 million.

On June 5, 2008, Verizon Wireless entered into an agreement with Alltel Corporation (Alltel) and Atlantis Holdings LLC, an affiliate of private investment firms TPG Capital and GS Capital Partners, to acquire Alltel in a cash merger. Under the terms of the agreement, Verizon Wireless will acquire the equity of Alltel for approximately \$5.9 billion. Based on Alltel's projected net debt at closing of approximately \$22.2 billion, the aggregate value of the transaction is approximately \$28.1 billion. The parties are targeting completion of the merger by the end of the year, subject to obtaining regulatory approvals.

On March 31, 2008, we completed the spin-off of our local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Verizon stockholders received one share of FairPoint Communications, Inc. (FairPoint) common stock for every 53.0245 shares of Verizon common stock they owned as of March 7, 2008. FairPoint paid cash in lieu of any fraction of a share of FairPoint common stock. As a result of

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

the spin-off, our net debt was reduced by approximately \$1.4 billion. Both the spin-off and merger qualify as tax-free transactions, except for the cash payments for fractional shares which are generally taxable.

Table of Contents**Consolidated Results of Operations**

In this section, we discuss our overall results of operations and highlight items that are not included in our business segment results. We have two reportable segments, which we operate and manage as strategic business units and organize by products and services. Our segments are Wireline and Domestic Wireless.

This section and the following Segment Results of Operations section also highlight and describe those items of a non-recurring or non-operational nature separately to ensure consistency of presentation. In the following section, we review the performance of our two reportable segments. We exclude the effects of certain items that management does not consider in assessing segment performance, primarily because of their non-recurring and/or non-operational nature as discussed below and in the Other Consolidated Results and Other Items sections. We believe that this presentation will assist readers in better understanding our results of operations and trends from period to period.

On March 31, 2008, we completed the spin-off of our local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Accordingly, Wireline results from divested operations have been reclassified to reflect comparable operating results.

Consolidated Revenues

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30, 2008	September 30, 2007	% Change	September 30, 2008	September 30, 2007	% Change
(dollars in millions)						
Wireline						
Verizon Telecom	\$ 7,497	\$ 7,743	(3.2)	\$ 22,504	\$ 23,194	(3.0)
Verizon Business	5,377	5,311	1.2	15,909	15,768	0.9
Intrasegment eliminations	(716)	(682)	5.0	(2,116)	(2,082)	1.6
	12,158	12,372	(1.7)	36,297	36,880	(1.6)
Domestic Wireless	12,699	11,289	12.5	36,486	32,439	12.5
Corporate & Other	(105)	(168)	(37.5)	(332)	(515)	(35.5)
Revenues of divested operations		279	(100.0)	258	825	(68.7)
Consolidated Revenues	\$ 24,752	\$ 23,772	4.1	\$ 72,709	\$ 69,629	4.4

Consolidated revenues in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$980 million, or 4.1%, and \$3,080 million, or 4.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. These increases were primarily the result of continued strong growth at Domestic Wireless.

Domestic Wireless' s revenues during the third quarter of 2008 increased \$1,410 million, or 12.5%, and \$4,047 million, or 12.5%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007 due to increases in service revenues, including data revenues, and equipment and other revenues. Service revenues during the third quarter of 2008 increased \$1,186 million, or 12.2% and \$3,430 million, or 12.2%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, primarily due to an increase in data revenues and customers. Equipment and other revenue increased primarily as a result of the number of existing customers upgrading their wireless devices. Data revenues in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$832 million, or 42.5%, and \$2,397 million, or 45.3%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods last year. Domestic Wireless customers at September 30, 2008 were approximately 70.8 million, an increase of 11.2% from September 30, 2007. Domestic Wireless' s retail customer base as of September 30, 2008 was approximately 68.8 million, an 11.3% increase from September 30, 2007 and represented approximately 97% of our total customer base. Average service revenue per customer per month increased 0.9% to \$52.18 in the third quarter of 2008 and increased 1.2% to \$51.55 in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007. Average retail service revenue per customer per month increased 0.2% to \$52.29 in the third quarter of 2008 and increased 0.6% to \$51.88 in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007.

Wireline' s revenues during the third quarter of 2008 decreased \$214 million, or 1.7%, and \$583 million, or 1.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, primarily due to lower demand and usage of our basic local exchange and accompanying services, partially offset by continued growth from broadband and strategic services. We added 129,000 net new broadband connections, including 225,000 net new FiOS data connections, offset by a net decline of 96,000 high speed Internet connections in the third quarter of 2008, for a total of 8,459,000 connections at September 30, 2008, including 2,199,000 for FiOS Internet, representing a 9.1% increase in total broadband connections from September 30, 2007. In addition, we added 233,000 net new FiOS TV customers in the third quarter of

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

2008, for a total of 1,615,000 at September 30, 2008. The overall revenue decline at Verizon Telecom was due to subscriber losses resulting from competition and technology substitution, including wireless and VoIP. Revenues at Verizon Business increased primarily due to higher demand for Internet-related product offerings, specifically Private IP products and the impact of foreign currency exchange rates on services billed in local currencies, partially offset by lower voice revenues.

Table of Contents**Consolidated Operating Expenses**

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Cost of services and sales	\$ 10,048	\$ 9,608	4.6	\$ 29,031	\$ 27,751	4.6
Selling, general and administrative expense	6,879	6,349	8.3	19,808	19,012	4.2
Depreciation and amortization expense	3,652	3,605	1.3	10,818	10,711	1.0
Consolidated Operating Expenses	\$ 20,579	\$ 19,562	5.2	\$ 59,657	\$ 57,474	3.8
<i>Cost of Services and Sales</i>						

Consolidated cost of services and sales expense in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$440 million, or 4.6%, and \$1,280 million, or 4.6%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, primarily as a result of higher wireless network costs and increases in wireless equipment costs, partially offset by the impact of productivity improvement initiatives. The higher wireless network costs were primarily caused by increased network usage relating to both voice and data services and increased roaming, as well as increased consumption of data services and applications in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. Cost of wireless equipment sales expense increased in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, primarily as a result of an increase in wireless devices sold primarily due to an increase in equipment upgrades, combined with an increase in average cost per unit.

Consolidated cost of services and sales expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 included \$5 million and \$18 million for merger integration costs, primarily relating to the former MCI system integration activities. Consolidated cost of services and sales expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 also included \$16 million related to the spin-off of local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Consolidated cost of services and sales expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 included \$12 million and \$16 million for merger integration costs, primarily relating to the former MCI system integration activities.

Selling, General and Administrative Expense

Consolidated selling, general and administrative expense in the third quarter 2008 increased \$530 million, or 8.3%, and \$796 million, or 4.2%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. These increases resulted from higher sales commission expense and higher advertising and promotion costs, partially offset by declines in stock-based compensation expense, cost reduction initiatives across all segments and the impact of gains from real estate sales.

Consolidated selling, general and administrative expense for the third quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2008 included \$265 million, primarily related to severance and severance-related costs as well as pension settlement losses related to employees that received lump-sum distributions primarily resulting from our separation plans. Consolidated selling, general and administrative expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 also included \$45 million and \$97 million, respectively, for merger integration costs, primarily relating to the former MCI system integration activities and \$87 million related to the spin-off of local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Consolidated selling, general and administrative expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 included \$33 million and \$70 million of merger integration costs, primarily relating to the former MCI systems integration activities and a \$100 million contribution to the Verizon Foundation, to fund its charitable activities and increase its self-sufficiency, from a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of Telecomunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Inc. (TELPRI). Consolidated selling, general and administrative expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 also included \$46 million related to the spin-off of local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense

Depreciation and amortization expense in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$47 million, or 1.3%, and \$107 million, or 1.0%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods last year. These increases were mainly driven by growth in depreciable telephone plant and non-network software and from additional capital spending, substantially offset by lower rates of depreciation as a result of changes in the estimated useful lives of certain asset classes.

Table of Contents**Other Consolidated Results***Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Businesses*

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Vodafone Omnitel	\$ 230	\$ 160	43.8	\$ 519	\$ 475	9.3
Other	(19)	(13)	nm	(61)	17	nm
Total	\$ 211	\$ 147	43.5	\$ 458	\$ 492	(6.9)

nm Not meaningful

Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Businesses during the third quarter of 2008 increased \$64 million compared to the similar period in 2007, primarily driven by higher earnings at Vodafone Omnitel N.V. (Vodafone Omnitel) partially due to higher income tax benefits. Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Businesses during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 decreased \$34 million compared to the similar period in 2007, primarily driven by the gain on the sale of an international investment in 2007, partially offset by higher earnings at Vodafone Omnitel.

Other Income and (Expense), Net

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Interest income	\$ 123	\$ 35	nm	\$ 235	\$ 120	95.8
Foreign exchange gains (losses), net	(12)	5	nm	(42)	4	nm
Other, net	(6)	9	nm	27		nm
Total	\$ 105	\$ 49	nm	\$ 220	\$ 124	77.4

nm Not meaningful

Other Income and (Expense), Net in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$56 million and \$96 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007 as a result of higher interest income, primarily from our investment in Alltel's debt obligations. Partially offsetting the increases were foreign exchange losses at our international Wireline operations.

Interest Expense

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Total interest costs on debt balances	\$ 661	\$ 555	19.1	\$ 1,816	\$ 1,722	5.5
Less capitalized interest costs	221	105	nm	514	332	54.8
Interest expense	\$ 440	\$ 450	(2.2)	\$ 1,302	\$ 1,390	(6.3)

Weighted-average debt outstanding	\$ 43,935	\$ 31,720	\$ 38,701	\$ 33,485
Effective interest rate	6.0%	7.0%	6.3%	6.9%

nm Not meaningful

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Total interest costs in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$106 million and \$94 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007 primarily due to an increase in the weighted-average debt level, partially offset by lower interest rates compared to last year. Capitalized interest costs during the third quarter of 2008 include approximately \$176 million related to the development of wireless licenses for commercial service, primarily as a result of the spectrum being acquired as a result of the 700 MHz auction. The increase in weighted-average debt outstanding was primarily driven by the issuance of \$8,000 million of fixed rate notes, with varying maturities, in the first half of 2008. In addition, during the second quarter of 2008, Verizon Wireless borrowed \$4,795 million under a term facility primarily to complete the purchase of Alltel debt obligations and, during the third quarter of 2008, \$2,750 million under a delayed draw facility to finance the acquisition of Rural Cellular. Partially offsetting this increase in our weighted-average debt outstanding were continued debt reductions.

Table of Contents*Minority Interest*

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
(dollars in millions)	September 30,		% Change	September 30,		% Change
	2008	2007		2008	2007	
Minority interest	\$ 1,530	\$ 1,298	17.9	\$ 4,459	\$ 3,720	19.9

The increase in minority interest expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007 was the result of higher earnings at Domestic Wireless, which has a significant minority interest attributable to Vodafone Group Plc.

Provision for Income Taxes

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
(dollars in millions)	September 30,		% Change	September 30,		% Change
	2008	2007		2008	2007	
Provision for income taxes	\$ 850	\$ 1,387	(38.7)	\$ 2,776	\$ 3,223	(13.9)
Effective income tax rate	33.7%	52.2%		34.8%	42.1%	

The effective income tax rate is calculated by dividing the provision for income taxes by income from continuing operations before the provision for income taxes. The effective income tax rate for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to similar periods of 2007 decreased primarily due to taxes recorded in 2007 related to 2007 and 2008 distributions from Vodafone Omnitel. The rate also decreased in 2008 due to decreases in earnings and profits of non-U.S. affiliates subject to U.S. tax, partially offset by lower benefits from foreign tax credits in 2008 as compared to 2007.

Unrecognized Tax Benefits

The unrecognized tax benefits pursuant to FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, were \$2,557 million and \$2,883 million at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively. Interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits were \$511 million (after-tax) and \$598 million (after-tax), at September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively. The decrease in unrecognized tax benefits and the related interest and penalties was due to the resolution of certain issues under income tax examinations. The decrease in unrecognized tax benefits was primarily offset by an increase to deferred income taxes.

As a result of the anticipated resolution of various income tax audits within the next twelve months, we believe that it is reasonably possible that the amount of unrecognized tax benefits will decrease. Any actual decrease will primarily be offset by an increase to deferred income taxes and is not expected to have a material impact on our results of operations.

Vodafone Omnitel Dividend

In April 2008, Verizon received a net distribution from Vodafone Omnitel of approximately \$670 million, for which taxes were previously recorded.

Discontinued Operations

On March 30, 2007, we completed the sale of our 52% interest in TELPRI and received gross proceeds of approximately \$980 million. The sale resulted in a pretax gain of \$120 million (\$70 million after-tax, or \$.02 per diluted share). Accordingly, discontinued operations in the condensed consolidated statements of income for the three months ended March 31, 2007 include the results of operations of TELPRI through the completion of the sale. Verizon contributed \$100 million (\$65 million after-tax) of the proceeds to the Verizon Foundation during the three months ended March 31, 2007.

Extraordinary Item

In January 2007, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the Republic) declared its intent to nationalize certain companies, including Compañía Anónima Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela (CANTV). On February 12, 2007, we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

the Republic, which provided that the Republic offer to purchase all of the equity securities of CANTV, including our 28.5% interest, through public tender offers in Venezuela and the United States. Under the terms of the MOU, the prices in the tender offers would be adjusted downward to reflect any dividends declared and paid subsequent to February 12, 2007. During the second quarter of 2007, the tender offers were completed and Verizon received an aggregate amount of approximately \$572 million, which included \$476 million from the tender offers as well as \$96 million of dividends declared and paid subsequent to the MOU. Based upon our investment balance in CANTV, we recorded an extraordinary loss of \$131 million, including taxes of \$38 million, or \$.05 per diluted share during the three months ended March 31, 2007.

Table of Contents**Segment Results of Operations**

We have two reportable segments, which we operate and manage as strategic business units and organize by products and services. We previously measured and evaluated our reportable segments based on segment income. Beginning in 2008, we measure and evaluate our reportable segments based on segment operating income, which is reflected in all periods presented. The use of segment operating income is consistent with the chief operating decision makers' assessment of segment performance. You can find additional information about our segments in Note 12 to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Corporate, eliminations and other includes unallocated corporate expenses, intersegment eliminations recorded in consolidation, the results of other businesses such as our investments in unconsolidated businesses, lease financing, and other adjustments and gains and losses that are not allocated in assessing segment performance due to their non-recurring or non-operational nature. Although such transactions are excluded from the business segment results, they are included in reported consolidated earnings. Gains and losses that are not individually significant are included in all segment results, since these items are included in the chief operating decision makers' assessment of segment performance.

Wireline

The Wireline segment consists of the operations of Verizon Telecom, a provider of communication services, including voice, broadband video and data, network access, long distance, and other services to residential and small business customers and carriers, and Verizon Business, which provides next-generation IP network services to medium and large businesses and government customers globally. The results of operations presented below exclude the local exchange and related businesses in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont that were spun-off on March 31, 2008.

Operating Revenues

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,			September 30,		
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Verizon Telecom						
Mass Markets	\$ 5,277	\$ 5,329	(1.0)	\$ 15,748	\$ 16,032	(1.8)
Wholesale	1,882	1,967	(4.3)	5,689	5,842	(2.6)
Other	338	447	(24.4)	1,067	1,320	(19.2)
Verizon Business						
Enterprise Business	3,655	3,686	(0.8)	10,804	10,862	(0.5)
Wholesale	851	836	1.8	2,531	2,530	nm
International and Other	871	789	10.4	2,574	2,376	8.3
Intrasegment eliminations	(716)	(682)	5.0	(2,116)	(2,082)	1.6
Total Wireline Operating Revenues	\$ 12,158	\$ 12,372	(1.7)	\$ 36,297	\$ 36,880	(1.6)
nm Not meaningful						

*Verizon Telecom***Mass Markets**

Our Mass Markets revenue during the third quarter of 2008 decreased \$52 million, or 1.0%, and \$284 million or 1.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. The decrease was primarily driven by lower demand and usage of our basic local exchange and accompanying services, attributable to consumer subscriber line losses, including those served by the former MCI. These losses are driven by competition and technology substitution, including wireless and VoIP. These decreases were partially offset by growth from broadband services and FiOS TV.

Declines in switched access lines in service of 9.0% at September 30, 2008, compared to the similar period in 2007, were mainly driven by the effects of competition and technology substitution. Residential retail access lines declined 11.0% at September 30, 2008, compared to the similar period in 2007, as customers substituted wireless, VoIP, broadband and cable services for traditional voice landline services. At the same time, small business retail access lines declined 4.4% at September 30, 2008, primarily reflecting competition and a shift to high-speed access lines.

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

The resulting total retail access line loss was 8.7% at September 30, 2008. Access line losses include the loss of lines served by the former MCI.

We added 129,000 net new broadband connections, including 225,000 net new FiOS Internet connections in the third quarter of 2008. For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we added 447,000 net new broadband connections, including 674,000 net new FiOS Internet connections, for a total of 8,459,000 connections at September 30, 2008, including 2,199,000 for FiOS Internet, representing a 9.1% increase in total broadband connections from September 30, 2007. In addition, we added 233,000 net new FiOS TV customers in the third quarter of 2008 and 672,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, for a total of 1,615,000 at September 30, 2008. As of September 30, 2008, for FiOS Internet and FiOS TV, we achieved penetration rates of 24.2% and 19.7%, respectively, across all markets where we have been selling these services.

Table of Contents

Wholesale

Wholesale revenues during the third quarter of 2008 decreased \$85 million, or 4.3%, and \$153 million, or 2.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, due to declines in switched access revenues and local wholesale revenues (UNEs). These declines were partially offset by increases in special access revenues.

Switched minutes of use (MOUs) declined in the third quarter of 2008 and the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, reflecting the impact of access line loss and wireless substitution. Wholesale lines decreased 16.1% due to the continued impact of competitors deemphasizing their local market initiatives coupled with the impact of technology substitution. Special access revenue growth reflects continuing demand in the small business market for high-capacity, high-speed digital services, partially offset by lower demand for older, low-speed data products and services. Customer demand for high-capacity and digital data services increased 5.6% in the third quarter of 2008 compared to the similar period in 2007.

Other Revenues

Revenues from other services during the third quarter of 2008 decreased \$109 million, or 24.4%, and \$253 million, or 19.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. These revenue decreases were mainly due to continued declines in non-strategic product lines.

Verizon Business

Enterprise Business

Enterprise Business revenues during the third quarter of 2008 decreased \$31 million, or 0.8%, and \$58 million, or 0.5%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. The revenue decline is due to certain customers moving traffic off of our network, partially offset by increases in customer premises equipment revenue and security solutions revenue. Enterprise Business services many customer accounts that are moving from core data products to more robust IP products. The Internet suite of products continues to be Enterprise Business's fastest growing and includes Private IP, IP, VPN, Managed Services, Web Hosting and VoIP.

Wholesale

Wholesale revenues during the third quarter of 2008 increased \$15 million or 1.8%, and remained relatively flat for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. The slight revenue increase is due to an increase in MOUs in traditional voice products.

International and Other

International and Other revenues during the third quarter of 2008 increased \$82 million, or 10.4%, and \$198 million, or 8.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, reflecting strong growth in our Internet suite of products, specifically Private IP products, and the impact of foreign currency exchange rates on services billed in local currencies.

Table of Contents**Operating Expenses**

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,			September 30,		
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Cost of services and sales	\$ 6,155	\$ 6,085	1.2	\$ 18,233	\$ 17,993	1.3
Selling, general and administrative expense	2,689	2,922	(8.0)	8,193	8,943	(8.4)
Depreciation and amortization expense	2,268	2,230	1.7	6,722	6,639	1.3
	\$ 11,112	\$ 11,237	(1.1)	\$ 33,148	\$ 33,575	(1.3)

Cost of Services and Sales

Cost of services and sales expense during the third quarter of 2008 increased \$70 million, or 1.2%, and \$240 million, or 1.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. These increases were primarily due to higher costs associated with our growth businesses, partially offset by productivity improvement initiatives and lower switched access lines in service, as well as lower wholesale voice connections. The increase in cost of services and sales expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was also impacted by higher customer premise equipment costs and the inclusion of the results of operations of a security services firm acquired on July 1, 2007.

Selling, General and Administrative Expense

Selling, general and administrative expenses in the third quarter of 2008 decreased \$233 million, or 8.0%, and \$750 million, or 8.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. This decrease was primarily due to declines in compensation expense, cost reduction initiatives and lower bad debt costs, partially offset by higher advertising and promotion costs. Also contributing to the decline were expense reductions due to the disposal of non-strategic product lines and the impact of gains from real estate sales. The decline for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was partially offset by the inclusion of the results of operations of a security services firm acquired on July 1, 2007.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense

Depreciation and amortization expense in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$38 million, or 1.7%, and \$83 million or 1.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007, mainly driven by growth in depreciable telephone plant and non-network software, from additional capital spending, substantially offset by lower rates of depreciation as a result of changes in the estimated useful lives of certain asset classes.

Operating Income

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,			September 30,		
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Operating Income	\$ 1,046	\$ 1,135	(7.8)	\$ 3,149	\$ 3,305	(4.7)

Segment operating income in the third quarter of 2008 decreased \$89 million, or 7.8%, and \$156 million or 4.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007 due to the impact of operating revenues and operating expenses described above.

Non-recurring or non-operational items not included in Verizon Wireline's segment operating results totaled \$307 million and \$359 million, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008. Items in the third quarter of 2008 included costs associated with continued merger integration initiatives and severance and severance-related costs as well as pension settlement losses. Non-recurring or non-operational items in nine months ended September 30, 2008 also included the results of operations spun-off during the first quarter of 2008 and the costs incurred in connection with the spin-off related to network, non-network software, and other activities.

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Non-recurring or non-operational items not included in operating income totaled \$9 million and \$49 million, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and included the results of operations spun-off during the first quarter of 2008 and costs associated with merger integration initiatives.

Table of Contents**Domestic Wireless**

Our Domestic Wireless segment provides wireless voice and data services, other value-added services and equipment sales across the United States. This segment primarily represents the operations of the Verizon joint venture with Vodafone, operating as Verizon Wireless.

Operating Revenues

(dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,			September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Service revenues	\$ 10,935	\$ 9,749	12.2	\$ 31,572	\$ 28,142	12.2
Equipment and other	1,764	1,540	14.5	4,914	4,297	14.4
Total Domestic Wireless Operating Revenue	\$ 12,699	\$ 11,289	12.5	\$ 36,486	\$ 32,439	12.5

Domestic Wireless's total operating revenue in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$1,410 million, or 12.5%, and \$4,047 million, or 12.5% in the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. Service revenues increased during the third quarter of 2008 by \$1,186 million, or 12.2% and \$3,430 million, or 12.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the similar periods in 2007. The service revenue increases were primarily due to increases in data revenues and an 11.2% increase in customers as of September 30, 2008 compared to September 30, 2007. Equipment and other revenue in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$224 million, or 14.5% and \$617 million, or 14.4% in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007, primarily as a result of an increase in the number of customers upgrading their wireless devices.

Total data revenue was \$2,788 million and accounted for 25.5% of service revenue in the third quarter of 2008, compared to \$1,956 million, and 20.1% in the similar period in 2007. Total data revenue was \$7,685 million and accounted for 24.3% of service revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$5,288 million and 18.8% in the similar period in 2007. Average total data service revenue per customer per month increased 28.3% in the third quarter of 2008 and 31.1% in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007, primarily driven by increased use of our messaging, Broadband Access and e-mail services, data transport charges, and newer data services such as VZ Navigator.

Average service revenue per customer per month increased 0.9% to \$52.18 in the third quarter of 2008 and increased 1.2% to \$51.55 in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007. Average retail service revenue per customer per month increased 0.2% to \$52.29 in the third quarter of 2008 and increased 0.6% to \$51.88 in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007.

Excluding acquisitions and adjustments, our Domestic Wireless segment added approximately 1.5 million net retail customers during the third quarter of 2008, compared to 1.8 million during the third quarter of 2007 and added approximately 4.4 million net retail customers during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to 5.0 million during the similar period in 2007. Retail (non-wholesale) customers are customers who are directly served and managed by Verizon Wireless and who buy its branded services. Domestic Wireless added approximately 2.1 million net total customers, including acquisitions and adjustments, during the third quarter of 2008, bringing total customers as of September 30, 2008 to approximately 70.8 million, of which 97.2% were retail customers. Acquisitions and adjustments during the three months ended September 30, 2008, include approximately 650,000 net total customer additions after conforming adjustments, of which approximately 630,000 were retail net additions, acquired in the Rural Cellular transaction. Upon the consummation of the exchange agreement with AT&T, as amended, we expect to recognize a net loss of approximately 120,000 net total customers.

Domestic Wireless ended the third quarter of 2008 with approximately 68.8 million retail customers, compared to 61.8 million retail customers at the end of the third quarter of 2007, an increase of 11.3%. Average monthly retail postpaid churn, the rate at which retail postpaid customers disconnect service, increased to 1.03% in the third quarter of 2008, compared to 0.96% in the third quarter of 2007. Average monthly retail postpaid churn increased to 0.93% in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to 0.90% in the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

Our Domestic Wireless customer base as of September 30, 2008 was 93.0% retail postpaid, 4.2% retail prepaid and 2.8% resellers. Total average monthly churn was 1.33% in the third quarter of 2008 and 1.21% in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to 1.27% in the third quarter of 2007 and 1.22% in the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

Table of Contents**Operating Expenses**

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,			September 30,		
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Cost of services and sales	\$ 4,178	\$ 3,551	17.7	\$ 11,507	\$ 9,843	16.9
Selling, general and administrative expense	3,689	3,385	9.0	10,806	9,956	8.5
Depreciation and amortization expense	1,366	1,299	5.2	3,989	3,848	3.7
	\$ 9,233	\$ 8,235	12.1	\$ 26,302	\$ 23,647	11.2

Cost of Services and Sales

Cost of services and sales expense, which are costs to operate the wireless network, as well as the cost of roaming, long distance and equipment sales, increased in the third quarter of 2008 by \$627 million, or 17.7%, and \$1,664 million, or 16.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007. Cost of services increased 12.3% and 11.2% in the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, compared to the similar periods in 2007. These increases were primarily due to higher wireless network costs in the current year periods caused by increased network usage relating to both voice and data usage and increased roaming, as well as increased consumption of data services and applications. Cost of equipment sales increased 21.1% and 20.8% in the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, compared to the similar periods in 2007. These increases were primarily attributable to an increase in equipment upgrades, combined with an increase in average cost per unit.

Selling, General and Administrative Expense

Selling, general and administrative expenses in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$304 million, or 9.0%, and \$850 million, or 8.5% in the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007. Sales commission expense in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$87 million and \$207 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to similar periods in 2007, primarily as a result of the increase in customer renewals and equipment upgrades. In addition, higher advertising and promotion expenses also contributed to the increase in selling, general and administrative expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense

Depreciation and amortization expense in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$67 million, or 5.2%, and \$141 million, or 3.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007. These increases were primarily due to increased depreciation expense related to growth in depreciable assets.

Operating Income

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,			September 30,		
(dollars in millions)	2008	2007	% Change	2008	2007	% Change
Operating Income	\$ 3,466	\$ 3,054	13.5	\$ 10,184	\$ 8,792	15.8

Operating income in the third quarter of 2008 increased \$412 million, or 13.5%, and \$1,392 million, or 15.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the similar periods in 2007, primarily as a result of the changes in operating revenues and operating expenses described above.

Table of Contents

Other Items

Employee-Related Items

During the third quarter of 2008, we recorded net pretax severance, pension and benefits charges of \$265 million (\$164 million after-tax, or \$.06 per diluted share). These charges included net pretax pension settlement losses of \$89 million (\$54 million after-tax) related to employees that received lump-sum distributions primarily resulting from our separation plans. These charges were recorded in accordance with SFAS No. 88, *Employers' Accounting for Settlements and Curtailments of Defined Benefit Pension Plans and for Termination Benefits*, which requires that settlement losses be recorded once prescribed payment thresholds have been reached. Also included are pretax charges of \$176 million (\$110 million after-tax) for ongoing employee severance in connection with the separation of approximately 2,700 management employees expected to occur during the remainder of 2008, in accordance with SFAS No. 112, *Employers' Accounting for Postemployment Benefits*.

Merger Integration Costs

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, we recorded pretax charges of \$50 million (\$32 million after-tax, or \$.01 per diluted share) and \$115 million (\$72 million after-tax, or \$.02 per diluted share), respectively, primarily related to the MCI acquisition that were comprised primarily of systems integration activities. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, we recorded pretax charges of \$45 million (\$28 million after-tax, or \$.01 per diluted share) and \$86 million (\$54 million after-tax, or \$.02 per diluted share), respectively, related to system integration activities associated with the MCI acquisition.

Telephone Access Lines Spin-off

During the first quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2007, we recorded pretax charges of \$103 million (\$81 million after-tax, or \$.03 per diluted share) and \$46 million (\$44 million after-tax, or \$.02 per diluted share), respectively, for costs incurred related to network, non-network software, and other activities to enable the operations in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to operate on a stand-alone basis subsequent to the closing of this transaction, as well as professional advisory and legal fees in connection with this transaction.

International Taxes

Based on Vodafone Omnitel's financial position and distributable reserves, the shareowners of Vodafone Omnitel began considering scenarios for potential future distributions from Vodafone Omnitel in the third quarter of 2007. As a result, Verizon recorded \$471 million (\$.16 per diluted share) of taxes in the third quarter of 2007 on its share of Vodafone Omnitel's earnings that were no longer considered indefinitely reinvested internationally. Distributions from Vodafone Omnitel were subsequently approved and paid in December 2007 and April 2008.

Disposition of Businesses

Telecomunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Inc.

On March 30, 2007, after receiving Federal Communications Commission approval, we completed the sale of TELPRI and received gross proceeds, for our 52% interest, of approximately \$980 million. The sale resulted in a net pretax gain of \$120 million (\$70 million after-tax, or \$.02 per diluted share). During the first quarter of 2007, Verizon contributed \$100 million (\$65 million after-tax) of the proceeds to the Verizon Foundation.

Compañía Anónima Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela

In January 2007, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the Republic) declared its intent to nationalize certain companies, including CANTV. On February 12, 2007, we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Republic, which provided that the Republic offer to purchase all of the equity securities of CANTV, including our 28.5% interest, through public tender offers in Venezuela and the United States. Under the terms of the MOU, the prices in the tender offers would be adjusted downward to reflect any dividends declared and paid subsequent to February 12, 2007. During the second quarter of 2007, the tender offers were completed and Verizon received an aggregate amount of approximately \$572 million, which included \$476 million from the tender offers as well as \$96 million of dividends declared and paid

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

subsequent to the MOU. Based upon our investment balance in CANTV, we recorded an extraordinary loss of \$131 million, net of tax, or \$.05 per diluted share in the first quarter of 2007.

Table of Contents**Consolidated Financial Condition**

(dollars in millions)	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Change
	2008	2007	
Cash Flows Provided By (Used In)			
Operating Activities:			
Continuing operations	\$ 19,078	\$ 18,019	\$ 1,059
Discontinued operations		(570)	570
Investing Activities:			
Continuing operations	(27,882)	(11,241)	(16,641)
Discontinued operations		757	(757)
Financing activities:			
Continuing operations	8,347	(9,469)	17,816
Discontinued operations			
Decrease In Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ (457)	\$ (2,504)	\$ 2,047

We use the net cash generated from our operations to fund network expansion and modernization, repay external financing, pay dividends and invest in new businesses. Additional external financing is obtained when necessary. While our current liabilities typically exceed current assets, our sources of funds, primarily from operations and, to the extent necessary, from readily available external financing arrangements, are sufficient to meet ongoing operating and investing requirements. We expect that capital spending requirements will continue to be financed primarily through internally generated funds. Additional debt or equity financing may be needed to fund additional development activities or to maintain our capital structure to ensure our financial flexibility.

Conditions in the credit markets through September 30, 2008 have not had a significant impact on our overall borrowing costs. As of September 30, 2008, more than two-thirds in aggregate principal amount of our total debt portfolio consisted of fixed rate indebtedness (including the effect of all interest rate swap agreements on our debt portfolio). As a result, the rate of interest that we pay on our indebtedness was not significantly affected by recent fluctuations in interest rates. Furthermore, we have had, and continue to have, access to the commercial paper markets, although we were required during a brief period of time to pay interest rates on our commercial paper that were significantly higher than we have paid in recent periods. While we have not issued long-term notes in the capital markets subsequent to September 30, 2008, we believe that if we were to issue long-term notes under current market conditions, the associated interest rates could be significantly higher than those paid earlier this year. If the national or global economy, or credit market conditions in general were to deteriorate, it is possible that such changes could adversely affect our cash flows through increased interest costs or our ability to obtain external financing or to refinance our existing indebtedness.

Cash Flows Provided By (Used in) Operating Activities

Our primary source of funds continues to be cash generated from operations. Net cash from operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 increased by approximately \$1,629 million compared to the similar period of 2007. Cash flow from operating activities continuing operations increased by approximately \$1,059 million during the first nine months of 2008, primarily as a result of improved earnings, a \$670 million net dividend distribution Verizon received in April 2008 from Vodafone Omnitel as well as increased accounts receivable collections, partially offset by an increase in interest payments and inventory levels.

We anticipate that we may receive an additional distribution from Vodafone Omnitel within the next twelve months.

The negative cash flow from operating activities discontinued operations in 2007 related primarily to the income tax payment associated with the disposition of Verizon Dominicana, C. por A in 2006.

Table of Contents

Cash Flows Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities

Capital expenditures continue to be our primary use of capital resources as they facilitate the introduction of new products and services, enhance responsiveness to competitive challenges and increase the operating efficiency and productivity of our networks. Including capitalized software, we invested \$7,318 million in Wireline during the first nine months of 2008, compared to \$7,873 million in the similar period of 2007. In the first nine months of 2008, we invested \$4,723 million in Domestic Wireless, compared with \$4,903 million in the similar period of 2007.

On August 7, 2008, Verizon Wireless completed its acquisition of Rural Cellular for cash consideration of \$1,264 million, net of cash acquired.

On June 10, 2008, in connection with the Alltel transaction, Verizon Wireless purchased from third parties approximately \$5.0 billion aggregate principal amount of debt obligations of a subsidiary of Alltel for approximately \$4.8 billion plus accrued and unpaid interest. During 2007, we acquired a network security business and purchased several wireless licenses. Other, net investing activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 include cash proceeds from the sale of properties and sale of select non-strategic assets. In addition, during the third quarter of 2008, Other, net includes approximately \$620 million held in a money market fund managed by a third party, which is in the process of being liquidated and returned to Verizon.

On January 4, 2008, Verizon Wireless paid to the FCC an \$885 million deposit in order to obtain 590 million bidding eligibility units for participation in the FCC auction of spectrum in the 700 MHz band (Auction 73). This spectrum is currently used for UHF television operations but by law those operations must cease no later than February 17, 2009. On March 20, 2008, the FCC announced the results of its Auction 73 for wireless spectrum licenses. Verizon Wireless was the successful bidder for twenty-five 12 MHz licenses in the A-Block frequency, seventy-seven 12 MHz licenses in the B-Block frequency and seven 22 MHz licenses (nationwide with the exception of Alaska) in the C-Block frequency, with an aggregate bid price of \$9.4 billion. The remaining balance due to the FCC was paid by Verizon Wireless in April 2008. Verizon Wireless expects the licenses to be granted by the FCC in the fourth quarter of 2008.

In the nine months ended September 30, 2007, investing activities of discontinued operations primarily included gross proceeds of approximately \$980 million in connection with the sale of TELPRI.

Cash Flows Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities

Our total debt was increased by \$13,618 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, primarily due to the issuance of \$8,000 million of fixed rate notes, with varying maturities, that resulted in \$7,903 million of proceeds. On June 5, 2008, Verizon Wireless entered into a \$7,550 million 364-day Credit Agreement with Morgan Stanley Senior Funding Inc. as Administrative Agent, which includes a \$4,800 million term facility and a \$2,750 million delayed draw facility. The borrowings under each facility are subject to customary conditions precedent. On June 10, 2008, Verizon Wireless borrowed \$4,795 million under the term facility in order to complete the purchase of Alltel's debt obligations and during the third quarter borrowed \$2,750 million under the delayed draw facility to complete the purchase of Rural Cellular. In addition, on September 30, 2008, Verizon Wireless entered into a \$4,440 million Three-Year Term Loan Facility Agreement (the Three-Year Term Facility) with Citibank N.A., as Administrative Agent, with a maturity date of September 30, 2011, in order to refinance a portion of the 364-day Credit Agreement. Borrowings under the Three-Year Term Facility currently bear interest at a variable rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 100 basis points.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, \$1,600 million of the borrowings under the 364-day Credit Agreement were repaid, and \$4,440 million was refinanced using proceeds from the Three-Year Term Facility, reducing the size of the 364-day Credit Agreement to \$1,505 million.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we also redeemed \$1,725 million of our fixed rate notes at maturity, which included \$125 million of 6.0% notes issued by Verizon South Inc., \$250 million of 6.0% notes issued by Verizon New York, \$100 million of 7.0% notes issued by Verizon California Inc. and \$1,250 million of other corporate borrowings. Our ratio of debt to debt combined with shareowners' equity was 46.8% at September 30, 2008 and 38.1% at December 31, 2007. As a result of the spin-off of our local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, our net debt was reduced by approximately \$1.4 billion.

As of September 30, 2008, we had bank borrowings outstanding of \$5,945 million. We also had approximately \$5,600 million of unused bank lines of credit consisting of a three-year committed facility that expires in September 2009. We have shelf registrations for the issuance of up to \$10 billion of unsecured debt or equity securities.

The debt securities of Verizon and our telephone subsidiaries continue to be accorded high ratings by primary rating agencies. Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) revised its outlook on Verizon Communications to negative from stable in early June 2008 following the announcement

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

of the agreement to acquire Alltel. At the same time S&P affirmed all Verizon's ratings, including its A corporate credit, A-1 short-term ratings and the A Issuer Credit Rating on Cellco Partnership (d/b/a Verizon Wireless). Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) assigns an A3 long-term debt rating and a P-2 short-term debt rating to Verizon Communications. In early June 2008, Moody's placed the long-term rating of Verizon Communications on review for possible downgrade following the announcement of the agreement to acquire Alltel. The P-2 short-term rating was affirmed. Fitch Ratings (Fitch) assigns an A+ long-term issuer default rating (IDR) to Verizon Communications. Fitch placed the IDR and outstanding debt ratings of Verizon Communications and subsidiaries on Rating Watch Negative and affirmed Verizon's F1 short-term debt rating in early June 2008 following the announcement of the agreement to acquire Alltel.

Table of Contents

We and our consolidated subsidiaries are in compliance with all of our debt covenants.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we repurchased \$1,369 million of our common stock as part of our previously announced common stock repurchase program.

As in prior periods, dividend payments were a significant use of capital resources. We determine the appropriateness of the level of our dividend payments on a periodic basis by considering such factors as long-term growth opportunities, internal cash requirements and the expectations of our shareowners. During the third quarter of 2008, we increased our dividend payments 7.0% to \$.460 per share from \$.430 per share in the same period of 2007. In the third quarter of 2007, we increased our dividend payments 6.2% to \$.430 per share from \$.405 per share in the first two quarters of 2007.

Decrease In Cash and Cash Equivalents

Our cash and cash equivalents at September 30, 2008 totaled \$696 million, a \$457 million decrease compared to cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2007 of \$1,153 million.

Market Risk

We are exposed to various types of market risk in the normal course of business, including the impact of interest rate changes, foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, changes in equity investment and commodity prices and changes in corporate tax rates. We employ risk management strategies using a variety of derivatives, including interest rate swap agreements and foreign currency forwards and swaps. We do not hold derivatives for trading purposes.

It is our general policy to enter into interest rate, foreign currency and other derivative transactions only to the extent necessary to achieve our desired objectives in limiting our exposure to the various market risks. Our objectives include maintaining a mix of fixed and variable rate debt to lower borrowing costs within reasonable risk parameters and to protect against earnings and cash flow volatility resulting from changes in market conditions. We do not hedge our market risk exposure in a manner that would completely eliminate the effect of changes in interest rates, and foreign exchange rates on our earnings. We do not expect that our net income, liquidity and cash flows will be materially affected by these risk management strategies.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we entered into domestic interest rate swaps with a notional principal value of \$2 billion to adjust the mix of our fixed and variable rate debt. Based on the swap agreements we receive a fixed rate and pay a variable rate based on LIBOR. These swaps were designated as fair value hedges and hedge against changes in the fair value of our debt portfolio. We record these interest rate swaps at fair value in our balance sheet as assets and liabilities and adjust debt for the change in its fair value due to changes in interest rates. The fair value of the interest rate swaps at September 30, 2008 included in Other assets, Other liabilities and Long-term debt was not material.

Foreign Currency Translation

The functional currency for our foreign operations is primarily the local currency. The translation of income statement and balance sheet amounts of our foreign operations into U.S. dollars are recorded as cumulative translation adjustments, which are included in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. Gains and losses on foreign currency transactions are recorded in the condensed consolidated statements of income in Other Income and (Expense). At September 30, 2008, our primary translation exposure was to the British Pound, the Euro and the Australian Dollar.

During the third quarter of 2007, we entered into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge a portion of our net investment in Vodafone Omnitel. Changes in fair value of these contracts due to Euro exchange rate fluctuations were recognized in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss which were partially offset by the impact of foreign currency changes on the value of our net investment. As of September 30, 2008, our positions in these foreign currency forward contracts were settled. The balance on the forward contracts along with the unrealized foreign currency translation balance on the investment will remain in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss until the investment is sold.

Table of Contents

Other Factors That May Affect Future Results

Recent Developments

Alltel Corporation

On June 5, 2008, Verizon Wireless entered into an agreement with Alltel and Atlantis Holdings LLC, an affiliate of private investment firms TPG Capital and GS Capital Partners, to acquire Alltel in a cash merger. Under the terms of the agreement, Verizon Wireless will acquire the equity of Alltel for approximately \$5.9 billion. Based on Alltel's projected net debt at closing of approximately \$22.2 billion, the aggregate value of the transaction is \$28.1 billion. The parties are targeting completion of the merger by the end of the year, subject to obtaining regulatory approvals. The merger agreement contains certain termination rights for Verizon Wireless and Alltel and further provides that, upon termination of the merger agreement upon specified circumstances, Verizon Wireless may be required to pay Alltel a termination fee of \$500 million.

In connection with this transaction, on June 10, 2008, Verizon Wireless purchased from third parties approximately \$5.0 billion aggregate principal amount of debt obligations of a subsidiary of Alltel for approximately \$4.8 billion plus accrued and unpaid interest. These debt obligations are included in the projected amount of Alltel net debt at closing referenced above.

Rural Cellular Corporation

On August 7, 2008, Verizon Wireless acquired 100% of the outstanding common stock and redeemed all of the preferred stock of Rural Cellular in a cash transaction. Rural Cellular was a wireless communications service provider operating under the trade name of UniceL, focusing primarily on rural markets in the United States. Verizon Wireless believes that the acquisition will further enhance its network coverage in markets adjacent to its existing service areas and will enable Verizon Wireless to achieve operational benefits through realizing synergies in reduced roaming and operations expenses. Under the terms of the acquisition agreement, Rural Cellular's common shareholders received cash of \$45 per share (\$728 million in the aggregate). Additionally, the holders of all classes of Rural Cellular's preferred stock received cash in the aggregate of \$571 million.

As part of its approval process for the Rural Cellular acquisition, regulatory authorities required the divestiture of six operating markets, including all of Rural Cellular's operations in Vermont and New York as well as its operations in Okanogan and Ferry, WA (the Divestiture Markets). As a result of these divestiture requirements, Verizon Wireless has placed the licenses and assets in the Divestiture Markets in a management trust that will continue to operate the markets under the UniceL brand until they are sold and the markets will not be integrated into Verizon Wireless's operations. On August 29, 2008, Verizon Wireless signed an amendment to an existing exchange agreement and a license purchase agreement with AT&T. Under the terms of these agreements, AT&T will receive the assets relating to the Divestiture Markets and a cellular license for part of the Madison, KY market. In exchange, we will receive cellular operating markets in Madison and Mason, KY and 10 MHz PCS licenses in Las Vegas, NV, Buffalo, NY, Erie, PA, Sunbury-Shamokin, PA, Youngstown, OH, Franklin, NY (except Franklin county) and the entire state of Vermont. We will also receive AT&T's minority interests in three entities in which we hold interests, plus a cash payment. The exchange with AT&T is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close by the end of the year.

Telephone Access Lines Spin-off

On January 16, 2007, we announced a definitive agreement with FairPoint providing for Verizon to establish a separate entity for its local exchange and related business assets in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, spin-off that new entity into a newly formed company, known as Northern New England Spinco Inc. (Spinco), to Verizon's shareowners, and immediately merge it with and into FairPoint. On March 31, 2008, we announced the completion of the spin-off of the shares of Spinco to Verizon shareowners and the merger of Spinco with FairPoint, resulting in Verizon shareowners collectively owning approximately 60 percent of FairPoint common stock. FairPoint issued approximately 53.8 million shares of FairPoint common stock to Verizon shareowners in the merger, and Verizon shareowners received one share of FairPoint common stock for every 53.0245 shares of Verizon common stock they owned as of March 7, 2008. FairPoint paid cash in lieu of any fraction of a share of FairPoint common stock. As a result of the spin-off, our net debt was reduced by approximately \$1.4 billion. Both the spin-off and merger qualify as tax-free transactions, except for the cash payments for fractional shares which are generally taxable.

Environmental Matters

During 2003, under a government-approved plan, remediation commenced at the site of a former Sylvania facility in Hicksville, New York that processed nuclear fuel rods in the 1950s and 1960s. Remediation beyond original expectations proved to be necessary and a reassessment of the anticipated remediation costs was conducted. A reassessment of costs related to remediation efforts at several other former facilities was also undertaken. In September 2005, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) accepted the Hicksville site into the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

Action Program. This may result in the ACE performing some or all of the remediation effort for the Hicksville site with a corresponding decrease in costs to Verizon. To the extent that the ACE assumes responsibility for remedial work at the Hicksville site, an adjustment to a reserve previously established for the remediation may be made. Adjustments to the reserve may also be necessary based upon actual conditions discovered during the remediation at any of the sites requiring remediation.

Table of Contents

New York Recovery Funding

In August 2002, President Bush signed the Supplemental Appropriations bill that included \$5.5 billion in New York recovery funding. Of that amount, approximately \$750 million was allocated to cover utility restoration and infrastructure rebuilding as a result of the September 11th terrorist attacks on lower Manhattan. These funds will be distributed through the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) following an application and audit process. As of September 2004, we had applied for reimbursement of approximately \$266 million under Category One and in 2004 and 2005 we applied for reimbursement of an additional \$139 million of Category Two losses. Category One funding relates to Emergency and Temporary Service Response while Category Two funding is for permanent restoration and infrastructure improvement. According to the plan, permanent restoration is reimbursed up to 75% of the loss. On November 3, 2005, we received the results of preliminary audit findings disallowing all but \$49.9 million of our \$266 million of Category One application. On December 8, 2005, we provided a detailed rebuttal to the preliminary audit findings and, on January 4, 2007, we filed an appeal. That appeal is pending. On November 9, 2007, Verizon submitted an additional Category Two application for approximately \$16 million. ESDC has approved approximately \$17 million in advances to Verizon on its Category Two applications. Based on the progress of these audits, Verizon recorded a portion of these advances to income in June 2008. The Category Two audits remain pending.

Regulatory and Competitive Trends Competition and Regulation

Technological, regulatory and market changes have provided Verizon both new opportunities and challenges. These changes have allowed Verizon to offer new types of services in an increasingly competitive market. At the same time, they have allowed other service providers to broaden the scope of their own competitive offerings. Current and potential competitors for network services include other telephone companies, cable companies, wireless service providers, foreign telecommunications providers, satellite providers, electric utilities, Internet service providers, providers of VoIP services, and other companies that offer network services using a variety of technologies. Many of these companies have a strong market presence, brand recognition and existing customer relationships, all of which contribute to intensifying competition and may affect our future revenue growth. Many of our competitors also remain subject to fewer regulatory constraints than Verizon.

We are unable to predict definitively the impact that the ongoing changes in the telecommunications industry will ultimately have on our business, results of operations or financial condition. The financial impact will depend on several factors, including the timing, extent and success of competition in our markets, the timing and outcome of various regulatory proceedings and any appeals, and the timing, extent and success of our pursuit of new opportunities.

FCC Regulation

The FCC has jurisdiction over our interstate telecommunications services and other matters for which the FCC has jurisdiction under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Communications Act). The Communications Act generally provides that we may not charge unjust or unreasonable rates, or engage in unreasonable discrimination when we are providing services as a common carrier, and regulates some of the rates, terms and conditions under which we provide certain services. The FCC also has adopted regulations governing various aspects of our business including: (i) use and disclosure of customer proprietary network information; (ii) telemarketing; (iii) assignment of telephone numbers to customers; (iv) provision to law enforcement agencies of the capability to obtain call identifying information and call content information from calls pursuant to lawful process; (v) accessibility of services and equipment to individuals with disabilities if readily achievable; (vi) interconnection with the networks of other carriers; (vii) customers' ability to keep (or port) their telephone numbers when switching to another carrier; and (viii) availability of back-up power. In addition, we pay various fees to support other FCC programs, such as the universal service program discussed below. Changes to these mandates, or the adoption of additional mandates, could require us to make changes to our operations or otherwise increase our costs of compliance.

Broadband

The FCC has adopted a series of orders that recognize the competitive nature of the broadband market and impose lesser regulatory requirements on broadband services and facilities than apply to narrowband or traditional telephone services. With respect to facilities, the FCC has determined that certain unbundling requirements that apply to narrowband facilities do not apply to broadband facilities such as fiber to the premise loops and packet switches. With respect to services, the FCC has concluded that broadband Internet access services offered by telephone companies and their affiliates qualify as largely deregulated information services. The same order also concluded that telephone companies may offer the underlying broadband transmission services that are used as an input to Internet access services through private carriage arrangements

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

on negotiated commercial terms. The order was upheld on appeal. In addition, a Verizon petition asking the FCC to forbear from applying common carrier regulation to certain broadband services sold primarily to larger business customers when those services are not used for Internet access was deemed granted by operation of law when the FCC did not deny the petition by the statutory deadline. The relief has been upheld on appeal, but is subject to a continuing challenge before the FCC.

Table of Contents

Video

The FCC has a body of rules that apply to cable operators under Title VI of the Communications Act of 1934, and these rules also generally apply to telephone companies that provide cable services over their networks. In addition, companies that provide cable service over a cable system generally must obtain a local cable franchise. The FCC has interpreted the Cable Act to limit the franchise fees and other requirements that local franchise authorities may impose on cable operators and has found that some prior practices of franchise authorities constituted an unreasonable refusal to award a competitive local franchise under the requirements of federal law. This order has been upheld on appeal.

Interstate Access Charges and Intercarrier Compensation

The current framework for interstate access rates was established in the Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distance Services (CALLS) plan which the FCC adopted on May 31, 2000. The CALLS plan has three main components. First, it establishes portable interstate access universal service support of \$650 million for the industry that replaces implicit support previously embedded in interstate access charges. Second, the plan simplifies the patchwork of common line charges into one subscriber line charge (SLC) and provides for de-averaging of the SLC by zones and class of customers. Third, the plan set into place a mechanism to transition to a set target of \$.0055 per minute for switched access services. Once that target rate is reached, local exchange carriers are no longer required to make further annual price cap reductions to their switched access prices. As a result of tariff adjustments which became effective in July 2003, virtually all of our switched access lines reached the \$.0055 benchmark.

The FCC currently is conducting a broad rulemaking proceeding to consider new rules governing intercarrier compensation including, but not limited to, access charges, compensation for Internet traffic and reciprocal compensation for local traffic. The FCC has sought comments about intercarrier compensation in general and requested input on a number of specific reform proposals. The FCC also has pending before it issues relating to intercarrier compensation for dial-up Internet-bound traffic. The FCC previously found that this traffic is not subject to reciprocal compensation under Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Instead, the FCC established federal rates per minute for this traffic that declined from \$.0015 to \$.0007 over a three-year period, and required incumbent local exchange carriers to offer to both bill and pay reciprocal compensation for local traffic at the same rate as they are required to pay on Internet-bound traffic. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rejected part of the FCC's rationale, but declined to vacate the order while it is on remand. On July 8, 2008, the D.C. Circuit issued an order requiring the FCC to issue its order on remand by November 5, 2008. If the FCC does not issue an order by that date, the rules will be vacated. Disputes also remain pending in a number of forums relating to the appropriate compensation for Internet-bound traffic during previous periods under the terms of our interconnection agreements with other carriers.

The FCC is also conducting a rulemaking proceeding to address the regulation of services that use Internet protocol. The issues raised in the rulemaking as well as in several petitions currently pending before the FCC include whether, and under what circumstances, access charges should apply to voice or other Internet protocol services and the scope of federal and state commission authority over these services. The FCC previously has held that one provider's peer-to-peer Internet protocol service that does not use the public switched network is an interstate information service and is not subject to access charges, while a service that utilizes Internet protocol for only one intermediate part of a call's transmission is a telecommunications service that is subject to access charges. The FCC also declared the services offered by one provider of a voice over Internet protocol service to be jurisdictionally interstate and stated that its conclusion would apply to other services with similar characteristics. This order was affirmed on appeal.

The FCC also has adopted rules for special access services that provide for pricing flexibility and ultimately the removal of services from price regulation when prescribed competitive thresholds are met. More than half of special access revenues are now removed from price regulation. The FCC currently has a rulemaking proceeding underway to update the public record concerning its pricing flexibility rules and to determine whether any changes to those rules are warranted.

Universal Service

The FCC also has a body of rules implementing the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, including rules governing support to rural and non-rural high-cost areas, support for low income subscribers and support for schools, libraries and rural health care. The FCC's current rules for support to high-cost areas served by larger non-rural local telephone companies were previously remanded by U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, which had found that the FCC had not adequately justified these rules. The FCC has initiated a rulemaking proceeding in response to the court's remand, but its rules remain in effect pending the results of the rulemaking. On April 29, 2008, the FCC adopted a cap on the amount of support competitive carriers (including all wireless carriers) may receive. That cap is the subject of a pending appeal. In addition, the FCC is considering other changes to the rules governing contributions to, and disbursements from, the fund. Any change in the current rules could result in a change in the contribution that local telephone companies, wireless carriers or others must make and that would have to be collected from customers, or in the amounts that these providers receive from the fund.

Unbundling of Network Elements

Under Section 251 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, incumbent local exchange carriers are required to provide competing carriers with access to components of their network on an unbundled basis, known as UNEs, where certain statutory standards are satisfied. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 also adopted a cost-based pricing standard for these UNEs, which the FCC interpreted as allowing it to impose a pricing standard known as total element long run incremental cost or TELRIC. The FCC's rules defining the unbundled network elements that must be made available at TELRIC prices have been overturned on multiple occasions by the courts. In its most recent order issued in response to these court decisions, the FCC eliminated the requirement to unbundle mass market local switching on a nationwide basis, and established criteria for determining whether high-capacity loops, transport or dark fiber transport must be unbundled in individual wire centers. The FCC also eliminated the obligation to provide dark fiber loops and found that there is no obligation to provide UNEs exclusively for wireless or long distance service. The decision was upheld on appeal.

Table of Contents

As noted above, the FCC has concluded that the requirement under Section 251 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide unbundled network elements at TELRIC prices generally does not apply with respect to broadband facilities, such as fiber to the premises loops, the packet-switched capabilities of hybrid loops and packet switching. The FCC also has held that any separate unbundling obligations that may be imposed by Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 do not apply to these same facilities. Those decisions were upheld on appeal.

Wireless Services

The FCC regulates the licensing, construction, operation, acquisition and transfer of wireless communications systems, including the systems that Verizon Wireless operates, pursuant to the Communications Act, other legislation, and the FCC's rules. The FCC and Congress continuously consider changes to these laws and rules. Adoption of new laws or rules may raise the cost of providing service or require modification of Verizon Wireless's business plans or operations.

To use the radio frequency spectrum, wireless communications systems must be licensed by the FCC to operate the wireless network and mobile devices in assigned spectrum segments. Verizon Wireless holds FCC licenses to operate in several different radio services, including the cellular radiotelephone service, personal communications service, advanced wireless service, and point-to-point radio service. The technical and service rules, the specific radio frequencies and amounts of spectrum we hold, and the sizes of the geographic areas we are authorized to operate in, vary for each of these services. However, all of the licenses Verizon Wireless holds allow it to use spectrum to provide a wide range of mobile and fixed communications services, including both voice and data services, and Verizon Wireless operates a seamless network that utilizes those licenses to provide services to customers. Because the FCC issues licenses for only a fixed time, generally 10 years, Verizon Wireless must periodically seek renewal of those licenses. Although the FCC has routinely renewed all of Verizon Wireless's licenses that have come up for renewal to date, challenges could be brought against the licenses in the future. If a wireless license were revoked or not renewed upon expiration, Verizon Wireless would not be permitted to provide services on the licensed spectrum in the area covered by that license.

The FCC has also imposed specific mandates on carriers that operate wireless communications systems, which increase Verizon Wireless's costs. These mandates include requirements that Verizon Wireless: (i) meet specific construction and geographic coverage requirements during the license term; (ii) meet technical operating standards that, among other things, limit the radio frequency radiation from mobile devices and antennas; (iii) deploy Enhanced 911 wireless services that provide the wireless caller's number, location and other information upon request by a state or local public safety agency that handles 911 calls; (iv) provide backup electric power at most cell sites in the event electric utility service is disrupted; and (v) comply with regulations for the construction of transmitters and towers that, among other things, restrict siting of towers in environmentally sensitive locations and in places where the towers would affect a site listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Changes to these mandates could require Verizon Wireless to make changes to operations or increase its costs of compliance.

The Communications Act imposes restrictions on foreign ownership of U.S. wireless systems. The FCC has approved the interest that Vodafone Group Plc holds, through various of its subsidiaries, in Verizon Wireless. The FCC may need to approve any increase in Vodafone's interest or the acquisition of an ownership interest by other foreign entities. In addition, as part of the FCC's approval of Vodafone's ownership interest, Verizon Wireless, Verizon and Vodafone entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense, Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation which imposes national security and law enforcement-related obligations on the ways in which Verizon Wireless stores information and otherwise conducts its business.

Verizon Wireless anticipates that it will need additional spectrum to meet future demand. It can meet spectrum needs by purchasing licenses or leasing spectrum from other licensees, or by acquiring new spectrum licenses from the FCC. Under the Communications Act, before Verizon Wireless can acquire a license from another licensee in order to expand its coverage or its spectrum capacity in a particular area, it must file an application with the FCC, and the FCC can grant the application only after a period for public notice and comment. This review process can delay acquisition of spectrum needed to expand services. The Communications Act also requires the FCC to award new licenses for most commercial wireless services through a competitive bidding process in which spectrum is awarded to bidders in an auction. Verizon Wireless participated in spectrum auctions to acquire licenses for personal communication service and most recently advanced wireless service. In addition, the FCC began conducting an auction of spectrum in the 700 MHz band on January 24, 2008. This spectrum is currently used for UHF television operations but by law those operations must cease no later than February 17, 2009. Verizon Wireless filed an application on December 3, 2007, to qualify as a bidder in this auction, and on January 14, 2008, the FCC announced that Verizon Wireless and 213 other applicants had qualified as eligible to bid in the auction. On March 20, 2008, the FCC announced the results of this auction. Verizon Wireless was the successful bidder for 109 licenses, with an aggregate bid price of \$9.4 billion. On April 3, 2008, it and other successful bidders filed supplemental applications as required by FCC rules. The FCC will review these applications over the next several months. The FCC also adopted service rules that will impose costs on licensees that acquire the 700 MHz band spectrum, including minimum coverage mandates by specific dates during the license terms, and, for approximately one-third of the spectrum, open access requirements, which generally require licensees of that spectrum to allow customers to use devices and applications of their choice, subject to certain limits. Seven of the licenses that Verizon Wireless acquired in the 700 MHz auction, which in the aggregate cover the United States except for Alaska, are subject to these requirements. The open access requirements are the subject of a pending appeal in which Verizon Wireless has intervened. The timing of future

Edgar Filing: VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC - Form 10-Q

auctions may not match Verizon Wireless' s needs, and the company may not be able to secure the spectrum in the amounts and/or in the markets it seeks through any future auction.

The FCC is also conducting several proceedings to explore making additional spectrum available for licensed and/or unlicensed use. These proceedings could increase radio interference to Verizon Wireless' s operations from other spectrum users and could impact the ways in which it uses spectrum, the capacity of that spectrum to carry traffic, and the value of that spectrum.

Table of Contents

State Regulation and Local Approvals

Telephone Operations

State public utility commissions regulate our telephone operations with respect to certain telecommunications intrastate rates and services and other matters. Our competitive local exchange carrier and long distance operations are generally classified as nondominant and lightly regulated the same as other similarly situated carriers. Our incumbent local exchange operations are generally classified as dominant. These latter operations predominantly are subject to alternative forms of regulation (AFORs) in the various states, although they remain subject to rate of return regulation in a few states. Arizona, Illinois, Nevada, Oregon and Washington are rate of return regulated with various levels of pricing flexibility for competitive services. California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin are under AFORs with various levels of pricing flexibility, detariffing, and service quality standards. None of the AFORs include earnings regulation. In Idaho, Verizon has made the election under a statutory amendment into a deregulatory regime that phases out all price regulation.

Video

Companies that provide cable service over a cable system are typically subject to state and/or local cable television rules and regulations. As noted above, cable operators generally must obtain a local cable franchise from each local unit of government prior to providing cable service in that local area. Some states have recently enacted legislation that enables cable operators to apply for, and obtain, a single cable franchise at the state, rather than local, level. To date, Verizon has applied for and received state-issued franchises in California, Indiana, Florida, New Jersey, Texas and the unincorporated areas of Delaware. We also have obtained authorization from the state commission in Rhode Island to provide cable service in certain areas in that state, have obtained required state commission approvals for our local franchises in New York, and will need to obtain additional state commission approvals in these states to provide cable service in additional areas. Virginia law provides us the option of entering a given franchise area using state standards if local franchise negotiations are unsuccessful.

Wireless Services

The rapid growth of the wireless industry has led to an increase in efforts by some state legislatures and state public utility commissions to regulate the industry in ways that may impose additional costs on Verizon Wireless. The Communications Act generally preempts regulation by state and local governments of the entry of, or the rates charged by, wireless carriers. Although a state may petition the FCC to allow it to impose rate regulation, no state has done so. In addition, the Communications Act does not prohibit the states from regulating the other terms and conditions of wireless service. While numerous state commissions do not currently have jurisdiction over wireless services, state legislatures may decide to grant them such jurisdiction, and those commissions that already have authority to impose regulations on wireless carriers may adopt new rules.

State efforts to regulate wireless services have included proposals to regulate customer billing, termination of service, trial periods for service, advertising, network outages, the use of handsets while driving, and the provision of emergency or alert services. Over the past several years, only a few states have imposed regulation in one or more of these areas, and in 2006 a federal appellate court struck down one such state statute, but Verizon Wireless expects these efforts to continue. Some states also impose their own universal service support regimes on wireless and other telecommunications carriers, and other states are considering whether to create such regimes.

Verizon Wireless (as well as AT&T (formerly Cingular) and Sprint-Nextel) is a party to an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance (AVC) with 33 State Attorneys General. The AVC, which generally reflected Verizon Wireless' practices at the time it was entered into in July 2004, obligates the company to disclose certain rates and terms during a sales transaction, to provide maps depicting coverage, and to comply with various requirements regarding advertising, billing, and other practices.

At the state and local level, wireless facilities are subject to zoning and land use regulation. Under the Communications Act, neither state nor local governments may categorically prohibit the construction of wireless facilities in any community or take actions, such as indefinite moratoria, which have the effect of prohibiting service. Nonetheless, securing state and local government approvals for new tower sites has been and is likely to continue to be a difficult, lengthy and expensive process. Finally, state and local governments continue to impose new or higher fees and taxes on wireless carriers.

Table of Contents

Other Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In April 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 142-3, *Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets* (FSP 142-3). FSP 142-3 removes the requirement under SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* to consider whether an intangible asset can be renewed without substantial cost or material modifications to the existing terms and conditions, and replaces it with a requirement that an entity consider its own historical experience in renewing similar arrangements, or a consideration of market participant assumptions in the absence of historical experience. FSP 142-3 also requires entities to disclose information that enables users of financial statements to assess the extent to which the expected future cash flows associated with the asset are affected by the entity's intent and/or ability to renew or extend the arrangement. We are required to adopt FSP 142-3 effective January 1, 2009 on a prospective basis. We are evaluating the impact FSP 142-3 will have on our financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*—an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133, (SFAS No. 161). This statement requires additional disclosures for derivative instruments and hedging activities that include how and why an entity uses derivatives, how these instruments and the related hedged items are accounted for under SFAS No. 133 and related interpretations, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations (Revised)*, (SFAS No. 141(R)), to replace SFAS No. 141, *Business Combinations*. SFAS No. 141(R) requires the use of the acquisition method of accounting, defines the acquirer, establishes the acquisition date and broadens the scope to all transactions and other events in which one entity obtains control over one or more other businesses. This statement is effective for business combinations or transactions entered into for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008. We are still evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 141(R) however, the adoption of this statement is not expected to have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements*—an amendment of ARB No. 51, (SFAS No. 160). SFAS No. 160 establishes accounting and reporting standards for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the retained interest and gain or loss when a subsidiary is deconsolidated. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2008. Upon the initial adoption of this statement, we will change the classification and presentation of Noncontrolling Interest in our financial statements, which we currently refer to as Minority Interest. We are still evaluating the impact SFAS No. 160 will have, but we do not expect a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Table of Contents

Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

In this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q we have made forward-looking statements. These statements are based on our estimates and assumptions and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements include the information concerning our possible or assumed future results of operations. Forward-looking statements also include those preceded or followed by the words anticipates, believes, estimates, hopes or similar expressions. For those statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

The following important factors, along with those discussed elsewhere in this Quarterly Report, could affect future results and could cause those results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements:

materially adverse changes in economic and industry conditions and labor matters, including workforce levels and labor negotiations, and any resulting financial and/or operational impact, in the markets served by us or by companies in which we have substantial investments;

material changes in available technology, including disruption of our suppliers provisioning of critical products or services;

the impact of natural or man-made disasters or litigation and any resulting financial impact not covered by insurance;

technology substitution;

an adverse change in the ratings afforded our debt securities by nationally accredited ratings organizations or adverse conditions in the credit markets impacting the cost, including interest rates, and/or availability of financing;

the final results of federal and state regulatory proceedings concerning our provision of retail and wholesale services and judicial review of those results;

the effects of competition in our markets;

the timing, scope and financial impact of our deployment of fiber-to-the-premises broadband technology;

the ability of Verizon Wireless to continue to obtain sufficient spectrum resources;

changes in our accounting assumptions that regulatory agencies, including the SEC, may require or that result from changes in the accounting rules or their application, which could result in an impact on earnings; and

the ability to complete acquisitions and dispositions.

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Information relating to market risk is included in Item 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in the section under the caption Market Risk.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Our chief executive officer and chief financial officer have evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report, that ensure that information relating to the registrant which is required to be disclosed in this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within required time periods. Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2008.

There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting during the period covered by this quarterly report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Part II - Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Verizon, and a number of other telecommunications companies, have been the subject of multiple class action suits concerning its alleged participation in intelligence-gathering activities allegedly carried out by the federal government, at the direction of the President of the United States, as part of the government's post-September 11 program to prevent terrorist attacks. Plaintiffs generally allege that Verizon has participated by permitting the government to gain access to the content of its subscribers' telephone calls and/or records concerning those calls and that such action violates federal and/or state constitutional and statutory law. Relief sought in the cases includes injunctive relief, attorneys' fees, and statutory and punitive damages. On August 9, 2006, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (Panel) ordered that these actions be transferred, consolidated and coordinated in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The Panel subsequently ordered that a number of tag along actions also be transferred to the Northern District of California. Verizon believes that these lawsuits are without merit. On July 10, 2008, the President signed into law the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which provides for dismissal of these suits by the court based on submission by the Attorney General of the United States of certain specified certifications. On September 19, 2008, the Attorney General made such a submission in the consolidated proceedings which is currently under consideration by the court.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has advised Verizon New York Inc. (VZNY) of potential issues in connection with its underground storage tank registration, inspection and maintenance program. While VZNY does not believe that any of the alleged conditions has resulted in a release or threatened release, aggregate penalties relating to alleged violations could exceed \$100,000 because of the number of tanks operated by VZNY. VZNY does not believe that the cost of remedying any alleged violations will be material.

Verizon Wireless has concluded an audit of its cell site, switch and non-retail building facilities under an audit agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the Agency). The audit identified potential violations of various laws governing hazardous substance reporting, air permitting and spill plan preparation. In accordance with the audit agreement, the Agency has prepared a draft consent agreement addressing the potential violations for review by Verizon Wireless. While Verizon Wireless does not believe that any of the alleged violations has resulted in a release or threatened release, aggregate penalties will exceed \$100,000 because of the number of facilities operated by Verizon Wireless. Verizon Wireless does not believe that the penalties ultimately incurred and the cost of remedying any alleged violations will be material.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Information related to our risk factors is disclosed under Item 1A to Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

The following table provides information about Verizon's common stock repurchases during the third quarter of 2008:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares
				that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
July	1,156,200	\$ 34.58	1,156,200	80,141,729
August	3,740,791	34.45	3,740,791	76,400,938
September	2,385,000	34.54	2,385,000	74,015,938
	7,281,991		7,281,991	74,015,938

On February 7, 2008, the Board approved a share buy back program which authorized the repurchase of up to 100 million common shares terminating no later than the close of business on February 28, 2011. The program permits Verizon to repurchase shares over time, with the amount and timing of repurchases depending on market conditions and corporate needs. The Board also authorized Verizon to enter into Rule 10b5-1 plans from time to time to facilitate the repurchase of its shares. A Rule 10b5-1 plan permits the Company to repurchase shares at times when it might otherwise be prevented from doing so, provided the plan is adopted when the Company is not aware of material non-public information.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits:

Exhibit
Number

- 12 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Table of Contents

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Date: October 27, 2008

By /s/ Thomas A. Bartlett
Thomas A. Bartlett
Senior Vice President and Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL INFORMATION IS AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2008.