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Discover Financial Services
Form 10-Q
April 04, 2012

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 February 29, 2012

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 001-33378
DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 36-2517428
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2500 Lake Cook Road,
Riverwoods, Illinois 60015 (224) 405-0900
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code) (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the 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 Act). Yes No

As of March 30, 2012, there were 530,319,316 shares of the registrant's Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding.

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q

for the quarterly period ended February 29, 2012

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Except as otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires, “Discover Financial Services,” “Discover,” “DFS,” “we,” “us,” “our,” and “the Company” refer to Discover Financial Services and its subsidiaries.

We own or have rights to use the trademarks, trade names and service marks that we use in conjunction with the operation of our business, including, but not limited to: Discover[®], PULSE[®], Cashback Bonus[®], Discover[®] More[®] Card, Discover[®] MotivaSM Card, Discover[®] Open Road[®] Card, Discover[®] Network and Diners Club International[®]. All other trademarks, trade names and service marks included in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q are the property of their respective owners.

Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition

| | February 29, 2012 (unaudited) | November 30, 2011 (unaudited) |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| | (dollars in thousands, except share amounts) | |
| Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$6,315,152 | \$2,849,843 |
| Restricted cash | 361,307 | 1,285,820 |
| Investment securities: | | |
| Available-for-sale (amortized cost of \$6,074,227 and \$6,019,927 at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively) | 6,174,073 | 6,107,831 |
| Held-to-maturity (fair value of \$95,935 and \$96,042 at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively) | 95,703 | 98,222 |
| Total investment securities | 6,269,776 | 6,206,053 |
| Loan receivables: | | |
| Loans held for sale | — | 714,180 |
| Loan portfolio: | | |
| Credit card | 45,917,598 | 46,638,625 |
| Other | 5,257,517 | 4,733,742 |
| Purchased credit-impaired loans | 5,124,146 | 5,250,388 |
| Total loan portfolio | 56,299,261 | 56,622,755 |
| Total loan receivables | 56,299,261 | 57,336,935 |
| Allowance for loan losses | (1,978,591) | (2,205,196) |
| Net loan receivables | 54,320,670 | 55,131,739 |
| Premises and equipment, net | 486,520 | 483,250 |
| Goodwill | 255,421 | 255,421 |
| Intangible assets, net | 186,232 | 188,018 |
| Other assets | 2,290,940 | 2,383,793 |
| Total assets | \$70,486,018 | \$68,783,937 |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | | |
| Deposits: | | |
| Interest-bearing deposit accounts | \$40,014,625 | \$39,463,887 |
| Non-interest bearing deposit accounts | 133,287 | 113,575 |
| Total deposits | 40,147,912 | 39,577,462 |
| Short-term borrowings | — | 50,000 |
| Long-term borrowings | 18,753,958 | 18,287,178 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 2,755,196 | 2,627,086 |
| Total liabilities | 61,657,066 | 60,541,726 |
| Commitments, contingencies and guarantees (Notes 8, 11, and 12) | | |
| Stockholders' Equity: | | |
| Common stock, par value \$.01 per share; 2,000,000,000 shares authorized; 551,538,212 and 549,748,783 shares issued at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively | 5,515 | 5,497 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 3,528,480 | 3,507,754 |
| Retained earnings | 5,820,609 | 5,243,318 |

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| | | | | |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (48,604 |) | (51,679 |) |
| Treasury stock, at cost; 21,517,483 and 20,918,354 shares at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively | (477,048 |) | (462,679 |) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 8,828,952 | | 8,242,211 | |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$70,486,018 | | \$68,783,937 | |

The table below presents the carrying amounts of certain assets and liabilities of Discover Financial Services' consolidated variable interest entities (VIEs) which are included in the condensed consolidated statements of financial condition above. The assets in the table below include those assets that can only be used to settle obligations of the consolidated VIEs. The liabilities in the table below include third party liabilities of consolidated VIEs only, and exclude intercompany balances that eliminate in consolidation. The liabilities also exclude amounts for which creditors have recourse to the general credit of Discover Financial Services.

| | February 29, 2012 (unaudited) | November 30, 2011 | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | |
| Assets | | | | |
| Restricted cash | \$360,306 | \$1,274,175 | | |
| Credit card loan receivables | 32,820,047 | 33,815,860 | | |
| Purchased credit-impaired loans | 2,772,796 | 2,839,871 | | |
| Allowance for loan losses allocated to securitized loan receivables | (1,323,867 |) | (1,510,730 |) |
| Other assets | 30,745 | 33,724 | | |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Long-term borrowings | \$16,741,441 | \$15,842,512 | | |
| Accrued interest payable | 14,094 | 13,184 | | |

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| | (unaudited) | |
| | (dollars in thousands, except per share amounts) | |
| Interest income: | | |
| Credit card loans | \$1,423,806 | \$1,417,116 |
| Other loans | 202,837 | 119,536 |
| Investment securities | 17,511 | 12,215 |
| Other interest income | 2,405 | 4,097 |
| Total interest income | 1,646,559 | 1,552,964 |
| Interest expense: | | |
| Deposits | 228,773 | 256,695 |
| Short-term borrowings | 1 | 46 |
| Long-term borrowings | 124,486 | 125,987 |
| Total interest expense | 353,260 | 382,728 |
| Net interest income | 1,293,299 | 1,170,236 |
| Provision for loan losses | 151,529 | 417,709 |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | 1,141,770 | 752,527 |
| Other income: | | |
| Discount and interchange revenue, net | 264,311 | 260,916 |
| Protection products revenue | 104,861 | 108,553 |
| Loan fee income | 84,451 | 85,600 |
| Transaction processing revenue | 52,481 | 42,551 |
| Merchant fees | 3,705 | 4,655 |
| Gain on investments | — | 141 |
| Other income | 39,694 | 60,208 |
| Total other income | 549,503 | 562,624 |
| Other expense: | | |
| Employee compensation and benefits | 246,725 | 213,075 |
| Marketing and business development | 131,429 | 135,665 |
| Information processing and communications | 70,463 | 64,717 |
| Professional fees | 99,500 | 90,331 |
| Premises and equipment | 17,309 | 17,248 |
| Other expense | 111,601 | 74,112 |
| Total other expense | 677,027 | 595,148 |
| Income before income tax expense | 1,014,246 | 720,003 |
| Income tax expense | 383,240 | 255,111 |
| Net income | \$631,006 | \$464,892 |
| Net income allocated to common stockholders | \$624,424 | \$459,428 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$1.18 | \$0.84 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$1.18 | \$0.84 |
| Dividends paid per share | \$0.10 | \$0.02 |

See Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity

| | Common Stock | | Additional | Retained | Accumulated | Treasury | Total |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Paid-in | Earnings | Other | Stock | Stockholders' |
| | | | Capital | | Comprehensive | | Equity |
| | | | | | Income (Loss) | | |
| | (unaudited) | | | | | | |
| | (dollars and shares in thousands) | | | | | | |
| Balance at November 30, 2010 | 547,128 | \$5,471 | \$3,435,318 | \$3,126,488 | \$ (82,548) | \$(27,883) | \$6,456,846 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | |
| Net income | — | — | — | 464,892 | — | — | 464,892 |
| Adjustments related to investment securities, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (15,247) | — | |
| Adjustments related to cash flow hedges, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (8,826) | — | |
| Adjustments related to pension and postretirement benefits, net of tax | — | — | — | — | 342 | — | |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | (23,731) | — | (23,731) |
| Total comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | — | 441,161 |
| Purchases of treasury stock | — | — | — | — | — | (5,004) | (5,004) |
| Common stock issued under employee benefit plans | 13 | — | 271 | — | — | — | 271 |
| Common stock issued and stock-based compensation expense | 845 | 9 | 16,924 | — | — | — | 16,933 |
| Dividends paid—common stock | — | — | — | (11,042) | — | — | (11,042) |
| Balance at February 28, 2011 | 547,986 | \$5,480 | \$3,452,513 | \$3,580,338 | \$ (106,279) | \$(32,887) | \$6,899,165 |
| Balance at November 30, 2011 | 549,749 | \$5,497 | \$3,507,754 | \$5,243,318 | \$ (51,679) | \$(462,679) | \$8,242,211 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | |
| Net income | — | — | — | 631,006 | — | — | 631,006 |
| Adjustments related to investment securities, net of tax | — | — | — | — | 7,449 | — | |
| Adjustments related to cash flow hedges, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (1,484) | — | |
| Adjustments related to pension and postretirement benefits, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (2,890) | — | |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | 3,075 | — | 3,075 |
| Total comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | — | 634,081 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Purchases of treasury stock | — | — | — | — | — | (14,369) | (14,369) |
| Common stock issued under employee benefit plans | 15 | — | 429 | — | — | — | 429 |
| Common stock issued and stock based compensation expense | 1,774 | 18 | 20,297 | — | — | — | 20,315 |
| Dividends paid—common stock | — | — | — | (53,715) | — | — | (53,715) |
| Balance at February 29, 2012 | 551,538 | \$5,515 | \$3,528,480 | \$5,820,609 | \$ (48,604) | \$(477,048) | \$8,828,952 |

See Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the Three Months Ended
February 29, February 28,
2012 2011
(unaudited)

(dollars in thousands)

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Net income | \$631,006 | \$464,892 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Provision for loan losses | 151,529 | 417,709 |
| Deferred income taxes | 86,996 | 112,511 |
| Depreciation and amortization on premises and equipment | 22,975 | 22,042 |
| Amortization of deferred revenues | (52,981) | (60,351) |
| Other depreciation and amortization | (38,485) | (21,036) |
| Gain on investments | — | (141) |
| Loss on equity method and other investments | 2,423 | — |
| (Gain) loss on premises and equipment | (494) | 123 |
| Loss on sale of other assets | 315 | — |
| Loss on loans sold and held for sale | 518 | — |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 13,532 | 11,875 |
| Gain on purchase of business | — | (15,917) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Decrease (increase) in other assets | 5,450 | (43,733) |
| Increase in accrued expenses and other liabilities | 187,888 | 369,669 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 1,010,672 | 1,257,643 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Maturities and sales of available-for-sale investment securities | 491,226 | 332,954 |
| Purchases of available-for-sale investment securities | (554,926) | (542,025) |
| Maturities of held-to-maturity investment securities | 2,956 | 9,072 |
| Purchases of held-to-maturity investment securities | (50,736) | — |
| Proceeds from sale of loans held for sale | 270,020 | — |
| Net principal disbursed on loans originated for investment | 305,591 | 14,255 |
| Purchase of loan receivables | (223,669) | (395,658) |
| Purchase of business, net of cash acquired | — | (366,049) |
| Purchase of other investments | (8,803) | — |
| Decrease in restricted cash | 924,513 | 884,950 |
| Proceeds from sale of premises and equipment | 515 | 13 |
| Purchases of premises and equipment | (26,371) | (15,586) |
| Net cash used for investing activities | 1,130,316 | (78,074) |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | |
| Net (decrease) increase in short-term borrowings | (50,000) | 100,000 |
| Proceeds from issuance of securitized debt | 999,773 | 500,000 |
| Maturities and repayment of securitized debt | (109,868) | (1,819,185) |
| Repayment of long-term borrowings and bank notes | (12,681) | (315,028) |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock | 2,431 | 931 |
| Purchases of treasury stock | (14,296) | (5,004) |
| Net increase in deposits | 562,475 | 442,435 |
| Dividends paid on common stock | (53,513) | (11,026) |

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| | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities | 1,324,321 | (1,106,877) |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | 3,465,309 | 72,692 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, at beginning of period | 2,849,843 | 5,098,733 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, at end of period | \$6,315,152 | \$5,171,425 |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION: | | |
| Cash paid during the period for: | | |
| Interest expense | \$290,563 | \$383,757 |
| Income taxes, net of income tax refunds | \$45,993 | \$38,209 |
| Non-cash transactions: | | |
| Assumption of debt by buyer related to loans sold | \$424,933 | \$— |
| Post-closing adjustment payable - SLC acquisition | \$— | \$35,108 |
| Assumption of SLC debt | \$— | \$2,921,372 |

See Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

1. Background and Basis of Presentation

Description of Business. Discover Financial Services (“DFS” or the “Company”) is a direct banking and payment services company. The Company is a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 as well as a financial holding company under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and therefore is subject to oversight, regulation and examination by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve”). Through its Discover Bank subsidiary, a Delaware state-chartered bank, the Company offers its customers credit cards, student loans, personal loans and deposit products. Through its DFS Services LLC subsidiary and its subsidiaries, the Company operates the Discover Network, the PULSE Network (“PULSE”) and Diners Club International (“Diners Club”). The Discover Network is a payment card transaction processing network for Discover card-branded and third-party issued credit, debit and prepaid cards. PULSE operates an electronic funds transfer network, providing financial institutions issuing debit cards on the PULSE network with access to ATMs domestically and internationally, as well as point of sale terminals at retail locations throughout the U.S. for debit card transactions. Diners Club is a global payments network of licensees, which are generally financial institutions, that issue Diners Club branded credit cards and/or provide card acceptance services.

The Company’s business segments are Direct Banking and Payment Services. The Direct Banking segment includes consumer banking and lending products which includes Discover card-branded credit cards issued to individuals and small businesses on the Discover Network and other consumer products and services, including personal loans, student loans, prepaid cards and other consumer lending and deposit products offered through the Company’s Discover Bank subsidiary. The Payment Services segment includes PULSE, Diners Club and the Company’s third-party issuing business, which includes credit, debit and prepaid cards issued on the Discover Network by third parties.

Basis of Presentation. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of management, the financial statements reflect all adjustments which are necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the quarter. All such adjustments are of a normal, recurring nature. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the condensed consolidated financial statements and related disclosures. These estimates are based on information available as of the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements. The Company believes that the estimates used in the preparation of the condensed consolidated financial statements are reasonable. Actual results could differ from these estimates. These interim condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company’s 2011 audited consolidated financial statements filed with the Company’s annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements. In December 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2011-11, Balance Sheet (Topic 210): Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities. ASU 2011-11 adds certain additional disclosure requirements about financial instruments and derivatives instruments that are subject to netting arrangements. The Company has master netting arrangements pertaining to collateral posting requirements with its interest rate swap counterparties, as more fully discussed in Note 14: Derivatives and Hedging Activities. Additional details about these positions and how they are reported will be disclosed. The new disclosures are required for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those periods. Because this amendment impacts disclosures only, it will have no effect on the Company’s financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment. ASU 2011-08 is intended to simplify goodwill impairment testing by adding a qualitative review step to assess whether the required quantitative impairment analysis that exists today is necessary. Under the amended rule, a company will not be required to calculate the fair value of a business that contains recorded goodwill unless it concludes, based on the qualitative assessment, that it is more likely than not that the fair value of that

business is less than its book value. If such a decline in fair value is deemed more likely than not to have occurred, then the quantitative goodwill impairment test that exists under current GAAP must be completed; otherwise, goodwill is deemed to be not impaired and no further testing is required until the next annual test date (or sooner if conditions or events before that date raise concerns of potential impairment in the business). The amended goodwill impairment guidance does not affect the manner in which a company estimates fair value. The new standard is effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011, with early adoption permitted. The Company has \$255.4 million in goodwill, all of which is associated with its PULSE Network. The value of that goodwill will not be affected by the adoption of this standard.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-05, Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Presentation of Comprehensive Income. This ASU will require companies to present the components of net income and other comprehensive income either as one continuous statement or as two consecutive statements. It eliminates the option to present components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity. The standard does not change the items which must be reported in other comprehensive income, how such items are measured or when they must be reclassified to net income. This standard is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The FASB subsequently deferred the effective date of certain provisions of this standard pertaining to the reclassification of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income, pending the issuance of further guidance on that matter. Because this ASU impacts presentation only, it will have no effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs. This ASU is intended to result in convergence between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") requirements for measurement of and disclosures about fair value. The amendments are not expected to have a significant impact on companies applying U.S. GAAP. Key provisions of the amendment include: a prohibition on grouping financial instruments for purposes of determining fair value, except when an entity manages market and credit risks on the basis of the entity's net exposure to the group; an extension of the prohibition against the use of a blockage factor to all fair value measurements (that prohibition currently applies only to financial instruments with quoted prices in active markets); and a requirement that for recurring Level 3 fair value measurements, entities disclose quantitative information about unobservable inputs, a description of the valuation process used and qualitative details about the sensitivity of the measurements. In addition, for items not carried at fair value but for which fair value is disclosed, entities will be required to disclose the level within the fair value hierarchy that applies to the fair value measurement disclosed. This ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The adoption of this ASU is not expected to have a significant impact on the Company's fair value measurements, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

In April 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-03, Transfers and Servicing (Topic 860): Reconsideration of Effective Control for Repurchase Agreements. This ASU amends the sale accounting requirement concerning a transferor's ability to repurchase transferred financial assets even in the event of default by the transferee, which typically is facilitated in a repurchase agreement by the presence of a collateral maintenance provision. Specifically, the level of cash collateral received by a transferor will no longer be relevant in determining whether a repurchase agreement constitutes a sale. As a result of this amendment, more repurchase agreements will be treated as secured financings rather than sales. This ASU is effective prospectively for new transfers and existing transactions that are modified in the first interim or annual period beginning on or after December 15, 2011. Because essentially all repurchase agreements entered into by the Company have historically been deemed to constitute secured financing transactions, this amendment is expected to have no impact on the Company's characterization of such transactions and therefore is not expected to have any impact on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

2. Business Combinations

Acquisition of The Student Loan Corporation. On December 31, 2010, the Company acquired The Student Loan Corporation ("SLC"), which is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Discover Bank and included in the Company's Direct Banking segment. The Company acquired SLC's ongoing private student loan business, which includes certain private student loans held in three securitization trusts and other assets, and assumed SLC's asset-backed securitization debt incurred by those trusts and other liabilities. The acquired loans are considered to be purchased credit-impaired ("PCI") loans for accounting purposes, the details of which are discussed further in Note 4: Loan Receivables. The acquisition significantly increased the size of the Company's private student loan portfolio. In addition, the acquisition has provided the Company with a developed student loan business platform, additional school relationships and SLC's website. Since the acquisition date, the results of operations and cash flows of SLC have been included in the Company's condensed consolidated results of operations and cash flows. Pro forma data is not provided as the impact of the SLC acquisition was not significant to the Company's condensed consolidated results of operations or cash flows.

Net cash consideration paid. The following table provides a calculation of the amount paid by the Company for SLC based on the net assets of the SLC securitization trusts acquired after applying an 8.5% discount to the trust assets (the “Trust Certificate Purchase Price”) (dollars in millions):

| | Actual |
|--|----------|
| Gross trust assets | \$3,977 |
| Less: 8.5% discount | (338) |
| Net trust assets | 3,639 |
| Less: Principal amount of and accrued interest on trust debt | (3,193) |
| Trust Certificate Purchase Price | \$446 |

Although the Company paid SLC shareholders \$600 million for the acquisition of SLC (“Aggregate Merger Consideration”), the Company received a purchase price adjustment from Citibank, N.A. (“Citibank”) equivalent to the amount by which the Aggregate Merger Consideration exceeded the value of the Trust Certificate Purchase Price. In addition, Citibank agreed to adjust the cash consideration paid by the Company to compensate it for (i) agreeing to commute certain insurance policies covering certain of the loans acquired and (ii) for the value of non-trust related liabilities assumed by the Company. The following table provides a summary of total consideration paid by Discover at the closing of the acquisition on December 31, 2010 and a summary of the consideration revised for post-closing adjustments (dollars in millions):

| | Actual |
|--|--------|
| Aggregate Merger Consideration | \$600 |
| Less: Purchase price adjustment | (154) |
| Trust Certificate Purchase Price | 446 |
| Less: Further adjustments provided for by Citibank | |
| Cash received for consent to insurance commutation | (16) |
| Cash received related to reimbursable liabilities | (29) |
| Net cash consideration paid | \$401 |

Net assets acquired. The Company acquired net assets (including \$155 million of cash) with an aggregate fair value of \$563 million in exchange for cash consideration of \$556 million, resulting in the recognition of a bargain purchase gain of approximately \$7 million. The bargain purchase gain primarily resulted from Citibank’s adjustment of the cash consideration to be paid by the Company in exchange for the Company’s consent to permit SLC to commute, immediately prior to the acquisition, certain student loan insurance policies covering loans in one of the three trusts. The bargain purchase gain is recorded in other income on the Company’s condensed consolidated statement of income. During the fourth quarter of 2011, the Company finalized its purchase accounting, which resulted in a decrease of \$27 million in the indemnification asset and a \$19 million increase in student loan receivables. In addition, there were immaterial changes made to the other assets purchased and liabilities assumed. These adjustments reflect the Company’s finalized cash flow projections related to the student loans acquired. The offset to these adjustments resulted in a \$9 million reduction in the originally estimated bargain purchase gain of \$16 million.

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The following table summarizes the fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the date of the SLC acquisition (dollars in thousands):

| | At December 31, 2010 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Student loan receivables | \$ 3,070,042 |
| Cash | 155,347 |
| Indemnification asset | 74,571 |
| Student relationships intangible | 2,400 |
| Trade name intangible | 3,800 |
| Total intangible assets | 6,200 |
| Other assets | 217,441 |
| Total assets acquired | 3,523,601 |
| Securitized debt | 2,921,372 |
| Other liabilities | 38,889 |
| Total liabilities assumed | 2,960,261 |
| Net assets acquired | \$ 563,340 |

The Company acquired \$6.2 million in identifiable intangible assets. These intangible assets consist of student relationships and trade name intangibles. Acquired student relationships consist of those relationships in existence between SLC and the numerous students that carry student loan balances. This intangible asset is deemed to have a finite useful life of five years and will be amortized over this period. Trade name intangibles relate to trademarks, trade names and internet domains and content. This intangible asset is deemed to have an indefinite useful life and therefore is not subject to amortization.

The Company also recorded a \$75 million indemnification asset. This asset reflects the discounted present value of payments expected to be received under Citibank's indemnification of student loan credit losses that would have been recoverable under certain student loan insurance policies which, as noted above, were commuted pursuant to an agreement entered into by SLC with the Company's consent immediately prior to the acquisition. The indemnification pertains only to loans in one of the three SLC securitization trusts that the Company acquired, namely the SLC Private Student Loan Trust 2010-A ("SLC 2010-A"). The SLC 2010-A trust included loans with an aggregate outstanding principal balance of \$1.2 billion at the time of acquisition; outstanding loans in that trust totaled \$1.1 billion as of February 29, 2012. The initial value of the indemnification asset was based on the amount of projected credit losses expected to be reimbursed by Citibank. Under the terms of the indemnification agreement with Citibank, indemnification payments related to student loan credit losses are subject to an overall cap of \$166.8 million, consistent with the terms of the insurance policies which the indemnification serves to replace.

The subsequent accounting for the indemnification asset will generally reflect the manner in which the indemnified loans are subsequently measured. The value of the indemnification asset will increase or decrease as expected credit losses on the PCI student loans increase or decrease, respectively. An increase in expected losses on PCI student loans that results in the immediate recognition of an allowance for loan losses will result in an immediate increase in the indemnification asset. A decrease in expected losses that results in an immediate reversal of a previously recognized loan loss allowance will result in the immediate reduction of the indemnification asset. Recognition of an allowance for loan losses on PCI student loans is discussed in more detail within Note 4: Loan Receivables under "Purchased Credit-Impaired Loans." To the extent that a decrease in expected losses results in a prospective increase in the accretable yield on PCI student loans rather than an immediate reduction of the loan loss allowance, the value of the indemnification asset will be adjusted prospectively through a reduction in the rate of amortization. Amortization and valuation adjustments to the indemnification asset are recorded through other income on the condensed consolidated statement of income.

3. Investments

The Company's investment securities consist of the following (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$2,660,725 | \$2,563,800 |
| U.S. government agency securities | 2,815,960 | 2,795,223 |
| States and political subdivisions of states | 38,826 | 40,936 |
| Other securities: | | |
| Credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers | 298,542 | 299,889 |
| Corporate debt securities ⁽¹⁾ | 347,614 | 449,469 |
| To-be-announced investment securities | — | 50,254 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency ⁽²⁾ | 108,109 | 6,482 |
| Total other securities | 754,265 | 806,094 |
| Total investment securities | \$6,269,776 | \$6,206,053 |

⁽¹⁾ Amount represents corporate debt obligations issued under the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (TLGP) that are guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

⁽²⁾ Consists of residential mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae.

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The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains and losses, and fair value of available-for-sale and held-to-maturity investment securities are as follows (dollars in thousands):

| | Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| At February 29, 2012 | | | | |
| Available-for-Sale Investment Securities ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| U.S Treasury securities | \$2,613,596 | \$46,924 | \$(345) |) \$2,660,175 |
| U.S government agency securities | 2,768,509 | 47,451 | — |) 2,815,960 |
| Credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers | 293,167 | 5,375 | — |) 298,542 |
| Corporate debt securities | 347,034 | 588 | (8) |) 347,614 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency | 51,921 | — | (139) |) 51,782 |
| Total available-for-sale investment securities | \$6,074,227 | \$100,338 | \$(492) |) \$6,174,073 |
| Held-to-Maturity Investment Securities ⁽²⁾ | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities ⁽³⁾ | \$550 | \$— | \$— |) \$550 |
| States and political subdivisions of states | 38,826 | 156 | (1,104) |) 37,878 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency ⁽⁴⁾ | 56,327 | 1,180 | — |) 57,507 |
| Total held-to-maturity investment securities | \$95,703 | \$1,336 | \$(1,104) |) \$95,935 |
| At November 30, 2011 | | | | |
| Available-for-Sale Investment Securities ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| U.S Treasury securities | \$2,516,008 | \$47,242 | \$— |) \$2,563,250 |
| U.S government agency securities | 2,762,265 | 34,166 | (1,208) |) 2,795,223 |
| Credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers | 293,231 | 6,658 | — |) 299,889 |
| Corporate debt securities | 448,423 | 1,066 | (20) |) 449,469 |
| Total available-for-sale investment securities | \$6,019,927 | \$89,132 | \$(1,228) |) \$6,107,831 |
| Held-to-Maturity Investment Securities ⁽²⁾ | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities ⁽³⁾ | \$550 | \$— | \$— |) \$550 |
| States and political subdivisions of states | 40,936 | 197 | (2,823) |) 38,310 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency ⁽⁴⁾ | 6,482 | 650 | — |) 7,132 |
| To-be-announced investment securities | 50,254 | — | (204) |) 50,050 |
| Total held-to-maturity investment securities | \$98,222 | \$847 | \$(3,027) |) \$96,042 |

(1) Available-for-sale investment securities are reported at fair value.

(2) Held-to-maturity investment securities are reported at amortized cost.

(3) Amount represents securities pledged as collateral to a government-related merchant for which transaction settlement occurs beyond the normal 24-hour period.

(4) Amounts represent residential mortgage-backed securities that were classified as held-to-maturity as they were entered into as a part of the Company's Community Reinvestment Act initiatives.

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The following table provides information about investment securities with aggregate gross unrealized losses and the length of time that individual investment securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position as of February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011 (dollars in thousands):

| | Number of Securities in a Loss Position | Less than 12 months | | More than 12 months | |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses |
| At February 29, 2012 | | | | | |
| Available-for-Sale Investment Securities | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 3 | \$300,764 | \$345 | \$— | \$— |
| Corporate debt securities | 2 | \$75,037 | \$8 | \$— | \$— |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency | 1 | \$51,782 | \$139 | \$— | \$— |
| Held-to-Maturity Investment Securities | | | | | |
| State and political subdivisions of states | 4 | \$1,726 | \$24 | \$22,505 | \$1,080 |
| At November 30, 2011 | | | | | |
| Available-for-Sale Investment Securities | | | | | |
| U.S. government agency securities | 2 | \$242,898 | \$1,208 | \$— | \$— |
| Corporate debt securities | 3 | \$100,041 | \$20 | \$— | \$— |
| Held-to-Maturity Investment Securities | | | | | |
| State and political subdivisions of states | 6 | \$2,689 | \$46 | \$27,768 | \$2,777 |
| To-be-announced investment securities | 2 | \$50,050 | \$204 | \$— | \$— |

During the three months ended February 29, 2012, the Company received \$494.2 million of proceeds related to maturities, redemptions, liquidation or sales of investment securities, as compared to \$342.0 million for the three months ended February 28, 2011.

During the three months ended February 29, 2012, there were no sales of securities. During the three months ended February 28, 2011, the Company received \$161.0 thousand of proceeds and recorded \$146.0 thousand of gross realized gains relating primarily to the sale of equity securities.

The Company records unrealized gains and losses on its available-for-sale investment securities in other comprehensive income. For the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, the Company recorded a net unrealized gain of \$11.9 million (\$7.4 million after tax) and a net unrealized loss of \$24.3 million (\$15.2 million after tax), respectively, in other comprehensive income.

During the three months ended February 29, 2012, the Company made additional investments in residential mortgage-backed securities for \$51.8 million. These securities consist of residential mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and were classified as available for sale.

At February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, the Company had \$1.1 million and \$2.8 million, respectively, of gross unrealized losses in a continuous loss position for more than 12 months on its held-to-maturity investment securities in states and political subdivisions of states. The Company believes the unrealized loss on these investments is the result of changes in interest rates subsequent to the Company's acquisitions of these securities and that the reduction in value is temporary. The Company does not intend to sell these investments nor does it expect to be required to sell these investments before recovery of their amortized cost basis, as they were entered into as a part of the Company's Community Reinvestment Act initiatives. The Company expects to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of these securities.

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Contractual maturities of available-for-sale debt securities and held-to-maturity debt securities at February 29, 2012 are provided in the table below (dollars in thousands):

| | One Year or Less | After One Year Through Five Years | After Five Years Through Ten Years | After Ten Years | Total |
|--|------------------------|--|---|--------------------|-------------|
| Available-for-sale—Amortized Cost⁽¹⁾ | | | | | |
| U.S Treasury securities | \$264,362 | \$2,349,234 | \$— | \$— | \$2,613,596 |
| U.S government agency securities | 619,367 | 2,149,142 | — | — | 2,768,509 |
| Credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers | 187,986 | 105,181 | — | — | 293,167 |
| Corporate debt securities | 347,034 | — | — | — | 347,034 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency | — | — | 51,921 | — | 51,921 |
| Total available-for-sale investment securities | \$1,418,749 | \$4,603,557 | \$51,921 | \$— | \$6,074,227 |
| Held-to-maturity—Amortized Cost⁽²⁾ | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$550 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$550 |
| State and political subdivisions of states | 680 | 2,470 | 2,425 | 33,251 | 38,826 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency ⁽³⁾ | — | — | — | 56,327 | 56,327 |
| Total held-to-maturity investment securities | \$1,230 | \$2,470 | \$2,425 | \$89,578 | \$95,703 |
| Available-for-sale—Fair Value⁽¹⁾ | | | | | |
| U.S Treasury securities | \$264,806 | \$2,395,369 | \$— | \$— | \$2,660,175 |
| U.S government agency securities | 620,148 | 2,195,812 | — | — | 2,815,960 |
| Credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers | 190,322 | 108,220 | — | — | 298,542 |
| Corporate debt securities | 347,614 | — | — | — | 347,614 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency | — | — | 51,782 | — | 51,782 |
| Total available-for-sale investment securities | \$1,422,890 | \$4,699,401 | \$51,782 | \$— | \$6,174,073 |
| Held-to-maturity—Fair Value⁽²⁾ | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$550 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$550 |
| State and political subdivisions of states | 681 | 2,447 | 2,544 | 32,206 | 37,878 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency ⁽³⁾ | — | — | — | 57,507 | 57,507 |
| Total held-to-maturity investment securities | \$1,231 | \$2,447 | \$2,544 | \$89,713 | \$95,935 |

(1) Available-for-sale investment securities are reported at fair value.

(2) Held-to-maturity investment securities are reported at amortized cost.

(3) Amounts represent residential mortgage-backed securities that were classified as held-to-maturity as they were entered into as a part of the Company's Community Reinvestment Act initiatives.

Other Investments. As a part of the Company's community reinvestment initiatives, the Company has made equity investments in certain limited partnerships and limited liability companies that finance the construction and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing, as well as stimulate economic development in low to moderate income communities. These investments are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, and are recorded within other assets, and the related commitment for future investments is recorded in other liabilities within the statement of financial condition. The portion of each investment's operating results allocable to the Company is recorded in other expense within the statement of income. The Company earns a return primarily through the receipt of tax credits allocated to the affordable housing projects and the community revitalization projects. These investments are not consolidated as the Company does not have a controlling financial interest in the entities. As of February 29, 2012 and

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November 30, 2011, the Company had outstanding investments of \$144.9 million and \$137.9 million, respectively, in these entities, and the related contingent liability was \$11.9 million and \$6.3 million, respectively.

4. Loan Receivables

The Company has three portfolio segments: credit card loans, other loans and PCI student loans acquired in the SLC transaction (See Note 2: Business Combinations) and in a separate portfolio acquisition from Citibank. Within these portfolio segments, the Company has classes of receivables which are depicted in the table below (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Loans held for sale ⁽¹⁾ | \$— | \$714,180 |
| Loan portfolio: | | |
| Credit card loans: | | |
| Discover card ⁽²⁾ | 45,708,205 | 46,419,544 |
| Discover business card | 209,393 | 219,081 |
| Total credit card loans | 45,917,598 | 46,638,625 |
| Other loans: | | |
| Personal loans | 2,783,506 | 2,648,051 |
| Private student loans | 2,446,972 | 2,069,001 |
| Other | 27,039 | 16,690 |
| Total other loans | 5,257,517 | 4,733,742 |
| PCI student loans ⁽³⁾ | 5,124,146 | 5,250,388 |
| Total loan portfolio | 56,299,261 | 56,622,755 |
| Total loan receivables | 56,299,261 | 57,336,935 |
| Allowance for loan losses | (1,978,591) | (2,205,196) |
| Net loan receivables | \$54,320,670 | \$55,131,739 |

Amount represents federal student loans. At November 30, 2011, \$446.6 million of federal student loan receivables were pledged as collateral against a long-term borrowing. During first quarter 2012, Discover Bank sold these loans and recorded a loss of \$518 thousand. As a part of this transaction, the related borrowings were assumed by the purchaser.

Amounts include \$19.2 billion and \$18.5 billion of underlying investors' interest in trust debt at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively, and \$13.6 billion and \$15.4 billion in seller's interest at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively. See Note 5: Credit Card and Student Loan Securitization Activities for further information.

Amounts include \$2.8 billion of loans pledged as collateral against the notes issued from the SLC securitization trusts at both February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011. See Note 5: Credit Card and Student Loan Securitization Activities. Of the remaining \$2.3 billion and \$2.5 billion at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively, that were not pledged as collateral, approximately \$11.9 million and \$12.8 million represent loans eligible for reimbursement through an indemnification claim. Discover Bank must purchase such loans from the trust before a claim may be filed.

Credit Quality Indicators. The Company regularly reviews its collection experience (including delinquencies and net charge-offs) in determining its allowance for loan losses. Credit card and closed-end consumer loan receivables are placed on nonaccrual status upon receipt of notification of the bankruptcy or death of a customer or suspected fraudulent activity on an account. In some cases of suspected fraudulent activity, loan receivables may resume accruing interest upon completion of the fraud investigation.

Information related to the delinquencies and net charge-offs in the Company's loan portfolio, which excludes loans held for sale, is shown below by each class of loan receivables except for PCI student loans, which is shown under the heading "Purchased Credit-Impaired Loans" (dollars in thousands):

Delinquent and Non-Accruing Loans:

| | 30-89 Days Delinquent | 90 or More Days Delinquent | Total Past Due | 90 or More Days Delinquent and Accruing | Total Non-accruing ⁽²⁾ |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| At February 29, 2012 | | | | | |
| Credit card loans: | | | | | |
| Discover card ⁽¹⁾ | \$476,276 | \$536,825 | \$1,013,101 | \$481,362 | \$ 184,366 |
| Discover business card | 2,519 | 3,339 | 5,858 | 3,131 | 828 |
| Total credit card loans | 478,795 | 540,164 | 1,018,959 | 484,493 | 185,194 |
| Other loans: | | | | | |
| Personal loans | 14,116 | 8,484 | 22,600 | 7,713 | 3,076 |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI) | 19,433 | 3,223 | 22,656 | 2,864 | 409 |
| Other | 196 | 1,566 | 1,762 | — | 1,779 |
| Total other loans (excluding PCI) | 33,745 | 13,273 | 47,018 | 10,577 | 5,264 |
| Total loan receivables (excluding PCI) | \$512,540 | \$553,437 | \$1,065,977 | \$495,070 | \$ 190,458 |
| At November 30, 2011 | | | | | |
| Credit card loans: | | | | | |
| Discover card ⁽¹⁾ | \$554,354 | \$556,126 | \$1,110,480 | \$498,305 | \$ 200,208 |
| Discover business card | 2,823 | 3,548 | 6,371 | 3,335 | 860 |
| Total credit card loans | 557,177 | 559,674 | 1,116,851 | 501,640 | 201,068 |
| Other loans: | | | | | |
| Personal loans | 15,604 | 7,362 | 22,966 | 6,636 | 3,628 |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI) | 10,073 | 2,992 | 13,065 | 2,883 | 125 |
| Other ⁽³⁾ | 507 | 2,091 | 2,598 | — | 2,317 |
| Total other loans (excluding PCI) | 26,184 | 12,445 | 38,629 | 9,519 | 6,070 |
| Total loan receivables (excluding PCI) ⁽³⁾ | \$583,361 | \$572,119 | \$1,155,480 | \$511,159 | \$ 207,138 |

Consumer credit card loans that are 90 or more days delinquent and accruing interest include \$36.4 million and (1) \$37.9 million of loans accounted for as troubled debt restructurings at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively.

The Company estimates that the gross interest income that would have been recorded in accordance with the original terms of these credit card loans was \$8.3 million for the three months ended February 29, 2012. The (2) Company does not separately track the amount of gross interest income that would have been recorded in accordance with the original terms of loans. These amounts were estimated based on customers' current balances and most recent rates.

(3) At November 30, 2011, amounts also exclude federal student loans that were held for sale.

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Net Charge-offs. The Company's net charge-offs include the principal amount of losses charged off less principal recoveries and exclude charged-off interest and fees, recoveries of interest and fees and fraud losses. Charged-off and recovered interest and fees are recorded in interest and loan fee income, respectively, which is effectively a reclassification of the loan loss provision, while fraud losses are recorded in other expense. Credit card loan receivables are charged off at the end of the month during which an account becomes 180 days contractually past due. Closed-end consumer loan receivables are generally charged off at the end of the month during which an account becomes 120 days contractually past due. Generally, customer bankruptcies and probate accounts are charged off at the end of the month 60 days following the receipt of notification of the bankruptcy or death but not later than the 180-day or 120-day contractual time frame.

| Net Charge-Offs: | For the Three Months Ended February 29, 2012 | | For the Three Months Ended February 28, 2011 | | |
|--|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| | Net Charge-offs | Net Charge-off Rate | Net Charge-offs | Net Charge-off Rate | |
| Credit card loans: | | | | | |
| Discover card | \$355,367 | 3.06 | % \$661,243 | 5.93 | % |
| Discover business card | 2,336 | 4.36 | % 6,533 | 10.38 | % |
| Total credit card loans | 357,703 | 3.07 | % 667,776 | 5.96 | % |
| Other loans: | | | | | |
| Personal loans | 17,590 | 2.59 | % 19,634 | 4.10 | % |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI) | 2,789 | 0.49 | % 924 | 0.29 | % |
| Other | 52 | 1.06 | % 34 | 0.97 | % |
| Total other loans (excluding PCI) | 20,431 | 1.49 | % 20,592 | 2.07 | % |
| Net charge-offs as a percentage of total loans (excluding PCI) | \$378,134 | 2.90 | % \$688,368 | 5.64 | % |
| Net charge-offs as a percentage of total loans (including PCI) | \$378,134 | 2.64 | % \$688,368 | 5.42 | % |

As part of credit risk management activities, on an ongoing basis the Company reviews information related to the performance of a customer's account with the Company as well as information from credit bureaus, such as a FICO or other credit scores, relating to the customer's broader credit performance. Credit scores are generally obtained at origination of the account and are refreshed monthly or quarterly thereafter to assist us in predicting customer behavior. Historically, the Company has noted that a significant proportion of delinquent accounts have FICO scores below 660. The following table provides FICO scores available for the Company's customers as a percentage of each class of loan receivables:

| | February 29, 2012 | | November 30, 2011 | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | 660 and Above | Less than 660 or No Score | 660 and Above | Less than 660 or No Score | |
| Discover card | 81 | % 19 | % 81 | % 19 | % |
| Discover business card | 90 | % 10 | % 89 | % 11 | % |
| Personal loans | 97 | % 3 | % 97 | % 3 | % |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI) ⁽¹⁾ | 94 | % 6 | % 95 | % 5 | % |

(1) PCI loans are discussed under the heading "Purchased Credit-Impaired Loans."

For private student loans, additional credit risk management activities include monitoring the amount of loans in forbearance. Forbearance allows borrowers experiencing temporary financial difficulties and willing to make payments the ability to temporarily suspend payments. Eligible borrowers have a lifetime cap on forbearance of 12

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months. At February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, there were \$102.4 million and \$75.9 million of loans in forbearance, respectively. In addition, at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, there were 2.0% and 1.5% of private student loans in forbearance as a percentage of student loans in repayment and forbearance.

Allowance for Loan Losses. The Company maintains an allowance for loan losses at an appropriate level to absorb probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio. The Company considers the collectibility of all amounts contractually due on its loan receivables, including those components representing interest and fees. Accordingly, the allowance for loan losses represents the estimated uncollectible principal, interest and fee components of loan receivables. The allowance is evaluated monthly and is maintained through an adjustment to the provision for loan losses. Charge-offs of principal amounts of loans outstanding are deducted from the allowance and subsequent recoveries of such amounts increase the allowance. Charge-offs of loan balances representing unpaid interest and fees result in a reversal of interest and fee income, respectively, which is effectively a reclassification of provision for loan losses. The Company bases its allowance for loan losses on several analyses that help estimate incurred losses as of the balance sheet date. While the Company's estimation process includes historical data and analysis, there is a significant amount of judgment applied in selecting inputs and analyzing the results produced by the models to determine the allowance. The Company uses a migration analysis to estimate the likelihood that a loan will progress through the various stages of delinquency. The loan balances used in the migration analysis represent all amounts contractually due and, as a result, the migration analysis captures principal, interest and fee components in estimating uncollectible accounts. The Company uses other analyses to estimate losses incurred on non-delinquent accounts. The considerations in these analyses include past performance, risk management techniques applied to various accounts, historical behavior of different account vintages, current economic conditions, recent trends in delinquencies, bankruptcy filings, account collection management, policy changes, account seasoning, loan volume and amounts, payment rates, and forecasting uncertainties. The Company does not evaluate loans for impairment on an individual basis, but instead estimates its allowance for loan losses on a pooled basis, which includes loans that are delinquent and/or no longer accruing interest and/or defaulted from a loan modification program, as discussed below under the section entitled "Impaired Loans and Troubled Debt Restructurings."

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The following table provides changes in the Company's allowance for loan losses for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$2,205,196 | \$3,304,118 |
| Additions: | | |
| Provision for loan losses | 151,529 | 417,709 |
| Deductions: | | |
| Charge-offs: | | |
| Discover card | (497,105) | (792,632) |
| Discover business card | (3,110) | (7,386) |
| Total credit card loans | (500,215) | (800,018) |
| Personal loans | (18,228) | (20,050) |
| Federal student loans | — | — |
| Private student loans | (2,867) | (939) |
| Other | (52) | (35) |
| Total other loans | (21,147) | (21,024) |
| Total charge-offs | (521,362) | (821,042) |
| Recoveries: | | |
| Discover card | 141,738 | 131,389 |
| Discover business card | 774 | 853 |
| Total credit card loans | 142,512 | 132,242 |
| Personal loans | 638 | 416 |
| Private student loans | 78 | 15 |
| Other | — | 1 |
| Total other loans | 716 | 432 |
| Total recoveries | 143,228 | 132,674 |
| Net charge-offs | (378,134) | (688,368) |
| Balance at end of period | \$1,978,591 | \$3,033,459 |

Net charge-offs of principal are recorded against the allowance for loan losses, as shown in the table above.

Information regarding net charge-offs of interest and fee revenues on credit card and other loans is as follows (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Interest and fees accrued subsequently charged off, net of recoveries (recorded as a reduction of interest income) | \$103,368 | \$188,221 |
| Fees accrued subsequently charged off, net of recoveries (recorded as a reduction to other income) | \$19,833 | \$35,370 |

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The following table provides additional detail of the Company's allowance for loan losses and recorded investment in its loan portfolio (which excludes loans held for sale) by impairment methodology (dollars in thousands):

| | Credit Card | Personal Loans | Student Loans | Other Loans | Total |
|---|--------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| At February 29, 2012 | | | | | |
| Allowance for loans evaluated for impairment as: | | | | | |
| Collectively evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$1,630,436 | \$88,394 | \$54,347 | \$215 | \$1,773,392 |
| Troubled debt restructurings ⁽²⁾ | 204,774 | 256 | 169 | — | 205,199 |
| Purchased credit-impaired ⁽³⁾ | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total allowance for loan losses | \$1,835,210 | \$88,650 | \$54,516 | \$215 | \$1,978,591 |
| Recorded investment in loans evaluated for impairment as: | | | | | |
| Collectively evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$44,720,511 | \$2,775,406 | \$2,439,442 | \$27,039 | \$49,962,398 |
| Troubled debt restructurings ⁽²⁾ | 1,197,087 | 8,100 | 7,530 | — | 1,212,717 |
| Purchased credit-impaired ⁽³⁾ | — | — | 5,124,146 | — | 5,124,146 |
| Total recorded investment | \$45,917,598 | \$2,783,506 | \$7,571,118 | \$27,039 | \$56,299,261 |
| At November 30, 2011 | | | | | |
| Allowance for loans evaluated for impairment as: | | | | | |
| Collectively evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$1,865,797 | \$81,838 | \$52,601 | \$220 | \$2,000,456 |
| Troubled debt restructurings ⁽²⁾ | 204,364 | 237 | 139 | — | 204,740 |
| Purchased credit-impaired ⁽³⁾ | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total allowance for loan losses | \$2,070,161 | \$82,075 | \$52,740 | \$220 | \$2,205,196 |
| Recorded investment in loans evaluated for impairment as: | | | | | |
| Collectively evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$45,421,887 | \$2,640,416 | \$2,063,562 | \$16,690 | \$50,142,555 |
| Troubled debt restructurings ⁽²⁾ | 1,216,738 | 7,635 | 5,439 | — | 1,229,812 |
| Purchased credit-impaired ⁽³⁾ | — | — | 5,250,388 | — | 5,250,388 |
| Total recorded investment | \$46,638,625 | \$2,648,051 | \$7,319,389 | \$16,690 | \$56,622,755 |

(1) Represents loans evaluated for impairment in accordance with ASC 450-20, Loss Contingencies.

Represents loans evaluated for impairment in accordance with ASC 310-10, Receivables, which consists of modified loans accounted for as troubled debt restructurings. The unpaid principal balance of credit card loans was \$1.0 billion at both February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, The unpaid principal balance of personal loans was \$8.0 million and \$7.5 million at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively. The unpaid principal balance of student loans was \$7.1 million and \$5.4 million at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively. All loans accounted for as troubled debt restructurings have a related allowance for loan losses.

(2) Represents loans evaluated for impairment in accordance with ASC 310-30, Receivables-Loans and Debt Securities Acquired with Deteriorated Credit Quality.

Impaired Loans and Troubled Debt Restructurings. Temporary and permanent modifications on credit card loans, certain grants of student loan forbearance and long-term modifications to personal loans are considered troubled debt restructurings and are accounted for in accordance with ASC 310-40, Troubled Debt Restructuring by Creditors. Generally loans included in a loan modification program are considered to be individually impaired and are accounted for as troubled debt restructurings. The Company has both internal and external loan modification programs that provide relief to credit card and personal loan borrowers who are experiencing financial hardship. The internal loan modification programs include both temporary and permanent programs.

For our credit card customers, the temporary hardship program primarily consists of a reduced minimum payment and an interest rate reduction, both lasting for a period no longer than 12 months. The permanent workout program involves changing the structure of the loan to a fixed payment loan with a maturity no longer than 60 months and

reducing the interest rate on the loan. The permanent programs do not normally provide for the forgiveness of unpaid principal, but may allow for the reversal of certain unpaid interest or fee assessments. The Company also makes loan modifications for customers who request financial assistance through external sources, such as a consumer credit counseling agency program (referred to here as external programs). These loans typically receive a reduced interest rate but continue to be subject to the original minimum payment terms and do not normally include waiver of unpaid principal, interest or fees.

To assist student loan borrowers who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties and are willing to resume making payments, the Company may offer forbearance periods of up to 12 months over the life of the loan. The Company does not anticipate significant shortfalls in the contractual amount due for borrowers using a first forbearance period as the historical performance of these borrowers is not significantly different from the overall portfolio. However, when a delinquent borrower is granted a second forbearance period, the forbearance is considered a troubled debt restructuring.

For our personal loan customers, the temporary programs normally consist of a reduction of the minimum payment for a period of no longer than six months with a final balloon payment required at the end of the loan term. The permanent program involves changing the terms of the loan in order to pay off the outstanding balance over the new term for a period no longer than four years. The total term generally does not exceed nine years. The Company also allows loan modifications for personal loan customers who request financial assistance through external sources, similar to our credit card customers discussed above. Payments are modified based on the new terms agreed upon with the credit counseling agency. Personal loans included in permanent programs are accounted for as troubled debt restructurings.

Loans classified as troubled debt restructurings are recorded at their present value with impairment measured as the difference between the loan balance and the discounted present value of cash flows expected to be collected. Consistent with the Company's measurement of impairment of modified loans on a pooled basis, the discount rate used for credit card loans is the average current annual percentage rate it applies to non-impaired credit card loans, which approximates what would have applied to the pool of modified loans prior to impairment. For private student and personal loans, the discount rate used is the average contractual rate prior to modification. Interest income from loans accounted for as troubled debt restructurings is accounted for in the same manner as other accruing loans. Cash collections on these loans are allocated according to the same payment hierarchy methodology applied to loans that are not in such programs. Additional information about modified loans is shown below (dollars in thousands):

| | Average recorded investment in loans | Interest income recognized on impaired loans ⁽¹⁾ | Gross interest income that would have been recorded with original terms ⁽²⁾ |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| For the Three Months Ended February 29, 2012: | | | |
| Credit card loans | | | |
| Modified credit card loans that have reverted to pre-modification payment terms ⁽³⁾ | \$260,065 | \$11,023 | \$— |
| Internal programs | \$565,895 | \$4,500 | \$18,067 |
| External programs | \$648,057 | \$13,873 | \$2,224 |
| Personal loans ⁽⁴⁾ | \$7,840 | \$252 | \$— |
| Student loans ⁽⁴⁾ | \$6,228 | \$122 | \$— |
| For the Three Months Ended February 28, 2011: | | | |
| Credit card loans | | | |
| Internal programs | \$545,030 | \$6,490 | \$15,523 |
| External programs | \$741,654 | \$15,740 | \$2,529 |

(1) The Company does not separately track interest income on loans in modification programs. Amounts shown are estimated by applying an average interest rate to the average loans in the various modification programs.

The Company does not separately track the amount of gross interest income that would have been recorded if the loans in modification programs had not been restructured and interest had instead been recorded in accordance with (2) the original terms. Amounts shown are estimated by applying the difference between the average interest rate earned on non-impaired credit card loans and the average interest rate earned on loans in the modification programs to the average loans in the modification programs.

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This balance is considered impaired, but is excluded from the internal and external program amounts below.

(3) Represents credit card loans that were modified in troubled debt restructurings but that have subsequently reverted back to loans' pre-modification payment terms either due to noncompliance with the terms of the modification or successful completion of a temporary modification program.

(4) As interest rates for personal loan customers in modification programs and student loan customers that have been granted forbearance periods are rarely modified, gross interest income that would have been recorded with original terms is not significant.

In order to evaluate the primary financial effects which resulted from loans entering into a loan modification program during the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, the Company quantified the amount by which interest and fees were reduced during the period. During the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, the Company forgave approximately \$13.1 million and \$16.2 million, respectively, of interest and fees as a result of accounts entering into a loan modification program.

The following table provides information on loans that entered a loan modification program during the period (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended February 29, 2012 | | For the Three Months Ended February 28, 2011 | |
|--|---|------------|---|------------|
| | Number of Accounts | Balances | Number of Accounts | Balances |
| Accounts that entered a loan modification program during the period: | | | | |
| Credit card: | | | | |
| Internal programs | 16,104 | \$ 111,932 | 15,426 | \$ 109,570 |
| External programs | 10,313 | \$ 59,174 | 13,449 | \$ 81,014 |
| Student loans | 109 | \$ 2,389 | 26 | \$ 338 |
| Personal loans | 143 | \$ 1,552 | 185 | \$ 2,288 |

The following table presents the carrying value of loans that experienced a payment default during the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 and that had been modified in a troubled debt restructuring during the 15 months preceding the end of each quarterly period (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended February 29, 2012 | | For the Three Months Ended February 28, 2011 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Accounts | Aggregated Outstanding Balances Upon Default | Number of Accounts | Aggregated Outstanding Balances Upon Default |
| Troubled debt restructurings that subsequently defaulted: | | | | |
| Credit card ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ : | | | | |
| Internal programs | 4,342 | \$ 29,433 | 5,520 | \$ 40,224 |
| External programs | 2,072 | \$ 10,094 | 3,845 | \$ 20,323 |
| Student loans | 9 | \$ 177 | — | \$ — |
| Personal loans | 41 | \$ 478 | 9 | \$ 120 |

(1) The outstanding balance upon default is the loan balance at the end of the month prior to default.

(2) A customer defaults from a modification program after two consecutive missed payments.

(3) Terms revert back to the pre-modification terms for customers who default from a temporary program and charging privileges remain revoked.

Of the account balances that defaulted as shown above at February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, respectively, approximately 46% and 34% of the total balances charged off at the end of the month in which they defaulted. For accounts that have defaulted from a loan modification program and that have not subsequently charged off, the balances are included in the allowance for loan loss analysis discussed above under the section entitled "Allowance for Loan Losses."

Purchased Credit-Impaired Loans. Purchased loans with evidence of credit deterioration since origination for which it is probable that not all contractually required payments will be collected are considered impaired at acquisition and are reported as PCI loans. The private student loans acquired in the SLC transaction as well as the additional private student loan portfolio acquired from Citibank comprise the Company's only PCI loans at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011. Total PCI student loans had an outstanding balance of \$5.6 billion and \$5.7 billion, including accrued interest, and a related carrying amount of \$5.1 billion and \$5.3 billion as of February 29, 2012 and

November 30, 2011, respectively.

Management concluded it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all contractually required payments due but the Company is unable to specifically identify which loans the Company will be unable to collect. Therefore, the Company has elected to apply ASC 310-30, Receivables-Loans and Debt Securities Acquired with Deteriorated Credit Quality by analogy to the entire pool of acquired loans.

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At the time of acquisition, these loans were recorded at fair value. The Company estimated the initial fair value of the acquired loans based on the cash flows expected to be collected, discounted at a market rate of interest. Expected cash flows used in the initial fair value measurements reflect the effect of expected losses and prepayments as well as anticipated changes in the interest rate indices applicable to these variable rate loans.

As of the acquisition date of December 31, 2010, the PCI student loans acquired in the SLC transaction had an aggregate outstanding balance of approximately \$3.8 billion, including accrued interest, and a fair value (initial carrying value) of approximately \$3.1 billion. Of the \$3.8 billion aggregate outstanding balance of loans acquired, loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of approximately \$31 million were non-accruing as of the acquisition date.

As of the acquisition date of September 30, 2011, the private student loans acquired from Citibank had an aggregate outstanding balance and an estimated fair value of approximately \$2.4 billion. These loans were acquired at a discount which reflects a decline in the credit quality of the loans after their origination that is partially offset by a premium which reflects the value in certain loans that carry interest rates above prevailing market rates at the acquisition date. Of the \$2.4 billion aggregate outstanding balance of loans acquired, loans with an outstanding balance of approximately \$16 million were non-performing as of the acquisition date. There has not been any significant incremental credit deterioration on either portfolio since the respective acquisition dates and, therefore, no allowance has been established for the PCI student loans at February 29, 2012.

Certain PCI student loans in one of the three SLC securitization trusts are covered by an indemnification agreement with Citibank for credit losses. The indemnified loans are presented along with all other PCI student loans and the related indemnification asset is recognized as a separate asset on the Company's condensed consolidated statement of financial condition. See Note 2: Business Combinations for a description of the indemnification asset.

The following table shows contractually required payments receivable, cash flows expected to be collected and fair value of loans acquired as of the acquisition date (dollars in millions):

| | At December 31, 2010 |
|---|-------------------------|
| Contractually required payments receivable ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 5,673 |
| Less: Non-accretable difference ⁽²⁾ | (683) |
| Cash flows expected to be collected | 4,990 |
| Less: Accretable yield ⁽³⁾ | (1,920) |
| Fair value of loans acquired | \$ 3,070 |

⁽¹⁾ Amount represents principal and interest payments, both currently due and due in the future, adjusted for the effect of estimated prepayments.

⁽²⁾ Charge-offs on acquired loans will be written off against non-accretable difference.

⁽³⁾ Amount accreted into interest income over the estimated lives of the acquired loans.

The following table shows contractually required payments receivable, cash flows expected to be collected and fair value of the additional private student loans acquired from Citibank for the loans acquired as of September 30, 2011 (dollars in millions):

| | At September 30, 2011 |
|---|--------------------------|
| Contractually required payments receivable ⁽¹⁾ | \$3,861 |
| Less: Non-accretable difference ⁽²⁾ | (573) |
| Cash flows expected to be collected | 3,288 |
| Less: Accretable yield ⁽³⁾ | (855) |
| Fair value of loans acquired | \$2,433 |

⁽¹⁾ Amount represents principal and interest payments, both currently due and due in the future, adjusted for the effect of estimated prepayments.

⁽²⁾ Charge-offs on acquired loans will be written off against non-accretable difference.

(3) Amount to be accreted into interest income over the estimated lives of the acquired loans.

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The following table provides changes in accretable yield for the acquired loans for the three month periods ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 (dollars in millions):

| | For the Three Months Ended February 29, 2012 | For the Three Months Ended February 28, 2011 |
|--|--|--|
| Balance at beginning of period | \$2,580 | \$— |
| Acquisition of The Student Loan Corporation | — | 1,776 |
| Accretion into interest income | (77 |) (39 |
| Reclassifications to non-accretable difference | (86 |) — |
| Balance at end of period | \$2,417 | \$1,737 |

During the three months ended February 29, 2012, the Company reclassified \$86 million to non-accretable difference because of a decrease in expected cash flows. There were no reclassifications during the three months ended February 28, 2011. This amount will be recognized prospectively as an adjustment to yield over the remaining life of the pools.

At February 29, 2012, the 30 or more days delinquency and 90 or more days delinquency rates on PCI student loans (which includes loans not yet in repayment) were 2.51% and 0.72%, respectively. At February 28, 2011, the 30 or more days delinquency and 90 or more days delinquency rates on PCI student loans (which includes loans not yet in repayment) were 2.65% and 0.85%, respectively. These rates include private student loans that are greater than 120 days delinquent that are covered by an indemnification agreement or insurance arrangements through which the Company expects to recover a substantial portion of the loan. The net charge-off rate on PCI student loans for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 was 1.31% and 1.06%, respectively.

5. Credit Card and Student Loan Securitization Activities

Credit Card Securitization Activities

The Company accesses the term asset securitization market through the Discover Card Master Trust I (“DCMT”) and the Discover Card Execution Note Trust (“DCENT”), which are trusts into which credit card loan receivables are transferred (or, in the case of DCENT, into which beneficial interests in DCMT are transferred) and from which beneficial interests are issued to investors.

The DCMT structure consists of Class A, triple-A rated certificates and Class B, single-A rated certificates held by third parties. Credit enhancement is provided by the subordinated Class B certificates, cash collateral accounts, and more subordinated Series 2009-CE certificates that are held by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Discover Bank. The DCENT debt structure consists of four classes of securities (DiscoverSeries Class A, B, C and D notes), with the most senior class generally receiving a triple-A rating. In this structure, in order to issue senior, higher rated classes of notes, it is necessary to obtain the appropriate amount of credit enhancement, generally through the issuance of junior, lower rated or more highly subordinated classes of notes. The majority of these more highly subordinated classes of notes are held by subsidiaries of Discover Bank. In addition, during the three months ended February 29, 2012 there was another outstanding series of certificates (Series 2009-SD), issued by DCMT, that provided increased excess spread levels to all other outstanding securities of the trusts. The Series 2009-SD certificates were held by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Discover Bank. The Series 2009-SD balance of \$346.4 million matured on January 17, 2012, automatically triggering a higher required level of the Class D (2009-1) note. Accordingly, the size of the Class D (2009-1) note was increased by \$241.7 million. The credit-related risk of loss associated with trust assets as of the balance sheet date to which the Company is exposed through the retention of these subordinated interests is fully captured in the allowance for loan losses recorded by the Company.

The Company’s credit card securitizations are accounted for as secured borrowings and the trusts are treated as consolidated subsidiaries of the Company. The Company’s retained interests in the assets of the trusts, principally consisting of investments in DCMT certificates and DCENT notes held by subsidiaries of Discover Bank, constitute intercompany positions which are eliminated in the preparation of the Company’s consolidated statement of financial condition.

Upon transfer of credit card loan receivables to the trust, the receivables and certain cash flows derived from them become restricted for use in meeting obligations to the trusts' creditors. The trusts have ownership of cash balances that also have restrictions, the amounts of which are reported in restricted cash. Investment of trust cash balances is limited to investments that are permitted under the governing documents of the trusts and which have maturities no later than the related date on which funds must be made available for distribution to trust investors. With the exception of the seller's interest in trust receivables, the Company's interests in trust assets are generally subordinate to the interests of third-party investors and, as such, may not be realized by the Company if needed to absorb deficiencies in cash flows that are allocated to the investors in the trusts' debt. The carrying values of these restricted assets, which are presented on the Company's condensed consolidated statement of financial condition as relating to securitization activities, are shown in the table below (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cash collateral accounts | \$187,105 | \$187,105 |
| Collections and interest funding accounts | 75,341 | 977,195 |
| Restricted cash | 262,446 | 1,164,300 |
| Investors' interests held by third-party investors | 14,294,739 | 13,294,739 |
| Investors' interests held by wholly owned subsidiaries of Discover Bank | 4,912,601 | 5,157,536 |
| Seller's interest | 13,612,707 | 15,363,585 |
| Loan receivables ⁽¹⁾ | 32,820,047 | 33,815,860 |
| Allowance for loan losses allocated to securitized loan receivables ⁽¹⁾ | (1,323,867) | (1,510,730) |
| Net loan receivables | 31,496,180 | 32,305,130 |
| Other | 27,253 | 26,506 |
| Carrying value of assets of consolidated variable interest entities | \$31,785,879 | \$33,495,936 |

The Company maintains its allowance for loan losses at an amount sufficient to absorb probable losses inherent in (1) all loan receivables, which includes all loan receivables in the trusts. Therefore, credit risk associated with the transferred receivables is fully reflected on the Company's balance sheet in accordance with GAAP.

The debt securities issued by the consolidated VIEs are subject to credit, payment and interest rate risks on the transferred credit card loan receivables. To protect investors, the securitization structures include certain features that could result in earlier-than-expected repayment of the securities. The primary investor protection feature relates to the availability and adequacy of cash flows in the securitized pool of receivables to meet contractual requirements. Insufficient cash flows would trigger the early repayment of the securities. This is referred to as the "economic early amortization" feature.

Investors are allocated cash flows derived from activities related to the accounts comprising the securitized pool of receivables, the amounts of which reflect finance charges billed, certain fee assessments, allocations of merchant discount and interchange, and recoveries on charged-off accounts. From these cash flows, investors are reimbursed for charge-offs occurring within the securitized pool of receivables and receive a contractual rate of return and Discover Bank is paid a servicing fee as servicer. Any cash flows remaining in excess of these requirements are reported to investors as excess spread. An excess spread rate of less than 0% for a contractually specified period, generally a three-month average, would trigger an economic early amortization event. In such an event, the Company would be required to seek immediate sources of replacement funding. Apart from the restricted assets related to securitization activities, the investors and the securitization trusts have no recourse to the Company's other assets or the Company's general credit for a shortage in cash flows.

The Company is required to maintain a contractual minimum level of receivables in the trust in excess of the face value of outstanding investors' interests. This excess is referred to as the minimum seller's interest requirement. The required minimum seller's interest in the pool of trust receivables, which is included in credit card loan receivables restricted for securitization investors, is set at approximately 7% in excess of the total investors' interests (which includes interests held by third parties as well as those certificated interests held by the Company). If the level of receivables in the trust was to fall below the required minimum, the Company would be required to add receivables

from the unrestricted pool of receivables, which would increase the amount of credit card loan receivables restricted for securitization investors. A decline in the amount of the excess seller's interest could occur if balance repayments and charge-offs exceeded new lending on the securitized accounts or as a result of changes in total outstanding investors' interests. If the Company could not add enough receivables to satisfy the requirement, an early amortization (or repayment) of investors' interests would be triggered. We retain significant exposure to the performance of trust assets through holdings of the seller's interest and subordinated security classes of DCMT and DCENT.

Another feature of the Company's securitization structure that is designed to protect investors' interests from loss, which is applicable only to the notes issued from DCENT, is a reserve account funding requirement in which excess cash flows generated by the transferred loan receivables are held at the trust. This funding requirement is triggered when DCENT's three-month average excess spread rate decreases to below 4.5%, with increasing funding requirements as excess spread levels decline below preset levels to 0%.

In addition to performance measures associated with the transferred credit card loan receivables, there are other events or conditions which could trigger an early amortization event. As of February 29, 2012, no economic or other early amortization events have occurred.

The tables below provide information concerning investors' interests and related excess spreads at February 29, 2012 (dollars in thousands):

| | Investors' Interests ⁽¹⁾ | # of Series Outstanding |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Discover Card Master Trust I | \$2,900,522 | 5 |
| Discover Card Execution Note Trust (DiscoverSeries notes) | 16,306,818 | 33 |
| Total investors' interests | \$19,207,340 | 38 |

(1) Investors' interests include third-party interests and subordinated interests held by wholly-owned subsidiaries of Discover Bank.

| | 3-Month Rolling Average Excess Spread ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | |
|---|---|---|
| Group excess spread percentage | 14.07 | % |
| DiscoverSeries excess spread percentage | 13.94 | % |

DCMT certificates refer to the higher of the Group excess spread or their applicable series excess spread (not (1) shown) and DiscoverSeries notes refer to the higher of the Group or DiscoverSeries excess spread in assessing whether an economic early amortization has been triggered.

Discount Series (Series 2009-SD) made principal collections available for reallocation to other series to cover shortfalls in interest and servicing fees and to reimburse charge-offs. These collections and their contribution to (2) excess spread terminated when the Series 2009-SD certificates matured on January 17, 2012. Three-month rolling average excess spread rates shown reflect the availability of these additional collections in one of the three-months averaged.

The Company continues to own and service the accounts that generate the loan receivables held by the trusts. Discover Bank receives servicing fees from the trusts based on a percentage of the monthly investor principal balance outstanding. Although the fee income to Discover Bank offsets the fee expense to the trusts and thus is eliminated in consolidation, failure to service the transferred loan receivables in accordance with contractual requirements could lead to a termination of the servicing rights and the loss of future servicing income, net of related expenses.

Student Loan Securitization Activities

The Company's student loan securitizations are accounted for as secured borrowings and the trusts are treated as consolidated subsidiaries of the Company. Trust receivables underlying third-party investors' interests are recorded in purchased credit-impaired loans, and the related debt issued by the trusts is reported in long-term borrowings. The assets of the Company's consolidated VIEs are restricted from being sold or pledged as collateral for other borrowings and the cash flows from these restricted assets may be used only to pay obligations of the trust.

Currently there are three trusts from which securities are issued to investors. Principal payments on the long-term secured borrowings are made as cash is collected on the collateralized loans. The Company does not have access to cash collected by the securitization trusts until cash is released in accordance with the trust indenture agreements and, for certain securitizations, no cash will be released to the Company until all outstanding trust borrowings have been repaid. Similar to the credit card securitizations, the Company continues to own and service the accounts that generate

the student loan receivables held by the trusts and receives servicing fees from the trusts based on either a percentage of the principal balance outstanding or a flat fee per borrower. Although the servicing fee income offsets the fee expense related to the trusts, failure to service the transferred loan receivables in accordance with contractual requirements could lead to a termination of the servicing rights and the loss of future servicing income.

Under terms of all the trust arrangements, the Company has the option, but not the obligation, to provide financial support to the trusts, but has never provided such support. A substantial portion of the credit risk associated with the securitized loans has been transferred to third parties under private credit insurance or indemnification arrangements. See Note 2: Business Combinations.

The carrying values of these restricted assets, which are presented on the Company's condensed consolidated statement of financial condition as relating to securitization activities, are shown in the table below (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Restricted cash | \$97,860 | \$109,875 |
| Student loan receivables | 2,772,796 | 2,839,871 |
| Other assets | 3,492 | 7,218 |
| Carrying value of assets of consolidated variable interest entities | \$2,874,148 | \$2,956,964 |

6. Deposits

The Company offers its deposit products, including certificates of deposit, money market accounts, online savings accounts and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) certificates of deposit to customers through two channels:

(i) through direct marketing, internet origination and affinity relationships ("direct-to-consumer deposits"); and (ii) indirectly through contractual arrangements with securities brokerage firms ("brokered deposits"). As of February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, the Company had approximately \$27.3 billion and \$26.2 billion, respectively, of direct-to-consumer deposits and approximately \$12.7 billion and \$13.3 billion, respectively, of brokered deposits.

A summary of interest-bearing deposit accounts is as follows (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Certificates of deposit in amounts less than \$100,000 ⁽¹⁾ | \$19,524,743 | \$20,114,121 |
| Certificates of deposit from amounts of \$100,000 ⁽¹⁾ to less than \$250,000 ⁽¹⁾ | 5,293,246 | 5,290,405 |
| Certificates of deposit in amounts of \$250,000 ⁽¹⁾ or greater | 1,179,288 | 1,189,779 |
| Savings deposits, including money market deposit accounts | 14,017,348 | 12,869,582 |
| Total interest-bearing deposits | \$40,014,625 | \$39,463,887 |
| Average annual interest rate | 2.17 | % 2.57 |

⁽¹⁾ \$100,000 represents the basic insurance amount previously covered by the FDIC. Effective July 21, 2010, the basic insurance per depositor was permanently increased to \$250,000.

At February 29, 2012, certificates of deposit maturing during the remainder of 2012, over the next four years and thereafter were as follows (dollars in thousands):

| Year | Amount |
|------------|-------------|
| 2012 | \$9,474,433 |
| 2013 | \$8,128,680 |
| 2014 | \$3,479,411 |
| 2015 | \$2,217,826 |
| 2016 | \$1,583,300 |
| Thereafter | \$1,113,627 |

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7. Borrowings

Long-term borrowings consist of borrowings and capital leases having original maturities of one year or more. The following table provides a summary of the Company's long-term borrowings and weighted average interest rates on balances outstanding at period end (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | | November 30, 2011 | | Interest Rate Terms | Maturity |
|---|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | Outstanding | Interest Rate | Outstanding | Interest Rate | | |
| Securitized Debt | | | | | | |
| Fixed rate asset-backed securities | | | | | | |
| Principal value (including discount of \$1,396) | \$2,748,604 | 3.89 % | \$1,748,742 | 5.65 % | Various fixed rates | Various June 2013—September 2017 |
| Fair value adjustment ⁽³⁾ | (2,816) | | — | | | |
| Book value | 2,745,788 | | 1,748,742 | | | |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities | | | | | | |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities | 10,044,739 | 0.81 % | 10,044,739 | 0.81 % | 1-month LIBOR(1) + 5 to 130 basis points | Various April 2012—November 2016 |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities | 1,250,000 | 0.89 % | 1,250,000 | 0.69 % | 3-month LIBOR(1) + 34 basis points | December 2012 |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities and other borrowings | 250,000 | 0.91 % | 250,000 | 0.91 % | Commercial Paper rate + 70 basis points | April 2013 |
| Total Discover Card Master Trust I and Discover Card Execution Note Trust | | | | | | |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities (including discount of \$213,482) | 1,341,174 | 0.78 % | 1,390,066 | 0.60 % | 3-month LIBOR(1) + 7 to 45 basis points | Various April 2018—July 2036(2) |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities (including discount of \$3,390) | 606,073 | 4.25 % | 627,072 | 4.25 % | Prime rate + 100 basis points | June 2031(2) |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities (including premium of \$2,465) | 147,330 | 4.00 % | 157,338 | 4.00 % | Prime rate + 75 basis points | July 2042(2) |
| Floating rate asset-backed securities (including premium of \$5,963) | 356,337 | 3.75 % | 374,555 | 3.75 % | 1-month LIBOR(1) + 350 basis points | July 2042(2) |
| Total SLC Private Student Loan Trusts | 2,450,914 | | 2,549,031 | | | |
| Total Long-Term Borrowings—owed to securitization investors Discover Financial Services (Parent Company) | | | | | | |
| Fixed rate senior notes due 2017 | 16,741,441 | | 15,842,512 | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|---|--------------|-------|---|--|-------------------|
| Principal value (including discount of \$431) | 399,569 | 6.45 | % | 399,549 | 6.45 | % | Fixed | June 2017 |
| Fair value adjustment ⁽³⁾ | 15,273 | | | 9,855 | | | | |
| Book value | 414,842 | | | 409,404 | | | | |
| Fixed rate senior notes due 2019 | 400,000 | 10.25 | % | 400,000 | 10.25 | % | Fixed | July 2019 |
| Discover Bank Subordinated bank notes due 2019 (including discount of \$1,392) | 698,608 | 8.70 | % | 698,563 | 8.70 | % | Fixed | November 2019 |
| Subordinated bank notes due 2020 (including discount of \$2,815) | 497,185 | 7.00 | % | 497,099 | 7.00 | % | Fixed | April 2020 |
| Floating rate secured borrowings ⁽⁴⁾ | — | — | % | 437,613 | 0.70 | % | Commercial Paper rate + 50 basis points | February 2012 (4) |
| Capital lease obligations | 1,882 | 4.51 | % | 1,987 | 4.51 | % | Fixed | April 2016 |
| Total long-term borrowings | \$18,753,958 | | | \$18,287,178 | | | | |

(1) London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”).

(2) Repayment of this debt is dependent upon the timing of principal and interest payments on the underlying student loans. The dates shown represent final maturity dates.

(3) The Company uses interest rate swaps to hedge portions of these long-term borrowings against changes in fair value attributable to changes in LIBOR. See Note 14: Derivatives and Hedging Activities.

Under a program established by the U.S. Department of Education, this loan facility was entered into to fund (4) certain federal student loans, which were held for sale at November 30, 2011. However, upon sale of the loans during the three months ended February 29, 2012, this loan facility was assumed by the buyer.

Maturities. Long-term borrowings had the following maturities at February 29, 2012 (dollars in thousands):

| Year | Amount |
|-------------|--------------|
| Due in 2012 | \$3,326,336 |
| Due in 2013 | 5,179,066 |
| Due in 2014 | 2,789,685 |
| Due in 2015 | 1,597,460 |
| Due in 2016 | 399,997 |
| Thereafter | 5,461,414 |
| Total | \$18,753,958 |

Effective December 16, 2011, the Company terminated a \$2.4 billion unsecured committed credit facility that was scheduled to expire under its terms in May 2012. The facility was a source of contingent liquidity and the Company had not borrowed under the facility during its term. The facility was terminated due to the availability of other sources of contingent liquidity.

The Company has access to committed undrawn capacity through private securitizations to support the funding of its credit card loan receivables. As of February 29, 2012, the total commitment of secured credit facilities through private providers was \$7 billion, of which \$250 million had been used and was included in long-term borrowings at February 29, 2012. Access to the unused portions of the secured credit facilities is dependent upon the agreement with each of the providers which have various expirations in fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Borrowings outstanding under each facility bear interest at a margin above LIBOR or the asset-backed commercial paper costs of each individual conduit provider. The terms of each agreement provide for a commitment fee to be paid on the unused capacity, and include various affirmative and negative covenants, including performance metrics and legal requirements similar to those required to issue any term securitization transaction.

Short-Term Borrowings. Short-term borrowings consist of overnight Federal Funds purchased with original maturities less than one year. There were no short-term borrowings as of February 29, 2012. At November 30, 2011 the short-term borrowing balance was \$50 million. The weighted-average interest rate on short term borrowings was 0.03% and 0.18% for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, respectively.

8. Income Taxes

Income tax expense consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Current: | | |
| U.S. federal | \$255,663 | \$138,848 |
| U.S. state and local | 39,369 | 2,407 |
| International | 1,212 | 1,345 |
| Total | 296,244 | 142,600 |
| Deferred: | | |
| U.S. federal | 80,690 | 108,629 |
| U.S. state and local | 6,325 | 3,891 |
| International | (19) | (9) |
| Total | 86,996 | 112,511 |
| Income tax expense | \$383,240 | \$255,111 |

The following table reconciles the Company's effective tax rate to the U.S. federal statutory income tax rate:

| | For the Three Months Ended | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| | February 29, 2012 | | February 28, 2011 | |
| U.S. federal statutory income tax rate | 35.0 | % | 35.0 | % |
| U.S. state, local and other income taxes, net of U.S. federal income tax benefits | 3.2 | | 0.9 | |
| Other | (0.4 |) | (0.5 |) |
| Effective income tax rate | 37.8 | % | 35.4 | % |

The Company is under continuous examination by the IRS and the tax authorities for various states. The tax years under examination vary by jurisdiction; for example, the current IRS examination covers 2006 through the short period June 30, 2007 when the Company was a subsidiary of Morgan Stanley. A separate post-spin examination covers the years 2008 through 2010. The Company is pursuing an IRS administrative appeal of the IRS proposed assessment for the years 1999 through 2005. The Company does not anticipate that a resolution of the IRS administrative appeal will occur within the next 12 months as it is in the preliminary stage. The Company regularly assesses the likelihood of additional assessments or settlements in each of the taxing jurisdictions resulting from these and subsequent years' examinations. Due to uncertainty of the outcome of the IRS examinations and the IRS administrative appeal, the Company is unable to determine if the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits will significantly increase or decrease within the next twelve months. However, the Company believes that its reserve is sufficient to cover any tax, penalties and interest that could result.

9. Earnings Per Share

The following table presents the calculation of basic and diluted EPS (in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Numerator: | | |
| Net income available to common stockholders | \$631,006 | \$464,892 |
| Income allocated to participating securities | (6,582 |) (5,464 |
| Net income allocated to common stockholders | \$624,424 | \$459,428 |
| Denominator: | | |
| Weighted average shares of common stock outstanding | 529,565 | 545,052 |
| Effect of dilutive common stock equivalents | 1,092 | 489 |
| Weighted average shares of common stock outstanding and common stock equivalents | 530,657 | 545,541 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$1.18 | \$0.84 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$1.18 | \$0.84 |

The following securities were considered anti-dilutive and therefore were excluded from the denominator in the computation of diluted EPS (shares in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Unexercised stock options | 336 | 554 |

10. Capital Adequacy

The Company is subject to capital adequacy guidelines of the Federal Reserve, and Discover Bank (the “Bank”), the Company’s main banking subsidiary, is subject to various regulatory capital requirements as administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”). Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can result in the initiation of certain mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the financial position and results of the Company and the Bank. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Company and the Bank must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance sheet items, as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. Capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings and other factors.

Quantitative measures established by regulation to ensure capital adequacy require the Company and the Bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios (as defined in the regulations) of total risk-based capital and Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets, and of Tier 1 capital to average assets. As of February 29, 2012, the Company and the Bank met all capital adequacy requirements to which they were subject.

Under regulatory capital requirements, the Company and the Bank must maintain minimum levels of capital that are dependent upon the risk-weighted amount or average level of the financial institution’s assets, specifically (a) 8% to 10% of total risk-based capital to risk-weighted assets (“total risk-based capital ratio”), (b) 4% to 6% of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets (“Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio”) and (c) 4% to 5% of Tier 1 capital to average assets (“Tier 1 leverage ratio”). To be categorized as “well-capitalized,” the Company and the Bank must maintain minimum total risk-based, Tier 1 risk-based, and Tier 1 leverage ratios as set forth in the table below. As of February 29, 2012, the Company and the Bank met the requirements for well-capitalized status and there have been no conditions or events that management believes have changed the Company’s or the Bank’s category.

The following table shows the actual capital amounts and ratios of the Company and the Bank as of February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011 and comparisons of each to the regulatory minimum and “well-capitalized” requirements (dollars in thousands):

| | Actual | | Minimum Capital Requirements | | Capital Requirements To Be Classified as Well-Capitalized | |
|--|---------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|---|--------|
| | Amount | Ratio | Amount | Ratio | Amount | Ratio |
| February 29, 2012 | | | | | | |
| Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) | | | | | | |
| Discover Financial Services | \$ 10,385,418 | 17.6 | % \$ 4,725,838 | ≥8.0% | \$ 5,907,298 | ≥10.0% |
| Discover Bank | \$ 8,959,618 | 15.4 | % \$ 4,656,873 | ≥8.0% | \$ 5,821,091 | ≥10.0% |
| Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets) | | | | | | |
| Discover Financial Services | \$ 8,435,902 | 14.3 | % \$ 2,362,919 | ≥4.0% | \$ 3,544,379 | ≥6.0% |
| Discover Bank | \$ 7,020,744 | 12.1 | % \$ 2,328,437 | ≥4.0% | \$ 3,492,655 | ≥6.0% |
| Tier 1 capital (to average assets) | | | | | | |
| Discover Financial Services | \$ 8,435,902 | 12.1 | % \$ 2,783,332 | ≥4.0% | \$ 3,479,165 | ≥5.0% |
| Discover Bank | \$ 7,020,744 | 10.2 | % \$ 2,744,047 | ≥4.0% | \$ 3,430,059 | ≥5.0% |
| November 30, 2011 | | | | | | |
| Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) | | | | | | |
| Discover Financial Services | \$ 9,808,660 | 16.5 | % \$ 4,764,887 | ≥8.0% | \$ 5,956,109 | ≥10.0% |
| Discover Bank | \$ 8,671,391 | 14.8 | % \$ 4,693,645 | ≥8.0% | \$ 5,867,056 | ≥10.0% |
| Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets) | | | | | | |
| Discover Financial Services | \$ 7,850,451 | 13.2 | % \$ 2,382,444 | ≥4.0% | \$ 3,573,665 | ≥6.0% |
| Discover Bank | \$ 6,724,176 | 11.5 | % \$ 2,346,822 | ≥4.0% | \$ 3,520,234 | ≥6.0% |

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Tier 1 capital (to average assets)

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------|---|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Discover Financial Services | \$7,850,451 | 11.5 | % | \$2,729,480 | ≥4.0% | \$3,411,851 | ≥5.0% |
| Discover Bank | \$6,724,176 | 10.0 | % | \$2,690,135 | ≥4.0% | \$3,362,668 | ≥5.0% |

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11. Commitments, Contingencies and Guarantees

Lease commitments. The Company leases various office space and equipment under capital and non-cancelable operating leases which expire at various dates through 2022. At February 29, 2012, future minimum payments on leases with original terms in excess of one year consist of the following (dollars in thousands):

| | Capitalized Leases | Operating Leases |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2012 | \$381 | \$7,923 |
| 2013 | 508 | 10,129 |
| 2014 | 508 | 8,774 |
| 2015 | 489 | 7,765 |
| 2016 | 179 | 7,504 |
| Thereafter | — | 15,234 |
| Total minimum lease payments | 2,065 | \$57,329 |
| Less: Amount representing interest | 183 | |
| Present value of net minimum least payments | \$1,882 | |

Unused commitments to extend credit. At February 29, 2012, the Company had unused commitments to extend credit for consumer loans and commercial loans of approximately \$163.2 billion. Such commitments arise primarily from agreements with customers for unused lines of credit on certain credit cards and certain other consumer loan products, provided there is no violation of conditions in the related agreement. These commitments, substantially all of which the Company can terminate at any time and which do not necessarily represent future cash requirements, are periodically reviewed based on account usage, customer creditworthiness and loan qualification.

Commitments to purchase private student loans. Discover Bank entered into an agreement with Citibank to purchase any private student loans originated by Citibank on or after December 31, 2010 under a new loan origination agreement entered into between Citibank and SLC on December 31, 2010. Discover Bank has agreed to purchase any loans first funded by Citibank on December 31, 2010 or later, including a premium equal to 0.125%. Discover Bank completed the first purchase of loan participations under this agreement on January 3, 2011. The agreement has been amended to extend to December 31, 2012, effective upon the closing of Discover Bank's purchase of private student loans from Citibank on September 30, 2011. Although the agreement does not set forth a minimum or maximum amount of loans to be purchased, Discover Bank must purchase all eligible loans originated by Citibank, which the Company estimates to be \$200.0 million to \$400.0 million over the remaining life of the agreement, as amended. As of February 29, 2012, Discover Bank had an outstanding commitment to purchase \$15.6 million of loans under this agreement.

Commitments to purchase residential mortgage backed securities. As of February 29, 2012, the Company had outstanding commitments of \$328.3 million to purchase future investments as a part of its investing activities. These commitments related to agency residential mortgage-backed securities that were traded, but for which settlement did not occur until second quarter of 2012. As of February 29, 2012, the Company had not recorded any liability associated with these investments.

Secured Borrowing Representations and Warranties. As part of the Company's financing activities, the Company provides representations and warranties that certain assets pledged as collateral in secured borrowing arrangements conform to specified guidelines. Due diligence is performed by the Company which is intended to ensure that asset guideline qualifications are met. If the assets pledged as collateral do not meet certain conforming guidelines, the Company may be required to replace, repurchase or sell such assets. In its credit card securitization activities, the Company would replace nonconforming receivables through the allocation of excess seller's interest or from additional transfers from the unrestricted pool of receivables. If the Company could not add enough receivables to satisfy the requirement, an early amortization (or repayment) of investors' interests would be triggered. In its student loan securitizations, the Company would generally repurchase the loans from the trust at the outstanding principal amount plus interest.

The maximum potential amount of future payments the Company could be required to make would be equal to the current outstanding balances of third-party investor interests in credit card asset-backed securities plus the principal amount of any other outstanding secured borrowings. The Company has recorded substantially all of the maximum

potential amount of future payments in long-term borrowings on the Company's statement of financial condition. The Company has not recorded any incremental contingent liability associated with its secured borrowing representations and warranties. Management believes that the probability of having to replace, repurchase or sell assets pledged as collateral under secured borrowing arrangements, including an early amortization event, is low.

Guarantees. The Company has obligations under certain guarantee arrangements, including contracts and indemnification agreements, which contingently require the Company to make payments to the guaranteed party based on changes in an underlying asset, liability or equity security of a guaranteed party, rate or index. Also included as guarantees are contracts that contingently require the Company to make payments to a guaranteed party based on another entity's failure to perform under an agreement. The Company's use of guarantees is disclosed below by type of guarantee.

Counterparty Settlement Guarantees. Diners Club and DFS Services LLC, on behalf of PULSE, have various counterparty exposures, which are listed below.

Merchant Guarantee. Diners Club has entered into contractual relationships with certain international merchants, which generally include travel-related businesses, for the benefit of all Diners Club licensees. The licensees hold the primary liability to settle the transactions of their customers with these merchants. However, Diners Club retains a counterparty exposure if a licensee fails to meet its financial payment obligation to one of these merchants.

ATM Guarantee. PULSE entered into contractual relationships with certain international ATM acquirers in which DFS Services LLC retains counterparty exposure if an issuer fails to fulfill its settlement obligation.

The maximum potential amount of future payments related to such contingent obligations is dependent upon the transaction volume processed between the time a counterparty defaults on its settlement and the time at which the Company disables the settlement of any further transactions for the defaulting party, which could be up to one month depending on the type of guarantee/counterparty. However, there is no limitation on the maximum amount the Company may be liable to pay. The actual amount of the potential exposure cannot be quantified as the Company cannot determine whether particular counterparties will fail to meet their settlement obligations. While the Company has some contractual remedies to offset these counterparty settlement exposures (such as letters of credit or pledged deposits), in the event that all licensees and/or issuers were to become unable to settle their transactions, the Company estimates its maximum potential counterparty exposures to these settlement guarantees, based on historical transaction volume of up to one month, would be as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 |
| Diners Club: | |
| Merchant guarantee (in millions) | \$255 |
| PULSE: | |
| ATM guarantee (in thousands) | \$1,078 |

With regard to the counterparty settlement guarantees discussed above, the Company believes that the estimated amounts of maximum potential future payments are not representative of the Company's actual potential loss exposure given Diners Club's and PULSE's insignificant historical losses from these counterparty exposures. As of February 29, 2012, the Company had not recorded any contingent liability in the condensed consolidated financial statements for these counterparty exposures, and management believes that the probability of any payments under these arrangements is low.

The Company also retains counterparty exposure for the obligations of Diners Club licensees that participate in the Citishare network, an electronic funds processing network. Through the Citishare network, Diners Club customers are able to access certain ATMs directly connected to the Citishare network. The Company's maximum potential future payment under this counterparty exposure is limited to \$15 million, subject to annual adjustment based on actual transaction experience. However, as of February 29, 2012, the Company had not recorded any contingent liability in the condensed consolidated financial statements related to this counterparty exposure, and management believes that the probability of any payments under this arrangement is low.

Merchant Chargeback Guarantees. The Company issues and permits third parties to issue payment cards and owns and operates the Discover Network. The Company is contingently liable for certain transactions processed on the Discover Network in the event of a dispute between the payment card customer and a merchant. The contingent liability arises if the disputed transaction involves a merchant or merchant acquirer with whom the Discover Network has a direct relationship. If a dispute is resolved in the customer's favor, the Discover Network will credit or refund the disputed amount to the Discover Network card issuer, who in turn credits its customer's account. The Discover Network will then charge back the disputed amount of the payment card transaction to the merchant or merchant acquirer, where

permitted by the applicable agreement, to seek recovery of amounts already paid to the merchant for payment card transactions. If the Discover Network is unable to collect the amount subject to dispute from the merchant or merchant acquirer (e.g., in the event of merchant default or dissolution) or after expiration of the time period for chargebacks in the applicable agreement, the Discover Network will bear the loss for the amount credited or refunded to the customer. In most instances, a loss by the Discover Network is unlikely to arise in connection with payments on card transactions because most products or services are delivered when purchased, and credits are issued by merchants on returned items in a timely fashion, thus minimizing the likelihood of cardholder disputes with respect to amounts paid by the Discover Network. However, where the product or service is not scheduled to be provided to the customer until a later date following the purchase, the likelihood of a contingent payment obligation by the Discover Network increases.

The maximum potential amount of obligations of the Discover Network arising as a result of such contingent obligations is estimated to be the portion of the total Discover Network transaction volume processed to date for which timely and valid disputes may be raised under applicable law and relevant issuer and customer agreements. There is no limitation on the maximum amount the Company may be liable to pay to issuers. However, the Company believes that such amount is not representative of the Company's actual potential loss exposure based on the Company's historical experience. The actual amount of the potential exposure cannot be quantified as the Company cannot determine whether the current or cumulative transaction volumes may include or result in disputed transactions.

The table below summarizes certain information regarding merchant chargebacks guarantees:

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Losses related to merchant chargebacks (in thousands) | \$89 | \$921 |
| Aggregate sales transaction volume (in millions) ⁽¹⁾ | \$27,726 | \$25,787 |

⁽¹⁾ Represents period transactions processed on the Discover Network to which a potential liability exists which, in aggregate, can differ from credit card sales volume.

The Company has not recorded any contingent liability in the condensed consolidated financial statements for merchant chargeback guarantees on February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011. The Company mitigates the risk of potential loss exposure by withholding settlement from merchants, obtaining third party guarantees, or obtaining escrow deposits or letters of credit from certain merchant acquirers or merchants that are considered higher risk due to various factors such as time delays in the delivery of products or services. The table below provides information regarding settlement withholdings and escrow deposits, which are recorded in interest-bearing deposit accounts, and accrued expenses and other liabilities on the Company's condensed consolidated statements of financial condition (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Settlement withholdings and escrow deposits | \$26,124 | \$24,297 |

12. Litigation and Regulatory Matters

In the normal course of business, from time to time, the Company has been named as a defendant in various legal actions, including arbitrations, class actions, and other litigation, arising in connection with its activities. Certain of the actual or threatened legal actions include claims for substantial compensatory and/or punitive damages or claims for indeterminate amounts of damages. The Company contests liability and/or the amount of damages as appropriate in each pending matter. In accordance with applicable accounting guidance, the Company establishes an accrued liability for legal and regulatory matters when those matters present loss contingencies which are both probable and estimable. In such cases, there may be an exposure to loss in excess of any amounts accrued. The Company believes the estimate of the aggregate range of reasonably possible losses (meaning those losses the likelihood of which is more than remote but less than likely) in excess of the amounts that the Company has accrued for legal and regulatory proceedings is up to \$100 million. This estimated range of reasonably possible losses is based upon currently available information for those proceedings in which the Company is involved, takes into account the Company's best estimate of such losses for those matters for which an estimate can be made, and does not represent the Company's maximum potential loss exposure. Various aspects of the legal proceedings underlying the estimated range will change from time to time and actual results may vary significantly from the estimate.

The Company has been notified of a threatened enforcement action brought by the FDIC and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB") discussed below. As to that matter, which is not included in the estimate discussed above, the Company is not able to estimate a reasonably possible range of losses given that, among other factors, the CFPB is a new agency for which no precedent has been established for enforcement matters. The exposure to loss for this matter could materially exceed the estimate discussed above, which could have a material adverse impact on the

Company's near-term net income; however, the Company does not believe it would have a material adverse impact on the Company's consolidated capital position.

The Company's estimated range above involves significant judgment, given the varying stages of the proceedings, the existence of numerous yet to be resolved issues, the breadth of the claims (often spanning multiple years and, in some cases, a wide range of business activities), unspecified damages and/or the novelty of the legal issues presented. The outcome of pending matters could be material to the Company's consolidated financial condition, operating results and cash flows for a particular future period, depending on, among other things, the level of the Company's income for such period, and could adversely affect the Company's reputation.

The Company has historically relied on the arbitration clause in its cardmember agreements, which has in some instances limited the costs of, and the Company's exposure to, litigation, but there can be no assurance that the Company will continue to be successful in enforcing its arbitration clause in the future. Legal challenges to the enforceability of these clauses have led most card issuers and may cause the Company to discontinue their use. In addition, there are bills pending in Congress to directly or indirectly prohibit the use of pre-dispute arbitration clauses and the Reform Act authorized the CFPB to limit or ban pre-dispute arbitration clauses. Further, the Company is involved in pending legal actions challenging its arbitration clause.

The Company is also involved, from time to time, in other reviews, investigations and proceedings (both formal and informal) by governmental agencies regarding the Company's business including, among other matters, accounting, tax and operational matters, some of which may result in significant adverse judgments, settlements, fines, penalties, injunctions, decreases in regulatory ratings or other relief, which could materially impact the Company's financial statements, increase its cost of operations, or limit its ability to execute its business strategies and engage in certain business activities. For example, the Company received a notice of proposed assessment from the IRS related to its audit of the Company's 1999-2005 tax years as further discussed in Note 8: Income Taxes.

As referenced above, the FDIC has been reviewing Discover Bank's marketing practices with respect to its fee-based products, including its payment protection fee product. The FDIC and the CFPB have notified Discover Bank that they plan to take a joint enforcement action against Discover Bank. Before the FDIC's and the CFPB's review began, Discover Bank made changes to both its fee-based products and program, and Discover Bank believes its current business practices substantially address the regulators' concerns. The enforcement action could include civil monetary penalties, significant restitution and additional business practice changes.

There are eight class action cases pending in relation to the sale of the Company's payment protection fee product. The cases were filed (all in United States District Courts) on: July 8, 2010 in the Northern District of California (Walker, et al. v. DFS, Inc. and Discover Bank; subsequently transferred to the Northern District of Illinois); July 16, 2010 in the Central District of California (Conroy v. Discover Financial Services and Discover Bank); October 22, 2010 in the District of South Carolina (Alexander v. Discover Financial Services, Inc.; DFS Services LLC; Discover Bank; and Morgan Stanley); November 5, 2010 in the Northern District of Illinois (Callahan v. Discover Financial Services, Inc. and Discover Bank); December 17, 2010 in the Western District of Tennessee (Sack v. DFS Services LLC; Discover Financial Services, Inc.; and Discover Bank); January 14, 2011 in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Boyce v. DFS Services LLC; Discover Financial Services Inc.; Discover Bank); February 15, 2011 in the Southern District of Florida (Triplett v. Discover Financial Services, Inc., DFS Financial Services LLC, Discover Bank and Morgan Stanley); and March 7, 2011 in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Carter v. Discover Financial Services, Inc., DFS Financial Services LLC, Discover Bank, Morgan Stanley et al.). All of the cases have been transferred to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois pursuant to a multi-district litigation order issued by the Joint Panel on Multidistrict Litigation in February 2011. These class actions challenge the Company's marketing practices with respect to its payment protection fee product to cardmembers under various state laws and the Truth in Lending Act. The plaintiffs seek monetary remedies including unspecified damages and restitution, attorneys' fees and costs, and various forms of injunctive relief including an order rescinding the payment protection fee product enrollments of all class members. In June 2011, the Company and class counsel entered into a preliminary global settlement of all of the pending class actions. On November 9, 2011, the court granted preliminary approval of the settlement. The settlement encompasses Discover Bank's sale and administration of Discover Payment Protection, Identity Theft Protection, Wallet Protection and Credit Score Tracker. The settlement remains subject to final approval by the court following completion of notice to the settlement class.

On December 6, 2010, the Attorney General for the State of Minnesota filed a lawsuit against the Company in the District Court for Hennepin County, Minnesota (Minnesota v. Discover Financial Services, Discover Bank and DFS Services LLC). The lawsuit challenges the Company's enrollment of Discover cardmembers in various fee based products under Minnesota law. The remedies sought in the lawsuit include an injunction prohibiting the Company from engaging in the alleged violations, restitution for all persons allegedly injured by the complained of practices, civil penalties and costs. On November 2, 2011, the Company entered into a consent judgment in settlement of this lawsuit.

On August 16, 2011, the Attorney General of West Virginia filed a lawsuit against the Company in the Circuit Court of Mason County, West Virginia (West Virginia v. Discover Financial Services, Inc., Discover Bank, DFS Services LLC et al.). The lawsuit asserts various claims related to the Company's marketing and administration of various fee based products under West Virginia law. The relief sought in the lawsuit includes an injunction prohibiting the company from engaging in the alleged violations, restitution and disgorgement of monies received from the complained of practices, civil penalties and costs. The Company will seek to vigorously defend all claims asserted against it in this matter.

On August 26, 2011, the Attorney General of Missouri issued a request for information to the Company in connection with an investigation to determine whether the Company has engaged in conduct that violates Missouri law in the marketing of its payment protection fee product to its credit card customers. The Company is cooperating with the Attorney General in the investigation.

On November 30, 2011, a class action lawsuit was filed against the Company by a cardmember in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (Walter Bradley et al. v. Discover Financial Services). The plaintiff alleges that the Company contacted him, and members of the class he seeks to represent, on their cellular telephones without their express consent in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (“TCPA”). Plaintiff seeks statutory damages for alleged negligent and willful violations of the TCPA, attorneys' fees, costs and injunctive relief. The TCPA provides for statutory damages of \$500 for each violation (\$1,500 for willful violations). The Company is not in a position at this time to assess the likely outcome or its exposure, if any, with respect to this matter, but will seek to vigorously defend against all claims asserted by the plaintiff.

On March 6, 2012, a class action lawsuit was filed against the Company by a cardmember in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (Andrew Steinfeld v. Discover Financial Services, DFS Services LLC and Discover Bank). The plaintiff alleges that the Company contacted him, and members of the class he seeks to represent, on their cellular telephones without their express consent in violation of the TCPA. Plaintiff seeks statutory damages for alleged negligent and willful violations of the TCPA, attorneys' fees, costs and injunctive relief. The TCPA provides for statutory damages of \$500 for each violation (\$1,500 for willful violations). The Company is not in a position at this time to assess the likely outcome or its exposure, if any, with respect to this matter, but will seek to vigorously defend against all claims asserted by the plaintiff.

13. Fair Value Disclosures

The Company is required to disclose the fair value of financial instruments for which it is practical to estimate fair value. To obtain fair values, observable market prices are used if available. In some instances, observable market prices are not readily available and fair value is determined using present value or other techniques appropriate for a particular financial instrument. These techniques involve some degree of judgment and, as a result, are not necessarily indicative of the amounts the Company would realize in a current market exchange. The use of different assumptions or estimation techniques may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

The following table provides the estimated fair values of financial instruments (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | | November 30, 2011 | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value |
| Financial Assets | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$6,315,152 | \$6,315,152 | \$2,849,843 | \$2,849,843 |
| Restricted cash | \$361,307 | \$361,307 | \$1,285,820 | \$1,285,820 |
| Investment securities: | | | | |
| Available-for-sale | \$6,174,073 | \$6,174,073 | \$6,107,831 | \$6,107,831 |
| Held-to-maturity | \$95,703 | \$95,935 | \$98,222 | \$96,042 |
| Net loan receivables | \$54,320,670 | \$55,349,917 | \$55,131,739 | \$56,132,696 |
| Derivative financial instruments | \$68,196 | \$68,196 | \$63,576 | \$63,576 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | |
| Deposits | \$40,147,912 | \$40,862,572 | \$39,577,462 | \$40,329,406 |
| Short-term borrowings | \$— | \$— | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| Long-term borrowings—owed to securitization investors | \$16,741,441 | \$17,101,250 | \$15,842,512 | \$16,229,283 |
| Other long-term borrowings | \$2,012,517 | \$2,375,156 | \$2,444,666 | \$2,642,972 |
| Derivative financial instruments | \$3,169 | \$3,169 | \$448 | \$448 |

Cash and cash equivalents. The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value due to the low level of risk these assets present to the Company as well as the relatively liquid nature of these assets, particularly given their short maturities.

Restricted cash. The carrying value of restricted cash approximates fair value due to the low level of risk these assets present to the Company as well as relatively liquid nature of these assets, particularly given their short maturities.

Available-for-sale investment securities. Investment securities classified as available-for-sale consist of U.S. Treasury and government agency securities, corporate debt, residential mortgage-backed securities issued by agencies, and

credit card asset-backed securities issued by other financial institutions. The fair values for the U.S. Treasury and government agency securities are valued based on quoted market prices for the same or similar securities. The fair value estimation techniques for the corporate debt, mortgage-backed securities and credit card asset-backed securities issued by other financial institutions are discussed below.

Held-to-maturity investment securities. Held-to-maturity investment securities consist of residential mortgage-backed securities issued by agencies and municipal bonds. Municipal bonds are valued based on quoted market prices for the same or similar securities. The fair value estimation techniques for the mortgage-backed securities issued by agencies are discussed below.

Net loan receivables. The Company's loan receivables are comprised of credit card and installment loans, including the PCI student loans. To estimate the fair value of loan receivables, loans are aggregated into pools of similar loan types, characteristics and expected repayment terms. The fair values of all loan receivables are estimated by discounting expected future cash flows using rates at which similar loans could be made under current market conditions.

Derivative financial instruments. The Company's derivative financial instruments consist of interest rate swaps and foreign currency forward contracts. The valuation of these instruments is determined using widely accepted valuation techniques including discounted cash flow analysis on the expected cash flows of each derivative. This analysis reflects the contractual terms of the derivatives, including the period to maturity, and uses observable market-based inputs, including interest rate curves and option volatility. The fair values of interest rate swaps are determined using the market standard methodology of netting the discounted future fixed cash receipts (or payments) and the discounted expected variable cash payments (or receipts). The variable cash payments (or receipts) are based on an expectation of future interest rates (forward curves) derived from observable market interest rate curves. See Note 14: Derivatives and Hedging Activities for more information.

Deposits. The carrying values of money market deposits, savings deposits and demand deposits approximate fair value due to the potentially liquid nature of these deposits. For time deposits for which readily available market rates do not exist, fair values are estimated by discounting expected future cash flows using market rates currently offered for deposits with similar remaining maturities.

Short-term borrowings. The carrying values of short-term borrowings approximate fair value. Federal Funds purchased and repurchase agreements are short-term in nature and have maturities of less than one year.

Long-term borrowings—owed to securitization investors. Fair values of long-term borrowings owed to credit card securitization investors are determined utilizing quoted market prices of the same transactions. Fair values of long-term borrowings owed to student loan securitization investors are calculated by discounting cash flows using estimated assumptions including, among other things, maturity and market discount rates.

Other long-term borrowings. Fair values of other long-term borrowings are determined utilizing current observable market prices for those transactions, if available. If there are no observable market transactions, then fair values are determined by discounting cash flows of future interest accruals at market rates currently offered for borrowings with similar credit risks, remaining maturities and repricing terms.

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis. ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between valuations that are based on observable inputs from those based on unobservable inputs, and requires certain disclosures about those measurements. In general, fair values determined by Level 1 inputs are defined as those that utilize quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access. Fair values determined by Level 2 inputs are those that utilize inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active or inactive markets, quoted prices for the identical assets in an inactive market, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, such as interest rates and yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals. The Company evaluates factors such as the frequency of transactions, the size of the bid-ask spread and the significance of adjustments made when considering transactions involving similar assets or liabilities to assess the relevance of those observed prices. If relevant and observable prices are available, the fair values of the related assets or liabilities would be classified as Level 2. Fair values determined by Level 3 inputs are those based on unobservable inputs, and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability being valued. In instances in which the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety is classified is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The Company may utilize both observable and unobservable inputs in determining the fair values of financial instruments classified within the Level 3 category. The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and

involves consideration of factors specific to the asset or liability.

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Disclosures concerning assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are as follows (dollars in thousands):

| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) ⁽¹⁾ | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) ⁽¹⁾ | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | Total |
|--|---|---|---|-------------|
| Balance at February 29, 2012 | | | | |
| Assets | | | | |
| U.S Treasury securities | \$ 2,660,175 | \$ — | \$ — | \$2,660,175 |
| U.S government agency securities | 2,815,960 | — | — | 2,815,960 |
| Credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers | — | 298,542 | — | 298,542 |
| Corporate debt securities | — | 347,614 | — | 347,614 |
| Residential mortgage-backed securities - Agency | — | 51,782 | — | 51,782 |
| Available-for-sale investment securities | \$ 5,476,135 | \$ 697,938 | \$ — | \$6,174,073 |
| Derivative financial instruments | \$ — | \$ 68,196 | \$ — | \$68,196 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Derivative financial instruments | \$ — | \$ 3,169 | \$ — | \$3,169 |
| Balance at November 30, 2011 | | | | |
| Assets | | | | |
| U.S Treasury securities | \$ 2,563,250 | \$ — | \$ — | \$2,563,250 |
| U.S government agency securities | 2,795,223 | — | — | 2,795,223 |
| Credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers | — | 299,889 | — | 299,889 |
| Corporate debt securities | — | 449,469 | — | 449,469 |
| Available-for-sale investment securities | \$ 5,358,473 | \$ 749,358 | \$ — | \$6,107,831 |
| Derivative financial instruments | \$ — | \$ 63,576 | \$ — | \$63,576 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Derivative financial instruments | \$ — | \$ 448 | \$ — | \$448 |

(1) There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 within the fair value hierarchy for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011.

At February 29, 2012, amounts reported in credit card asset-backed securities issued by other institutions reflected senior-rated Class A securities having a par value of \$255.2 million and more junior-rated Class B and Class C securities with par values of \$22.0 million and \$20.9 million, respectively. The Class A securities had a weighted-average coupon of 0.78% and a weighted-average remaining maturity of 8.8 months, the Class B, 0.55% and 13.8 months, respectively, and the Class C, 0.68% and 4.9 months, respectively. The assets underlying these securities are predominantly prime general-purpose credit card loan receivables. Amounts reported in corporate debt securities reflected government-rated corporate debt obligations issued under the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (“TLGP”) that are guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) with a par value of \$345.0 million, a weighted-average coupon of 2.12% and a weighted-average remaining maturity of 4.9 months. Amounts reported in residential mortgage-backed securities reflected government-rated obligations issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association with a par value of \$49.5 million, a weighted-average coupon of 3.00% and a weighted-average remaining maturity of 3.5 years.

Fair values estimates for corporate debt obligations issued under TLGP are derived utilizing a spread relative to an underlying benchmark curve which reflects the terms and conditions of specific instruments being valued. The fair

values estimates of mortgage-backed and credit card asset-backed securities are valued based on the best information available. This data may consist of observed market prices, broker quotes or discounted cash flow models which incorporate assumptions such as benchmark yields, issuer spreads, prepayment speeds, credit ratings and losses, the priority of which may vary based on availability of information.

The following tables provide changes in the Company's Level 3 assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Net transfers into and/or out of Level 3 are presented using beginning of the period fair values excluding purchases and other settlements. There were no Level 3 assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at any point during the three months ended February 29, 2012.

Changes in Level 3 Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis
(dollars in thousands)

| For the Three Months Ended February 28, 2011 | Balance at November 30, 2010 | Total Realized and Unrealized Sales Gains (Losses) | Net Transfers Into and/ or Out of Level 3 | Balance at February 28, 2011 | Change in unrealized gains (losses) related to financial instruments held at February 28, 2011 |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| Assets | | | | | |
| Equity securities | \$ 17 | \$ 144 | \$(161) | \$— | \$— |
| Available-for-sale investment securities | \$ 17 | \$ 144 | \$(161) | \$— | \$— |

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Non-Recurring Basis. The Company also has assets that under certain conditions are subject to measurement at fair value on a non-recurring basis. These assets include those associated with acquired businesses, including goodwill and other intangible assets. For these assets, measurement at fair value in periods subsequent to their initial recognition is applicable if one or more is determined to be impaired. During the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, the Company had no impairments related to these assets. Fair value adjustments for loans held for sale are periodically recorded in other income in the consolidated statements of income. During the three months ended February 29, 2012, the Company recorded a loss of \$518 thousand related to the sale of loans held for sale. There were no gains or losses related to loans held for sale during the three months ended February 28, 2011. As of February 29, 2012, the Company had not made any fair value elections with respect to any of its eligible assets and liabilities as permitted under ASC 825-10-25.

14. Derivatives and Hedging Activities

The Company uses derivatives to manage its exposure to various financial risks. The Company does not enter into derivatives for trading or speculative purposes. Derivatives not designated as hedges are used to manage the Company's exposure to interest rate movements and other identified risks but do not meet the strict requirements of hedge accounting. All derivatives are recorded in other assets at their gross positive fair values and in accrued expenses and other liabilities at their gross negative fair values.

Derivatives may give rise to counterparty credit risk, which generally is addressed through collateral arrangements as described under the sub-heading "Collateral Requirements and Credit-Risk Related Contingency Features." The Company enters into derivative transactions with established dealers that meet minimum credit criteria established by the Company. All counterparties must be pre-approved prior to engaging in any transaction with the Company. Counterparties are monitored on a periodic basis by the Company to ensure compliance with the Company's risk policies and limits.

Derivatives Designated as Hedges

Derivatives designated and qualifying as a hedge of the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows, or other types of forecasted transactions, are considered cash flow hedges. Derivatives designated and qualifying as a hedge of the exposure to changes in the fair value of an asset, liability, or firm commitment attributable to a particular risk, such as interest rate risk, are considered fair value hedges.

Cash Flow Hedges. The Company uses interest rate swaps to manage its exposure to changes in interest rates related to future cash flows resulting from credit card loan receivables. These transactions are hedged for a maximum period of three years. The derivatives are designated as a hedge of the risk of overall changes in cash flows on the Company's portfolios of prime-based interest receipts and qualify for hedge accounting in accordance with ASC Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging ("ASC 815").

The effective portion of the change in the fair value of derivatives designated as cash flow hedges is recorded in other comprehensive income and is subsequently reclassified into earnings in the period that the hedged forecasted cash flows affect earnings. The ineffective portion of the change in fair value of the derivative, if any, is recognized directly in earnings. Amounts reported in accumulated other comprehensive income related to derivatives at February 29, 2012

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will be reclassified to interest income as interest payments are received on certain of the Company's floating rate credit card loan receivables. During the next 12 months, the Company estimates it will reclassify to earnings \$6.4 million of pretax gains related to its derivatives designated as cash flow hedges.

Fair Value Hedges. The Company is exposed to changes in fair value of certain of its fixed rate debt obligations due to changes in interest rates. During the three months ended February 29, 2012, the Company used interest rate swaps to manage

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its exposure to changes in fair value of certain fixed rate senior notes, securitized debt and interest-bearing brokered deposits attributable to changes in LIBOR, a benchmark interest rate as defined by ASC 815. The interest rate swaps involve the receipt of fixed rate amounts from the respective counterparties in exchange for the Company making payments of variable rate amounts over the life of the agreements without exchange of the underlying notional amounts. These interest rate swaps qualify as fair value hedges in accordance with ASC 815. Changes in both (i) the fair values of the derivatives and (ii) the hedged fixed rate senior notes, securitized debt and interest-bearing brokered deposits relating to the risk being hedged were recorded in interest expense and provided substantial offset to one another. Ineffectiveness related to these fair value hedges was recorded in interest expense. Any basis differences between the fair value and the carrying amount of the hedged fixed rate senior notes, securitized debt and interest-bearing brokered deposits at the inception of the hedging relationship is amortized and recorded in interest expense.

Derivatives not designated as Hedges

Foreign Exchange Forward Contracts. The Company has derivatives that are economic hedges and are not designated as hedges for accounting purposes. The Company enters into foreign exchange forward contracts to manage foreign currency risk. Foreign exchange forward contracts involve the purchase or sale of a designated currency at an agreed upon rate for settlement on a specified date. Changes in the fair value of these contracts are recorded in other income.

Interest Rate Swaps. The Company also may have from time to time interest rate swap agreements that are not designated as hedges. As part of its acquisition of SLC, the Company also acquired an interest rate swap related to the securitized debt assumed in the SLC transaction. Such agreements are not speculative and are also used to manage interest rate risk but are not designated for hedge accounting. Changes in the fair value of these contracts are recorded in other income.

The following table summarizes the fair value (including accrued interest) and related outstanding notional amounts of derivative instruments and indicates where within the statement of financial condition each is reported as of February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011. See Note 13: Fair Value Disclosures for a description of the valuation methodologies of derivatives. (Dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | | Balance Sheet Location | | November 30, 2011 | | Balance Sheet Location | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Notional Amount | Number of Transactions | Other Assets (At Fair Value) | Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities (At Fair Value) | Notional Amount | Other Assets (At Fair Value) | Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities (At Fair Value) | |
| Derivatives designated as hedges: | | | | | | | | |
| Interest rate swaps—Cash Flow hedge | \$2,000,000 | 8 | \$9,812 | \$ — | \$2,000,000 | \$ 12,191 | \$ — | |
| Interest rate swaps—Fair Value hedge | \$3,775,290 | 133 | \$54,724 | \$ 3,159 | \$2,338,276 | \$ 44,171 | \$ 279 | |
| Derivatives not designated as hedges: | | | | | | | | |
| Foreign exchange forward contracts ⁽¹⁾ | \$21,320 | 3 | \$ 174 | \$ 10 | \$21,453 | \$ — | \$ 169 | |
| Interest rate swap | \$1,224,566 | 1 | \$3,486 | \$ — | \$1,294,932 | \$ 7,214 | \$ — | |

(1) The foreign exchange forward contracts have notional amounts of EUR 14 million and GBP 1.7 million as of February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011.

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The following table summarizes the impact of the derivative instruments on income, and indicates where within the condensed consolidated statements of income such impact is reported for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 (dollars in thousands):

| | Location | For the Three Months Ended | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Derivatives designated as hedges: | | | |
| Interest Rate Swaps—Cash Flow Hedges: | | | |
| Loss recognized in other comprehensive income after amounts reclassified into earnings, pre-tax | Other Comprehensive Income | \$(2,379) | \$(14,086) |
| Total losses recognized in other comprehensive income | | \$(2,379) | \$(14,086) |
| Amount reclassified from other comprehensive income into income | Interest Income | \$1,872 | \$1,851 |
| Interest Rate Swaps—Fair Value Hedges: | | | |
| Interest expense—ineffectiveness | | 10,479 | (12,915) |
| Interest expense—other | | 5,105 | 1,649 |
| Gain (loss) on interest rate swaps | Interest Expense | 15,584 | (11,266) |
| Interest expense—ineffectiveness | | (9,028) | 13,723 |
| Interest expense—other | | (1,549) | (1,616) |
| (Loss) gain on hedged item | Interest Expense | (10,577) | 12,107 |
| Total gains recognized in income | | \$6,879 | \$2,692 |
| Derivatives not designated as hedges: | | | |
| Gain (loss) on forward contracts | Other Income | \$127 | \$(451) |
| Gain (loss) on interest rate swaps | Other Income | (3,852) | (688) |
| Total (losses) on derivatives not designated as hedges recognized in income | | \$(3,725) | \$(1,139) |

Collateral Requirements and Credit-Risk Related Contingency Features

For its interest rate swaps, the Company has master netting arrangements and minimum collateral posting thresholds with its counterparties. Collateral is required by either the Company or the counterparty depending on the net fair value position of all interest rate swaps held with that counterparty. The Company may also be required to post collateral with a counterparty depending on the credit rating it or Discover Bank receives from specified major credit rating agencies. Collateral amounts recorded in the condensed consolidated statement of financial condition are based on the net collateral receivable or payable position for each counterparty. Collateral receivable or payable amounts are not offset against the fair value of the interest rate swap, but are recorded separately in other assets or deposits.

As of February 29, 2012, Discover Bank had the right to reclaim \$3.4 million of cash collateral that had been posted as a result of the fair value position of the interest rate swaps with certain counterparties and as of February 29, 2012, DFS had a right to reclaim \$4.0 million of cash collateral that had been posted (net of amounts required to be posted by the counterparty) because the credit rating of the Company did not meet specified thresholds. At February 29, 2012, Discover Bank's credit rating met specified thresholds set by its counterparties. However, if Discover Bank's credit rating is reduced by one ratings notch, Discover Bank would be required to post additional collateral, which would have been \$72.0 million as of February 29, 2012. The Company had an obligation to return \$60.5 million cash collateral deposited with the Company (net of \$4.0 million referenced above) as of February 29, 2012.

As of February 29, 2012, the Company had interest rate swaps in a net liability position with certain counterparties, the fair value of which was \$3.0 million, inclusive of accrued interest. If the Company had breached any provisions of the derivative agreements, it could have been required to settle its obligations under the agreements at their

termination value, \$3.0 million as of February 29, 2012.

The Company also has agreements with certain of its derivative counterparties that contain a provision where if the Company defaults on any of its indebtedness, including default where repayment of the indebtedness has not been accelerated by the lender, then the Company could also be declared in default on its derivative obligations.

15. Segment Disclosures

The Company's business activities are managed in two segments: Direct Banking and Payment Services.

Direct Banking. The Direct Banking segment includes Discover card-branded credit cards issued to individuals and small businesses and other consumer products and services, including personal loans, student loans, prepaid cards and other consumer lending and deposit products offered through the Company's Discover Bank subsidiary. The majority of the Direct Banking revenues relate to interest income earned on each of its loan products. Additionally, the Company's credit card products generate substantially all of the Company's revenues related to discount and interchange, protection products (previously referred to as "fee products") and loan fee income.

Payment Services. The Payment Services segment includes PULSE, an automated teller machine, debit and electronic funds transfer network; Diners Club, a global payments network; and the Company's third-party issuing business, which includes credit, debit and prepaid cards issued on the Discover Network by third parties. The majority of the Payment Services revenues relate to transaction processing revenue from PULSE and royalty and licensee revenue (included in other income) from Diners Club.

The business segment reporting provided to and used by the Company's chief operating decision maker is prepared using the following principles and allocation conventions:

- Corporate overhead is not allocated between segments; all corporate overhead is included in the Direct Banking segment.

- Through its operation of the Discover Network, the Direct Banking segment incurs fixed marketing, servicing and infrastructure costs that are not specifically allocated among the segments.

- The assets of the Company are not allocated among the operating segments in the information reviewed by the Company's chief operating decision maker.

- The revenues of each segment are derived from external sources. The segments do not earn revenue from intercompany sources.

- Income taxes are not specifically allocated among the operating segments in the information reviewed by the Company's chief operating decision maker.

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The following table presents segment data for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 (dollars in thousands):

| For the Three Months Ended | Direct Banking | Payment Services | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| February 29, 2012 | | | |
| Interest income | | | |
| Credit card | \$1,423,806 | \$— | \$1,423,806 |
| Private student loans | 40,482 | — | 40,482 |
| PCI student loans | 77,243 | — | 77,243 |
| Personal loans | 82,975 | — | 82,975 |
| Other | 22,050 | 3 | 22,053 |
| Total interest income | 1,646,556 | 3 | 1,646,559 |
| Interest expense | 353,208 | 52 | 353,260 |
| Net interest income (expense) | 1,293,348 | (49 |) 1,293,299 |
| Provision for loan losses | 151,529 | — | 151,529 |
| Other income | 463,495 | 86,008 | 549,503 |
| Other expense | 642,707 | 34,320 | 677,027 |
| Income before income tax expense | \$962,607 | \$51,639 | \$1,014,246 |
| February 28, 2011 | | | |
| Interest income | | | |
| Credit card | \$1,417,116 | \$— | \$1,417,116 |
| Private student loans | 21,441 | — | 21,441 |
| PCI student loans | 38,957 | — | 38,957 |
| Personal loans | 56,055 | — | 56,055 |
| Other | 19,388 | 7 | 19,395 |
| Total interest income | 1,552,957 | 7 | 1,552,964 |
| Interest expense | 382,657 | 71 | 382,728 |
| Net interest income (expense) | 1,170,300 | (64 |) 1,170,236 |
| Provision for loan losses | 417,709 | — | 417,709 |
| Other income | 486,063 | 76,561 | 562,624 |
| Other expense | 561,752 | 33,396 | 595,148 |
| Income before income tax expense | \$676,902 | \$43,101 | \$720,003 |

16. Subsequent Events

Cash Dividend. On March 13, 2012, the Company announced a cash dividend of \$0.10 per share, payable on April 19, 2012, to stockholders of record at the close of business on April 5, 2012.

Share Repurchase Program. On March 13, 2012, the board of directors of the Company approved a share repurchase program authorizing the repurchase of up to \$2.0 billion of the Company's common stock. The program expires on March 22, 2014 and may be terminated at any time. This share repurchase program replaces the prior \$1.0 billion program that had \$575 million of remaining authorization. The Company expects to make share repurchases under the program from time to time based on market conditions and other factors, subject to legal and regulatory restrictions. Share repurchases under the program may be made through a variety of methods, which may include open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or other purchases, including block trades, accelerated share repurchase transactions, or any combination of such methods.

Share Repurchase Agreement. On March 23, 2012, the Company executed a share repurchase agreement with an unaffiliated financial institution under which the Company will purchase \$250 million of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. The specific number of shares to be purchased will be based generally on the volume weighted average share price of the Company's shares of common stock during the term of the agreement.

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

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this quarterly report. This quarterly report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements, which speak to our expected business and financial performance, among other matters, contain words such as “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “aim,” “will,” “may,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “likely,” and similar expressions. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of our management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this quarterly report, and there is no undertaking to update or revise them as more information becomes available.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: changes in economic variables, such as the availability of consumer credit, the housing market, energy costs, the number and size of personal bankruptcy filings, the rate of unemployment and the levels of consumer confidence and consumer debt, and investor sentiment; the impact of current, pending and future legislation, regulation, supervisory guidance, and regulatory and legal actions, including those related to financial regulatory reform, consumer financial services practices, and funding, capital and liquidity; the actions and initiatives of current and potential competitors; our ability to manage our expenses; our ability to successfully achieve card acceptance across our networks and maintain relationships with network participants; our ability to sustain and grow our private student loan portfolio; our ability to manage our credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk, operational risk, legal and compliance risk, and strategic risk; the availability and cost of funding and capital; access to deposit, securitization, equity, debt and credit markets; the impact of rating agency actions; the level and volatility of equity prices, commodity prices and interest rates, currency values, investments, other market fluctuations and other market indices; losses in our investment portfolio; limits on our ability to pay dividends and repurchase our common stock; fraudulent activities or material security breaches of key systems; our ability to increase or sustain Discover card usage or attract new customers; our ability to attract new merchants and maintain relationships with current merchants; the effect of political, economic and market conditions, geopolitical events and unforeseen or catastrophic events; our ability to introduce new products and services; our ability to manage our relationships with third-party vendors; our ability to maintain current technology and integrate new and acquired systems; our ability to collect amounts for disputed transactions from merchants and merchant acquirers; our ability to attract and retain employees; our ability to protect our reputation and our intellectual property; difficulty obtaining regulatory approval for, financing, transitioning, integrating or managing the expenses of acquisitions of or investments in new businesses, products or technologies; and new lawsuits, investigations or similar matters or unanticipated developments related to current matters. We routinely evaluate and may pursue acquisitions of or investments in businesses, products, technologies, loan portfolios or deposits, which may involve payment in cash or our debt or equity securities. Our pending acquisition of the mortgage origination business of Tree.com, Inc. is subject to closing conditions including regulatory approvals.

Additional factors that could cause our results to differ materially from those described below can be found in this section in this quarterly report and in “Risk Factors,” “Business—Competition,” “Business—Supervision and Regulation” and “Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011, filed with the SEC and available at the SEC's internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

Introduction and Overview

Discover Financial Services is a direct banking and payment services company. Through our Discover Bank subsidiary, we offer our customers credit cards, student loans, personal loans and deposit products. Through our DFS Services LLC subsidiary and its subsidiaries, we operate the Discover Network, the PULSE Network (“PULSE”) and Diners Club International (“Diners Club”). The Discover Network is a payment card transaction processing network for Discover card-branded and third-party issued credit, debit and prepaid cards. PULSE operates an electronic funds

transfer network, providing financial institutions issuing debit cards on the PULSE Network with access to ATMs domestically and internationally, as well as point of sale terminals at retail locations throughout the U.S. for debit card transactions. Diners Club is a global payments network of licensees, which are generally financial institutions, that issue Diners Club branded credit cards and/or provide card acceptance services. Our fiscal year ends on November 30 of each year.

Our primary revenues consist of interest income earned on loan receivables and fees earned from customers, merchants and issuers. The primary expenses required to operate our business include funding costs (interest expense), loan loss provisions, customer rewards, and expenses incurred to grow, manage and service our loan receivables and networks. Our business activities are funded primarily through consumer deposits, securitization of loan receivables and the issuance of unsecured debt.

First Quarter 2012 Highlights

Net income for the first quarter 2012 was \$631 million as compared to \$465 million in the first quarter 2011.

Discover card sales volume was \$25.6 billion in the first quarter 2012, an increase of 7% over the first quarter 2011.

This growth was primarily due to an increase in the number of customers using their Discover card.

Our total loan portfolio grew to \$56.3 billion, up \$5.4 billion, or 11%, in the first quarter 2012 as compared to the first quarter 2011. This year-over-year growth is primarily due to an increase of \$3.0 billion in PCI and private student loans, including the acquisition of \$2.4 billion in PCI private student loans in the fourth quarter 2011. In addition, \$1.6 billion is attributed to an increase in credit card loans, resulting from higher volumes and lower charge-offs.

Payments services had pre-tax income of \$52 million, an increase of \$9 million, or 21%, over the same quarter in 2011. Transaction volume for the segment was \$47 billion in the quarter, an increase of 8% from the first quarter 2011.

We issued \$1.0 billion of credit card asset-backed securities in a registered public offering on February 1, 2012 at a fixed interest rate of 0.81% and with a maturity of three years.

Recent Developments

On March 13, 2012, we received non-objection from the Federal Reserve with respect to our proposed capital actions through March 31, 2013.

Also on March 13, 2012, our board of directors approved a dividend of \$.10 per share of common stock and a new two-year share repurchase program authorizing the repurchase of up to \$2 billion of our outstanding shares of common stock. For more information, see "- Liquidity and Capital Resources - Capital."

On March 23, 2012, we executed a share repurchase agreement with an unaffiliated financial institution under which we will purchase \$250 million of our outstanding shares of common stock. For more information, see "- Liquidity and Capital Resources - Capital."

Outlook

Credit performance has continued to improve during the first quarter of 2012. Improvements in delinquency rates resulted in reserve releases in the first quarter although we expect to build reserves as our loan portfolio continues to grow.

We are focused on growing our card receivables in 2012 through new account acquisitions and wallet share gains by enhancing our brand through expanded partnerships, advertising, and rewards. We are also targeting solid growth and strong returns in our private student loan and personal loan portfolios, while continuing to pursue other opportunities to diversify our direct banking business, such as our pending acquisition of the mortgage origination business of Tree.com.

We anticipate further total yield compression in 2012 due to the continuing effects of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 (the "CARD Act") implementation, an increase in promotional offers and expected growth in private student loans, which tend to carry lower interest rates. We expect this yield compression to continue to be offset by continued funding cost improvements. Funding costs are expected to continue to decline over the next year as we benefit from the interest rate environment and replace higher-priced time deposits with lower-priced deposits and borrowings. We plan to continue to seek cost-effective funding while maintaining strong liquidity. Net interest margin is expected to remain relatively stable through 2012.

We will continue to focus on building our networks through investments to strengthen brand awareness and acceptance globally through support of our Diners Club network and arrangements with other networks and merchant acquirers. Recently, we announced a long-term agreement with the National Payments Corporation of India ("NPCI"), the consortium of banks that runs the RuPay network, which will enable acceptance of Discover and Diners Club International at NPCI ATMs and eventually point-of-sale terminals in India. We expect this arrangement will also result in increased transaction volume on the Discover, Diners Club and PULSE networks outside of India.

Regulatory Environment and Developments

Overview

The 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Reform Act") contains a comprehensive set of provisions designed to govern the practices and oversight of financial institutions and other participants in the financial markets. The Reform Act addresses risks to the economy and the payments system, especially those posed by large systemically significant financial firms. Bank holding companies with \$50 billion or more in total consolidated assets, including Discover, are considered systemically significant under the Reform Act and are subject to heightened prudential standards to be established by the Federal Reserve. Certain provisions of the Reform Act that may have a significant impact on us are described in more detail in the "Risk Factors" and "Regulatory Environment and Developments" sections in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended November 30, 2011 and recent developments are discussed below.

Our banking regulators have introduced and continue to introduce new regulations and supervisory guidance and practices as required by the Reform Act and in response to the heightened Congressional and regulatory focus on consumer financial services generally, increasing their scrutiny over us and the industry. Also, additional legislative or regulatory action that may impact our businesses may result from the multiple studies mandated under the Reform Act, such as the study of private student loans referenced below. We are unable to predict whether any additional changes to statutes or regulations affecting the consumer financial services industry, including the interpretation or implementation thereof, will occur in the future.

The effect of the Reform Act and other regulatory initiatives on our business and operations could be significant, depending upon final implementing regulations, the actions of our competitors and the behavior of consumers and other marketplace participants. The Reform Act, other legislative and regulatory changes, and enhanced scrutiny by our regulators could have a significant impact on us by, for example, requiring us to limit or change our business practices, limiting our ability to pursue business opportunities, requiring us to invest significant management time and resources in compliance efforts, imposing additional costs on us, limiting fees we can charge for services, requiring us to meet more stringent capital, liquidity and leverage ratio requirements (including those under Basel III), increasing our cost or restricting our ability to access the securitization markets for our funding, impacting the value of our assets, or otherwise adversely affecting our businesses.

Consumer Financial Services

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB") has been collecting information from us and other student loan lenders for a report on private education loans and private educational lenders due from the CFPB and the Department of Education ("DOE") in July 2012 that examines, among other things, the private education loan market; underwriting criteria used by lenders; loan terms, conditions and pricing; consumer protections available to borrowers; and fair lending considerations. The impact of this heightened scrutiny of the student loan market and its participants, including any resulting legislative or regulatory initiatives, is uncertain at this time, but could adversely impact the profitability and growth of our private student loan portfolio. In addition, the CFPB recently expanded its online complaint system beyond credit cards and mortgages to include personal loans, student loans and deposits. These complaints could inform CFPB future decisions with respect to regulatory, enforcement or examination focus.

Payment Networks

Following enactment of the Reform Act and related Federal Reserve regulations related to debit routing and fees, large competing networks have begun recently to employ new merchant and acquirer pricing and transaction routing strategies, including through changes to their operating rules, which may result in a reconfiguration of how credit and debit transaction volume is routed. We are closely monitoring the implementation of these strategies in order to assess their impact on our business and on competition in the marketplace. While we are still assessing all of our options for responding to these developments, they may adversely impact PULSE's ability to compete for issuer participation and merchant and acquirer routing.

Segments

We manage our business activities in two segments: Direct Banking and Payment Services. In compiling the segment results that follow, our Direct Banking segment bears all overhead costs that are not specifically associated with a particular segment and all costs associated with Discover Network marketing, servicing and infrastructure, with the exception of an allocation of direct and incremental costs driven by our Payment Services segment.

Direct Banking. Our Direct Banking segment includes Discover card-branded credit cards issued to individuals and small businesses and other consumer products and services, including personal loans, student loans, prepaid cards and other consumer lending and deposit products offered through our Discover Bank subsidiary. The majority of the Direct Banking revenues relate to interest income earned on each of our loan products. Additionally, the Company's credit card products generate substantially all of the Company's revenues related to discount and interchange, protection products and loan fee income.

Payment Services. Our Payment Services segment includes PULSE, an automated teller machine, debit and electronic funds transfer network; Diners Club, a global payments network; and the Company's third-party issuing business, which includes credit, debit and prepaid cards issued on the Discover Network by third parties. The majority of our Payment Services revenues relate to transaction processing revenue from PULSE and royalty and licensee revenue (included in other income) from Diners Club.

The following table presents segment data (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Direct Banking | | |
| Interest income | | |
| Credit card | \$1,423,806 | \$1,417,116 |
| Private student loans | 40,482 | 21,441 |
| PCI student loans | 77,243 | 38,957 |
| Personal loans | 82,975 | 56,055 |
| Other | 22,050 | 19,388 |
| Total interest income | 1,646,556 | 1,552,957 |
| Interest expense | 353,208 | 382,657 |
| Net interest income | 1,293,348 | 1,170,300 |
| Provision for loan losses | 151,529 | 417,709 |
| Other income | 463,495 | 486,063 |
| Other expense | 642,707 | 561,752 |
| Income before income tax expense | 962,607 | 676,902 |
| Payment Services | | |
| Interest income | 3 | 7 |
| Interest expense | 52 | 71 |
| Net interest expense | (49 |) (64 |
| Provision for loan losses | — | — |
| Other income | 86,008 | 76,561 |
| Other expense | 34,320 | 33,396 |
| Income before income tax expense | 51,639 | 43,101 |
| Total income before income tax expense | \$1,014,246 | \$720,003 |

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The following table presents information on transaction volume (in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Network Transaction Volume | | |
| PULSE Network | \$37,577,318 | \$34,379,837 |
| Third-Party Issuers | 2,036,858 | 1,771,948 |
| Diners Club ⁽¹⁾ | 7,099,716 | 6,997,568 |
| Total Payment Services | 46,713,892 | 43,149,353 |
| Discover Network—Proprietary ⁽²⁾ | 26,481,707 | 24,784,625 |
| Total Volume | \$73,195,599 | \$67,933,978 |
| Transactions Processed on Networks | | |
| Discover Network | 444,428 | 409,690 |
| PULSE Network | 995,625 | 929,260 |
| Total | 1,440,053 | 1,338,950 |
| Credit Card Volume | | |
| Discover Card Volume ⁽³⁾ | \$27,370,450 | \$25,759,260 |
| Discover Card Sales Volume ⁽⁴⁾ | \$25,604,256 | \$23,990,180 |

(1) Diners Club volume is derived from data provided by licensees for Diners Club branded cards issued outside North America and is subject to subsequent revision or amendment.

(2) Represents gross proprietary sales volume on the Discover Network.

(3) Represents Discover card activity related to net sales, balance transfers, cash advances, and other activity.

(4) Represents Discover card activity related to net sales.

Direct Banking

Our Direct Banking segment reported pretax income of \$962.6 million for the three months ended February 29, 2012, as compared to pretax income of \$676.9 million for the three months ended February 28, 2011.

Loan receivables totaled \$56.3 billion at February 29, 2012, which was down from \$57.3 billion at November 30, 2011, primarily due to a decrease in credit card loan receivables, as well as the sale of federal student loans in the first quarter of 2012 that were held-for-sale at November 30, 2011. Credit card loan receivables decreased during the three months ended February 29, 2012, as compared to the same period in 2011 primarily due to a seasonal increase in payments. This decrease in credit card loans was partially offset by growth in both our personal and private student loan portfolios. Discover card sales volume was \$25.6 billion for the three months ended February 29, 2012, an increase of 7% as compared to the same period in 2011. This growth was driven primarily by an increase in the number of customers using their Discover card.

Net interest margin decreased during the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the three months ended February 28, 2011 primarily driven by lower yields on credit card loans and the acquisition of lower yielding purchased credit-impaired ("PCI") private student loans. There was an increase in interest income relating to credit card loan receivables largely driven by a higher average level of loans, which was mostly offset by lower yields. Lower yields were driven by growth in loans offered at a promotional rate as well as the impact of the CARD Act, which led to restrictions on imposing default interest rates on existing balances. Interest income on credit card receivables also benefited from lower levels of interest charge-offs during the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to February 28, 2011. Interest income from other loans increased due to the acquisition of additional lower yielding PCI private student loans on September 30, 2011 (see Note 4: Loan Receivables to our condensed consolidated financial statements) as well as growth in personal loans. Interest expense declined in the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011, as maturities of deposits bearing higher interest rates were replaced by funding from deposits that bear a lower interest rate.

At February 29, 2012, our delinquency rate for credit card loans over 30 days past due was 2.22% as compared to 2.39% at November 30, 2011, reflective of improvement in the underlying credit quality of our portfolio. For the three months ended February 29, 2012, our net charge-off rate on credit cards declined to 3.07%, as compared to 5.96% for

the same period in 2011. A decline in the level of net charge-offs led to a decline in the provision for loan losses for the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011. For a more detailed discussion on provision for loan losses, see “-Loan Quality-Provision and Allowance for Loan Losses.”

Total other income decreased for the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011. This

was primarily due to the inclusion of the originally estimated bargain purchase gain of \$16 million related to the acquisition of SLC in the first quarter of 2011 (see Note 2: Business Combinations to our condensed consolidated financial statements). Other contributors to the decrease include lower revenue from the SLC transition service agreement combined a reduction in the fair value of an interest rate swap acquired in the SLC acquisition.

Total other expense increased for the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011 primarily due to higher compensation expenses from increased headcount and an increase in professional fees, both driven by business and growth initiatives. Furthermore, there was an increase in professional fees due to higher transition service costs related to the SLC acquisition and a separate portfolio acquisition from Citibank. Other expense increased due to higher reserves related to pending litigation and regulatory matters as well as higher fraud costs. Information processing expenses increased during the first quarter of 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011 due to higher investments in infrastructure.

Payment Services

Our Payment Services segment reported pretax income of \$51.6 million for the three months ended February 29, 2012, up \$8.5 million as compared to the same period in 2011 as a result of higher volumes from transactions on the PULSE network primarily driven by a greater number of point-of-sale transactions, which have a higher margin. Expenses increased as a result of higher employee compensation expense driven by higher headcount, as well as due to the timing of incentive payments. These were largely offset by a decrease in costs related to timing of business development and infrastructure costs.

Transaction dollar volume increased \$3.6 billion for the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the three months ended February 28, 2011, primarily driven by increased PULSE point-of-sale volume. The number of transactions on the PULSE network increased by 7% for the three months ended February 29, 2012, as compared to the same period in 2011.

Critical Accounting Estimates

In preparing our condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”), management must make judgments and use estimates and assumptions about the effects of matters that are uncertain. For estimates that involve a high degree of judgment and subjectivity, it is possible that different estimates could reasonably be derived for the same period. For estimates that are particularly sensitive to changes in economic or market conditions, significant changes to the estimated amount from period to period are also possible. Management believes the current assumptions and other considerations used to estimate amounts reflected in our condensed consolidated financial statements are appropriate. However, if actual experience differs from the assumptions and other considerations used in estimating amounts in our consolidated financial statements, the resulting changes could have a material effect on our consolidated results of operations and, in certain cases, could have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition. Management has identified the estimates related to our allowance for loan losses, the accrual of credit card customer rewards cost, the evaluation of goodwill and other nonamortizable intangible assets for potential impairment and the accrual of income taxes as critical accounting estimates. These critical accounting estimates are discussed in greater detail in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011. That discussion can be found within “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” under the heading “Critical Accounting Estimates.” There have not been any material changes in the methods used to formulate these critical accounting estimates from those discussed in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011.

Earnings Summary

The following table outlines changes in our condensed consolidated statements of income for the periods presented (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | | 2012 vs. 2011 | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------|----|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 | increase (decrease) \$ | % | |
| Interest income | \$1,646,559 | \$1,552,964 | \$93,595 | 6 | % |
| Interest expense | 353,260 | 382,728 | (29,468) | (8) |)% |
| Net interest income | 1,293,299 | 1,170,236 | 123,063 | 11 | % |
| Provision for loan losses | 151,529 | 417,709 | (266,180) | (64) |)% |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | 1,141,770 | 752,527 | 389,243 | 52 | % |
| Other income | 549,503 | 562,624 | (13,121) | (2) |)% |
| Other expense | 677,027 | 595,148 | 81,879 | 14 | % |
| Income (loss) before income tax expense | 1,014,246 | 720,003 | 294,243 | 41 | % |
| Income tax expense | 383,240 | 255,111 | 128,129 | 50 | % |
| Net income | \$631,006 | \$464,892 | \$166,114 | 36 | % |

Net Interest Income

The tables that follow this section have been provided to supplement the discussion below and provide further analysis of net interest income, net interest margin and the impact of rate and volume changes on net interest income. Net interest income represents the difference between interest income earned on our interest-earning assets and the interest expense incurred to finance those assets. We analyze net interest income in total by calculating net interest margin (interest income, net of interest expense, as a percentage of average total loan receivables) and net yield on interest-bearing assets (net interest income as a percentage of average total interest-earning assets). We also separately consider the impact of the level of loan receivables and the related interest yield and the impact of the cost of funds related to each of our funding sources, along with the income generated by our liquidity portfolio, on net interest income.

Our interest-earning assets consist of: (i) loan receivables, (ii) cash and cash equivalents, which includes amounts on deposit with the Federal Reserve, highly rated certificates of deposit, and triple-A rated government mutual funds, (iii) restricted cash, (iv) short-term investments and (v) investment securities. Our interest-bearing liabilities consist primarily of deposits, both direct-to-consumer and brokered, and long-term borrowings, including amounts owed to securitization investors. Net interest income is influenced by the following:

- The level and composition of loan receivables, including the proportion of credit card loans to other loans, as well as the proportion of loan receivables bearing interest at promotional rates as compared to standard rates;
- The credit performance of our loans, particularly with regard to charge-offs of finance charges, which reduce interest income;
- The terms of long-term borrowings and certificates of deposit upon initial offering, including maturity and interest rate;
- The level and composition of other interest-bearing assets and liabilities, including our liquidity portfolio;
- Changes in the interest rate environment, including the levels of interest rates and the relationships among interest rate indices, such as the prime rate, the Federal Funds rate and LIBOR;
- The effectiveness of interest rate swaps in our interest rate risk management program; and
- The difference between the carrying amount and future cash flows expected to be collected on PCI loans.

Net interest margin decreased slightly during the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011. This was primarily driven by lower yields on credit cards and growth in lower yielding PCI private student loans. This was offset in part by the decline in interest expense as a percentage of average total loans due to improved funding rates on our deposit products. These factors, along with others, are discussed below.

Interest income on both credit card and other loans increased during the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the three months ended February 28, 2011. The increase in interest income on credit card loans was driven by higher average levels of loans and lower interest charge-offs, offset in part by a decrease in yield. The decrease in yield was due to higher levels of loans being offered at a promotional rate as well as the receivable repricing restrictions imposed by the CARD Act. The increase in interest income on other loans was due to the acquisition of additional PCI private student loans on September 30, 2011 (see Note 4: Loan Receivables to our condensed consolidated financial statements) and loan growth in personal and private student loan portfolios.

Interest income on other interest-earning assets, which largely relates to investment income on our liquidity portfolio, increased primarily due a continued shift in the mix of our liquidity portfolio to higher yielding investments, and higher average levels of liquidity. Interest expense declined in the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011 which was primarily due to maturities of deposits bearing higher interest rates being replaced by funding from deposits that bear a lower interest rate.

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Average Balance Sheet Analysis

| | For the Three Months Ended | | | February 28, 2011 | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| | Average Balance | Rate | Interest | Average Balance | Rate | Interest |
| Assets | | | | | | |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$3,377,637 | 0.26 | % \$2,198 | \$4,224,045 | 0.24 | % \$2,539 |
| Restricted cash | 528,888 | 0.16 | % 207 | 1,336,226 | 0.17 | % 570 |
| Other short-term investments | — | — | % — | 375,000 | 1.07 | % 988 |
| Investment securities | 6,301,482 | 1.12 | % 17,511 | 5,070,121 | 0.98 | % 12,215 |
| Loan receivables ⁽¹⁾ : | | | | | | |
| Credit card ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ | 46,919,103 | 12.21 | % 1,423,806 | 45,442,626 | 12.65 | % 1,417,116 |
| Personal loans | 2,721,311 | 12.26 | % 82,975 | 1,941,372 | 11.71 | % 56,055 |
| Federal student loans ⁽⁴⁾ | 487,459 | 1.62 | % 1,961 | 780,176 | 1.55 | % 2,986 |
| Private student loans | 2,268,200 | 7.18 | % 40,482 | 1,293,275 | 6.72 | % 21,441 |
| PCI student loans | 5,190,088 | 5.99 | % 77,243 | 2,016,358 | 7.84 | % 38,957 |
| Other | 19,746 | 3.59 | % 176 | 14,144 | 2.78 | % 97 |
| Total loan receivables | 57,605,907 | 11.36 | % 1,626,643 | 51,487,951 | 12.10 | % 1,536,652 |
| Total interest-earning assets | 67,813,914 | 9.77 | % 1,646,559 | 62,493,343 | 10.08 | % 1,552,964 |
| Allowance for loan losses | (2,238,384) | | | (3,263,819) | | |
| Other assets | 4,000,572 | | | 3,880,381 | | |
| Total assets | \$69,576,102 | | | \$63,109,905 | | |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing deposits: | | | | | | |
| Time deposits ⁽⁵⁾ | \$26,247,063 | 2.95 | % 192,199 | \$25,529,818 | 3.58 | % 225,548 |
| Money market deposits | 5,419,707 | 1.03 | % 13,842 | 4,370,478 | 1.30 | % 14,061 |
| Other interest-bearing savings deposits | 8,042,152 | 1.14 | % 22,732 | 4,753,066 | 1.46 | % 17,086 |
| Total interest-bearing deposits ⁽⁶⁾ | 39,708,922 | 2.32 | % 228,773 | 34,653,362 | 3.00 | % 256,695 |
| Borrowings: | | | | | | |
| Short-term borrowings | 10,088 | 0.04 | % 1 | 93,828 | 0.20 | % 46 |
| Securitized borrowings ⁽⁵⁾ | 16,032,211 | 2.11 | % 84,184 | 16,398,963 | 2.09 | % 84,411 |
| Other long-term borrowings ⁽⁵⁾ | 2,305,668 | 7.03 | % 40,302 | 2,518,365 | 6.70 | % 41,576 |
| Total borrowings | 18,347,967 | 2.73 | % 124,487 | 19,011,156 | 2.69 | % 126,033 |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | 58,056,889 | 2.45 | % 353,260 | 53,664,518 | 2.89 | % 382,728 |
| Other liabilities and stockholders' equity | 11,519,213 | | | 9,445,387 | | |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$69,576,102 | | | \$63,109,905 | | |
| Net interest income | | | \$1,293,299 | | | \$1,170,236 |
| Net interest margin ⁽⁷⁾ | | 9.03 | % | | 9.22 | % |
| Net yield on interest-earning assets ⁽⁸⁾ | | 7.67 | % | | 7.59 | % |
| Interest rate spread ⁽⁹⁾ | | 7.32 | % | | 7.19 | % |

(1)

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Average balances of loan receivables include non-accruing loans, which are included in the yield calculations. If the non-accruing loan balances were excluded, there would not be a material impact on the amounts reported above.

- (2) Interest income on credit card loans includes \$45.6 million and \$53.5 million of amortization of balance transfer fees for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, respectively.
- (3) Includes the impact of interest rate swap agreements used to change a portion of certain floating-rate credit card loan receivables to fixed-rates.
- (4) Includes federal student loans held for sale, which were all sold during the first quarter of 2012.
- (5) Includes the impact of interest rate swap agreements used to change a portion of fixed-rate funding to floating-rate funding.
 - (6) Includes the impact of FDIC insurance premiums and special assessments, and all periods reflect management's current product allocation methodology.
- (7) Net interest margin represents net interest income as a percentage of average total loan receivables.
- (8) Net yield on interest-earning assets represents net interest income as a percentage of average total interest-earning assets.
- (9) Interest rate spread represents the difference between the rate on total interest-earning assets and the rate on total interest-bearing liabilities.

Rate/Volume Variance Analysis⁽¹⁾

| | For the Three Months Ended February 29, 2012 vs. February 28, 2011 | | |
|---|--|-------------|-----------|
| | Volume | Rate | Total |
| Increase/(decrease) in net interest income due to changes in: | | | |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$(1,359) | \$1,018 | \$(341) |
| Restricted cash | (316) | (47) | (363) |
| Other short-term investments | (988) | — | (988) |
| Investment securities | 3,326 | 1,970 | 5,296 |
| Loan receivables: | | | |
| Credit card | 196,772 | (190,082) | 6,690 |
| Personal loans | 24,087 | 2,833 | 26,920 |
| Federal student loans | (1,844) | 819 | (1,025) |
| Private student loans | 17,473 | 1,568 | 19,041 |
| PCI student loans | 98,160 | (59,874) | 38,286 |
| Other | 45 | 34 | 79 |
| Total loan receivables | 334,693 | (244,702) | 89,991 |
| Total interest income | 335,356 | (241,761) | 93,595 |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | |
| Interest-bearing deposits: | | | |
| Time deposits | 39,846 | (73,195) | (33,349) |
| Money market deposits | 12,747 | (12,966) | (219) |
| Other interest-bearing deposits | 27,434 | (21,788) | 5,646 |
| Total interest-bearing deposits | 80,027 | (107,949) | (27,922) |
| Borrowings: | | | |
| Short-term borrowings | (24) | (21) | (45) |
| Securitized borrowings | (5,402) | 5,175 | (227) |
| Other long-term borrowings | (11,393) | 10,119 | (1,274) |
| Total borrowings | (16,819) | 15,273 | (1,546) |
| Total interest expense | 63,208 | (92,676) | (29,468) |
| Net interest income | \$272,148 | \$(149,085) | \$123,063 |

The rate/volume variance for each category has been allocated on a consistent basis between rate and volume (1) variances between February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 based on the percentage of the rate or volume variance to the sum of the two absolute variances.

Loan Quality

Loan receivables consist of the following (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Loans held for sale | \$— | \$714,180 |
| Loan portfolio: | | |
| Credit card loans: | | |
| Discover card | 45,708,205 | 46,419,544 |
| Discover business card | 209,393 | 219,081 |
| Total credit card loans | 45,917,598 | 46,638,625 |
| Other loans: | | |
| Personal loans | 2,783,506 | 2,648,051 |
| Private student loans | 2,446,972 | 2,069,001 |
| Other | 27,039 | 16,690 |
| Total other loans | 5,257,517 | 4,733,742 |
| PCI student loans ⁽¹⁾ | 5,124,146 | 5,250,388 |
| Total loan portfolio | 56,299,261 | 56,622,755 |
| Total loan receivables | 56,299,261 | 57,336,935 |
| Allowance for loan losses | (1,978,591) | (2,205,196) |
| Net loan receivables | \$54,320,670 | \$55,131,739 |

(1) Represents purchased credit-impaired private student loans which do not have a related allowance for loan losses or charge-offs (see Note 4: Loan Receivables to our condensed consolidated financial statements).

Provision and Allowance for Loan Losses

Provision for loan losses is the expense related to maintaining the allowance for loan losses at an appropriate level to absorb the estimated probable losses in the loan portfolio at each period end date. Factors that influence the provision for loan losses include:

- The impact of general economic conditions on the consumer, including unemployment levels, bankruptcy trends and interest rate movements;

- Changes in consumer spending and payment behaviors;

- Changes in our loan portfolio, including the overall mix of accounts, products and loan balances within the portfolio;
 - The level and direction of historical and anticipated loan delinquencies and charge-offs;

- The credit quality of the loan portfolio, which reflects, among other factors, our credit granting practices and effectiveness of collection efforts; and

- Regulatory changes or new regulatory guidance.

In calculating the allowance for loan losses, we estimate probable losses separately for segments of the loan portfolio that have similar risk characteristics, such as credit card and other loans. We use a migration analysis to estimate the likelihood that a loan will progress through the various stages of delinquency. We use other analyses to estimate losses incurred from non-delinquent accounts which adds an additional element to the identification of loss emergence. We use these analyses together to determine our allowance for loan losses.

The allowance for loan loss was \$2.0 billion at February 29, 2012 which reflects a \$226 million reserve release over the amount of the allowance for loan loss at November 30, 2011. The reserve release is driven by favorability in the credit performance of the receivable portfolio and a continued decline in net charge-offs.

The provision for loan loss is the amount of expense realized after considering the level of charge-offs in the period and the required amount of allowance for loan loss at the balance sheet date. The reduction in reserve requirements described above led to a decrease in the provision for loan losses of \$266 million, or 64%, as compared to the first

quarter 2011.

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At February 29, 2012, the level of the allowance related to other loans increased by \$8 million as compared to November 30, 2011 primarily due to the seasoning of the personal loan portfolio.

The following table provides changes in our allowance for loan losses for the periods presented (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$2,205,196 | \$3,304,118 |
| Additions: | | |
| Provision for loan losses | 151,529 | 417,709 |
| Deductions: | | |
| Charge-offs: | | |
| Discover card | (497,105) | (792,632) |
| Discover business card | (3,110) | (7,386) |
| Total credit card loans | (500,215) | (800,018) |
| Personal loans | (18,228) | (20,050) |
| Federal student loans | — | — |
| Private student loans | (2,867) | (939) |
| Other | (52) | (35) |
| Total other loans | (21,147) | (21,024) |
| Total charge-offs | (521,362) | (821,042) |
| Recoveries: | | |
| Discover card | 141,738 | 131,389 |
| Discover business card | 774 | 853 |
| Total credit card loans | 142,512 | 132,242 |
| Personal loans | 638 | 416 |
| Private student loans | 78 | 15 |
| Other | — | 1 |
| Total other loans | 716 | 432 |
| Total recoveries | 143,228 | 132,674 |
| Net charge-offs | (378,134) | (688,368) |
| Balance at end of period | \$1,978,591 | \$3,033,459 |

The following table presents a breakdown of the allowance for loan losses (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Discover card | \$1,824,903 | \$2,058,247 |
| Discover business card | 10,307 | 11,914 |
| Total credit card loans | 1,835,210 | 2,070,161 |
| Personal loans | 88,650 | 82,075 |
| Private student loans | 54,516 | 52,740 |
| Other | 215 | 220 |
| Total other loans | 143,381 | 135,035 |
| Total allowance for loan losses | \$1,978,591 | \$2,205,196 |

Net Charge-offs

Our net charge-offs include the principal amount of losses charged off less principal recoveries and exclude charged-off interest and fees, recoveries of interest and fees and fraud losses. Charged-off and recovered interest and fees are recorded in interest and loan fee income, respectively, which is effectively a reclassification of the loan loss provision, while fraud losses are recorded in other expense. Credit card loan receivables are charged off at the end of the month during which an account becomes 180 days contractually past due. Closed-end consumer loan receivables are generally charged-off at the end of the month during which an account becomes 120 days contractually past due. Generally, customer bankruptcies and probate accounts are charged-off at the end of the month 60 days following the receipt of notification of the bankruptcy or death but not later than the 180-day or 120-day contractual time frame. The following table presents amounts and rates of net charge-offs of key loan portfolio segments (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------|-------------------|------|--|---|
| | February 29, 2012 | | February 28, 2011 | | | |
| | \$ | % | \$ | % | | % |
| Credit card loans | \$357,703 | 3.07 | % \$667,776 | 5.96 | | % |
| Personal loans | \$17,590 | 2.59 | % \$19,634 | 4.10 | | % |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI ⁽¹⁾) | \$2,789 | 0.49 | % \$924 | 0.29 | | % |

Charge-offs for PCI loans did not result in a charge to earnings during 2012 or 2011 and are therefore excluded (1) from the calculation. See Note 4: Loan Receivables to our condensed consolidated financial statements for more information regarding the accounting for charge-offs on PCI loans.

The net charge-off rate on our credit card loan receivables decreased 289 basis points for the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the three months ended February 28, 2011. The net charge-off rate on personal loans decreased 150 basis points for the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the three months ended February 28, 2011. The decrease in net charge-offs for both credit card and personal loan receivables was attributable to improvement in both contractual and bankruptcy-related charge-offs, combined with a higher level of recoveries as compared to the same period in 2011. As newly originated student loans have entered repayment, the net charge-off rate on student loans has increased by 20 basis points in the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011.

Delinquencies

Delinquencies are an indicator of credit quality at a point in time. Loan balances are considered delinquent when contractual payments on the loan become 30 days past due. Information related to loans 90 days or more delinquent and accruing interest is provided in Note 4: Loan Receivables to our condensed consolidated financial statements. The following table presents the amounts and delinquency rates of key loan portfolio segments that are 30 and 90 days or more delinquent, loan receivables that are not accruing interest, regardless of delinquency and restructured loans (dollars in thousands):

| | February 29, 2012 | | November 30, 2011 | | |
|---|----------------------|------|----------------------|------|---|
| | \$ | % | \$ | % | |
| Loans 30 days delinquent or more: | | | | | |
| Credit card loans | \$ 1,018,959 | 2.22 | % \$ 1,116,851 | 2.39 | % |
| Personal loans | \$ 22,600 | 0.81 | % \$ 22,966 | 0.87 | % |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI ⁽¹⁾) | \$ 22,656 | 0.93 | % \$ 13,065 | 0.63 | % |
| Loans 90 days delinquent or more: | | | | | |
| Credit card loans | \$ 540,164 | 1.18 | % \$ 559,674 | 1.20 | % |
| Personal loans | \$ 8,484 | 0.30 | % \$ 7,362 | 0.28 | % |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI ⁽¹⁾) | \$ 3,223 | 0.13 | % \$ 2,992 | 0.14 | % |
| Loans not accruing interest | \$ 190,458 | 0.37 | % \$ 207,138 | 0.40 | % |
| Restructured loans | | | | | |
| Credit card loans ⁽²⁾ | \$ 1,197,087 | 2.61 | % \$ 1,216,738 | 2.61 | % |
| Personal loans | \$ 8,100 | 0.29 | % \$ 7,635 | 0.29 | % |
| Private student loans (excluding PCI ⁽¹⁾) | \$ 7,530 | 0.31 | % \$ 5,439 | 0.26 | % |

Excludes PCI loans which are accounted for on a pooled basis. Since a pool is accounted for as a single asset with a single composite interest rate and aggregate expectation of cash flows, the past-due status of a pool, or that of the individual loans within a pool, is not meaningful. Because we are recognizing interest income on a pool of loans, it is all considered to be performing.

(2) Restructured loans include \$36.4 million and \$37.9 million at February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively, that are also included in loans over 90 days delinquent or more.

Credit card loan receivables delinquency rates at February 29, 2012 have declined slightly as compared to November 30, 2011 due to continued improvement in customer credit performance, which has resulted in declines in both over 30-day and over 90-day delinquency balances. The decline is also attributable to proactive customer account management. Delinquency rates for personal loans were relatively flat at February 29, 2012 as compared to November 30, 2011. The rate for over 30-day delinquency balances increased for private student loans at February 29, 2012 as compared to November 30, 2011 due to continued seasoning of our loan portfolio. The rate for over 90-day delinquency balances for private student loans was flat at February 29, 2012 as compared to November 30, 2011. Loan receivables not accruing interest at February 29, 2012 decreased compared to the prior year primarily as a result of a decrease in the number of bankruptcies. Restructured credit card loans remained relatively flat at February 29, 2012 as compared to November 30, 2011.

Modified and Restructured Loans

We have loan modification programs that provide for temporary or permanent hardship relief for our credit card loans to borrowers experiencing financial difficulties. The temporary hardship program primarily consists of a reduced minimum payment and an interest rate reduction, both lasting for a period no longer than twelve months. The permanent workout program involves changing the structure of the loan to a fixed payment loan with a maturity no

longer than 60 months and reducing the interest rate on the loan. The permanent programs do not normally provide for the forgiveness of unpaid principal, but may allow for the reversal of certain unpaid interest or fee assessments. We also make loan modifications for customers who request financial assistance through external sources, such as a consumer credit counseling agency program. These loans continue to be subject to the original minimum payment terms and do not normally include waiver of unpaid principal, interest or fees. For additional information regarding the accounting treatment for these loans as well as amounts recorded in the financial statements related to these loans, see Note 4: Loan Receivables to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

For student loan borrowers, in certain situations we offer payment forbearance to borrowers who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties and are willing to resume making payments. When a delinquent borrower is granted a second forbearance period, we classify these loans as troubled debt restructurings.

For personal loan customers, in certain situations we offer various payment programs, including temporary and permanent programs. The temporary programs normally consist of a reduction of the minimum payment for a period of no longer than twelve months with a final balloon payment required at the end of the loan term. The permanent program involves changing the terms of the loan in order to payoff the outstanding balance over the new term for a period no longer than four years. The total term may not exceed nine years. We also allow loan modifications for customers who request financial assistance through external sources, similar to our credit card customers discussed above. Payments are modified based on the new terms agreed upon with the credit counseling agency. Personal loans included in permanent programs are accounted for as troubled debt restructurings.

Borrower performance after using payment programs or forbearance is monitored and the methods have proven effective in helping to prevent defaults and in assisting customers experiencing temporary financial difficulties. We plan to continue to use payment programs and forbearance, and as a result, we expect to have additional loans classified as troubled debt restructurings in the future.

Other Income

The following table presents the components of other income for the periods presented (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | | 2012 vs. 2011 increase (decrease) | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 | \$ | % | |
| Discount and interchange revenue ⁽¹⁾ | \$264,311 | \$260,916 | \$3,395 | 1 | % |
| Protection products | 104,861 | 108,553 | (3,692) | (3) | % |
| Loan fee income | 84,451 | 85,600 | (1,149) | (1) | % |
| Transaction processing revenue | 52,481 | 42,551 | 9,930 | 23 | % |
| Merchant fees | 3,705 | 4,655 | (950) | (20) | % |
| Gain on investments | — | 141 | (141) | (100) | % |
| Other income | 39,694 | 60,208 | (20,514) | (34) | % |
| Total other income | \$549,503 | \$562,624 | \$(13,121) | (2) | % |

(1) Net of rewards, including Cashback Bonus rewards, of \$236 million and \$207 million for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, respectively.

Total other income decreased \$13 million during the three months ended February 29, 2012 as compared to the three months ended February 28, 2011, primarily due to the inclusion of the originally estimated bargain purchase gain of \$16 million which related to the acquisition of SLC in the first quarter of 2011 (see Note 2: Business Combinations to our condensed consolidated financial statements). Other contributors to the decrease include lower revenue from the SLC transition service agreement combined with a reduction in the fair value of an interest rate swap acquired in the SLC acquisition. These decreases were partially offset by an increase in 2012 in transaction processing revenue resulting from greater volume, primarily point-of-sale transactions, which have higher margins, on the PULSE network. Discount and interchange revenue was essentially flat as increased sales volume was offset by an increase in Cashback Bonus rewards earned by our customers.

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Other Expense

The following table represents the components of other expense for the periods presented (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended | | 2012 vs. 2011 increase (decrease) | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|----|
| | February 29, 2012 | February 28, 2011 | \$ | % | |
| Employee compensation and benefits | \$246,725 | \$213,075 | \$33,650 | 16 | % |
| Marketing and business development | 131,429 | 135,665 | (4,236) | (3) |)% |
| Information processing and communications | 70,463 | 64,717 | 5,746 | 9 | % |
| Professional fees | 99,500 | 90,331 | 9,169 | 10 | % |
| Premises and equipment | 17,309 | 17,248 | 61 | — | % |
| Other expense | 111,601 | 74,112 | 37,489 | 51 | % |
| Total other expense | \$677,027 | \$595,148 | \$81,879 | 14 | % |

For the three months ended February 29, 2012, total other expense increased by \$82 million as compared to the three months ended February 28, 2011 due to various factors. Employee compensation expenses increased due to headcount relating to various business and growth initiatives, which also resulted in an increase in professional fees.

Furthermore, there was an increase in professional fees due to higher transition service costs related to the SLC acquisition and a separate portfolio acquisition from Citibank. Information processing expenses increased during the first quarter of 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011 due to higher investments in infrastructure. Other expense increased mainly due to an increase in reserves related to pending litigation and regulatory matters, as well as higher fraud costs. These increases were partially offset by a decrease in marketing and business development costs which was primarily a result of timing of advertising programs.

Income Tax Expense

The following table reconciles the Company's effective tax rate to the U.S. federal statutory income tax rate:

| | For the Three Months Ended | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| | February 29, 2012 | | February 28, 2011 | |
| U.S. federal statutory income tax rate | 35.0 | % | 35.0 | % |
| U.S. state, local and other income taxes, net of U.S. federal income tax benefits | 3.2 | | 0.9 | |
| Other | (0.4) |) | (0.5) |) |
| Effective income tax rate | 37.8 | % | 35.4 | % |

Income tax expense increased \$128 million for the first quarter 2012 compared to the first quarter 2011, as a result of the increase in pretax income. The effective tax rate increased from 35.4% for the first quarter 2011 to 37.8% for the first quarter 2012 as the first quarter 2011 benefited from settlements of certain state examination issues and the Company received confirmation of a state's treatment on a previously uncertain tax position. There were not similar benefits in the first quarter 2012.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Funding and Liquidity

We seek to maintain diversified funding sources and a strong liquidity profile in order to fund our business and repay or refinance our maturing obligations. In addition, we seek to achieve an appropriate maturity profile and utilize a cost-effective mix of funding sources. Our primary funding sources include deposits, sourced directly from consumers or through brokers, term asset-backed securitizations, private asset-backed securitizations and long-term borrowings.

Funding Sources

Deposits. We offer deposit products, including certificates of deposit, money market accounts, online savings accounts and Individual Retirement Account (“IRA”) certificates of deposit, to customers through two channels: (i) through direct marketing, internet origination and affinity relationships (“direct-to-consumer deposits”); and (ii) indirectly through contractual arrangements with securities brokerage firms (“brokered deposits”).

At February 29, 2012, we had \$27.3 billion of direct-to-consumer deposits and \$12.7 billion of brokered deposits. Maturities of our certificates of deposit range from one month to ten years, with a weighted average maturity of 20 months. The following table summarizes deposits by contractual maturity as of February 29, 2012 (dollars in thousands):

| | Total | Three Months or Less | Over Three Months Through Six Months | Over Six Months Through Twelve Months | Over Twelve Months | Indeterminate |
|---|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Certificates of deposit in amounts less than \$100,000 ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 19,524,743 | \$ 2,815,472 | \$ 2,463,544 | \$ 3,130,363 | \$ 11,115,364 | \$— |
| Certificates of deposit in amounts of \$100,000 to less than \$250,000 ⁽¹⁾ | 5,293,246 | 608,870 | 745,590 | 1,258,132 | 2,680,654 | — |
| Certificates of deposit in amounts of \$250,000 ⁽¹⁾ or greater | 1,179,288 | 140,604 | 171,861 | 305,733 | 561,090 | — |
| Savings deposits, including money market deposit accounts | 14,017,348 | — | — | — | — | 14,017,348 |
| Total interest-bearing deposits | \$ 40,014,625 | \$ 3,564,946 | \$ 3,380,995 | \$ 4,694,228 | \$ 14,357,108 | \$ 14,017,348 |

⁽¹⁾ \$100,000 represents the basic insurance amount previously covered by the FDIC. Effective July 21, 2010, the basic insurance per depositor was permanently increased to \$250,000.

Credit Card Securitization Financing. We use the securitization of credit card receivables as an additional source of funding. We access the asset-backed securitization market using the Discover Card Master Trust I (“DCMT”) and the Discover Card Execution Note Trust (“DCENT”), through which we issue asset-backed securities both publicly and through private transactions. We retain significant exposure to the performance of trust assets through holdings of the seller's interest and subordinated security classes of DCMT and DCENT.

The securitization structures include certain features designed to protect investors. The primary feature relates to the availability and adequacy of cash flows in the securitized pool of receivables to meet contractual requirements, the insufficiency of which triggers early repayment of the securities. We refer to this as “economic early amortization,” which is based on excess spread levels. Excess spread is the amount by which income received by a trust during a collection period, including interest collections, fees and interchange, exceeds the fees and expenses of the trust during such collection period, including interest expense, servicing fees and charged-off receivables. Our excess spread previously included the amount of certain principal collections available to be reallocated from Series 2009-SD, which enhanced securities of both DCMT and DCENT. Series 2009-SD matured on January 17, 2012, and as prescribed in amendments to the governing documents which became effective in January 2010, the size of the Class D (2009-1) note was increased. In the event of an economic early amortization, which would occur if the excess spread fell below 0% on a three-month rolling average basis, we would be required to repay the affected outstanding securitized

borrowings using available collections received by the trust (the period of ultimate repayment would be determined by the amount and timing of collections received). An early amortization event would negatively impact our liquidity, and require us to utilize our available non-securitization related contingent liquidity or rely on alternative funding sources, which may or may not be available at the time. As of February 29, 2012, the three-month rolling average excess spread was 14.07%.

Another feature of our securitization structure, which is applicable only to the notes issued from DCENT, is a reserve account funding requirement in which, in limited circumstances, excess cash flows generated by the transferred loan receivables are held at the trust. This funding requirement is triggered when DCENT's three-month average excess spread rate decreases to below 4.50%, with increasing funding requirements as excess spread levels decline below preset levels to 0%. See

Note 5: Credit Card and Student Loan Securitization Activities to our consolidated financial statements for additional information regarding the structures of DCMT and DCENT and for tables providing information concerning investors' interests and related excess spreads at February 29, 2012.

At February 29, 2012, we had \$14.0 billion of outstanding public asset-backed securities, \$0.3 billion of outstanding private asset-backed securitizations and \$4.9 billion of outstanding asset-backed securities that had been issued to our wholly-owned subsidiaries. The following table summarizes expected contractual maturities of the investors' interests in credit card securitizations excluding those that have been issued to our wholly-owned subsidiaries at February 29, 2012 (dollars in thousands):

| | Total | Less Than One Year | One Year Through Three Years | Four Years Through Five Years | After Five Years |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Scheduled maturities of long-term borrowings—owed to credit card securitization investors | \$ 14,293,343 | \$ 5,418,019 | \$ 6,875,775 | \$ 999,639 | \$ 999,910 |

At February 29, 2012, we had capacity to issue up to \$5.7 billion in triple-A rated asset-backed securities from DCENT without the issuance of additional Class B or Class C notes as subordination. The triple-A rating of DCENT Class A Notes issued to date has been based, in part, on an FDIC rule which created a safe harbor that provides that the FDIC, as conservator or receiver, will not, using its power to disaffirm or repudiate contracts, seek to reclaim or recover assets transferred in connection with a securitization, or recharacterize them as assets of the insured depository institution, provided such transfer satisfies the conditions for sale accounting treatment under previous GAAP. Pursuant to amendments to GAAP related to transfers of financial assets, effective for us on December 1, 2009, certain transfers of assets to special purpose entities (including Discover Bank's transfers of assets to the DCMT) no longer qualify for sale accounting treatment. However, on September 27, 2010, the FDIC approved a final rule that preserves the safe-harbor treatment applicable to revolving trusts and master trusts, including DCMT, so long as those trusts would have satisfied the original FDIC safe harbor if evaluated under GAAP pertaining to transfers of financial assets in effect prior to December 1, 2009. Other legislative and regulatory developments, namely the proposed SEC Regulation AB II (including the SEC's July 2011 reproposal of certain of its provisions), the August 2011 SEC advance notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the rule exempting securitization entities from being regarded as "investment companies" under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the securitization and rating agency provisions of the Reform Act and the rules promulgated or proposed thereunder, including proposed rules requiring us to retain risk in our securitization on an unhedged basis, may, however, impact our ability and/or desire to issue asset-backed securities in the future.

Other Long-Term Borrowings—Student Loans. At February 29, 2012, we had \$2.7 billion of remaining principal balance outstanding on securitized debt assumed as part of the SLC acquisition. Principal and interest payments on the underlying student loans will reduce the balance of these secured borrowings over time. During the three months ended February 29, 2012, we sold our remaining federal student loans that had been classified as held for sale as of November 30, 2011. As part of the sale, the associated funding was assumed by the buyer.

Corporate and Bank Debt. At February 29, 2012, we had \$800 million in principal amount of senior unsecured notes outstanding and Discover Bank had \$1.2 billion in principal amount of subordinated notes outstanding. Our senior unsecured notes are comprised of two issuances, each \$400 million in principal amount, with one issuance maturing in June 2017 and the other issuance maturing in July 2019. The senior unsecured notes would require us to offer to repurchase the notes at a price equal to 101% of their aggregate principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest in the event of a change of control involving us and a corresponding ratings downgrade to below investment grade. Discover Bank's subordinated notes are comprised of one \$700 million issuance due in November 2019 and a \$500 million issuance due in April 2020. For more information, see Note 7: Borrowings to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

Short-Term Borrowings. We primarily access short-term borrowings through the Federal Funds market or through repurchase agreements. There were no short-term borrowings as of February 29, 2012. As of November 30, 2011 there were \$50.0 million in short-term borrowings. For the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011, the weighted-average interest rate was 0.03% and 0.18%, respectively. Information about our use of short-term borrowings for the three months ended February 29, 2012 and February 28, 2011 is shown in the table below (dollars in thousands):

| | For the Three Months Ended February 29, 2012 | For the Three Months Ended February 28, 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | Maximum Daily Balance During the Period | Maximum Daily Balance During the Period |
| Overnight Federal Funds purchased | \$ 135,000 | \$ 120,000 |
| Overnight repurchase agreements | \$— | \$48,188 |

Additional Funding Sources

Private Asset-Backed Securitizations. We have access to committed undrawn capacity through privately placed asset-backed securitizations to support the funding of our credit card loan receivables. Under these arrangements, we had used \$250 million of capacity and had undrawn capacity of \$6.8 billion at February 29, 2012.

Federal Reserve. Discover Bank has access to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's discount window. As of February 29, 2012, Discover Bank had \$9.2 billion of available capacity through the discount window based on the amount of assets pledged. We have no borrowings outstanding under the discount window.

Credit Ratings

Our borrowing costs and capacity in certain funding markets, including securitizations and senior and subordinated debt, may be affected by the credit ratings of Discover Financial Services, Discover Bank and the securitization trusts. Downgrades in these credit ratings could result in higher interest expense on our unsecured debt and asset securitizations, as well as potentially higher fees related to borrowings under our lines of credit. In addition to increased funding costs, deterioration in credit ratings could reduce our borrowing capacity in the unsecured debt and asset securitization capital markets.

We also have agreements with certain of our derivative counterparties that contain provisions that require Discover Bank's debt to maintain an investment grade credit rating from specified major credit rating agencies. If Discover Bank's credit rating is reduced by one ratings notch, we would be required to post additional collateral, which, as of February 29, 2012, would have been \$72.0 million.

A credit rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities, may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization, and each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. The credit ratings are summarized in the following table:

| | Discover Financial Services | Discover Bank | Outlook for Senior Unsecured Debt | Discover Bank | Discover Card Master Trust I | Discover Card Execution Note Trust | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| | Senior Unsecured Debt | Senior Unsecured Debt | | Subordinated Debt | Class A ⁽¹⁾ | Class B | Class A ⁽¹⁾ | Class B | Class C |
| Moody's Investors | Ba1 | Baa3 | Stable | Ba1 | Aaa(sf) | A1(sf) | Aaa(sf) | A1(sf) | N/A ⁽²⁾ |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----|--------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Service | | | | | | | | | |
| Standard & Poor's | BBB- | BBB | Stable | BBB- | AAA(sf) | AA+(sf) | AAA(sf) | AA+(sf) | N/A ⁽²⁾ |
| Fitch Ratings | BBB | BBB | Stable | BBB- | AAAsf | AAsf | AAAsf | AA-sf | N/A ⁽²⁾ |

(1) An “sf” in the rating denotes an identification for structured finance product ratings that was implemented for these products by the rating agencies as of September 2010.

(2) All Class C notes are currently held by subsidiaries of Discover Bank and, therefore, are not publicly rated.

Liquidity

We seek to ensure that we have adequate liquidity to sustain business operations, fund asset growth and satisfy debt obligations under normal and stress conditions. In addition to the funding sources discussed above, we also maintain highly liquid unencumbered assets in our investment portfolio.

We employ a variety of metrics to monitor and manage liquidity. Regular liquidity stress testing and contingency funding planning is performed as part of our liquidity management process. We evaluate a range of stress scenarios including company specific and systemic events that could impact funding sources and our ability to meet liquidity needs. These scenarios measure the liquidity position over a two-year horizon by analyzing the stress on liquidity versus the ability to generate contingent liquidity. We maintain contingent funding sources, including our liquidity portfolio, private securitizations with unused capacity and Federal Reserve discount window capacity, which we could utilize to satisfy liquidity needs during such stress events. We expect to be able to satisfy all maturing obligations and fund business operations during the next 12 months by utilizing the funding sources that are currently available to us. We maintain policies outlining the overall framework and general principles for managing liquidity risk across our business, which is the responsibility of our Asset and Liability Committee (the "ALCO"). We seek to balance the trade-offs between maintaining too much liquidity, which may limit financial flexibility and be costly, with having too little liquidity that could cause financial distress. Liquidity risk is centrally managed by the ALCO, which is chaired by our Treasurer and has cross-functional membership. The ALCO monitors positions and determines any actions that may need to be taken.

At February 29, 2012, our liquidity portfolio was comprised of cash and cash equivalents and high quality, liquid investment securities. Cash and cash equivalents were primarily in the form of deposits with the Federal Reserve. Investment securities primarily included debt obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. government agencies, and highly rated corporate debt obligations issued under the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program that are guaranteed by the FDIC. Investment securities also included credit card asset-backed securities of other issuers and residential mortgage-backed securities issued by U.S. government agencies. These investments are considered highly liquid, and we have the ability to raise cash by utilizing repurchase agreements and pledging certain of these investments to access the secured funding markets. The level of our liquidity portfolio may fluctuate based upon the level of expected maturities of our funding sources as well as operational requirements and market conditions.

At February 29, 2012, our liquidity portfolio and undrawn credit facilities were \$27.7 billion, which was \$1.6 billion higher than the balance at November 30, 2011, as an increase in cash and cash equivalents to ensure adequate coverage for forward-looking maturities was partially offset by the December 2011 cancellation of our credit facility, discussed further below. During the three months ended February 29, 2012, the average balance of our liquidity portfolio was \$9.8 billion.

| | February 29, 2012 | November 30, 2011 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | (dollars in millions) | |
| Liquidity portfolio | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents ⁽¹⁾ | \$5,923 | \$2,440 |
| Investment securities | 6,174 | 6,108 |
| Total liquidity portfolio | 12,097 | 8,548 |
| Undrawn credit facilities ⁽²⁾ | | |
| Private asset-backed securitizations | 6,750 | 6,750 |
| Federal Reserve discount window ⁽³⁾ | 8,884 | 8,407 |
| Unsecured committed credit facility | — | 2,445 |
| Total undrawn credit facilities | 15,634 | 17,602 |
| Total liquidity portfolio and undrawn credit facilities | \$27,731 | \$26,150 |

(1) Cash-in-process is excluded from cash and cash equivalents for liquidity purposes.

(2) See "—Funding Sources—Additional Funding Sources" for additional information.

(3) Excludes \$275 million and \$276 million of investments accounted for in the liquidity portfolio that were pledged to the Federal Reserve as of February 29, 2012 and November 30, 2011, respectively.

Effective December 16, 2011, we terminated a \$2.4 billion unsecured committed credit facility that was scheduled to expire under its terms in May 2012. The facility was a source of contingent liquidity and we had not borrowed under the facility during its term. The facility was terminated due to the availability of other sources of contingent liquidity.

Capital

Our primary sources of capital are from the earnings generated by our businesses and issuances in the capital markets. We seek to manage capital to a level and composition sufficient to support the risks of our businesses, meet regulatory requirements, adhere to rating agency guidelines and support future business growth. Within these constraints, we are focused on deploying capital in a manner that provides attractive returns to our stockholders. The level, composition and utilization of capital are influenced by changes in the economic environment, strategic initiatives, and legislative and regulatory developments.

Under regulatory capital requirements adopted by the FDIC, the Federal Reserve and other bank regulatory agencies, we, along with Discover Bank, must maintain minimum levels of capital. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can result in the initiation of certain mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could limit our business activities and have a direct material effect on our financial position and results. We must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of assets and liabilities as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. Capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings and other factors.

Our capital adequacy assessment also includes tax and accounting considerations in accordance with regulatory guidance. We maintain a substantial deferred tax asset on our balance sheet, and we include this asset when calculating our regulatory capital levels. However, for regulatory capital purposes, deferred tax assets that are dependent on future taxable income are currently limited to the lesser of: (i) the amount of deferred tax assets we expect to realize within one year of the calendar quarter-end date, based on our projected future taxable income for that year; or (ii) 10% of the amount of our Tier 1 capital. At February 29, 2012, no portion of our deferred tax asset was disallowed for regulatory capital purposes.

At February 29, 2012, Discover Financial Services and Discover Bank met the requirements for "well-capitalized" status, exceeding the regulatory minimums to which they were subject under Basel I.

Current or future regulatory initiatives may require us to hold more capital in the future. In December 2011, the Federal Reserve issued proposed rules to implement heightened prudential standards for large bank holding companies, including us, as required by the Reform Act, including risk-based capital and leverage standards. In November 2011, the Federal Reserve issued a final rule requiring the submission of annual capital plans to the Federal Reserve for its review and non-objection. The instructions accompanying this rule indicate that the Federal Reserve expects us to show that we can achieve "readily and without difficulty the ratios required by the Basel III framework as they would come into effect in the United States." For more information regarding these regulatory initiatives, see "—Regulatory Environment Developments—Capital and Liquidity" in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended November 30, 2011. On March 13, 2012, we received non-objection from the Federal Reserve with respect to our proposed capital actions through March 31, 2013.

In the first quarter of 2012, we increased our quarterly common stock dividend from \$.06 per share to \$.10 per share and maintained a \$.10 per share dividend for the second quarter 2012. In addition, on March 13, 2012, our board of directors approved a share repurchase program authorizing the repurchase of up to \$2 billion of our outstanding shares of common stock. The program expires on March 22, 2014, and may be terminated at any time. This share repurchase program replaces the prior \$1 billion program that had \$575 million of remaining authorization. We did not repurchase any shares of our outstanding common stock in the first quarter 2012. We expect to make share repurchases under the new program from time to time based on market conditions and other factors, subject to legal and regulatory restrictions. Share repurchases under the program may be made through a variety of methods, which may include open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or other purchases, including block trades, accelerated share repurchase transactions, or any combination of such methods. On March 23, 2012, we executed a share repurchase agreement with an unaffiliated financial institution under which we will purchase \$250 million of our outstanding shares of common stock. The specific number of shares to be purchased will be based generally on the volume weighted average share price of our shares of common stock during the term of the agreement.

The declaration and payment of future dividends, as well as the amount thereof, are subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors. The amount and size of any future dividends and share repurchases will depend upon our results of operations, financial condition, capital levels, cash requirements, future prospects and other factors. In addition, banking laws and regulations and our banking regulators may limit our ability to pay dividends and make share

repurchases. For example, our ability to make capital distributions, including our ability to pay dividends or repurchase shares of our common stock, is subject to the Federal Reserve's annual review and non-objection of our capital plan, as noted above. In certain circumstances, we may not be able to make a capital distribution, such as a dividend or share repurchase, unless the Federal Reserve has approved such distribution. Further, as noted above, current or future regulatory initiatives may require us to hold more capital in the future. There can be no assurance that we will declare and pay any dividends or repurchase any shares of our common stock in the future.

Guarantees

Guarantees are contracts or indemnification agreements that contingently require us to make payments to a guaranteed party based on changes in an underlying asset, liability, or equity security of a guaranteed party, rate or index. Also included in guarantees are contracts that contingently require the guarantor to make payments to a guaranteed party based on another entity's failure to perform under an agreement. Our guarantees relate to transactions processed on the Discover Network and certain transactions processed by PULSE and Diners Club. See Note 11: Commitments, Contingencies and Guarantees to our condensed consolidated financial statements for further discussion regarding our guarantees.

Contractual Obligations and Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

In the normal course of business, we enter into various contractual obligations that may require future cash payments. Contractual obligations at February 29, 2012, which include deposits, borrowings, operating and capital lease obligations, interest payments on fixed rate debt, purchase obligations and other long-term liabilities, were \$61.4 billion. For a description of our contractual obligations, see our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011 under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources—Contractual Obligations and Contingent Liabilities and Commitments."

We extend credit for consumer and commercial loans, primarily arising from agreements with customers for unused lines of credit on certain credit cards, provided there is no violation of conditions established in the related agreement. At February 29, 2012, our unused commitments were \$163.2 billion. These commitments, substantially all of which we can terminate at any time and which do not necessarily represent future cash requirements, are periodically reviewed based on account usage and customer creditworthiness. In addition, in the ordinary course of business, we guarantee payment on behalf of subsidiaries relating to contractual obligations with external parties. The activities of the subsidiaries covered by any such guarantees are included in our condensed consolidated financial statements.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Market risk refers to the risk that a change in the level of one or more market prices, rates, indices, correlations or other market factors will result in losses for a position or portfolio. We are exposed to market risk primarily from changes in interest rates.

Interest Rate Risk. We borrow money from a variety of depositors and institutions in order to provide loans to our customers, as well as invest in other assets and our business. These loans and other assets earn interest, which we use to pay interest on the money borrowed. Our net interest income and, therefore, earnings, will be negatively affected if the interest rate earned on assets increases at a slower pace than increases to the interest rate we owe on our borrowings. Changes in interest rates and competitor responses to those changes may influence customer payment rates, loan balances or deposit account activity. We may face higher-cost alternative sources of funding as a result, which has the potential to decrease earnings.

Our interest rate risk management policies are designed to measure and manage the potential volatility of earnings that may arise from changes in interest rates by having a financing portfolio that reflects the mix of variable and fixed rate assets. To the extent that asset and related financing repricing characteristics of a particular portfolio are not matched effectively, we may utilize interest rate derivative contracts, such as swap agreements, to achieve our objectives.

Interest rate swap agreements effectively convert the underlying asset or liability from fixed to floating rate or from floating to fixed rate. See Note 14: Derivatives and Hedging Activities to our condensed consolidated financial statements for information on our derivatives activity.

We use an interest rate sensitivity simulation to assess our interest rate risk exposure. For purposes of presenting the possible earnings effect of a hypothetical, adverse change in interest rates over the 12-month period from our reporting date, we assume that all interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities will be impacted by a hypothetical, immediate 100 basis point increase in interest rates as of the beginning of the period. The sensitivity is based upon the hypothetical assumption that all relevant types of interest rates that affect our results would increase instantaneously, simultaneously and to the same degree.

Our interest rate sensitive assets include our variable rate loan receivables and the assets that make up our liquidity portfolio. We have restrictions on our ability to mitigate interest rate risk by adjusting rates on existing balances. At February 29, 2012, the majority of our credit card and student loans were at variable rates. Assets with rates that are fixed at period end but which will mature, or otherwise contractually reset to a market-based indexed rate or other fixed rate prior to the end of the 12-month period, are considered to be rate sensitive. The latter category includes certain credit card loans that may be offered at below-market rates for an introductory period, such as balance transfers and special promotional programs, after which the loans will contractually reprice in accordance with our normal market-based pricing structure. For purposes of measuring rate sensitivity for such loans, only the effect of the hypothetical 100 basis point change in the underlying market-based indexed rate or other fixed rate has been considered rather than the full change in the rate to which the loan would contractually reprice. For assets that have a fixed interest rate at the fiscal period end but which contractually will, or are assumed to, reset to a market-based indexed rate or other fixed rate during the next 12 months, earnings sensitivity is measured from the expected repricing date. In addition, for all interest rate sensitive assets, earnings sensitivity is calculated net of expected loan losses.

Interest rate sensitive liabilities are assumed to be those for which the stated interest rate is not contractually fixed for the next 12-month period. Thus, liabilities that vary with changes in a market-based index, such as Federal Funds or LIBOR, which will reset before the end of the 12-month period, or liabilities whose rates are fixed at the fiscal period end but which will mature and are assumed to be replaced with a market-based indexed rate prior to the end of the 12-month period, also are considered to be rate sensitive. For these fixed rate liabilities, earnings sensitivity is measured from the expected repricing date.

Assuming an immediate 100 basis point increase in the interest rates affecting all interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities at February 29, 2012, we estimate that net interest income over the following 12-month period would increase by approximately \$43 million, or 1%. Assuming an immediate 100 basis point increase in the interest rates affecting all interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities at November 30, 2011, we estimated that net interest income over the following 12-month period would increase by approximately \$49 million, or 1%. We have not provided an

estimate of any impact on net interest income of a decrease in interest rates as many of our interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities are tied to interest rates that are already at or near their minimum levels (i.e., Prime and LIBOR) and, therefore, could not materially decrease further.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), which are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the SEC’s rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) that occurred during the quarter ended February 29, 2012 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

For a description of legal proceedings, see Note 12: Litigation to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The table below sets forth information regarding purchases of our common stock related to our share repurchase program and employee transactions that were made by us or on our behalf during the three months ended February 29, 2012.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plan or Program ⁽¹⁾ | Maximum Dollar Value of Shares that may yet be purchased under the Plans or Programs ⁽¹⁾ |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| December 1- 31, 2011 | | | | |
| Repurchase program ⁽¹⁾ | — | \$— | — | \$— |
| Employee transactions ⁽²⁾ | 71,864 | \$23.97 | N/A | N/A |
| January 1 - 31, 2012 | | | | |
| Repurchase program ⁽¹⁾ | — | \$— | — | \$— |
| Employee transactions ⁽²⁾ | 526,694 | \$24.00 | N/A | N/A |
| February 1 - 29, 2012 | | | | |
| Repurchase program ⁽¹⁾ | — | \$— | — | \$— |
| Employee transactions ⁽²⁾ | 144 | \$27.72 | N/A | N/A |
| Total | | | | |
| Repurchase program ⁽¹⁾ | — | \$— | — | \$— |
| Employee transactions ⁽²⁾ | 598,702 | \$24.00 | N/A | N/A |

(1) On June 15, 2011, our board of directors approved a share repurchase program authorizing the repurchase of up to \$1 billion of our outstanding shares of common stock. There were no repurchases under this program during the three months ended February 29, 2012. This share repurchase program was replaced on March 13, 2012, as our board of directors approved a new share repurchase program authorizing the repurchase of up to \$2 billion of our outstanding shares of common stock. The new share repurchase program expires on March 22, 2014 and may be terminated at any time.

(2) Reflects shares withheld (under the terms of grants under employee stock compensation plans) to offset tax withholding obligations that occur upon the delivery of outstanding shares underlying restricted stock units or upon the exercise of stock options.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None

Item 5. Other Information

None

Item 6. Exhibits

See “Exhibit Index” for documents filed herewith and incorporated herein by reference.

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Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

Discover Financial Services
(Registrant)

By: /s/ R. Mark Graf
R. Mark Graf
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial
Officer and Chief Accounting Officer

Date: April 3, 2012

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Exhibit Index

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|----------------|--|
| 10.1 | Form 2012 Award Certificate for Restricted Stock Units Under Discover Financial Services Amended and Restated 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan. |
| 10.2 | Form 2012 Award Certificate for Performance Stock Units Under Discover Financial Services Amended and Restated 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan. |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document. |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document. |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document. |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document. |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document. |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document. |