

NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC

Form 10QSB

February 14, 2005

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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549**

FORM 10-QSB

**o QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES ACT OF 1934 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

**o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (NO FEE REQUIRED)**

For the transition period from _____ to _____.

Commission file number: 0-26680

NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its Charter)

British Columbia, Canada
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

8736-3354
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

2454 McMullen Booth Road, Building C
Clearwater, Florida
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

33759
(Zip Code)

(727) 726-0763

(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 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter periods 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 .

As of January 31st, 2005 there were 6,553,688 shares of common stock outstanding.

Nicholas Financial, Inc.
Form 10-QSB
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Nicholas Financial, Inc.

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet
(Unaudited)

| | December 31, 2004 |
|---|------------------------------|
| Assets | |
| Cash | \$ 1,494,083 |
| Finance receivables, net | 106,988,799 |
| Accounts receivable | 10,716 |
| Assets held for resale | 705,146 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 402,577 |
| Property and equipment, net | 645,749 |
| Deferred income taxes | 3,781,918 |
| Total assets | \$ 114,028,988 |
| Liabilities | |
| Line of credit | \$ 62,207,671 |
| Drafts payable | 552,304 |
| Notes payable related party | 1,000,000 |
| Accounts payable | 4,144,788 |
| Dividends payable | 324,914 |
| Income taxes payable | 595,895 |
| Derivatives | 62,281 |
| Deferred revenues | 1,331,940 |
| Total liabilities | 70,219,793 |
| Shareholders equity | |
| Preferred stock, no par: 5,000,000 shares authorized; none issued and outstanding | 15,041,133 |
| Common stock, no par: 50,000,000 shares authorized; 6,548,688 shares issued and outstanding | (38,605) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | 28,806,667 |
| Retained earnings | 43,809,195 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders equity | \$ 114,028,988 |

See accompanying notes.

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income
(Unaudited)

| | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | December 31, | | December 31, | |
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Interest income on finance receivables | \$ 8,484,354 | \$ 6,334,652 | \$ 23,495,609 | \$ 18,397,452 |
| Sales | 56,357 | 50,447 | 155,422 | 192,755 |
| | 8,540,711 | 6,385,099 | 23,651,031 | 18,590,207 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Cost of sales | 17,043 | 10,456 | 45,904 | 39,145 |
| Marketing | 227,009 | 221,459 | 642,697 | 653,282 |
| Administrative | 3,203,333 | 2,437,986 | 9,079,230 | 7,235,719 |
| Provision for credit losses | 565,758 | 632,873 | 1,806,203 | 1,617,028 |
| Depreciation | 58,147 | 30,000 | 162,973 | 162,218 |
| Interest | 909,468 | 950,109 | 2,719,551 | 2,905,747 |
| | 4,980,758 | 4,282,883 | 14,456,558 | 12,613,139 |
| Operating income before income taxes | 3,559,953 | 2,102,216 | 9,194,473 | 5,977,068 |
| Income tax expense: | | | | |
| Current | 1,640,355 | 1,060,332 | 4,532,854 | 3,356,708 |
| Deferred | (294,049) | (264,155) | (1,050,092) | (1,100,546) |
| | 1,346,306 | 796,177 | 3,482,762 | 2,256,162 |
| Net Income | \$ 2,213,647 | \$ 1,306,039 | \$ 5,711,711 | \$ 3,720,906 |
| Earnings per share basic | \$ 0.34 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.92 | \$ 0.74 |
| Earnings per share diluted | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.24 | \$ 0.86 | \$ 0.69 |
| Dividends declared per share | | | \$ 0.10 | \$ 0.10 |

See accompanying notes.

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(Unaudited)

| | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|---|---|--------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 |
| Operating activities | | |
| Net income | \$ 5,711,711 | \$ 3,720,906 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 162,973 | 162,218 |
| Provision for credit losses | 1,806,203 | 1,617,028 |
| Deferred income taxes | (1,050,092) | (1,100,546) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts receivable | 1,207 | (16,167) |
| Prepaid expenses, other assets and assets held for resale | (144,357) | (400,466) |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | 379,745 | 477,803 |
| Income taxes payable | 470,277 | (201,379) |
| Deferred revenues | 259,057 | 128,318 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 7,596,724 | 4,387,715 |
| Investing activities | | |
| Purchase and origination of finance contracts | (58,189,372) | (48,982,384) |
| Principal payments received | 46,630,886 | 40,708,394 |
| Purchase of property and equipment, net of disposals | (243,160) | (255,749) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (11,801,646) | (8,529,739) |
| Financing activities | | |
| Issuance of notes payable related party | 318,470 | 172,920 |
| Net (repayment) proceeds from line of credit | (5,302,619) | 5,850,052 |
| Payment of dividend | (324,915) | (253,354) |
| Decrease in drafts payable | (358,797) | (190,933) |
| Sale of common stock, net of offering costs | 10,409,182 | 243,321 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 4,741,321 | 5,822,006 |
| Net increase in cash | 536,399 | 1,679,982 |
| Cash, beginning of period | 957,684 | 481,211 |
| Cash, end of period | \$ 1,494,083 | \$ 2,161,193 |

See accompanying notes.

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.

Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

December 31, 2004

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements of Nicholas Financial, Inc. (including its subsidiaries, the Company) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-QSB pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended in Article 10 of Regulation SB. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending March 31, 2005. For further information, refer to the condensed consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended March 31, 2004 as filed with the Securities Exchange Commission on June 29, 2004.

2. Revenue Recognition

Interest income on finance receivables is recognized using the interest method. Accrual of interest income on finance receivables is suspended when a loan is contractually delinquent for 60 days or more or the collateral is repossessed, whichever is earlier.

The Company attributes all of the dealer discount and a portion of unearned income to a reserve for credit losses. Such amounts reduce the interest recognized over the life of the contract. The Company receives a commission for selling add-on services to consumer borrowers and amortizes the commission, net of the related costs, over the term of the loan using the interest method. The Company's net fees charged for processing a loan are recognized as an adjustment to the yield and are amortized over the life of the loan using the interest method.

The amount of future unearned income represents the amount of finance charges the Company expects to fully earn over the life of the current portfolio, and is computed as the product of the contract rate, the contract term, and the contract amount. The Company aggregates the contracts purchased during a three-month period for all of its branch locations. After the analysis of purchase date accounting is complete, any uncollectable amounts would be contemplated in the allowance for credit losses.

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.
Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

3. Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share excludes any dilutive effects of common stock equivalents such as options, warrants, and convertible securities. Diluted earnings per share includes the effects of dilutive options, warrants, and convertible securities. Basic and diluted earnings per share have been computed as follows:

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|--|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Numerator for earnings per share net income | \$ 2,213,647 | \$ 1,306,039 | \$ 5,711,711 | \$ 3,720,906 |
| Denominator: | | | | |
| Denominator for basic earnings per share weighted average shares | 6,514,634 | 5,064,623 | 6,227,129 | 5,036,730 |
| Effect of dilutive securities: | | | | |
| Employee stock options | 415,285 | 374,366 | 402,601 | 359,085 |
| Denominator for diluted earnings per share | 6,929,919 | 5,438,989 | 6,629,730 | 5,395,815 |
| Earnings per share basic | \$ 0.34 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.92 | \$ 0.74 |
| Earnings per share diluted | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.24 | \$ 0.86 | \$ 0.69 |

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.
Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

4. Finance Receivables

Finance receivables consist of automobile finance installment contracts and direct consumer loans and are detailed as follows:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Finance receivables, gross Contracts | \$ 171,166,964 |
| Less: Unearned interest | (40,310,612) |
| Finance receivables, net of unearned interest | 130,856,352 |
| Less: | |
| Dealer discounts | (17,306,489) |
| Allowance for credit losses | (6,561,064) |
| Finance receivables, net | \$ 106,988,799 |

The terms of the receivables range from 12 to 72 months and bear a weighted average effective interest rate of 24%.

5. Line of Credit

The Company has an \$85.0 million Line of Credit facility (the Line) expiring on November 30, 2006. The Company may borrow the lesser of \$85.0 million or amounts based upon formulas principally related to a percentage of eligible finance receivables, as defined. For the three months ended December 31, 2004, \$60.0 million of borrowings under the Line used LIBOR plus 212.5 basis points pricing options. The remainder of the borrowings under the Line used the prime rate plus 25 basis points pricing option. The prime rate based borrowings are generally less than \$5.0 million. The Company's cost of borrowed funds based upon the interest rates charged under the line, related party debt and the effect of the swaps (see note 7) amounted to 5.69% and 5.70% for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2004, respectively, as compared to 5.73% and 6.03% for the three and nine month period ended December 31, 2003, respectively. Pledged as collateral for this credit facility are all of the assets of the Company's subsidiary, Nicholas Financial, Inc. As of December 31, 2004, the amount outstanding under the Line was approximately \$62.2 million and the amount available under the Line was approximately \$22.8 million. As of December 31, 2004, the Company was in full compliance with all debt covenants thereunder.

6. Notes Payable - Related Party

The Company's notes payable consist of unsecured notes bearing interest at 5.92% with principal and interest due within 30-days upon demand. The notes totaled \$1,000,000 at December 31, 2004, and are payable to a related party.

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.
Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

7. Derivatives and Hedging

The Company is party to interest rate swap agreements classified as derivative instruments. For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as a cash flow hedge (i.e., hedging the exposure to variability in expected future cash flows that is attributable to a particular risk, such as interest rate risk), the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative instrument is reported as a component of comprehensive income and reclassified into earnings in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. The remaining gain or loss on the derivative instrument in excess of the cumulative change in the present value of the future cash flows of the hedged item, if any, is recognized in current earnings during the period of change.

The Company has entered into interest rate swap agreements that effectively convert a portion of its floating-rate debt to a fixed-rate basis, thus reducing the impact of interest rate changes on future interest expense. At December 31, 2004, \$50.0 million of the Company's borrowings were designated as hedged items to interest rate swap agreements. Under the swap agreements, the Company received a weighted average variable rate of 2.06% and 1.14% for the three months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. During the same period the Company paid a weighted average fixed rate of 3.59% and 4.22%, respectively. Under the swap agreements, the Company received a weighted average variable rate of 1.55% and 1.18% for the nine months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. During the same period the Company paid a weighted average fixed rate of 3.75% and 4.22%, respectively. A liability of \$62,281 related to the fair value of the swaps at December 31, 2004 has been recorded in the caption derivatives on the balance sheet. Accumulated other comprehensive loss at December 31, 2004, in the amount of \$38,605 represents the after-tax effect of the derivative loss. Amounts of net income or losses on derivative instruments expected to be reclassified from comprehensive income to earnings in the next 12 months are not expected to be material.

The Company has entered into the following cash-flow hedges:

| Date Entered | Effective Date | Notional Amount | Fixed Rate Of Interest | Maturity Date |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| June 28, 2002 | June 28, 2002 | \$ 10,000,000 | 3.83% | July 2, 2005 |
| January 6, 2003 | April 2, 2003 | \$ 10,000,000 | 3.35% | April 2, 2007 |
| January 31, 2003 | August 1, 2003 | \$ 10,000,000 | 3.20% | August 2, 2006 |
| February 26, 2003 | May 17, 2004 | \$ 10,000,000 | 3.91% | May 19, 2008 |
| March 11, 2004 | October 5, 2004 | \$ 10,000,000 | 3.64% | October 5, 2009 |

The Company utilizes the above noted interest rate swaps to manage its interest rate exposure. The swaps effectively convert a portion of the Company's floating rate debt to a fixed rate, more closely matching the interest rate characteristics of the Company's finance receivables. There has historically been no ineffectiveness associated with the Company's hedges.

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.
Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

7. Derivatives and Hedging (continued)

The following table reconciles net income with comprehensive income.

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|---|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Net income | \$ 2,213,647 | \$ 1,306,039 | \$ 5,711,711 | \$ 3,720,906 |
| Mark to market interest rate swaps (net of tax) | 263,808 | 361,673 | 1,026,737 | 561,300 |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 2,477,455 | \$ 1,667,712 | \$ 6,738,448 | \$ 4,282,206 |

8. Stock Options

The Company has an employee stock incentive plans (the SIP) for officers, directors and key employees. The Company is authorized to grant options for up to 940,000 common shares under the SIP, of which 211,633 shares were remaining available for future grants as of December 31, 2004. Of the 211,633 shares remaining available for future grants 173,333 shares are available for directors and 38,300 shares are available for employees. Options currently granted by the Company generally vest over a five-year period.

As permitted under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 148, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation - Transaction and Disclosure, which amended SFAS 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, the Company has elected to continue to follow the intrinsic value method in accounting for its stock-based employee compensation arrangements as defined by Accounting Principles Board Opinion (APB) No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and related interpretations including FASB Interpretation No. 44, Accounting for Certain Transactions Involving Stock Compensation, an interpretation of APB. 25. No stock-based employee compensation cost is reflected in operations, as all options granted under those plans have an exercise price equal to or above the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant.

The fair value method uses the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to determine compensation expense associated with the Company's options. The following table illustrates the effect on net income and net income per share if the Company had applied the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123 to stock-based employee compensation:

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Net income | \$ 2,213,647 | \$ 1,306,039 | \$ 5,711,711 | \$ 3,720,906 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 0.34 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.92 | \$ 0.74 |
| Fully diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.24 | \$ 0.86 | \$ 0.69 |
| | \$ 11,759 | \$ 10,509 | \$ 35,149 | \$ 32,535 |

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Stock based employee compensation cost under the fair value method

| | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pro forma net income | \$ 2,201,888 | \$ 1,295,530 | \$ 5,676,562 | \$ 3,688,371 |
| Pro forma basic earnings per share | \$ 0.34 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 0.91 | \$ 0.73 |
| Pro forma fully diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.24 | \$ 0.86 | \$ 0.68 |

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Nicholas Financial, Inc.
Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

9. Dividends

On August 17, 2004, the Company announced the Board of Directors had approved the payment of an annual cash dividend of \$0.10 per share, payable semi-annually. The first cash dividend of \$0.05 per share was paid on September 17, 2004, to shareholders of record as of August 27, 2004. The second cash dividend of \$0.05 per share will be payable as determined by the Board of Directors.

10. Contingencies

For discussion of certain legal proceedings to which the Company is a party, see Item 3 in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 29, 2004.

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Item 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Forward-Looking Information

This Form 10-QSB contains various statements, other than those concerning historical information, that are based on management's beliefs and assumptions, as well as information currently available to management, and should be considered forward-looking statements. This notice is intended to take advantage of the safe harbor provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 with respect to such forward-looking statements. When used in this document, the words "anticipate", "estimate", "expect", and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Such statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, estimated or expected. Among the key factors that may have a direct bearing on the Company's operating results are fluctuations in the economy, the degree and nature of competition, demand for consumer financing in the markets served by the Company, the Company's products and services, increases in the default rates experienced on Contracts, adverse regulatory changes in the Company's existing and future markets, the Company's ability to expand its business, including its ability to complete acquisitions and integrate the operations of acquired businesses, to recruit and retain qualified employees, to expand into new markets and to maintain profit margins in the face of increased pricing competition.

Introduction

Consolidated net income increased for the three months ended December 31, 2004, to \$2,213,647 from \$1,306,039 for the three months ended December 31, 2003. Consolidated net income increased for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, to \$5,711,711 from \$3,720,906 for the nine months ended December 31, 2003. Earnings were favorably impacted by an increase in the outstanding loan portfolio, a reduction in the average cost of borrowed funds and a reduction in the charge-off rate. The Company's Nicholas Data Services (NDS) subsidiary did not contribute significantly to consolidated operations in the three or nine month periods ended December 31, 2004 or 2003.

Table of Contents**Portfolio Summary**

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|--|--|----------------|---|----------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Average finance receivables, net of unearned interest (1) | \$ 130,157,442 | \$ 112,338,303 | \$ 127,149,953 | \$ 110,248,781 |
| Average indebtedness (2) | \$ 63,908,352 | \$ 66,328,452 | \$ 63,564,709 | \$ 64,243,278 |
| Finance revenue (3) | \$ 8,484,354 | \$ 6,334,652 | \$ 23,495,609 | \$ 18,397,452 |
| Interest expense | 909,468 | 950,109 | 2,719,551 | 2,905,747 |
| Net finance revenue | \$ 7,574,886 | \$ 5,384,543 | \$ 20,776,058 | \$ 15,491,705 |
| Weighted average contractual rate (4) | 23.80% | 23.85% | 24.03% | 24.02% |
| Average cost of borrowed funds (2) | 5.69% | 5.73% | 5.70% | 6.03% |
| Gross portfolio yield (5) | 26.07% | 22.56% | 24.63% | 22.25% |
| Interest expense as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest | 2.79% | 3.38% | 2.85% | 3.51% |
| Provision for credit losses as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest | 1.74% | 2.25% | 1.89% | 1.96% |
| Net portfolio yield (5) | 21.54% | 16.93% | 19.89% | 16.78% |
| Operating expenses as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest (6) | 10.54% | 9.39% | 10.18% | 9.51% |
| Pre-tax yield as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest (7) | 11.00% | 7.54% | 9.71% | 7.27% |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Write-off to liquidation (8) | 7.45% | 9.64% | 6.99% | 9.12% |
| Net charge-off percentage (9) | 6.52% | 8.11% | 6.03% | 7.79% |

See accompanying notes to portfolio summary.

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Note: All three and nine month key performance indicators expressed as percentages have been annualized.

- (1) Average finance receivables, net of unearned interest, represents the average of gross finance receivables, less unearned interest during the period.
- (2) Average indebtedness represents the average outstanding borrowings under the Line and notes payable-related party. Average cost of borrowed funds represents interest expense as a percentage of average indebtedness.
- (3) Finance revenue does not include revenue generated by NDS. See page 14 and 15 for detail on NDS revenue during the period.
- (4) Weighted average contractual rate represents the weighted average annual percentage rate (APR) of all Contracts purchased and direct loans originated during the period.
- (5) Gross portfolio yield represents finance revenues as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest. Net portfolio yield represents finance revenue minus (a) interest expense and (b) the provision for credit losses as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest.
- (6) Operating expenses represent total expenses, less interest expense, the provision for credit losses and operating costs associated with NDS. See page 14 and 15 for detail on NDS operating expenses during the period.
- (7) Pre-tax yield represents net portfolio yield minus operating expenses as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest.
- (8) Write-off to liquidation percentage is defined as net charge-offs divided by liquidation. Liquidation is defined as beginning receivable balance plus current period purchases minus voids and refinances minus ending receivable balance.
- (9) Net charge-off percentage represents net charge-offs divided by average finance receivables, net of unearned interest, outstanding during the period.

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Three months ended December 31, 2004 compared to three months ended December 31, 2003

Interest Income and Loan Portfolio

Finance revenue increased 34% to \$8.5 million for the three months ended December 31, 2004, from \$6.3 million for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. The average finance receivables, net of unearned interest balance equaled \$130.2 million for the three months ended December 31, 2004, an increase of 16% from the \$112.3 million for the three months ended December 31, 2003. The primary reason average finance receivables, net of unearned interest increased was the increase in the receivable base of several existing branches and having six additional branch locations open as of December 31, 2004. The gross finance receivable balance increased 16% to \$171.2 million at December 31, 2004, from \$147.6 million at December 31, 2003. The primary reason interest revenue increased was the increase in the outstanding loan portfolio. The gross portfolio yield increased from 22.56% for the three months ended December 31, 2003, to 26.07% for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2004. The net portfolio yield increased from 16.93% for the three months ended December 31, 2003, to 21.54% for the three months ended December 31, 2004. The primary reasons for the increase in the net portfolio yield were a decrease in charge-offs and a reduction in the cost of borrowed funds for the period ended December 31, 2004. The net charge-off percentage for the three-month period ended December 31, 2004, was 6.52% as compared to 8.11% for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003.

Computer Software Business

Sales for the three months ended December 31, 2004, were \$56,357 as compared to \$50,447 for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003, an increase of 12%. This increase was primarily due to higher revenue from the existing customer base during the three months ended December 31, 2004. Cost of sales and operating expenses increased from \$65,754 for the three months ended December 31, 2003, to \$77,229 for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2004.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses, excluding provision for credit losses and interest expense and costs associated with NDS, increased to \$3.4 million for the three months ended December 31, 2004, from \$2.6 million for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. This increase of 30% was primarily attributable to the additional staffing of several existing branches, increased general operating expenses and having six additional branch offices. Operating expenses as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest increased from 9.39% for the three months ended December 31, 2003, to 10.54% for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2004.

Interest Expense

Interest expense decreased to \$909,468 for the three months ended December 31, 2004, as compared to \$950,109 for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. The average indebtedness for the three months ended December 31, 2004, decreased to \$63.9 million compared to \$66.3 million for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. The primary reason for the decrease in average indebtedness was the completion of secondary common stock offering during May of 2004 netting the Company approximately \$9.9 million. The average cost of outstanding borrowings decreased from 5.73% during the three months ended December 31, 2003, to 5.69% during the three months ended December 31, 2004.

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Nine months ended December 31, 2004 compared to nine months ended December 31, 2003

Interest Income and Loan Portfolio

Finance revenue increased 28% to \$23.5 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, from \$18.4 million for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. The average finance receivables, net of unearned interest balance equaled \$127.1 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, an increase of 15% from the \$110.2 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2003. The primary reason net finance receivables increased was the increase in the receivable base of several existing branches and having six additional branch locations as of December 31, 2004. The gross finance receivable balance increased 16% to \$171.2 million at December 31, 2004, from \$147.6 million at December 31, 2003. The primary reason interest revenue increased was the increase in the outstanding loan portfolio. The gross portfolio yield increased from 24.63% for the nine months ended December 31, 2003, to 22.25% for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2004. The net portfolio yield increased from 16.78% for the nine months ended December 31, 2003 to 19.89% for the nine months ended December 31, 2004. The primary reasons for the increase in the net portfolio yield were a decrease in charge-offs and a reduction in the cost of borrowed funds for the period ended December 31, 2004. The net charge-off percentage for the nine-month period ended December 31, 2004, was 6.03% as compared to 7.79% for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003.

Computer Software Business

Sales for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, were \$155,422 compared to \$192,755 for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003, a decrease of 19%. This decrease was primarily due to lower revenue from the existing customer base during the nine months ended December 31, 2004. Cost of sales and operating expenses decreased from \$230,509 for the nine months ended December 31, 2003, to \$221,310 for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2004.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses, excluding provision for credit losses and interest expense and costs associated with NDS, increased to \$9.7 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, from \$7.9 million for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. This increase of 24% was primarily attributable to the additional staffing of several existing branches, increased general operating expenses and having six additional branch offices. Operating expenses as a percentage of average finance receivables, net of unearned interest assets decreased from 10.18% for the nine months ended December 31, 2003, to 9.51% for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2004.

Interest Expense

Interest expense decreased to \$2,719,551 for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, as compared to \$2,905,747 for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. The average indebtedness for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, decreased to \$63.6 million compared to \$64.2 million for the corresponding period ended December 31, 2003. The primary reason for the decrease in average indebtedness was the completion of secondary common stock offering during May of 2004 netting the Company approximately \$9.9 million. The average cost of outstanding borrowings decreased from 6.03% during the nine months ended December 31, 2003, to 5.70% during the nine months ended December 31, 2004.

Table of Contents**Contract Procurement**

The Company purchases Contracts in the seven states listed in the table below. The Company has been expanding its Contract procurement. See Future Expansion below. The Contracts purchased by the Company are predominately for used vehicles; for the three and nine month periods ended December 31, 2004, and 2003, respectively, less than 3% were new. As of December 31, 2004, the average model year collateralizing the portfolio was a 1999 vehicle.

The amounts shown in the tables below represent information on finance receivables, net of unearned interest of Contracts purchased.

| State | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| FL | \$ 10,121,741 | \$ 8,036,773 | \$ 30,643,243 | \$ 27,210,545 |
| GA | 1,238,711 | 1,802,773 | 5,547,869 | 6,384,776 |
| NC | 2,081,482 | 1,581,909 | 6,577,416 | 5,548,857 |
| SC | 781,675 | 664,595 | 2,847,066 | 2,144,234 |
| OH | 2,064,868 | 2,267,575 | 8,635,938 | 8,453,317 |
| MI | 412,137 | 597,254 | 2,225,223 | 1,665,511 |
| VA | 1,400,228 | 438,850 | 4,270,114 | 611,901 |
| KY | 234,820 | | 234,820 | |
| MD | 414,908 | | 414,908 | |
| Total | \$ 18,750,570 | \$ 15,389,729 | \$ 61,396,597 | \$ 52,019,141 |

| Indirect Contracts Purchased | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Purchases | \$ 18,750,570 | \$ 15,389,729 | \$ 61,396,597 | \$ 52,019,141 |
| Weighted APR | 23.65% | 23.66% | 23.90% | 23.88% |
| Average Discount | 8.73% | 8.80% | 8.72% | 8.91% |
| Average Term (months) | 45 | 43 | 44 | 43 |
| Average Loan | \$ 8,504 | \$ 8,104 | \$ 8,382 | \$ 8,128 |
| Number of Contracts | 2,205 | 1,899 | 7,325 | 6,400 |

Loan Origination

The following table presents information on direct loans originated by the Company, net of unearned interest.

| | Three months ended | Nine months ended |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
|--|--------------------|-------------------|

| Direct Loans Originated | December 31, | | December 31, | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Originations | \$ 1,446,259 | \$ 1,047,014 | \$ 3,910,700 | \$ 2,940,870 |
| Weighted APR | 25.80% | 26.64% | 26.01% | 26.52% |
| Average Term (months) | 26 | 24 | 26 | 26 |
| Average Loan | \$ 3,158 | \$ 2,755 | \$ 3,065 | \$ 2,844 |
| Number of Loans | 458 | 380 | 1,276 | 1,034 |

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Analysis of Credit Losses

Because of the nature of the customers under the Company's Contracts, the Company considers the establishment of adequate reserves for credit losses to be imperative. The Company segregates its Contracts into static pools for purposes of establishing reserves for losses. All Contracts purchased by a branch during a fiscal quarter comprise a static pool. The Company pools Contracts according to branch location because the branches purchase Contracts in different geographic markets. This method of pooling by branch and quarter allows the Company to evaluate the different markets where the branches operate. The pools also allow the Company to evaluate the different levels of customer income, stability, credit history, and the types of vehicles purchased in each market. Each such static pool consists of the Contracts purchased by a Company branch office during a fiscal quarter. As of December 31, 2004, the Company had 568 active static pools. The average pool consisted of 69 Contracts with aggregate finance receivables, net of unearned interest, of approximately \$567,000.

Contracts are purchased from many different dealers and all are purchased on an individual Contract by Contract basis. Individual Contract pricing is determined by the automobile dealerships and is generally the lesser of the applicable state maximum interest rate or the maximum interest rate at which the customer will accept. In certain markets, competitive forces will drive down Contract rates from the maximum allowable rate to a level where an individual competitor is willing to buy an individual Contract. The Company only buys Contracts on an individual basis and never purchases Contracts in batches, although the Company does consider portfolio acquisitions as part of its growth strategy.

A dealer discount represents the difference between the finance receivable, net of unearned interest, of a Contract and the amount of money the Company actually pays for the Contract. The discount negotiated by the Company is a function of the credit quality of the customer and the wholesale value of the vehicle. The automotive dealer accepts these terms by executing a dealer agreement with the Company. The entire amount of discount is related to credit quality and is considered to be part of the credit loss reserve. The Company utilizes a static pool approach to track portfolio performance. A static pool retains an amount equal to 100% of the discount as a reserve for credit losses. In situations where, at the date of purchase, the discount is determined to be insufficient to absorb all potential losses associated with the static pool, a portion of future unearned income associated with that specific static pool will be added to the reserves for credit losses until total reserves have reached the appropriate level. Subsequent to the purchase, if the reserve for credit losses is determined to be inadequate for a static pool which is not fully liquidated, then a charge to income through the provision is used to reestablish adequate reserves. If a static pool is fully liquidated and has any remaining reserves, the excess reserves are immediately recognized into income. For static pools not fully liquidated, that are determined to have excess reserves, such excess amounts are accreted into income over the remaining life of the static pool. Reserves accreted into income for the three months ended December 31, 2004, were approximately \$1,557,000 as compared to \$443,000 for the three months ended December 31, 2003. Reserves accreted into income for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, were approximately \$3,498,000 as compared to \$1,440,000 for the nine months ended December 31, 2003. The primary reason for the increase in the three-month period ended December 31, 2004, as compared to the three-month period ended December 31, 2003, was a decrease in the net charge-off percentage from 8.11% to 6.52%, respectively. The primary reason for the increase in the nine-month period ended December 31, 2004, as compared to the nine-month period ended December 31, 2003, was a decrease in the net charge-off percentage from 7.79% to 6.03%, respectively.

The Company has detailed underwriting guidelines it utilizes to determine which Contracts to purchase. These guidelines are specific and are designed to cause all of the Contracts that the Company purchases to have common risk characteristics. The Company utilizes its District Managers to evaluate their respective branch locations for adherence to these underwriting guidelines. The Company also utilizes an internal audit department to assure adherence to its underwriting guidelines. The Company utilizes the branch model, which allows for Contract purchasing to be done on the branch level. Each Branch Manager may interpret the guidelines differently, and as a result, the common risk

characteristics tend to be the same on an individual branch level but not necessarily compared to another branch.

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In analyzing a static pool, the Company considers the performance of prior static pools originated by the branch office, the performance of prior Contracts purchased from the dealers whose Contracts are included in the current static pool, the credit rating of the customers under the Contracts in the static pool, and current market and economic conditions. Each static pool is analyzed monthly to determine if the loss reserves are adequate and adjustments are made if they are determined to be necessary.

The Company experienced lower losses during the three and nine months ended December 31, 2004, as compared to the three and nine months ended December 31, 2003. This resulted in static pools having reserves in excess of estimates currently needed to liquidate these pools. The Company is in the process of accreting these excess reserves from these more mature static pools over their remaining life. The Company's overall reserve percentage has increased from 13.46% of gross finance receivables as of December 31, 2003, to 13.94% of gross finance receivables as of December 31, 2004.

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of the changes in dealer discount on Contracts.

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|--|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 17,432,841 | \$ 13,693,963 | \$ 15,377,582 | \$ 12,394,089 |
| Discounts acquired on new volume | 3,101,373 | 2,504,121 | 10,132,595 | 8,468,596 |
| Losses absorbed | (1,976,361) | (2,420,384) | (5,644,300) | (6,668,320) |
| Recoveries | 305,387 | 258,184 | 938,337 | 838,396 |
| Discounts accreted | (1,556,751) | (442,665) | (3,497,725) | (1,439,542) |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 17,306,489 | \$ 13,593,219 | \$ 17,306,489 | \$ 13,593,219 |
| Dealer discounts as a percent of gross indirect Contracts | 10.45% | 9.50% | 10.45% | 9.50% |

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of the changes in the allowance for credit losses on Contracts.

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|--|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 6,312,213 | \$ 5,774,119 | \$ 5,787,764 | \$ 5,428,681 |
| Current period provision | 514,119 | 467,085 | 1,680,596 | 1,331,193 |
| Losses absorbed | (467,770) | (129,872) | (1,109,798) | (648,542) |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 6,358,562 | \$ 6,111,332 | \$ 6,358,562 | \$ 6,111,332 |
| Allowance as a percent of gross indirect Contracts | 3.84% | 4.27% | 3.84% | 4.27% |

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The following table sets forth a reconciliation of the changes in the allowance for credit losses on direct loans.

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|---|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 180,239 | \$ 201,349 | \$ 184,334 | \$ 176,126 |
| Current period provision | 41,476 | 18,199 | 94,258 | 114,172 |
| Losses absorbed | (24,744) | (55,235) | (98,939) | (138,974) |
| Recoveries | 5,531 | 9,638 | 22,849 | 22,627 |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 202,502 | \$ 173,951 | \$ 202,502 | \$ 173,951 |
| Allowance as a percent of gross direct loan receivables | 3.63% | 3.83% | 3.63% | 3.83% |

The following table summarizes the total amounts of Discounts and Allowances for both Contracts and direct loans.

| | Three months ended December 31, | | Nine months ended December 31, | |
|--|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Total Discounts and Allowances at end of period | \$ 23,867,553 | \$ 19,878,502 | \$ 23,867,553 | \$ 19,878,501 |
| Discounts and Allowances as a percent of gross receivables | 13.94% | 13.46% | 13.94% | 13.46% |

The average dealer discount associated with new volume for the three months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, were 8.73% and 8.80%, respectively. The average dealer discount associated with new volume for the nine months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, were 8.72% and 8.91%, respectively. The Company does not consider these changes to be material, and such changes were not the result of any change in buying philosophy or competition.

The provision for credit losses decreased to approximately \$566,000 for the three months ended December 31, 2004, as compared to approximately \$633,000 for the three months ended December 31, 2003. The provision for credit losses increased to approximately \$1,806,000 for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, as compared to approximately \$1,617,000 for the nine months ended December 31, 2003. The Company's net charge-off percentage decreased from 8.11% for the three months ended December 31, 2003, to 6.52% for the three months ended December 31, 2004. The Company's net charge-off percentage decreased from 7.79% for the nine months ended December 31, 2003, to 6.03% for the nine months ended December 31, 2004. The Company anticipates losses as a percentage of liquidation will be in the 7-9% range during the remainder of the current fiscal year. The longer term outlook for portfolio performance will depend on the overall economic conditions, the unemployment rate and the Company's ability to monitor, manage and implement its underwriting philosophy in additional geographic areas as it strives to continue its expansion. The Company does not believe there have been any significant changes in loan concentrations, terms or quality of Contracts purchased during the three and nine months ended December 31, 2004, that would have contributed to the decrease in losses.

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Recoveries as a percentage of charge-offs were 14.1% and 12.6% for the three months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. Recoveries as a percentage of charge-offs were 16.1% and 13.6% for the nine months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The Company believes that as it continues to expand its operations, it will become more difficult to implement its loss recovery model in geographic areas further away from its Corporate headquarters, and as a result, the Company will likely experience declining recovery rates over the long term.

Reserves accreted into income for the three months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, were approximately \$1,557,000 and \$443,000, respectively. Reserves accreted into income for the nine months ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, were approximately \$3,498,000 and \$1,436,000, respectively. The amount and timing of reserves accreted into income is a function of individual static pool performance as compared to their estimated default rate.

The U.S. unemployment rate has dropped slightly over the past year. The Company believes there is a correlation between the unemployment rate and future portfolio performance. The Company does not expect the U.S. unemployment rate to rise or fall significantly in the foreseeable future. Therefore the Company does not plan on increasing or decreasing reserves based on the current U.S. unemployment rate. The number of voluntary repossessions decreased slightly for the three months ended December 31, 2004, as compared to the three months ended December 31, 2003. The Company believes its percentage of voluntary repossessions will stabilize in the current fiscal year, and as a result, management believes that the Company's current reserve levels are adequate for the foreseeable future. The number of bankruptcy filings by Company customers decreased slightly during the three months ended December 31, 2004, as compared to the three months ended December 31, 2003. The Company believes the percentage of bankruptcy filings as a percentage of active receivables will stabilize in the current fiscal year, and as a result, management believes that the Company's current reserve levels are adequate for the foreseeable future.

The amount of future unearned income represents the amount of finance charges the Company expects to fully earn over the life of the current portfolio, and is computed as the product of the contract rate, the contract term, and the contract amount. The Company aggregates the contracts purchased during a three-month period for all of its branch locations, after the analysis of purchase date accounting is complete, any uncollectable amounts would be contemplated in the allowance for credit losses.

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The following tables present certain information regarding the delinquency rates experienced by the Company with respect to Contracts and under its direct consumer loan program:

| | At December 31, 2004 | | At December 31, 2003 | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Contracts | | | | |
| Gross Balance Outstanding | \$165,583,890 | | \$143,113,043 | |
| | Dollar | Percent | Dollar | Percent |
| Delinquencies | Amount | | Amount | |
| 30 to 59 days | \$ 3,056,372 | 1.85% | \$ 2,836,531 | 1.98% |
| 60 to 89 days | 706,221 | 0.43% | 805,643 | 0.56% |
| 90 + days | 327,077 | 0.19% | 247,261 | 0.17% |
| Total Delinquencies | \$ 4,089,670 | 2.47% | \$ 3,889,435 | 2.71% |
| Direct Loans | | | | |
| Gross Balance Outstanding | \$5,583,074 | | \$4,536,172 | |
| Delinquencies | | | | |
| 30 to 59 days | \$ 61,980 | 1.11% | \$ 37,451 | 0.83% |
| 60 to 89 days | 16,758 | 0.30% | 33,612 | 0.74% |
| 90 + days | 27,475 | 0.49% | 30,354 | 0.67% |
| Total Delinquencies | \$ 106,213 | 1.90% | \$ 101,417 | 2.24% |

The delinquency percentage for contracts more than thirty days past due at December 31, 2004, was 2.47% compared to 2.71% at December 31, 2003. The delinquency percentage for direct loans more than thirty days past due at December 31, 2004, was 1.90% compared to 2.24% at December 31, 2003.

The Company does not give much consideration to short-term trends in delinquency percentages when evaluating reserve levels. Delinquency percentages tend to be very volatile and often are not necessarily an indication of future losses. The Company estimates future portfolio performance by considering several factors. The most significant factors are described as follows. The Company analyzes historical static pool performance for each branch location when determining appropriate reserve levels. The Company utilizes internal branch audits as an indication to future static pool performance. The Company also considers such things as the current unemployment rate in markets the Company operates in, the percentage of voluntary repossessions as compared to prior periods, the percentage of bankruptcy filings as compared to prior periods and other leading economic indicators.

Income Taxes

The Company's effective tax rate remained relatively consistent at 37.81% and 37.88% for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2004, compared to 37.87% and 37.75% for the three and nine months ended December 31, 2003.

Table of Contents**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The Company's cash flows for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, and December 31, 2003, are summarized as follows:

| | Nine months ended December 31, 2004 | Nine months ended December 31, 2003 |
|--|--|--|
| Cash provided by: | | |
| Operating Activities - | \$ 7,596,724 | \$ 4,387,715 |
| Investing Activities - (primarily purchase of Contracts, net of repayments) | (11,801,646) | (8,529,739) |
| Financing Activities - | 4,741,321 | 5,822,006 |
| Net increase in cash | \$ 536,399 | \$ 1,679,982 |

The Company's primary use of working capital for the nine months ended December 31, 2004, was the funding of the purchase of Contracts. The Contracts were financed substantially through borrowings under the Company's \$85.0 million Line. The Line is secured by all of the assets of the Company's Nicholas Financial, Inc. subsidiary. The Company may borrow the lesser of \$85.0 million or amounts based upon formulas principally related to a percentage of eligible finance receivables, as defined. Borrowings under the Line may be under various LIBOR pricing options or at the prime rate plus 25 basis points. Prime rate based borrowings are generally less than \$5.0 million. As of December 31, 2004, the amount outstanding under the Line was approximately \$62.2 million and the amount available under the Line was approximately \$22.8 million. As of December 31, 2004, the Company was in full compliance with all debt covenants there under.

The Company has entered into interest rate swap agreements, each of which effectively converts a portion of the Company's floating-rate debt to a fixed-rate, thus reducing the impact of interest rate change on the Company's interest expense. At December 31, 2004, approximately 80% of the Company's borrowings under the Line were subject to interest rate swap agreements. These swap agreements have maturities ranging from July 2, 2005 through October 5, 2009.

The self-liquidating nature of Contracts and other loans enables the Company to assume a higher debt-to-equity ratio than in most businesses. The amount of debt the Company incurs from time to time under these financing mechanisms depends on the Company's need for cash and ability to borrow under the terms of the Line. The Company believes that borrowings available under the Line as well as cash flow from operations will be sufficient to meet its short-term funding needs.

In late May and early June 2004, the Company closed the sale of an aggregate of 1,400,000 shares of its common stock at a public offering price of \$8.00 per share. The net proceeds to the Company of the offering, approximately \$9.9 million, were used to pay down the Company's Line. In addition, approximately 900,000 shares of common stock were sold in the offering by a group of selling shareholders. Ferris, Baker Watts, Incorporated served as the underwriter for the offering.

On August 17, 2004, the Company announced the Board of Directors had approved the payment of an annual cash dividend of \$0.10 per share, payable semi-annually. The first cash dividend of \$0.05 per share was paid on September 17, 2004, to shareholders of record as of August 27, 2004. The second cash dividend of \$0.05 per share will be payable as determined by the Board of Directors.

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Future Expansion

The Company currently operates in eight states through a total of thirty-five branch locations, including sixteen in Florida, five in Ohio, four in North Carolina, three in Georgia, two in South Carolina, and three in Virginia, one in Michigan and one in Kentucky. Each office is budgeted (size of branch, number of employees and location) to handle up to 1,000 accounts and up to \$7.5 million in outstanding receivables. To date none of our branches has reached this capacity.

The Company intends to continue its expansion in States it currently operates in through the purchase of additional Contracts and the expansion of its direct consumer loan program. The Company believes opportunities for growth continue to exist in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Virginia and intends to continue its expansion activities in those states. The Company has targeted additional locations within these States where it believes there is a sufficient market for its automobile financing program.

The Company is currently purchasing Contracts in the States of Maryland and Indiana utilizing employees who reside in these States. These employees are developing their respective markets utilizing the Company's Central Buying Office at its Corporate Headquarters to purchase, process and service these Contracts. The Company's strategy is to monitor these new markets and ultimately decide where and when to open actual branch locations. No assurances can be given, however, that the Company will be able to continue to expand or, if it does continue to expand, that it will be able to do so profitably. The Company is also analyzing other markets in states the Company does not currently operate in, however, no assurance can be given that any expansion will occur in these new markets.

In order to increase the size of the Company's portfolio of Contracts, it will be necessary for the Company to continue to be able to renew and increase its line of credit, either with its current lender or another lender. The Company has previously and will continue to meet with investment bankers and financial institutions discussing various strategies to meet future capital requirements of the Company.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In October 2003, the AICPA issued SOP 03-3, *Accounting for Loans or Certain Debt Securities Acquired in a Transfer*. SOP 03-3 applies to a loan with evidence of deterioration in credit quality subsequent to its origination that is acquired by completion of a transfer (as defined in SOP 03-3), for which it is probable at acquisition of such loan, that the acquirer will be unable to collect all contractually required payments receivable. SOP 03-3 requires that the acquirer recognize the excess of all cash flows expected at acquisition over the investor's initial investment in the loan as interest income on a level-yield basis over the life of the loan as the accretable yield. The loan's contractual required payments receivable in excess of the amount of its cash flows expected at acquisition (nonaccretable difference) should not be recognized as an adjustment to yield, a loss accrual or a valuation allowance for credit risk. Subsequent increases in cash flows expected to be collected generally would be recognized prospectively through adjustment of the loan's yield over its remaining life. Decreases in cash flows expected to be collected would be recognized as impairment. SOP 03-3 is effective for loans acquired in fiscal years beginning after December 31, 2004. Management is currently evaluating the provisions of SOP 03-3.

In December 2004, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123(R), *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*. SFAS No. 123(R) establishes standards for the accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services. This Statement focuses primarily on accounting for transactions in which an entity obtains employee services in share-based payment transactions. SFAS No. 123(R) requires that the fair value of such equity instruments be recognized as an expense in the financial statements as services are performed. Prior to SFAS No. 123(R), only certain pro forma disclosures of fair value were required. The provisions of this Statement are effective for the first interim reporting period that begins after June 15, 2005. The

Company does not believe the adoption of Statement No. 123(R) will have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

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ITEM 3. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures. In accordance with Rule 13a-15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act), as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB, the Company s management evaluated, with the participation of the Company s President and Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President-Finance and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company s disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act). Based upon their evaluation of these disclosure controls and procedures, the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Vice President-Finance and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the date of such evaluation to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, was made known to them by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this Quarterly Report on Form 10-QSB was being prepared.

Changes in internal controls. There was no change in the Company s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company s quarter ended December 31, 2004, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company s internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. EXHIBITS

See exhibit index following the signature page.

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SIGNATURES

In accordance with the requirements of the Securities Act of 1934, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 10-QSB and authorized this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, in the City of Clearwater, State of Florida, on February 14, 2005.

NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.
(Registrant)

Date: February 14, 2005

/s/ Peter L Vosotas

Peter L. Vosotas
Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: February 14, 2005

/s/ Ralph T Finkenbrink

Ralph T. Finkenbrink
Senior Vice President Finance
and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer and Accounting Officer)

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| 31.1 | Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1 | Written Statement of the Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 |
| 32.2 | Written Statement of the Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 |