

STIFEL FINANCIAL CORP  
Form 10-K  
March 01, 2013  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE**

**SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012**

**Commission File Number: 001-09305**

**STIFEL FINANCIAL CORP.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**43-1273600**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**501 N. Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2188**

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

**(314) 342-2000**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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## Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, \$0.15 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange Chicago Stock Exchange
Preferred Stock Purchase Rights	New York Stock Exchange Chicago Stock Exchange
6.70% Senior Notes Due 2022	New York Stock Exchange
5.375% Senior Notes Due 2022	New York Stock Exchange

## Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes  No

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 (the Exchange Act) 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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 (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

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

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

The aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock, \$0.15 par value per share, held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of the close of business on June 30, 2012, was \$1.8 billion.<sup>(1)</sup>

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock, \$0.15 par value per share, as of the close of business on February 22, 2013, was 63,052,892.

<sup>(1)</sup> In determining this amount, the registrant assumed that the executive officers and directors of the registrant are affiliates of the registrant. Such assumptions shall not be deemed to be conclusive for any other purposes.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the annual meeting of shareholders, to be filed within 120 days of our fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, are incorporated by reference in Part III hereof.

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**PART I**

Certain statements in this report may be considered forward-looking. Statements that are not historical or current facts, including statements about beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements cover, among other things, statements made about general economic, political, regulatory, and market conditions, the investment banking and brokerage industries, our objectives and results, and also may include our belief regarding the effect of various legal proceedings, management expectations, our liquidity and funding sources, counterparty credit risk, or other similar matters. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, and important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated, including those factors discussed below under **Risk Factors** in Item 1A, as well as those discussed in **External Factors Impacting Our Business** included in **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations** in Part II, Item 7 of this report.

Because of these and other uncertainties, our actual future results may be materially different from the results indicated by these forward-looking statements. In addition, our past results of operations do not necessarily indicate our future results. We undertake no obligation to publicly release any revisions to the forward-looking statements or reflect events or circumstances after the date of this document.

**ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

Stifel Financial Corp. is a Delaware corporation and a financial holding company headquartered in St. Louis. We were organized in 1983. Our principal subsidiary is Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated ( **Stifel Nicolaus** ), a full-service retail and institutional brokerage and investment banking firm. Stifel Nicolaus is the successor to a partnership founded in 1890. Our other subsidiaries include Century Securities Associates, Inc. ( **CSA** ), an independent contractor broker-dealer firm; Stifel Nicolaus Europe Limited ( **SNEL** ), our European subsidiary; Stifel Nicolaus Canada, Inc. ( **SN Canada** ), our registered Canadian broker-dealer subsidiary; Stifel Bank & Trust ( **Stifel Bank** ), a retail and commercial bank; and Stifel Trust Company, N.A. ( **Stifel Trust** ). Unless the context requires otherwise, the terms **our company**, **we**, and **our**, as used herein, refer to Stifel Financial Corp. and its subsidiaries.

With our century-old operating history, we have built a diversified business serving private clients, institutional investors, and investment banking clients located across the country. Our principal activities are:

Private client services, including securities transaction and financial planning services;

Institutional equity and fixed income sales, trading and research, and municipal finance;

Investment banking services, including mergers and acquisitions, public offerings, and private placements; and

Retail and commercial banking, including personal and commercial lending programs.

Our core philosophy is based upon a tradition of trust, understanding, and studied advice. We attract and retain experienced professionals by fostering a culture of entrepreneurial, long-term thinking. We provide our private, institutional, and corporate clients quality, personalized service, with the theory that if we place clients' needs first, both our clients and our company will prosper. Our unwavering client and employee focus have earned us a reputation as one of the leading brokerage and investment banking firms off Wall Street.

We have grown our business both organically and through opportunistic acquisitions. Over the past several years, we have grown substantially, primarily by completing and successfully integrating a number of acquisitions, including our acquisition of the capital markets business of Legg Mason ( **LM Capital Markets** ) from Citigroup in December 2005 and the following acquisitions:

**Ryan Beck Holdings, Inc. ( **Ryan Beck** ) and its wholly owned broker-dealer subsidiary, Ryan Beck & Company, Inc.** On February 28, 2007, we closed on the acquisition of Ryan Beck, a full-service brokerage and investment banking firm with a strong private

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client focus, from BankAtlantic Bancorp, Inc.

**First Service Financial Company ( First Service ) and its wholly owned subsidiary, FirstService Bank** On April 2, 2007, we completed our acquisition of First Service, and its wholly owned subsidiary FirstService Bank, a St. Louis-based Missouri commercial bank. Upon consummation of the acquisition, we became a bank holding company and a financial holding company, subject to the supervision and regulation of The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Also, FirstService Bank converted its charter from a Missouri bank to a Missouri trust company and changed its name to Stifel Bank & Trust.

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**Butler, Wick & Co., Inc. ( Butler Wick )** On December 31, 2008, we closed on the acquisition of Butler Wick, a privately held broker-dealer which specialized in providing financial advice to individuals, municipalities, and corporate clients.

**UBS Financial Services Inc. ( UBS )** During the third and fourth quarters of 2009, we acquired 56 branches from the UBS Wealth Management Americas branch network.

**Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc. ( TWPG )** On July 1, 2010, we acquired TWPG, an investment bank focused principally on the growth sectors of the economy, which generated revenues from three principal sources: investment banking, brokerage, and asset management. The investment banking group was comprised of two primary categories of services: corporate finance and strategic advisory. The brokerage group provides equity sales and trading services to institutional investors and offers brokerage and advisory services to high net worth individuals and corporate clients. The asset management group consists of private investment funds, public equity investment products, and distribution management.

**Stone & Youngberg LLC ( Stone & Youngberg )** On October 1, 2011, we acquired Stone & Youngberg, a leading financial services firm specializing in municipal finance and fixed income securities. Stone & Youngberg's comprehensive institutional group expanded our public finance, institutional sales and trading and bond underwriting, particularly in the Arizona and California markets, and expanded our Private Client Group.

**Miller Buckfire & Co. LLC ( Miller Buckfire )** On December 20, 2012, we acquired Miller Buckfire, an investment banking firm. Miller Buckfire provides a full range of investment banking advisory services, including financial restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, and debt and equity placements.

**KBW, Inc. ( KBW )** On February 15, 2013, we acquired KBW, a leading independent authority in the banking, insurance, brokerage, asset management, mortgage banking, real estate and specialty finance sectors. KBW maintained industry-leading positions in research, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, as well as sales and trading in equities and debt securities of financial services companies.

***Business Segments***

We operate in the following segments: Global Wealth Management, Institutional Group, and Other. For a discussion of the financial results of our segments, see Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Segment Analysis.

***Narrative description of business***

As of December 31, 2012, we employed 5,343 associates, including 2,041 financial advisors, of which 151 are independent contractors. As of December 31, 2012, through our broker-dealer subsidiaries, we provide securities-related financial services to approximately 1.3 million client accounts of customers from the United States, Canada, and Europe. Our customers include individuals, corporations, municipalities, and institutions. Although we have customers throughout the United States, our major geographic area of concentration is the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, with a growing presence in the Northeast, Southeast, and Western United States. No single client accounts for a material percentage of any segment of our business. Our inventory, which we believe is of modest size and intended to turn over quickly, exists to facilitate order flow and support the investment strategies of our clients. Although we do not engage in significant proprietary trading for our own account, the inventory of securities held to facilitate customer trades and our market-making activities are sensitive to market movements. Furthermore, our balance sheet is highly liquid, without material holdings of securities that are difficult to value or remarket. We believe that our broad platform, fee-based revenues, and strong distribution network position us well to take advantage of current trends within the financial services sector.

**GLOBAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

We provide securities transaction, brokerage, and investment services to our clients through the consolidated Stifel Nicolaus branch system and through CSA. We have made significant investments in personnel and technology to grow the Private Client Group over the past ten years.





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### ***Consolidated Stifel Nicolaus Branch System***

At December 31, 2012, the Private Client Group had a network of 1,890 financial advisors located in 307 branch offices in 45 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, we have 151 independent contractors.

Our financial advisors provide a broad range of investments and services, including financial planning services to our clients. We offer equity securities; taxable and tax-exempt fixed income securities, including municipal, corporate, and government agency securities; preferred stock; and unit investment trusts. We also offer a broad range of externally managed fee-based products. In addition, we offer insurance and annuity products and investment company shares through agreements with numerous third-party distributors. We encourage our financial advisors to pursue the products and services that best fit their clients' needs and that they feel most comfortable recommending. Our private clients may choose from a traditional, commission-based structure or fee-based money management programs. In most cases, commissions are charged for sales of investment products to clients based on an established commission schedule. In certain cases, varying discounts may be given based on relevant client or trade factors determined by the financial advisor.

Our independent contractors provide the same types of financial products and services to its private clients as does Stifel Nicolaus. Under their contractual arrangements, these independent contractors may also provide accounting services, real estate brokerage, insurance, or other business activities for their own account. However, all securities transactions must be transacted through CSA. Independent contractors are responsible for all of their direct costs and are paid a larger percentage of commissions to compensate them for their added expenses. CSA is an introducing broker-dealer and, as such, clears its transactions through Stifel Nicolaus.

### ***Customer Financing***

Client securities transactions are effected on either a cash or margin basis. When securities are purchased on a margin basis, the customer deposits less than the full cost of the security in their account. We make a loan to the customer for the balance of the purchase price. Such loans are collateralized by the purchased securities. The amounts of the loans are subject to the margin requirements of Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ( FINRA ) margin requirements, and our internal policies, which usually are more restrictive than Regulation T or FINRA requirements. In permitting customers to purchase securities on margin, we are subject to the risk of a market decline, which could reduce the value of our collateral below the amount of the customers' indebtedness.

We offer securities-based lending through Stifel Bank, which allows clients to borrow money against the value of qualifying securities for any suitable purpose other than purchasing, trading, or carrying marketable securities or refinancing margin debt. We establish approved lines and advance rates against qualifying securities and monitor limits daily and, pursuant to such guidelines, require customers to deposit additional collateral, or reduce debt positions, when necessary. Factors considered in the review of securities-based lending are the amount of the loan, the degree of concentrated or restricted positions, and the overall evaluation of the portfolio to ensure proper diversification, or, in the case of concentrated positions, appropriate liquidity of the underlying collateral or potential hedging strategies. Underlying collateral for securities-based loans is reviewed with respect to the liquidity of the proposed collateral positions, valuation of securities, historic trading range, volatility analysis and an evaluation of industry concentrations.

### ***Stifel Bank***

In April 2007, we completed the acquisition of First Service, a St. Louis-based full-service bank, which now operates as Stifel Bank & Trust and is reported in the Global Wealth Management segment. Since the closing of the bank acquisition, we have grown retail and commercial bank assets from \$145.6 million on acquisition date to \$3.7 billion at December 31, 2012. Through Stifel Bank, we offer retail and commercial banking services to private and corporate clients, including personal loan programs, such as fixed and variable mortgage loans, home equity lines of credit, personal loans, loans secured by CDs or savings, and securities-based loans, as well as commercial lending programs, such as small business loans, commercial real estate loans, lines of credit, credit cards, term loans, and inventory and receivables financing, in addition to other banking products. We believe Stifel Bank not only helps us serve our private clients more effectively by offering them a broader range of services, but also enables us to better utilize our private client cash balances.

### ***Stifel Trust***

During 2011, we received approval from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ( OCC ) to form a trust company. Stifel Trust provides a wide range of trust, investment, agency and custodial services for our individual and corporate clients.



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### **INSTITUTIONAL GROUP**

The Institutional Group segment includes research, equity and fixed income institutional sales and trading, investment banking, public finance, and syndicate, and consisted of 1,134 employees at December 31, 2012.

#### ***Research***

Our research department consisted of 207 analysts and support associates who publish research across multiple industry groups and provide our clients with timely, insightful, and actionable research, aimed at improving investment performance.

#### ***Institutional Sales and Trading***

Our equity sales and trading team distributes our proprietary equity research products and communicates our investment recommendations to our client base of institutional investors, executes equity trades, sells the securities of companies for which we act as an underwriter, and makes a market in domestic securities. In our various sales and trading activities, we take a focused approach on servicing our clients by maintaining inventory to facilitate order flow and support the investment strategies of our institutional fixed income clients, as opposed to seeking trading profits through proprietary trading. Located in various cities in the United States as well as Geneva, London, Madrid, Toronto and Calgary, our equity sales and trading team, consisting of 199 professionals and support associates, services approximately 2,000 clients globally.

The fixed income institutional sales and trading group consists of 255 professionals and support associates and is comprised of taxable and tax-exempt sales departments. Our institutional sales and trading group executes trades in both tax-exempt and taxable products, with diversification across municipal, corporate, government agency, and mortgage-backed securities.

#### ***Investment Banking***

Our investment banking activities include the provision of financial advisory services principally with respect to mergers and acquisitions and the execution of public offerings and private placements of debt and equity securities. The investment banking group, consisting of 289 professionals and support associates, focuses on middle-market companies as well as on larger companies in targeted industries where we have particular expertise, which include real estate, financial services, healthcare, aerospace/defense and government services, telecommunications, transportation, energy, business services, consumer services, industrial, technology, and education.

Our public finance group, consisting of 108 professionals and support staff, acts as an underwriter and dealer in bonds issued by states, cities, and other political subdivisions and acts as manager or participant in offerings managed by other firms.

#### ***Syndicate***

Our syndicate department coordinates marketing, distribution, pricing, and stabilization of our managed equity and debt offerings. In addition, the department coordinates our underwriting participations and selling group opportunities managed by other investment banking firms.

### **OTHER SEGMENT**

The Other segment includes interest income from stock borrow activities, unallocated interest expense, interest income and gains and losses from investments held, compensation expense associated with the deferred compensation plan modification, and all unallocated overhead cost associated with the execution of orders; processing of securities transactions; custody of client securities; receipt, identification, and delivery of funds and securities; compliance with regulatory and legal requirements; internal financial accounting and controls; and general administration and acquisition charges. At December 31, 2012, we employed 694 persons in this segment.

### **BUSINESS CONTINUITY**

We have developed a business continuity plan that is designed to permit continued operation of business critical functions in the event of disruptions to our St. Louis, Missouri headquarters facility. Several critical business applications are supported by our outside vendors who maintain backup capabilities. We periodically participate in testing these backup facilities. Likewise, the business functions that we run internally can be supported without the St. Louis headquarters, through a combination of redundant computer facilities in other east and west coast data centers, and from certain branch locations that can connect to our third-party securities processing vendor through its primary or redundant facilities. Systems have been designed so that we can route mission-critical processing activity to alternate locations, which can be

staffed with relocated personnel as appropriate.

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**GROWTH STRATEGY**

We believe our strategy for growth will allow us to increase our revenues and to expand our role with clients as a valued partner. In executing our growth strategy, we take advantage of the consolidation among mid-tier firms, which we believe provides us opportunities in our private client and capital markets businesses. We do not create specific growth or business plans for any particular type of acquisition, focus on specific firms, or geographic expansion, nor do we establish quantitative goals such as intended numbers of new hires or new office openings; however, our corporate philosophy has always been to be in a position to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. We intend to pursue the following strategies with discipline:

*Further expand our private client footprint in the U.S.* We have expanded the number of our private client branches from 39 at December 31, 1997 to 307 at December 31, 2012, and our branch-based financial advisors from 262 to 1,890 over the same period. In addition, assets under management have grown from \$11.7 billion at December 31, 1997 to \$137.9 billion at December 31, 2012. Through organic growth and acquisitions, we currently have a strong footprint nationally, concentrated in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, with a growing presence in the Northeast, Southeast, and Western United States. Over time, we plan to further expand our domestic private client footprint. We plan on achieving this through recruiting experienced financial advisors with established client relationships and continuing to selectively consider acquisition opportunities as they may arise.

*Further expand our institutional equity business both domestically and internationally.* Our institutional equity business is built upon the premise that high-quality fundamental research is not a commodity. The growth of our business over the last 10 years has been fueled by the effective partnership of our highly rated research and institutional sales and trading teams. We have identified opportunities to expand our research capabilities by taking advantage of market disruptions. As a result, we have grown from 43 analysts covering 513 companies in 2005 to 86 analysts covering over 1,200 companies at December 31, 2012. In addition, as of December 31, 2012, our research department was ranked the second largest research department, as measured by domestic equities under coverage, by StarMine. Our goal is to further monetize our research platform by adding additional institutional sales and trading teams and by placing a greater emphasis on client management.

*Grow our investment banking business.* By leveraging our industry expertise, our product knowledge, our research platform, our experienced associates, our capital markets strength, our middle-market focus, and our private client network, we intend to grow our investment banking business. With the merger with TWPG in 2010 and our acquisition of Miller Buckfire in 2012, we have accelerated the growth of our investment banking business through expanded industry, product, and geographic coverage, including capital-raising for start-up companies, particularly from the venture community. We believe our position as a mid-tier focused investment bank with broad-based and respected research will allow us to take advantage of opportunities in the middle-market and continue to align our investment banking coverage with our research footprint.

*Focus on asset generation within our Stifel Bank operations and offer retail and commercial banking services to our clients.* We believe the banking services provided through Stifel Bank strengthens our existing client relationships and helps us recruit financial advisors seeking to provide a full range of services to their private clients. We intend to increase the sale of banking products and services to our private and corporate clients.

*Establishment of Stifel Trust Company N.A.* During 2011 we received approval from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ( OCC ) to form a Trust Company. Stifel Trust provides a wide range of trust, investment, agency and custodial services for our individual and corporate clients. We intend to expand our offering of trust services to our private client group clients.

*Approach acquisition opportunities with discipline.* Over the course of our operating history, we have demonstrated our ability to identify, effect, and integrate attractive acquisition opportunities. We believe the current environment and market dislocation will provide us with the ability to thoughtfully consider acquisitions on an opportunistic basis.



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### **COMPETITION**

We compete with other securities firms, some of which offer their customers a broader range of brokerage services, have substantially greater resources, and may have greater operating efficiencies. In addition, we face increasing competition from other financial institutions, such as commercial banks, online service providers, and other companies offering financial services. The Financial Modernization Act, signed into law in late 1999, lifted restrictions on banks and insurance companies, permitting them to provide financial services once dominated by securities firms. In addition, recent consolidation in the financial services industry may lead to increased competition from larger, more diversified organizations.

We rely on the expertise acquired in our market area over our 122-year history, our personnel, and our equity capital to operate in the competitive environment.

### **REGULATION**

#### **Financial Holding Company Regulation**

Under U.S. law, we are a bank holding company that has elected to be a financial holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended ( BHCA ). Consequently, our company and its business activities are subject to the supervision, examination, and regulation of the Federal Reserve Board. The BHCA and other federal laws subject bank and financial holding companies to particular restrictions on the types of activities in which they may engage and to a range of supervisory requirements and activities, including regulatory enforcement actions for violations of laws and regulations. Supervision and regulation of bank holding companies, financial holding companies, and their subsidiaries are intended primarily for the protection of depositors and other clients of banking subsidiaries, the deposit insurance fund of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ( FDIC ), and the banking system as a whole, not for the protection of stockholders or other creditors.

As a financial holding company, we are permitted (1) to engage in other activities that the Federal Reserve Board, working with the Secretary of the Treasury, determines to be financial in nature, incidental to an activity that is financial in nature, or complementary to a financial activity and that do not pose a substantial risk to the safety and soundness of depository institutions or the financial system generally, or (2) to acquire shares of companies engaged in such activities. We may not, however, directly or indirectly acquire the ownership or control of more than 5% of any class of voting shares, or substantially all of the assets, of a bank holding company or a bank, without the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board.

In order to maintain our status as a financial holding company, we must remain well capitalized and well managed under applicable regulations. Failure to meet one or more of the requirements would mean, depending on the requirements not met, that we could not undertake new activities, make acquisitions other than those permitted generally for bank holding companies, or continue certain activities.

#### **Subsidiary Regulation**

The securities industry in the United States is subject to extensive regulation under federal and state laws. The Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) is the federal agency charged with the administration of the federal securities laws. Much of the regulation of broker-dealers, however, has been delegated to self-regulatory organizations ( SRO ), principally FINRA, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, and securities exchanges. SROs adopt rules (which are subject to approval by the SEC) that govern the industry and conduct periodic examinations of member broker-dealers. Securities firms are also subject to regulation by state securities commissions in the states in which they are registered. A number of changes have been proposed to the rules and regulations that govern our securities business, and other rules and regulations have been adopted, which may result in changes in the way we conduct our business.

As a result of federal and state registration and SRO memberships, broker-dealers are subject to overlapping schemes of regulation that cover all aspects of their securities businesses. Such regulations cover matters including capital requirements; uses and safekeeping of clients' funds; conduct of directors, officers, and employees; recordkeeping and reporting requirements; supervisory and organizational procedures intended to ensure compliance with securities laws and to prevent improper trading on material nonpublic information; employee-related matters, including qualification and licensing of supervisory and sales personnel; limitations on extensions of credit in securities transactions; clearance and settlement procedures; requirements for the registration, underwriting, sale, and distribution of securities; and rules of the SROs designed to promote high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade. A particular focus of the applicable regulations concerns the relationship between broker-dealers and their customers. As a result, many aspects of





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the broker-dealer customer relationship are subject to regulation, including, in some instances, suitability determinations as to certain customer transactions, limitations on the amounts that may be charged to customers, timing of proprietary trading in relation to customers' trades, and disclosures to customers.

Additional legislation, changes in rules promulgated by the SEC and by SROs, and changes in the interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and rules often directly affect the method of operation and profitability of broker-dealers. The SEC and the SROs conduct regular examinations of our broker-dealer subsidiaries and also initiate targeted and other specific inquiries from time to time, which generally include the investigation of issues involving substantial portions of the securities industry. The SEC and the SROs may conduct administrative proceedings, which can result in censures, fines, suspension, or expulsion of a broker-dealer, its officers, or employees. The principal purpose of regulation and discipline of broker-dealers is the protection of customers and the securities markets rather than the protection of creditors and stockholders of broker-dealers.

Our U.S. broker-dealer subsidiaries are required by federal law to belong to Securities Investors Protection Corporation (SIPC). When the SIPC fund falls below a certain amount, members are required to pay annual assessments to replenish the reserves. If SIPC fund levels become inadequate, certain of our domestic broker-dealer subsidiaries may be required to pay a special assessment.

Stifel Bank is a Missouri State Bank, its deposits are insured by the FDIC up to the maximum authorized limit, and it is subject to regulation by the FDIC, as well as by the Missouri Division of Finance.

Several of our wholly owned subsidiaries, including Missouri Valley Partners, Choice Financial Partners, Inc., Thomas Weisel Capital Management LLC, Thomas Weisel Asset Management LLC, Timberline Asset Management LLC, and Thomas Weisel Global Growth Partners LLC, are registered as investment advisers with the SEC and, therefore, are subject to its regulation and oversight.

Stifel Trust is subject to regulation by the OCC. This regulation focuses on, among other things, ensuring the safety and soundness of Stifel Trust's fiduciary services.

### **Non-U.S. Regulation**

Our non-U.S. subsidiaries are subject to the laws and regulatory authorities of the jurisdictions in which they operate. SN Canada, our registered Canadian broker-dealer subsidiary, is subject to regulation by the securities commissions of Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia; is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC); and is a participating organization of the Toronto Stock Exchange, a member of the TSX Venture Exchange, and a dealer with the Canadian National Stock Exchange.

The financial services industry in Canada is subject to comprehensive regulation under both federal and provincial laws. Securities commissions have been established in all provinces and territorial jurisdictions which are charged with the administration of securities laws. Investment dealers in Canada are also subject to regulation by SROs, which are responsible for the enforcement of, and conformity with, securities legislation for their members and have been granted the powers to prescribe their own rules of conduct and financial requirements of members.

SN Canada is required by the IIROC to belong to the Canadian Investors Protection Fund (CIPF), whose primary role is investor protection. The CIPF Board of Directors determines the fund size required to meet its coverage obligations and sets a quarterly assessment rate. The CIPF provides protection for securities and cash held in client accounts. This coverage does not protect against market fluctuations.

Our European subsidiary, SNEL, is subject to the regulatory supervision and requirements of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the United Kingdom and several UK securities and futures exchanges, including the London Stock Exchange. The FSA exercises broad supervisory and disciplinary powers that include the power to temporarily or permanently revoke authorization to conduct a regulated business upon breach of the relevant regulations, suspend registered employees, and impose censures and fines on both regulated businesses and their regulated employees. SNEL operates a representative office in Geneva, Switzerland and a branch office in Madrid, Spain through pass-porting the FSA license to these European locations. In addition to the FSA, these offices are subject to the local regulations of their respective jurisdictions.

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### **The Dodd-Frank Act**

On July 21, 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ( *Dodd-Frank Act* ) was signed into law. The Dodd-Frank Act will have a broad impact on the financial services industry and will impose significant new regulatory and compliance requirements, including the designation of certain financial companies as systemically significant, the imposition of increased capital, leverage, and liquidity requirements, and numerous other provisions designed to improve supervision and oversight of, and strengthen safety and soundness within, the financial services sector. Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act establishes a new framework of authority to conduct systemic risk oversight within the financial system to be distributed among new and existing federal regulatory agencies, including the Financial Stability Oversight Council, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Reserve Board, the OCC, and the FDIC.

The following items provide a brief description of certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act that are most relevant to our company.

*Mortgage Loan Origination and Risk Retention.* The Dodd-Frank Act contains additional regulatory requirements that may affect Stifel Bank's operations and result in increased compliance costs. For example, the Dodd-Frank Act imposes new standards for mortgage loan originations on all lenders, including banks and thrifts, in an effort to require steps to verify a borrower's ability to repay.

*Proprietary Trading.* The Dodd-Frank Act adopts the so-called *Volcker Rule* which, subject to a transition period and certain exceptions, prohibits a banking entity from engaging in *proprietary trading*, which is defined as engaging as principal for the trading account of the banking entity in securities or other instruments as determined by federal regulators. Certain forms of proprietary trading may qualify as *permitted activities*, and thus not be subject to the ban on proprietary trading, such as *market-making-related activities*, *risk-mitigating hedging activities*, and trading in U.S. government or agency obligations, certain other U.S., state or municipal obligations, and the obligations of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae. After the transition period, the *Volcker Rule* prohibitions and restrictions will apply to banking entities, including our company, unless an exception applies. The scope of the *Volcker Rule* will be more fully defined and implemented over a multi-year period through rulemakings by several federal agencies. As such, we cannot fully assess the impact of the *Volcker Rule* on our business until final rules and regulations are adopted.

*Swaps and Derivatives.* The Dodd-Frank Act requires new regulations for the over-the-counter derivatives market, including requirements for clearing, exchange trading, capital, margin, and reporting. In addition, certain swaps and derivatives activities are required to be *pushed out* of insured depository institutions and conducted in non-bank affiliates. Rulemaking will also require certain persons to register as a *major swap participant* or a *swap dealer*, and will further clarify what swaps are required to be centrally cleared and settled. Rules will also be issued to enhance the oversight of payment, clearing and settlement entities.

*Expanded FDIC Resolution Authority.* While insured depository institutions have long been subject to the FDIC's resolution process, the Dodd-Frank Act creates a new mechanism for the FDIC to conduct the orderly liquidation of certain *covered financial companies*, including bank holding companies and systemically significant non-bank financial companies. Upon certain findings being made, the FDIC may be appointed receiver for a covered financial company, and would be tasked to conduct an orderly liquidation of the entity. The FDIC liquidation process is modeled on the existing Federal Deposit Insurance Act ( *FDIA* ) bank resolution regulations, and generally gives the FDIC more discretion than in the traditional non-bank bankruptcy context.

*Corporate Governance and Executive Compensation.* The Dodd-Frank Act includes various provisions dealing with corporate governance and executive compensation issues, including *say on pay*, *proxy access*, *broker voting*, *compensation committees*, *clawbacks*, *new disclosure* and additional requirements for financial institutions.

Many of the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act will be implemented pursuant to regulations over the course of several months or years. Given the uncertainty associated with future regulatory actions, the full impact such requirements will have on our company's operations is unclear. The changes resulting from the Dodd-Frank Act may impact our profitability, require changes to certain of our business practices, impose upon us more stringent capital, liquidity and leverage requirements, and could adversely affect certain of our company's business activities. These changes may also require us to invest significant management attention and resources to evaluate and make any changes necessary to comply with new requirements.



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### **Capital Requirements**

Our company, as a bank and financial holding company, is subject to regulation, including capital requirements, by the Federal Reserve. Stifel Bank is subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the FDIC and state banking authorities. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on our company's and Stifel Bank's financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, our company and Stifel 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. Our company's and Stifel Bank's 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 our company and Stifel Bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios of total and Tier 1 capital (as defined in the regulations) to risk-weighted assets (as defined), and Tier 1 capital (as defined) to average assets (as defined).

Our broker-dealer subsidiaries are subject to the Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1) promulgated by the SEC. The Uniform Net Capital Rule is designed to measure the general financial integrity and liquidity of a broker-dealer and the minimum net capital deemed necessary to meet the broker-dealer's continuing commitments to its customers and other broker-dealers. Broker-dealers may be prohibited from expanding their business and declaring cash dividends. A broker-dealer that fails to comply with the Uniform Net Capital Rule may be subject to disciplinary actions by the SEC and SROs, such as FINRA, including censures, fines, suspension, or expulsion. Our non-U.S. subsidiaries are subject to regulatory supervision and requirements of the authorities of the jurisdictions in which they operate.

For further discussion of our net capital requirements, see Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources.

### **Public Company Regulation**

As a public company whose common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) and the Chicago Stock Exchange ( CHX ), we are subject to corporate governance requirements established by the SEC, NYSE, and CHX, as well as federal and state law. Under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the Act ), we are required to meet certain requirements regarding business dealings with members of the Board of Directors, the structure of our Audit and Compensation Committees, ethical standards for our senior financial officers, implementation of an internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting, and additional responsibilities regarding financial statements for our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer and their assessment of our internal controls over financial reporting. Compliance with all aspects of the Act, particularly the provisions related to management's assessment of internal controls, has imposed additional costs on our company, reflecting internal staff and management time, as well as additional audit fees since the Act went into effect.

**Table of Contents****Executive Officers**

Information regarding our executive officers and their ages as of February 22, 2013, are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position(s)</b>
Ronald J. Kruszewski	54	Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Stifel Nicolaus.
Thomas W. Weisel	71	Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company.
James M. Zemlyak	53	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of the Company and Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Director of Stifel Nicolaus.
Bernard N. Burkemper	64	Senior Vice President, Treasurer, and Controller of the Company and Chief Financial Officer of Stifel Nicolaus.
S. Chad Estep	39	Senior Vice President of the Company and Chief Compliance Officer of Stifel Nicolaus.
Thomas B. Michaud	48	Senior Vice President and Director of the Company
Richard J. Himelfarb	71	Vice Chairman, Senior Vice President and Director of the Company and Executive Vice President, Chairman of Investment Banking, and Director of Stifel Nicolaus.
David M. Minnick	56	Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the Company and Stifel Nicolaus.
Thomas P. Mulroy	51	Senior Vice President and Director of the Company and Executive Vice President,  Co-Director of Institutional Group, and Director of Stifel Nicolaus.
Victor J. Nesi	52	Senior Vice President and Director of the Company and Executive Vice President,  Co-Director of Institutional Group, and Director of Stifel Nicolaus.
Ben A. Plotkin	57	Vice-Chairman, Senior Vice President and Director of the Company and Executive Vice President of Stifel Nicolaus.
David D. Sliney	43	Senior Vice President of the Company and Senior Vice President and Director of Stifel Nicolaus.

**Ronald J. Kruszewski** has been President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director of our company and Stifel Nicolaus since September 1997 and Chairman of the Board of Directors of our company and Stifel Nicolaus since April 2001. Prior thereto, Mr. Kruszewski served as Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of Baird Financial Corporation and Managing Director of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, a securities broker-dealer firm, from 1993 to September 1997.

**Thomas W. Weisel** was elected Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of our company in August 2010 after the completion of the merger between our company and Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc. Prior thereto, Mr. Weisel served as Chairman and CEO of Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc., a firm he founded, from 1998 to June 2010. Prior to founding Thomas Weisel Partners, Mr. Weisel was a founder, in 1971, of Robertson, Coleman, Siebel & Weisel that became Montgomery Securities in 1978, where he was Chairman and CEO until September 1998. Mr. Weisel served as a Board Member of the Stanford Endowment from 2001 to 2009 and as an Advisory Board Member of Harvard Business School from 2007 to 2009. Mr. Weisel served as a director on the NASDAQ Stock Market board of directors from 2002 to 2006.

**James M. Zemlyak** has been Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of our Company and Stifel Nicolaus since February 1999. Mr. Zemlyak served as our Company's Treasurer from February 1999 to January 2012. Mr. Zemlyak has been Chief Operating Officer of Stifel Nicolaus since August 2002, and Executive Vice President of Stifel Nicolaus since December 1, 2005. Mr. Zemlyak also served as Chief Financial Officer of Stifel Nicolaus from February 1999 to October 2006. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Zemlyak served as Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of Baird Financial Corporation from 1997 to 1999 and Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated from 1994 to 1999.

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**Bernard N. Burkemper** was named Senior Vice President and Treasurer of our Company in January 2012. Mr. Burkemper has been Controller of our Company since April 1991 and Chief Financial Officer of Stifel Nicolaus since October 2006.

**S. Chad Estep** was named Senior Vice President of our Company in January 2012. Mr. Estep has been Chief Compliance Officer of Stifel Nicolaus since December 2005. Mr. Estep joined Stifel Nicolaus as the Director of Internal Audit in April 2005 following the Company's acquisition of certain assets from PowellJohnson, Inc. where Mr. Estep served as the Controller from October 2002 to December 2004. Mr. Estep was employed by A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. from 2000 to 2001 where he worked as a Financial Advisor. Mr. Estep worked at J.C. Bradford & Co. as the Financial and Regulatory Reporting Manager from 1998 to 2000.

**Richard J. Himelfarb** has served as Senior Vice President and Director of our company and Executive Vice President and Director of Stifel Nicolaus since December 2005. Mr. Himelfarb was designated Chairman of Investment Banking in July 2009. Prior to that, Mr. Himelfarb served as Executive Vice President and Director of Investment Banking from December 2005 through July 2009. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Himelfarb served as a director of Legg Mason, Inc. from November 1983 and Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc. from January 2005. Mr. Himelfarb was elected Executive Vice President of Legg Mason and Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc. in July 1995, having previously served as Senior Vice President from November 1983.

**Thomas B. Michaud** was elected to the Board of Directors of our company in February 2013 after the completion of the merger between our company and KBW, Inc. Mr. Michaud serves as Senior Vice President of the Company and Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc., one of our broker-dealer subsidiaries, since February 15, 2013. Prior thereto, Mr. Michaud served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of KBW, Inc. since October 2011 and a Vice Chairman and director since its formation in August 2005. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer from August 2005 until October 2011. From 1994 until 2001, he was an elected member of the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut. The Representative Town Meeting is the legislative body for the Town of Greenwich. He is also a member of the Board of Advisors of the Greenwich Chapter of the American Red Cross, a member of the board of directors of the Foreign Policy Association, a non-profit organization, and serves on the Middlebury College Capital Campaign Committee.

**David M. Minnick** has served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of our company and Stifel Nicolaus since October 2004. Prior thereto, Mr. Minnick served as Vice President and Counsel for A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. from August 2002 through October 2004, Senior Regional Attorney for NASD Regulation, Inc. from November 2000 through July 2002, as an attorney in private law practice from September 1998 through November 2000, and as General Counsel and Managing Director of Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc. from October 1990 through August 1998.

**Thomas P. Mulroy** has served as Senior Vice President and Director of our company and Executive Vice President and Director of Stifel Nicolaus since December 2005. Mr. Mulroy was named Co-Director of our Institutional Group in July 2009. Prior to that, Mr. Mulroy served as Director of Equity Capital Markets from December 2005 through July 2009. Mr. Mulroy has responsibility for institutional equity sales, trading, and research. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Mulroy was elected Executive Vice President of Legg Mason, Inc. in July 2002 and of Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc. in November 2000. Mr. Mulroy became a Senior Vice President of Legg Mason, Inc. in July 2000 and Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc. in August 1998.

**Victor J. Nesi** has served as Senior Vice President, Director of Investment Banking, and Co-Director of our Institutional Group since July 2009. Mr. Nesi has served as Director of our company since August 2009. Mr. Nesi has responsibility for corporate finance investment banking activities and is Co-Director of our Capital Markets segment. Mr. Nesi has more than 20 years of banking and private equity experience, most recently with Merrill Lynch, where he headed the global private equity business for the telecommunications and media industry. From 2005 to 2007, he directed Merrill Lynch's investment banking group for the Americas region. Prior to joining Merrill Lynch in 1996, Mr. Nesi spent seven years as an investment banker at Salomon Brothers and Goldman Sachs.

**Ben A. Plotkin** has been Vice Chairman, Senior Vice President, and Director of our company since August 2007 and Executive Vice President of Stifel Nicolaus since February 2007. Mr. Plotkin also served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ryan Beck & Company, Inc. from 1997 until its acquisition by our company in 2007. Mr. Plotkin was elected Executive Vice President of Ryan Beck in 1990. Mr. Plotkin became a Senior Vice President of Ryan Beck in 1989 and was appointed First Vice President of Ryan Beck in December of 1987. Mr. Plotkin joined Ryan Beck in May of 1987 as a Director and Vice President in the Investment Banking Division.

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*David D. Sliney* has been a Senior Vice President of our company since May 2003. In 1997, Mr. Sliney began a Strategic Planning and Finance role with Stifel Nicolaus and has served as a Director of Stifel Nicolaus since May 2003. Mr. Sliney is also responsible for our company's Operations and Technology departments. Mr. Sliney joined Stifel Nicolaus in 1992, and between 1992 and 1995, Mr. Sliney worked as a fixed income trader and later assumed responsibility for the firm's Equity Syndicate Department.

**AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

Our internet address is [www.stifel.com](http://www.stifel.com). We make available, free of charge, through a link to the SEC web site, annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to reports filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as well as proxy statements, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

Additionally, we make available on our web site under "Investor Relations" "Corporate Governance," and in print upon request of any shareholder to our Chief Financial Officer, a number of our corporate governance documents. These include: Executive Committee charter, Audit Committee charter, Compensation Committee charter, Risk Management/Corporate Governance Committee charter, Corporate Governance Guidelines, Complaint Reporting Process, and the Code of Ethics for Employees. Within the time period required by the SEC and the NYSE, we will post on our web site any modifications to any of the available documents. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this report. Our Chief Financial Officer can be contacted at Stifel Financial Corp., One Financial Plaza, 501 N. Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri 63102, telephone: (314) 342-2000.

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**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the following factors which could materially affect our business, financial condition, or future results of operations. Although the risks described below are those that management believes are the most significant, these are not the only risks facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently do not deem to be material also may materially affect our business, financial condition, or future results of operations. We may amend or supplement these risk factors from time to time in other reports we file with the SEC.

**RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

*Damage to our reputation could damage our businesses.*

Maintaining our reputation is critical to our attracting and maintaining customers, investors and employees. If we fail to deal with, or appear to fail to deal with, various issues that may give rise to reputational risk, we could significantly harm our business prospects. These issues include, but are not limited to, any of the risks discussed in this Item 1A, appropriately dealing with potential conflicts of interest, legal and regulatory requirements, ethical issues, money laundering, privacy, record keeping, sales and trading practices, failure to sell securities we have underwritten at the anticipated price levels, and the proper identification of the legal, reputational, credit, liquidity, and market risks inherent in our products. A failure to deliver appropriate standards of service and quality, or a failure or perceived failure to treat customers and clients fairly, can result in customer dissatisfaction, litigation and heightened regulatory scrutiny, all of which can lead to lost revenue, higher operating costs and harm to our reputation. Further, negative publicity regarding us, whether or not true, may also result in harm to our prospects.

*We are affected by difficult domestic and international macroeconomic conditions that impact the global financial markets.*

We are engaged in various financial services businesses. As such, we are generally affected by domestic and international macroeconomic and political conditions, including levels of economic output, interest and inflation rates, employment levels, consumer confidence levels, and fiscal and monetary policy. These conditions may directly and indirectly impact a number of factors in the global financial markets that may be detrimental to our operating results, including the levels of trading, investing, and origination activity in the securities markets, security valuations, the absolute and relative level and volatility of interest rates, the actual and perceived quality of issuers and borrowers, and the supply of and demand for loans and deposits.

During the last five years we have experienced operating cycles during generally weak and uncertain U.S. and global economic conditions, including lower levels of economic output, artificially maintained levels of historically low interest rates, high rates of unemployment, and significant uncertainty with regards to fiscal and monetary policy both domestically and abroad. These conditions have led to several factors in the global financial markets that have negatively impacted our net revenue and profitability. While select factors indicate signs of improvement, significant uncertainty remains. A period of sustained downturns and/or volatility in the securities markets, further reductions to the general level of short term interest rates, a return to increased dislocations in the credit markets, and other negative market factors may significantly impair our revenues and profitability. We may experience a decline in commission revenue from a lower volume of trades we execute for our clients, a decline in fees from reduced portfolio values of securities managed on behalf of our clients, a reduction in revenue from the number and size of transactions in which we provide underwriting, financial advisory and other services, increased credit provisions and charge-offs, losses sustained from our customers and market participants failure to fulfill their settlement obligations, reduced net interest earnings, and other losses. These periods of reduced revenue and other losses may be accompanied by periods of reduced profitability because certain of our expenses including but not limited to our interest expense on debt, rent, facilities and salary expenses are fixed and, our ability to reduce them over short periods of time is limited.

In August 2011, the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) lowered its long term sovereign credit rating on the U.S. from AAA to AA+, while maintaining a negative outlook. The downgrade reflected S&P's view that an August 2011 agreement of U.S. lawmakers regarding the debt ceiling fell short of what would be necessary to stabilize the U.S. government's medium term debt dynamics. The two other major credit rating agencies did not downgrade their previously issued U.S. sovereign credit ratings. We have specific concerns relating to future or further downgrades of the U.S. sovereign credit rating by one or more of the major credit rating agencies that could have material adverse impacts on financial markets and economic conditions in the U.S. and throughout the world and, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial



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condition and liquidity. Because of the unprecedented nature of any negative credit rating actions with respect to U.S. government obligations, the ultimate impacts on global markets and our business, financial condition and liquidity are unpredictable and may not be immediately apparent.

Additionally, the negative impact on economic conditions and global markets from further European Union ( EU ) sovereign debt matters could adversely affect our business, financial condition and liquidity. Concerns about the EU sovereign debt have caused uncertainty and disruption for financial markets globally, and continued uncertainties loom over the outcome the EU 's financial support programs and the possibility that other EU member states may experience similar financial troubles.

Our businesses and earnings are affected by the fiscal and other policies adopted by various regulatory authorities of the U.S., non-U.S. governments, and international agencies. The Fed regulates the supply of money and credit in the U.S. Fed policies determine in large part the cost of funds for lending and investing and the return earned on those loans and investments. The market impact from such policies can also materially decrease the value of certain of our financial asse