

AZTAR CORP
Form 10-K
February 28, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 30, 2004

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-5440

AZTAR CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

86-0636534

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

2390 East Camelback Road, Suite 400, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

(602) 381-4100

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

| <u>Title of each class</u> | <u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Common stock, \$.01 par value | New York |
| Preferred share purchase rights | New York |

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

None

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

Facing Page (Continued)

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 is an accelerated filer (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$964,711,454 at July 1, 2004 and is based on a closing price of \$28.08 and 34,355,821 common shares outstanding.

At February 8, 2005, the registrant had outstanding 34,781,585 shares of its common stock, \$.01 par value.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Certain information contained in the registrant's 2005 definitive Proxy Statement, to be filed with the Commission, is incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K. The following cross-referenced index details the location of such information. All other sections of the 2005 Proxy Statement are not required in Form 10-K and should not be considered a part thereof.

Part and Item of the Form 10-K

2005 Proxy Statement

PART III

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| <u>ITEM 10.</u> | Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant | Under the captions "ELECTION OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY," "THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES" and "AUDIT COMMITTEE" |
| <u>ITEM 11.</u> | Executive Compensation | Under the caption "EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION" |
| <u>ITEM 12.</u> | Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters | Under the caption "SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL HOLDERS AND DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS" |
| <u>ITEM 14.</u> | Principal Accountant Fees and Services | Under the caption "INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS" |

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Aztar Corporation was incorporated in Delaware in June 1989 to operate the gaming business of Ramada Inc. after the restructuring of Ramada Inc. The terms "Aztar", "we", "our", and "us", as used in this Form 10-K, refer to Aztar Corporation and its subsidiaries as a combined entity, except where it is clear that these terms mean only Aztar Corporation.

The restructuring of Ramada Inc. involved the disposition of Ramada Inc.'s hotel and restaurant businesses with Ramada Inc.'s shareholders retaining their interest in the gaming business. As part of the restructuring of Ramada Inc., the gaming business and certain other assets and liabilities of Ramada Inc. were transferred to Aztar, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of New World Hotels (U.S.A.), Inc. was merged with Ramada Inc. In this merger, each

share of Ramada Inc. common stock was converted into the right to receive \$1.00 and one share of Aztar common stock.

Aztar operates in major domestic gaming markets with casino hotel facilities in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Las Vegas and Laughlin, Nevada. Aztar operates riverboat casinos in Caruthersville, Missouri, and Evansville, Indiana. Aztar is an experienced developer and operator of casinos that provide an excellent gaming environment. Each of our casinos is designed and operated to serve the unique demographics of its particular market.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

You may obtain access, free of charge, to our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports through our internet website, www.aztar.com, as soon as reasonably practicable after those reports are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In addition, our code of ethics, our corporate governance guidelines, our charters for the audit committee, compensation and stock option committee and corporate governance and nominating committee, our code of business conduct and ethics and our audit committee complaint(s) procedures are available on our internet website, www.aztar.com. A copy of this information may be obtained upon request, without charge, by contacting our Corporate Communications Department at (602)381-4100, or by writing to us at Aztar Corporation, Corporate Communications, 2390 E. Camelback Road, Suite 400, Phoenix, AZ 85016-3452.

TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY

Tropicana Casino and Resort encompasses approximately 14 acres of land, including the adjoining site where we completed and opened an expansion during 2004, with 220 yards of ocean frontage along the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Tropicana Atlantic City features 2,125 hotel rooms and approximately 148,000 square feet of casino space with 4,332 slot machines and 180 table games, including poker. This facility has parking facilities to accommodate 5,365 vehicles. Tropicana Atlantic City also features:

- "The Quarter at Tropicana," a 200,000-square-foot dining, entertainment and retail center, which includes nine restaurants, five entertainment facilities and twenty-six retail outlets;
- a 1,970-seat theatrical showroom which regularly presents headliner entertainment;
- approximately 85,000 square feet of meeting, convention and banquet space;

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- three gourmet restaurants and several medium-priced restaurants; and
 - other amenities including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, a health and fitness club and a jogging track.

During 2004, we completed work on an expansion of our Tropicana Atlantic City. The expansion included the addition of 502 hotel rooms, 20,000 square feet of meeting space, 2,400 parking spaces, and the Quarter, the project's centerpiece, a 200,000-square-foot dining, entertainment and retail center. The expansion had been expected to open near the end of the first quarter of 2004. Because of a construction accident, which occurred on October 30, 2003,

there was a significant delay in the completion of the project. The expansion opened in late November 2004 on a limited basis and was substantially completed by December 30, 2004. Some tenants in the Quarter opened in early 2005.

The Atlantic City gaming market has historically demonstrated continued growth despite the emergence of new gaming venues across the country. The 12 hotel casinos in Atlantic City generated approximately \$4.8 billion in gaming revenues in 2004, a 7% increase over 2003. The primary target market for Tropicana Atlantic City is the area consisting of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Based on the most recent census data, accumulated in 2000, there are approximately 27 million persons within a 120-mile radius of Atlantic City and 62 million persons within a 300-mile radius. The Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa, a major casino resort located in the Marina District of Atlantic City, opened in July 2003. Several major casino operators have announced plans to develop projects or expand existing facilities in the marina or the boardwalk areas. The Borgata has and other possible projects, when complete, will create increased competition in Atlantic City. In 2003 and 2004, the Borgata attracted new patrons to the Atlantic City gaming market, but not enough to offset their increase to the supply. However, our view is that the Borgata will continue to attract new patrons and these new projects, if well-designed and executed, may also attract new patrons to the Atlantic City gaming market. If so, this will mitigate concern about the ultimate impact on our Atlantic City operations.

TROPICANA LAS VEGAS

Tropicana Resort and Casino is located on approximately 34 acres on the "Strip" in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Tropicana has 1,871 hotel rooms and suites and approximately 61,000 square feet of casino space with 1,333 slot machines and 35 table games. The facility also has parking to accommodate approximately 2,400 vehicles. Tropicana Las Vegas also features:

- one of the world's largest indoor/outdoor swimming pools;
- a five-acre water park and tropical garden;
- approximately 110,000 square feet of convention and exhibit space;
- seven restaurants; and
- the Folies Bergere, the longest-running production show in Las Vegas.

Together with the MGM Grand, Excalibur, Luxor, Monte Carlo and New York-New York mega-resorts, the Tropicana Las Vegas is located at the intersection known as the "New Four Corners" at Las Vegas Boulevard and Tropicana Avenue. The Las Vegas gaming market consisted of approximately 132,000 hotel rooms at the end of 2004. Gaming revenues in Las Vegas were \$6.8 billion and \$6.1 billion in 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Our master plan for a potential development of our Las Vegas Tropicana site envisions the creation of two separate but essentially equal and inter-connected sites. We would develop the north site and we would hold the south site for our future development, joint venture development, or sale for development by another party. For development of a potential project on the north site, a detailed design has substantially been completed. The design calls for 2,500 hotel rooms and suites, 200,000 square feet of dining, entertainment and retail facilities, a 120,000-square-foot casino, a

3,800-car parking garage, and a four-acre rooftop pool recreation deck overlooking the Strip. We have postponed a decision about whether and when we will proceed with this development. The amount and timing of any future expenditure, and the extent of any impact on existing operations, will depend on the nature and timing of the development we ultimately undertake, if any.

RAMADA EXPRESS

Ramada Express Hotel and Casino is located on approximately 31 acres in Laughlin, Nevada. Laughlin is situated on the Colorado River at Nevada's southern tip. The Ramada Express features a Victorian-era railroad theme, which includes a train that carries guests between the parking areas and the casino hotel. The property has 1,500 hotel rooms and approximately 54,000 square feet of casino space with 1,440 slot machines and 30 table games, including poker. The facility also has parking to accommodate 2,700 vehicles. Ramada Express also features:

- five restaurants;
- a lounge; and
- special events and retail space.

The Laughlin gaming market consists of approximately 11,000 rooms and its gaming revenue for 2004 and 2003 was \$0.6 billion.

CASINO AZTAR EVANSVILLE

Casino Aztar Evansville was the first gaming facility to open in Indiana. It operates on the Ohio River in Evansville. The facility encompasses approximately 15 acres and contains approximately 38,000 square feet of casino space with 1,378 slot machines and 49 table games, including poker. Casino Aztar Evansville has a 250-room hotel, an executive conference center and parking for 1,700 vehicles. The casino riverboat is certified to carry 2,700 passengers and a crew of 300. The 44,000-square-foot pavilion which accompanies the riverboat contains passenger ticketing and pre-boarding facilities, including:

- four restaurants;
- an entertainment lounge;
- a gift shop; and
- a full-service Starbucks

Casino Aztar Evansville is located in the heart of metropolitan Evansville and has developed strong brand recognition in Southwest Indiana. The closest casino property is approximately 100 miles and over a two-hour drive away. Gaming revenue in the Southern Indiana market (five riverboats) grew by 7% in 2004 to \$1.2 billion. Although we believe that Casino Aztar Evansville has a strong base of loyal customers, future additional competition is certain since the Indiana Gaming Commission recently awarded the eleventh and final license in West Baden, Indiana to an affiliate of Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts. However, West Baden is over 70

miles from Evansville and the earliest this facility is expected to open is early 2006. The Indiana General Assembly passed legislation allowing flexible boarding that went into effect August 1, 2002. Dockside gaming increased accessibility to our casino riverboat by eliminating cruise schedules. This change incorporates a progressive wagering tax schedule and a change in admissions tax to \$3.00 per entry from \$3.00 per person per cruise. The wagering tax schedule starts at 15% of casino revenue and rises to 20%, 25%, 30% and 35% based on incremental casino revenue and based on the state's fiscal year (July 1 of one year through June 30 of the following year).

CASINO AZTAR CARUTHERSVILLE

Casino Aztar Caruthersville operates on a 37-acre site on the Mississippi River in Caruthersville, Missouri. The property is located in the "boot heel" of Missouri in close proximity to I-55, the major north-south interstate running along the Mississippi River. It serves the southeast Missouri market including the neighboring states of Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. The casino riverboat has a capacity of 1,200 passengers plus crew and contains approximately 20,000 square feet of casino space with 701 slot machines and 19 table games, including poker. The facility has parking for 1,000 vehicles including recreational vehicles. The property's passenger pavilion provides ticketing and pre-boarding facilities, including:

- a restaurant;
- a sports lounge; and
- a snack bar and other amenities.

In addition, a climate-controlled pavilion and an outdoor arena are used for exhibitions, entertainment, rodeo competitions and other events. We have some unused land at this site and we are encouraging third-party developers to develop facilities on this land that would complement our operations.

SEGMENT INFORMATION

Segment information required by Item 1 is included in this report on pages F-33 and F-34.

COMPETITION

We face intense competition in each of the markets in which our gaming facilities are located. All of our casinos primarily compete with other casinos in their geographic markets and, to a lesser extent, with casinos in other locations, including on Native American lands and on cruise ships, and with other forms of legalized gaming in the United States, including state-sponsored lotteries, racetracks, off-track wagering and card parlors. We expect this competition to intensify as new gaming operators enter our markets and existing competitors expand their operations. Some of our competitors have significantly greater financial resources than we and as a result we may not be able to successfully compete against them in the future. Several states have considered legalizing casino gaming and others may in the future. Legalization of large-scale, unlimited casino gaming in or near any major metropolitan area or increased gaming in other areas could have an adverse economic impact on the business of any or all of our gaming facilities by diverting our customers to competitors in those areas. In particular, the expansion of casino gaming in or near any geographic area from which we attract or expect to attract a significant number of our customers could have a material adverse effect on us.

Tropicana Atlantic City. Tropicana Atlantic City competes with 11 other casinos in Atlantic City. It also competes with two large Native American casinos in Connecticut. In 2004, Pennsylvania passed legislation to legalize slots at 7 horse racing tracks, 5 independent slot parlors and 2 resort slot parlors. At least four of these facilities will be in the greater Philadelphia area, an important market for our Atlantic City property. The Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa, a joint venture between Boyd Gaming Corporation and MGM Mirage, opened in July 2003, in Atlantic City's Marina District. The Borgata was the first casino to open in Atlantic City since April 1990, although many of the existing casinos have increased their gaming capacities and a few casino hotels have had major expansions. Other companies have announced a desire to open new casino hotels or expand existing properties in Atlantic City in the future. The Atlantic City market also faces additional future competition from the growing Native American casinos in Connecticut and the possibility of competition from the potential legalization of various forms of casino gaming in Delaware, Maryland and New York. In addition, New Jersey is considering whether to allow a limited number of video lottery terminals at the Meadowlands race track in northern New Jersey and slot machines have been added to race tracks in Delaware and West Virginia.

Tropicana Las Vegas. Tropicana Las Vegas operates in the intensely competitive Las Vegas market. Several major new casino hotels have opened on the Las Vegas Strip during the last several years, including Aladdin, Mandalay Bay, Venetian and Paris. Wynn Las Vegas has scheduled an opening in April 2005 and announcements have been made for other new developments. In addition, several casino hotels have opened or have been expanded in other parts of Las Vegas or near Las Vegas. We cannot assure you that we will be able to compete successfully with this additional capacity in this active market of mega-casinos.

Ramada Express. Ramada Express competes with several other casinos in Laughlin. Ramada Express also competes with casinos outside of Laughlin, including the Mojave tribe's casino hotel located approximately 8 miles south of Laughlin. The Laughlin market is also affected by the Native American casinos in Arizona and California and additional capacity in Las Vegas and the surrounding area.

Casino Aztar Evansville. Casino Aztar Evansville competes primarily with an Indiana riverboat casino in the Louisville, Kentucky market area and a riverboat casino in Metropolis, Illinois. Casino Aztar Evansville also indirectly competes with the Belterra Casino Resort, a riverboat casino in Switzerland County, Indiana. In addition, Casino Aztar Evansville competes with other Indiana riverboat casinos on the Ohio River in the Cincinnati, Ohio market area and to a lesser extent with riverboat casinos in other Indiana locations, none of which are in its primary 50-mile radius market area. Casino Aztar Evansville will face additional future competition from an eleventh Indiana riverboat license, which was awarded during 2004 in the West Baden area to an affiliate of Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts. This license was originally awarded to Lake Patoka but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will not allow a riverboat on the lake. The new riverboat, which is expected to open no earlier than 2006, will be outside of Casino Aztar Evansville's 50-mile radius market area. There is also the potential for the legalization of casino gaming in Kentucky.

Casino Aztar Caruthersville. Casino Aztar Caruthersville competes primarily with other riverboat casinos in nearby states, including a riverboat casino in Metropolis, Illinois and riverboat casinos in Mississippi that attract residents of Casino Aztar Caruthersville's secondary Memphis, Tennessee market. Casino Aztar Caruthersville also competes to a lesser extent with riverboat casinos in other cities in Missouri, none of which are in its primary 60-mile radius market area. Casino Aztar Caruthersville may also face additional future competition from the potential legalization of casino gaming in Arkansas.

General. Competition involves not only the quality of casino, room, restaurant, entertainment and convention facilities, but also room, food and beverage prices. The level of gaming activity also varies significantly from time to time depending on factors including:

- general economic conditions;
- offering of special events and promotions;
- hotel occupancies;
- the extent and quality of complimentary services to attract high-stakes players;
- in Atlantic City, casino customers arriving under bus programs;
- personal attention offered to guests and casino customers;
- advertising;
- entertainment;
- slot machine pay-out rates; and
- credit policies with respect to high-stakes players.

As a result, our operating results can be adversely affected by significant cash outlays for advertising and promotion and complimentary services to patrons, the amount and timing of which are partially dictated by the policies of competitors. If our operating revenues are insufficient to allow management the flexibility to match the promotions of competitors, the number of our casino patrons may decline, which may have an adverse effect on our financial performance.

SEASONALITY

We experience significant fluctuations in our operating results due to seasonality. Tropicana Atlantic City experiences seasonal fluctuation in casino play that is higher during the months of May through October. As a result, Aztar's revenues during the first and fourth quarters have generally been lower than for the second and third quarters and from time to time Aztar has experienced losses in the first and fourth quarters. Because Atlantic City Tropicana's operating results especially depend upon operations in the summer months, any event that adversely affects the operating results of the Atlantic City Tropicana during that period could have a material adverse effect on our operations and financial condition. Given Atlantic City's location, it is also subject to occasional adverse weather conditions including storms and hurricanes that would impede access to Atlantic City and adversely impact our operations.

The gaming markets in Las Vegas and Laughlin experience a slight decrease in gaming activity in the hot summer months and during the holiday period between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

PLAYER CREDIT

We conduct our gaming activities on a credit as well as a cash basis, except in Missouri, which prohibits gaming on a credit basis. Table games players are typically extended more credit than slot players, and high-stakes players are typically extended more credit than patrons who tend to wager lower amounts. Our credit policy varies from facility to facility based upon the various types of customers at each facility and regulatory requirements in each jurisdiction. In general, credit is extended to new credit customers after verification of certain banking information and evaluation of the customer's credit history from other casinos, the customer's income and net worth, and traditional consumer credit reports. Additional credit may be extended to existing credit customers after evaluating the above factors plus the player's prior gaming and credit history with our casino. Gaming debts are legally enforceable under the current laws of Indiana, New Jersey and Nevada; however, it is not clear that all other states or that foreign countries will honor these policies. At December 30, 2004, receivables due from non-United States customers were 12% of our accounts receivable before the allowance for doubtful accounts. We have made provisions for estimated uncollectible gaming receivables in order to reduce gaming receivables to amounts deemed to be collectible. However, our inability to collect gaming receivables could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

WORKING CAPITAL DEFICIT

Consistent with gaming industry practice, we conduct our operations with a net working capital deficit. Unlike traditional industrial companies, a gaming company's balance sheet has limited accounts receivable and inventories. In addition, casinos generate significant cash on a daily basis. We generally apply our daily cash flows to pay down indebtedness under our revolving credit facility and pay our current liabilities pursuant to their normal cycles. Given the significant daily cash flows generated by our operations and the financial flexibility provided by our credit facility, the existence of a working capital deficit has no impact on our ability to operate our business or meet our obligations as they become due.

SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE

Gaming operations at our casinos are also subject to risk of substantial loss as a result of employee or patron dishonesty, credit fraud or illegal slot machine manipulation. We have in place stringent control procedures to minimize these risks including supervision of employees, monitoring by electronic surveillance equipment and use of two-way mirrors. However, we cannot assure you that losses will not occur. In New Jersey, our activities are observed and monitored on an ongoing basis by agents of both the New Jersey Casino Control Commission and the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, each of which maintains a staff on the premises of Tropicana Atlantic City. Similarly, in Nevada our gaming subsidiaries must comply with certain regulatory requirements concerning casino and game security and surveillance. The gaming operations of Tropicana Las Vegas and Ramada Express are subject to routine audit and supervision by agents of the Nevada State Gaming Control Board. In Missouri and Indiana, our casino riverboat operations are subject to the control procedures of the Missouri Gaming Commission and the Indiana Gaming Commission, respectively. The Missouri Gaming Commission maintains a staff at Casino Aztar Caruthersville and the Indiana Gaming Commission maintains a staff at Casino Aztar Evansville.

REGULATION AND LICENSING

General

Regulatory aspects of the gaming business are pervasive in nature and the following description should not be construed as a complete summary of all the regulatory requirements faced by Aztar. Gaming authorizations, once obtained, can be suspended or revoked for a variety of reasons. If Aztar is ever precluded from operating one of its gaming facilities, it would, to the extent permitted by law, seek to recover its investment by sale of the property affected, but Aztar cannot guarantee that it would recover its full investment.

From time to time, legislative and regulatory changes are proposed, and court decisions rendered, that could be adverse to Aztar. In addition, from time to time, investigations are conducted relating to the gaming industry. We are required to report particular cash transactions to the U.S. Department of the Treasury pursuant to the Bank Secrecy Act. Violation of the reporting requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act could result in civil as well as criminal penalties, including fines, imprisonment or both, which in turn could result in the revocation, suspension, imposition of conditions upon or failure to renew the casino license of the affected facility. The States of Nevada and Indiana have adopted regulations similar to the Bank Secrecy Act that require the Nevada and Indiana facilities to document and report specific currency transactions to the Nevada State Gaming Control Board and the Indiana Gaming Commission, respectively in addition to reporting to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Violation of these regulations could result in action by Nevada or Indiana authorities to fine or revoke, suspend, impose conditions upon or fail to renew the Nevada or Indiana facilities' licenses and Aztar's licensing approval. Except to the extent of a violation as noted above, these reporting requirements are not expected to have any adverse effects on Aztar's casino operations.

Regulation and Licensing - Nevada

The ownership and operation of casino gaming facilities in Nevada are subject to (a) the Nevada Gaming Control Act and the regulations promulgated under that Act, referred to collectively as the "Nevada Act" and (b) various local regulations. The gaming operations of the Tropicana Las Vegas and Ramada Express are subject to the licensing and regulatory control of the Nevada Gaming Commission (the "Nevada Commission"), the Nevada State Gaming Control Board (the "Nevada Board") and the Clark County Liquor and Gaming Licensing Board (the "Clark County Board"). Each of the Nevada Commission, Nevada Board and Clark County Board are collectively referred to as the "Nevada Gaming Authorities".

The laws, regulations and supervisory procedures of the Nevada Gaming Authorities are based upon declarations of public policy which are concerned with, among other things:

- the prevention of unsavory or unsuitable persons from having a direct or indirect involvement with gaming at any time or in any capacity;
- the establishment and maintenance of responsible accounting practices and procedures;
- the maintenance of effective controls over the financial practices of licensees, including the establishment of minimum procedures for internal fiscal affairs and the safeguarding of assets and revenues, providing reliable record keeping and requiring the filing of periodic reports with the Nevada

Gaming Authorities;

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- the prevention of cheating and fraudulent practices; and
- the provision of a source of state and local revenues through taxation and licensing fees.

Change in these or other laws, regulations and procedures that apply to Aztar could have an adverse effect on Aztar.

Hotel Ramada of Nevada is Aztar's wholly-owned subsidiary which operates the casino at Tropicana Las Vegas. Ramada Express, Inc. is Aztar's wholly-owned subsidiary which operates the Ramada Express casino in Laughlin. Hotel Ramada of Nevada and Ramada Express are both required to be licensed by the Nevada Gaming Authorities. The gaming licenses require the periodic payment of fees and taxes and are not transferable. Aztar is registered by the Nevada Commission as a publicly traded corporation ("Registered Corporation") and is therefore required periodically to submit detailed financial and operating reports to the Nevada Commission and furnish any other information which the Nevada Commission may require. No person may become a stockholder of, or receive any percentage of profits from, Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express without first obtaining licenses and approvals from the Nevada Gaming Authorities. Aztar, Hotel Ramada of Nevada, and Ramada Express have obtained from the Nevada Gaming Authorities the various registrations, approvals, permits and licenses required in order to engage in gaming activities in Nevada.

The Nevada Gaming Authorities may investigate any individual who has a material relationship to, or material involvement with, Aztar, Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express in order to determine whether the individual is suitable or should be licensed as a business associate of a gaming licensee. Officers, directors and some key employees of Hotel Ramada of Nevada and Ramada Express must file applications with the Nevada Gaming Authorities and may be required to be licensed or found suitable by the Nevada Gaming Authorities. Some officers, directors and key employees of Aztar who are actively and directly involved in gaming activities of Hotel Ramada of Nevada and Ramada Express may be required to be licensed or found suitable by the Nevada Gaming Authorities. The Nevada Gaming Authorities may deny an application for licensing or a finding of suitability for any cause which they deem reasonable. A finding of suitability is comparable to licensing, and both require submission of detailed personal and financial information followed by a thorough investigation. The applicant for licensing or a finding of suitability, or the gaming licensee by whom the applicant is employed or for whom the applicant serves, must pay all the costs of the investigation. Changes in licensed positions must be reported to the Nevada Gaming Authorities and in addition to their authority to deny an application for a finding of suitability or licensure, the Nevada Gaming Authorities have jurisdiction to disapprove a change in a corporate position.

If the Nevada Gaming Authorities were to find an officer, director or key employee unsuitable for licensing or unsuitable to continue having a relationship with Aztar, Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express, the companies involved would have to sever all relationships with this person. In addition, the Nevada Commission may require Aztar, Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express to terminate the employment of any person who refuses to file appropriate applications. Determinations of suitability or of questions pertaining to licensing are not subject to judicial review in Nevada.

Aztar, Hotel Ramada of Nevada and Ramada Express are required to submit detailed financial and operating reports to the Nevada Commission. Substantially all material loans, leases, sales of securities and similar financing transactions by Hotel Ramada of Nevada and Ramada Express must be reported to, or approved by, the Nevada Commission.

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If it were determined that the Nevada Act was violated by Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express, the gaming licenses held by Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express could be limited, conditioned, suspended or revoked, subject to compliance with particular statutory and regulatory procedures. In addition, Hotel Ramada of Nevada, Ramada Express, Aztar and the persons involved could be subject to substantial fines for each separate violation of the Nevada Act at the discretion of the Nevada Commission. Further, a supervisor could be appointed by the Nevada Commission to operate Aztar's Nevada gaming properties and, under some circumstances, earnings generated during the supervisor's appointment (except for the reasonable rental value of Aztar's Nevada gaming properties) could be forfeited to the State of Nevada. Limitation, conditioning or suspension of any gaming license or the appointment of a supervisor could (and revocation of any gaming license would) materially adversely affect Aztar.

Any beneficial holder of Aztar's voting securities, regardless of the number of shares owned, may be required to file an application, be investigated, and have his suitability as a beneficial holder of Aztar's voting securities determined if the Nevada Commission has reason to believe that this ownership would otherwise be inconsistent with the declared policies of the State of Nevada. The applicant must pay all costs of investigation incurred by the Nevada Gaming Authorities in conducting this investigation.

The Nevada Act requires any person who acquires more than 5% of any class of Aztar's voting securities to report the acquisition to the Nevada Commission. The Nevada Act requires that beneficial owners of more than 10% of any class of Aztar's voting securities apply to the Nevada Commission for a finding of suitability within thirty days after the chairman of the Nevada Board mails the written notice requiring this filing. Under some circumstances, an "institutional investor," as defined in the Nevada Act, which acquires more than 10%, but not more than 15%, of Aztar's voting securities may apply to the Nevada Commission for a waiver of the finding of suitability if this institutional investor holds the voting securities for investment purposes only. An institutional investor will not be deemed to hold voting securities for investment purposes unless the voting securities were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business as an institutional investor and not for the purpose of causing, directly or indirectly, the election of a majority of the members of the board of directors of Aztar, any change in Aztar's corporate charter, bylaws, management, policies or operations of Aztar, or any of its gaming affiliates, or any other action which the Nevada Commission finds to be inconsistent with holding Aztar's voting securities for investment purposes only. Activities which are not deemed to be inconsistent with holding voting securities for investment purposes only include:

- voting on all matters voted on by stockholders;
- making financial and other inquiries of management of the type normally made by securities analysts for informational purposes and not to cause a change in its management, policies or operations; and
- other activities as the Nevada Commission may determine to be consistent with this investment intent.

If the beneficial holder of voting securities who must be found suitable is a corporation, partnership or trust, it must submit detailed business and financial information including a list of beneficial owners. The applicant is required to pay all costs of investigation.

Under the Nevada Act and in certain circumstances, an "institutional investor" as defined in the Nevada Act, which intends to acquire not more than 15% of any class of nonvoting securities of a privately-held corporation, limited partnership or

limited liability company that is also a registered holding or intermediary company or the holder of a gaming license, may apply to the Nevada Commission for a waiver of the usual prior licensing or finding of suitability requirement if such institutional investor holds such nonvoting securities for investment purposes only. An institutional investor shall not be deemed to hold nonvoting securities for investment purposes unless the nonvoting securities were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business as an institutional investor, do not give the institutional investor management authority, and do not, directly or indirectly, allow the institutional investor to vote for the election or appointment of members of the board of directors, a general partner or manager, cause any change in the articles of organization, operating agreement, other organic document, management, policies or operations, or cause any other action that the Nevada Commission finds to be inconsistent with holding nonvoting securities for investment purposes only. Activities that are not deemed to be inconsistent with holding nonvoting securities for investment purposes only include: (i) nominating any candidate for election or appointment to the entity's board of directors or equivalent in connection with a debt restructuring; (ii) making financial and other inquiries of management of the type normally made by securities analysts for informational purposes and not to cause a change in the entity's management, policies or operations; and (iii) such other activities as the Nevada Commission may determine to be consistent with such investment intent. If the beneficial holder of nonvoting securities who must be found suitable is a corporation, partnership or trust, it must submit detailed business and financial information including a list of beneficial owners. The applicant is required to pay all costs of investigation.

Any person who fails or refuses to apply for a finding of suitability or a license within thirty days after being ordered to do so by the Nevada Commission or the chairman of the Nevada Board, may be found unsuitable. The same restrictions apply to a record owner if the record owner, after request, fails to identify the beneficial owner. Any stockholder found unsuitable and who holds, directly or indirectly, any beneficial ownership of the common stock of a Registered Corporation beyond the period of time as may be prescribed by the Nevada Commission may be guilty of a criminal offense. Aztar is subject to disciplinary action if, after it receives notice that a person is unsuitable to be a stockholder or to have any other relationship with Aztar, Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express, Aztar:

- pays that person any dividend or interest upon its voting securities;
- allows that person to exercise, directly or indirectly, any voting right conferred through securities held by that person;
- pays remuneration in any form to that person for services rendered or otherwise; or
- fails to pursue all lawful efforts to require the unsuitable person to relinquish his voting securities for cash at fair market value.

Additionally, the Clark County Board has taken the position that it has the authority to approve all persons owning or controlling the stock of any corporation controlling a gaming license.

The Nevada Commission may, in its discretion, require the holder of any debt security of a Registered Corporation, including Aztar, to file applications, be investigated and be found suitable to own the debt security of a Registered Corporation. If the Nevada Commission determines that a person is unsuitable to own the debt security, then pursuant to the Nevada Act, the Registered Corporation

can be sanctioned, including the loss of its approvals, if without the prior approval of the Nevada Commission, it:

- pays to the unsuitable person any dividend, interest, or any distribution whatsoever;
- recognizes any voting right by such unsuitable person in connection with the securities;
- pays the unsuitable person remuneration in any form; or
- makes any payment to the unsuitable person by way of principal, redemption, conversion, exchange, liquidation, or similar transaction.

Aztar is required to maintain a current stock ledger in Nevada which may be examined by the Nevada Gaming Authorities at any time. If any securities are held in trust by an agent or by a nominee, the record holder may be required to disclose the identity of the beneficial owner to the Nevada Gaming Authorities. A failure to make such disclosure may be grounds for finding the record holder unsuitable. Aztar is also required to render maximum assistance in determining the identity of the beneficial owner. The Nevada Commission has the power to require Aztar's stock certificates to bear a legend indicating that the securities are subject to the Nevada Act. However, to date, the Nevada Commission has not imposed this requirement on Aztar.

Aztar may not make a public offering of any securities without the prior approval of the Nevada Commission if the securities or the proceeds therefrom are intended to be used to construct, acquire or finance gaming facilities in Nevada, or to retire or extend obligations incurred for these purposes. This approval, if given, does not constitute a finding, recommendation or approval by the Nevada Commission or the Nevada Board as to the accuracy or adequacy of the prospectus or the investment merits of the securities offered. Any representation to the contrary is unlawful.

On May 22, 2003, the Nevada Commission granted Aztar prior approval to make public offerings for a period of two years subject to some conditions (the "Shelf Approval"). However, the Shelf Approval may be rescinded for good cause without prior notice upon the issuance of an interlocutory stop order by the chairman of the Nevada Board. The Shelf Approval does not constitute a finding, recommendation or approval by the Nevada Commission or the Nevada Board as to the accuracy or adequacy of the prospectus or the investment merits of the securities offered. Any representation to the contrary is unlawful.

Changes in control of Aztar through merger, consolidation, stock or asset acquisitions, management or consulting agreements, or any act or conduct by a person whereby he obtains control, may not occur without the prior approval of the Nevada Commission. Entities seeking to acquire control of a Registered Corporation must satisfy the Nevada Board and Nevada Commission in a variety of stringent standards prior to assuming control of the Registered Corporation. The Nevada Commission may also require controlling stockholders, officers, directors and other persons having a material relationship or involvement with the entity proposing to acquire control, to be investigated and licensed as part of the approval process relating to the transaction.

The Nevada legislature has declared that some corporate acquisitions opposed by management, repurchases of voting securities and corporate defense tactics affecting Nevada gaming licensees and Registered Corporations that are affiliated with those operations, may be injurious to stable and productive corporate gaming. The Nevada Commission has established a regulatory scheme to ameliorate the

potentially adverse effects of these business practices upon Nevada's gaming industry and to further Nevada's policy to:

- assure the financial stability of corporate gaming operators and their affiliates;
- preserve the beneficial aspects of conducting business in the corporate form; and
- promote a neutral environment for the orderly governance of corporate affairs.

Approvals are, in some circumstances, required from the Nevada Commission before Aztar can make exceptional repurchases of voting securities above the current market price thereof and before a corporate acquisition opposed by management can be consummated. The Nevada Act also requires prior approval of a plan of recapitalization proposed by Aztar's board of directors in response to a tender offer made directly to the Registered Corporation's stockholders for the purposes of acquiring control of the Registered Corporation.

License fees and taxes, computed in various ways depending on the type of gaming or activity involved, are payable to the State of Nevada and to the counties and cities in which the Nevada licensee's respective operations are conducted. Depending upon the particular fee or tax involved, these fees and taxes are payable either monthly, quarterly or annually and are based upon:

- a percentage of the gross revenues received;
- the number of gaming devices operated; or
- the number of table games operated.

An excise tax is also paid by Hotel Ramada of Nevada and Ramada Express on charges for admission to any facility where certain forms of live entertainment are provided.

Any person who is licensed, required to be licensed, registered, required to be registered or is under common control with these persons (a "Licensee", or collectively, "Licensees"), and who proposes to become involved in a gaming venture outside of Nevada is required to deposit with the Nevada Board, and thereafter maintain, a revolving fund in the amount of \$10,000 to pay the expenses of investigation of the Nevada Board of their participation in this foreign gaming. The revolving fund is subject to increase or decrease in the discretion of the Nevada Commission. Thereafter, Licensees are required to comply with specific reporting requirements imposed by the Nevada Act. Licensees are also subject to disciplinary action by the Nevada Commission if they knowingly violate any laws of the foreign jurisdiction pertaining to the foreign gaming operation, fail to conduct the foreign gaming operation in accordance with the standards of honesty and integrity required of Nevada gaming operations, engage in any activity or enter into any association that is unsuitable because it poses an unreasonable threat to the control of gaming in Nevada, reflects or tends to reflect discredit or disrepute upon the State of Nevada or gaming in Nevada, or is contrary to the gaming policies of Nevada, engage in any activity or enter into any association that interferes with the ability of the State of Nevada to collect gaming taxes and fees, or employ, contract with or associate with any person in the foreign gaming operation who has been denied a license or a finding of suitability in Nevada on the ground of personal unsuitability, or who has been found guilty of cheating at gambling.

The sale of alcoholic beverages by Hotel Ramada of Nevada and Ramada Express is subject to licensing, control and regulation by the Clark County Board. All licenses are revocable and are not transferable. The Clark County Board has full power to limit, condition, suspend or revoke any license, and any disciplinary action could (and revocation would) have a material adverse effect upon the operations of Aztar, Hotel Ramada of Nevada or Ramada Express.

Regulation and Licensing - New Jersey

The ownership and operation of casino hotel facilities and gaming activities in Atlantic City, New Jersey, are subject to extensive state regulation under the New Jersey Casino Control Act, referred to as the "New Jersey Act," and the regulations of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission, referred to as the "New Jersey Commission."

The New Jersey Act and regulations concern primarily the financial stability and character of casino licensees, their intermediary and holding companies, their employees, their security holders and others financially interested in casino operations, the nature of hotel and casino facilities and a wide range of gaming and non-gaming related operations. The New Jersey Act and regulations include detailed provisions concerning, among other things:

- financial and accounting practices used in connection with casino operations;
- residence and equal employment opportunities for employees of casino operators, contractors and other vendors for casino facilities and others;
- rules of games, levels of supervision of games and methods of selling and redeeming chips;
- manner of granting credit, duration of credit and enforceability of gaming debts;
- manufacture, distribution and sale of gaming equipment;
- security standards;
- management control procedures;
- accounting and cash control methods;
- reports to gaming authorities;
- advertising of casinos; and
- standards for entertainment and distribution of alcoholic beverages in casinos.

The New Jersey Act also established the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, referred to as the "New Jersey Division," to investigate all license applications, enforce the provisions of the New Jersey Act and attendant regulations and prosecute all proceedings for violations of the New Jersey Act and regulations before the New Jersey Commission. The New Jersey Division also conducts audits and continuing reviews of all casino operations.

Adamar of New Jersey, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aztar, has been licensed (subject to quadrennial renewal) by the New Jersey Commission to operate Tropicana Atlantic City. In November 1982, the New Jersey Commission granted a plenary

license to Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. In November 2003, the license was renewed for a period of four years, subject to the condition that Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. and Aztar provide the New Jersey Commission and the New Jersey Division with revised financial forecasts for the first two years of the license term by February 10, 2004. The revised financial forecasts were required to supplement previously filed financial forecasts to reflect a revised projected opening date for the expansion of the Tropicana Atlantic City which was delayed as a result of an accident which occurred on October 30, 2003 at the site of the construction of the parking-garage component of the expansion. The revised financial forecasts have been submitted in accordance with the license condition and the New Jersey Division indicated its satisfaction that Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. and Aztar maintained the requisite financial stability, integrity and responsibility and recommended against reopening the hearing on Adamar of New Jersey, Inc.'s casino license. Accordingly, the New Jersey Commission has not found any adverse impact on the financial stability of Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. and Aztar in view of those revised forecasts.

Aztar and Ramada New Jersey Holdings Corporation, another of Aztar's New Jersey gaming subsidiaries, have been approved as qualified holding companies for Adamar of New Jersey, Inc.'s casino license. Officers and directors of Aztar, Ramada New Jersey Holdings Corporation and Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. and employees who work at casino hotel facilities operated by Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. also have been or must be qualified, licensed or registered. In addition, all contracts affecting the facilities are subject to approval, and all enterprises that conduct business with Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. must register with the New Jersey Commission and those enterprises that conduct gaming related businesses or that conduct business on a regular and continuing basis, as defined by the regulations under the New Jersey Act, must be licensed by the New Jersey Commission.

The New Jersey Commission has broad discretion regarding the issuance, renewal, revocation and suspension of casino licenses. Casino licenses are not transferable. A casino hotel facility must also continually satisfy specific requirements concerning, among other things, the number of qualifying sleeping units and the relationship between the number of qualifying sleeping units and the square footage of casino space. Aztar believes that Tropicana Atlantic City continues to meet these requirements.

The New Jersey Act further provides that each person who directly or indirectly holds any beneficial interest or ownership of the securities issued by a casino licensee or any of its intermediary or holding companies, those persons who, in the opinion of the New Jersey Commission, have the ability to control the casino licensee or its intermediary or holding companies or elect a majority of the board of directors of said companies, other than a banking or other licensed lending institution which makes a loan or holds a mortgage or other lien acquired in the ordinary course of business, and lenders and underwriters of said companies may be required to seek qualification from the New Jersey Commission. However, because Aztar is a publicly traded holding company, in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Act, a waiver of qualification may be granted by the New Jersey Commission, with the concurrence of the director of the New Jersey Division, if it is determined that said persons or entities are not significantly involved in the activities of Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. and, in the case of security holders, do not have the ability to control Aztar or elect one or more of its directors. There exists a rebuttable presumption that any person holding 5% or more of the equity securities of a casino licensee's intermediary or holding company or a person having the ability to elect one or more of the directors of such a company has the ability to control the company and thus must obtain qualification from the New Jersey Commission.

Notwithstanding this presumption of control, the New Jersey Act provides for a waiver of qualification for passive

"institutional investors," as defined by the New Jersey Act, if the institutional investor purchased the securities for investment purposes only and where the securities constitute:

- less than 10% of the equity securities of a casino licensee's holding or intermediary company; or
- debt securities of a casino licensee's holding or intermediary company representing a percentage of the outstanding debt of the company not exceeding 20% or a percentage of any issue of the outstanding debt of the company not exceeding 50%.

The waiver of qualification is subject to some conditions including, upon request of the New Jersey Commission, filing a certified statement that the institutional investor has no intention of influencing or affecting the affairs of the issuer. A waiver of qualification may also be granted to institutional investors holding a higher percentage of securities of a casino licensee's holding or intermediary company upon a showing of good cause.

If the institutional investor is granted a waiver and subsequently determines to influence or affect the affairs of the issuer, it must provide not less than 30 days notice of this intent and file with the New Jersey Commission an application for qualification before taking any action which may influence or affect the affairs of the issuer, except that an institutional investor holding voting securities will be permitted to vote on matters put to the vote of the holders of outstanding voting securities. If an institutional investor that has been granted a waiver subsequently changes its investment intent, or if the New Jersey Commission finds reasonable cause to believe that the institutional investor may be found unqualified, no action other than divestiture will be taken by the investor with respect to the security holdings until the investor complies with the provisions of the New Jersey Act concerning Interim Casino Authorization. The provisions of the New Jersey Act concerning Interim Casino Authorization provide that whenever a security holder of either equity or debt is required to qualify pursuant to the New Jersey Act, the security holder will, within 30 days after the New Jersey Commission determines that qualification is required or declines to waive qualification,

- file a completed application for qualification, along with an executed and approved Trust Agreement, wherein all securities of the holding or intermediary company held by that security holder are placed in trust pending qualification, or
- file a notice of intent to divest itself of the securities as the New Jersey Commission may require so as to remove the need for qualification, which securities must be divested within 120 days from the date the determination was made.

The New Jersey Act further requires that corporate licensees and their subsidiaries, intermediaries and holding companies adopt specific provisions in their certificates of incorporation that require some remedial action in the event that an individual owner of any security of such company is found disqualified under the New Jersey Act. The required certificate of incorporation provisions vary depending on whether the stock of the company subject to the requirements of the New Jersey Act is publicly or privately traded. Pursuant to the New Jersey Act, the certificate of incorporation of a publicly held company must provide that any securities of the corporation are held subject to the condition that if a

holder is found to be disqualified by the New Jersey Commission pursuant to the New Jersey Act the holder will

dispose of his interest in the company. The certificate of incorporation of a privately held company must create the absolute right of the company to repurchase at the market price or purchase price, whichever is the lesser, any security, share or other interest in the company in the event the New Jersey Commission disapproves a transfer in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Act.

Aztar is a publicly held company and, accordingly, a provision has been placed in its restated certificate of incorporation which provides that a holder of its securities must dispose of the securities if the holder is found disqualified under the New Jersey Act. In addition, Aztar's restated certificate of incorporation provides that it may redeem the stock of any holder found to be disqualified.

If, at any time, it is determined that Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. has violated the New Jersey Act or regulations, or if any security holder of Aztar, Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. or Ramada New Jersey Holdings Corporation who is required to be qualified under the New Jersey Act is found disqualified but does not dispose of the securities, Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. could be subject to fines or its license could be suspended or revoked. If Adamar of New Jersey, Inc.'s license is revoked, the New Jersey Commission could appoint a conservator to operate and to dispose of any casino hotel facilities of Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. Net proceeds of a sale by a conservator and net profits of operations by a conservator (at least up to an amount equal to a fair return on Adamar of New Jersey, Inc.'s investment which is reasonable for casinos or hotels) would be paid to Adamar of New Jersey, Inc.

In addition to compliance with the New Jersey Act and regulations relating to gaming, any facility built in Atlantic City by Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. or any other subsidiary of Aztar must comply with the New Jersey and Atlantic City laws and regulations relating to, among other things, the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act, construction of buildings, environmental considerations, operation of hotels and the sale of alcoholic beverages.

The New Jersey Commission is authorized to establish fees for the issuance or renewal of casino licenses. Yearly casino hotel alcoholic beverage license fees are payable for each facility in any of five specified categories in any licensed casino hotel. There is also an annual license fee on each slot machine. The New Jersey Commission is also authorized by regulation to establish annual fees for the issuance and renewal of licenses other than casino licenses.

The New Jersey Act imposes an annual tax of eight percent on gross revenues (as defined in the New Jersey Act). In addition, casino licensees are required to invest one and one-quarter percent of gross casino revenues for the purchase of bonds to be issued by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority or make other approved investments equal to that amount; in the event the investment requirement is not met, the casino licensee is subject to a tax in the amount of two and one-half percent on gross revenues.

Regulation and Licensing - Missouri

On November 3, 1992, a statewide referendum authorized gaming in the State of Missouri on the Missouri and the Mississippi Rivers. Local approval from the home dock municipality, as required by the legislation, was also obtained from the City of Caruthersville in the November 3, 1992 election. On April 29, 1993, Missouri enacted revised legislation (as amended, the "Missouri Gaming Law") which amended the existing legislation. The Missouri Gaming Law established the Missouri Gaming Commission, which is responsible for the licensing and regulation, and enforcement

with respect to some aspects, of riverboat gaming in Missouri and has the discretion to approve license applications for riverboat gaming facilities as well as employees and key persons associated with the facilities. In July 1993, Aztar was chosen by the City of Caruthersville as the preferred applicant to develop a gaming facility, and on September 20, 1993, Aztar's subsidiary, Aztar Missouri Gaming Corporation, predecessor in interest to the current licensee, Aztar Missouri Riverboat Gaming Company, L.L.C. ("Aztar Missouri"), filed its initial application with the Missouri Gaming Commission. The Missouri Gaming Commission conducted a formal investigation of Aztar Missouri's application and granted an owner/operator gaming license to Aztar Missouri on April 26, 1995.

In a decision handed down on January 25, 1994, the Missouri Supreme Court held that games of chance were prohibited under the Missouri constitution. On April 5, 1994, Missouri voters narrowly defeated the adoption of a constitutional amendment that would have excepted excursion boats and floating facilities from the constitutional prohibition on lotteries. Local voters did re-approve gaming in the City of Caruthersville in the April 5, 1994 election. Following the April 5, 1994 election, the Missouri legislature amended the existing Missouri Gaming Law to clarify some definitions and to resolve some constitutional questions raised in the Missouri Supreme Court decision. Pursuant to the Missouri Gaming Law, there are eleven operating riverboat gaming facility sites in Missouri: one in Caruthersville; one in Boonville; three in the St. Louis area; four in the Kansas City area; one in La Grange; and one in St. Joseph. The Missouri Gaming Commission has also preliminarily approved additional casinos in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

In a statewide election held on November 8, 1994, Missouri voters approved the adoption of an amendment to the Missouri Constitution which permits the legislature to allow games of chance to be conducted on excursion boats and floating facilities on the Mississippi River and the Missouri River. As a result of the amendment, full-scale gaming, subject to Missouri Gaming Law, is now available in Missouri.

Opponents of gaming in Missouri have brought several legal challenges to gaming in the past and may possibly bring similar challenges in the future. On November 25, 1997, the Missouri Supreme Court overturned a state lower court and held that a portion of the Missouri Gaming Law that authorized excursion gaming facilities in "artificial basins" up to 1,000 feet from the Mississippi or Missouri rivers was unconstitutional. This ruling created uncertainty as to the legal status of several excursion gaming riverboat facilities in the state; however, as Aztar Missouri's facilities were fully on the Mississippi River, they did not appear to be affected. On November 3, 1998, a statewide referendum was held, whereby the voters amended the constitution to allow "artificial basins" for existing facilities, effectively overturning the above Missouri Supreme Court decision. There can be no assurances that any future challenges, if brought, would not further interfere with full-scale gaming operations in Missouri, including the operations of Aztar Missouri.

Under the Missouri Gaming Law, the ownership and operation of riverboat gaming facilities in Missouri are subject to extensive state and local regulation. Aztar, Aztar Missouri, any subsidiaries, and some of their officers and employees are and will be subject to specific regulations, including licensing requirements. As part of the application and licensing process for a gaming license, the applicant must submit detailed financial, operating and other reports to the Missouri Gaming Commission. Each applicant has an ongoing duty to update the information provided to the Missouri Gaming Commission in the application. Aztar Missouri has frequently updated its application materials since it was initially licensed. In addition to the information required of the applicant, directors, officers and

other defined "key persons" (which include individuals designated by the Missouri Gaming Commission) must submit

Personal Disclosure Forms, which include detailed personal financial information, and are subject to thorough investigations. In addition, some officers and directors of Aztar, as well as Aztar itself, have submitted Personal Disclosure Forms and applications to the Missouri Gaming Commission. All gaming employees must obtain an occupational license issued by the Missouri Gaming Commission.

The operators' licenses (or "Class A" gaming licenses) are issued through application to the Missouri Gaming Commission, which requires, among other things:

- investigations into an applicant's character, financial responsibility and experience qualifications and
- that applicants furnish:
 - financial information, referenced above;
 - detailed information about the applicant's history, business, affiliations, officers, directors and owners;
 - an affirmative action plan for the hiring and training of minorities and women; and
 - an economic development or impact report.

License fees are a minimum of \$50,000 for the initial application and \$25,000 annually thereafter. Aztar Missouri has undergone a full relicensing investigation and hearing in connection with its licensing in 2003. Aztar Missouri's gaming license was renewed on April 29, 2003 and expires on April 25, 2005.

The Missouri Gaming Law regulations impose restrictions on the use and transfer of the gaming licenses as well as limitations on transactions engaged in by licensees. The licenses issued by the Missouri Gaming Commission may not be transferred nor pledged as collateral. The Missouri Gaming Law regulations bar a licensee from taking any of the following actions without prior notice to, and approval by, the Missouri Gaming Commission:

- any transfer or issuance of an ownership interest of five percent or more of the issued and outstanding ownership interest;
- any private incurrence of debt by the licensee or any holding company of \$1,000,000 or more;
- any public issuance of debt by a licensee or its holding company; and
- defined "significant related party transactions."

In addition, the licensee must notify the Missouri Gaming Commission of other transactions, including the transfer of five percent or more of an ownership interest in the licensee or holding company if publicly held and any transaction of at least \$1,000,000. The restrictions on transfer of ownership apply to Aztar as well as the direct licensee, Aztar Missouri. Gaming equipment and corporate stock of some licensees may not be pledged except in narrow circumstances and subject to some regulatory conditions.

Missouri statutes and administrative rules contain detailed requirements concerning the operation of a licensed excursion gaming boat facility, including:

- a charge of two dollars per gaming customer per excursion, as discussed below, that licensees must pay to the Missouri Gaming Commission;
- requirements regarding minimum payouts;
- a 20% tax on adjusted gross receipts;
- prohibitions against providing credit to gaming customers, except for the use of credit cards and cashing checks; and
- a requirement that each licensee reimburse the Missouri Gaming Commission for all costs of any Missouri Gaming Commission staff, including Missouri Highway Patrol Officers, necessary to protect the public on the licensee's riverboat.

Licensees also must submit monthly, quarterly and annual reports of financial and statistical data and quarterly and annual audited financial information and compliance reports to the Missouri Gaming Commission and pay the associated auditing fees. Other areas of operation which are subject to regulation under the Missouri rules are the color, denomination and handling of chips and tokens; the surveillance methods and computer monitoring of electronic games; accounting and audit methods and procedures; and approval of an extensive internal control system. The Missouri Gaming Commission requires comprehensive safety inspections and compliance with local and federal safety requirements. Liquor licenses are issued and regulated by the Missouri Gaming Commission. The Missouri rules also require that all of an operator's purchases must be from suppliers licensed by the Missouri Gaming Commission or another entity approved by the Commission.

The Missouri Gaming Commission has the power, as well as broad discretion in exercising this power, to revoke or suspend gaming or occupational licenses and impose other penalties for violations of the Missouri Gaming Law and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, including without limitation, forfeiture of all gaming equipment used for improper gaming and fines of up to three times a licensee's highest daily gross receipts during the preceding twelve months.

Although the Missouri Gaming Law provides no limit on the amount of riverboat space that may be used for gaming, the Missouri Gaming Commission is empowered to impose space limitations through the adoption of rules and regulations. In addition, the Missouri Gaming Law imposes a \$500 loss limit per two-hour period established by each licensee with the approval of the Missouri Gaming Commission. In order to establish an excursion schedule, which allows patrons to enter and exit the gaming floor at any time during the excursion the licensee must prove to the Missouri Gaming Commission that it can enforce the \$500 loss limit.

In addition, the Missouri Gaming Commission is empowered to determine on a city and county-specific basis where "dockside" or permanently-docked gaming is appropriate and may be permitted. The Missouri Gaming Commission has authorized all eleven licensed sites to operate all or a portion of their facilities on a continuously docked basis. On February 15, 1996, the Commission granted Aztar Missouri the authority to operate gambling games on part of its floating facility previously used for non-gaming activities, including ticketing, under the continuous docking provision of the Missouri Gaming Law. On February 15, 1997, the Commission granted Aztar Missouri the authority to permanently dock the excursion gambling riverboat facility known as the "City of Caruthersville."

Regulation and Licensing - Indiana

The ownership and operation of riverboat casinos in specific designated waters are subject to extensive state regulation under the Indiana Riverboat Gambling Act (the "Indiana Act") and regulations which the Indiana Gaming Commission ("Indiana Commission") is authorized to adopt under the Indiana Act. The Indiana Act extends broad and pervasive regulatory powers and authority to the Indiana Commission. The Indiana Act and the regulations of the Indiana Commission are significant to Aztar's prospects for successfully operating its riverboat casino and associated developments based in Evansville, Indiana.

The Indiana Commission has issued:

- five riverboat owner's licenses on Lake Michigan, and
- five riverboat owner's licenses on the Ohio River, including Aztar's facility.

The Indiana Commission had not considered applicants for a license on Patoka Lake in Southwestern Indiana, since that site has been determined by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to be unsuitable for a riverboat casino project. Pursuant to legislation effective July 1, 2003, the site for a gaming license on Patoka Lake was eliminated and the Indiana Commission is now authorized to enter into a contract with an Operating Agent on behalf of the Indiana Commission for one riverboat in a historic hotel district in Orange County in southern Indiana. In November 2003, Orange County voters passed the requisite referendum permitting riverboat gambling in Orange County. On July 20, 2004, the Indiana Commission awarded the Operating Agent Contract ("Contract") to Trump Indiana Casino Management, LLC. The Contract will be valid, when negotiated and executed, for twenty years. The Operating Agent must pay a non-refundable initial fee of \$1.0 million to the Indiana Commission. Effective July 1, 2003, an entity may own up to a one hundred percent interest in two riverboat owner licenses. Previously, an entity could not own more than a 10% interest in any other owner's license. There is a \$2 million transfer fee if a riverboat owner purchases a second riverboat owner license. The Indiana Commission has adopted regulations under the Indiana Act which covers numerous operational matters concerning riverboat casinos licensed by the Commission, including rules for

- authorized games,
- internal control procedures,
- accounting records,
- security,
- gaming equipment, and
- extensions of credit.

Aztar, through an Indiana subsidiary, Aztar Indiana Gaming Corporation, has received from the Indiana Commission a riverboat owner's license for the Evansville, Indiana market. Aztar Indiana Gaming Corporation completed requirements for formal licensing and commenced operations in Evansville on December 7, 1995. On August 20,

1999, the Indiana Commission authorized a transfer of the assets of Aztar Indiana Gaming Corporation, including the riverboat owner's license, to Aztar Indiana Gaming Company, L.L.C. ("Aztar Indiana"), a recently-formed limited liability company, in which Aztar Riverboat Holding Company, L.L.C.

owns all of the membership interests. Aztar Riverboat Holding Company, L.L.C. is 100% owned by Aztar through wholly-owned subsidiaries. On December 31, 1999, Aztar Indiana Gaming Corporation transferred its assets and riverboat owner's license to Aztar Indiana.

A riverboat owner's license has an initial effective period of five years but is subject to an annual renewal thereafter. The Indiana Commission has broad discretion with respect to the initial issuance of licenses and also with respect to the renewal, revocation, suspension and control of riverboat owner's licenses. The Indiana Act requires a reinvestigation after three years to ensure the owner continues to be suitable for licensure. On December 7, 2000, the Indiana Commission made a preliminary determination to renew Aztar Indiana's riverboat owner's license until such time as Aztar Indiana has an opportunity to make a presentation to the Indiana Commission at a regular business meeting. On March 2, 2001, the Indiana Commission renewed Aztar Indiana's riverboat owner's license for a period of one year with an annual review. On December 6, 2001, the Indiana Commission renewed Aztar Indiana's riverboat owner's license for a period of one year, from December 8, 2001 to December 7, 2002. On November 15, 2002, the Indiana Commission renewed Aztar Indiana's riverboat owner's license for a period of one year, from December 5, 2002, to December 4, 2003. On November 14, 2003, the Indiana Commission renewed Aztar Indiana's riverboat owner's license for a period of one year, from December 5, 2003, through December 4, 2004. On December 3, 2004, the Indiana Commission renewed Aztar Indiana's riverboat owner's license for a period of one year, from December 5, 2004, through December 4, 2005. The Indiana Commission has adopted a rule which requires, in the event a riverboat owner's license is terminated, the riverboat licensee to secure all the assets of the riverboat gambling operation, and the licensee may not dispose of any of these assets without the written approval of the Indiana Commission. Officers, directors and principal owners of the actual license holder and employees who are to work on the riverboat are subject to substantial disclosure requirements as a part of securing and maintaining necessary licenses. Significant contracts are subject to disclosure.

A riverboat owner licensee may not enter into or perform any contract or transaction in which it transfers or receives consideration which is not commercially reasonable or which does not reflect the fair market value of the goods or services rendered or received. All contracts are subject to disapproval by the Indiana Commission. Suppliers of gaming equipment and materials must also be licensed under the Indiana Act.

The Indiana Act requires licensees to disclose to the Indiana Commission the identity of all directors, officers and persons holding direct or indirect beneficial interests of 1% or greater. The Indiana Commission also requires a broad and comprehensive disclosure of financial and operating information on licensees and their principal officers. Aztar has provided full information and documentation to the Indiana Commission and it must continue to do so during the term of the license. The Indiana Act prohibits, among other things:

- a key person or a person holding an ownership interest in a riverboat licensee, or an employee of a riverboat licensee, from participating in a game conducted on a riverboat which is the subject of a license; and

- contributions to a candidate for a state, legislative, or local office, or to a candidate's committee or to a regular party committee by the holder of a riverboat owner's license or a supplier's license, by an officer of a licensee, by an officer of a person that holds at least a 1% interest in the licensee, or by a person holding at least a 1% interest in the licensee.

The Indiana Commission has adopted a rule requiring quarterly reporting by the holder of a riverboat owner's license, including Aztar Indiana, or a holder of a supplier's license, of the officers of the licensee, officers of persons that hold at least a 1% interest in the licensee, including Aztar, and of persons who directly or indirectly own a 1% interest in the licensee, including beneficial owners of Aztar.

The Indiana Commission has adopted rules which (a) prohibit the distribution by a riverboat licensee, including Aztar Indiana, to its partners, shareholders, itself, or any affiliated entity, if the distribution would impair the financial viability of the riverboat gambling operation, (b) require riverboat licensees, including Aztar Indiana, to maintain on a quarterly basis a cash reserve in the amount of the actual payout for three days, and the cash reserve would include cash in the casino cage, cash in a bank account in Indiana, or cash equivalents not committed or obligated, and (c) require independent financial audits annually by firms licensed in Indiana and approved by the Executive Director of the Indiana Commission of riverboat licensees, including Aztar Indiana, and disclosure to the Indiana Commission of material errors and irregularities, or illegal acts, or significant deficiencies discovered during the course of the audit.

In addition to receiving a license to conduct riverboat casino operations from the Indiana Commission, Aztar Indiana has secured permits and approvals from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop the facilities it is using to conduct operations. Aztar Indiana has received three alcoholic beverage permits which are subject to annual renewal: one for the riverboat and two for land support facilities. All building permits and other approvals for the permanent facilities have been received, and the project is complete.

The Indiana General Assembly amended the Indiana Riverboat Gaming Act in 2002 to allow riverboats to choose between continuing to conduct excursions or operate dockside. The Indiana Commission authorized riverboats to commence dockside operations on August 1, 2002. Aztar opted to operate dockside and commenced dockside operations on August 1, 2002. Pursuant to the legislation, the tax rate was increased from 20% to 22.5%, retroactive to July 1, 2002, during any time an Indiana riverboat does not operate dockside. For those riverboats that operate dockside and for the Operating Agent, the following graduated tax rate is applicable: (i) 15% of the first \$25 million of adjusted gross receipts ("AGR"), (ii) 20% of AGR in excess of \$25 million, but not exceeding \$50 million; (iii) 25% of AGR in excess of \$50 million, but not exceeding \$75 million; (iv) 30% of AGR in excess of \$75 million, but not exceeding \$150 million; and (v) 35% of AGR in excess of \$150 million. AGR is based on the State's fiscal year (July 1 of one year through June 30 of the following year). The Indiana Act requires that riverboat licensees pay a \$3.00 admission tax for each person, and that the Operating Agent pay a \$4.00 admission tax for each person. A riverboat that opts to continue excursions pays the admission tax on a per excursion basis while a riverboat that operates dockside pays the admission tax on a per entry basis. The Indiana Act provides for the suspension or revocation of a license whose owner does not timely submit the wagering or admission tax.

Effective July 1, 2002, riverboats must withhold adjusted gross state income tax from slot winnings of \$1,200 or more and Keno winnings of \$1,500 or more. Riverboats are assessed for property tax purposes as real property at rates to be determined by local taxing authorities. Sales on a riverboat are subject to applicable use, excise and retail taxes. The

Indiana Act requires a riverboat owner licensee to directly reimburse the Indiana Commission for the costs of inspectors and agents required to be present during the conduct of gaming operations. Effective July 1, 2002, each riverboat must contribute \$25,000 annually to the Indiana Department of Gaming Research.

The Indiana Act places special emphasis upon minority and women's business enterprise participation in the riverboat industry. Any person issued a riverboat owner's license must establish goals of at least 10% of the total dollar value of the licensee's contracts for goods and services with minority business enterprises and 5% of the total dollar value of the licensee's contracts for goods and services with women's business enterprises. The Indiana Commission may suspend, limit or revoke the owner's license or impose a fine for failure to comply with the statutory requirements.

Minimum and maximum wagers on games on the riverboat are left to the discretion of the licensee. Wagering may not be conducted with money or other negotiable currency. Effective July 1, 2003, the Indiana Commission may approve a riverboat owner licensee's plan to conduct twenty-four hour gambling, and Aztar Indiana's plan was approved. No person under the age of 21 is permitted to wager on a riverboat. It is a Class A misdemeanor for a person to aid, induce or cause a person under the age of 21 to enter or attempt to enter a riverboat. In accordance with an amendment to the Indiana Act, the Indiana Commission has adopted voluntary exclusion rules for persons to be included on a list of persons excluded from all Indiana riverboats, which also require riverboat owners to make reasonable efforts to cease direct marketing efforts to such persons and to prohibit riverboat owners from cashing checks or extending credit to persons participating in the voluntary exclusion program.

An institutional investor which acquires 5% or more of any class of voting securities of a holding company of a licensee is required to notify the Indiana Commission and to provide additional information, and may be subject to a finding of suitability. A person who acquires 5% or more of any class of voting securities of a holding company of a licensee is required to apply to the Indiana Commission for a finding of suitability. A riverboat licensee or an affiliate may not enter into a debt transaction of \$1 million or more without approval of the Indiana Commission. The Indiana Commission has delegated authority to its Executive Director to waive preapproval of financing transactions, provided prior discussions have been held with the Chair and the CPA member of the Indiana Commission. The Executive Director must report the waiver at the next Indiana Commission meeting and the Indiana Commission may direct the Executive Director to take different action with respect to the waiver. The Indiana Commission approved the new senior secured credit facility on April 30, 2004, and approved the new notes on April 30 and August 5, 2004.

A riverboat owner's license is a revocable privilege and is not a property right under the Indiana Act. A riverboat owner licensee or any other person may not lease, hypothecate, borrow money against or loan money against a riverboat owner's license.

Environmental Matters

Aztar is subject to federal, state and local environmental laws, regulations and ordinances that (a) govern activities or operations that may have adverse environmental effects, such as discharges to air and water as well as handling and disposal practices for solid and hazardous wastes, and (b) impose liability for the costs of cleaning up, and some damages resulting from, past spills, disposals or other releases of hazardous substances. Aztar uses some substances and generates some wastes that are regulated or may be deemed hazardous under applicable environmental laws. From time to time, our operations have resulted, or may result, in some noncompliance with applicable requirements under environmental laws. Aztar has also incurred, and in the future may incur, costs related to cleaning up contamination

relating to historical uses of some of our current or former properties. Specifically, the riverboat properties have been used for various industrial purposes in the past. Any noncompliance with applicable

requirements or liability under environmental laws has not had, and is not expected to have, a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Other Regulations

Aztar's businesses are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations in addition to those discussed above. These laws and regulations include but are not limited to restrictions and conditions concerning employees, taxation, zoning and building codes, and marketing and advertising. Such laws and regulations could change or could be interpreted differently in the future, or new laws and regulations could be enacted. Material changes, new laws or regulations, or material differences in interpretations by courts or governmental authorities could adversely affect Aztar.

EMPLOYEES

Aztar employs approximately 9,800 people. Approximately 3,300 Aztar employees are represented by unions. Of the approximately 5,000 employees at Tropicana Atlantic City, approximately 2,100 are covered by collective bargaining contracts. Substantially all of these employees are covered by a contract that expires on September 14, 2009 and a small number are covered by contracts that expire in 2005 or 2006. At Tropicana Las Vegas, approximately 1,200 of the 2,000 employees are covered by collective bargaining contracts. Substantially all of these employees are covered by contracts that expire in 2007. The remainder of employees are covered by contracts that expire in 2005, 2008 or 2009. At Ramada Express there are approximately 1,300 employees, none of which are covered by collective bargaining agreements. Aztar has approximately 1,200 employees and 300 employees, respectively, at Casino Aztar Evansville and Casino Aztar Caruthersville, none of which are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

TRADEMARKS

We use a variety of trade names, service marks and trademarks and believe that we have all the licenses necessary to conduct our business. We have registered several service marks and trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office or otherwise acquired the licenses to use those which are material to the conduct of our business.

Substantially all of our trademarks and service names have been assigned to the lenders under Aztar's bank credit facility.

Ramada Inc. has licensed Aztar to use the name "Ramada" in conjunction with the operation of Ramada Express, and will not use or permit the use of the name "Ramada" in Laughlin, Nevada by any other person or entity.

We have registered the following important trademarks or service marks: Aztar, Casino Aztar, Trop, Tropicana, Trop Park, and The Island of Las Vegas. Aztar believes there are no other trademarks or service marks the use of which is material to the conduct of our business as a whole.

CATASTROPHIC EVENTS

Certain catastrophic events such as major fires, floods, storms, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tidal waves, civil disorders, riots, biological attacks, war, acts of sabotage or terrorism or other similar events could result in a significant negative impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY

Tropicana Atlantic City is located on an approximate 14-acre site in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Tropicana Atlantic City is wholly-owned by Aztar.

TROPICANA LAS VEGAS

Tropicana Las Vegas is located on a 34-acre site in Las Vegas, Nevada. We have a master-plan for a potential development of the Las Vegas Tropicana site. We have postponed a decision about whether and when we will proceed with this development. The amount and timing of any future expenditure, and the extent of any impact on existing operations, will depend on the nature and timing of the development that we ultimately undertake, if any. Tropicana Las Vegas is wholly-owned by Aztar.

RAMADA EXPRESS

Ramada Express is located on an approximate 31-acre site in Laughlin, Nevada. Ramada Express is wholly-owned by Aztar.

CASINO AZTAR EVANSVILLE

Casino Aztar Evansville operates on and from a base 8 1/2-acre site next to the Ohio River in downtown Evansville, Indiana. Approximately 4 1/2 acres are leased. The lease was entered into in 1995 for 10 years. The lease has 3 options to renew for 5 years each. We own the remaining 4 acres, a portion of which we acquired during 2003. Approximately three-fourths of one of these acres was used to accommodate an 11,000 square-foot executive conference center that was completed during 2004. The conference center was constructed on two levels adjoining the existing hotel and parking garage and features an exterior appearance that blends architecturally and aesthetically with the hotel, pavilion and parking garage. In addition, we have an approximately seven-acre site located near our base site that we are using for parking. This site could be used for additional development. On December 27, 2002, we amended our riverboat landing lease agreement with the City of Evansville. We agreed to change a portion of our contingent rent into a fixed stated amount and to make it available to the City at their request. The City agreed to provide us with \$1 of credit against our rent for each \$2.50 of development capital expenditures that we make. We plan to have additional development in Evansville, including a potential dining and entertainment complex.

CASINO AZTAR CARUTHERSVILLE

Casino Aztar Caruthersville operates on and from a 37-acre site next to the Mississippi River in downtown Caruthersville, Missouri. The site and facilities are wholly-owned by us. We have some unused land at this site and we are encouraging third-party developers to develop facilities on this land that would complement our operations.

GENERAL

We lease our corporate headquarters located in Phoenix, Arizona and own or lease some other facilities which are not material to our operations.

Substantially all land, casino hotel buildings, casino riverboats, pavilions, furnishings and equipment owned by us are pledged as collateral under our senior secured credit facility.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Aztar is a defendant in an action originally filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division entitled William H. Poulos, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated vs. Caesars World, Inc., et al., filed on April 26, 1994. This action was consolidated with another subsequently filed action in that court entitled William Ahearn, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated vs. Caesars World, Inc., et al., currently consolidated Case No. CV-S-94-1126-DAE(RJJ)-BASE FILE (the "Actions" or collectively, the "Poulos/Ahearn Case"). Both Actions were brought under RICO and state common law and seek compensatory and punitive damages in excess of \$1 billion from the defendants. The complaints allege that the defendants took part in a scheme intended to induce people to play video poker and electronic slot machines based on false beliefs concerning how those machines actually operate as well as the extent to which there is actually an opportunity to win on any given play. The precise nature of Aztar's role in the alleged fraud and conspiracy to defraud is not discernible from the complaint.

On September 26, 1995, an action entitled Larry Schreier, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated vs. Caesars World, Inc., et al., Case No. CV-S-95-00923-DWH(RJJ)(the "Schreier Case") was commenced in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. The Schreier Case is identical to the Poulos/Ahearn Case in all material respects, except that the named plaintiff in the Schreier Case purports to represent a smaller and more precisely defined class of persons than the plaintiffs in the Poulos/Ahearn Case. The defendants (including Aztar) moved to dismiss the Schreier complaint on the same grounds as in the previously described Poulos/Ahearn Case, as well as on the ground that this case was filed for an improper purpose, an attempt to circumvent prior rulings of the Court in the Poulos/Ahearn Case. On August 15, 1996, District Judge Lloyd D. George granted the motion to dismiss, without prejudice. An amended complaint containing the same principal allegations was filed on September 30, 1996. The defendants (including Aztar) filed motions to dismiss the amended complaint for failure to state a claim and on other grounds. The Plaintiff opposed these motions.

The Poulos/Ahearn Case and the Schreier Case were consolidated, as was the action entitled William H. Poulos, On Behalf of Himself and All Others Similarly Situated vs. Ambassador Cruise Lines, Inc., et al., Case No. CV-S-95-936 LDG(RLH)(the "Cruise Ship Case"). (The allegations in the Cruise Ship Case are nearly identical to those made in the Poulos/Ahearn and Schreier cases, and are made against a group of defendants consisting of several manufacturers and distributors of gaming devices, as well as numerous cruise ship operators and companies which operate cruise ship casinos.) The Poulos/Ahearn Case, the Schreier Case and the Cruise Ship Case are collectively referred to as the "Consolidated Cases."

On February 14, 1997, the Plaintiffs filed a consolidated amended complaint in the Consolidated Cases. On March 21, 1997, the Defendants moved to dismiss the consolidated amended complaint for failure to state a claim and on other grounds. The Plaintiffs opposed these motions. The defendants filed reply memoranda in support of the motions. The motions were argued on November 3, 1997.

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On December 19, 1997, the court entered orders deciding the motions in the Consolidated Cases. The substance of those orders is as follows:

1. The motion to dismiss was granted as to the "wire fraud" allegation in the RICO claim; the balance of the motion to dismiss the RICO claims was denied.
2. The motion to strike some parts of the consolidated amended complaint was granted in part.
3. The remaining motions (to dismiss and to stay or abstain) were denied.
4. The plaintiffs were permitted to delete Mr. Ahearn, and add Ms. McElmore as a class representative.

The plaintiffs in the Consolidated Cases filed a second consolidated amended complaint on January 9, 1998. The Second Consolidated Amended Complaint contains claims which are nearly identical to those in the previously dismissed complaints. The defendants answered, denying the substantive allegations of the Second Consolidated Amended Complaint. On March 18, 1998, the plaintiffs filed a motion for class certification. On March 19, 1998, the Magistrate Judge granted defendants' motion seeking to bifurcate discovery into "class" and "merits" phases, and to stay "merits" discovery pending a decision on plaintiffs' motion for class certification. On August 7, 1998, the defendants filed their opposition to the motion for class certification. The plaintiffs' reply memorandum was filed on August 25, 1998, and the matter was submitted to the judge for decision. On January 26, 2001, the plaintiffs filed a supplement to their motion for class certification. The defendants have filed a supplement to their memorandum in opposition to class certification and the plaintiffs filed their reply. The hearing on the motion for class certification was held on November 15, 2001. A status conference was held on March 27, 2002. At the status conference, Judge Ezra advised the parties of the following:

- He was recusing himself from the case and sending it to the Chief Judge for reassignment.
- He would not decide the motion for class certification, but would provide his research, etc. to the newly assigned judge.
- He would lift the stay of merits discovery as to the named plaintiffs and the particular claims made by them.

On April 9, 2002, the actions were re-assigned to Judge Roger Hunt. The new case number is CV-S-94-1126-RLH(RJJ). By order entered June 26, 2002, the District Court denied the plaintiffs' motion for class certification and on July 11, 2002, the plaintiffs filed a motion with the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit seeking permission to appeal the order denying class certification. By order dated August 15, 2002, the Ninth Circuit granted permission for the plaintiffs to appeal the order denying class certification. The matter was referred to the Ninth Circuit's mediation and settlement program.

On December 10, 2002, the plaintiffs made a settlement offer. That offer, which would have entailed the payment (in various forms) of hundreds of millions of dollars by the defendants, was rejected by letter dated January 3, 2003. No counter offer was made. Briefings were completed and filed with the court. The appeal was argued to the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on January 15, 2004, in San Francisco, California. On August 10, 2004, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's denial of the plaintiffs' motion for class certification, and the case was remanded to the district court. A scheduling order has been entered, and the trial is scheduled to begin on September 12, 2005. We believe that plaintiffs' allegations are without merit, and we intend to defend the actions vigorously.

On March 30, 2004, the Company and its affiliate Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. were named as defendants to an action in the United States District Court, District of New Jersey. The action arises out of the October 30, 2003 collapse of a portion of a parking garage under construction at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The action was brought by Zurich American Insurance Company, which issued a policy of "Completed Value Builders Risk" insurance covering the construction of the garage and related improvements at the Tropicana. The action seeks declaratory relief with respect to certain items of loss for which claims have been made or may be made by the Company or the general contractor on the project, Keating Building Corporation. Specifically, the action seeks a judicial declaration of the meaning and application of the insurance policy to losses on account of "debris removal," "mold damage" and "water damage." Zurich has advanced or paid in excess of \$28 million under its policy on account of claimed losses associated with the collapse and has not contested the validity of its policy or that the collapse was generally an insured event under the policy, but does contest its obligations to pay all or portions of the categories of loss identified in its complaint as well as its obligation to pay a portion of the Company's "delay" claim. The Company disagrees with Zurich's positions as set forth in its complaint and intends to contest the action vigorously. The Company and Keating Building Corporation have formalized their agreement to refrain from asserting any claims that each may have against the other and which agreement further provides for the Company to fund the bulk of the costs of the demolition and reconstruction of the improvements damaged by the collapse subject to the contemplated subsequent recovery of much, if not all, of such costs of the demolition and reconstruction from various insurers and other parties, with the Company and Keating Building Corporation having agreed to the sharing of certain insurance recoveries in this matter. Discovery has begun.

On April 21, 2004, the Company filed an action in the Superior Court of the State of Arizona, Maricopa County, against Lexington Insurance Company; U.S. Fire Insurance Company; Westchester Surplus Lines Insurance Company; Essex Insurance Company; Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London; Hartford Fire Insurance Company and Zurich American Insurance Company. The action also arises out of the garage collapse. The Company filed the action seeking declaratory relief and damages for breach of contract under policies of insurance issued by the defendant insurers in connection with losses claimed by the Company on account of the collapse, including losses for business interruption at the Atlantic City Tropicana due to the collapse and the resulting impairment of the Company's hotel, restaurant, casino and related operations there, which the defendant insurers have refused to pay in full. The Company seeks a declaration establishing its right to coverage for its business interruption losses and extra expenses

incurred on account of the loss, payment of such losses and expenses, including its "loss adjustment" expenses up to \$1 million, its attorneys' fees in connection with the action, and other relief that may be available. The defendant insurers moved to dismiss the action on the ground that New Jersey is a more convenient forum. However, on October 8, 2004, the Superior Court of the State of Arizona denied the insurers' motion and ruled that the case will stay in Arizona. Discovery has begun.

On March 10, 2004, the Company and its affiliate Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. d.b.a. Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City were named as defendants in an action filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. The plaintiff, Scannicchio's Restaurant, is located in the vicinity of the October 30, 2003 garage collapse. The lawsuit purported to be a class action on behalf of Scannicchio's Restaurant and all neighboring businesses for damages to buildings and loss of business. The action sought compensatory and punitive damages in unspecified amounts for negligence and private and public nuisance. The Company disagreed with the allegations against it and its affiliated entity and contested the action vigorously on jurisdictional grounds. As a result, the Philadelphia action was dismissed without prejudice to the plaintiff filing it in New Jersey.

On December 29, 2003, the Company and Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. d.b.a. Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City were named as defendants to an action brought by Govathlay Givens in the Superior Court of New Jersey in Atlantic County. This action also arose out of the October 30, 2003 garage collapse.

Between June 15, 2004 and January 24, 2005, six lawsuits were filed for damages incurred by family members as a result of the deaths of four construction workers. In addition, thirty-one additional personal injury complaints were filed by other plaintiffs for unspecified amounts of compensatory and punitive damages. Other companies involved with the construction of the garage were also named as defendants. They included Keating Building Corporation; Wimberly, Allison, Tong & Goo; SOSH Architects; DeSimone Consulting Engineers; Mid-State Filigree Systems; Site-Blauvelt Engineers; Fabi Construction, Inc.; Pro Management Group, Inc.; Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.; and Mitchell Bar Placement, Inc. The Company disagrees with the allegations against it and its affiliate and is contesting the liability aspect of them vigorously. The court is handling these cases in a coordinated fashion as the Tropicana Parking Garage Collapse Litigation and has issued a Case Management Order governing various matters concerning complaints, answers and cross-claims, as well as discovery and mediation. Mediation is anticipated to begin in early 2005.

On June 4, 2004, the Company and its affiliate Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. were named as defendants to an action in the United States District Court, District of New Jersey. The plaintiff, Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company, a liability insurer, has interpleaded its policy limits and seeks an order relieving it of further responsibility, once those policy limits have been paid to plaintiffs by way of judgments or settlements, for the defense and indemnity of various lawsuits against the Company and others arising out of the October 30, 2003 collapse of the parking garage at the expansion to the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Company and Keating Building Corporation have agreed to the sharing of certain insurance recoveries in this matter. Discovery has not yet begun.

On July 14, 2004, the Company and its affiliate Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. were named as defendants in an action in the Superior Court of New Jersey in Atlantic County. The action arises out of an incident that took place on October 24, 2002, at the site of the construction of the new garage at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The plaintiffs are Antonio DeShazo and Johnnie J. Caldwell. The plaintiffs seek compensatory and punitive damages of unspecified amounts in connection with personal injuries. Also named as defendants are Keating Building Corporation; Fabi Construction, Inc.; Pro Management Group, Inc.; Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.; ABC Insurance Companies; Jack Doe and Jill Doe; DEF

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Engineering Firms, Inc.; Jason Doe and Josephine Doe; Mitchell Bar Placement, Inc.; GHI Architects, Inc.; Jackson Doe and Jenna Doe; and Mid-State Filigree Systems, Inc. Plaintiff Caldwell was injured a second time in the October 30, 2003 collapse. The Company will address Mr. Caldwell's October 24, 2002 injuries at the same time it addresses the injuries he sustained at the time of the October 30, 2003 collapse. Mr. DeShazo's case will proceed in the normal course. The Company is contesting the liability aspect of this action vigorously and has contractual recourse against the general contractor. Discovery is in its initial stages.

On July 29, 2004, the Company and its affiliate Adamar of New Jersey, Inc. were named as defendants to an action in the Superior Court of New Jersey in Atlantic County. This action also arises out of the October 30, 2003 garage collapse. The plaintiffs, Another Time, Inc. t/a Chelsea Pub & Hotel and John Conway, claim to have sustained property damage and loss of business. The action seeks compensatory and punitive damages in unspecified amounts. Also named as defendants are Keating Building Corporation; Fabi Construction, Inc.; Pro Management Group, Inc.; Liberty Mutual Insurance Company; ABC Insurance Companies; Jack Doe and Jill Doe; DiSimone

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Consulting Engineers; Def, Inc.; Jason Doe and Josephine Doe; Site-Blauvelt Engineers; Mitchell Bar Placement, Inc.; Wimberly Allison, Tong & Goo; GHI, Inc.; Jackson Doe and Jenna Doe; and Sykes, O'Connor, Salerno & Hazaveh. The Company disagrees with the allegations against it and its affiliated entity and is contesting the action vigorously.

The Company is a defendant in a lawsuit filed on February 3, 2001 in the Superior Court of Maricopa County, Arizona, in which the plaintiff, Aaron Dolgin, brings claims based upon alleged violation of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act; fraudulent advertising; breach of contract; breach of the implied-in-law covenant of good faith and fair dealing; and unjust enrichment. The complaint arises from a \$1 per day telephone surcharge assessed to certain guests at check-in at the Tropicana Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada and the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey (the "Tropicana Hotels"). The Tropicana Hotels are owned and operated by subsidiaries of the Company. The cause of action alleging fraudulent advertising has been dismissed with prejudice. To the extent the complaint alleged causes of action based upon the assessment of a telephone surcharge by other properties owned and operated by subsidiaries of the Company (exclusive of the Tropicana Hotels), those claims have been dismissed without prejudice.

The plaintiff alleges that he was forced to pay the telephone surcharge or lose his reservation deposit, whether or not he intended to use the telephone in his room. The plaintiff claims that he was in effect charged \$1 extra per day for his hotel room, thus rendering the advertised room rates misleading and in breach of a contractual obligation to provide him a hotel room for an advertised price that did not include the telephone surcharge. The Tropicana Hotels are the only properties owned and operated by subsidiaries of the Company that have assessed the telephone surcharge. Whether this matter should be certified as a class action is currently under consideration; no determination has as yet been made on this issue. The plaintiff claims that the actual compensatory damages for the purported class may exceed \$3,000,000. The plaintiff also claims, however, that further discovery and expert analysis is needed to more accurately compute the amount of compensatory damages plaintiff seeks on behalf of the purported class. The plaintiff also seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, punitive damages, pre- and post-judgment interest and attorneys' fees and costs of suit. The Company is vigorously defending this litigation.

We are a party to various claims, legal actions and complaints arising in the ordinary course of business or asserted by way of defense or counterclaim in actions filed by us. Management believes that its defenses are substantial in each of

these matters and that our legal posture can be successfully defended or satisfactorily settled without material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

None.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

The registrant has elected not to include information concerning its executive officers in its 2005 Proxy Statement, as allowed by the Proxy Statement instructions. The registrant relies on General Instruction G(3) of this report on Form 10-K in presenting the following information on its executive officers.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Office</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Tenure</u> | |
|--------------------------|--|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | <u>With Company</u> | <u>Present Position</u> |
| Paul E. Rubeli | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer | 61 | 26 years | 3 years |
| Robert M. Haddock | President and Chief Financial Officer | 60 | 24 years | 3 years |
| Nelson W. Armstrong, Jr. | Vice President, Administration, and Secretary | 63 | 32 years | 15 years |
| Joe C. Cole | Vice President, Corporate Communications | 66 | 17 years | 17 years |
| Meridith P. Sipek | Vice President and Controller | 58 | 27 years | 1 year |
| Neil A. Ciarfalia | Vice President and Treasurer | 57 | 10 years | 1 year |

Paul E. Rubeli. Mr. Rubeli joined Ramada Inc. in 1979 as group vice president, industrial operations. He served as executive vice president, gaming, of Ramada Inc. from 1982 to December 1989, when he was appointed president and chief operating officer of Aztar. He was appointed president and chief executive officer in February 1990 and was appointed chairman of the board in addition to his other positions in February 1992. In May 2002, Mr. Rubeli relinquished his duties as president of Aztar and continued his positions as chief executive officer and chairman of the board. In December 2004, Mr. Rubeli informed the Board of Directors of Aztar of his intention to retire from his positions as chief executive officer and chairman of the board and as a director effective March 1, 2005.

Robert M. Haddock. Mr. Haddock joined Ramada Inc. in 1980 and held various positions before becoming executive vice president and chief financial officer in March 1987, serving in that capacity until 1989, when he assumed the same position with Aztar. Mr. Haddock was appointed president of Aztar in May 2002 and continued his position as chief financial officer. In December 2004, the Board of Directors of Aztar selected Mr. Haddock to succeed Mr. Rubeli as chief executive officer and chairman of the board effective March 1, 2005.

On February 17, 2005, the Board of Directors approved Mr. Haddock to continue on as president of the Company. Therefore, Mr. Haddock's position, effective March 1, 2005 will be chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer.

Nelson W. Armstrong, Jr. Mr. Armstrong joined Ramada Inc. in 1973 as an accounting supervisor and held various positions on the corporate accounting staff, serving as vice president and controller, of Ramada Inc. In 1989, Mr. Armstrong became vice president and controller of Aztar until he was appointed vice president, administration, and secretary of Aztar in March 1990.

Joe C. Cole. Mr. Cole joined Ramada Inc. in March 1988 as vice president, corporate communications, after having been affiliated with Phoenix Newspapers Inc. for 26 years as a reporter, columnist and editor. He became vice president, corporate communications of Aztar in 1989.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT (continued)

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Meridith P. Sipek. Mr. Sipek joined Ramada Inc.'s corporate accounting staff in 1977 as a manager and held various positions in corporate and hotel accounting, serving as hotel group controller, before being named assistant corporate controller. Mr. Sipek became Aztar's assistant corporate controller in 1989 and he was appointed controller in March 1990. Mr. Sipek was appointed vice president of Aztar in May 2004 and continued his position as controller.

Neil A. Ciarfalia. Mr. Ciarfalia joined Aztar in 1995 as treasurer. Prior to joining Aztar, Mr. Ciarfalia spent 11 years with the commercial aircraft division of Saab-Scania AB. During that time, he served Saab as president of the various divisional finance companies which arranged or provided financing for the acquisition of Saab aircraft and related products. Mr. Ciarfalia was appointed vice president of Aztar in May 2004 and continued his position as treasurer. On February 17, 2005, the Board of Directors appointed Mr. Ciarfalia to the position of chief financial officer in addition to vice president and treasurer, effective March 1, 2005, subject to approval by gaming authorities.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

(a) Holders

Aztar had 5,177 shareholders of record as of February 8, 2005.

(c) Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table provides information on a monthly basis for the fourth quarter ended December 30, 2004 with respect to the Company's purchases of equity securities.

| Period | (a) Total Number of Shares Purchased | (b) Average Price Paid per Share | (c) Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | (d) Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Month #1 October 1, 2004 to October 28, 2004 | -- | -- | -- | 794,224* |
| Month #2 October 29, 2004 to December 2, 2004 | -- | -- | -- | 794,224* |
| Month #3 December 3, 2004 to December 30, 2004 | -- | -- | -- | 794,224* |

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* In December 2002, the Board of Directors authorized the Company to make discretionary repurchases up to 4,000,000 shares of its common stock. There is no expiration date under this authority. There were 2,922,576 and 283,200 shares repurchased under this program in 2003 and 2002, respectively.

The additional information required by this Item 5 is included in this report on pages F-20, F-37, F-41 and F-63.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The information required by Item 6 is included in this report on pages F-63 through F-65.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The information required by Item 7 is included in this report on pages F-39 through F-62.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The information required by Item 7A is included in this report on pages F-56 and F-57 under the caption "Market Risk".

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Reference is made to the Index to Financial Statements and Schedules on page F-1.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

EVALUATION OF DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our Exchange Act reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures.

We carried out an evaluation as of December 30, 2004, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures. Based on the foregoing, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that the desired control objectives were achieved.

CHANGES IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

There have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 30, 2004, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

MANAGEMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by members of our management under the supervision of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Our internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that: (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company, (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management, including our chief executive officer and our chief financial officer as well as directors of the Company and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

We performed an evaluation as of December 30, 2004, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. We recognize, as members of the Company's management, that we are responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting and for assessing, on an annual basis, the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Our assessment was performed in accordance with the criteria established in the Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on the results of our assessment, management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 30, 2004 based on those criteria. Our assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting has been audited by our independent registered public accounting firm who has also audited the financial statements included in this annual report as stated in their report which appears herein.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

The registrant has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. The registrant's code of ethics is posted on the registrant's internet website at www.aztar.com. In order to access this portion of our website, click on the "Investor Information" caption, then on the "Corporate Governance" caption. In addition, the registrant intends to post on its internet website any amendments to, or waivers from, a provision of its code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. The registrant will provide to any person without charge, upon request, a copy of the registrant's code of

ethics by contacting the registrant's Corporate Communications Department at 602-381-4100 or by writing to the registrant at Aztar Corporation, Corporate Communications, 2390 E. Camelback Road, Suite 400, Phoenix, Arizona 85016-3452.

The additional information required by Item 10 is incorporated by reference to the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A cross-referenced index is located on the facing page of this report.

Information concerning the registrant's executive officers is presented above under a separate caption in Part I of this report.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by Item 11 is incorporated by reference to the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A cross-referenced index is located on the facing page of this report.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The following table provides information at December 30, 2004 with respect to compensation plans under which equity securities of the registrant are authorized for issuance.

| | (a) | (b) | (c) |
|--|---|---|---|
| Plan category | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) |
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | 4,522,827 | \$13.98 | 3,576,663 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | | | |
| Total | 4,522,827 | \$13.98 | 3,576,663 |

The additional information required by Item 12 is incorporated by reference to the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A cross-referenced index is located on the facing page of this report.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

None.

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ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by Item 14 is incorporated by reference to the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A cross-referenced index is located on the facing page of this report.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) 1. Financial Statements:

See the Index to Financial Statements and Schedules on page F-1.

2. Financial Statement Schedules:

See the Index to Financial Statements and Schedules on page F-1.

3. Exhibits:

See the exhibit index on page E-1 for a listing of exhibits filed with this report and those incorporated by reference.

All other exhibits have been omitted because the information is not required or is not applicable.

For the purposes of complying with the amendments to the rules governing Form S-8 (effective July 13, 1990) under the Securities Act of 1933, the undersigned registrant hereby undertakes as follows, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference into registrant's Registration Statements on Form S-8 No. 33-32399, No. 33-44794, No. 333-79297, No. 333-64952 and No. 333-121447 (filed January 5, 1990, December 24, 1991, May 26, 1999, July 12, 2001 and December 20, 2004, respectively):

Insofar as indemnification for liability arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer

or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <u>AZTAR CORPORATION</u> | By <u>ROBERT M. HADDOCK</u> | <u>February 28, 2005</u> |
| Registrant | Robert M. Haddock President and Chief Financial Officer | Date |

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <u>PAUL E. RUBELI</u> | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and Director | <u>February 28, 2005</u> |
| Paul E. Rubeli | | |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <u>ROBERT M. HADDOCK</u> | President and Chief Financial Officer, and Director | <u>February 28, 2005</u> |
| Robert M. Haddock | | |

MERIDITH P.
SIPEK Vice President and
Controller February 28,
2005

Meridith P. Sipek

JOHN B.
BOHLE Director February 28,
2005

John B. Bohle

FRANK J.
BRADY Director February 28,
2005

Frank J. Brady

GORDON M.
BURNS Director February 28,
2005

Gordon M. Burns

LINDA C.
FAISS Director February 28,
2005

Linda C. Faiss

JOHN A.
SPENCER Director February 28,
2005

John A. Spencer

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| All other schedules are omitted because the required information is either presented in the financial statements or notes thereto, or is not present in amounts sufficient to require submission of the schedule. | |

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of
Aztar Corporation:

We have completed an integrated audit of Aztar Corporation's 2004 consolidated financial statements and of its internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2004 and audits of its 2003 and 2002 consolidated financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Our opinions, based on our audits, are presented below.

Consolidated financial statements

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and the related consolidated statements of operations, cash flows and shareholders' equity present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Aztar Corporation and its subsidiaries (the "Company") at December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 30, 2004 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Internal control over financial reporting

Also, in our opinion, management's assessment, included in Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting appearing under Item 9A, that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2004 based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by

the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on those criteria. Furthermore, in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2004, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the COSO. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express opinions on management's assessment and on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We conducted our audit of internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was

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maintained in all material respects. An audit of internal control over financial reporting includes obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we consider necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP

Phoenix, Arizona
February 28, 2005

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AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands, except share data)

| | December 30, <u>2004</u> | January 1, <u>2004</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 52,908 | \$ 70,586 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 17,668 | 17,043 |
| Construction accident receivables | 4,247 | 3,345 |
| Refundable income taxes | 19,457 | 5,587 |
| Inventories | 8,643 | 7,576 |
| Prepaid expenses | 10,300 | 10,049 |
| Insurance deposits | 6,000 | -- |
| Deferred income taxes | <u>11,331</u> | <u>14,945</u> |
| Total current assets | 130,554 | 129,131 |
| Investments | 23,602 | 19,586 |
| Property and equipment: | | |

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| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Buildings, riverboats and equipment, net | 1,015,140 | 738,978 |
| Land | 216,111 | 216,103 |
| Construction in progress | 7,869 | 166,544 |
| Leased under capital leases, net | <u>26</u> | <u>44</u> |
| | 1,239,146 | 1,121,669 |
| Intangible assets | 34,380 | 34,616 |
| Other assets | <u>83,958</u> | <u>42,771</u> |
| | \$1,511,640 | \$1,347,773 |
| | ===== | ===== |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (continued)
(in thousands, except share data)

December 30,

January 1,

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| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2004</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable and accruals | \$ 94,321 | \$ 65,746 |
| Accrued payroll and employee benefits | 29,978 | 28,133 |
| Accrued interest payable | 9,029 | 9,478 |
| Accrued rent | 8,787 | 10,755 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 1,292 | 16,963 |
| Current portion of other long-term liabilities | <u>972</u> | <u>981</u> |
| Total current liabilities | 144,379 | 132,056 |
| Long-term debt | 731,253 | 628,603 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 23,815 | 19,825 |
| Deferred income taxes | 40,988 | 27,462 |
| Contingencies and commitments | | |
| Series B convertible preferred stock (redemption value \$17,791 and \$12,187) | 4,914 | 5,253 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value (34,781,585 and 34,270,803 shares outstanding) | 533 | 526 |
| Paid-in capital | 451,404 | 441,498 |
| Retained earnings | 319,018 | 291,573 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (3,259) | (1,526) |
| Less: Treasury stock | <u>(201,405)</u> | <u>(197,497)</u> |
| Total shareholders' equity | <u>566,291</u> | <u>534,574</u> |
| | \$1,511,640 | \$1,347,773 |
| | <u>=====</u> | <u>=====</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
For the Years Ended December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003
(in thousands, except per share data)

2004

2003

2002

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| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Revenues | | | |
| Casino | \$635,579 | \$641,096 | \$664,957 |
| Rooms | 85,713 | 76,218 | 73,702 |
| Food and beverage | 55,208 | 55,979 | 56,232 |
| Other | <u>39,727</u> | <u>39,853</u> | <u>39,383</u> |
| | 816,227 | 813,146 | 834,274 |
| Costs and expenses | | | |
| Casino | 275,995 | 277,969 | 281,211 |
| Rooms | 42,602 | 39,349 | 38,336 |
| Food and beverage | 54,037 | 53,645 | 53,448 |
| Other | 29,945 | 30,106 | 31,888 |
| Marketing | 79,396 | 76,774 | 82,057 |
| General and administrative | 85,478 | 77,227 | 75,831 |
| Utilities | 20,216 | 17,761 | 16,723 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 26,180 | 24,123 | 24,852 |
| Provision for doubtful accounts | 967 | 1,530 | 2,582 |
| Property taxes and insurance | 30,316 | 29,442 | 27,597 |
| Rent | 8,711 | 8,779 | 12,770 |
| Construction accident related | 6,238 | 512 | -- |
| Construction accident insurance recoveries | (12,217) | -- | -- |
| Depreciation and amortization | 55,128 | 50,906 | 50,499 |
| Preopening costs | <u>2,893</u> | <u>--</u> | <u>--</u> |
| | <u>705,885</u> | <u>688,123</u> | <u>697,794</u> |
| Operating income | 110,342 | 125,023 | 136,480 |
| Other income | 3,907 | -- | -- |
| Interest income | 807 | 736 | 1,035 |
| Interest expense | (37,012) | (36,375) | (41,224) |
| Equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss | -- | -- | (458) |
| Loss on early retirement of debt | <u>(10,372)</u> | <u>--</u> | <u>--</u> |
| Income before income taxes | 67,672 | 89,384 | 95,833 |
| Income taxes | <u>(39,197)</u> | <u>(28,454)</u> | <u>(36,974)</u> |
| Net income | \$ 28,475 | \$ 60,930 | \$ 58,859 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Net income per common share | \$.79 | \$ 1.72 | \$ 1.56 |
| Net income per common share assuming dilution | \$.76 | \$ 1.66 | \$ 1.51 |
| Weighted-average common shares applicable to: | | | |
| Net income per common share | 34,547 | 34,999 | 37,191 |
| Net income per common share assuming dilution | 36,558 | 36,563 | 38,841 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Years Ended December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003
 (in thousands)

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | | |
| Net income | \$ 28,475 | \$ 60,930 | \$ 58,859 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 56,950 | 52,432 | 51,958 |
| Provision for losses on accounts receivable | 967 | 1,530 | 2,582 |
| Loss on early retirement of debt | 10,372 | -- | -- |
| Loss (gain) on reinvestment obligation | 991 | 250 | (2,662) |
| Rent expense | 470 | 459 | (171) |
| Distribution less than equity in income of partnership | -- | -- | (414) |
| Deferred income taxes | 17,140 | 688 | 12,917 |
| Change in assets and liabilities: | | | |
| (Increase) decrease in receivables | (5,275) | (47) | 764 |
| (Increase) decrease in refundable income taxes | (13,870) | (994) | (4,593) |
| (Increase) decrease in inventories and prepaid expenses | (1,745) | (1,167) | 2,007 |
| Increase (decrease) in accounts payable, accrued expenses and income taxes payable | 19,879 | (4,399) | 2,619 |
| Other items, net | <u>(9,088)</u> | <u>1,683</u> | <u>4,682</u> |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | <u>105,266</u> | <u>111,365</u> | <u>128,548</u> |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | | |
| Reduction in investments | 1,930 | 2,252 | 13,927 |
| Proceeds from insurance | 10,879 | -- | -- |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (160,327) | (147,379) | (74,673) |
| Acquisition of Tropicana Enterprises partnership interests | -- | -- | (117,500) |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Additions to other long-term assets | <u>(43,049)</u> | <u>(23,846)</u> | <u>(9,023)</u> |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | <u>\$(190,567)</u> | <u>\$(168,973)</u> | <u>\$(187,269)</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (continued)
For the Years Ended December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003
(in thousands)

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities | | | |
| Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt | \$1,018,572 | \$ 405,257 | \$ 176,400 |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock | 3,613 | 1,466 | 4,499 |
| Principal payments on long-term debt | (930,921) | (288,015) | (156,102) |
| Premium paid on early retirement of debt | (7,616) | -- | -- |
| Principal payments on other long-term liabilities | (22) | (33) | (27) |
| Debt issuance costs | (12,768) | -- | -- |
| Repurchase of common stock | (1,858) | (42,244) | (4,061) |
| Preferred stock dividend | (406) | (435) | (461) |
| Redemption of preferred stock | <u>(971)</u> | <u>(698)</u> | <u>(753)</u> |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | <u>67,623</u> | <u>75,298</u> | <u>19,495</u> |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | (17,678) | 17,690 | (39,226) |

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | <u>70,586</u> | <u>52,896</u> | <u>92,122</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | \$ 52,908 | \$ 70,586 | \$ 52,896 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures | | | |
| Acquisition of Tropicana Enterprises partnership interests: | | | |
| Investments in and advances to unconsolidated partnership | \$ -- | \$ -- | \$ 6,828 |
| Buildings, net | -- | -- | (41,411) |
| Land | -- | -- | (109,979) |
| Intangible assets | -- | -- | (22,172) |
| Other assets | -- | -- | 7,841 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | -- | -- | 4,148 |
| Current portion of other long-term liabilities | -- | -- | (847) |
| Long-term debt | -- | -- | 44,773 |
| Other long-term liabilities | <u>--</u> | <u>--</u> | <u>(6,681)</u> |
| Net cash used in acquisition | \$ -- | \$ -- | \$(117,500) |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (continued)
For the Years Ended December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003
(in thousands)

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|

Summary of non-cash investing and

financing activities:

| | | | |
|--|----------|-------|-------|
| Exchange of common stock in lieu of cash payments in connection with the exercise of stock options | \$ 2,050 | \$ -- | \$ 5 |
| Current liabilities incurred for other assets | -- | 1,919 | 6,163 |

Cash flow during the year for the following:

| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Interest paid, net of amount capitalized | \$ 35,639 | \$ 34,506 | \$ 40,137 |
| Income taxes paid | 30,806 | 27,765 | 27,318 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
For the Years Ended December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003
 (in thousands)

| <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>Paid-in Capital</u> | <u>Retained Earnings</u> | <u>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss - Minimum Pension Liability Adjustment</u> | <u>Treasury Stock</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------|
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------|

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| | | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Balance, | | | | | | |
| January 3, 2002 | \$ 517 | \$431,455 | \$173,409 | \$ (353) | \$(151,187) | \$453,841 |
| Net income | | | 58,859 | | | 58,859 |
| Minimum pension liability adjustment, net of income tax benefit | | | | (259) | | <u>(259)</u> |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | 58,600 |
| Stock options exercised | 7 | 4,497 | | | (5) | 4,499 |
| Tax benefit from stock options exercised | | 3,323 | | | | 3,323 |
| Preferred stock dividend and losses on redemption | | | (848) | | | (848) |
| Repurchase of common stock | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>(4,061)</u> | <u>(4,061)</u> |
| Balance, | | | | | | |
| January 2, 2003 | 524 | 439,275 | 231,420 | (612) | (155,253) | 515,354 |
| Net income | | | 60,930 | | | 60,930 |
| Minimum pension liability adjustment, net of income tax benefit | | | | (914) | | <u>(914)</u> |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | 60,016 |
| Stock options exercised | 2 | 1,464 | | | | 1,466 |
| Tax benefit from stock options exercised | | 759 | | | | 759 |
| Preferred stock dividend and losses on redemption | | | (777) | | | (777) |
| Repurchase of common stock | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>(42,244)</u> | <u>(42,244)</u> |
| Balance, | | | | | | |
| January 1, 2004 | \$ 526 | \$441,498 | \$291,573 | \$ (1,526) | \$(197,497) | \$534,574 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (continued)
For the Years Ended December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003
 (in thousands)

| | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>Paid-in Capital</u> | <u>Retained Earnings</u> | <u>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss - Minimum Pension Liability Adjustment</u> | <u>Treasury Stock</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance, January 1, 2004 | \$ 526 | \$441,498 | \$291,573 | \$ (1,526) | \$(197,497) | \$534,574 |
| Net income | | | 28,475 | | | 28,475 |
| Minimum pension liability adjustment, net of income tax benefit | | | | (1,733) | | <u>(1,733)</u> |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | 26,742 |
| Stock options exercised | 7 | 5,656 | | | (3,908) | 1,755 |
| Tax benefit from stock options exercised | | 4,250 | | | | 4,250 |
| Preferred stock dividend and losses on redemption | — | — | <u>(1,030)</u> | — | — | <u>(1,030)</u> |
| Balance, December 30, 2004 | \$ 533 ===== | \$451,404 ===== | \$319,018 ===== | \$ (3,259) ===== | \$(201,405) ===== | \$566,291 ===== |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Consolidated Statements

Aztar Corporation ("Aztar" or "Company") was incorporated in Delaware in June 1989 to operate the gaming business of Ramada Inc. ("Ramada") after the restructuring of Ramada ("Restructuring"). The Restructuring involved the disposition of Ramada's hotel and restaurant businesses with Ramada's shareholders retaining their interest in the gaming business. As part of the Restructuring, the gaming business and certain other assets and liabilities of Ramada were transferred to Aztar, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of New World Hotels (U.S.A.), Inc. was merged with Ramada ("Merger"). In the Merger, each share of Ramada common stock was converted into the right to receive \$1.00 and one share of Aztar common stock.

The Company operates casino hotels in Atlantic City, New Jersey and Las Vegas, Nevada, under the Tropicana name and in Laughlin, Nevada, as Ramada Express. The Company operates casino riverboats in Caruthersville, Missouri and Evansville, Indiana under the Casino Aztar name. A substantial portion of the Company's consolidated revenues and assets is concentrated at the Atlantic City Tropicana.

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Aztar and all of its controlled subsidiaries and partnerships. All subsidiary companies are wholly owned. In consolidating, all material intercompany transactions are eliminated. The Company uses a 52/53 week fiscal year ending on the Thursday nearest December 31, which included 52 weeks in 2004, 2003 and 2002.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less are classified as cash equivalents. These instruments are stated at cost, which approximates fair value because of their short maturity.

Short-term Investments

Short-term investments purchased with an original maturity of over three months but less than one year are stated at cost, which approximates fair value because of their short maturity. There were no short-term investments at December 30, 2004 or January 1, 2004.

Inventories

Inventories, which consist primarily of food, beverage and operating supplies, are stated at the lower of cost or market value. Costs are determined using the first-in, first-out and the average cost methods.

Advertising Costs

Costs for advertising are expensed as incurred, except costs for direct-response advertising, which are capitalized and amortized over the period of the related program, which varies from one month to six months. Direct-response advertising costs consist primarily of mailing costs associated with direct-mail programs. Capitalized advertising costs, included in prepaid expenses, were immaterial at

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December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004. Advertising costs that were expensed during the year were \$18,688,000 in 2004, \$15,433,000 in 2003 and \$15,704,000 in 2002.

Other Investments

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority ("CRDA") deposits are carried at cost less a valuation allowance because they have to be used to purchase CRDA bonds that carry below market interest rates unless an alternative investment is approved. The valuation allowance is established by a charge to the Statement of Operations at the time the obligation is incurred to make the deposit unless there is an agreement with the CRDA for a return of the deposit at full face value. If the CRDA deposits are used to purchase CRDA bonds, the valuation allowance is transferred to the bonds as a discount, which is amortized to interest income using the interest method. If the CRDA deposits are used to make other investments, the valuation allowance is transferred to those investments and remains a valuation allowance.

The CRDA bonds are classified as held-to-maturity securities and are carried at amortized cost less a valuation allowance.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost. During construction, the Company capitalizes interest and other direct and indirect costs, which are primarily property taxes, insurance costs, outside legal costs and the compensation costs of project personnel devoted exclusively to managing the project. Interest is capitalized monthly by applying the effective interest rate on certain borrowings to the average balance of expenditures. The interest that was capitalized during the year was \$12,886,000 in 2004, \$8,322,000 in 2003 and \$3,004,000 in 2002.

Depreciation and amortization are computed by the straight-line method based upon the following useful lives: buildings and improvements, 3-40 years; riverboats, barge, docking facilities and improvements, 3-25 years; furniture and equipment, 3- 15 years; and leasehold improvements, shorter of lease term or asset useful life. Accumulated depreciation and amortization on buildings, riverboats and equipment was \$575,986,000 at December 30, 2004 and \$540,113,000 at January 1, 2004.

Improvements, renewals and extraordinary repairs that extend the life of the asset are capitalized; other repairs and maintenance are expensed. The cost and accumulated depreciation applicable to assets retired are removed from the accounts and the gain or loss, if any, on disposition is recognized in income as realized.

Intangible Assets

Costs incurred to obtain initial gaming licenses to operate a casino are capitalized as incurred. These costs are not being amortized as the Company has determined that the useful life of the initial gaming licenses is indefinite. Subsequent costs incurred to renew gaming licenses are capitalized and amortized evenly over the renewal period. Licensing costs consist primarily of payments or obligations to civic and community organizations, legal and consulting fees, application and selection fees with associated investigative costs and direct internal salaries and related costs of development personnel.

Other Assets

Debt issuance costs are capitalized as incurred and amortized using the interest method.

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Development costs associated with pursuing opportunities in gaming jurisdictions, as well as in jurisdictions in which gaming has not been approved, are expensed as incurred until a particular opportunity is determined to be viable, generally when the Company has been selected as the operator of a new gaming facility, has applied for a gaming license or has obtained rights to a specific site. Development costs incurred subsequent to these criteria being met are capitalized. Development costs associated with the Company's existing properties are expensed as incurred until a particular project is deemed viable and selected for further evaluation, after which they are capitalized. Development costs consist primarily of licensing costs, site acquisition costs, concept and design fees and architectural fees. In jurisdictions in which gaming has not been approved, only site acquisition costs are capitalized. In the event a project is later determined not to be viable or the Company is not licensed to operate a facility at a site, the capitalized costs related to this project or site would be expensed. It is reasonably possible that management's estimate of viability with regard to a development project may change in the near term.

Leasing costs are capitalized as incurred and amortized evenly, as a reduction to rental income, over the related lease

terms. Leasing costs consist primarily of tenant allowances, which are incentives provided to tenants whereby the Company agrees to pay certain amounts toward tenant leasehold improvements or other tenant development costs. Leasing costs also include lease acquisition costs, which consist primarily of leasing agent fees and legal fees incurred by the Company.

Valuation of Long-Lived Assets

Long-lived assets and certain identifiable intangibles held and used by the Company are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances warrant such a review. The carrying value of a long-lived or amortizable intangible asset is considered impaired when the anticipated undiscounted cash flow from such asset is separately identifiable and is less than its carrying value. In that event, a loss is recognized based on the amount by which the carrying value exceeds the fair value of the asset. Losses on long-lived assets to be disposed of are determined in a similar manner, except that fair values are reduced for the cost of disposition. An annual impairment review based on fair value is required for all intangible assets with indefinite lives. The Company performed an impairment test of its intangible assets with indefinite lives during the year 2004 and concluded that there was no impairment.

Equity Instruments

The fair-value-based method of accounting is used for equity instruments issued to nonemployees for goods or services. The intrinsic-value-based method of accounting is used for stock-based employee compensation plans. The Company has elected to follow Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25 entitled "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees" and related Interpretations in accounting for its stock-based employee compensation arrangements because the alternative fair-value-based method of accounting provided for under Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 entitled "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" requires use of option valuation models that were not developed for use in valuing employee stock options.

Under APB 25, because the exercise price of the Company's stock options equals the market price of the underlying stock on the date of grant, no compensation expense is recognized. The Company's stock-based employee compensation plans are more fully discussed in Note 12. Stock Options.

Pro forma information regarding net income and earnings per share is required by SFAS 123, and has been determined as if the Company had accounted for its stock

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option plans under the fair-value-based method of that Statement. The fair value for these options was estimated at the date of grant or modification using a Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions: risk-free interest rate of 4.2% in 2004, 2.6% in 2003 and 4.8% in 2002, no dividend in 2004, 2003 or 2002, volatility factor of the expected market price of the Company's common stock of .47 in 2004 and .50 in 2003 and 2002, and an expected life of the option of 5.0 years in 2004, 5.2 years in 2003 and 5.6 years in 2002.

For purposes of pro forma disclosures, the estimated fair value of the options is amortized to expense over the options' vesting period. The pro forma information is as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

| 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
|------|------|------|

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| | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Net income, as reported | \$ 28,475 | \$ 60,930 | \$ 58,859 |
| Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under the fair-value-based method of accounting, net of income tax benefit | <u>(3,977)</u> | <u>(3,197)</u> | <u>(3,542)</u> |
| Pro forma net income | <u>\$ 24,498</u> | <u>\$ 57,733</u> | <u>\$ 55,317</u> |
| Net income per common share: | | | |
| As reported | \$.79 | \$ 1.72 | \$ 1.56 |
| Pro forma | \$.68 | \$ 1.63 | \$ 1.46 |
| Net income per common share assuming dilution: | | | |
| As reported | \$.76 | \$ 1.66 | \$ 1.51 |
| Pro forma | \$.65 | \$ 1.58 | \$ 1.42 |

Revenue Recognition

Casino revenue consists of gaming win net of losses. Other revenue consists of revenue from many various sources such as entertainment, retail outlets including gift shops, telephone, commissions and surcharges, hotel services, admissions to our riverboats and rental income. These revenues are recognized as earned. Revenues exclude the retail value of complimentary food and beverage, accommodations and other goods and services provided to customers. The estimated costs of providing such complimentaries have been classified as casino expenses through interdepartmental allocations as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Rooms | \$ 18,451 | \$ 18,000 | \$ 18,421 |
| Food and beverage | 48,434 | 48,417 | 47,698 |
| Other | <u>2,702</u> | <u>3,280</u> | <u>3,066</u> |
| | <u>\$ 69,587</u> | <u>\$ 69,697</u> | <u>\$ 69,185</u> |

Income Taxes

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements or income tax returns. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the difference between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

Earnings per Share

Earnings per common share excludes dilution and is computed by dividing income applicable to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding. Earnings per common share, assuming dilution, is computed based on the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding after consideration of the dilutive effect of stock options and the assumed conversion of the preferred stock at the stated rate.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), "Share-Based Payment." SFAS 123(R) establishes standards for the accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services. It focuses primarily on accounting for transactions in which an entity obtains employee services in share-based payment transactions. SFAS 123(R) requires a public entity to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award and the estimated number of awards that are expected to vest. That cost will be recognized over the period during which an employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award, which is usually the vesting period. SFAS 123(R) supersedes APB 25, which the Company has elected to follow. SFAS 123(R) is effective for the Company at the beginning of the fiscal third quarter of 2005. SFAS 123(R) applies to all awards granted after the required effective date and to awards modified, repurchased, or cancelled after that date. Compensation cost is recognized on or after the required effective date for the portion of outstanding awards for which the requisite service has not yet been rendered, based on the grant-date fair value of those awards calculated under SFAS 123 that the Company has followed for disclosure purposes. For periods before the required effective date, the Company may elect to adjust financial statements of prior periods on a basis consistent with the pro forma disclosures required for those periods by SFAS 123. The Company has not decided whether or not to restate prior periods. Based on stock options granted through December 30, 2004, the Company estimates that, net of the related income tax benefits, it will record an additional cost of approximately \$500,000 for the third quarter of 2005 and \$500,000 for the fourth quarter of 2005.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made in the 2003 Consolidated Statement of Operations and the 2002 Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows in order to be comparable with the 2004 presentations.

NOTE 2. CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, investments and trade accounts receivable. The Company places its cash and temporary cash investments with high-credit-quality financial institutions. At times, such investments may be in excess of the FDIC and SIPC insurance limits.

The Atlantic City Tropicana has a concentration of credit risk in the northeast region of the U.S. The accounts receivable at the Nevada operations are concentrated in California and the southwest region of the U.S. As a general policy, the Company does not require collateral for these receivables. At December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, the net accounts receivable at Tropicana Atlantic City were \$12,875,000 and \$11,040,000, respectively, and the net accounts receivable at Tropicana Las Vegas and Ramada Express combined were \$4,129,000 and \$5,106,000, respectively.

Trade receivables are initially recorded at cost. Accounts are written off when the Company deems the account to be uncollectible. An allowance for doubtful accounts is maintained at a level considered adequate to provide for possible future losses. The allowance is estimated based on specific review of customer accounts, the age of the receivables, the Company's historical collection experience and current economic conditions. At December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, the allowance for doubtful accounts was \$13,138,000 and \$14,098,000, respectively.

NOTE 3. ACQUISITION AND PRIOR INVESTMENTS IN AND ADVANCES TO UNCONSOLIDATED PARTNERSHIP

The Company's prior investment in unconsolidated partnership was a noncontrolling partnership interest of 50% in Tropicana Enterprises, a Nevada general partnership that owned the real property that the Company leased in the operation of the Las Vegas Tropicana. The Company used the equity method of accounting for this investment. On February 28, 2002, the Company purchased the 50% partnership interest in Tropicana Enterprises that it did not own. After credits, the Company paid \$117,500,000. The source of funds for this purchase was cash on hand of \$47,500,000 and \$70,000,000 in borrowings under its prior revolving credit facility ("Prior Revolver"). In addition, the Company assumed \$48,921,000 of partnership debt ("Tropicana Enterprises Loan") that the Company was servicing through its rent payments. This purchase eliminates, after February 28, 2002, the Company's real estate rent expense at the Las Vegas Tropicana and its equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss. In connection with the lease, the Company expensed rents of \$2,722,000 in 2002, of which 50% was eliminated in consolidation. The Company's equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss during the year was \$458,000 in 2002. Distributions received from Tropicana Enterprises during the year were \$489,000 in 2002. The purchase, however, increases depreciation and interest expenses and decreases interest income after February 28, 2002. As part of the acquisition, the Company acquired the 50% interest in the Tropicana trademark, an intangible asset with an indefinite life, that it did not already own as part of its interest in the partnership, at an allocated cost of \$22,172,000 based upon an appraisal report.

Summarized operating results, prior to the acquisition, for the unconsolidated partnership are as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>2002</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Revenues | \$ 2,722 |
| Operating expenses | <u>(473)</u> |
| Operating income | 2,249 |
| Interest expense | <u>(253)</u> |
| Net income | \$ 1,996 ===== |

The Company's share of the above operating results, after intercompany eliminations, is as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>2002</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss | \$ (458) |

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NOTE 4. INVESTMENTS

Investments consist of the following (in thousands):

| | December 30, <u>2004</u> | January 1, <u>2004</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| CRDA deposits, net of a valuation allowance of \$4,748 and \$4,321 | \$ 13,585 | \$ 12,463 |
| CRDA bonds, net of a valuation allowance of \$1,720 and \$1,470 and an unamortized discount of \$2,746 and \$2,756 | 4,924 | 5,050 |
| CRDA other investments, net of a valuation allowance of \$1,771 and \$1,171 | <u>5,093</u> | <u>2,073</u> |
| | \$ 23,602 | \$ 19,586 |
| | ===== | ===== |

The Company has a New Jersey investment obligation based upon its New Jersey casino revenue. The Company may satisfy this investment obligation by investing in qualified eligible direct investments, by making qualified contributions or by depositing funds with the CRDA. Deposits with the CRDA bear interest at two-thirds of market rates, resulting in a fair value lower than cost. These deposits, under certain circumstances, may be donated to the CRDA in exchange for credits against future investment obligations. If not used for other purposes, the CRDA deposits are used to invest in bonds issued by the CRDA as they become available that also bear interest at two-thirds of market rates. The CRDA bonds have various contractual maturities that range from 10 to 40 years. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because of prepayment rights.

In April 2002, the Company commenced construction on a major expansion project at the Atlantic City Tropicana. The Company has an agreement with the CRDA for approximately \$20,100,000 in funding in connection with this expansion project. As of December 30, 2004, the Company has received approximately \$18,100,000 in funding from the CRDA under this agreement. At December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, the Company had approximately \$400,000 and \$800,000, respectively, in available deposits with the CRDA that qualified for this funding and accordingly reclassified these amounts to accounts receivable.

NOTE 5. LAS VEGAS TROPICANA DEVELOPMENT

The Company's master plan for a potential development of its Las Vegas Tropicana site envisions the creation of two separate but essentially equal and inter-connected sites. The north site would be developed by the Company. The south site would be held for future Company development, joint venture development, or sale for development by another party.

For development of a potential project on the north site, a detailed design has substantially been completed. However, the Company has postponed a decision about whether and when it will proceed with that development. The amount and timing of any future expenditure, and the extent of any impact on existing operations, will depend on the nature and timing of the development we ultimately undertake, if any. If we decide to abandon any facilities in the development process, we would have to conduct a review for impairment with a possible write-down and review their useful lives with a possible adjustment to depreciation and amortization expense. These reviews could result in adjustments that have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations.

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The net book value of the property and equipment used in the operation of the Las Vegas Tropicana, excluding land at a cost of \$109,979,000, was \$56,253,000 at December 30, 2004. The net book value of accounts receivable, inventories and prepaid expenses at the Las Vegas Tropicana was \$6,917,000 at December 30, 2004. It is reasonably possible that the carrying value of some or all of these assets may change in the near term.

NOTE 6: INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Acquired intangible assets consist of the following (in thousands):

| | <u>December 30, 2004</u> | | <u>January 1, 2004</u> | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <u>Gross Carrying Amount</u> | <u>Accumulated Amortization</u> | <u>Gross Carrying Amount</u> | <u>Accumulated Amortization</u> |
| Subject to amortization: | | | | |
| Gaming license renewal costs | \$ 2,603 | \$ 958 | \$ 2,049 | \$ 342 |
| Other | <u>285</u> | <u>74</u> | <u>445</u> | <u>60</u> |
| | \$ 2,888 | \$ 1,032 | \$ 2,494 | \$ 402 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Not subject to amortization: | | | | |
| Tropicana trademark | \$ 22,172 | | \$ 22,172 | |
| Initial gaming licenses | <u>10,352</u> | | <u>10,352</u> | |
| | \$ 32,524 | | \$ 32,524 | |
| | ===== | | ===== | |

Amortization of acquired intangible assets was \$637,000 in 2004, \$142,000 in 2003 and \$442,000 in 2002.

Estimated future amortization expense for the acquired intangible assets subject to amortization at December 30, 2004 is as follows for each of the five years subsequent to December 30, 2004 (in thousands):

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2005 | \$ 613 |
| 2006 | 541 |
| 2007 | 474 |
| 2008 | 17 |
| 2009 | 17 |

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NOTE 7. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consists of the following (in thousands):

| | <u>December 30,</u> <u>2004</u> | <u>January 1,</u> <u>2004</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes Due 2007 | \$ -- | \$ 235,000 |
| 9% Senior Subordinated Notes Due 2011; redeemable at a defined premium | 175,000 | 175,000 |
| 7 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014; redeemable at a defined premium | 300,000 | -- |
| Prior Revolver; floating rate; matures June 30, 2005 | -- | 146,500 |
| Revolver; floating rate, 4.3% at December 30, 2004; | | |

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| | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| matures July 22, 2009 | 132,800 | -- |
| Prior Term Loan; floating rate; matures June 30, 2005 | -- | 47,750 |
| Term Loan; floating rate, 4.0% at December 30, 2004; matures July 22, 2009 | 124,688 | -- |
| Tropicana Enterprises Loan; floating rate; matures June 30, 2005 | -- | 41,116 |
| Obligations under capital leases | <u>57</u> | <u>200</u> |
| | 732,545 | 645,566 |
| Less current portion | <u>(1,292)</u> | <u>(16,963)</u> |
| | \$ 731,253 | \$ 628,603 |
| | ===== | ===== |

Maturities of long-term debt for the five years subsequent to December 30, 2004 are as follows (in thousands):

| | |
|------|----------|
| 2005 | \$ 1,292 |
| 2006 | 1,265 |
| 2007 | 7,188 |
| 2008 | 16,250 |
| 2009 | 231,550 |

On July 22, 2004, the Company obtained a new \$675,000,000 senior secured credit facility consisting of a five-year revolving credit facility (including letter of credit and swingline sublimits) of up to \$550,000,000 ("Revolver") and a five-year term loan facility of \$125,000,000 ("Term Loan"). The new senior secured credit facility ("Credit Agreement") amended and restated the Company's prior revolving credit facility. The Company used the funds available under the new senior secured credit facility to pay off its Prior Revolver, Prior Term Loan and Tropicana Enterprises Loan, and to pay fees and expenses associated with the Credit Agreement. At December 30, 2004, the outstanding letters of credit under the Credit Agreement were \$5,300,000, leaving \$411,900,000 available under the Revolver for future use, subject to quarterly financial tests as described below.

Under the Credit Agreement, the original Term Loan calls for quarterly principal payments of \$312,500 on a calendar basis through June 29, 2007, then \$3,125,000 through June 30, 2008 and then \$5,000,000 through March 31, 2009, with the balance due at maturity. If the Company does not commence redevelopment of the Las Vegas Tropicana property or enter into an alternative project approved by lenders holding a majority of the commitments, then the Credit Agreement provides that \$125,000,000 of the revolving credit facility will terminate by June 30, 2006; if, however, this termination has not occurred, then under certain circumstances (and no later than December 31, 2006), the Credit Agreement provides that an amount equal to the lesser of \$125,000,000 or the revolving loans outstanding on December 31, 2006,

shall convert to a term loan, which shall have the same maturity and will amortize at the same percentage rates as the original Term Loan. Under the Credit Agreement, interest on the respective facilities is computed based upon, at the Company's option, a one-, two-, three- or six-month Eurodollar rate plus a margin ranging from 1.25% to 2.75%, or

the prime rate plus a margin ranging from 0.25% to 1.75%; the applicable margin is dependent on the Company's ratio of outstanding indebtedness to operating cash flow, as defined. As of December 30, 2004, the margin was at 0.50% greater than the lowest level. Interest computed based upon the Eurodollar rate is payable quarterly or on the last day of the applicable Eurodollar interest period, if earlier. Interest computed based upon the prime rate is payable quarterly. The Company incurs a commitment fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.625% per annum on the unused portion of the Revolver.

Under the Credit Agreement, each of the revolving credit facility and term loan facility and any additional facility is unconditionally guaranteed by each of the Company's existing and future subsidiaries (other than certain unrestricted subsidiaries) and the facilities (and guarantees thereof) are secured by a perfected first priority security interest in substantially all of the personal and real property assets of the Company and such subsidiaries. The Credit Agreement imposes various restrictions on the Company, including limitations on its ability to incur additional debt, commit funds to capital expenditures and investments, merge or sell assets. The Credit Agreement prohibits dividends on the Company's common stock (other than those payable in common stock) and repurchases of the Company's common stock in excess of \$30,000,000 per year with limited exceptions. In addition, the Credit Agreement contains quarterly financial tests, including a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.35 to 1.00 at December 30, 2004 and maximum ratios of total debt and senior debt to operating cash flow of 4.5 to 1.0 and 2.5 to 1.0, respectively, at December 30, 2004. The actual fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.15 to 1.00 and the actual total debt and senior debt to operating cash flow ratios were 4.21 to 1.0 and 1.51 to 1.0, respectively at December 30, 2004. Should the Company commence the redevelopment of the Tropicana Las Vegas or an approved alternative project, a quarterly "in-balance" test demonstrating that aggregate cash available or reasonably anticipated to be available to the Company and its subsidiaries is sufficient to meet remaining required uses of cash, including committed capital expenditures in connection with any construction project. The new senior secured credit facility includes usual and customary events of default for facilities of this nature (with customary grace periods, as applicable), and provides that, in the event of a change in control, as defined, the majority lenders will have the right to require prepayment of the facility.

On June 2, 2004, the Company issued \$300,000,000 principal amount of 7 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes due June 15, 2014 ("7 7/8% Notes"). Interest is payable semiannually on June 15 and December 15, beginning on December 15, 2004. The net proceeds from the issuance of the 7 7/8% Notes, after payment of the fees and expenses of the issuance, were approximately \$294,300,000. A portion of the net proceeds of the 7 7/8% Notes was used for a redemption on June 2, 2004 of \$192,320,000 principal amount of 8 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2007 ("8 7/8% Notes") that were tendered under an offer to purchase that was issued by the Company on April 22, 2004. The balance of the net proceeds of the 7 7/8% Notes was used to repay outstanding borrowings under the Prior Revolver. On July 7, 2004, the Company redeemed the remaining principal amount of \$42,680,000 of the 8 7/8% Notes. The redemption was funded primarily by borrowings under the Prior Revolver.

At any time prior to June 15, 2009, the 7 7/8% Notes are redeemable at the option of the Company, in whole or in part, at a price of 100% of the principal amount plus a redemption premium plus accrued and unpaid interest. The redemption premium

will be equal to the greater of (1) 1% of the principal amount or (2) the excess of (A) the sum of the present values of (i) 103.938% of the principal amount and (ii) all required interest payments through June 15, 2009, excluding accrued but unpaid interest, computed in each case using a discount rate equal to the Treasury rate at the time of redemption

plus 50 basis points over (B) the principal amount. On or after June 15, 2009, the 7 7/8% Notes are redeemable at the option of the Company, in whole or in part, at prices from 103.938% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest declining to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest beginning June 15, 2012.

At any time on or prior to June 15, 2007, the Company may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes issued under the indenture for the 7 7/8% Notes with the net proceeds of one or more equity offerings by the Company at a redemption price of 107.875% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, provided that (1) at least 65% of the principal amount of the 7 7/8% Notes issued remains outstanding immediately after such redemption and (2) the redemption occurs within 60 days of the closing of such equity offering.

Interest on the 9% Senior Subordinated Notes due August 15, 2011 ("9% Notes") is payable on February 15 and August 15. At any time prior to August 15, 2006, the 9% Notes are redeemable at the option of the Company, in whole or in part, at a price of 100% of the principal amount plus a redemption premium plus accrued and unpaid interest. The redemption premium will be equal to the greater of (1) 1% of the principal amount or (2) the excess of (A) the sum of the present values of (i) 104.5% of the principal amount and (ii) all required interest payments through August 15, 2006, excluding accrued but unpaid interest, computed in each case using a discount rate equal to the Treasury rate at the time of redemption plus 50 basis points over (B) the principal amount. On or after August 15, 2006, the 9% Notes are redeemable at the option of the Company, in whole or in part, at prices from 104.5% of the principal amount plus interest declining to 100% of the principal amount plus interest beginning August 15, 2009.

The 7 7/8% Notes and 9% Notes, ranked pari passu, are general unsecured obligations of the Company and are subordinated in right of payment to all present and future senior indebtedness (as defined) of the Company. Upon change of control of the Company, the holders of the 7 7/8% Notes and 9% Notes would have the right to require repurchase of the respective notes at 101% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. Certain covenants in the 7 7/8% Notes and 9% Notes limit the ability of the Company to incur indebtedness, make certain payments or engage in mergers, consolidations or sales of assets.

NOTE 8. LEASE OBLIGATIONS

The Company is a lessee under a number of noncancelable lease agreements involving land, buildings, leasehold improvements and equipment, some of which provide for contingent rentals based on revenues. The leases extend for various periods up to 10 years and generally provide for the payment of executory costs (taxes, insurance and maintenance) by the Company. Certain of these leases have provisions for renewal options ranging from 1 to 20 years, primarily under similar terms, and/or options to purchase at various dates.

Properties leased under capital leases are as follows (in thousands):

| | December 30, <u>2004</u> | January 1, <u>2004</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Furniture and equipment | \$ 2,111 | \$ 2,111 |
| Less accumulated amortization | <u>(2,085)</u> | <u>(2,067)</u> |
| | <u>\$ 26</u> | <u>\$ 44</u> |
| | ===== | ===== |

Amortization of furniture and equipment leased under capital leases, computed on a straight-line basis, was \$18,000 in 2004, \$55,000 in 2003 and \$324,000 in 2002.

Minimum future lease obligations on long-term, noncancelable leases in effect at December 30, 2004 are as follows (in thousands):

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Capital</u> | <u>Operating</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 2005 | \$ 44 | \$ 3,818 |
| 2006 | 16 | 1,785 |
| 2007 | -- | 973 |
| 2008 | -- | 332 |
| 2009 | -- | 265 |
| Thereafter | <u>--</u> | <u>711</u> |
| | 60 | \$ 7,884 |
| | | ===== |
| Amount representing interest | <u>(3)</u> | |
| Net present value | 57 | |
| Less current portion | <u>(42)</u> | |
| Long-term portion | \$ 15 | |
| | ===== | |

The above net present value is computed based on specific interest rates determined at the inception of the leases.

Rent expense is detailed as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Minimum rentals | \$ 6,431 | \$ 6,072 | \$ 7,327 |
| Contingent rentals | <u>2,280</u> | <u>2,707</u> | <u>5,443</u> |
| | \$ 8,711 | \$ 8,779 | \$ 12,770 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |

NOTE 9. OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Other long-term liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

| <u>December 30,</u> | <u>January 1,</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <u>2004</u> | <u>2004</u> |

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Deferred compensation and retirement plans | \$ 22,215 | \$ 17,960 |
| Deferred income | 2,279 | 2,531 |
| Las Vegas Boulevard beautification assessment | <u>293</u> | <u>315</u> |
| | 24,787 | 20,806 |
| Less current portion | <u>(972)</u> | <u>(981)</u> |
| | \$ 23,815 | \$ 19,825 |
| | ===== | ===== |

NOTE 10. REDEEMABLE PREFERRED STOCK

A series of preferred stock consisting of 100,000 shares has been designated Series B ESOP Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series B Stock") and those shares were issued on December 20, 1989, to the Company's Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP"). In 2001, the ESOP was merged into the Aztar Corporation 401(k) Plan ("401(k) Plan") and the assets of the ESOP were subsequently transferred to the 401(k) Plan.

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Beginning January 1, 2001, the Series B Stock was held by the Aztar Corporation 401(k) Plan Stock and Insurance Trust. During 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively, 3,385 shares, 3,478 shares and 3,584 shares were redeemed primarily in connection with employee terminations. At December 30, 2004, cumulative redemptions totaled 50,855 shares. The Series B Stock has an annual dividend rate of \$8.00 per share per annum payable semiannually in arrears. These shares have no voting rights except under certain limited, specified conditions. Shares may be converted into common stock at \$9.46 per share of common stock and have a liquidation preference of \$100 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends.

The shares that have vested are redeemable at the higher of \$100 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, appraised value or conversion value, at the election of the participant upon becoming eligible to redeem Series B Stock or at the election of the Company. The participant or beneficiary may elect to receive cash or common stock of the Company for the redemption value. The Company may elect to fund the redemption with either cash or its common stock. The excess of the redemption value of the Series B Stock over the carrying value is charged to retained earnings upon redemption. In order for a Series B Stock redemption to occur, a request for distribution is made by the participant or beneficiary. Those participants or beneficiaries who are eligible to redeem their Series B Stock are permitted to leave their Series B Stock in their account until an election for redemption is made or until federal statutes require a form of distribution.

In the event of default in the payment of dividends on the Series B Stock for six consecutive semiannual periods, each outstanding share would have one vote per share of common stock into which the preferred stock is convertible.

NOTE 11. CAPITAL STOCK

The Company is authorized to issue 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, issuable in series

as the Board of Directors may designate. Approximately 100,000 shares of preferred stock have been designated Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock but none have been issued.

The Company is authorized to issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock with a par value of \$.01 per share. Shares issued were 53,261,332 at December 30, 2004 and 52,580,498 at January 1, 2004. Common stock outstanding was net of 18,479,747 and 18,309,695 treasury shares at December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, respectively. One preferred stock purchase right ("Right") is attached to each share of the Company's common stock. Each Right will entitle the holder, subject to the occurrence of certain events, to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at a price of \$50.00 per one one-thousandth of a share, subject to adjustment. The Rights will expire in December 2009 if not earlier extended or redeemed by the Company at \$.01 per Right.

In December 2002, the Board of Directors authorized the Company to make discretionary repurchases of up to 4,000,000 shares of its common stock. There were 2,922,576 and 283,200 shares repurchased under this program in 2003 and 2002, respectively. At December 30, 2004, there remained authority to repurchase 794,224 shares of common stock under this program. All purchases under the Company's stock repurchase program were made or may be made in the future from time to time in the open market or privately negotiated transactions, depending upon market prices and other business factors. Repurchased shares are stated at cost and held as treasury shares to be used for general corporate purposes.

The Company accepted 170,052 and 222 shares of its common stock in 2004 and 2002, respectively, from an employee and nonemployee Director in lieu of cash due to the Company in connection with the exercise of stock options. Such shares of common stock are stated at cost and held as treasury shares to be used for general corporate purposes.

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At December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003, common shares reserved for future grants of stock options under the Company's stock option plans were 3,576,663, 85,664 and 694,664, respectively. At December 30, 2004, common shares reserved for the conversion of the Series B Stock were 520,000 and shares of preferred stock reserved for exercise of the Rights were 50,000.

NOTE 12. STOCK OPTIONS

The Company's 1989 Stock Option and Incentive Plan ("1989 Plan") expired in June 1999. The 1989 Plan had authorized the grant of up to 6,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock pursuant to options, restricted shares and performance shares to officers and key employees of the Company. Options granted under the 1989 Plan have 10-year terms and vest and become exercisable at the rate of 1/3 per year on each of the first three anniversary dates of the grant, subject to continued employment on those dates. During 1999, the Company adopted the 1999 Employee Stock Option and Incentive Plan ("1999 Plan"). The 1999 Plan has authorized the grant of up to 4,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock pursuant to options, stock appreciation rights, restricted shares, deferred shares and performance shares to officers and key employees of the Company. Options granted under the 1999 Plan have 10-year terms and vest and become exercisable at the rate of 1/3 per year on each of the first three anniversary dates of the grant, subject to continued employment on those dates. Options granted on May 8, 2002, or later, under the 1999 Plan include an additional provision that provides for accelerated vesting under certain circumstances related to retirement, disability or death. During 2004, the Company adopted the 2004 Employee Stock Option and Incentive Plan ("2004 Plan"). The 2004 Plan has authorized the grant of up to 4,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock pursuant to options, stock appreciation rights, restricted shares, deferred shares and performance shares to officers and key

employees of the Company. Options granted under the 2004 Plan have 10-year terms and vest and become exercisable at the rate of 1/3 per year on each of the first three anniversary dates of the grant, subject to continued employment on those dates. The 2004 Plan provides for accelerated vesting under certain circumstances related to retirement, disability or death. The Company's 1990 Nonemployee Directors Stock Option Plan ("1990 Plan") expired in July 2000. The 1990 Plan had authorized the grant of up to 250,000 shares of the Company's common stock pursuant to options granted to nonemployee Directors of the Company. Options granted under the 1990 Plan have 10-year terms and vested and became exercisable on the date of grant. During 2001, the Company's shareholders approved the 2000 Nonemployee Directors Stock Option Plan ("2000 Plan"). The 2000 Plan has authorized the grant of up to 250,000 shares of the Company's common stock pursuant to options granted to nonemployee Directors of the Company. Options granted under the 2000 Plan have 10-year terms. The 2000 Plan provides for the granting of options that vest and become exercisable on the date of grant. The 2000 Plan has been modified to also provide for the granting of options whereby a portion vests and becomes exercisable on the date of grant and the remainder vests and becomes exercisable evenly over varying terms depending on the date of the grant, subject to being a Company Director on those dates.

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A summary of the Company's stock option activity and related information is as follows (in thousands of shares):

| | <u>2004</u> | | <u>2003</u> | | <u>2002</u> | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| | Shares | Weighted- Average Exercise Price | Shares | Weighted- Average Exercise Price | Shares | Weighted- Average Exercise Price |
| | <u>Under Option</u> | | <u>Under Option</u> | | <u>Under Option</u> | |
| Beginning balance | | | | | | |
| outstanding | 4,695 | \$12.00 | 4,253 | \$11.37 | 4,185 | \$ 8.84 |
| Granted | 535 | \$24.43 | 633 | \$15.69 | 770 | \$21.38 |
| Exercised | (681) | \$ 8.32 | (167) | \$ 8.78 | (665) | \$ 6.77 |
| Forfeited | (26) | \$18.46 | (24) | \$20.46 | (37) | \$16.66 |
| Expired | <u>--</u> | \$ -- | <u>--</u> | \$ -- | <u>--</u> | \$ -- |
| Ending balance | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| outstanding | 4,523 | \$13.98 | 4,695 | \$12.00 | 4,253 | \$11.37 |
| | ===== | | ===== | | ===== | |
| Exercisable at end of year | 3,355 | \$11.59 | 3,438 | \$ 9.98 | 3,002 | \$ 8.74 |
| | ===== | | ===== | | ===== | |
| Weighted-average fair value of options granted during the year | \$11.29 | | \$ 7.37 | | \$11.00 | |

The following table summarizes additional information about the Company's stock options at December 30, 2004 (in thousands of shares):

| Range of <u>Exercise Prices</u> | <u>Options Outstanding</u> | | | <u>Options Exercisable</u> | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | Shares Under <u>Option</u> | Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual <u>Life</u> | Weighted- Average Exercise <u>Price</u> | Shares Under <u>Option</u> | Weighted- Average Exercise <u>Price</u> |
| \$ 4.06 to \$ 5.06 | 23 | 2.6 years | \$ 4.88 | 23 | \$ 4.88 |
| \$ 6.81 to \$ 9.81 | 1,779 | 4.1 years | \$ 8.30 | 1,779 | \$ 8.30 |
| \$11.00 to \$14.75 | 943 | 5.9 years | \$12.54 | 934 | \$12.53 |
| \$15.10 to \$18.52 | 605 | 8.4 years | \$15.70 | 201 | \$15.65 |
| \$20.46 to \$26.41 | <u>1,173</u> | 8.3 years | \$23.06 | <u>418</u> | \$21.93 |
| | 4,523 | 6.1 years | \$13.98 | 3,355 | \$11.59 |
| | ===== | | | ===== | |

NOTE 13. BENEFIT PLANS

The Company has nonqualified defined benefit pension plans and a deferred compensation plan. These plans are unfunded. Effective January 3, 2003, the Company established the Aztar Corporation Nonqualified Retirement Trust for the benefit of employees covered by one of the Company's nonqualified defined benefit pension plans. The Company contributed \$1,961,000 and \$6,217,000 to this irrevocable trust in 2004 and 2003, respectively. To support the benefit liability of the deferred compensation plan, the Company has purchased life insurance contracts. The market value of the trust and the cash value of the life insurance was \$10,288,000 and \$8,123,000 at December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, respectively. The funds in the trust and life insurance contracts are assets of the Company and are included in other assets. The Company uses a December 31 measurement date for all of its plans. The following table shows a reconciliation

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with amounts recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004 (in thousands):

| | <u>Defined Benefit Plans</u> | | <u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u> | |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
| Projected benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ 16,188 | \$ 12,310 | \$ 6,610 | \$ 6,329 |
| Service cost | 95 | 91 | 11 | 12 |
| Interest cost | 963 | 812 | 384 | 401 |
| Plan amendment (a) | -- | 318 | -- | -- |
| Actuarial loss | 1,533 | 2,928 | 35 | 261 |
| Benefits paid | <u>(271)</u> | <u>(271)</u> | <u>(431)</u> | <u>(393)</u> |
| Projected benefit obligation at end of year | <u>18,508</u> | <u>16,188</u> | <u>6,609</u> | <u>6,610</u> |
| Plan assets | <u>--</u> | <u>--</u> | <u>--</u> | <u>--</u> |
| Funded status | (18,508) | (16,188) | (6,609) | (6,610) |
| Unrecognized actuarial loss | 7,032 | 6,397 | 566 | 531 |
| Unrecognized prior service cost | <u>170</u> | <u>283</u> | <u>--</u> | <u>--</u> |
| Net amount recognized | <u>\$(11,306)</u> | <u>\$ (9,508)</u> | <u>\$ (6,043)</u> | <u>\$ (6,079)</u> |
| Amounts recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets consist of: | | | | |
| Accrued benefit liability | \$(15,606) | \$(11,350) | \$ (6,609) | \$ (6,610) |
| Intangible asset | 170 | 281 | -- | -- |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss (b) | <u>4,130</u> | <u>1,561</u> | <u>566</u> | <u>531</u> |
| Net amount recognized | <u>\$(11,306)</u> | <u>\$ (9,508)</u> | <u>\$ (6,043)</u> | <u>\$ (6,079)</u> |

(a) Effective January 3, 2003, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the establishment of the Aztar Corporation Nonqualified Retirement Plan for Selected Senior Executives.

- (b) In the Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity, accumulated other comprehensive loss relating to a minimum pension liability adjustment during the year is reported net of an income tax benefit of \$871, \$236 and \$140 in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

The accumulated benefit obligation for the defined benefit plans was \$15,606,000 and \$11,350,000 at December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, respectively. The accumulated benefit obligation for the deferred compensation plan was \$6,609,000 and \$6,610,000 at December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, respectively.

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The weighted average assumptions used to determine the Company's benefit obligation are as follows:

| | <u>Defined Benefit Plans</u> | | <u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u> | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
| Discount rate | 5.50% | 6.00% | 5.50 % | 6.00% |
| Rate of compensation increase | 5.00% | 5.00% | N/A | N/A |

The components of benefit plan expense are as follows (in thousands):

| | <u>Defined Benefit Plans</u> | | | <u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u> | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
| Service cost | \$ 95 | \$ 91 | \$ -- | \$ 11 | \$ 12 | \$ 13 |
| Interest cost | 963 | 812 | 725 | 384 | 401 | 413 |
| Amortization of prior service cost | 113 | 224 | 150 | -- | -- | -- |
| Recognized net actuarial loss | 898 | 433 | 195 | -- | -- | -- |
| Cash surrender value increase net of premium expense | -- | -- | -- | (340) | (322) | (318) |

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| | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|--------|
| \$2,069 | \$1,560 | \$1,070 | \$ 55 | \$ 91 | \$ 108 |
| ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

The weighted average assumptions used to determine the Company's benefit plan expense are as follows:

| | <u>Defined Benefit Plans</u> | | | <u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u> | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
| Discount rate | 6.00% | 6.50% | 7.25% | 6.00% | 6.50% | 7.25% |
| Rate of compensation increase | 5.00% | 5.00% | 5.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The estimated future benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid in the following years (in thousands):

| | <u>Defined Benefit Plans</u> | <u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2005 | \$ 271 | \$ 427 |
| 2006 | 344 | 481 |
| 2007 | 342 | 477 |
| 2008 | 338 | 474 |
| 2009 | 1,171 | 576 |
| 2010 to 2014 | 8,559 | 2,919 |

The Company has a defined contribution plan that covers substantially all employees who are not covered by a collective bargaining unit. The plan allows employees, at their discretion, to make contributions of their before-tax earnings to the plan up to an annual maximum amount. The Company matches 50% of the employee contributions that are based on up to 6% of an employee's before-tax earnings. Compensation expense with regard to Company matching contributions was \$2,222,000, \$2,269,000 and \$2,431,000 in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively. The Company contributed \$4,901,000, \$4,695,000 and \$4,390,000 in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively, to trustee pension plans under various collective bargaining agreements.

NOTE 14. ACCOUNTING FOR THE IMPACT OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2003 CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT

An accident occurred on the site of the construction of the parking-garage component of the expansion of the Atlantic City Tropicana on October 30, 2003. The accident resulted in a loss of life and serious injuries, as well as extensive damage to the facilities under construction. Access to the property was limited during the subsequent days because

some of the streets surrounding the property were closed. In addition, the Tropicana's operations were disrupted by the temporary evacuation of 600 hotel rooms and the temporary closure of the parking garages that are part of the existing property. One street adjacent to the property remained closed through April 2004 preventing use of the bus terminal and another street adjacent to the property remained closed through late November 2004 limiting access to the existing parking garages and the porte cochere.

Construction on the expansion project was substantially completed by December 30, 2004. The expansion includes 502 additional hotel rooms, 20,000 square feet of meeting space, 2,400 parking spaces, and "The Quarter at Tropicana", a 200,000- square-foot dining, entertainment and retail center.

Business at the Atlantic City Tropicana suffered adverse impacts from the disruption that followed the accident through December 30, 2004. The Company incurred \$6,238,000 and \$512,000 in 2004 and 2003, respectively, of construction accident related costs and expenses that may not be reimbursed by insurance. The costs and expenses recorded in 2004 primarily consist of supplemental marketing costs incurred to decrease the effect of the business interruption caused by the accident as well as professional fees incurred as a result of the accident. The construction accident related costs and expenses recorded in 2003 primarily consist of a deductible on liability insurance and professional fees incurred.

In 2004, the Company recorded \$3,500,000 of business interruption insurance recovery, which reflects a profit recovery applicable to the fourth quarter of 2003. Also in 2004, the Company recorded \$8,717,000 of insurance recovery due to the delay of the opening of the expansion, which represents a portion of the anticipated profit that the Company would have recognized had the expansion opened as originally projected as well as reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of the delay. These insurance recoveries are classified as construction accident insurance recoveries in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. Insurance claims for business interruption that occurred from the date of the accident through December 30, 2004 have been filed with the Company's insurers in the amount of approximately \$31,800,000, of which \$3,500,000 has been received by the Company. In addition, the Company has filed insurance claims for lost profits and additional costs as a result of the delay in the opening of the expansion. The total of these claims is approximately \$58,600,000, of which \$7,717,000 has been received by the Company and \$1,000,000 was included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet as part of the construction accident receivables at December 30, 2004. Profit recovery from business interruption insurance is recorded when the amount of recovery, which may be different from the amount claimed, is agreed to by the insurers. The Company has also filed insurance claims of approximately \$9,000,000 for other costs it has incurred that are related to the construction accident, of which \$1,500,000 has been received by the Company. These other costs are primarily supplemental marketing costs and approximately \$1,600,000 was included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet as part of the construction accident receivables at December 30, 2004.

During 2003, the Company reduced construction in progress for the estimated asset loss and recorded a receivable of approximately \$3,000,000, which was included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet as part of the construction accident receivables at January 1, 2004. By September 30, 2004, the contractor had made substantial progress in rebuilding the

damaged parking structure. Because the cost of the reconstructed portion of the garage that was fully paid by the contractor exceeded the \$3,000,000 asset loss previously incurred, the Company increased construction in progress for \$3,000,000 and relieved the corresponding receivable at September 30, 2004. In addition to the \$3,000,000 asset loss that was recognized and subsequently recovered, the Company recognized \$5,000,000 of expense in 2004 for costs incurred to repair areas near or adjacent to the parking garage that were damaged as a result of the accident. This expense was classified in the Consolidated Statement of Operations as a component of other income.

In order to ensure that the construction proceed expeditiously and in order to settle certain disputes, the Company and the general contractor entered into a settlement agreement on October 6, 2004 that delineates how the Company and its contractor will share the cost of and the insurance proceeds received for the dismantlement, debris removal, and rebuild. During 2004, the Company estimated and recognized \$1,625,000 of expense for dismantlement and debris removal activities that are probable of not being recovered under insurance. These dismantlement and debris removal costs were also classified as a component of other income in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. At December 30, 2004, the Company recorded a receivable of \$1,625,000 for dismantlement and debris removal activities that are probable of being recovered under insurance and it was included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet as part of the construction accident receivables. During 2004, the Company received \$10,532,000 of insurance recovery associated with the rebuild, net of direct costs to obtain the recovery. This net recovery was classified as other income in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

NOTE 15. LOSS ON EARLY RETIREMENT OF DEBT

During 2004, the Company expensed the redemption premiums of \$7,616,000 and the remaining unamortized debt issuance costs of \$2,756,000 for a total of \$10,372,000 in connection with the redemptions of the 8 7/8% Notes. These items were reflected as a loss on early retirement of debt.

NOTE 16. INCOME TAXES

The (provision) benefit for income taxes is comprised of (in thousands):

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 2,189 | \$(22,506) | \$(18,933) |
| State | <u>(24,246)</u> | <u>(5,260)</u> | <u>(5,124)</u> |
| | <u>(22,057)</u> | <u>(27,766)</u> | <u>(24,057)</u> |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | (16,848) | (1,131) | (12,284) |
| State | <u>(292)</u> | <u>443</u> | <u>(633)</u> |
| | <u>(17,140)</u> | <u>(688)</u> | <u>(12,917)</u> |
| | \$(39,197) | \$(28,454) | \$(36,974) |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |

During 2004, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") completed its examination of the Company's income tax returns for the years 2000 through 2002. The only issue in dispute involved the deductibility of a portion of payments on certain liabilities

related to the Restructuring. During 2003, the IRS completed its examination for the years 1994 through 1999 and settled one of the two remaining issues entirely and a portion of the other remaining issue, resulting in a tax benefit of \$6,724,000. The issue that was settled entirely involved the deductibility of certain complimentary services provided to customers. The other issue involved the deductibility of a portion of payments on certain liabilities related to the Restructuring, the same issue as described above for the 2000 through 2002 years. For the years 1994 through 2002, the Company has reserved the right to pursue the unagreed portion in court and would receive a refund, if successful. In 2002, the Company settled the same two issues as described above with the IRS for the years 1992 and 1993, resulting in a tax benefit of \$1,041,000. The New Jersey Division of Taxation is examining the New Jersey income tax returns for the years 1995 through 2001. Management believes that adequate provision for income taxes and interest has been made in the financial statements.

The Company received proposed assessments from the Indiana Department of Revenue ("IDR") in connection with the examination of the Company's Indiana income tax returns for the years 1996 through 2002. The assessments were based on the IDR's position that the Company's gaming taxes that are based on gaming revenue are not deductible for Indiana income tax purposes. The Company filed a petition in Indiana Tax Court for the 1996 and 1997 tax years and oral arguments were heard in April 2001. The Company filed a formal protest for the years 1998 through 2002. In April 2004, the Indiana Tax Court ruled against the Company. The Company asked the Indiana Supreme Court to review the ruling. The Company's request was denied. As a result, the Company estimated that it was obligated to pay approximately \$17,300,000 to cover assessments of taxes and interest from 1996 through the end of the first quarter of 2004. This amount is deductible for federal income tax purposes, resulting in a net effect of approximately \$11,300,000, which was recorded as an increase to income tax expense in the first quarter of 2004. The ongoing effect of this issue is also included in income taxes after the first quarter of 2004. By December 30, 2004, the Company paid these assessments and an estimate for 2004.

General business credits are taken as a reduction of the provision for income taxes during the year such credits become available. The (provision) benefit for income taxes differs from the amount computed by applying the U.S. federal income tax rate (35%) because of the effect of the following items (in thousands):

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Tax (provision) benefit at U.S. federal income tax rate | \$ (23,685) | \$ (31,284) | \$ (33,542) |
| State income taxes, net | (15,882) | (3,137) | (3,693) |
| Nondeductible business expenses | (259) | 105 | (628) |
| IRS examination | 358 | 5,708 | 567 |
| General business credits | 442 | 432 | 412 |
| Other, net | <u>(171)</u> | <u>(278)</u> | <u>(90)</u> |
| | \$ (39,197) | \$ (28,454) | \$ (36,974) |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |

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The income tax effects of loss carryforwards, tax credit carryforwards and temporary differences between financial and income tax reporting that give rise to the deferred income tax assets and liabilities are as follows (in thousands):

| | December 30, <u>2004</u> | January 1, <u>2004</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Net operating loss carryforward | \$ 2,314 | \$ 749 |
| Accrued bad debt expense | 8,369 | 8,845 |
| Accrued compensation | 8,987 | 7,491 |
| Accrued liabilities | 9,646 | 9,734 |
| Income tax credit carryforward | 1,365 | -- |
| Other | <u>302</u> | <u>--</u> |
| Gross deferred tax assets | <u>30,983</u> | <u>26,819</u> |
| Deferred tax asset valuation allowance | <u>(323)</u> | <u>(337)</u> |
| Other | -- | (325) |
| Deductible prepaids | (3,429) | -- |
| Depreciation and amortization | <u>(56,888)</u> | <u>(38,674)</u> |
| Gross deferred tax (liabilities) | <u>(60,317)</u> | <u>(38,999)</u> |
| Net deferred tax assets (liabilities) | \$(29,657) ===== | \$(12,517) ===== |

Gross deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance. The beginning-of-year valuation allowance was reduced during 2004, 2003 and 2002, which caused a decrease in income tax expense of \$14,000, \$21,000 and \$154,000, respectively.

At December 30, 2004, the Company has general business credit carryforwards of \$450,000 and a net operating loss carryforward of \$5,625,000 for federal income tax purposes, which will expire in 2024 if not used. The Company also has an alternative minimum assessment tax credit carryforward of \$1,408,000 for New Jersey purposes that can be carried forward indefinitely. In addition, the Company has net operating loss carryforwards of \$41,199,000 for state income tax purposes that will expire in the years 2009 through 2021 if not used.

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NOTE 17. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The computations of net income per common share and net income per common share, assuming dilution, are as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Net income | \$ 28,475 | \$ 60,930 | \$ 58,859 |
| Less: preferred stock dividend and losses on redemption | <u>(1,030)</u> | <u>(777)</u> | <u>(848)</u> |
| Income available to common shareholders | 27,445 | 60,153 | 58,011 |
| Plus: income impact of assumed conversion of dilutive preferred stock | <u>393</u> | <u>420</u> | <u>448</u> |
| Income available to common shareholders plus dilutive potential common shares | \$ 27,838 ===== | \$ 60,573 ===== | \$ 58,459 ===== |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Weighted-average common shares applicable to net income per common share | 34,547 | 34,999 | 37,191 |
| Effect of dilutive securities: | | | |
| Stock option incremental shares | 1,491 | 1,008 | 1,058 |
| Assumed conversion of preferred stock | <u>520</u> | <u>556</u> | <u>592</u> |
| Dilutive potential common shares | <u>2,011</u> | <u>1,564</u> | <u>1,650</u> |
| Weighted-average common shares applicable to net income per common share assuming dilution | 36,558 | 36,563 | 38,841 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Net income per common share | \$.79 | \$ 1.72 | \$ 1.56 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Net income per common share assuming dilution | \$.76 | \$ 1.66 | \$ 1.51 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |

Stock options that were excluded from the earnings per share computations because their effect would have been antidilutive were 677,000 and 1,258,000 at January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003, respectively. No stock options were excluded at December 30, 2004.

NOTE 18. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company reviews results of operations based on distinct geographic gaming market segments. The Company's chief operating decision maker uses only EBITDA in assessing segment performance and deciding how to allocate resources. The Company's segment information is as follows (in thousands):

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| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenues | | | |
| Tropicana Atlantic City | \$404,714 | \$420,629 | \$453,810 |
| Tropicana Las Vegas | 163,954 | 153,596 | 147,163 |
| Ramada Express Laughlin | 93,276 | 89,762 | 92,765 |
| Casino Aztar Evansville | 130,699 | 126,050 | 116,302 |
| Casino Aztar Caruthersville | <u>23,584</u> | <u>23,109</u> | <u>24,234</u> |
| Total consolidated | \$816,227 ===== | \$813,146 ===== | \$834,274 ===== |
| EBITDA (a) | | | |
| Tropicana Atlantic City | \$ 81,820 | \$105,018 | \$120,716 |
| Tropicana Las Vegas | 36,156 | 26,065 | 22,971 |
| Ramada Express Laughlin | 23,031 | 20,513 | 22,691 |
| Casino Aztar Evansville | 37,390 | 35,783 | 30,332 |
| Casino Aztar Caruthersville | <u>4,527</u> | <u>4,200</u> | <u>4,510</u> |
| Property EBITDA | 182,924 | 191,579 | 201,220 |
| Corporate | (17,454) | (15,650) | (14,241) |
| Depreciation and amortization | <u>(55,128)</u> | <u>(50,906)</u> | <u>(50,499)</u> |
| Operating income | 110,342 | 125,023 | 136,480 |
| Other income | 3,907 | -- | -- |
| Interest income | 807 | 736 | 1,035 |
| Interest expense | (37,012) | (36,375) | (41,224) |
| Equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss | -- (10,372) | -- -- | (458) -- |
| Loss on early retirement of debt | <u>(39,197)</u> | <u>(28,454)</u> | <u>(36,974)</u> |
| Income taxes | \$ 28,475 | \$ 60,930 | \$ 58,859 |
| Net income | ===== | ===== | ===== |

- (a) EBITDA is net income before income taxes, loss on early retirement of debt, equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss, interest expense, interest income, other income, and depreciation and amortization. EBITDA should not be construed as a substitute for either operating income or net income as they are determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Company uses EBITDA as a measure to compare operating results among its properties and between accounting periods. The Company manages cash and finances its operations at the corporate level. The Company manages the allocation of capital among properties at the corporate level. The Company also files a consolidated income tax return. The Company accordingly believes EBITDA is useful as a measure of operating results at the property level because it reflects the results of operating decisions at that level separated from the effects of tax and financing decisions that are managed at the corporate level. The Company also uses EBITDA as the primary operating performance measure in its bonus programs for executive officers. The Company also believes that EBITDA is a commonly used measure of operating performance in the gaming industry and is an important basis for the valuation of gaming companies. The Company's calculation of EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies and, therefore, any such differences must be

considered when comparing performance among different companies. While the Company believes EBITDA provides a useful perspective for some purposes, EBITDA has material limitations as an analytical tool. For example, among

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other things, although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized may have to be replaced in the future, and EBITDA does not reflect the requirements for such replacements. Other income, interest expense, net of interest income, equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss, loss on early retirement of debt, and income taxes are also not reflected in EBITDA. Therefore, the Company does not consider EBITDA in isolation, and it should not be considered as a substitute for measures determined in accordance with GAAP. A reconciliation of EBITDA with operating income and net income as determined in accordance with GAAP is reflected in the above summary.

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Depreciation and amortization | | | |
| Tropicana Atlantic City | \$ 33,370 | \$ 29,838 | \$ 28,705 |
| Tropicana Las Vegas | 5,914 | 6,439 | 6,729 |
| Ramada Express Laughlin | 6,298 | 6,234 | 6,052 |
| Casino Aztar Evansville | 6,588 | 5,578 | 6,151 |
| Casino Aztar Caruthersville | 2,915 | 2,755 | 2,800 |
| Corporate | <u>43</u> | <u>62</u> | <u>62</u> |
| Total consolidated | \$ 55,128 | \$ 50,906 | \$ 50,499 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
| Additions to property and equipment, intangible assets and other assets | | | |
| Tropicana Atlantic City | \$161,293 | \$133,515 | \$ 63,178 |
| Tropicana Las Vegas | 2,834 | 2,903 | 4,771 |
| Ramada Express Laughlin | 6,259 | 4,564 | 3,794 |
| Casino Aztar Evansville | 12,099 | 7,560 | 3,682 |
| Casino Aztar Caruthersville | 1,480 | 1,478 | 948 |
| Corporate | <u>14,802</u> | <u>16,559</u> | <u>2,248</u> |
| Total consolidated | \$198,767 | \$166,579 | \$ 78,621 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| | <u>December 30,</u> | <u>January 1,</u> | <u>January 2,</u> |
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
| Total assets | | | |
| Tropicana Atlantic City | \$ 966,478 | \$ 828,153 | \$ 709,934 |
| Tropicana Las Vegas | 211,017 | 219,297 | 224,475 |
| Ramada Express Laughlin | 114,561 | 117,490 | 114,424 |
| Casino Aztar Evansville | 112,446 | 110,549 | 104,400 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Casino Aztar Caruthersville | 34,797 | 36,358 | 37,339 |
| Corporate | <u>72,341</u> | <u>35,926</u> | <u>20,110</u> |
| Total consolidated | \$1,511,640 | \$1,347,773 | \$1,210,682 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |

NOTE 19. CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS

The Company agreed to indemnify Ramada against all monetary judgments in lawsuits pending against Ramada and its subsidiaries as of the conclusion of the Restructuring on December 20, 1989, as well as all related attorneys' fees and expenses not paid at that time, except for any judgments, fees or expenses accrued on the hotel business balance sheet and except for any unaccrued and unreserved aggregate amount up to \$5,000,000 of judgments, fees or expenses related exclusively to the hotel business. Aztar is entitled to the benefit of any crossclaims or counterclaims related to such lawsuits and of any insurance proceeds received. There is no limit to the term or the maximum potential future payment under this indemnification. In addition, the Company agreed to indemnify Ramada for certain lease guarantees made by Ramada. The lease terms potentially extend

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through 2015 and Ramada guaranteed all obligations under these leases. The Company has recourse against a subsequent purchaser of the operations covered by these leases. The estimated maximum potential amount of future payments the Company could be required to make under these indemnifications is \$7,000,000 at December 30, 2004. The Company would be required to perform under this guarantee 1) if monetary judgments and related expenses in lawsuits pending against Ramada and its subsidiaries as of the conclusion of the Restructuring exceeded the above described amount, or 2) if lessees with lease guarantees failed to perform under their leases, the lessee and lessor could not reach a negotiated settlement and the lessor was able to successfully proceed against Ramada, who in turn was able to successfully proceed against the Company. In connection with these matters, the Company established a liability at the time of the Restructuring and the Company's remaining accrued liability was \$3,833,000 at both December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004.

The CRDA has issued bonds that are being serviced by its parking fee revenue. A series of these bonds is collateralized by a portion, \$239,000 and \$1,182,000 at December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004, respectively, of the Company's CRDA deposits. The portion that serves as collateral is a varying percentage of a portion of CRDA deposits that satisfy the Company's investment obligation based upon its New Jersey casino revenue. In the event that the CRDA's parking fees are insufficient to service its bonds, these deposits can be used for that purpose. To the extent the Company's CRDA deposits are used to service these bonds, the Company would receive credit against future investment obligations. The Company's CRDA deposits serve as collateral for a one-year period, after which they become available to the Company. This arrangement continues through 2013. The Company received a fee for this arrangement that is being amortized on a straight-line basis through 2013. The Company's estimate of the maximum potential deposits that could be used to service CRDA bonds is \$16,000,000 at December 30, 2004.

The Company is a party to various other claims, legal actions and complaints arising in the ordinary course of business or asserted by way of defense or counterclaim in actions filed by the Company. Management believes that its defenses are substantial in each of these matters and that the Company's legal posture can be successfully defended without material adverse effect on its consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The Company has severance agreements with certain of its senior executives. Severance benefits range from a

lump-sum cash payment equal to three times the sum of the executive's annual base salary and the average of the executive's annual bonuses awarded in the preceding three years plus payment of the value in the executive's outstanding stock options and vesting and distribution of any restricted stock to a lump-sum cash payment equal to one half of the executive's annual base salary. In certain agreements, the termination must be as a result of a change in control of the Company. Based upon salary levels and stock options at December 30, 2004, the aggregate commitment under the severance agreements should all these executives be terminated was approximately \$94,000,000 at December 30, 2004.

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NOTE 20. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following table presents (in thousands) the carrying amounts and estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments. The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

| | <u>December 30, 2004</u> | | <u>January 1, 2004</u> | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Carrying Amount</u> | <u>Fair Value</u> | <u>Carrying Amount</u> | <u>Fair Value</u> |
| Assets | | | | |
| Investments | \$ 23,602 | \$ 23,602 | \$ 19,586 | \$ 19,586 |
| Other assets | 8,308 | 8,308 | 6,266 | 6,266 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Accounts payable and accruals | 3,833 | 600 | 3,833 | 650 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 1,292 | 1,292 | 16,963 | 16,963 |
| Current portion of other long-term liabilities | 252 | 252 | 252 | 252 |
| Long-term debt | 731,253 | 780,753 | 628,603 | 655,653 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 2,027 | 2,027 | 2,279 | 2,279 |
| Series B convertible preferred stock | 4,914 | 17,791 | 5,253 | 12,187 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|----|-------|
| Off-Balance-Sheet | | | | |
| Letters of credit | -- | 6,576 | -- | 4,748 |

The carrying amounts shown in the table are included, if applicable, in the Consolidated Balance Sheets under the indicated captions. All of the Company's financial instruments are held or issued for purposes other than trading.

The following notes summarize the major methods and assumptions used in estimating the fair values of financial instruments.

Investments consisted of deposits with the CRDA, CRDA bonds that bear interest at two-thirds of market rates resulting in a fair value lower than cost and other CRDA investments (primarily loans). The carrying amounts of these deposits, bonds and other investments are presented net of a valuation allowance and in the case of the bonds an unamortized discount that result in an approximation of fair values.

Included in other assets is a trust established for the benefit of employees covered by one of the Company's nonqualified defined benefit pension plans. The funds in the trust are invested in money market securities. The fair values of the money market securities approximate cost.

Included in accounts payable and accruals is the Company's accrued liability in connection with its indemnification of Ramada. The fair values were estimated using an expected present value method.

The fair values of the Company's publicly traded debt were estimated based on the bid prices in the public bond markets. The carrying amounts of the Prior Revolver, Revolver, Prior Term Loan, Term Loan and Tropicana Enterprises Loan are reasonable estimates of fair values because this debt is carried with a floating interest rate.

The fair values of the Company's CRDA bond guarantee were estimated to be the same as the unamortized carrying amounts of the guarantee premium.

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The fair values reported for the Series B convertible preferred stock represent the appraised fair values as determined by an independent appraisal.

The fair values of the letters of credit were estimated to be the same as the contract values based on the nature of the fee arrangement with the issuing financial institution.

NOTE 21. UNAUDITED QUARTERLY RESULTS/COMMON STOCK PRICES

The following unaudited information shows selected items in thousands, except per share data, for each quarter. The Company's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

| <u>First</u> | <u>Second</u> | <u>Third</u> | <u>Fourth</u> |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>2004</u> | | | | |
| | \$ 201,766 | \$ 206,259 | \$ 215,464 | \$ 192,738 |
| Revenues (a) | 33,731 | 33,499 | 32,505 | 10,607 |
| Operating income (b) | 25,224 | 16,355 | 22,385 | 3,708 |
| Income before income taxes | (21,557) | (7,008) | (9,191) | (1,441) |
| (c)(d) | 3,667 | 9,347 | 13,194 | 2,267 |
| Income taxes (e) | | | | |
| Net income | .10 | .26 | .37 | .06 |
| Earnings per share: | | | | |
| Net income per common share | .10 | .25 | .36 | .05 |
| Net income per common share assuming dilution | | | | |
| | \$ 203,016 | \$ 214,519 | \$ 210,267 | \$ 185,344 |
| <u>2003</u> | 31,671 | 39,972 | 35,611 | 17,769 |
| Revenues | 22,310 | 30,963 | 26,990 | 9,121 |
| Operating income (f) | (8,765) | (12,172) | (10,088) | 2,571 |
| Income before income taxes | 13,545 | 18,791 | 16,902 | 11,692 |
| Income taxes (g) | | | | |
| Net income | .37 | .53 | .48 | .34 |
| Earnings per share: | | | | |
| Net income per common share | .36 | .51 | .46 | .32 |
| Net income per common share assuming dilution | | | | |
| | \$ 24.94 | \$ 28.75 | \$ 28.19 | \$ 35.40 |
| <u>Common Stock Prices</u> | 21.41 | 23.40 | 23.25 | 26.20 |
| 2004 - High | 15.00 | 17.17 | 19.90 | 23.94 |
| - Low | 11.43 | 13.41 | 15.76 | 16.15 |
| 2003 - High | | | | |
| - Low | | | | |

(a) Business interruption insurance recovery of \$3,500 for the first quarter of 2004 was reclassified in the Consolidated Statement of Operations from revenue to construction accident insurance recoveries in operating expenses for the six months ended July 1, 2004.

(b) During the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2004, the Company incurred \$41, \$2,319, \$3,183 and \$695, respectively, of construction accident related costs and expenses that may not be reimbursed by insurance. These costs and expenses primarily consist of supplemental marketing costs incurred to decrease the effect of the business interruption caused by the accident as well as professional fees incurred as a result of the accident.

During the first quarter of 2004, the Company recorded \$3,500 of business interruption recovery, which reflects a profit recovery applicable to the fourth quarter of 2003. During the second, third and fourth quarters of

2004, the Company recorded \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,717, respectively, of insurance recovery due to the delay of the opening of the expansion, which represents a portion of the anticipated profit that the Company would have recognized had the expansion opened as originally projected as well as some reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of the delay. Profit recovery from business interruption insurance is recorded when the amount of recovery, which may be different from the amount claimed, is agreed to by the insurers.

- (c) During the fourth quarter of 2004, the Company recorded \$5,567 of insurance recovery associated with the rebuilding of the expansion net of direct costs to obtain the recovery and expensed \$1,975 of costs incurred to dismantle and repair areas near or adjacent to the parking garage that were damaged as a result of the construction accident.
- (d) During the second and third quarters of 2004, the Company recorded losses on early retirement of debt of \$8,621 and \$1,751, respectively, in connection with the Company's redemptions of its 8 7/8% Notes.
- (e) In April 2004, the Indiana Tax Court ruled against the Company's challenge to an assessment for additional Indiana income taxes. The Company had challenged the Indiana Department of Revenue's position that the Company's gaming taxes that are based on gaming revenue are not deductible for Indiana income tax purposes. The Company asked the Indiana Supreme Court to review the ruling. The Company's request was denied. The Company estimated that it was obligated to pay approximately \$17,300 to cover assessments of taxes and interest from 1996 through the end of the first quarter of 2004. This amount is deductible for federal income tax purposes, resulting in a net effect of approximately \$11,300, which was recorded as an increase to income tax expense in the first quarter of 2004.
- (f) During the fourth quarter of 2003, the Company incurred \$512 of construction accident related costs and expenses that may not be reimbursed by insurance. These costs and expenses primarily consist of a deductible on liability insurance and professional fees incurred.
- (g) In the fourth quarter of 2003, the Company settled one of the two remaining issues entirely and a portion of the other remaining issue with the Internal Revenue Service related to the examination of the Company's income tax returns for the years 1994 through 1999. The issue that was settled entirely involved the deductibility of certain complimentary items provided to customers. The other issue involved the deductibility of a portion of payments on certain liabilities related to the Restructuring. The settlement resulted in a tax benefit of \$6,724.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Overview

Introduction

We own and operate casino hotels in Atlantic City, New Jersey and Las Vegas, Nevada under the Tropicana name and in Laughlin, Nevada, as Ramada Express. We own and operate casino riverboats in Caruthersville, Missouri and Evansville, Indiana under the Casino Aztar name. Our product concept is the creation of fun, fantasy, excitement and entertainment in a casino gaming environment. Each of our casinos is designed and operated to serve the unique demographics of its particular market.

Approximately 78% of our consolidated revenues were generated from gaming activities and nearly 11% from rooms revenue. Gaming activity is generated from two primary sources: (1) slot machines and (2) table games. Casino revenue is the net win from gaming activities, which is the difference between gaming wins and losses before deducting costs and expenses. This is also referred to as the hold. The hold percentage is the relationship of hold to the total amount wagered. Rooms revenue is driven primarily by two factors: (1) average daily rate and (2) occupancy percentage. The average daily rate is a measure of the average rooms revenue generated per occupied room per night. The occupancy percentage is a measure of what portion of our total rooms available are occupied by guests. Both measurements are impacted primarily by customer demand.

General Themes

Our company and our industry rely in great part on consumer discretionary spending. As a result, we will generally experience higher revenues and operating income in periods of economic growth and when consumer confidence is rising. However, industry revenue tends to be less cyclical than in some other discretionary sectors.

As discussed below, several states have legalized or are considering legalizing various forms of casino gaming, from slots or video lottery terminals (VLTs) at horse racing tracks to full-service casinos. To the extent such competitive products are introduced in markets which overlap with our established casino markets, there may be dilution of our market penetration. Further, the expansion in the number and size of Native American casinos may slow or reverse growth in certain of our markets.

In recent years, several jurisdictions in which casino gaming is conducted have increased taxes on gaming and hotel operations, including gaming taxes, hotel taxes and admissions taxes. In an environment in which many state governments are dealing with budget shortfalls, the potential for further tax increases on the industry exists.

In order to facilitate growth, large amounts of capital are required for the construction, expansion and acquisition of casino facilities. Since 2003, the industry has had access to abundant and relatively inexpensive sources of capital as interest rates have continued at historic record lows. The continued availability of this inexpensive capital will be critical as we look for growth and expansion opportunities in the future.

The casino and hospitality industries can be adversely affected by terrorist activity or the threat, perceived or otherwise, of terrorist activity. Such activity or threat may limit levels of business and personal travel and cause concerns about the safety of high-profile recreational areas, such as Las Vegas.

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Property Specific Opportunities and Challenges

Tropicana Atlantic City

The most critical issue facing the Tropicana Atlantic City property in 2004 will be the successful integration of our recently opened expansion into the broader gaming experience underlying the property as a whole. The expansion had originally been expected to open near the end of the first quarter of 2004. Because of a construction accident, which occurred on October 30, 2003, there was a significant delay in the completion of the project. The expansion opened in late November 2004 on a limited basis and was substantially completed by December 30, 2004. With the project completed, our goal is for it to become an important engine of growth for the company.

In mid-2003, a new casino hotel (The Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa) opened in Atlantic City. This represents the first new casino hotel addition to the Atlantic City market since 1990. The Borgata is an attractive, state-of-the-art property that has been successful in its first 18 months in the market, having garnered a 13% market share in 2004. While the entire Atlantic City market has grown with the addition of the Borgata, each casino hotel, including the Tropicana, will be challenged to sustain its revenue base until the market as a whole grows to absorb fully the new capacity generated by the Borgata.

In 2004, Pennsylvania passed legislation to legalize slots at 7 horse racing tracks, 5 independent slot parlors and 2 resort slot parlors. At least four of these facilities will be in the greater Philadelphia area, an important market for our Atlantic City property.

Several nearby states are conducting or considering expansion or implementation of various forms of gaming. New Jersey is considering VLTs at the Meadowlands racetrack in northern New Jersey. Maryland is considering slots at horse racing tracks or larger full-scale casinos. The State of New York is witnessing the installation of VLTs at certain of its horse racing tracks and the preparation for Native American casinos in the Catskills. While the proliferation of gaming in these jurisdictions is not positive for Atlantic City, we believe that a) the Eastern seaboard is still not approaching the penetration levels that other markets enjoy and b) the variety and breadth of the Atlantic City market sets it apart as unique from other venues in the region.

Tropicana Las Vegas

The Tropicana Las Vegas sits on an approximately 34 acre parcel at one of the premier locations in Las Vegas. With the completion of the expansion in Atlantic City, this property represents a significant growth opportunity for us. The current operations at the site are successful, but the age of the improvements make us less attractive and competitive

than many of the newer properties in our vicinity. We are evaluating whether to build a new casino hotel resort on the northernmost half of the property. A detailed design has substantially been completed. However, we have postponed a decision about whether and when we will proceed with this development. The decision to proceed may depend, among other things, upon the health of the Las Vegas and national economies, the competitive environment on the Las Vegas Strip, and the success of the Atlantic City expansion. We expect the construction cost (not including the land component) to be no less than \$700 million. We will have to raise a portion of the cost in the capital markets. The continued access to attractively priced capital will affect the economic cost of the project and the ultimate return to shareholders. We view this opportunity as an important step in our growth. The southern portion of the site would be held for our future development, joint venture development, or sale for development by another party.

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Financial Condition - Liquidity and Capital Resources

Senior Secured Credit Facility

On July 22, 2004, we obtained a new \$675 million senior secured credit facility consisting of a five-year revolving credit facility of up to \$550 million and a five-year term loan facility of \$125 million. We used the new senior secured credit facility to pay off the outstanding principal amount on our prior revolving credit facility, our prior term loan and our Tropicana Enterprises loan. At December 30, 2004, the outstanding balance of our revolving credit facility was \$132.8 million, leaving \$411.9 million available for future borrowing, after consideration of outstanding letters of credit, subject to quarterly financial tests as described below. At December 30, 2004, the outstanding balance of our term loan facility was \$124.7 million.

Under the senior secured credit facility, the original term loan facility calls for quarterly principal payments of approximately \$0.3 million on a calendar basis through June 29, 2007, then approximately \$3.1 million through June 30, 2008 and then \$5.0 million through March 31, 2009, with the balance due at maturity. If we do not commence redevelopment of the Las Vegas Tropicana property or enter into an alternative project approved by lenders holding a majority of the commitments, then \$125 million of the revolving credit facility will terminate by June 30, 2006; if, however, this termination has not occurred, then under certain circumstances (and no later than December 31, 2006), the senior secured credit facility provides that an amount equal to the lesser of \$125 million or the revolving loans outstanding on December 31, 2006, shall convert to a term loan, which shall have the same maturity and will amortize at the same percentage rates as the original term loan facility. Under the senior secured credit facility, interest on the respective facilities is computed based upon, at our option, a one-, two-, three- or six-month Eurodollar rate plus a margin ranging from 1.25% to 2.75%, or the prime rate plus a margin ranging from 0.25% to 1.75%; the applicable margin is dependent on our ratio of outstanding indebtedness to operating cash flow, as defined. As of December 30, 2004, the margin was at 0.50% greater than the lowest level. Interest computed based upon the Eurodollar rate is payable quarterly or on the last day of the applicable Eurodollar interest period, if earlier. Interest computed based upon the prime rate is payable quarterly. We incur a commitment fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.625% per annum on the unused portion of the revolving credit facility.

The senior secured credit facility imposes various restrictions on us, including limitations on our ability to incur additional debt, commit funds to capital expenditures and investments, merge or sell assets. The senior secured credit facility prohibits dividends on our common stock (other than those payable in common stock) and repurchases of our common stock in excess of \$30 million per year with limited exceptions. In addition, the senior secured credit facility contains quarterly financial tests, including a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.35 to 1.00 at December 30,

2004 and maximum ratios of total debt and senior debt to operating cash flow of 4.5 to 1.0 and 2.5 to 1.0, respectively, at December 30, 2004. The actual fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.15 to 1.00 and the actual total debt and senior debt to operating cash flow ratios were 4.21 to 1.0 and 1.51 to 1.0, respectively, at December 30, 2004. Should we commence the redevelopment of the Tropicana Las Vegas or an approved alternative project, a quarterly "in-balance" test demonstrating that aggregate cash available or reasonably anticipated to be available to us and our subsidiaries is sufficient to meet remaining required uses of cash, including committed capital expenditures in connection with any construction project. The senior secured credit facility includes usual and customary events of default for facilities of this nature (with customary grace periods, as applicable), and provides that, in the event of a change in control, as

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defined, the majority lenders will have the right to require prepayment of the facility.

Our day-to-day operations are financed through a net working capital deficit, a practice that is common among companies operating in the gaming industry. Cash needs are evaluated daily, and if necessary, are satisfied by drawing on our revolving credit facility. Because our casinos generate significant cash flows on a daily basis, we generally apply any cash excesses to our revolving credit facility after satisfying current liabilities that are due within the course of their normal business cycle. We believe that the existence of a working capital deficit has no impact on our ability to operate our business or meet our obligations as they become due.

Other Long-term Debt

On June 2, 2004, we completed a \$300 million private placement offering of 7 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes due June 15, 2014. These notes were later exchanged for substantially similar notes that were registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Also on June 2, 2004, we announced the expiration of our cash tender offer and consent solicitation for all of our \$235 million aggregate principal amount of 8 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2007. We accepted and paid for all 8 7/8% Notes tendered pursuant to the Offer, which totaled approximately \$192.3 million. A portion of the proceeds from the offering, net of related fees and expenses, was used to redeem the 8 7/8% Notes tendered. The remaining proceeds were used to pay down our prior revolving credit facility. On July 7, 2004, we redeemed the remaining principal amount of the 8 7/8% Notes totaling \$42.7 million primarily by drawing on our prior revolving credit facility. The redemption of our 8 7/8% Notes resulted in a loss on early retirement of debt of \$10.3 million, which consisted of a redemption premium of \$7.6 million and the write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$2.7 million.

Interest on the 7 7/8% Notes is payable semiannually on June 15 and December 15, beginning on December 15, 2004. At any time prior to June 15, 2009, the 7 7/8% Notes are redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, at a price of 100% of the principal amount plus a redemption premium plus accrued and unpaid interest. The redemption premium will be equal to the greater of (1) 1% of the principal amount or (2) the excess of (A) the sum of the present values of (i) 103.938% of the principal amount and (ii) all required interest payments through June 15, 2009, excluding accrued but unpaid interest, computed in each case using a discount rate equal to the Treasury rate at the time of redemption plus 50 basis points over (B) the principal amount. On or after June 15, 2009, the 7 7/8% Notes are redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, at prices from 103.938% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest declining to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest beginning June 15, 2012.

At any time on or prior to June 15, 2007, we may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes issued under the indenture for the 7 7/8% Notes with the net proceeds of one or more equity offerings by the company at a redemption price of 107.875% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, provided that (1) at least

65% of the principal amount of the 7 7/8% Notes issued remains outstanding immediately after such redemption and (2) the redemption occurs within 60 days of the closing of such equity offering.

Interest on the 9% Senior Subordinated Notes due August 15, 2011 is payable on February 15 and August 15. At any time prior to August 15, 2006, the 9% Notes are redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, at a price of 100% of the principal amount plus a redemption premium plus accrued and unpaid interest. The redemption premium will be equal to the greater of (1) 1% of the principal amount or (2) the excess of (A) the sum of the present values of (i) 104.5% of the principal amount

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and (ii) all required interest payments through August 15, 2006, excluding accrued but unpaid interest, computed in each case using a discount rate equal to the Treasury rate at the time of redemption plus 50 basis points over (B) the principal amount. On or after August 15, 2006, the 9% Notes are redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, at prices from 104.5% of the principal amount plus interest declining to 100% of the principal amount plus interest beginning August 15, 2009.

The 7 7/8% Notes and 9% Notes, ranked pari passu, are general unsecured obligations and are subordinated in right of payment to all of our present and future senior indebtedness. Upon change of control of the company, the holders of the 7 7/8% Notes and 9% Notes would have the right to require repurchase of the respective notes at 101% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest. Certain covenants in the 7 7/8% Notes and 9% Notes limit our ability to incur indebtedness, make certain payments or engage in mergers, consolidations or sales of assets.

Additional Source and Use of Cash

During 2004, we received \$3.6 million in cash in connection with stock option exercises. Our purchases of property and equipment, other than expenditures for the Tropicana Atlantic City development and the development in Evansville, Indiana discussed below, were primarily of a routine nature.

Tropicana Atlantic City Development

On April 22, 2002, we commenced construction on an expansion of our Tropicana Atlantic City. The expansion includes 502 additional hotel rooms, 20,000 square feet of meeting space, 2,400 parking spaces, and "The Quarter at Tropicana," the project's centerpiece, a 200,000-square-foot dining, entertainment and retail center. On October 30, 2003, an accident occurred on the site of the parking-garage component of the expansion of the Atlantic City Tropicana that brought construction to a halt. The accident resulted in the loss of life and serious injuries, as well as extensive damage to the facilities under construction. Access to the property was limited during the subsequent days because some streets surrounding the property were closed. In addition, the Tropicana's operations were disrupted by the temporary evacuation of 600 hotel rooms and the temporary closure of the parking garages that are part of the existing property. One street adjacent to the property remained closed through April 2004 preventing use of the bus terminal and another street adjacent to the property remained closed through late November 2004 limiting access to the existing parking garages and porte cochere.

The expansion opened in late November 2004 on a limited basis and was substantially completed by December 30, 2004. Some tenants in the Quarter opened in early 2005. During 2004, our purchases of property and equipment on an accrual basis, including capitalized interest of \$12.8 million, were \$118.9 million for this project and our expenditures for tenant allowances were \$24.2 million.

Business at the Atlantic City Tropicana suffered adverse impacts from the disruption that followed the accident through December 30, 2004. We incurred approximately \$6.2 million and \$0.5 million in 2004 and 2003, respectively, of construction accident related costs and expenses that may not be reimbursed by insurance. The costs and expenses recorded in 2004 primarily consist of supplemental marketing costs incurred to decrease the effect of business interruption caused by the accident as well as professional fees incurred as a result of the accident. The construction accident related costs and expenses recorded in 2003 primarily consist of a deductible on liability insurance and professional fees incurred.

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In 2004, we recorded \$3.5 million of business interruption insurance recovery, which reflects a profit recovery applicable to the fourth quarter of 2003. Also in 2004, we recorded \$8.7 million of insurance recovery due to the delay of the opening of the expansion, which represents a portion of the anticipated profit that we would have recognized had the expansion opened as originally projected as well as reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of the delay. These insurance recoveries are classified as construction accident insurance recoveries. Insurance claims for business interruption that occurred from the date of the accident through December 30, 2004 have been filed with our insurers in the amount of \$31.8 million, of which \$3.5 million has been received by us. In addition, we have filed insurance claims for lost profits and additional costs as a result of the delay in the opening of the expansion. The total of these claims is \$58.6 million, of which \$7.7 million was received and \$1.0 million was included in the construction accident receivables at December 30, 2004. Profit recovery from business interruption insurance is recorded when the amount of recovery, which may be different than the amount claimed, is agreed to by the insurers. We have also filed insurance claims of \$9.0 million for other costs we have incurred that are related to the construction accident, of which \$1.5 million has been received. These other costs are primarily supplemental marketing costs and \$1.6 million was included as part of the construction accident receivables at December 30, 2004.

During 2003, we reduced construction in progress for the estimated asset loss and recorded a receivable of approximately \$3 million. By September 30, 2004, the contractor had made substantial progress in rebuilding the damaged parking structure. Because the cost of the reconstructed portion of the garage that was fully paid by the contractor exceeded the \$3 million asset loss previously incurred, we increased construction in progress for \$3 million and relieved the corresponding receivable at September 30, 2004. In addition to the \$3 million asset loss that was recognized and subsequently recovered, we recognized \$5 million of expense in 2004 for costs incurred to repair areas near or adjacent to the parking garage that were damaged as a result of the accident. This expense was classified as a component of other income.

In order to ensure that the construction proceed expeditiously and in order to settle certain disputes, we and the general contractor entered into a settlement agreement on October 6, 2004 that delineates how we and the contractor will share the cost of and the insurance proceeds received for the dismantlement, debris removal and rebuild. During 2004, we estimated and recognized \$1.6 million of expense for dismantlement and debris removal activities that are probable of not being recovered under insurance. These dismantlement and debris removal costs were also classified as a component of other income. At December 30, 2004, we recorded a receivable of \$1.6 million for dismantlement and debris removal activities that are probable of being recovered under insurance and it was part of the construction accident receivables. During 2004, we received \$10.5 million of insurance recovery associated with the rebuild, net of direct costs to obtain the recovery. This net recovery was classified as other income.

Tropicana Las Vegas Development

Our master plan for a potential development of our Las Vegas Tropicana site envisions the creation of two separate but essentially equal and inter-connected 17-acre sites. The north site would be developed by us. The south site would be held for our future development, joint venture development, or sale for development by another party.

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For development of a potential project on the north site, a detailed design has substantially been completed. The design calls for 2,500 hotel rooms and suites, 200,000 square feet of dining, entertainment and retail facilities, a 120,000-square-foot casino, a 3,800-car parking garage, and a four-acre rooftop pool recreation deck overlooking the Strip. During 2004, we capitalized \$6.7 million for design development costs included in other assets. We have postponed a decision about whether and when we will proceed with this development. The amount and timing of any future expenditure, and the extent of any impact on existing operations, will depend on the nature and timing of the development we ultimately undertake, if any. If we decide to abandon any facilities in the development process, we would have to conduct a review for impairment with a possible write-down and review their useful lives with a possible adjustment to depreciation and amortization expense. These reviews could result in adjustments that have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations.

The net book value of the property and equipment used in the operation of the Las Vegas Tropicana, excluding land at a cost of \$110 million, was \$56.3 million at December 30, 2004. The net book value of accounts receivable, inventories and prepaid expenses at the Las Vegas Tropicana was \$6.9 million at December 30, 2004.

Other Development

During 2003, we purchased two parcels of land in proximity to our operating facility in Evansville, Indiana at a combined cost of \$1.2 million. One parcel was used to accommodate an executive conference center that was completed and placed into service during 2004. The other parcel will be held for future development. During 2004, our purchases of property and equipment on an accrual basis for the executive conference center were \$5.4 million. In December 2002, we amended our riverboat landing lease agreement with the City of Evansville. We agreed to change a portion of our contingent rent into a fixed stated amount and to make it available to the City at their request. The City agreed to provide us with \$1 of credit against our rent for each \$2.50 of development capital expenditures that we make. We plan to have additional development in Evansville, including a potential dining and entertainment complex.

Stock Repurchase Program

In December 2002, our board of directors authorized discretionary repurchases of up to 4.0 million shares of our common stock. We do not anticipate the stock repurchase program to impact the timing, scope or financing of our development plans. During 2004, we did not repurchase any shares of our common stock under the program. Since the program's inception, we have repurchased a total of 3,205,776 shares at an average price of \$14.42 per share. Purchases under the program are made from time to time in the open market or privately negotiated transactions,

depending upon market prices and other business factors.

Stock Exchange

We accepted 89,207 shares of our common stock in the first quarter of 2004 in lieu of cash due to the company in connection with the exercise of stock options. We also accepted an additional 80,845 shares in satisfaction of the related \$1.9 million tax obligation that was paid by the company during the 2004 first quarter. Such shares of common stock are stated at cost and held as treasury shares to be used for general corporate purposes.

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Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

We agreed to indemnify Ramada Inc. against all monetary judgments in lawsuits pending against Ramada and its subsidiaries as of the conclusion of the restructuring of Ramada on December 20, 1989, as well as all related attorneys' fees and expenses not paid at that time, except for any judgments, fees or expenses accrued on the hotel business balance sheet and except for any unaccrued and unreserved aggregate amount up to \$5 million of judgments, fees or expenses related exclusively to the hotel business. We are entitled to the benefit of any crossclaims or counterclaims related to such lawsuits and of any insurance proceeds received. There is no limit to the term or the maximum potential future payment under this indemnification. In addition, we agreed to indemnify Ramada for certain lease guarantees made by Ramada. The lease terms potentially extend through 2015 and Ramada guaranteed all obligations under these leases. We have recourse against a subsequent purchaser of the operations covered by these leases. The estimated maximum potential amount of future payments we could be required to make under these indemnifications is \$7.0 million at December 30, 2004. We would be required to perform under this guarantee 1) if monetary judgments and related expenses in lawsuits pending against Ramada and its subsidiaries as of the conclusion of the restructuring of Ramada exceeded the above described amount, or 2) if lessees with lease guarantees failed to perform under their leases, the lessee and lessor could not reach a negotiated settlement and the lessor was able to successfully proceed against Ramada, who in turn was able to successfully proceed against the company. In connection with these matters, we established a liability at the time of the restructuring of Ramada and our remaining accrued liability was \$3.8 million at both December 30, 2004 and January 1, 2004.

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority has issued bonds that are being serviced by its parking fee revenue. A series of these bonds is collateralized by a portion, \$0.2 million at December 30, 2004, of our CRDA deposits. The portion that serves as collateral is a varying percentage of a portion of CRDA deposits that satisfy our investment obligation based upon our New Jersey casino revenue. In the event that the CRDA's parking fees are insufficient to service its bonds, these deposits can be used for that purpose. To the extent our CRDA deposits are used to service these bonds, we would receive credit against future investment obligations. Our CRDA deposits serve as collateral for a one-year period, after which they become available to the company. This arrangement continues through 2013. We received a fee for this arrangement that is being amortized on a straight-line basis through 2013. Our estimate of the maximum potential deposits that could be used to service CRDA bonds is \$16 million at December 30, 2004.

We have severance agreements with certain of our senior executives. Severance benefits range from a lump-sum cash

payment equal to three times the sum of the executive's annual base salary and the average of the executive's annual bonuses awarded in the preceding three years plus payment of the value in the executive's outstanding stock options and vesting and distribution of any restricted stock to a lump-sum cash payment equal to one half of the executive's annual base salary. In certain agreements, the termination must be as a result of a change in control of Aztar. Based upon salary levels and stock options at December 30, 2004, the aggregate commitment under the severance agreements should all these executives be terminated was approximately \$94 million at December 30, 2004.

Effective January 3, 2003, we established the Aztar Corporation Nonqualified Retirement Plan Trust for the benefit of employees covered by one of our nonqualified defined benefit pension plans. We contributed approximately \$2.0 million to this trust in March 2004. We will make periodic contributions to the trust so that funds in the trust equal the benefit obligation. The funds in the trust continue to be assets of Aztar.

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Contractual Obligations

The following table summarizes our future contractual obligations, in millions, at December 30, 2004:

| <u>Contractual Obligations</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Payments due by period</u> | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| | | <u>Less than 1 Year</u> | <u>1-3 Years</u> | <u>3-5 Years</u> | <u>More than 5 Years</u> |
| Long-term debt, including current portion | \$ 732.4 | \$ 1.2 | \$ 8.4 | \$ 247.8 | \$ 475.0 |
| Capital lease obligations | 0.1 | 0.1 | -- | -- | -- |
| Operating leases | 7.9 | 3.8 | 2.8 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Purchase obligations | 48.1 | 43.6 | 3.7 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| Other long-term liabilities, including current portion but excluding deferred income | <u>22.5</u> | <u>0.7</u> | <u>1.7</u> | <u>2.6</u> | <u>17.5</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 811.0</u> | <u>\$ 49.4</u> | <u>\$ 16.6</u> | <u>\$ 251.6</u> | <u>\$ 493.4</u> |

Purchase obligations represent agreements to purchase goods or services that are enforceable and legally binding on the company. Of the total purchase obligations at December 30, 2004, approximately \$28 million are cancelable by

the company upon providing a 30 - 90 day notice.

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Results of Operations

The following table sets forth, in millions, our revenues and EBITDA on a consolidated basis and the portions thereof generated by each of our five casino properties. Our chief operating decision maker uses only EBITDA in assessing segment performance and deciding how to allocate resources. We use a 52/53 week fiscal year ending on the Thursday nearest December 31.

| | <u>Year Ended</u> | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> |
| | (52 weeks) | (52 weeks) | (52 weeks) |
| Revenues | | | |
| Tropicana Atlantic City | \$ 404.7 | \$ 420.6 | \$ 453.8 |

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| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tropicana Las Vegas | 163.9 | 153.6 | 147.2 |
| Ramada Express Laughlin | 93.3 | 89.8 | 92.8 |
| Casino Aztar Evansville | 130.7 | 126.0 | 116.3 |
| Casino Aztar Caruthersville | <u>23.6</u> | <u>23.1</u> | <u>24.2</u> |
| Total consolidated | \$ 816.2 | \$ 813.1 | \$ 834.3 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| EBITDA (a) | | | |
| Tropicana Atlantic City | \$ 81.8 | \$ 105.0 | \$ 120.7 |
| Tropicana Las Vegas | 36.2 | 26.1 | 23.0 |
| Ramada Express Laughlin | 23.0 | 20.5 | 22.7 |
| Casino Aztar Evansville | 37.4 | 35.8 | 30.3 |
| Casino Aztar Caruthersville | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.5 |
| Corporate | <u>(17.5)</u> | <u>(15.7)</u> | <u>(14.2)</u> |
| Total consolidated | 165.4 | 175.9 | 187.0 |
| Depreciation and amortization | <u>(55.1)</u> | <u>(50.9)</u> | <u>(50.5)</u> |
| Operating income | 110.3 | 125.0 | 136.5 |
| Other income | 3.9 | -- | -- |
| Interest income | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1.1 |
| Interest expense | (37.0) | (36.4) | (41.2) |
| Equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss | -- | -- | (0.5) |
| Loss on early retirement of debt | (10.3) | -- | -- |
| Income taxes | <u>(39.2)</u> | <u>(28.4)</u> | <u>(37.0)</u> |
| Net income | \$ 28.5 | \$ 60.9 | \$ 58.9 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== |

- (a) EBITDA is net income before income taxes, loss on early retirement of debt, equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss, interest expense, interest income, other income, and depreciation and amortization. EBITDA should not be construed as a substitute for either operating income or net income as they are determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Management uses EBITDA as a measure to compare operating results among our properties and between accounting periods. We manage cash and finance our operations at the corporate level. We manage the allocation of capital among properties at the corporate level. We also file a consolidated income tax return. Management accordingly believes EBITDA is useful as a measure of operating results at the property level because it reflects the results of operating decisions at that level separated from the effects of tax and financing decisions that are managed at the corporate level. We also use EBITDA as the primary operating performance measure in our bonus programs for executive officers. Management also believes that EBITDA is a commonly used measure of operating performance in the gaming industry and is an important basis for the valuation of gaming companies. Our calculation of EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies and, therefore, any such differences must be considered when comparing performance among different companies. While management believes EBITDA

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provides a useful perspective for some purposes, EBITDA has material limitations as an analytical tool. For example, among other things, although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets

being depreciated and amortized may have to be replaced in the future, and EBITDA does not reflect the requirements for such replacements. Other income, interest expense, net of interest income, equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss, loss on early retirement of debt, and income taxes are also not reflected in EBITDA. Therefore, management does not consider EBITDA in isolation, and it should not be considered as a substitute for measures determined in accordance with GAAP. A reconciliation of EBITDA with operating income and net income as determined in accordance with GAAP is reflected in the above summary.

Results of Operations -
2004 versus 2003

Consolidated casino revenue was \$635.6 million in 2004, down \$5.5 million or 1% from \$641.1 million in 2003. The decrease was due primarily to a \$13.8 million decrease in casino revenue at Tropicana Atlantic City offset by increases in casino revenue at Ramada Express Laughlin and Casino Aztar Evansville of \$3.1 million and \$3.9 million, respectively. The decrease in casino revenue at Tropicana Atlantic City resulted primarily from the impact of two separate events: (1) an accident on the site of the construction of the parking-garage component of the expansion on October 30, 2003 and (2) the July 3, 2003 opening of the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa. The increase in casino revenue at Casino Aztar Evansville was driven by an increase in the total number of patrons visiting the riverboat during 2004, which was attributable to the increased use of marketing and promotional activities. The increase in casino revenue at Ramada Express Laughlin was driven primarily by the growth of markets that feed into Laughlin.

Consolidated rooms revenue was \$85.7 million in 2004, up 12% from \$76.2 million in 2003. The increase was attributable primarily to Tropicana Las Vegas, where the average daily rate increased 17% and rooms occupied on a non-complimentary basis increased 4% during 2004 compared with 2003. The increase in the average daily rate and the higher occupancy were primarily attributable to increased tourism to the Las Vegas market. The increase in consolidated rooms revenue was offset by a \$3.3 million increase in consolidated rooms expense. The increase in consolidated rooms expense was due primarily to the increase in rooms revenue at Tropicana Las Vegas and additional payroll related costs at the Atlantic City Tropicana. The increase in payroll related costs at the Atlantic City Tropicana was due to the opening of the new 502-room hotel tower in November 2004, the use of temporary help during a five-week union strike and higher employee benefit costs arising from a new labor contract that was ratified in the 2004 fourth quarter.

Consolidated general and administrative expenses increased \$8.3 million or 11% during 2004 from \$77.2 million during 2003. The increase was due to increases at corporate and all of our operating properties with the exception of Casino Aztar Caruthersville. The increase is not attributable to any one significant factor but instead due to a combination of many smaller factors, including higher professional fees to comply with the regulatory requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, an increase in other professional fees, rising employee benefit and salary costs and increased executive incentive costs.

Consolidated utilities expense increased \$2.5 million or 14% in 2004 from \$17.8 million during 2003. The increase was attributable to increased energy consumption brought on by the Atlantic City expansion and a new electrical power contract at the Atlantic City Tropicana that became effective July 2004. The new contract, which replaced a contract that had been in place since July 1997, contains less favorable electrical rates.

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Construction accident related expense was \$6.2 million in 2004, up from \$0.5 million in 2003. The expense relates primarily to supplemental marketing costs incurred to decrease the effect of the business interruption caused by the

October 30, 2003 construction accident and professional fees incurred as a result of the construction accident.

Construction accident insurance recoveries were \$12.2 million in 2004. These recoveries consist of a business interruption recovery of \$3.5 million and recoveries due to the delay in the opening of the Atlantic City Tropicana expansion project totaling \$8.7 million. The business interruption recovery reflects a profit recovery applicable to the fourth quarter of 2003. The recoveries from the delay in the opening of the expansion project represent a portion of the anticipated profit that we would have recognized had the expansion opened as originally projected as well as some reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of the delay. Each recovery was recognized when agreed to by our insurers.

Preopening costs were \$2.9 million in 2004. These expenses relate primarily to the marketing efforts undertaken by the Atlantic City Tropicana during the 2004 third and fourth quarters to promote the Quarter.

Tropicana Atlantic City

Casino revenue was \$354.2 million in 2004, down \$13.8 million or 4% from \$368.0 million in 2003. The decrease in casino revenue was due primarily to a \$13.5 million decrease in slot revenue. This decrease was attributable to increased competition from the July 3, 2003 opening of the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa and business interruption resulting from the October 30, 2003 construction accident previously mentioned. Although casino revenue decreased, casino costs increased slightly to \$157.3 million from \$157.1 million.

Rooms revenue was \$24.4 million in 2004, almost unchanged from \$24.5 million in 2003. Despite the year-over-year consistency of rooms revenue, rooms expense increased \$1.4 million in 2004, up from \$13.1 million in 2003. This increase was due to a combination of factors including increased payroll costs attributable to the November 2004 opening of the new 502-room hotel tower, costs associated with the use of temporary help during a five-week union strike and higher employee benefit costs arising from a new labor contract that was ratified in the 2004 fourth quarter.

General and administrative expense increased \$3.5 million or 14% from \$25.3 million in 2003. The increase was due to a combination of factors including increases in payroll costs for added security personnel, asset disposal costs and professional fees, including those related to compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Utilities expense was \$11.5 million in 2004, up \$2.5 million or 28% from 2003. As noted above, the increase was attributable to increased energy consumption brought on by the expansion and a new electrical power contract that became effective July 2004. The new contract, which replaced a contract that had been in place since July 1997, contains less favorable electrical rates. Repairs and maintenance expense increased \$2.0 million or 15% during 2004 compared to 2003. The increase was attributable to building repair and maintenance activities that were routine in nature in anticipation of the opening of the expansion.

Construction accident related expense was \$6.2 million in 2004. As noted above, this expense relates primarily to supplemental marketing costs incurred to decrease the effect of the business interruption caused by the October 30, 2003 construction accident as well as professional fees incurred as a result of the construction accident.

Construction accident insurance recoveries were \$12.2 million in 2004. As noted above, these recoveries consist of a business interruption recovery of \$3.5 million and recoveries due to the delay in the opening of the Atlantic City Tropicana expansion project of \$8.7 million. The business interruption recovery reflects a profit recovery applicable to the fourth quarter of 2003. The recoveries from the delay in the opening of the expansion project represent a portion of

the anticipated profit that we would have recognized had the expansion opened as originally projected as well as some reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of the delay. Each recovery was recognized when agreed to by our insurers.

Preopening costs were \$2.9 million in 2004. As noted above, these expenses relate to marketing costs incurred to promote the Quarter.

Tropicana Las Vegas

Casino revenue was \$69.7 million in 2004, up slightly from \$69.1 million in 2003. Despite the slight increase in casino revenue, casino costs decreased \$3.0 million or 7% in 2004 compared to 2003, primarily due to a decrease in complimentary, player airfare reimbursement and costs associated with special events.

Rooms revenue increased \$8.8 million in 2004 compared with 2003 primarily as a result of a 17% increase in the average daily rate and a 4% increase in rooms occupied on a non-complimentary basis. Our average daily rate and our occupancy were higher in 2004 relative to 2003 due to increased tourism to the Las Vegas market. Rooms expense increased \$1.6 million or 8% in 2004 versus 2003 due to the increase in rooms revenue.

Ramada Express Laughlin

Casino revenue increased \$3.1 million, up 5% from \$67.3 million in 2003. This increase consisted primarily of a \$2.9 million increase in slot revenue. The year-over-year growth in casino revenue was consistent with the growth experienced by the Laughlin market and is related in part to the growth of the surrounding markets that feed into Laughlin. Casino costs increased \$0.5 million in the 2004 versus 2003 fiscal year primarily as a result of the increase in casino revenue.

Casino Aztar Evansville

Casino revenue was \$118.6 million in 2004, up 3% from \$114.6 million in 2003. The increase in casino revenue was due primarily to slot revenue, which increased \$3.7 million in the 2004 versus 2003 fiscal year. This increase was primarily due to an increase in the total number of patrons visiting our riverboat, which resulted from increased marketing and promotional efforts. The increase in casino revenue occurred despite a \$1.6 million decline in casino revenue during the 2004 fourth quarter. The number of patrons visiting our riverboat was down considerably in December 2004 due to a heavy winter snowstorm. Casino costs of \$44.4 million in 2004 were consistent with casino costs of \$44.3 million in 2003. Casino costs remained consistent due primarily to a \$1.3 million nonrecurring charge recognized during 2003 as a result of an Indiana legislation change requiring casino operators to retroactively apply graduated gaming tax rates effective July 1, 2002 versus August 1, 2002, the date dockside gaming became effective.

Corporate

Corporate general and administrative expenses increased \$2.1 million during 2004, up 15% from \$14.5 million in 2003 as a result of increased employee benefit, executive incentive and payroll costs.

Other income was \$3.9 million in 2004. Other income consists of \$10.5 million of insurance recovery associated with the rebuilding of the expansion at the Atlantic City Tropicana, net of direct costs to obtain the recovery. Also included is \$5.0 million of costs incurred to repair areas near or adjacent to the damaged parking garage and \$1.6 million of dismantlement and debris removal costs that are probable of not being recovered under insurance.

Interest Expense

Consolidated interest expense was \$37.0 million in 2004 compared to \$36.4 million in 2003. The increase was due to a higher level of debt outstanding offset by an increase in capitalized interest relating to the Tropicana Atlantic City expansion. Interest capitalized during 2004 was \$12.9 million compared with \$8.3 million during 2003.

Loss On Early Retirement Of Debt

Loss on early retirement of debt was \$10.3 million in 2004. The loss, which resulted from the redemption of our outstanding 8 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes, consisted of a redemption premium of \$7.6 million and the write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$2.7 million.

Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate increased in 2004 compared with 2003 primarily as a result of an increase in our Indiana income tax provision. In connection with a review of our Indiana income tax returns for the years 1996 through 2002, the Indiana Department of Revenue took the position that our gaming taxes that are based on gaming revenue are not deductible for Indiana income tax purposes. In response to the position taken by the Indiana Department of Revenue, we filed a petition with the Indiana Tax Court for the 1996 and 1997 tax years and we filed a formal protest for the 1998 through 2002 tax years. In April 2004, the Indiana Tax Court ruled in favor of the Indiana Department of Revenue. We asked the Indiana Supreme Court to review the ruling. Our request was denied. As a result, we estimated that we were obligated to pay approximately \$17.3 million to cover assessments of taxes and interest from 1996 through the end of the first quarter of 2004. This amount is deductible for federal income tax purposes, resulting in a net effect of approximately \$11.3 million, which was recorded as an increase to income tax expense in the first quarter of 2004. The ongoing effect of this issue is also included in income taxes after the first quarter of 2004. The increase in our effective income tax rate was further augmented by the impact of a tax benefit arising from a settlement with the Internal Revenue Service during 2003 for the years 1994 through 1999. The settlement involved two issues. We settled one of the two issues entirely involving the deductibility of certain complimentary services provided to customers. The other issue, involving the deductibility of a portion of payments on certain liabilities related to the restructuring of Ramada, was partially settled. We have reserved the right to pursue the unagreed portion of this issue in court and we would receive a refund, if successful. The settlement resulted in a tax benefit of \$6.7 million.

Results of Operations -
2003 versus 2002

The decrease in consolidated revenues in 2003 was due primarily to a \$31.9 million decrease in casino revenue at the Tropicana Atlantic City offset by a \$9.5 million increase in casino revenue at Casino Aztar Evansville. Our 2003 revenues and operating income at the Tropicana Atlantic City were impacted by two events: (1) an accident on the site of the construction of the parking-garage component of the expansion on October 30, 2003 and (2) the July 3, 2003 opening of the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa. The accident resulted in a loss of life and serious injuries, as well as extensive damage to the facilities under construction. Access to the property was limited during the subsequent days because some of the streets surrounding the property were closed. In addition, the Tropicana's operations were disrupted by the temporary evacuation of 600 hotel rooms and the temporary closure of the parking garages that are part of the existing property. Two streets adjacent to the property remained closed through January 1, 2004, preventing use of the bus terminal and limiting access to the existing parking garages and the porte cochere. For 2003, we included a charge of \$0.5 million in construction accident related expense. The charge related primarily to a deductible on liability insurance and professional fees incurred. We reduced construction in progress for the estimated asset loss and recorded a receivable of approximately \$3 million. We have business interruption insurance policies but no profit recovery was recorded at January 1, 2004. Profit recovery from business interruption insurance will be recorded when the amount of recovery is agreed to by the insurers.

The increase in revenues at Casino Aztar Evansville was attributable to a change in the State of Indiana rules of operation permitting open boarding of casino patrons. The new rule increased accessibility to our casino riverboat by eliminating cruising schedules. Consolidated rooms revenue increased primarily due to a \$3.4 million increase in rooms revenue at the Tropicana Las Vegas offset by a \$1.0 million decrease in rooms revenue at Ramada Express. The increase in the Tropicana Las Vegas rooms revenue was due to an increase in the occupancy rate and an increase in the average daily rate due to stronger demand. The decrease in the Ramada Express rooms revenue was due to a decrease in occupied rooms and a decrease in the average daily rate. Our competition lowered room prices and our occupancy decreased as we unsuccessfully tried to hold our rates.

Consolidated casino costs decreased \$3.2 million. This decrease consists primarily of an \$11.8 million decrease in Tropicana Atlantic City casino costs, offset by a \$7.3 million increase in casino costs at Casino Aztar Evansville. The decrease in casino costs at Tropicana Atlantic City was related to the decrease in the property's casino revenue. The increase in casino costs at Casino Aztar Evansville was due to the institution of a graduated gaming tax that became effective in the third quarter of 2002 and higher payroll costs.

Consolidated marketing costs decreased \$5.3 million or 6% during 2003 compared with 2002. This decrease was primarily due to reductions in business promotion expenses and payroll related expenses at Tropicana Atlantic City. The provision for doubtful accounts decreased \$1.1 million in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily as a result of a decrease at Tropicana Atlantic City, where we issued less credit and experienced a lower level of returned items on the credit issued. Credit issued at Tropicana Atlantic City was down 28% in 2003 relative to 2002. When we provide for doubtful accounts receivable, we look at the amount of credit issued, the balance of our net receivable, an aging of that net receivable and consideration of any additional risk factors such as international versus domestic. The analysis we perform in evaluating our net receivable balance consists of separating receivables into those that are routine and small in balance, where we provide an allowance based on

aging, and those that are larger in balance or nonroutine in nature, where we provide an allowance that subjectively considers their characteristics in addition to aging, such as credit and payment history of the customer, financial condition of the customer, collection strategies that can be used, collateral that can be obtained and whether it is international or domestic.

Consolidated property taxes and insurance expense was \$29.4 million or 7% higher in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily due to an increase in property insurance. As a result of conditions in the insurance markets, our insurance costs increased substantially beginning in July 2002. Our consolidated rent expense decreased \$4.0 million or 31% in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily as a result of an amendment to our riverboat landing lease agreement with the City of Evansville whereby we receive credit against our rent for development that we perform and our acquisition of the Tropicana Enterprises partnership interests on February 28, 2002. The acquisition eliminated our real estate rent expense at Tropicana Las Vegas. Prior to the acquisition, this expense was \$1.4 million in 2002, net of intercompany eliminations.

Tropicana Atlantic City

Casino revenue was \$368.1 million in 2003 compared with \$400.0 million in 2002. Slot revenue and games revenue decreased in 2003 by \$18.9 million or 7% and \$13.0 million or 11%, respectively, due to increased competition from the July 3, 2003 opening of the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa and business interruption resulting from the October 30, 2003 construction accident previously mentioned. During the period of July through October 2003, our slot revenue was down \$7.5 million or 8% compared with the same period a year ago and the amount wagered at our table games was down 18%. During November and December 2003, our slot revenue was down \$7.7 million or 18% compared with the same period a year ago and the amount wagered at our table games was down 27%.

Casino costs decreased \$11.8 million in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily due to a decrease in casino revenue. As discussed above, marketing costs were 10% or \$5.8 million lower in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily due to reductions in business promotion expenses and payroll related expenses. As previously discussed, the provision for doubtful accounts was \$1.1 million lower in 2003 compared with 2002.

Our property taxes and insurance expense increased \$1.3 million in 2003 compared with 2002. This change is primarily due to an increase in property insurance as discussed above.

Tropicana Las Vegas

Rooms revenue increased \$3.4 million in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily as a result of a 4% increase in rooms occupied on a noncomplimentary basis and a 5% increase in the average daily rate. Our occupancy and our average daily rate were higher in 2003 relative to 2002 due to increased tourism to the Las Vegas market during 2003. Las Vegas tourism had declined during 2002 as a consequence of the September 11, 2001 terrorist acts.

Rooms costs increased \$1.1 million in 2003 versus 2002 primarily due to an increase in labor costs resulting from the renewal of a collective bargaining agreement with the Culinary Workers Union and an increase in occupied rooms.

Rent expense was

\$0.7 million in 2003 compared with \$2.1 million in 2002. Rent expense decreased as a result of our acquisition of the Tropicana Enterprises partnership interests on February 28, 2002. This acquisition eliminated our real estate rent expense at Tropicana Las Vegas. Prior to the acquisition, this expense was \$1.4 million in 2002, net of intercompany eliminations.

Ramada Express Laughlin

Rooms revenue decreased by \$1.0 million or 11% in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily due to a decrease in average daily rate and a 2% decrease in occupied rooms. Our competition lowered room prices and our occupancy decreased as we unsuccessfully tried to hold our rates. Our rooms costs decreased by \$0.3 million in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily as a result of a decrease in occupied rooms.

Casino Aztar Evansville

Casino revenue was \$9.5 million or 9% higher in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily due to an increase in slot revenue. We have benefited from a change in the State of Indiana rules of operation permitting open boarding of casino patrons that went into effect August 1, 2002. Dockside gaming increased accessibility to our casino riverboat by eliminating cruising schedules.

Casino costs increased \$7.3 million or 20% in 2003 from 2002 due to the institution of a graduated gaming tax structure by the State of Indiana and higher payroll costs. Gaming taxes were \$5.1 million higher in 2003 relative to 2002, which included \$1.3 million recorded in the second quarter of 2003 as a result of an Indiana legislation change requiring casino operators to retroactively apply the dockside graduated tax rates effective July 1, 2002 versus August 1, 2002, the date dockside gaming came into effect. Payroll costs increased \$1.6 million in 2003 versus 2002 due to the hiring of additional staff combined with an increase in employee benefit costs. Other costs were \$1.4 million lower in 2003 than in 2002 due to a decrease in our admission tax. Our admission tax decreased as a result of dockside gaming. With dockside gaming, effective August 1, 2002, our admission tax became \$3 per entry versus \$3 per person per cruise.

Rent expense was \$4.8 million in 2003 compared with \$7.3 million in 2002. Rent expense decreased as a result of an amendment to our riverboat landing lease agreement with the City of Evansville whereby we receive credit against our rent for development projects. During 2003, we received credit in connection with our executive conference center. We plan to have additional development in Evansville but the timing is tentative. Under the terms of the lease agreement, rent expense is calculated by applying defined rent rates against the property's annual casino revenue, on a graduated basis.

Corporate

Corporate expenses increased as a result of costs incurred in connection with business development work and directors and officers insurance.

Interest Expense

The decrease in interest expense in 2003 compared with 2002 was primarily due to increased capitalized interest on the Atlantic City Tropicana expansion. Interest capitalized during 2003 was \$8.3 million compared with \$3.0 million during 2002.

Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate decreased in 2003 compared with 2002 primarily as a result of a settlement with the

Internal Revenue Service for two remaining issues for the years 1994 through 1999. In the fourth quarter of 2003, we settled one of the two issues entirely involving the deductibility of certain complimentary services provided to customers. The other issue, involving the deductibility of a portion

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of payments on certain liabilities related to the restructuring of Ramada, was partially settled. We have reserved the right to pursue the unagreed portion of this issue in court and we would receive a refund, if successful. The settlement resulted in a tax benefit of \$6.7 million. In 2002, we settled these same two issues with the IRS for the years 1992 and 1993, resulting in a tax benefit of \$1.0 million.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices, including interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, commodity prices and equity prices. Our primary exposure to market risk is interest rate risk associated with our CRDA investments, certain assets in other assets, long-term debt and Series B convertible preferred stock. We do not utilize these financial instruments for trading purposes. We manage our interest rate risk on long-term debt by managing the mix of our fixed-rate and variable-rate debt. There has been no change in how we manage our interest rate risk when compared to the prior fiscal year. At January 1, 2004, the carrying value, including the current portion, of our long-term debt at a fixed rate was \$410.2 million and at a variable rate it was \$235.4 million. During 2004, our primary activities in long-term debt consisted of (a) redeeming our \$235 million 8 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes and issuing \$300 million of new 7 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes and (b) entering into a new \$675 million senior secured credit facility consisting of a five-year revolving credit facility of up to \$550 million and a five-year term loan facility of \$125 million. A portion of the proceeds from the new senior secured credit facility were used to repay the outstanding principal amount on our prior revolving credit facility, our prior term loan and our Tropicana Enterprises Loan. Additional borrowings under the new senior secured credit facility were made to finance our day to day operations and to expedite the completion of the Atlantic City Tropicana expansion project.

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The following table provides information at December 30, 2004 about our financial instruments that are sensitive to changes in interest rates. The table presents principal cash flows (in millions) and related weighted average interest rates by expected maturity dates.

| | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>There- after</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Fair Value</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Assets | | | | | | | | |
| Investments | | | | | | | | |
| Fixed rate | | | | | -- | \$9.6 | | \$9.6 |
| Average interest rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3.6% | \$9.6 | |
| Variable rate | | | | | -- | \$14.0 | | \$14.0 |
| Average interest rate* | -- | -- | -- | -- | | | \$14.0 | |
| Other assets | | | | | | | | |
| Variable rate | | | | | -- | \$8.3 | | \$8.3 |
| Average interest rate* | -- | -- | -- | -- | | | \$8.3 | |
| Liabilities | | | | | | | | |
| Long-term debt, including current portion | | | | | | | | |
| Fixed rate | | | | | -- | \$475.0 | | \$524.6 |
| Average interest rate | \$0.1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 8.3% | \$475.1 | |
| | 10.7% | -- | -- | -- | | | | |
| Variable rate | | | | | \$231.6 | -- | | \$257.4 |
| Average interest rate** | \$1.2 | \$1.2 | \$7.2 | \$16.2 | | | \$257.4 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-------|--------|
| Series B convertible preferred stock | | | | | | | |
| Fixed rate | | | | | -- | \$4.9 | \$17.8 |
| Average dividend rate | -- | -- | -- | -- | | \$4.9 | |
| | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 8.0% | |

* Interest is based upon short term investment rates.

** Interest is based upon, at our option, a one-, two-, three-, or six-month Eurodollar rate plus a margin ranging from 1.25% to 2.75%, or the prime rate plus a margin ranging from 0.25% to 1.75%. The applicable margin is dependent upon Aztar's ratio of outstanding indebtedness to operating cash flow, as defined.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America that require us to make estimates and assumptions about the effects of matters that are inherently uncertain. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts and disclosures in our consolidated financial statements. Actual results inevitably will differ from those estimates, and such difference may be material to the financial statements. Of our accounting estimates, we believe the following may involve a higher degree of judgment and complexity.

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Property and equipment - At December 30, 2004, we have property and equipment of \$1.2 billion, representing 82% of our total assets. We exercise judgment with regard to property and equipment in the following areas: (1) determining whether an expenditure is eligible for capitalization or if it should be expensed as incurred, (2) estimating the useful life and determining the depreciation method of a capitalized asset, and (3) if events or changes in circumstances warrant an assessment, determining if and to what extent an asset has been impaired. The accuracy of our judgments impacts the amount of depreciation expense we recognize, the amount of gain or loss on the disposal of these assets, whether or not an asset is impaired and, if an asset is impaired, the amount of the loss related to the impaired asset that is recognized. Our judgments about useful lives as well as the existence and degree of asset impairments could be affected by future events, such as property expansions, property developments, obsolescence, new competition, new regulations and new taxes, and other economic factors. Historically, there have been no events or changes in circumstances that have warranted an impairment review and our other estimates as they relate to property and equipment have not resulted in significant changes. With the exception of a possible impairment review with regard to the Tropicana Las Vegas development discussed below, we don't anticipate that our current estimates are reasonably likely to change in the future.

Expenditures associated with the repair or maintenance of a capital asset are expensed as incurred. Expenditures that are expected to provide future benefits to the company or that extend the useful life of an existing asset are capitalized. The useful lives that we assign to property and equipment represent the estimated number of years that the property and equipment is expected to contribute to the revenue generating process based on our current operating strategy. We believe that the useful lives of our property and equipment expire evenly over time. Accordingly, we depreciate our property and equipment on a straight-line basis over their useful lives.

When events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable, we group assets to the level where we can identify future cash flows and estimate the undiscounted future cash flows that the assets are expected to generate. In the event that the sum of the undiscounted future cash flows is less than the carrying amount, we would recognize an impairment loss equal to the excess of the carrying value over the fair value. Such an impairment loss would be recognized as a non-cash component of operating income. Our ability to determine and measure an impaired asset depends, to a large extent, on our ability to properly estimate future cash flows. Our master plan for a potential development of our Las Vegas Tropicana site envisions the creation of two separate but essentially equal and inter-connected 17-acre sites. The north site would be developed by us. The south site would be held for our future development, joint venture development, or sale for development by another party. For development of a potential project on the north site, a detailed design has substantially been completed. However, we have postponed a decision about whether and when we will proceed with this development. The amount and timing of any future expenditure, and the extent of any impact on existing operations, will depend on the nature and timing of the development we ultimately undertake, if any. If we decide to abandon any facilities in the development process, we would have to conduct a review for impairment with a possible write-down and review their useful lives with a possible adjustment to depreciation and amortization expense. These reviews could result in adjustments that have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations. The net book value of the property and equipment used in the operation of the Las Vegas Tropicana, excluding land at a cost of \$110 million, was \$56.3 million at December 30, 2004. The net book value of accounts receivable, inventories, and prepaid expenses at the Las Vegas Tropicana was \$6.9 million at December 30, 2004.

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Development Costs - At December 30, 2004, capitalized development costs, included as part of other assets, totaled \$18.4 million. These costs relate primarily to expenditures incurred in connection with the master plan for a potential development of our Las Vegas Tropicana site, including a detailed design plan and construction documents. However, we have postponed a decision about whether and when we will proceed with this development. If we ultimately decide to abandon the project and there is no other use for our plans, we would write off these development costs. Our final decision could be impacted by a number of factors, including, but not limited to, changing market conditions, an inability to obtain sufficient financing, an act of terror, new regulations and new laws, the estimated construction costs, etc.

Income tax liabilities - We are subject to federal income taxes and state income taxes in those jurisdictions in which our properties operate. We exercise judgment with regard to income taxes in the following areas: (1) interpreting whether expenses are deductible in accordance with federal income tax and state income tax codes, (2) estimating annual effective federal and state income tax rates and (3) assessing whether deferred tax assets are, more likely than not, expected to be realized. The accuracy of these judgments impacts the amount of income tax expense we recognize each period.

As a matter of law, we are subject to examination by federal and state taxing authorities. We have estimated and provided for income taxes in accordance with settlements reached with the Internal Revenue Service in prior audits. Although we believe that the amounts reflected in our tax returns substantially comply with the applicable federal and state tax regulations, both the IRS and the various state taxing authorities can and have taken positions contrary to ours based on their interpretation of the law. A tax position that is challenged by a taxing authority could result in an adjustment to our income tax liabilities and related tax provision.

During the first quarter of 2004, the IRS completed its examination of the company's income tax returns for the years 2000 through 2002. The only issue in dispute involved the deductibility of a portion of the payments on certain liabilities related to the restructuring of Ramada Inc. During the fourth quarter of 2003, the IRS completed its examination for the years 1994 through 1999 and settled one of the two remaining issues entirely and a portion of the other remaining issue, resulting in a tax benefit of \$6.7 million. The issue that was settled entirely involved the deductibility of certain complimentary services provided to customers. The other issue involved the deductibility of a portion of payments on certain liabilities related to the restructuring, the same issue as described above for the 2000 through 2002 years. We have reserved the right to pursue the unagreed portion of this issue in court for the years 1994 through 2002 and we would receive a refund, if successful.

On July 2, 2002, the State of New Jersey enacted the Business Tax Reform Act. We have provided for New Jersey income taxes based on our best estimate of the effect of this law. Certain provisions of the Act are subject to future rules and regulations and the discretion of the Director. We believe our interpretation of the law is reasonable and we don't expect material adjustments; however, we are unable to determine the discretion of the Director. The New Jersey Division of Taxation is examining the New Jersey income tax returns for the years 1995 through 2001. We believe that adequate provision for income taxes and interest has been made in the financial statements.

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Ramada indemnification - We have agreed to indemnify Ramada against all monetary judgments in lawsuits pending against Ramada and its subsidiaries as of the conclusion of the Restructuring on December 20, 1989, as well as all related attorney's fees and expenses not paid at that time, except for any judgments, fees or expenses accrued on the hotel business balance sheet and except for any unaccrued and unreserved aggregate amount up to \$5.0 million of judgments, fees or expenses related exclusively to the hotel business. Aztar is entitled to the benefit of any crossclaims or counterclaims related to such lawsuits and of any insurance proceeds received. There is no limit to the term or the maximum potential future payment under this indemnification. In addition, we agreed to indemnify Ramada for certain lease guarantees made by Ramada. The lease terms potentially extend through 2015 and Ramada guaranteed all obligations under these leases. We have recourse against a subsequent purchaser of the operations covered by these leases. The estimated maximum potential amount of future payments we could be required to make under these indemnifications is \$7 million at December 30, 2004. We would be required to perform under this guarantee 1) if monetary judgments and related expenses in lawsuits pending against Ramada and its subsidiaries as of the conclusion of the Restructuring exceeded the above described amount, or 2) if lessees with lease guarantees failed to perform under their leases, the lessee and lessor could not reach a negotiated settlement and the lessor was able to successfully proceed against Ramada, who in turn was able to successfully proceed against the company. In connection with these matters, we established a liability at the time of the Restructuring and our remaining accrued liability was \$3.8 million at December 30, 2004.

Impact of the October 30, 2003 construction accident - An accident occurred on the site of the parking-garage component of the expansion of the Atlantic City Tropicana. In 2003, we reduced construction in progress for the estimated asset loss and recorded a receivable of approximately \$3 million. By September 30, 2004, the contractor had made substantial progress in rebuilding the damaged parking structure. Because the cost of the reconstructed portion

of the garage that was fully paid by the contractor exceeded the \$3 million asset loss previously incurred, we increased construction in progress for \$3 million and relieved the corresponding receivable at September 30, 2004. In addition to the \$3 million asset loss that was recognized and subsequently recovered, we recognized \$5 million of expense in 2004 for costs incurred to repair areas near or adjacent to the parking garage that were damaged as a result of the accident. This expense was classified as a component of other income.

In order to ensure that the construction proceed expeditiously and in order to settle certain disputes, we and the general contractor entered into a settlement agreement on October 6, 2004 that delineates how we and the contractor will share the cost of and the insurance proceeds received for the dismantlement, debris removal and rebuild. During 2004, we estimated and recognized \$1.6 million of expense for dismantlement and debris removal activities that are probable of not being recovered under insurance. These dismantlement and debris removal costs were also classified as a component of other income. At December 30, 2004, we recorded a receivable of \$1.6 million for dismantlement and debris removal activities that are probable of being recovered under insurance and it was part of the construction accident receivables. During 2004, we received \$10.5 million of insurance recovery associated with the rebuild, net of direct costs to obtain the recovery. This net recovery was classified as other income.

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Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), "Share-Based Payment." SFAS 123(R) establishes standards for the accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services. It focuses primarily on accounting for transactions in which an entity obtains employee services in share-based payment transactions. SFAS 123(R) requires a public entity to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award and the estimated number of awards that are expected to vest. That cost will be recognized over the period during which an employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award, which is usually the vesting period. SFAS 123(R) supersedes APB 25, which we have elected to follow. SFAS 123(R) is effective for us at the beginning of the fiscal third quarter of 2005. SFAS 123(R) applies to all awards granted after the required effective date and to awards modified, repurchased, or cancelled after that date. Compensation cost is recognized on or after the required effective date for the portion of outstanding awards for which the requisite service has not yet been rendered, based on the grant-date fair value of those awards calculated under SFAS 123 that we have followed for disclosure purposes. For periods before the required effective date, we may elect to adjust financial statements of prior periods on a basis consistent with the pro forma disclosures required for those periods by SFAS 123. We have not decided whether or not to restate prior periods. Based on stock options granted through December 30, 2004, we estimate that, net of the related income tax benefits, we will record an additional cost of approximately \$0.5 million for the third quarter of 2005 and \$0.5 million for the fourth quarter of 2005.

Private Securities Litigation Reform Act

Certain information included in Aztar's Form 10-K for the year ended December 30, 2004, and other materials filed or to be filed with, or furnished or to be furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (as well as information

included in oral statements or other written statements made or to be made by us, including those made in Aztar's 2004 annual report) contains statements that are forward-looking. These include forward-looking statements relating to the following activities, among others: operation and expansion of existing properties, in particular the Atlantic City Tropicana, including future performance; development of the Las Vegas Tropicana and financing and/or concluding an arrangement with a partner for such development; other business development activities; uses of free cash flow; stock repurchases; debt repayments; possible future debt refinancings; and use of derivatives. These forward-looking statements generally can be identified by phrases such as we "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "foresee," "forecast," "estimate," "target," or other words or phrases of similar import. Similarly, statements that describe our business strategy, outlook, objectives, plans, intentions or goals are also forward-looking statements.

Such forward-looking information involves important risks and uncertainties that could significantly affect results in the future and, accordingly, such results may differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following factors as well as other factors described from time to time in Aztar's reports filed with or furnished to the SEC: those factors relating to terrorism and the uncertainty of war and other factors affecting discretionary consumer spending; uncertainties related to the extent and timing of our recoveries from our insurance carriers for our various losses suffered in connection with the

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accident on October 30, 2003; the extent to which our existing operations will continue to be adversely affected by the ongoing effects of the accident on October 30, 2003; the extent to which we realize revenue and EBITDA increases as a result of the Tropicana Atlantic City expansion; uncertainties in connection with the renegotiation of our collective bargaining agreements; our ability to execute our development plans, estimates of development costs and returns on development capital; construction and development factors, including zoning and other regulatory issues, environmental restrictions, soil conditions, weather, fire, flood and other natural hazards, site access matters, shortages of material and skilled labor, labor disputes and work stoppages, and engineering and equipment problems; factors affecting leverage and debt service, including sensitivity to fluctuation in interest rates; access to available and feasible financing; regulatory and licensing matters; third-party consents, approvals and representations, and relations with suppliers and other third parties; reliance on key personnel; business and economic conditions; the cyclical nature of the hotel business and the gaming business; the effects of weather; market prices of our common stock; litigation outcomes, judicial actions, labor negotiations, legislative matters and referenda including the potential legalization of gaming in Maryland and New York and VLTs at the Meadowlands in New Jersey, and taxation including potential tax increases in Indiana, Missouri, Nevada and New Jersey; the impact of new competition on our operations including prospective new competition in Pennsylvania; and the effects of other competition, including locations of competitors and operating and marketing competition. Any forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and speak only as of the date made.

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SUMMARY OF SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA (a)(b)

Aztar Corporation and Subsidiaries

For the Five Years Ended December 30, 2004

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2000</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Operations Data (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Revenues | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 816,227 | \$ 813,146 | \$ 834,274 | \$ 849,463 | \$ 848,088 |
| Operating income (c) | (55,128) | (50,906) | (50,499) | (51,813) | (53,924) |
| Other income | | | | | |
| Net interest income (expense) | 110,342 3,907 | 125,023 -- | 136,480 -- | 131,408 -- | 115,475 -- |

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| | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss | (36,205) | (35,639) | (40,189) | (37,623) | (40,565) |
| Loss on early retirement of debt | -- | -- | (458) | (3,702) | (4,215) |
| Income taxes (d) | | | | | |
| Net income | (10,372) | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Common Stock Data (per share) | (39,197) | (28,454) | (36,974) | (32,074) | (17,578) |
| Net income per common share | 28,475 | 60,930 | 58,859 | 58,009 | 53,117 |
| Net income per common share assuming dilution | \$.79 | \$ 1.72 | \$ 1.56 | \$ 1.53 | \$ 1.28 |
| Cash dividends declared | .76 | 1.66 | 1.51 | 1.48 | 1.23 |
| Equity | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Balance Sheet Data (in thousands at year end) | 16.28 | 15.60 | 13.92 | 12.38 | 10.92 |
| Total assets | | | | | |
| Long-term debt | | | | | |
| Series B convertible preferred stock | \$1,511,640 | \$1,347,773 | \$1,210,682 | \$1,060,956 | \$1,011,696 |
| Shareholders' equity | 731,253 | 628,603 | 524,066 | 458,659 | 463,011 |
| | 4,914 | 5,253 | 5,601 | 5,959 | 6,400 |
| | 566,291 | 534,574 | 515,354 | 453,841 | 422,706 |

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SUMMARY OF SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA (a)(b) (Continued)
Aztar Corporation and Subsidiaries

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For the Five Years Ended December 30, 2004

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2000</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Other Financial Data (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | | | | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | \$ 105,266 | \$ 111,365 | \$ 128,548 | \$ 137,067 | \$ 123,631 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | (190,567) | (168,973) | (187,269) | (56,020) | (30,499) |
| EBITDA(e) | 67,623 | 75,298 | 19,495 | (37,005) | (99,232) |
| | 165,470 | 175,929 | 186,979 | 183,221 | 169,399 |

- (a) See NOTES 1., 3., 5., 7., 14., 15. and 16. of the NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
- (b) The Company uses a 52/53 week fiscal year ending on the Thursday nearest December 31, which included 52 weeks in 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2000. Fiscal year 2001 included 53 weeks.
- (c) In July 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." SFAS 142 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2001 and applies to all goodwill and other intangible assets recognized in an entity's statement of financial position at that date, regardless of when those assets were initially recognized. Effective January 4, 2002, the Company ceased amortization of the cost of its initial gaming licenses because it was determined, under the criteria established in SFAS 142, that these assets have an indefinite life. Amortization expense related to the cost of the Company's initial gaming licenses was \$2,673 in 2001 and \$2,625 in 2000.
- (d) The Company is responsible, with certain exceptions, for the taxes of Ramada through December 20, 1989. In connection with Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") examinations of the income tax returns for the years 1989 through 1996, an issue was resolved that resulted in an income tax benefit of

approximately \$7,500 in 2000. The issue related to the deductibility of the cost of meals served to certain employees on the Company's premises. The IRS maintained that the Tax Reform Act of 1986 reduced this deduction. We recorded provisions in prior years based on the IRS position; however, we believed that these employee meals were fully deductible. The United States Tax Court decided in favor of the IRS in a case involving Boyd Gaming Corporation ("Boyd Gaming Case"). In 1999, the Boyd Gaming Case was overturned in the United States Court of Appeals. This issue, as it pertained to us, was resolved with the IRS during 2000.

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SUMMARY OF SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA (a)(b) (Continued)

Aztar Corporation and Subsidiaries

For the Five Years Ended December 30, 2004

- (e) EBITDA is net income before income taxes, loss on early retirement of debt, equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss, net interest income (expense), other income, and depreciation and amortization. EBITDA should not be construed as a substitute for either operating income or net income as they are determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Company uses EBITDA as a measure to compare operating results among its properties and between accounting periods. The Company manages cash and finances its operations at the corporate level. The Company manages the allocation of capital among properties at the corporate level. The Company also files a consolidated income tax return. The Company accordingly believes EBITDA is useful as a measure of operating results at the property level because it reflects the results of operating decisions at that level separated from the effects of tax and financing decisions that are managed at the corporate level. The Company also uses EBITDA as the primary operating performance measure in its bonus programs for executive officers. The Company also believes that EBITDA is a commonly used measure of operating performance in the gaming industry and is an important basis for the valuation of gaming companies. The Company's calculation of EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies and, therefore, any such differences must be considered when comparing performance among different companies. While the Company believes EBITDA provides a useful perspective for some purposes, EBITDA has material limitations as an analytical tool. For example, among other things, although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized may have to be replaced in the future, and EBITDA does not reflect the requirements for such replacements. Other income, interest expense, net of interest income, equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss, loss on early retirement of debt, and income taxes are also not reflected in EBITDA. Therefore, the Company does not consider EBITDA in isolation, and it should not be considered as a substitute for measures determined in accordance with GAAP. A reconciliation of EBITDA with operating income and net income as determined in accordance with GAAP is shown below for the five years ended December 30, 2004 (in thousands):

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| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2000</u> |
|---|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| EBITDA | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 165,470 | \$ 175,929 | \$ 186,979 | \$ 183,221 | \$ 169,399 |
| Operating income | | | | | |
| Other income | <u>(55,128)</u> | <u>(50,906)</u> | <u>(50,499)</u> | <u>(51,813)</u> | <u>(53,924)</u> |
| Net interest income(expense) | 110,342 3,907 | 125,023 -- | 136,480 -- | 131,408 -- | 115,475 -- |
| Equity in unconsolidated partnership's loss | (36,205) | (35,639) | (40,189) | (37,623) | (40,565) |
| Loss on early retirement of debt | -- | -- | (458) | (3,702) | (4,215) |
| Income taxes | | | | | |
| Net income | (10,372) <u>(39,197)</u> \$ 28,475 | -- <u>(28,454)</u> \$ 60,930 | -- <u>(36,974)</u> \$ 58,859 | -- <u>(32,074)</u> \$ 58,009 | -- <u>(17,578)</u> \$ 53,117 |

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM
ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULE

To the Board of Directors of
Aztar Corporation:

Our audits of the consolidated financial statements, of management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting referred to in our report dated February 28, 2005 appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K also included an audit of the financial statement schedule listed in Item 15(a)(2) of this Form 10-K. In our opinion, this financial statement schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP

Phoenix, Arizona
February 28, 2005

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SCHEDULE II - VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS
AZTAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
For the Years Ended December 30, 2004, January 1, 2004 and January 2, 2003
(in thousands)

COLUMN A

COLUMN B

COLUMN C

COLUMN D

COLUMN E

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Balance at Beginning of Year</u> | <u>Additions</u> | <u>Deductions</u> | <u>Balance at End of Year</u> |
|--|---|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Allowance for doubtful accounts receivable: | | | | |
| 2004 | \$ 14,098 | \$ 944(a) | \$ 1,904(b) | \$ 13,138 |
| 2003 | 17,376 | 1,526(a) | 4,804(b) | 14,098 |
| 2002 | 20,578 | 2,541(a) | 5,743(b) | 17,376 |
| Deferred income tax asset valuation allowance: | | | | |
| 2004 | \$ 337 | \$ -- | \$ 14(c) | \$ 323 |
| 2003 | 1,814 | -- | 1,477(c) | 337 |
| 2002 | 1,968 | -- | 154(c) | 1,814 |
| Valuation allowance for CRDA deposits, CRDA bonds and CRDA other investments: | | | | |
| 2004 | \$ 6,962 | \$ 1,044(a) | \$ 36(d) | \$ 8,239 |
| | | 300(f) | 31(e) | |
| 2003 | 6,752 | 374(a) | 135(d) | 6,962 |
| | | | 29(e) | |
| 2002 | 9,492 | 262(a) | 2,909(d) | 6,752 |
| | | | 93(e) | |

- (a) Charged to costs and expenses.
- (b) Related assets charged against the account.
- (c) Reflects reductions of \$14, \$21 and \$154 in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively, with a corresponding decrease in income tax expense. The remainder of the reduction in 2003 represented charges of deferred tax assets against the valuation allowance account.
- (d) Reflects reduction due to receipt of carrying value with corresponding decrease in costs and expenses.
- (e) Reflects transfer to unamortized discount for CRDA bonds.
- (f) Reflects transfer from other assets.

EXHIBIT INDEX

- 3.1 Restated Certificate of Incorporation, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-32009 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.2 Second Amended and Restated By-Laws of Aztar Corporation, as adopted February 25, 1998, filed as Exhibit 3 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 2, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.1 Rights Agreement, dated as of December 14, 1999, between Aztar Corporation and ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C., as Rights Agent, filed as Exhibit 1 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed on December 15, 1999, and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.2 Indenture, dated as of July 27, 2001, between Aztar Corporation and U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, relating to the 9% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2011 of Aztar Corporation, filed as Exhibit 4.3 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 333-69158 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.3 Indenture, dated as of June 2, 2004, between Aztar Corporation and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, relating to the 7 7/8% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014 of Aztar Corporation, filed as Exhibit 4 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended July 1, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.4 For a description of the Series B ESOP Convertible Preferred Stock of Aztar Corporation, refer to the Certificate of Designations, Preferences and Rights of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock of Aztar Corporation filed as Annex XII to the Ramada Inc. Definitive Proxy Statement/Aztar Corporation Prospectus, dated as of November 14, 1989 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(a) Severance Agreement, dated July 17, 1995, by and between Aztar Corporation and Paul E. Rubeli, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 28, 1995 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(b) Amendment to Severance Agreement, dated March 23, 1998, by and between Aztar Corporation and Paul E. Rubeli, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 2, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(c) Severance Agreement, dated July 17, 1995, by and between Aztar Corporation and Robert M. Haddock, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 28, 1995 and incorporated herein by reference.

* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

- * 10.1(d) Amendment to Severance Agreement, dated March 24, 1998, by and between Aztar Corporation and Robert M. Haddock, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 2, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(e) Severance Agreement, dated July 18, 1995, by and between Aztar Corporation and Nelson W. Armstrong, Jr., filed as Exhibit 10.3 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 28, 1995 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(f) Amendment to Severance Agreement, dated March 24, 1998, by and between Aztar Corporation and Nelson W. Armstrong, Jr., filed as Exhibit 10.3 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 2, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(g) Severance Agreement, dated July 24, 1995, by and between Aztar Corporation and Meridith P. Sipek, filed as Exhibit 10.4 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 28, 1995 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(h) Amendment to Severance Agreement, dated March 24, 1998, by and between Aztar Corporation and Meridith P. Sipek, filed as Exhibit 10.4 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 2, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(i) Severance Agreement, dated July 25, 1995, by and between Aztar Corporation and Joe Cole, filed as Exhibit 10.5 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 28, 1995 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(j) Amendment to Severance Agreement, dated March 24, 1998, by and between Aztar Corporation and Joe Cole, filed as Exhibit 10.5 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 2, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(k) Severance Agreement, dated July 17, 1995, by and between Aztar Corporation and Neil A. Ciarfalia, filed as Exhibit 10.6 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 28, 1995 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.1(l) Amendment to Severance Agreement, dated March 24, 1998, by and between Aztar Corporation and Neil A. Ciarfalia, filed as Exhibit 10.6 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for

the quarter ended April 2, 1998 and incorporated herein by reference.

* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

- * 10.2 Aztar Corporation 1989 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, filed as Exhibit 4 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-32399 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.3(a) Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of April 17, 1989, among New World Hotels (U.S.A.), Inc., RI Acquiring Corp. and Ramada Inc., as amended and Restated as of October 23, 1989, filed as Exhibit 2.1 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-32009 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.3(b) Letter, dated as of October 23, 1989, from Ramada Inc. to New World Hotels (U.S.A.), Inc. regarding certain franchising matters and hotel projects, filed as Exhibit 2.1(b) to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-32009 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.4 Reorganization Agreement, dated as of April 17, 1989, between Ramada Inc. and Aztar Corporation, as amended and restated as of October 23, 1989, filed as Exhibit 2.2 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-32009 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.5 Tax Sharing Agreement, dated as of April 17, 1989, among New World Hotels (U.S.A), Inc., Ramada Inc. and Aztar Corporation, as amended and restated as of October 23, 1989, filed as Exhibit 2.3 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-32009 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.6 Guaranty and Acknowledgement Agreement, dated as of April 17, 1989, among New World Development Company Limited, New World Hotels (Holdings) Limited, New World Hotels (U.S.A.), Inc. and RI Acquiring Corp., filed as Exhibit 2.4 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-29562 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.7

Master Consent Agreement, dated July 18, 1989, by and among Ramada Inc., Adamar of Nevada, Hotel Ramada of Nevada, Adamar of New Jersey, Inc., Aztar Corporation, Tropicana Enterprises, Trop C.C. and the Jaffe Group, with attached exhibits, filed as Exhibit 10.50 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-29562 and incorporated herein by reference.

- * 10.8 Aztar Corporation 1990 Nonemployee Directors Stock Option Plan, as amended and restated effective March 15, 1991, filed as Exhibit A to Aztar Corporation's 1991 definitive Proxy Statement and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.9(a) Aztar Corporation Nonqualified Retirement Plan for Senior Executives, dated September 5, 1990, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 27, 1990 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.9(b) Amendment No. 1 to the Aztar Corporation Nonqualified Retirement Plan for Senior Executives, dated September 5, 1990, as approved by the Board of Directors of Aztar Corporation on February 26, 2003, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 3, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference.

* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

- * 10.10 Aztar Corporation Nonqualified Retirement Plan Trust between Aztar Corporation and State Street Bank and Trust Company dated January 3, 2003, filed as Exhibit 10.12 to Aztar Corporation's 2002 Form 10-K and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.11 Summary of deferred compensation program for designated executives of Ramada, dated November 10, 1983, filed as Exhibit 10(r) to Ramada Inc.'s 1983 Form 10-K (Commission File Reference Number 1-5440) and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.12 Deferred Compensation Agreements entered into by and between Ramada and designated executives (including certain Executive Officers), dated December 1, 1983, 1984 or 1985, filed as Exhibits 10.60(a) through (w) to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-51008 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.13 Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors, dated December 1, 1983, filed as Exhibit 10(t) to Ramada Inc.'s 1983 Form 10-K (Commission File Reference Number 1-5440) and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.14 Deferred Compensation Agreements entered into by and between Ramada and certain outside Directors as of December 1, 1983, filed as Exhibits 10.62(a),(b),(c) and (d) to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 33-51008 and incorporated herein by reference.

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- 10.15 Purchase Agreement, dated February 1, 2002, among Adamar of Nevada, parties constituting the Jaffe Group, Aztar Corporation and Hotel Ramada of Nevada, filed as Exhibit 10.18 to Aztar Corporation's 2002 Form 10-K and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.16 Aztar Corporation 1999 Employee Stock Option and Incentive Plan, filed as Exhibit A to Aztar Corporation's 1999 definitive Proxy Statement and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.17(a) Aztar Corporation 2000 Nonemployee Directors Stock Option Plan, amended and restated effective December 5, 2001, filed as Exhibit 10.20 to Aztar Corporation's 2001 Form 10-K and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.17(b) Form of Stock Option Grant Letter for Aztar Corporation 2000 Nonemployee Directors Stock Option Plan, as Amended and Restated December 5, 2001, Initial Grant, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.17(c) Form of Stock Option Grant Letter for Aztar Corporation 2000 Nonemployee Directors Stock Option Plan, as Amended and Restated December 5, 2001, Second Grant, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

- * 10.18 Aztar Corporation Nonqualified Retirement Plan for Selected Senior Executives (SERP) effective January 3, 2003, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 3, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.19(a) Aztar Corporation 2004 Employee Stock Option and Incentive Plan, filed as Exhibit B to Aztar Corporation's 2004 definitive Proxy Statement and incorporated herein by reference.
- * 10.19(b) Form of Stock Option Grant Letter for Aztar Corporation 2004 Employee Stock Option and Incentive Plan, filed as Exhibit 10.3 to Aztar Corporation's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.20 Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of July 22, 2004, among Aztar Corporation, the lenders' party thereto and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, filed as Exhibit 10.20 to Aztar Corporation's Registration Statement No. 333-118336 and incorporated herein by reference.

- ** 21. Subsidiaries of Aztar Corporation.
- ** 23. Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- ** 31.1 Certification of CEO.
- ** 31.2 Certification of CFO.
- ** 32. Certification of CEO and CFO pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

** Filed herewith