

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC

Form 10-Q

November 06, 2012

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012

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 No. 001-32594

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

90 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08542

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(609) 683-3831

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

22-3755714

(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

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

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

As of November 1, 2012, there were 37,528,918 shares of the registrant's Common Stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Condensed Financial Statements

Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In thousands, except share data)

(unaudited)

| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$45,055 | \$40,301 |
| Funds held for payroll customers | 39,217 | 42,511 |
| Receivables, net | 185,923 | 176,535 |
| Investments held to maturity | 4,455 | 2,505 |
| Inventory | 9,878 | 11,492 |
| Prepaid expenses | 8,349 | 9,660 |
| Current tax assets | 2,790 | — |
| Current deferred tax assets, net | 7,021 | 6,746 |
| Total current assets | 302,688 | 289,750 |
| Capitalized customer acquisition costs, net | 56,450 | 55,014 |
| Property and equipment, net | 121,505 | 115,579 |
| Goodwill | 115,902 | 103,399 |
| Intangible assets, net | 35,856 | 32,498 |
| Deposits and other assets, net | 756 | 681 |
| Total assets | \$633,157 | \$596,921 |
| Liabilities and Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Due to sponsor banks | \$53,058 | \$63,881 |
| Accounts payable | 61,989 | 47,373 |
| Deposits held for payroll customers | 39,217 | 42,511 |
| Current portion of borrowings | 18,750 | 15,003 |
| Current portion of accrued buyout liability | 10,152 | 8,104 |
| Processing liabilities and loss reserves | 43,125 | 30,689 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 51,433 | 50,884 |
| Current tax liabilities | — | 1,408 |
| Total current liabilities | 277,724 | 259,853 |
| Deferred tax liabilities, net | 25,476 | 21,643 |
| Reserve for unrecognized tax benefits | 2,494 | 1,819 |
| Long-term portion of borrowings | 55,000 | 70,000 |
| Long-term portion of accrued buyout liability | 24,441 | 23,554 |
| Total liabilities | 385,135 | 376,869 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 11) | — | — |
| Equity | | |
| Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized, 41,110,681 and 39,626,846 shares issued at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011; 38,657,369 and 38,847,957 | 41 | 39 |

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| outstanding at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 | | |
| Additional paid-in capital | 239,992 | 207,643 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (353 |) (680) |
| Retained earnings | 73,159 | 29,236 |
| Treasury stock, at cost (2,453,312 and 778,889 shares at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011) | (66,044 |) (16,828) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 246,795 | 219,410 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 1,227 | 642 |
| Total equity | 248,022 | 220,052 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$633,157 | \$596,921 |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income
(In thousands, except per share data)
(unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Total revenues | \$534,152 | \$531,904 | \$1,523,158 | \$1,525,527 |
| Costs of services: | | | | |
| Interchange | 336,628 | 369,007 | 965,318 | 1,055,013 |
| Dues, assessments and fees | 54,121 | 40,672 | 150,494 | 113,373 |
| Processing and servicing | 55,601 | 53,255 | 169,511 | 161,170 |
| Customer acquisition costs | 10,647 | 11,834 | 33,346 | 35,622 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 5,380 | 3,270 | 14,272 | 10,846 |
| Total costs of services | 462,377 | 478,038 | 1,332,941 | 1,376,024 |
| General and administrative | 38,130 | 32,244 | 103,596 | 91,667 |
| Total expenses | 500,507 | 510,282 | 1,436,537 | 1,467,691 |
| Income from operations | 33,645 | 21,622 | 86,621 | 57,836 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | |
| Interest income | 45 | 47 | 205 | 129 |
| Interest expense | (938 |) (954 |) (2,544 |) (3,262 |
| Provision for processing system intrusion costs | (290 |) (115 |) (528 |) (790 |
| Other, net | (921 |) (35 |) (925 |) (780 |
| Total other income (expense) | (2,104 |) (1,057 |) (3,792 |) (4,703 |
| Income before income taxes | 31,541 | 20,565 | 82,829 | 53,133 |
| Provision for income taxes | 11,974 | 7,784 | 31,448 | 20,098 |
| Net income | 19,567 | 12,781 | 51,381 | 33,035 |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | 187 | 135 | 446 | 316 |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | \$19,380 | \$12,646 | \$50,935 | \$32,719 |
| Net income | \$19,567 | \$12,781 | \$51,381 | \$33,035 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | |
| Unrealized gains (losses) on investments, net of income tax of \$10, \$(2), \$19 and \$(1) | 15 | (6 |) 30 | (1 |
| Unrealized losses on derivative financial instruments | (19 |) (69 |) (28 |) (651 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | 500 | (946 |) 464 | (493 |
| Comprehensive income | 20,063 | 11,760 | 51,847 | 31,890 |
| Less: Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests | 337 | (149 |) 585 | 168 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to Heartland | \$19,726 | \$11,909 | \$51,262 | \$31,722 |
| Earnings per common share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$0.50 | \$0.32 | \$1.31 | \$0.84 |
| Diluted | \$0.48 | \$0.31 | \$1.26 | \$0.82 |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding: | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Basic | 38,813 | 39,265 | 38,831 | 38,841 |
| Diluted | 40,352 | 40,561 | 40,454 | 40,145 |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Equity
(In thousands)
(unaudited)

| | Heartland Stockholders' Equity | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| | Common Stock | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | (Accumulated Deficit) Retained Earnings | Treasury Stock | Noncontrolling Minority Interests | Total Equity |
| Shares | Amount | | | | | | | |
| Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011: | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, January 1, 2011 | 38,415 | \$38 | \$185,689 | \$37 | \$(8,471) | \$— | \$301 | \$177,594 |
| Issuance of common stock— options exercised | 932 | 1 | 7,916 | — | — | — | — | 7,917 |
| Issuance of common stock – RSU's vested | 59 | — | (518) | — | — | — | — | (518) |
| Excess tax benefit on employee share-based compensation | — | — | 2,903 | — | — | — | — | 2,903 |
| Share-based compensation | — | — | 4,970 | — | — | — | — | 4,970 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | (996) | — | — | (149) | (1,145) |
| Dividends on common stock | — | — | — | — | (4,665) | — | — | (4,665) |
| Net income for the period | — | — | — | — | 32,719 | — | 316 | 33,035 |
| Balance September 30, 2011 | 39,406 | \$39 | \$200,960 | \$(959) | \$19,583 | \$— | \$468 | \$220,091 |
| Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012: | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, January 1, 2012 | 38,848 | \$39 | \$207,643 | \$(680) | \$29,236 | \$(16,828) | \$642 | \$220,052 |
| Issuance of common stock – options exercised | 1,400 | 2 | 16,826 | — | — | — | — | 16,828 |
| Issuance of common stock – RSU's vested | 83 | — | (1,064) | — | — | — | — | (1,064) |
| Excess tax benefit on | — | — | 6,175 | — | — | — | — | 6,175 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|---------|-----------|
| employee share-based compensation | | | | | | | | |
| Repurchase of common stock | (1,674) | — | — | — | — | (49,216) | — | (49,216) |
| Share-based compensation | — | — | 10,412 | — | — | — | — | 10,412 |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | 327 | — | — | 139 | 466 |
| Dividends on common stock | — | — | — | — | (7,012) | — | — | (7,012) |
| Net income for the period | — | — | — | — | 50,935 | — | 446 | 51,381 |
| Balance September 30, 2012 | 38,657 | \$41 | \$239,992 | \$(353) | \$73,159 | \$(66,044) | \$1,227 | \$248,022 |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow
(In thousands)
(unaudited)

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Net income | \$51,381 | \$33,035 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Amortization of capitalized customer acquisition costs | 33,758 | 35,948 |
| Other depreciation and amortization | 20,641 | 20,633 |
| Addition to loss reserves | 1,827 | 4,555 |
| Provision for doubtful receivables | 793 | 2,074 |
| Share-based compensation | 10,412 | 4,970 |
| Deferred taxes | 3,558 | 3,036 |
| Exit costs for service center | — | 809 |
| Other | 964 | 87 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| (Increase) decrease in receivables | (8,519 |) 3,030 |
| Decrease (increase) in inventory | 1,685 | (1,774 |
| Payment of signing bonuses, net | (22,446 |) (21,158 |
| Increase in capitalized customer acquisition costs | (12,748 |) (10,670 |
| Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses | 1,329 | (1,052 |
| Decrease in current tax assets | 1,968 | 16,767 |
| Increase in deposits and other assets | (81 |) (299 |
| Excess tax benefits on employee share-based compensation | (6,175 |) (2,903 |
| Increase in reserve for unrecognized tax benefits | 675 | 444 |
| Decrease in due to sponsor bank | (10,823 |) (15,022 |
| Increase in accounts payable | 14,593 | 330 |
| Increase in accrued expenses and other liabilities | 2,423 | 1,978 |
| Increase (decrease) in processing liabilities and loss reserves | 10,528 | (1,002 |
| Payouts of accrued buyout liability | (9,401 |) (8,679 |
| Increase in accrued buyout liability | 12,336 | 10,344 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 98,678 | 75,481 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Purchase of investments held to maturity | (5,225 |) (2,617 |
| Maturities of investments held to maturity | 3,396 | 1,626 |
| Decrease (Increase) in funds held for payroll customers | 3,344 | (2,313 |
| (Decrease) Increase in deposits held for payroll customers | (3,294 |) 2,145 |
| Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired | (23,682 |) (23,221 |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (25,029 |) (28,983 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (50,490 |) (53,363 |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | |
| Proceeds from borrowings | 26,000 | — |
| Principal payments on borrowings | (37,253 |) (34,536 |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | 16,828 | 7,916 |
| Excess tax benefits on employee share-based compensation | 6,175 | 2,903 |
| Repurchases of common stock | (48,202 |) — |

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| | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|---|
| Dividends paid on common stock | (7,012 |) (4,665 |) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (43,464 |) (28,382 |) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash | 4,724 | (6,264 |) |
| Effect of exchange rates on cash | 30 | (95 |) |
| Cash at beginning of year | 40,301 | 41,729 | |
| Cash at end of period | \$45,055 | \$35,370 | |
| Supplemental cash flow information: | | | |
| Cash paid (received) during the period for: | | | |
| Interest | \$2,257 | \$2,986 | |
| Income taxes | 25,184 | (114 |) |
| See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements. | | | |

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Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Notes To Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

1. Organization and Operations

Basis of Financial Statement Presentation— The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include those of Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. (the “Company,” “we,” “us,” or “our”) and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Heartland Payroll Company (“HPC”), Debittek, Inc. (“Debittek”) and Heartland Acquisition LLC (“Network Services”), and its 70% owned subsidiary Collective POS Solutions Ltd. (“CPOS”). The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. All intercompany balances and transactions with the Company's subsidiaries have been eliminated upon consolidation. Certain amounts relating to 2011 financial information have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements are unaudited. In the opinion of the Company's management, the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include all normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of the Company's financial position at September 30, 2012, its results of operations, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011. Results of operations reported for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012. These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. The December 31, 2011 condensed consolidated balance sheet was derived from the audited 2011 consolidated financial statements.

In the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow, the prior period reflects a correction to the presentation of the reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities. Previously, the reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities started with net income attributable to Heartland, and net income attributable to noncontrolling interests was included as a reconciling item. As restated, the reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities starts with net income which includes noncontrolling interests. This change had no effect on reported net cash provided by operating activities.

Business Description—The Company's principal business is to provide payment processing services related to bankcard transactions for merchants throughout the United States and Canada. In addition, the Company provides certain other merchant services, including the sale and rental of terminal equipment, loyalty and gift card processing, and the sale of terminal supplies. The Company provides K to 12 school solutions in the United States including school nutrition and point-of-sale solutions. HPC provides payroll and related tax filing services throughout the United States. Debittek provides prepaid card and stored-value card solutions throughout the United States and Canada. The Company and Debittek also provide campus payment solutions throughout the United States and Canada. CPOS is a Canadian provider of payment processing services and secure point-of-sale solutions.

Over 73% of the Company's revenue is derived from processing and settling Visa and MasterCard bankcard transactions for its merchant customers. Because the Company is not a "member bank" as defined by Visa and MasterCard, in order to process and settle these bankcard transactions for its merchants, the Company has entered into sponsorship agreements with member banks. Visa and MasterCard rules restrict the Company from performing funds settlement or accessing merchant settlement funds and require that these funds be in the possession of the member bank until the merchant is funded. A sponsorship agreement permits the Company to route Visa and MasterCard bankcard transactions under the member bank's control and identification numbers to clear credit bankcard transactions through Visa and MasterCard. A sponsorship agreement also enables the Company to settle funds between cardholders and merchants by delivering funding files to the member bank, which in turn transfers settlement funds to the merchants' bank accounts. These restrictions place the settlement assets and obligations under the control

of the member bank.

The sponsorship agreements with the member banks require, among other things, that the Company abide by the by-laws and regulations of the Visa and MasterCard networks, and certain of the Sponsor banks require a certificate of deposit or a cash balance in a deposit account. If the Company breaches a sponsorship agreement, the Sponsor banks may terminate the agreement and, under the terms of the agreement, the Company would have 180 days to identify an alternative Sponsor bank. The Company is dependent on its Sponsor banks, Visa and MasterCard for notification of any compliance breaches. As of September 30, 2012, the Company has not been notified of any such issues by its Sponsor banks, Visa or MasterCard.

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Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries
 Notes To Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements—(Continued)
 (unaudited)

At September 30, 2012, the Company was processing under four bank sponsorship agreements.

On February 8, 2012, the Company entered into a sponsorship agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("WFB"). The WFB sponsorship agreement will be in effect until February 8, 2016 and will automatically renew for successive three year periods unless either party provides six months' written notice of non-renewal to the other party. Processing for small and mid-sized merchants (referred to as "Small and Midsized Enterprises," or "SME merchants") under the WFB sponsorship commenced in August 2012, when that activity was transferred from its previous sponsor, KeyBank, National Association.

In November 2009, the Company entered into a sponsorship agreement with The Bancorp Bank to sponsor processing for the Company's large national and mid-tier merchants. The agreement with The Bancorp Bank expires in November 2014.

On March 24, 2011, the Company entered into a sponsorship agreement with Barclays Bank Delaware to sponsor processing for certain of the Company's large national merchants. The agreement with Barclays Bank Delaware expires in March 2016 with an automatic one year renewal.

In 2007, the Company entered into a sponsorship agreement with Heartland Bank, an unrelated third party, to sponsor SME merchant processing. The agreement with Heartland Bank has been renewed through September 2013.

Following is a breakout of the Company's total Visa and MasterCard settled bankcard processing volume for the month ending September 30, 2012 by percentage processed under its individual bank sponsorship agreements:

| Sponsor Bank | % of September 2012 Bankcard Processing Volume |
|------------------------|--|
| Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. | 62% |
| The Bancorp Bank | 17% |
| Barclays Bank Delaware | 14% |
| Heartland Bank | 7% |

Processing System Intrusion—On January 20, 2009, the Company publicly announced the discovery of a criminal breach of its payment systems environment (the "Processing System Intrusion"). The Processing System Intrusion involved malicious software that appears to have been used to collect in-transit, unencrypted payment card data while it was being processed by the Company during the transaction authorization process. The Company believes the breach did not extend beyond 2008.

Since its announcement of the Processing System Intrusion on January 20, 2009 and through September 30, 2012, the Company has expensed a total of \$147.6 million, before reducing those charges by \$31.2 million of total insurance recoveries. The majority of the total charges of approximately \$114.7 million relates to settlements of claims. Approximately \$32.9 million of the total charges were for legal fees and costs the Company incurred for investigations, defending various claims and actions, remedial actions and crisis management services.

During the three months ended September 30, 2012, the Company incurred approximately \$0.3 million, or less than one cent per share, for legal fees and costs it incurred related to the Processing System Intrusion. During the three months ended September 30, 2011, the Company expensed approximately \$0.1 million, or less than one cent per share, related to the Processing System Intrusion. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, the Company incurred approximately \$0.5 million, or \$0.01 per share, for legal fees and costs it incurred related to the Processing System Intrusion. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company expensed approximately \$0.8 million, or \$0.01 per share, related to the Processing System Intrusion.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Use of Estimates—The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Estimates include, among other

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Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes To Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements—(Continued)

(unaudited)

things, the accrued buyout liability, capitalized customer acquisition costs, goodwill, loss reserves, certain accounts payable and accrued expenses and certain tax assets and liabilities as well as the related valuation allowances, if any. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents—At September 30, 2012, cash included approximately \$27.4 million of processing-related cash in transit and collateral, compared to approximately \$28.0 million of processing-related cash in transit and collateral at December 31, 2011.

Receivables—Receivables are stated net of allowance for doubtful accounts. The Company estimates its allowance based on experience with its merchants, customers, and sales force and its judgment as to the likelihood of their ultimate payment. The Company also considers collection experience and makes estimates regarding collectability based on trends in aging. Historically, the Company has not experienced significant charge offs for its merchant receivables.

The Company's primary receivables are from its bankcard processing merchants. In addition to receivables for transaction fees the Company charges its merchants for processing transactions, these receivables include amounts resulting from the Company's practice of advancing interchange fees to most of its SME merchants during the month and collecting those fees at the beginning of the following month. The Company does not advance interchange fees to its Network Services Merchants.

Generally, the Company uses cash available for investment to fund these advances to SME merchants; when available cash has been expended, the Company directs its sponsor banks to make these advances, thus generating a payable to the sponsor banks. We pay our sponsor banks the prime rate on these payables. At September 30, 2012, the Company used \$41.5 million of its available cash to fund merchant advances and at December 31, 2011, the Company used \$40.0 million of its cash to fund merchant advances. The amount due to sponsor banks for funding advances was \$43.8 million at September 30, 2012 and \$45.2 million at December 31, 2011. The payable to sponsor banks is repaid at the beginning of the following month out of the fees the Company collects from its merchants. Receivables from merchants also include receivables from the sale of point of sale terminal equipment. Unlike the SME merchants, Network Services Merchants are invoiced monthly, on payment terms of 30 days net from date of invoicing.

Receivables also include amounts resulting from the pre-funding of Discover and American Express transactions to some of the Company's merchants and are due from the related bankcard networks. These amounts are recovered the next business day from the date of processing the transaction.

Receivables also include amounts resulting from the sale, installation, training and repair of payment system hardware and software for prepaid card and stored-value card payment systems, campus payment solutions, and Heartland School Solutions. These receivables are mostly invoiced on terms of 30 days net from date of invoicing.

Investments and Funds Held for Payroll Customers—Investments, including those carried on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as Funds held for payroll customers, consist primarily of fixed income bond funds and certificates of deposit. Funds held for payroll customers also include overnight bank deposits. The majority of investments carried in Funds held for payroll customers are available-for-sale and recorded at fair value based on quoted market prices. Certificates of deposit are classified as held to maturity and recorded at cost. In the event of a sale, cost is determined on a specific identification basis. At September 30, 2012, Funds held for payroll customers included cash and cash equivalents of \$38.0 million and investments available for sale of \$1.2 million.

Capitalized Customer Acquisition Costs, net—Capitalized customer acquisition costs consist of (1) up-front signing bonus payments made to Relationship Managers and sales managers (the Company's sales force) for the establishment of new merchant relationships, and (2) a deferred acquisition cost representing the estimated cost of buying out the

commissions of vested sales employees. Capitalized customer acquisition costs represent incremental, direct customer acquisition costs that are recoverable through gross margins associated with merchant contracts. The capitalized customer acquisition costs are amortized using a method which approximates a proportional revenue approach over the initial three-year term of the merchant contract.

The up-front signing bonus paid for new SME bankcard, payroll and loyalty marketing accounts is based on the estimated gross margin for the first year of the merchant contract. The signing bonus, amount capitalized, and related amortization are adjusted after one year to reflect the actual gross margin generated by the merchant contract during that year. The deferred customer acquisition cost asset is accrued over the first year of SME bankcard merchant processing, consistent

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Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes To Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements—(Continued)

(unaudited)

with the build-up in the accrued buyout liability, as described below. Beginning in June 2012, Relationship Managers and sales managers earn portfolio equity on their newly installed payroll and loyalty marketing merchant accounts based on the residual commissions they earn on those accounts. The accrued buyout liability and deferred acquisition cost asset are developed the same as the SME bankcard merchant portfolio equity.

Management evaluates the capitalized customer acquisition costs for impairment by comparing, on a pooled basis by vintage month of origination, the expected future net cash flows from underlying merchant relationships to the carrying amount of the capitalized customer acquisition costs. If the estimated future net cash flows are lower than the recorded carrying amount, indicating an impairment of the value of the capitalized customer acquisition costs, the impairment loss will be charged to operations. The Company believes that no impairment has occurred as of September 30, 2012.

Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities— Accrued expenses and other liabilities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet includes deferred revenue of \$14.2 million and \$8.8 million at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively, which is primarily related to our Heartland School Solutions business.

Processing Liabilities and Loss Reserves—The majority of the Company's processing liabilities include funds in transit associated with bankcard and check processing. In addition, the Company maintains merchant deposits to offset potential liabilities from merchant chargeback processing. Disputes between a cardholder and a merchant periodically arise due to the cardholder's dissatisfaction with merchandise quality or the merchant's service, and the disputes may not always be resolved in the merchant's favor. In some of these cases, the transaction is "charged back" to the merchant and the purchase price is refunded to the cardholder by the credit card-issuing institution. If the merchant is unable to fund the refund, the Company is liable for the full amount of the transaction. The Company's obligation to stand ready to perform is minimal. The Company maintains a deposit or the pledge of a letter of credit from certain merchants as an offset to potential contingent liabilities that are the responsibility of such merchants. The Company evaluates its ultimate risk and records an estimate of potential loss for chargebacks related to merchant fraud based upon an assessment of actual historical fraud loss rates compared to recent bankcard processing volume levels. The Company believes that the liability recorded as loss reserves approximates fair value.

Accrued Buyout Liability—The Company's Relationship Managers and sales managers are paid residual commissions based on the gross margin generated by monthly SME merchant processing activity. The Company has the right, but not the obligation, to buy out some or all of these commissions, and intends to do so periodically. Such purchases of the commissions are at a fixed multiple of the last twelve months' commissions. Because of the Company's intent and ability to execute purchases of the residual commissions, and the mutual understanding between the Company and the Relationship Managers and sales managers, the Company has accounted for this deferred compensation arrangement pursuant to the substantive nature of the plan. The Company therefore records the amount that it would have to pay (the "settlement cost") to buy out non-servicing related commissions in their entirety from vested Relationship Managers and sales managers, and an accrual, based on their progress towards vesting, for those unvested Relationship Managers and sales managers who are expected to vest in the future. As noted above, as the liability increases over the first year of a SME merchant contract, the Company also records a related deferred acquisition cost asset for currently vested Relationship Managers and sales managers. The accrued buyout liability associated with unvested Relationship Managers and sales managers is not included in the deferred acquisition cost asset since future services are required in order to vest. Subsequent changes in the estimated accrued buyout liability due to merchant attrition, same-store sales growth and changes in gross margin are included in the same income statement caption as customer acquisition costs expense.

Beginning in June 2012, Relationship Managers and sales managers earn portfolio equity on their newly installed payroll and loyalty marketing merchant accounts based on the residual commissions they earn on those accounts. The accrued buyout liability and deferred acquisition cost asset are accrued identically as the SME bankcard merchant portfolio equity.

The accrued buyout liability is based on merchants under contract at the balance sheet date, the gross margin generated by those merchants over the prior twelve months, and the contractual buyout multiple. The liability related to a new merchant is therefore zero when the merchant is installed, and increases over the twelve months following the installation date. The same procedure is applied to unvested commissions over the expected vesting period, but is further adjusted to reflect the Company's estimate that 31% of unvested Relationship Managers and sales managers become vested.

The classification of the accrued buyout liability between current and non-current liabilities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets is based upon the Company's estimate of the amount of the accrued buyout liability that it

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reasonably expects to pay over the next twelve months. This estimate is developed by calculating the cumulative annual average percentage that total historical buyout payments represent of the accrued buyout liability. That percentage is applied to the period-end accrued buyout liability to determine the current portion.

Revenue—Revenues are mainly comprised of gross processing revenue, payroll processing revenue and equipment-related income. Gross processing revenue primarily consists of discount fees, per-transaction fees and periodic fees (primarily monthly) from the processing of Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover bankcard transactions for merchants. The Company passes through to its customers any changes in interchange or network fees. Gross processing revenue also includes fees for servicing American Express accounts, customer service fees, fees for processing chargebacks, termination fees on terminated contracts, gift and loyalty card fees, fees generated by our Heartland School Solutions business, and other miscellaneous revenue. Payroll processing revenue includes periodic and annual fees charged by HPC for payroll processing services, and interest earned from investing tax impound funds held for our customers. Revenue is recorded as bankcard and other processing transactions are processed or payroll services are performed.

Equipment-related income includes revenues from the sale, rental and deployment of bankcard and check processing terminals, from the sale of hardware, software and associated services for prepaid card and stored-value card payment systems, and campus payment solutions. Revenues are recorded at the time of shipment, or the provision of service.

Loss Contingencies and Legal Expenses—The Company records a liability for loss contingencies when the liability is probable and the amount is reasonably estimable. Legal fees associated with loss contingencies are recorded when the legal fees are incurred.

The Company records recoveries from its insurance providers when cash is received from the provider.

Other Income (Expense)— Other income (expense) consists of interest income on cash and investments, the interest cost on our borrowings, the gains or losses on the disposal of property and equipment and other non-operating income or expense items. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, other income (expense) included pre-tax charges of \$0.9 million primarily due to write downs of capitalized information technology development projects. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, other income (expense) included pre-tax charges of \$0.8 million reflecting the costs (primarily accrued staff termination costs and fixed asset write downs) associated with closing of the Company's Johnson City, Tennessee service center.

Other income (expense) also includes the pre-tax charges related to the Provision for processing system intrusion costs.

Income Taxes—The Company accounts for income taxes by recognizing deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements or tax returns. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the difference between the financial statements and the tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates.

The provision for income taxes for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 and the resulting effective tax rates were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|----------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | |
| | (In thousands) | | | | |
| Provision for income taxes | \$11,974 | \$7,784 | \$31,448 | \$20,098 | |
| Effective tax rate | 38.0 | % 37.9 | % 38.0 | % 37.8 | % |

The Company maintains valuation allowances when it is more likely than not that all or a portion of a deferred tax asset will not be realized. In determining whether a valuation allowance is warranted, the Company evaluates factors such as prior earnings history, expected future earnings, carry back and carry forward periods and tax strategies that could potentially enhance the likelihood of the realization of a deferred tax asset.

The Company regularly evaluates its tax positions for additional unrecognized tax benefits and associated interest and penalties, if applicable. There are many factors that are considered when evaluating these tax positions including:

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interpretation of tax laws, recent tax litigation on a position, past audit or examination history, and subjective estimates and assumptions, which have been deemed reasonable by management. However, if management's estimates are not representative of actual outcomes, the Company's results could be materially impacted. The Company does not expect any material changes to unrecognized tax benefits in the next twelve months. At September 30, 2012, the reserve for unrecognized tax benefits related to uncertain tax positions was \$2.5 million, of which \$1.6 million would, if recognized, impact the effective tax rate. At December 31, 2011, the reserve for unrecognized tax benefits related to uncertain tax positions was \$1.8 million, of which \$1.1 million would, if recognized, impact the effective tax rate.

Share-Based Compensation— In the fourth quarter of 2010, the Company's Board of Directors approved grants of 508,800 performance-based Restricted Share Units. These Restricted Share Units are share awards which would vest 50% in 2013, 25% in 2014, and 25% in 2015 only if, over the term of these Restricted Share Units, the following diluted earnings per share targets for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014 are achieved:

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Diluted Earnings Per Share ^(a) | \$1.48 | \$1.74 | \$2.04 |

^(a) Calculated on a pro forma basis to exclude non-operating gains and losses, if any, and excluding the after-tax impact of share-based compensation expense.

No share-based compensation expense was recorded on these Restricted Share Units in 2010, the first quarter of 2011, the second quarter of 2011, or the third quarter of 2011. Management subsequently determined that achieving these performance targets was probable to occur and as of December 31, 2011 began recording share-based compensation expense for these Restricted Share Units. The closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date equals the grant date fair value of these nonvested Restricted Share Units awards and will be recognized as compensation expense over their vesting periods.

In the fourth quarter of 2011, the Company's Board of Directors approved grants of 164,808 performance-based Restricted Share Units. These Restricted Share Units are nonvested share awards which would vest 50% in 2014 and 50% in 2015 only if the Company achieves a diluted earnings per share compound annual growth rate ("CAGR") of seventeen percent (17%) for the two-year period ending December 31, 2013. Diluted earnings per share will be calculated on a pro forma basis to exclude non-operating gains and losses, if any, and exclude the after-tax impact of share-based compensation expense. For each 1% that the CAGR actually achieved by the Company for the two year period ending on December 31, 2013 is above the 17% target, the number of shares underlying the Restricted Share Units awarded would be increased by 3.09%; provided, however, that the maximum increase in the number of shares that may be awarded is 100%. Likewise, for each 1% that the CAGR actually achieved by the Company for the two-year period ending on December 31, 2013 is below the 17% target, the number of shares underlying the Restricted Share Units awarded would be decreased by 1.13%. If the target CAGR is missed by 80% or more, then the number of shares awarded is zero. In the fourth quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012, the Company recorded expense on these Restricted Share Units based on achieving the 17% target.

Management subsequently determined that achieving a CAGR for the two-year period ending December 31, 2013 which would result in earning the maximum 100% increase in the number of shares that may be awarded was probable to occur, and as of June 30, 2012 began recording share-based compensation expense for these Restricted Share Units based on 329,616 shares. The closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date equals the grant date fair value of these nonvested Restricted Share Units awards and will be recognized as compensation expense over their vesting periods.

Diluted earnings per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 were computed based on the weighted average outstanding common shares plus equivalent shares assuming exercise of stock options and vesting of Restricted Share Units, where dilutive.

Common Stock Repurchases. On October 21, 2011, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$50 million worth of the Company's outstanding common stock. Repurchases under this program were completed as of June 30, 2012. On July 27, 2012, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a new program to repurchase up to 50 million of the Company's outstanding common stock. Repurchases under these programs were made through the open market in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Company funded repurchases with cash flow from operations, existing cash on the balance sheet, and other sources including the proceeds of options exercises. At September 30, 2012, the Company had \$34.0 million remaining under the July 27, 2012 authorization to repurchase its common stock, but in the month of October 2012 the Company completed all of the remaining repurchases authorized under this program. No common stock

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was repurchased in the nine months ended September 30, 2011. A summary of repurchase activity under these authorizations is as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | | | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | December 31, 2011 | March 31, 2012 | June 30, 2012 | |
| October 2011 Authorization | | | | |
| Shares Repurchased | 778,889 | 419,249 | 738,191 | 1,936,329 |
| Cost of Shares Repurchased | \$16.8 million | \$11.4 million | \$21.8 million | \$50.0 million |
| Average Cost Per Share | \$21.61 | \$27.16 | \$29.51 | \$25.82 |
| Remaining Authorization | \$33.2 million | \$21.8 million | — | — |

| | Three Months Ended | Month Ended | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | September 30, 2012 | October 2012 | |
| July 2012 Authorization | | | |
| Shares Repurchased | 516,983 | 1,243,821 | 1,760,804 |
| Cost of Shares Repurchased | \$16.0 million | \$34.0 million | \$50.0 million |
| Average Cost Per Share | \$31.03 | \$27.30 | \$28.40 |
| Remaining Authorization | \$34.0 million | — | — |

On November 2, 2012, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a new program to repurchase up to \$50 million of the Company's outstanding common stock. Repurchases will be made in accordance with applicable securities laws in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. Depending on market conditions and other factors, these repurchases may be commenced or suspended from time to time without prior notice.

Derivative Financial Instruments—The Company utilizes derivative instruments to manage interest rate risk on its borrowings under its Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement. The Company recognizes the fair value of derivative financial instruments in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets in investments, or accrued expenses and other liabilities. Changes in fair value of derivative instruments are recognized immediately in earnings unless the derivative is designated and qualifies as a hedge of future cash flows. For derivatives that qualify as hedges of future cash flows, the effective portion of changes in fair value is recorded in other comprehensive income and reclassified into interest expense in the same periods during which the hedged item affects earnings. Any ineffectiveness of cash flow hedges would be recognized in Other income (expense) in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income during the period of change.

In January 2011, the Company entered into fixed-pay amortizing interest rate swaps having an initial notional amount of \$50 million as a hedge of future cash flows on the variable rate debt outstanding under its Term Credit Facility. These interest rate swaps convert the related notional amount of variable rate debt to fixed rate. The following table summarizes the components of the interest rate swaps.

| | September 30, 2012 (in thousands) | December 31, 2011 |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Notional value | \$36,875 | \$42,500 |
| Fair value (a) | 945 | 897 |
| Deferred tax benefit | (361 |) (341 |
| (a) Recorded as a liability in accrued expenses and other liabilities | |) |

Foreign Currency—The Canadian dollar is the functional currency of CPOS, which operates in Canada. CPOS' revenues and expenses are translated at the average exchange rates prevailing during the period. The foreign currency assets and liabilities of CPOS are translated at the period-end rate of exchange. The resulting translation adjustment is allocated between the Company and CPOS' noncontrolling interests and is recorded as a component of other comprehensive income or noncontrolling interests in total equity. At September 30, 2012, the cumulative foreign currency translation reflected a gain of \$0.1 million and at September 30, 2011 reflected a loss of \$0.4 million. The Company intends to indefinitely reinvest undistributed earnings of CPOS and has not tax affected the cumulative foreign currency translation gain or loss. Determination of the amount of unrecognized deferred tax liability related to indefinitely reinvested profits is not material.

Noncontrolling Interests— Noncontrolling interests represent noncontrolling minority stockholders' share of the equity and after-tax net income or loss of consolidated subsidiaries. Noncontrolling minority stockholders' share of after-tax

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net income or loss of consolidated subsidiaries is included in Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income and Comprehensive Income. The minority stockholders' interests included in noncontrolling interests in the September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets were \$1.2 million and \$0.6 million, respectively, and reflect the original investments by these minority shareholders in the consolidated subsidiaries, along with their proportionate share of the earnings or losses of the subsidiaries.

Subsequent Events—The Company evaluated subsequent events with respect to the Consolidated Financial Statements as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. In October 2012, the company completed common stock repurchases under the July 27, 2012 authorization as shown in the summary of repurchase activity above. On November 2, 2012, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a new common stock repurchase program.

New Accounting Pronouncements— In May 2011, the FASB issued an accounting standard update which addresses changes to concepts regarding performing fair value measurements including: (i) the application of the highest and best use and

valuation premise; (ii) the valuation of an instrument classified in the reporting entity's shareholder equity; (iii) the valuation of

financial instruments that are managed within a portfolio; and (iv) the application of premiums and discounts. This update also

enhances disclosure requirements about fair value measurements, including providing information regarding Level 3 measurements such as quantitative information about unobservable inputs, further discussion of the valuation processes used

and assumption sensitivity analysis. The update is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011.

The implementation of this update did not have a material effect on the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued an accounting standard update which amends the comprehensive income topic of the current codification. The update eliminates the option to present the components of other comprehensive income as part of the

statement of changes in equity, and instead requires consecutive presentation of the statement of net income and other comprehensive income either in a continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The update is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The implementation of

this update did not have a material effect on the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

In September 2011, the FASB issued an accounting standard update on testing goodwill for impairment. This guidance provides an entity the option to first perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether it is more likely than not

that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If an entity determines that this is the case, it is required

to perform the currently prescribed two-step goodwill impairment test to identify potential goodwill impairment and measure

the amount of goodwill impairment loss to be recognized for that reporting unit (if any). If an entity determines that the fair

value of a reporting unit is more than its carrying amount, the two-step goodwill impairment test is not required. The amendments are effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011 (early adoption is permitted). The Company early adopted this update at December 31, 2011 and the implementation of this update did not have a material effect on the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

In December 2011, the FASB issued an accounting standard update on disclosures about offsetting assets and liabilities. This guidance requires entities to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements to enable users of financial statements to understand the effect of those arrangements on the entity's financial position. The amendments require enhanced disclosures by requiring improved information about financial instruments and derivative instruments that are either (i) offset in accordance with current literature or (ii) subject to an enforceable master netting arrangement or similar agreement, irrespective of whether they are offset in accordance with current literature. The update is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after January 1, 2013. The implementation of this update is not expected to have a material effect on the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

In July 2012, the FASB issued an accounting standard update on testing indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment. This guidance will allow an entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is necessary to perform a quantitative impairment test. Under these amendments, an entity would not be required to calculate the fair value of an indefinite-lived intangible asset unless the entity determines, based on qualitative assessment, that it is not more likely than not the indefinite-lived intangible asset is impaired. The amendments include a number of events and circumstances for an entity to consider in conducting the qualitative assessment. The update is effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012 (early adoption is permitted). The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this update on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

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3. Acquisitions

The Company initiated its Heartland School Solutions business line through its acquisitions of the school solutions businesses operated by Lunchbox, Comalex, mySchoolBucks, School-Link Technologies and Lunch Byte Systems, which serve approximately 4,400, 3,700, 900, 10,000, and 10,000 schools, respectively. The combined Heartland School Solutions develops, manufactures, sells, services and maintains computer software designed to facilitate accounting and management functions of school food service operations. These acquisitions provide the Company with the ability to offer Internet payment capability to parents, which facilitates on-line deposits of funds into student accounts and enables schools to operate more efficiently. The Company plans to consolidate the individual platforms and products to optimize synergies, cost efficiencies and product offerings to customers. Pro forma results of operations have not been presented because the effect of these acquisitions was not material. The entire amount of goodwill is expected to be deductible for income tax reporting. Details of the individual acquisition transactions follow:

Lunchbox

On December 30, 2010, the Company purchased for a \$7.7 million cash payment the net assets of the K to 12 school solutions business previously operated by Lunchbox. The acquisition was financed through a combination of cash on hand and our credit facilities. Pro forma results of operations have not been presented because the effect of the acquisition was not material. The transaction was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. Beginning December 30, 2010, Lunchbox's results of operations are included in the Company's results of operations. The allocation of the total purchase price was as follows: \$6.0 million to goodwill, \$1.9 million to intangible assets and \$0.2 million to net tangible liabilities.

Comalex, Inc.

On January 12, 2011, the Company purchased for a \$6.1 million cash payment the net assets of Comalex, Inc. The acquisition was funded with cash on hand. Pro forma results of operations have not been presented because the effect of the acquisition was not material. The transaction was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. Beginning January 12, 2011, Comalex's results of operations are included in the Company's results of operations. The allocation of the total purchase price was as follows: \$4.9 million to goodwill, \$1.8 million to intangible assets and \$0.6 million to net tangible liabilities.

mySchoolBucks, LLC

On February 4, 2011, the Company purchased for a \$1.5 million cash payment the net assets of mySchoolBucks, LLC. The acquisition was funded with cash on hand. Pro forma results of operations have not been presented because the effect of the acquisition was not material. The transaction was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. Beginning February 4, 2011, mySchoolBucks' results of operations are included in the Company's results of operations. The allocation of the total purchase price was as follows: \$1.0 million to goodwill and \$0.5 million to intangible assets.

School-Link Technologies, Inc.

On September 30, 2011, the Company purchased for a \$15.6 million cash payment the net assets of School-Link Technologies, Inc. The acquisition was funded with cash on hand. The transaction was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. Beginning October 1, 2011, School-Link's results of operations are included in the Company's results of operations. The allocation of the total purchase price was as follows: \$25.2 million to goodwill, \$4.3 million to intangible assets and \$13.9 million to net tangible liabilities. These amounts reflect adjustments to allocations of purchase price during the one year adjustment period.

Lunch Byte Systems, Inc.

On June 29, 2012, the Company purchased for a \$26.0 million cash payment the net assets of Lunch Byte Systems, Inc. (a.k.a. "Nutrikids"). The \$26.0 million cash payment made on June 29, 2012 was funded through our Revolving Credit Facility and subsequently repaid with cash on hand in July 2012. Beginning July 1, 2012, Lunch Byte's results of operations are included in the Company's results of operations. The transaction was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. The allocation of the total purchase price was as follows: \$15.7 million to goodwill, \$7.0 million to intangible assets and \$3.3 million to net tangible assets. The fair values of the Lunch Byte Systems' assets acquired and liabilities assumed were estimated as of their acquisition date. The fair values are preliminary, based on estimates, and may be adjusted as more information becomes available and valuations are finalized. The weighted average amortization life for the 2012 acquired finite lived intangible assets related to acquisition of Lunch Byte is as follows:

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Weighted-average amortization life

| | (In years) |
|------------------------|------------|
| Customer relationships | 6.0 |
| Software | 3.3 |
| Non-compete agreements | 5.0 |
| Total | 5.9 |

4. Receivables

A summary of receivables by major class was as follows at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Accounts receivable from merchants | \$162,730 | \$151,228 |
| Accounts receivable from bankcard networks | 21,208 | 24,301 |
| Accounts receivable from others | 3,591 | 2,457 |
| | 187,529 | 177,986 |
| Less allowance for doubtful accounts | (1,606 |) (1,451 |
| Total receivables, net | \$185,923 | \$176,535 |

Included in accounts receivable from others are amounts due from employees which are \$0.5 million and \$0.6 million at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. Accounts receivable related to bankcard networks are primarily amounts which were pre-funded to merchants for processing Discover and American Express bankcard transactions as well as amounts due from Visa for PIN debit transactions.

A summary of the activity in the allowance for doubtful accounts for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Beginning balance | \$1,419 | \$1,207 | \$1,451 | \$683 |
| Additions to allowance | 403 | 804 | 793 | 2,074 |
| Charges against allowance | (216 |) (580 |) (638 |) (1,326 |
| Ending balance | \$1,606 | \$1,431 | \$1,606 | \$1,431 |

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5. Funds Held for Payroll Customers and Investments

A summary of Funds held for payroll customers and investments, including the cost, gross unrealized gains (losses) and estimated fair value for investments held to maturity and investments available-for-sale by major security type and class of security were as follows at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

| | Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| September 30, 2012 | | | | |
| Funds Held for Payroll Customers: | | | | |
| Fixed income bond fund - available for sale | \$968 | \$239 | \$— | \$1,207 |
| Cash held for payroll customers | 38,010 | — | — | 38,010 |
| Total Funds held for payroll customers | \$38,978 | \$239 | \$— | \$39,217 |
| Investments: | | | | |
| Investments held to maturity – Certificates of deposit (a) | \$4,455 | \$— | \$— | \$4,455 |
| Total investments | \$4,455 | \$— | \$— | \$4,455 |

(a) Certificates of deposit have remaining terms ranging from 1 month to 23 months.

| | Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| December 31, 2011 | | | | |
| Funds Held for Payroll Customers: | | | | |
| Fixed income bond fund - available for sale | \$968 | \$190 | \$— | \$1,158 |
| Cash held for payroll customers | 41,353 | — | — | 41,353 |
| Total Funds held for payroll customers | \$42,321 | \$190 | \$— | \$42,511 |
| Investments: | | | | |
| Investments held to maturity – Certificates of deposit | \$2,505 | \$— | \$— | \$2,505 |
| Total investments | \$2,505 | \$— | \$— | \$2,505 |

During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and during the twelve months ended December 31, 2011, the Company did not experience any other-than-temporary losses on its investments.

The maturity schedule of all available-for-sale debt securities and held to maturity investments along with amortized cost and estimated fair value as of September 30, 2012 is as follows:

| | Amortized Cost | Estimated Fair Value |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Due in one year or less | \$5,390 | \$5,629 |
| Due after one year through five years | 33 | 33 |
| | \$5,423 | \$5,662 |

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6. Capitalized Customer Acquisition Costs, Net

A summary of net capitalized customer acquisition costs as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 was as follows:

| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Capitalized signing bonuses | \$84,902 | \$86,837 |
| Less accumulated amortization | (42,761) | (45,125) |
| | 42,141 | 41,712 |
| Capitalized customer deferred acquisition costs | 37,091 | 36,564 |
| Less accumulated amortization | (22,782) | (23,262) |
| | 14,309 | 13,302 |
| Capitalized customer acquisition costs, net | \$56,450 | \$55,014 |

A summary of the activity in capitalized customer acquisition costs, net for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$56,223 | \$55,954 | \$55,014 | \$59,251 |
| Plus additions to: | | | | |
| Capitalized signing bonuses, net | 6,985 | 6,997 | 22,446 | 21,158 |
| Capitalized customer deferred acquisition costs | 4,491 | 3,728 | 12,748 | 10,670 |
| | 11,476 | 10,725 | 35,194 | 31,828 |
| Less amortization expense on: | | | | |
| Capitalized signing bonuses, net | (7,364) | (7,655) | (22,017) | (24,260) |
| Capitalized customer deferred acquisition costs | (3,885) | (3,893) | (11,741) | (11,688) |
| | (11,249) | (11,548) | (33,758) | (35,948) |
| Balance at end of period | \$56,450 | \$55,131 | \$56,450 | \$55,131 |

Net signing bonus adjustments from estimated amounts to actual were \$(0.9) million and \$(0.4) million, respectively, for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, and \$(2.3) million and \$(0.8) million, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011. Net signing bonus adjustments are netted against additions in the table above. Negative signing bonus adjustments occur when the actual gross margin generated by the merchant contract during the first year is less than the estimated gross margin for that year, resulting in the overpayment of the up-front signing bonus and would be recovered from the relevant salesperson. Positive signing bonus adjustments result from the prior underpayment of signing bonuses and would be paid to the relevant salesperson.

Fully amortized signing bonuses of \$7.7 million and \$10.0 million were written off during the three month periods ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and \$24.2 million and \$33.4 million respectively, were written off during the nine month periods ended September 30, 2012 and 2011. In addition, fully amortized customer deferred acquisition costs of \$4.2 million and \$4.4 million, respectively, were written off during the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, and \$12.2 million and \$12.1 million, respectively, were written off during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011.

The Company believes that no impairment of capitalized customer acquisition costs has occurred as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

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7. Intangible Assets and Goodwill

Intangible Assets — Intangible assets consisted of the following as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

| | September 30, 2012 | | | Amortization Life and Method |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Gross Assets (In thousands) | Accumulated Amortization | Net Assets | |
| Finite Lived Assets: | | | | |
| Customer relationships | \$39,563 | \$7,780 | \$31,783 | 3 to 18 years—proportional cash flow |
| Merchant portfolio | 3,345 | 2,204 | 1,141 | 7 years—proportional cash flow |
| Software | 10,152 | 9,129 | 1,023 | 1 to 5 years—straight line |
| Non-compete agreements | 3,323 | 1,482 | 1,841 | 3 to 5 years—straight line |
| Other | 501 | 433 | 68 | 2 to 9 years—straight line |
| | \$56,884 | \$21,028 | \$35,856 | |
| | | | | |
| | December 31, 2011 | | | Amortization Life and Method |
| | Gross Assets (In thousands) | Accumulated Amortization | Net Assets | |
| Finite Lived Assets: | | | | |
| Customer relationships | \$33,166 | \$5,406 | \$27,760 | 3 to 18 years—proportional cash flow |
| Merchant portfolio | 3,345 | 1,819 | 1,526 | 7 years—proportional cash flow |
| Software | 10,078 | 8,612 | 1,466 | 2 to 5 years—straight line |
| Non-compete agreements | 2,794 | 1,126 | 1,668 | 3 to 5 years—straight line |
| Other | 457 | 379 | 78 | 2 to 9 years—straight line |
| | \$49,840 | \$17,342 | \$32,498 | |

Amortization expense related to the intangible assets was \$1.5 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 and \$3.7 million and \$3.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The estimated remaining amortization expense related to intangible assets in twelve month increments is as follows:

For the Twelve Months Ended September 30,

| | (In thousands) |
|------------|----------------|
| 2013 | \$5,897 |
| 2014 | 5,015 |
| 2015 | 4,563 |
| 2016 | 3,788 |
| 2017 | 2,633 |
| Thereafter | 13,960 |
| | \$35,856 |

Goodwill — The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 were as follows:

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Beginning balance | \$103,399 | \$68,319 |

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| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----|
| Goodwill acquired during the period | 15,231 | 34,506 | |
| Effects of foreign currency translation | 307 | (339 |) |
| Other (a) | (3,035 |) | 559 |
| Ending balance | \$115,902 | \$103,045 | |

(a) Reflects adjustments to allocations of purchase price during the one year adjustment period.

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8. Processing Liabilities and Loss Reserves

The majority of our processing liabilities include funds in transit associated with bankcard and check processing. In addition, we maintain merchant deposits to offset potential liabilities from merchant chargeback processing. A summary of processing liabilities and loss reserves was as follows at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Merchant bankcard processing | \$23,116 | \$10,295 |
| Check processing | 9,980 | 8,594 |
| Merchant deposits | 8,067 | 9,839 |
| Loss reserves | 1,962 | 1,961 |
| | \$43,125 | \$30,689 |

In addition to the merchant deposits listed above, the Company held letters of credit related to merchant bankcard processing totaling \$100,000 at September 30, 2012.

The Company's bankcard processing merchants have the liability for any charges properly reversed by the cardholder through a mechanism known as a chargeback. If the merchant is unable to pay this amount, the Company will be liable to the card brand networks for the reversed charges. The Company has determined that the fair value of its obligation to stand ready to perform is minimal. The Company requires personal guarantees and merchant deposits from certain merchants to minimize its obligation.

The card brand networks generally allow chargebacks up to four months after the later of the date the transaction is processed or the delivery of the product or service to the cardholder. As the majority of the Company's SME merchant transactions involve the delivery of the product or service at the time of the transaction, a reasonable basis for determining an estimate of the Company's exposure to chargebacks is the last four months' processing volume on the SME portfolio, which was \$25.1 billion and \$22.3 billion for the four months ended September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. However, for the four months ended September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company was presented with \$12.0 million and \$12.2 million, respectively, in chargebacks by issuing banks. In the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company incurred merchant credit losses of \$1.4 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, on total SME bankcard dollar volumes processed of \$54.1 billion and \$50.7 billion, respectively. These credit losses are included in processing and servicing costs in the Company's Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income and Other Comprehensive Income.

The loss recorded by the Company for chargebacks associated with any individual merchant is typically small, due both to the relatively small size and the processing profile of the Company's SME merchants. However, from time to time the Company will encounter instances of merchant fraud, and the resulting chargeback losses may be considerably more significant to the Company. The Company has established a contingent reserve for estimated credit and fraud losses on its Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, amounting to \$2.0 million at September 30, 2012 and at December 31, 2011. This reserve is determined by performing an analysis of the Company's historical loss experience applied to current processing volume and exposures.

A summary of the activity in the loss reserve for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | Nine Months Ended |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| | September 30, | September 30, |

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| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Beginning balance | \$1,977 | \$1,856 | \$1,961 | \$1,667 |
| Additions to reserve | 632 | 1,174 | 1,827 | 4,555 |
| Charges against reserve (a) | (647 |) (1,077 |) (1,826 |) (4,269 |
| Ending balance | \$1,962 | \$1,953 | \$1,962 | \$1,953 |

(a)Included in these amounts are payroll segment losses of \$17,000 and \$79,000, respectively, for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, and \$77,000 and \$158,000, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011.

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9. Accrued Buyout Liability

A summary of the accrued buyout liability was as follows as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Vested Relationship Managers and sales managers | \$33,480 | \$30,269 |
| Unvested Relationship Managers and sales managers | 1,113 | 1,389 |
| | 34,593 | 31,658 |
| Less current portion | (10,152 |) (8,104 |
| Long-term portion of accrued buyout liability | \$24,441 | \$23,554 |

In calculating the accrued buyout liability for unvested Relationship Managers and sales managers, the Company has assumed that 31% of the unvested Relationship Managers and sales managers will vest in the future, which represents the Company's historical vesting rate. A 5% increase to 36% in the expected vesting rate would have increased the accrued buyout liability for unvested Relationship Managers and sales managers by \$0.1 million at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

A summary of the activity in the accrued buyout liability for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Beginning balance | \$33,450 | \$27,864 | \$31,658 | \$28,810 |
| Increase in settlement obligation, net | 3,889 | 4,014 | 12,336 | 10,344 |
| Buyouts | (2,746 |) (1,403 |) (9,401 |) (8,679 |
| Ending balance | \$34,593 | \$30,475 | \$34,593 | \$30,475 |

10. Credit Facilities

On November 24, 2010, the Company entered into a Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent, and certain lenders who are a party to the Credit Agreement. Credit extended under the Credit Agreement is guaranteed by the Company's subsidiaries and is secured by substantially all of its assets and the assets of its subsidiaries. The Credit Agreement amended and restated in its entirety the previous amended and restated credit agreement entered into on May 30, 2008, as amended, between the Company and certain of the parties to the Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement provides for a revolving credit facility in the aggregate amount of up to \$50 million (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), of which up to \$10 million may be used for the issuance of letters of credit and up to \$5 million is available for swing line loans. Upon the prior approval of the administrative agent, the Company may increase the total revolving commitments by \$50 million for a total commitment under the Revolving Credit Facility of \$100 million. On July 20, 2012, the Company entered into Amendment No. 1 (the "Amendment") to the Credit Agreement. The Amendment amends the Credit Agreement by, among other things, allowing the Company to increase the total Revolving Credit Facility commitments from \$100 million to \$150 million upon the prior approval of the administrative agent. The Revolving Credit Facility is available to the Company on a revolving basis until November 24, 2015. All principal and interest not previously paid on the Revolving Credit Facility will mature and be due and payable on November 24, 2015.

The Credit Agreement also provides for a term credit facility in the aggregate amount of up to \$100 million (the “Term Credit Facility”). The Term Credit Facility requires amortization payments in the amount of \$3.75 million for each fiscal quarter during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and 2012, \$5.0 million for each fiscal quarter during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013 and 2014, and \$7.5 million for each fiscal quarter during the period commencing on January 1, 2015 through the maturity date on November 24, 2015. All principal and interest not previously paid on the Term Credit Facility will mature and be due and payable on November 24, 2015. Amounts borrowed and repaid under the Term Credit Facility may not be re-borrowed. Principal payments due under the Term Credit Facility as of September 30, 2012 were as follows:

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| For the Twelve Months Ended September 30, | (In thousands) |
|---|----------------|
| 2013 | \$ 18,750 |
| 2014 | 20,000 |
| 2015 | 27,500 |
| 2016 | 7,500 |
| Total | \$ 73,750 |

The Credit Agreement contains covenants which include: the Company's maintenance of certain leverage and fixed charge coverage ratios; limitations on its indebtedness, liens on its properties and assets, its investments in, and loans to other business units, its ability to enter into business combinations and asset sales; and certain other financial and non-financial covenants. These covenants also apply to certain of the Company's subsidiaries. The Company was in compliance with these covenants as of September 30, 2012 and expects it will remain in compliance with these covenants for at least the next twelve months.

Under the terms of the Credit Agreement, the Company may borrow, at its option, at interest rates equal to one, two, three or six month adjusted LIBOR rates, or equal to the greater of the prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.50% and the adjusted LIBOR rate plus 1%, in each case plus a margin determined by its current leverage ratio.

The weighted average interest rate at September 30, 2012 was 2.4%. Total fees and direct costs paid for the Credit Agreement through September 30, 2012 were \$1.7 million. These costs are being amortized to interest expense over the life of the Credit Agreement.

At September 30, 2012, there was \$73.8 million outstanding under the Term Credit Facility and no borrowings outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility.

11. Commitments and Contingencies

Litigation—The Company is involved in ordinary course legal proceedings, which include all claims, lawsuits, investigations and proceedings, including unasserted claims, which are probable of being asserted, arising in the ordinary course of business and otherwise not described below. The Company has considered all such ordinary course legal proceedings in formulating its disclosures and assessments. In the opinion of the Company, based on consultations with outside counsel, material losses in addition to amounts previously accrued are not considered reasonably possible in connection with these ordinary course legal proceedings.

The Company has also been subject to lawsuits, claims, and investigations which resulted from the Processing System Intrusion. See Contingencies below for a description of the Processing System Intrusion.

Contingencies—The Company collects and stores sensitive data about its merchant customers and bankcard holders. If the Company's network security is breached or sensitive merchant or cardholder data is misappropriated, the Company could be exposed to assessments, fines or litigation costs.

On January 20, 2009, the Company publicly announced the Processing System Intrusion. The Processing System Intrusion involved malicious software that appears to have been used to collect in-transit, unencrypted payment card data while it was being processed by the Company during the transaction authorization process. See Note 1.

Organization and Operations — Processing System Intrusion for total expenses incurred, including amounts paid for settlement of claims, related to the Processing System Intrusion.

The Company does not consider it a reasonable possibility that losses exceeding the amounts already recognized on the matters subject to the settlement agreements will be incurred. With regard to the unsettled claims related to the

Processing System Intrusion, which the Company described in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, the Company determined material losses in addition to those previously expensed are not considered reasonably possible on any such claim disclosed. The Company is prepared to vigorously defend itself against any unsettled claims relating to the Processing System Intrusion that have been asserted against it and its sponsor banks to date. The Company feels it has strong defenses to all the claims that have been asserted against it and its sponsor banks relating to the Processing System Intrusion.

Leases—The Company leases various office spaces and certain equipment under operating leases with remaining

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terms ranging up to 8 years. The majority of the office space lease agreements contain renewal options and generally require the Company to pay certain operating expenses.

Future minimum lease payments for all non-cancelable operating leases as of September 30, 2012 were as follows:

| For the Twelve Months Ended September 30, | (In thousands) |
|---|----------------|
| 2013 | \$7,732 |
| 2014 | 5,147 |
| 2015 | 2,948 |
| 2016 | 2,096 |
| 2017 | 2,108 |
| Thereafter | 4,616 |
| Total future minimum lease payments (a) | \$24,647 |

(a) There were no material capital leases at September 30, 2012

Rent expense for leased facilities and equipment was \$2.2 million and \$2.0 million, respectively, for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, and \$6.3 million and \$6.4 million, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011.

Commitments—Certain officers of the Company have entered into employee confidential information and non-competition agreements under which they are entitled to severance pay equal to their base salary and medical benefits for twelve months and a pro-rated bonus in the event they are terminated by the Company other than for cause. There were no material payouts under these agreements in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011.

The following table reflects the Company's other significant contractual obligations, including leases as discussed above, as of September 30, 2012:

| Contractual Obligations | Payments Due by Period | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | Total | Less than 1 year | 1 to 3 Years | 3 to 5 years | More than 5 years |
| | (In thousands) | | | | |
| Processing providers (a) | \$19,645 | \$7,678 | \$10,582 | \$1,385 | \$— |
| Telecommunications providers | 1,247 | 1,247 | — | — | — |
| Office and equipment leases | 24,647 | 7,732 | 8,095 | 4,204 | 4,616 |
| Term Credit Facility (b) | 73,750 | 18,750 | 47,500 | 7,500 | — |
| | \$119,289 | \$35,407 | \$66,177 | \$13,089 | \$4,616 |

The Company has agreements with several third-party processors to provide to us on a non-exclusive basis payment processing and transmittal, transaction authorization and data capture services, and access to various reporting tools. Our agreements with third-party processors require the Company to submit a minimum monthly number of transactions or volume for processing. If the Company submits a number of transactions or volume that is lower than the minimum, it is required to pay the third-party processors the fees that they would have received if the Company had submitted the required minimum number or volume of transactions.

(b) Interest rates on the Term Credit Facility are variable in nature; however, in January 2011 we entered into fixed-pay amortizing interest rate swaps having an initial notional amount of \$50.0 million and a current notional amount of \$36.9 million. If interest rates were to remain at the September 30, 2012 level, we would make interest payments of \$2.2 million in the next 1 year and \$2.4 million in the next 1 to 3 years or a total of \$4.6 million

including net settlements on the fixed-pay amortizing interest rate swaps. In addition, we had no borrowings outstanding under our Revolving Credit Facility at September 30, 2012. The Revolving Credit Facility is available on a revolving basis until November 24, 2015.

12. Segments

The determination of the Company's business segments is based on how the Company monitors and manages the performance of its operations. The Company's operating segments are strategic business units that offer different products and services. They are managed separately because each business requires different marketing strategies, personnel skill sets and technology.

The Company has two reportable segments, as follows: (1) Card, which provides payment processing and related services for bankcard transactions and (2) Other. The Card segment also includes CPOS and Network Services. The Other segment includes Payroll, which provides payroll and related tax filing services, PrepaidCard, which provides prepaid card,

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stored-value card and loyalty and gift card solutions, and Heartland School Solutions, which provides point-of-sale platforms designed to facilitate food service operations. Management continues to monitor these businesses and has determined that none of these businesses aggregated in the Other segment meets the defined operating thresholds for disclosing individually as reportable segments.

The Company allocates revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities to segments only where directly attributable. The unallocated corporate administration amounts are costs attributed to finance, corporate administration, human resources and corporate services. At September 30, 2012 and 2011, 26% and 31% respectively, of the Other segment's total assets were funds that the Company holds as a fiduciary in its Payroll services activities for payment to taxing authorities. At September 30, 2012 and 2011, 42% and 41% respectively, of the Other segment's total assets was goodwill. Reconciling items include eliminations of intercompany investments and receivables.

A summary of the Company's segments for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

| | Card Segment | Other Segment | Unallocated Corporate Administration Amounts | Reconciling Items | Total Amount |
|--|-----------------|------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| (In thousands) | | | | | |
| Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 | | | | | |
| Total revenues | \$508,506 | \$25,723 | \$— | \$(77) |) \$534,152 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 6,153 | 1,449 | 54 | — | 7,656 |
| Interest income | 45 | — | — | — | 45 |
| Interest expense | 1,014 | 1 | — | (77) |) 938 |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | 22,964 | 1,387 | (4,971) |) — | 19,380 |
| Total assets | 657,067 | 149,633 | — | (173,543) |) 633,157 |
| Three Months Ended September 30, 2011 | | | | | |
| Total revenues | \$518,416 | \$13,542 | \$— | \$(54) |) \$531,904 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 5,707 | 810 | 93 | — | 6,610 |
| Interest income | 47 | — | — | — | 47 |
| Interest expense | 1,007 | 1 | — | (54) |) 954 |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | 17,273 | 146 | (4,773) |) — | 12,646 |
| Total assets | 625,520 | 123,705 | — | (156,770) |) 592,455 |
| Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | | | | | |
| Total revenues | \$1,456,951 | \$66,427 | \$— | \$(220) |) \$1,523,158 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 18,128 | 2,348 | 165 | — | 20,641 |
| Interest income | 205 | — | — | — | 205 |
| Interest expense | 2,759 | 5 | — | (220) |) 2,544 |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | 58,726 | 5,297 | (13,088) |) — | 50,935 |
| Total assets | 657,067 | 149,633 | — | (173,543) |) 633,157 |
| Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 | | | | | |
| Total revenues | \$1,487,046 | \$38,635 | \$— | \$(154) |) \$1,525,527 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 17,866 | 2,428 | 339 | — | 20,633 |
| Interest income | 129 | — | — | — | 129 |
| Interest expense | 3,412 | 4 | — | (154) |) 3,262 |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | 45,413 | 597 | (13,291) |) — | 32,719 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---|------------|---------|
| Total assets | 625,520 | 123,705 | — | (156,770) | 592,455 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---|------------|---------|

13. Earnings Per Share

The Company presents earnings per share data following the established standards for the computation and presentation of basic and diluted earnings per share data. Under these standards, the dilutive effect of stock options is excluded from the calculation of basic earnings per share but included in diluted earnings per share. The following is a reconciliation of the amounts used to calculate basic and diluted earnings per share:

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| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| | (In thousands, except per share data) | | | |
| Basic: | | | | |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | \$ 19,380 | \$ 12,646 | \$ 50,935 | \$ 32,719 |
| Weighted average common stock outstanding | 38,813 | 39,265 | 38,831 | 38,841 |
| Earnings per share | \$0.50 | \$0.32 | \$1.31 | \$0.84 |
| Diluted: | | | | |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | \$ 19,380 | \$ 12,646 | \$ 50,935 | \$ 32,719 |
| Basic weighted average common stock outstanding | 38,813 | 39,265 | 38,831 | 38,841 |
| Effect of dilutive instruments: | | | | |
| Stock options and restricted share units | 1,539 | 1,296 | 1,623 | 1,304 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 40,352 | 40,561 | 40,454 | 40,145 |
| Earnings per share | \$0.48 | \$0.31 | \$1.26 | \$0.82 |

14. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company applies a fair value framework in order to measure and disclose its financial assets and liabilities which include fixed income equity securities, interest swap derivatives and certain other financial instruments. The Company determines fair value based on quoted prices when available or through the use of alternative approaches when market quotes are not readily accessible or available. The Company carries its liabilities at fair value, including its derivative liabilities.

The Company's framework for measuring fair value provides a three-level hierarchy, which prioritizes the factors (inputs) used to calculate the fair value of assets and liabilities as follows:

Level 1 inputs are unadjusted quoted prices, such as a New York Stock Exchange closing price, in active markets for identical assets. Level 1 is the highest priority in the hierarchy.

Level 2 inputs may include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, as well as other significant inputs that are observable at commonly quoted intervals, such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and yield curves.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable and are based on company assumptions due to little, if any, observable market information. Level 3 is the lowest priority in the hierarchy.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, there have been no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 categories. As of September 30, 2012, the Company owns no Level 3 assets or liabilities. The following tables provide the assets and liabilities carried at fair value measured on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2012 and at December 31, 2011:

| September 30, 2012 | Total | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Assets: | | | |
| Investments available for sale: | | | |
| Fixed income bond fund (a) | \$ 1,207 | \$ 1,207 | \$ — |
| Total assets | \$ 1,207 | \$ 1,207 | \$ — |

Liabilities:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Interest rate swaps | \$945 | \$— | \$945 |
| Total liabilities | \$945 | \$— | \$945 |

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| December 31, 2011 | Total | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) |
|---------------------------------|---------|---|--|
| (In thousands) | | | |
| Assets: | | | |
| Investments available for sale: | | | |
| Fixed income bond fund (a) | \$1,158 | \$1,158 | \$— |
| Total assets | \$1,158 | \$1,158 | \$— |
| Liabilities: | | | |
| Interest rate swaps | \$897 | \$— | \$897 |
| Total liabilities | \$897 | \$— | \$897 |

(a) Amounts included in Funds held for payroll customers on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

The following tables provide the assets and liabilities carried at fair value measured on a non-recurring basis as of September 30, 2012 and at December 31, 2011:

| September 30, 2012 | Total | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) |
|-------------------------------|----------|---|---|
| (In thousands) | | | |
| Assets: | | | |
| Investments held to maturity: | | | |
| Certificates of deposit | 4,455 | — | 4,455 |
| Total assets | \$4,455 | \$— | \$4,455 |
| Liabilities: | | | |
| Term loan credit facility | \$73,750 | \$— | \$73,750 |
| Total liabilities | \$73,750 | \$— | \$73,750 |

| December 31, 2011 | Total | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) |
|-------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| (In thousands) | | | |
| Assets: | | | |
| Investments held to maturity: | | | |
| Certificates of deposit | 2,505 | — | 2,505 |
| Total assets | \$2,505 | \$— | \$2,505 |
| Liabilities: | | | |
| Term loan credit facility | \$85,000 | \$— | \$85,000 |
| Total liabilities | \$85,000 | \$— | \$85,000 |

At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, all investments in available-for-sale securities held by the Company were measured using Level 1 inputs and all held to maturity investments held by the Company were measured using Level 2 inputs.

The Company's liabilities include interest rate swaps that are measured at fair value using observable market inputs including the Company's credit risk and its counterparties' credit risks. Based on these inputs, the interest rate swaps are classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy. Based on the Company's continued ability to enter into these swaps, the Company considers the markets for its fair value instruments to be active.

The carrying amounts of the Company's cash and cash equivalents and cash held for payroll customers approximate fair value as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, because they bear interest at market rates and had maturities of less than 90 days at the time of purchase. This fair value measurement is classified as Level 1. The carrying amount of the

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Notes To Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements—(Continued)

(unaudited)

Company's accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued expenses approximates fair value as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, because of the relatively short timeframe to realization. This fair value measurement is classified as Level 2.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION (continued)

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

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this report, and the consolidated financial statements, notes to consolidated financial statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the risk factors contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 (the "2011 Form 10-K").

Forward Looking Statements

Unless the context requires otherwise, references in this report to "the Company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and our subsidiaries.

Some of the information in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q may contain forward-looking statements that are based on our management's beliefs and assumptions and on information currently available to our management. Forward-looking statements include the information concerning our possible or assumed future results of operations, business strategies, financing plans, competitive position, industry environment, potential growth opportunities, the effects of future regulation and the effects of competition. Forward-looking statements include all statements that are not historical facts and can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "estimate" or similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. You should understand that many important factors, in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this report, could cause our results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. Some of these factors are described in Item 1A. Risk Factors of the 2011 Form 10-K and include, without limitation, our competitive environment, the business cycles and credit risks of our merchants, chargeback liability, merchant attrition, problems with our Sponsor banks, our relationships with third-party bankcard payment processors, our inability to pass increased interchange fees along to our merchants, economic conditions, systems failures and government regulation.

Overview

General

Our primary business is to provide bankcard payment processing services to merchants in the United States and Canada. This involves facilitating the exchange of information and funds between merchants and cardholders' financial institutions, providing end-to-end electronic payment processing services to merchants, including merchant set-up and training, transaction authorization and electronic draft capture, clearing and settlement, merchant accounting, merchant assistance and support, and risk management. Our merchant customers primarily fall into two categories: our core small and mid-sized merchants (referred to as "Small and Midsized Enterprises," or "SME merchants") and Network Services' large national and mid-tier merchants, primarily in the petroleum industry (referred to as "Network Services Merchants"). We also provide additional services to our merchants, such as payroll processing, gift and loyalty programs, paper check processing, and we sell and rent point-of-sale devices and supplies. In addition, we provide closed and open-loop payment solutions, and other transactional services to the college market, and school nutrition and point-of-sale solutions to K to 12 schools.

At September 30, 2012, we provided our bankcard payment processing services to approximately 172,430 active SME merchants located across the United States. This compares to 171,801 active SME bankcard merchants at December 31, 2011, and 173,944 active SME bankcard merchants at September 30, 2011. At September 30, 2012, we provided bankcard payment processing services through Network Services Merchants to 332 merchants with 48,007 locations. Additionally, at September 30, 2012, we provided bankcard payment processing services to over 11,800 merchants in Canada through our 70% owned subsidiary Collective POS Solutions Ltd. ("CPOS"). According to The Nilson Report, in 2011 we were the 6th largest card acquirer in the United States ranked by transaction count and the 9th largest acquirer by processed dollar volume, which consists of both credit and debit Visa and MasterCard transactions, as well as credit card transactions on American Express,

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Discover, Diners Club, and JCB. These rankings represented 2.8 billion transactions and 4% of the total bankcard processing market, respectively.

Our total bankcard processing volume for the three months ended September 30, 2012 was \$26.5 billion, a 21.3% increase from the \$21.8 billion processed during the three months ended September 30, 2011. Our total bankcard processing volume for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$75.9 billion, a 22.5% increase from the \$61.9 billion processed during the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Our SME bankcard processing volume for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$18.8 billion and \$54.1 billion, respectively, increases of 5.8% and 6.7%, respectively, over the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 reflecting increases for same store sales growth, new SME merchants installed, and lower merchant attrition. Our bankcard processing volume for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 also includes \$7.4 billion and \$21.2 billion, respectively, of settled volume for Network Services Merchants, compared to \$3.8 billion and \$10.8 billion, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011. Network Services' increase for the 2012 periods primarily reflects the expansion of a contract with a large petroleum merchant to include back end settlement. Bankcard processing volume for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| | September 30, 2012 | 2011 | September 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| | (In millions) | | | |
| SME merchants | \$18,818 | \$17,788 | \$54,089 | \$50,696 |
| Network Services Merchants | 7,434 | 3,842 | 21,238 | 10,755 |
| Canada | 205 | 178 | 563 | 487 |
| Total bankcard processing volume (a) | \$26,457 | \$21,808 | \$75,890 | \$61,938 |

(a) Bankcard processing volume includes volume for credit and signature debit transactions.

Merchant attrition is expected in the card payment processing industry in the ordinary course of business. We experience attrition in merchant bankcard processing volume resulting from several factors, including business closures, transfers of merchants' accounts to our competitors and account closures that we initiate due to heightened credit risks relating to, or contract breaches by, merchants, and (when applicable) same store sales contraction. We measure SME processing volume attrition against all SME merchants that were processing with us in the same month a year earlier. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we experienced a 12.9% average annualized attrition in our SME bankcard processing volume and for the 2012 nine month period we experienced attrition of 12.6%. During 2011, 2010 and 2009, we experienced average annual attrition in our SME bankcard processing volume of 13.5%, 15.3% and 22.6%, respectively. Historically, much of our attrition has been related to business closures, which accelerated in 2009 due to weak economic conditions.

In our SME business, we measure same store sales growth, or contraction, as the change in bankcard processing volume for all bankcard merchants that were processing with us in the same month a year earlier. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, same store sales grew 1.8% on average, compared to 2.3% in the quarter ended September 30, 2011 and 2.6% on average in the 2011 full year. Same store sales growth or contraction results from the combination of the increasing or decreasing use by consumers of bankcards for the purchase of goods and services at the point of sale, and sales growth or contraction experienced by our retained SME bankcard merchants.

Historically, our same store sales experience has tracked overall economic conditions. The following table compares our same store sales growth or contraction during 2012, 2011, and 2010:

| Same Store Sales Growth (Contraction) | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------|--------|----|
| First Quarter | 3.4 | % 3.2 | % (1.5 |)% |
| Second Quarter | 2.2 | % 2.5 | % 1.1 | % |
| Third Quarter | 1.8 | % 2.3 | % 2.0 | % |
| Fourth Quarter | | 2.5 | % 3.8 | % |
| Full Year | | 2.6 | % 1.3 | % |

We measure the overall production of our sales force by new gross margin installed, which reflects the expected annual gross profit from a merchant contract after deducting processing and servicing costs associated with that revenue. We measure installed margin primarily for our SME card processing, payroll processing and loyalty and gift marketing businesses. Our newly installed gross margin for the three months ended September 30, 2012 increased 11.2% and for the 2012 nine month period our gross margin increased 15.6% from the gross margin we installed during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, respectively. We attribute this increase in newly installed gross margin to higher volumes and margins at newly installed merchants and improved individual productivity achieved by our salespersons. We expect to drive increases in year-over-year installed margin in future periods primarily by increasing our Relationship Manager and Territory Manager count. Our combined Relationship Managers and Territory Managers count amounted to 743, 790 and 764 at September 30, 2011, December 31, 2011 and September 30, 2012, respectively.

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The bankcard revenue we earn in our SME business is recurring in nature, as we typically enter into three-year service contracts with our card processing SME merchants that, in order to qualify for the agreed-upon pricing, require the merchant to achieve bankcard processing volume minimums. Most of our SME revenue is from payment processing fees, which are a combination of a fee equal to a percentage of the dollar amount of each transaction we process plus a flat fee per transaction. We make mandatory payments of interchange fees to the card issuer through the card networks and dues, assessments and other network fees to Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Our SME gross bankcard processing revenue is largely driven by the Visa and MasterCard volume processed by our merchants. We also realize card processing revenues from processing transactions for our SME merchants accepting American Express and from processing Discover transactions.

In contrast to SME card processing revenues, revenues from our Network Services Merchants are largely driven by the number of transactions we process (whether settled, or only authorized), not our processing volume, as the merchants which comprise Network Services' customer base pay on a per transaction basis for processing services. Network Services' increased number of transactions processed for the 2012 periods primarily reflects the expansion of a contract with a large petroleum merchant to include back end settlement. Additionally, we provide authorization, settlement and account servicing services on our front and back end systems for American Express transactions for larger merchants, and merchants signed to American Express by other processors; for those services we receive compensation from American Express on a per transaction basis. The number of transactions we processed for Network Services Merchants and American Express for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Network Services Merchants: | | | | |
| Settled | 254,977 | 147,506 | 724,610 | 412,224 |
| Authorized | 668,310 | 725,238 | 1,895,496 | 2,054,537 |
| American Express (a) | 8,275 | 8,305 | 24,282 | 23,694 |
| Total | 931,562 | 881,049 | 2,644,388 | 2,490,455 |

(a) Includes only those transactions not eligible for residual compensation

Our internally-developed front-end authorization systems, HPS Exchange, VAPS and NWS, provide us greater control of the electronic transaction process, allow us to offer our merchants a differentiated product offering, and offer economies of scale that we expect will increase our long-term profitability. During the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, approximately 95% and 93%, respectively, of our SME transactions were processed through HPS Exchange. All of our Network Services transactions were processed through VAPS or NWS. During the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, 97% of all SME merchant accounts established were placed on HPS Exchange.

We provide clearing, settlement and merchant accounting services through our own internally developed back-end processing system, Passport. Passport enables us to customize these services to the needs of our Relationship Managers and merchants. At both September 30, 2012 and 2011, approximately 99% of total SME bankcard merchants were processing on Passport and all Network Services' settled transactions were processed on Passport. We provide payroll processing services throughout the United States. At September 30, 2012, we processed payroll for 12,301 customers, an increase of 1.0% from 12,181 payroll customers at September 30, 2011 and an increase of 3.9% from 11,841 payroll customers at December 31, 2011. In the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and the full year 2011, we installed 2,410 and 3,723 new payroll processing customers, respectively. We developed a new comprehensive payroll management system, which we refer to as PlusOne Payroll, that streamlines all aspects of the payroll process to enable time and cost savings. PlusOne Payroll was made available to new and existing customers

beginning in 2010. The PlusOne Payroll platform enables us to process payroll on a large scale and provide customizable solutions for businesses of all sizes.

We also provide school nutrition and point-of-sale solutions to K to 12 schools throughout the United States. At September 30, 2012, we provided Heartland School Solutions to over 29,000 public and private schools, compared to over 19,000 public and private schools at December 31, 2011. On June 29, 2012, we acquired the K to 12 school solutions business of Lunch Byte Systems, Inc. accounting for the increase in the number of schools served. See “— Liquidity and Capital Resources — Acquisitions” for detail on our Heartland School Solutions acquisitions.

Third Quarter of 2012 Financial Results

Our financial results for the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2011, benefited from a higher operating margin, reflecting 17.3% year-over-year growth in net revenue and a

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moderate increase of 4.4% in processing and servicing costs. For the three months ended September 30, 2012, we recorded net income of \$19.4 million, or \$0.48 per share, compared to \$12.6 million, or \$0.31 per share, in the three months ended September 30, 2011. The following is a summary of our financial results for the three months ended September 30, 2012:

Net revenue, which we define as total revenues less interchange fees and dues, assessments and fees, increased \$21.2 million, or 17.3%, from \$122.2 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$143.4 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The increase in net revenue was driven by the increased card processing net revenue from our SME merchants and increases in revenues for Heartland School Solutions, Payroll processing, and equipment-related revenues.

During the three months ended September 30, 2012, our SME processing volume increased 5.8% to \$18.8 billion from \$17.8 billion during the three months ended September 30, 2011. We earn percentage-based revenues on our SME processing volume. The year-over-year increase reflects same store sales growth, improved merchant volume attrition, and increased processing activity from new SME merchants installed.

Our processing and servicing expenses increased \$2.3 million, or 4.4%, from \$53.3 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011, to \$55.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012 primarily due to increased costs associated with processing and servicing higher SME bankcard processing volume, increased residual commission expense and increased costs of sales and servicing related to the higher Heartland School Solutions, payroll processing, and equipment-related revenues. The increase in processing and servicing expense also reflects refined allocations of certain information technology related expenses, previously reported in general and administrative expense, to processing and servicing starting in 2012. Partially offsetting the increases in processing and servicing expense was a decrease in costs at our service center.

Our general and administrative expenses increased \$5.9 million, or 18.3%, from \$32.2 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$38.1 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The increase in general and administrative expense for the three months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily due to a \$5.3 million increase in personnel costs, including a \$2.2 million increase in share-based compensation. Personnel costs from the Heartland School Solutions acquisitions are the primary drivers of the remaining increase. General and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2012 benefited from refined allocations of certain information technology related expenses, previously reported in general and administrative expense, now recorded in processing and servicing expense. General and administrative expenses as a percentage of total revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2012 was 7.1%, up from 6.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2011.

As a result of the 17.3% growth achieved in net revenue, a moderate increase in processing and servicing expenses and controlled general and administrative expense increases, our income from operations, which we also refer to as operating income, increased \$12.0 million to \$33.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, from \$21.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011. Our Operating Margin, which we measure as operating income divided by Net Revenue, was 23.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2012, compared to 17.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2011.

See “— Results of Operations — Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2011” for a more detailed discussion of our third quarter financial results.

Critical Accounting Estimates

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based on our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. These condensed consolidated financial statements are unaudited. In our opinion, the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include all normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position at September 30, 2012, our results of operations, our changes in stockholders' equity and our cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011. Results of operations reported for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012. The

preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Our significant accounting policies are more fully described in Note 2 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this report and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. The critical accounting estimates described here are those that are most important to the depiction of our financial condition and results of operations, including those whose application requires management's most subjective judgment in making estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. The line items on our income statement

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and balance sheet, which are impacted by management's estimates, are described below.

Revenue

Our bankcard processing revenue is derived from processing and settling Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover bankcard transactions for our merchant customers. Our most significant expense related to the generation of those revenues is interchange fees, which are set by the card networks, and paid to the card issuing banks. For our SME merchant bankcard processing, we do not offset bankcard processing revenues and interchange fees in our income statement because our business practice is to advance the interchange fees to most of our SME merchants when settling their daily transactions (thus paying the full amount of the transaction to the merchant), and then to collect our full discount fees from our merchants on the first business day of the next month. We fund interchange advances to our SME merchants from a combination of our operating cash and advances from our sponsor banks. We believe this policy aids in new business generation, as our merchants benefit from bookkeeping simplicity. However, this practice results in our carrying a large receivable from our merchants at each period-end, and a corresponding but smaller payable to our sponsor banks, which are settled on the first business day after the period-end. As we are at risk for the receivables, we record the associated revenues on a gross processing revenue basis in our consolidated income statements. Certain of our competitors report their processing revenue net of interchange fees. This is because the card issuing banks make their payments to these competitors net of those interchange fees, and these acquirers pay this reduced amount to their merchants. For our Network Services merchants, we also record a portion of our processing revenues net of interchange fees because the daily cash settlement with Network Services' merchants is net of interchange fees.

Capitalized Customer Acquisition Costs

Capitalized customer acquisition costs consist of (1) up-front signing bonuses paid to Relationship Managers and sales managers, referred to as the "salesperson" or "salespersons," for the establishment of new merchant relationships, and (2) deferred acquisition cost representing the estimated cost of buying out the commissions of vested salespersons at some point in the future. Capitalized customer acquisition costs represent incremental, direct customer acquisition costs that are recoverable through gross margins associated with SME merchant contracts. The capitalized customer acquisition costs are amortized using a method which approximates a proportional revenue approach over the initial three-year term of the merchant contract.

The amount of the up-front signing bonus paid for new SME bankcard, payroll and loyalty marketing accounts is based on the estimated gross margin for the first year of the merchant contract. The gross signing bonuses paid during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 were \$24.8 million and \$21.9 million, respectively, and for the full year ended December 31, 2011 were \$30.5 million. The signing bonus paid, amount capitalized, and related amortization are adjusted at the end of the contract's first year to reflect the actual gross margin generated by the merchant contract during that year. The net signing bonus adjustments made during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 were \$(2.3) million and \$(0.8) million, respectively. Negative signing bonus adjustments occur when the actual gross margin generated by the merchant contract during the first year is less than the estimated gross margin for that year, resulting in the overpayment of the up-front signing bonus, which overpayment would be recovered from the relevant sales person. Positive signing bonus adjustments result from prior underpayments of up-front signing bonuses, and would be paid to the relevant salesperson. The amount of signing bonuses paid which remained subject to adjustment at September 30, 2012 was \$33.0 million.

The deferred acquisition cost component of capitalized customer acquisition costs is accrued for vested salespersons over the first year of SME bankcard merchant processing, consistent with the build-up in the accrued buyout liability, which is described below.

Management evaluates the capitalized customer acquisition costs for impairment by comparing, on a pooled basis by vintage month of origination, the expected future net cash flows from underlying merchant relationships to the carrying amount of the capitalized customer acquisition costs. If the estimated future net cash flows are lower than the recorded carrying amount, indicating an impairment of the value of the capitalized customer acquisition costs, the impairment loss will be charged to operations. We have not recognized an impairment loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

Accrued Buyout Liability

We pay our salespersons residual commissions based on the gross margin generated from the monthly processing activity of SME merchants signed by them. We refer to these residual commissions as the "owned" portion of such commissions, or "portfolio equity." The salesperson has no obligation to perform additional services for the merchant for so long as the merchant continues processing with us. We accrue the buyout liability, which represents the estimated current settlement cost of buying out all vested and expected-to-vest salespersons for the owned portion of such commissions. We also record a deferred acquisition cost asset related to those buyouts, and amortize that asset as an expense over the initial three-year contract term. Beginning in June 2012, our salespersons earn portfolio equity on their newly installed payroll and loyalty marketing merchant accounts based on the residual commissions they earn on those accounts. The accrued buyout liability and

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deferred acquisition cost asset related to these payroll and loyalty marketing merchant accounts are developed the same as the SME card merchant portfolio equity.

We consider a salesperson to be vested once they have established merchant relationships that generate the equivalent of \$10,000 of monthly gross margin. Vested status entitles the salesperson to his or her residual commissions for as long as the merchant processes with us, even if the salesperson is no longer employed by us.

The accrued buyout liability is based on the merchants we have under contract at the balance sheet date, the gross margin we generated from those accounts in the prior twelve months, the "owned" commission rate, and the fixed buyout multiple of 2.5 times the commissions. The liability related to a new merchant is therefore zero when the merchant is installed, and increases over the twelve months following the installation date.

For unvested salespersons, the accrued buyout liability is accrued over the expected vesting period; however, no deferred acquisition cost is capitalized as future services are required in order to vest. In calculating the accrued buyout liability for unvested salespersons, we have assumed that 31% of unvested salespersons will vest in the future, which represents our historical vesting rate. A 5% increase to 36% in the expected vesting rate would have increased the accrued buyout liability for unvested salespersons by \$0.1 million at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

Buyout payments made to salespersons reduce the outstanding accrued buyout liability. Given our view of the duration of the cash flows associated with a pool of merchant contracts, we believe that the benefits of such buyouts significantly exceed the cost, which typically represents 2.5 years of commissions. If the cash flows associated with a pool of bought out contracts does not exceed this cost, we will incur an economic loss on our decision to buyout the contracts. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 we made buyout payments of approximately \$9.4 million and \$8.7 million respectively, and during the 2011 full year, we made buyout payments of approximately \$10.4 million.

Processing Liabilities and Loss Reserves

The majority of our processing liabilities include funds in transit associated with bankcard and check processing. At September 30, 2012, these funds in transit totaled \$33.1 million, compared to approximately \$18.9 million at December 31, 2011. In addition, we maintain merchant deposits to offset potential liabilities for merchant chargebacks.

Disputes between a cardholder and a merchant periodically arise as a result of, among other things, the cardholder's dissatisfaction with merchandise quality or merchant services. Such disputes may not be resolved in the merchant's favor. In these cases, the transaction is "charged back" to the merchant, which means the purchase price is refunded to the customer by the card-issuing bank and charged to the merchant. If the merchant is unable to fund the refund, we must do so. We also bear the risk of reject losses arising from the fact that we collect our fees from our merchants on the first day after the monthly billing period. If the merchant has gone out of business during such period, we may be unable to collect such fees. We maintain cash deposits or require the pledge of a letter of credit from certain merchants, generally those with higher average transaction size where the card is not present when the charge is made or the product or service is delivered after the charge is made, in order to offset potential contingent liabilities such as chargebacks and reject losses that would arise if the merchant went out of business. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, we held SME merchant deposits totaling \$8.1 million and \$9.8 million, respectively. Most chargeback and reject losses are charged to processing and servicing as they are incurred. However, we also maintain a loss reserve against losses including major fraud losses, which are both less predictable and involve larger amounts. The loss reserve was established using historical loss rates, applied to recent bankcard processing volume. At both September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, our loss reserve totaled \$2.0 million, respectively. Aggregate SME bankcard merchant losses, including losses charged to operations and the loss reserve, were \$1.4 million and \$3.8

million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011.

Chargeback losses originating from Network Services bankcard processing on Passport during the full year 2011 and nine months ended September 30, 2012 were insignificant.

Share-based Compensation

We expense employee share-based payments under the fair value method. Share-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date, based on the fair value of the award, and is recognized as expense over the requisite service period. We estimate the grant date fair value of the stock options we issue using a Black-Scholes valuation model for “plain-vanilla” stock options and performance-based stock options, and we use a lattice valuation model to measure grant date fair value for stock options containing market vesting conditions. Our assumption for expected volatility is based on our historical volatility data related to market trading of our own common stock. We base our assumptions for the expected life of new stock option grants on our analysis of the historical exercise patterns of our stock options. Our dividend yield assumption is based on dividends

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expected to be paid over the expected life of the stock option. Our risk-free interest rate assumption for stock options granted is determined by using U.S. treasury rates of the same period as the expected option term of each stock option.

The weighted-average fair value of options we granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 were \$9.36, \$7.95 and \$6.12, respectively. The fair value of options granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 was estimated at the grant date using the following weighted average assumptions:

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | | Year Ended December 31, 2011 | | Year Ended December 31, 2010 | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Expected volatility | 55 | % | 55 | % | 54 | % |
| Expected life | 3.75 years | | 3.65 years | | 3.75 years | |
| Expected dividends | 1.00 | % | 0.80 | % | 0.40 | % |
| Risk-free interest rate | 0.51 | % | 0.55 | % | 1.21 | % |

In the fourth quarter of 2010, our Board of Directors approved grants of 508,800 performance-based Restricted Share Units. These Restricted Share Units are nonvested share awards which would vest 50% in 2013, 25% in 2014, and 25% in 2015 only if over the term of these Restricted Share Units, the following diluted earnings per share targets for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014 are achieved:

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Diluted Earnings Per Share ^(a) | \$1.48 | \$1.74 | \$2.04 |

^(a) Calculated on a pro forma basis to exclude non-operating gains and losses, if any, and excluding the after-tax impact of stock compensation expense.

No share-based compensation expense was recorded on these Restricted Share Units in 2010, the first quarter of 2011, the second quarter of 2011, or the third quarter of 2011. Management subsequently determined that achieving the performance targets was probable to occur and as of December 31, 2011 began recording share-based compensation expense for these Restricted Share Units. The closing price of our common stock on the grant date equals the grant date fair value of these nonvested Restricted Share Units awards and will be recognized as compensation expense over their vesting periods.

In the fourth quarter of 2011, our Board of Directors approved target grants of 164,808 performance-based Restricted Share Units. These Restricted Share Units are nonvested share awards which would vest 50% in 2014 and 50% in 2015 only if we achieve a diluted earnings per share compound annual growth rate ("CAGR") of seventeen percent (17%) for the two-year period ending December 31, 2013. Diluted earnings per share will be calculated on a pro forma basis to exclude non-operating gains and losses, if any, and exclude the after-tax impact of stock compensation expense. For each 1% that the CAGR actually achieved for the two-year period ending on December 31, 2013 is above the 17% target, the number of shares underlying the Restricted Share Units awarded would be increased by 3.09%; provided, however, that the maximum increase in the number of shares that may be awarded is 100%. Likewise, for each 1% that the CAGR actually achieved for the two-year period ending on December 31, 2013 is below the 17% target, the number of shares underlying the Restricted Share Units awarded would be decreased by 1.13%. If the target CAGR is missed by 80% or more, then the number of shares awarded is zero. In the fourth quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012, we recorded expense on these Restricted Share Units based on achieving the 17% target.

Management subsequently determined that achieving a CAGR for the two-year period ending December 31, 2013 which would result in earning the maximum 100% increase in the number of shares that may be awarded was probable to occur, and began recording share-based compensation expense for these Restricted Share Units based on

329,616 shares as of June 30, 2012. The closing price of our common stock on the grant date equals the grant date fair value of these nonvested Restricted Share Units awards and will be recognized as compensation expense over their vesting periods.

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of acquisition costs over the fair values of net assets acquired in business combinations. We test goodwill for impairment at least annually and between annual tests if an event occurs or changes in circumstances suggest a potential decline in the fair value of the reporting unit. A significant amount of judgment is involved in determining if an indicator or change in circumstances relating to impairment has occurred. Such changes may include, among others: a significant decline in expected future cash flows; a sustained decline in market capitalization; a significant adverse change in legal factors or in the business climate; unanticipated competition; and slower growth rates. We perform annual goodwill impairment testing in the fourth quarter. Our evaluation indicated that no impairment existed as of

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December 31, 2011. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, goodwill of \$115.9 million and \$103.4 million, respectively, is recorded on our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. We may be required to record goodwill impairment losses in future periods, whether in connection with our next annual impairment testing or prior to that, if any such indicators constitute a triggering event in a quarter other than the quarter in which the annual goodwill impairment test is performed. It is not possible at this time to determine if any such future impairment loss would result or, if it does, whether such charge would be material.

Income Taxes

We account for income taxes by recognizing deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are recorded to reflect the future tax consequences attributable to the effects of differences between the carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities for financial reporting and for income tax purposes. Judgments are required in determining the amount and probability of future taxable income, which in turn is critical to a determination of whether a valuation reserve against the deferred tax asset is appropriate.

We also account for the recognition and measurement of tax benefits associated with uncertain tax positions. This requires evaluations of individual tax positions to determine whether any part of that position can be recognized or continues to be recognized in the financial statements. An uncertain tax position exists if it is unclear how a transaction will be treated under tax law. We had approximately \$2.5 million of total gross unrecognized tax benefits as of September 30, 2012, approximately \$1.6 million of which would impact the effective tax rate.

We have recorded income tax expense at U.S. tax rates on all taxable income, except undistributed earnings of CPOS, our Canadian subsidiary. We intend to indefinitely reinvest undistributed earnings of CPOS and accordingly, have provided Canadian income tax on those earnings but not U.S. income tax. The amount of undistributed earnings of CPOS for which we have not recorded U.S. income tax was approximately \$3.3 million. In the event of distribution of those earnings in the form of dividends or otherwise, we would be subject to U.S. income taxes subject to an adjustment, if any, for foreign tax credits. Determination of the amount of U.S. income tax liability that would be incurred is not practicable because of the complexities associated with this hypothetical calculation.

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Results of Operations

Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2011

The following table shows certain income statement data as a percentage of revenue for the periods indicated (in thousands of dollars):

| | Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 | % of Total Revenue | | Three Months Ended September 30, 2011 | % of Total Revenue | Change | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|--|-----------------------|--------|----------|-----------|---|
| | | | | | | Amount | % | | |
| Total revenues | \$534,152 | 100.0 | % | \$531,904 | 100.0 | % | \$2,248 | 0.4 | % |
| Costs of services: | | | | | | | | | |
| Interchange | 336,628 | 63.0 | % | 369,007 | 69.4 | % | (32,379) | (8.8) | % |
| Dues, assessments and fees | 54,121 | 10.1 | % | 40,672 | 7.6 | % | 13,449 | 33.1 | % |
| Processing and servicing | 55,601 | 10.4 | % | 53,255 | 10.0 | % | 2,346 | 4.4 | % |
| Customer acquisition costs | 10,647 | 2.0 | % | 11,834 | 2.2 | % | (1,187) | (10.0) | % |
| Depreciation and amortization | 5,380 | 1.0 | % | 3,270 | 0.6 | % | 2,110 | 64.5 | % |
| Total costs of services | 462,377 | 86.6 | % | 478,038 | 89.9 | % | (15,661) | (3.3) | % |
| General and administrative | 38,130 | 7.1 | % | 32,244 | 6.1 | % | 5,886 | 18.3 | % |
| Total expenses | 500,507 | 93.7 | % | 510,282 | 95.9 | % | (9,775) | (1.9) | % |
| Income from operations | 33,645 | 6.3 | % | 21,622 | 4.1 | % | 12,023 | 55.6 | % |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | | | | | |
| Interest income | 45 | | | 47 | | | (2) | (4.3) | % |
| Interest expense | (938) | (0.2) | % | (954) | (0.2) | % | 16 | 1.7 | % |
| Provision for processing system intrusion costs | (290) | (0.1) | % | (115) | — | % | (175) | (152.2) | % |
| Other, net | (921) | (0.2) | % | (35) | — | % | (886) | (2,531.4) | % |
| Total other income (expense) | (2,104) | (0.4) | % | (1,057) | (0.2) | % | (1,047) | (99.1) | % |
| Income before income taxes | 31,541 | 5.9 | % | 20,565 | 3.9 | % | 10,976 | 53.4 | % |
| Provision for income taxes | 11,974 | 2.2 | % | 7,784 | 1.5 | % | 4,190 | 53.8 | % |
| Net income | 19,567 | 3.7 | % | 12,781 | 2.4 | % | 6,786 | 53.1 | % |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | 187 | | | 135 | | | 52 | 38.5 | % |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | \$19,380 | 3.6 | % | \$12,646 | 2.4 | % | \$6,734 | 53.3 | % |

Total Revenues. Total revenues reflect an increase of only 0.4%, from \$531.9 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$534.2 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012, due to increased processing activity, offset by the impact of the "Durbin Amendment," which was part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that went into effect on October 1, 2011. SME card processing revenues and the Durbin Amendment are discussed below in "—Processing revenues, gross." The breakout of our total revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| | Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 | 2011 | Change from Prior Year Amount | % |
|--|---|------|-------------------------------------|---|
|--|---|------|-------------------------------------|---|

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| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|----|
| Processing revenues, gross (a) | \$516,568 | \$518,554 | \$(1,986 |) (0.4 |)% |
| Payroll processing revenues | 5,053 | 4,709 | 344 | 7.3 | % |
| Equipment-related income | 12,531 | 8,641 | 3,890 | 45.0 | % |
| Total Revenues | \$534,152 | \$531,904 | \$2,248 | 0.4 | % |

Includes Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover bankcard processing revenues, American Express fees, (a) check processing fees, customer service fees, gift card, loyalty, Heartland School Solutions and other miscellaneous revenue.

Processing revenues, gross. Further breakout of our gross processing revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows (in thousands of dollars):

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| | Three Months Ended | | Change from | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------|----|
| | September 30, 2012 | 2011 | Prior Year Amount | % | |
| Merchant Card Processing Revenue: | | | | | |
| SME card processing | \$463,458 | \$479,001 | \$(15,543) | (3.2) |)% |
| Network Services card processing | 38,512 | 31,744 | 6,768 | 21.3 | % |
| CPOS card processing | 2,626 | 2,196 | 430 | 19.6 | % |
| | 504,596 | 512,941 | (8,345) | (1.6) |)% |
| Heartland School Solutions income | 7,572 | 1,443 | 6,129 | 424.7 | % |
| Prepaid Card income | 3,922 | 3,637 | 285 | 7.8 | % |
| Other miscellaneous revenue | 478 | 533 | (55) | (10.3) |)% |
| Total Processing Revenues, Gross | \$516,568 | \$518,554 | \$(1,986) | (0.4) |)% |

The \$2.0 million decrease in gross processing revenues from \$518.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$516.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily due to a decrease in SME merchant card processing revenue, partially offset by higher revenues from our Heartland School Solutions business and Network Services card processing.

Our gross SME merchant card processing revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2012 reflect a decline as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2011 due to the impact of the Durbin Amendment. The Durbin Amendment places limits on debit card interchange rates that card issuing banks may charge. While not impacting our net revenue (which we present net of interchange, dues and assessments and fees as discussed below in "—Net revenue"), beginning in the fourth quarter of 2011 there was a decrease in the amount of SME interchange expense we record in our Income Statement as a result of the Durbin Amendment. Since our gross SME card processing revenues include the interchange that we pass through to our merchants, our total revenues decreased by an equivalent amount. We estimate that the amount of this decrease on our gross SME merchant card processing revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2012 was a reduction of approximately \$49.5 million.

Partially offsetting the impact that the Durbin Amendment had on our gross revenues from SME card processing was the increase in revenue attributable to higher SME bankcard processing volume. For the three months ended September 30, 2012, our SME bankcard processing volume increased 5.8% to \$18.8 billion, compared to \$17.8 billion for the three months ended September 30, 2011, reflecting increases for same store sales growth, new SME merchants installed, and decreased SME merchant volume attrition.

Network Services increased its card processing revenues based on the 255 million transactions it settled, representing \$7.4 billion in processing volume, and the 668 million transactions it authorized through its front-end card processing systems during the three months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the 148 million transactions it settled, representing \$3.8 billion in processing volume, and the 725 million transactions it authorized through its front-end card processing systems during the three months ended September 30, 2011. Network Services' increase for the 2012 period primarily reflects the expansion of a contract with a large petroleum merchant to include back end settlement. We report Network Services' settled bankcard processing revenues net of credit interchange because the daily cash settlement with Network Services' merchants is on a net basis. However, the Durbin Amendment did impact Network Services' settled PIN debit interchange by approximately \$1.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012.

Contributing growth to our processing revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2012 were the processing revenues generated by our Heartland School Solutions businesses, reflecting acquisitions we made in 2011 and 2012 (see "—Liquidity and Capital Resources" for detail on these acquisitions). During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we processed for approximately 29,000 K to 12 schools, compared to approximately 9,000 K to 12 schools during the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Payroll processing revenues. Payroll processing revenues, which include fees earned on payroll processing services and interest income earned on funds held for customers, increased by 7.3%, from \$4.7 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$5.1 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012, primarily due to price increases for approximately half of our payroll processing customers and an increase in the total number of payroll processing customers from 12,181 at September 30, 2011 to 12,301 at September 30, 2012.

Equipment-related income. Equipment-related income increased by 45.0%, from \$8.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$12.5 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012, primarily due to an increase in sales of equipment in our Heartland School Solutions business partially offset by a decrease in revenues from the sale of card

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processing terminals, including our proprietary encryption terminals, referred to as E3 Terminals. The following table summarizes our Equipment-related income for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands of dollars):

| | Three Months Ended | | Change from | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------------|-----|----|
| | September 30, | | Prior Year | | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | Amount | % | |
| Equipment-related income | | | | | |
| Card Processing | \$4,091 | \$4,135 | \$(44) | (1) |)% |
| Heartland School Solutions | 4,544 | 572 | 3,972 | 694 | % |
| Micropayments | 1,843 | 1,695 | 148 | 9 | % |
| Campus Solutions | 1,634 | 1,799 | (165) | (9) |)% |
| Other | 419 | 440 | (21) | (5) |)% |
| Total Equipment-related income | \$12,531 | \$8,641 | \$3,890 | 45 | % |

Net revenue. Net revenue, which we define as total revenues less interchange fees and dues, assessments and fees, increased 17.3% from \$122.2 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011, to \$143.4 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The increase in net revenue was driven primarily by increases in SME bankcard processing volume, and increases in processing and equipment-related revenues from Heartland School Solutions. The following table summarizes our Net Revenue components for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands of dollars):

| | Three Months Ended | | Change from | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|----|
| | September 30, | | Prior Year | | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | Amount | % | |
| Merchant Card Processing Revenue: | | | | | |
| SME card processing | \$463,458 | \$479,001 | | | |
| Less: interchange, dues, assessments and fees | (364,371) | (390,455) |) | | |
| SME card processing net revenue | 99,087 | 88,546 | \$10,541 | 11.9 | % |
| Network Services card processing | 38,512 | 31,744 | | | |
| Less: interchange, dues, assessments and fees | (26,379) | (19,224) |) | | |
| Network Services card processing net revenue | 12,133 | 12,520 | (387) | (3.1) |)% |
| CPOS card processing net revenue | 2,626 | 2,196 | 430 | 19.6 | % |
| Card processing net revenue | 113,846 | 103,262 | 10,584 | 10.2 | % |
| Heartland School Solutions income | 7,572 | 1,443 | 6,129 | 424.7 | % |
| Prepaid card income | 3,922 | 3,637 | 285 | 7.8 | % |
| Other miscellaneous revenue | 478 | 533 | (55) | (10.3) |)% |
| Processing net revenue | 125,818 | 108,875 | 16,943 | 15.6 | % |
| Payroll processing revenues | 5,053 | 4,709 | 344 | 7.3 | % |
| Equipment-related revenues | 12,531 | 8,641 | 3,890 | 45.0 | % |
| Total net revenue | \$143,402 | \$122,225 | \$21,177 | 17.3 | % |

Costs of services. Costs of services decreased 3.3% from \$478.0 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$462.4 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012, primarily due to the decrease in interchange expense resulting from the Durbin Amendment. Interchange expense decreased 8.8% from \$369.0 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$336.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012, and represented 63.0% of total revenues in the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to 69.4% in the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Dues, assessments and fees increased 33.1% from \$40.7 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$54.1 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012, primarily as a result of increases in Visa and MasterCard assessments and fees which we pass through to our merchants, and also due to higher SME bankcard processing volume and Network Services transactions. Dues, assessments and fees were 10.1% of total revenues in the three months ended September 30, 2012, compared to 7.6% in the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Processing and servicing expense for the three months ended September 30, 2012 increased by \$2.3 million, or 4.4%, compared with the three months ended September 30, 2011. The increase in processing and servicing expenses was due to increased costs associated with processing and servicing higher SME bankcard processing volume, increased residual commission expense and increased cost of sales and servicing related to higher Heartland School Solutions revenues. The increase in processing and servicing expense also reflects refined allocations of certain information technology related expenses, previously reported in general and administrative expense, to processing and servicing starting in 2012. Partially offsetting the increases in processing and servicing expense were decreases in service center expense, merchant losses and card related equipment costs. As a percentage of total revenue, processing and servicing expense increased to 10.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2012 from 10.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2011.

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Customer acquisition costs for the three months ended September 30, 2012 decreased by \$1.2 million, or 10.0% compared with the three months ended September 30, 2011. This decline reflects lower signing bonus amortization and lower increases in the accrued buyout liability reflecting a slowing in same store sales growth. Customer acquisition costs for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 included the following components (in thousands of dollars):

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Amortization of signing bonuses, net | \$7,364 | \$7,655 |
| Amortization of capitalized customer deferred acquisition costs | 3,885 | 3,893 |
| Increase in accrued buyout liability | 3,889 | 4,014 |
| Capitalized customer deferred acquisition costs | (4,491 |) (3,728 |
| Total customer acquisition costs | \$10,647 | \$11,834 |

Depreciation and amortization expenses increased 64.5% from \$3.3 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$5.4 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The increase reflects higher depreciation and amortization for investments in our information technology platforms and amortization of intangible assets recorded in Heartland School Solutions acquisitions. Most of our investments in information technology have been for security-related enhancements and in support of the continuing development of our processing platforms.

Depreciation and amortization expense recorded on these investments is included in processing and servicing expense. Additionally, we capitalized salaries, fringe benefits and other expenses incurred by our employees that worked on internally developed software projects and we capitalized some outsourced programming expenses as well.

Amortization does not begin on the internally developed software until the project is complete and placed in service, at which time we begin to amortize the asset over expected lives of three to five years. The amount capitalized increased from \$5.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$6.1 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The total amount of capitalized costs for projects placed in service in the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was \$10.4 million and \$5.4 million, respectively.

General and administrative. General and administrative expenses increased \$5.9 million, or 18.3%, from \$32.2 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$38.1 million in the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to a \$5.3 million increase in personnel costs, including a \$2.2 million increase in share-based compensation. See "— Critical Accounting Estimates — Share-based Compensation" for more detail on share-based compensation expense. Personnel costs from the Heartland School Solutions acquisitions are the primary drivers of the remaining increase. General and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2012 benefited from refined allocations of certain information technology related expenses, previously reported in general and administrative expense, now recorded in processing and servicing expense. General and administrative expenses as a percentage of total revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2012 was 7.1%, an increase from 6.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Income from operations. As a result of the 17.3% increase in net revenue and lower increases in processing and servicing expenses, our income from operations, which we also refer to as operating income, improved to \$33.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, from \$21.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011. Our operating margin, which we measure as operating income divided by net revenue, was 23.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2012, compared to 17.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the three months ended September 30, 2012 was \$0.9 million, compared with \$1.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011. Interest expense in both periods includes interest incurred under our Credit Facilities and interest we recorded on payables to our sponsor banks. The decline in interest expense primarily reflects lower borrowings due to payments we made on our Term Loan Facility. See "—Liquidity and Capital Resources —Credit Facility" for more detail on our borrowings.

Provision for processing system intrusion costs. On January 20, 2009, we publicly announced the discovery of a criminal breach of our payment systems environment (the "Processing System Intrusion"). The Processing System

Intrusion involved malicious software that appears to have been used to collect in-transit, unencrypted payment card data while it was being processed during the transaction authorization process. We believe the breach did not extend beyond 2008.

Since the announcement of the Processing System Intrusion on January 20, 2009 and through September 30, 2012, we have expensed a total of \$147.6 million, before reducing those charges by \$31.2 million of total insurance recoveries. The majority of the total charges, or approximately \$114.7 million, related to settlements of claims. Approximately \$32.9 million of the total charges were for legal fees and costs we incurred for investigations, defending various claims and actions, remedial actions and crisis management services.

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During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we incurred approximately \$0.3 million, or less than one cent per share, for legal fees and costs incurred related to the Processing System Intrusion. During the three months ended September 30, 2011, we expensed approximately \$0.1 million, or less than one cent per share, related to the Processing System Intrusion.

Other income (expense), net. Other income (expense), net for the three months ended September 30, 2012 included pre-tax charges of \$0.9 million related primarily to write downs of capitalized information technology development projects. Other income (expense), net for the three months ended September 30, 2011 included pre-tax charges of \$37,000 reflecting the costs (primarily staff termination costs and fixed asset write downs) associated with the closing of our Johnson City, Tennessee service center.

Income taxes. Income taxes for the three months ended September 30, 2012 were an expense of \$12.0 million, reflecting an effective tax rate of 38.0%. This compares to income tax expense of \$7.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, reflecting an effective tax rate of 37.9%.

Net income attributable to Heartland. As a result of the above factors, we recorded net income of \$19.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This compares to a net income of \$12.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011

The following table shows certain income statement data as a percentage of revenue for the periods indicated (in thousands of dollars):

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | | | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 | | | Change | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|--------|----|
| | | % of Total Revenue | | | % of Total Revenue | Amount | % | | |
| Total revenues | \$1,523,158 | 100.0 | % | \$1,525,527 | 100.0 | % | \$(2,369) | (0.2) |)% |
| Costs of services: | | | | | | | | | |
| Interchange | 965,318 | 63.4 | % | 1,055,013 | 69.2 | % | (89,695) | (8.5) |)% |
| Dues, assessments and fees | 150,494 | 9.9 | % | 113,373 | 7.4 | % | 37,121 | 32.7 | % |
| Processing and servicing | 169,511 | 11.1 | % | 161,170 | 10.6 | % | 8,341 | 5.2 | % |
| Customer acquisition costs | 33,346 | 2.2 | % | 35,622 | 2.3 | % | (2,276) | (6.4) |)% |
| Depreciation and amortization | 14,272 | 0.9 | % | 10,846 | 0.7 | % | 3,426 | 31.6 | % |
| Total costs of services | 1,332,941 | 87.5 | % | 1,376,024 | 90.2 | % | (43,083) | (3.1) |)% |
| General and administrative | 103,596 | 6.8 | % | 91,667 | 6.0 | % | 11,929 | 13.0 | % |
| Total expenses | 1,436,537 | 94.3 | % | 1,467,691 | 96.2 | % | (31,154) | (2.1) |)% |
| Income from operations | 86,621 | 5.7 | % | 57,836 | 3.8 | % | 28,785 | 49.8 | % |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | | | | | |
| Interest income | 205 | | | 129 | | | 76 | 58.9 | % |
| Interest expense | (2,544) | (0.2) |)% | (3,262) | (0.2) |)% | 718 | 22.0 | % |
| Provision for processing system intrusion costs | (528) | | | (790) | (0.1) |)% | 262 | 33.2 | % |
| Other, net | (925) | (0.1) |)% | (780) | (0.1) |)% | (145) | (18.6) |)% |
| Total other income (expense) | (3,792) | (0.2) |)% | (4,703) | (0.3) |)% | 911 | 19.4 | % |
| Income before income taxes | 82,829 | 5.4 | % | 53,133 | 3.5 | % | 29,696 | 55.9 | % |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----|---|----------|-----|---|----------|------|---|
| Provision for income taxes | 31,448 | 2.1 | % | 20,098 | 1.3 | % | 11,350 | 56.5 | % |
| Net income | 51,381 | 3.4 | % | 33,035 | 2.2 | % | 18,346 | 55.5 | % |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | 446 | | | 316 | | | 130 | 41.1 | % |
| Net income attributable to Heartland | \$50,935 | 3.3 | % | \$32,719 | 2.1 | % | \$18,216 | 55.7 | % |

Total Revenues. Total revenues reflect a decrease of 0.2% from \$1,525.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$1,523.2 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, notwithstanding increased processing activity, primarily as a result of the "Durbin Amendment," which was part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that went into effect on October 1, 2011. SME card processing revenues and the Durbin Amendment are discussed below in "—Processing revenues, gross". The breakout of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows (in thousands of dollars):

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| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | Change from Prior Year | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Amount | % | |
| Processing revenues, gross (a) | \$1,475,409 | \$1,484,327 | \$(8,918) | (0.6) |)% |
| Payroll processing revenues | 16,279 | 14,836 | 1,443 | 9.7 |)% |
| Equipment-related income | 31,470 | 26,364 | 5,106 | 19.4 |)% |
| Total Revenues | \$1,523,158 | \$1,525,527 | \$(2,369) | (0.2) |)% |

Includes Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover bankcard processing revenues, American Express fees, (a) check processing fees, customer service fees, gift card, loyalty, Heartland School Solutions and other miscellaneous revenue.

Processing revenues, gross. Further breakout of our gross processing revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | Change from Prior Year | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------|----|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Amount | % | |
| Merchant Card Processing Revenue: | | | | | |
| SME card processing | \$1,325,592 | \$1,366,276 | \$(40,684) | (3.0) |)% |
| Network Services card processing | 110,107 | 95,666 | 14,441 | 15.1 |)% |
| CPOS card processing | 7,093 | 6,064 | 1,029 | 17.0 |)% |
| | 1,442,792 | 1,468,006 | (25,214) | (1.7) |)% |
| Heartland School Solutions income | 18,557 | 3,642 | 14,915 | 409.5 |)% |
| Prepaid Card income | 12,579 | 11,096 | 1,483 | 13.4 |)% |
| Other miscellaneous revenue | 1,481 | 1,583 | (102) | (6.4) |)% |
| Total Processing Revenues, Gross | \$1,475,409 | \$1,484,327 | \$(8,918) | (0.6) |)% |

The \$8.9 million decrease in gross processing revenues from \$1,484.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$1,475.4 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily due to a decrease in SME merchant card processing revenue partially offset by higher revenues from our Heartland School Solutions business, Network Services card processing, and prepaid card income including loyalty and gift marketing.

Our gross SME merchant card processing revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 reflect a decline as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2011 due to the impact of the Durbin Amendment. The Durbin Amendment places limits on debit card interchange rates that card issuing banks may charge. While not impacting our net revenue (which we present net of interchange, dues and assessments and fees as discussed below in "—Net revenue"), beginning in the fourth quarter of 2011 there was a decrease in the amount of SME interchange expense we record in our Income Statement as a result of the Durbin Amendment. Since our gross SME card processing revenues include the interchange that we pass through to our merchants, our total revenues decreased by an equivalent amount. We estimate that the amount of this decrease on our gross SME merchant card processing revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was a reduction of approximately \$141.3 million.

Partially offsetting the impact that the Durbin Amendment had on our gross revenues from SME card processing was the increase in revenue attributable to higher SME bankcard processing volume. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, our SME bankcard processing volume increased 6.7% to \$54.1 billion, compared to \$50.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, reflecting increases for same store sales growth, new SME merchants installed, and decreased SME merchant volume attrition.

Network Services increased its card processing revenues based on the 725 million transactions it settled, representing \$21.2 billion in processing volume, and the 1,895 million transactions it authorized through its front-end card processing systems during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, as compared to the 412 million transactions it settled, representing \$10.8 billion in processing volume, and the 2,055 million transactions it authorized through its

front-end card processing systems during the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Network Services' increase for the 2012 period primarily reflects the expansion of a contract with a large petroleum merchant to include back end settlement. We report Network Services' settled bankcard processing revenues net of credit interchange because the daily cash settlement with Network Services' merchants is on a net basis. However, the Durbin Amendment did impact Network Services' settled PIN debit interchange by approximately \$5.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

Contributing growth to our processing revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were the processing revenues generated by our Heartland School Solutions businesses, and from prepaid card income including loyalty and gift marketing. The increase in Heartland School Solution processing revenues for the nine

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months ended September 30, 2012 reflects acquisitions we made in 2011 and 2012 (see "— Liquidity and Capital Resources" for detail on these acquisitions). At September 30, 2012, we processed for approximately 29,000 K to 12 schools, compared to approximately 9,000 K to 12 schools at September 30, 2011.

Payroll processing revenues. Payroll processing revenues, which include fees earned on payroll processing services and interest income earned on funds held for customers, increased by 9.7%, from \$14.8 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$16.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, primarily due to price increases for almost half of our payroll processing customers and an increase in the total number of payroll processing customers from 12,181 at September 30, 2011 to 12,301 at September 30, 2012.

Equipment-related income. Equipment-related income increased by \$5.1 million, or 19.4%, from \$26.4 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$31.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, primarily due to sales of equipment in our Heartland School Solutions business. Partially offsetting this increase, was a decrease in revenues from the sale of card processing terminals, including our proprietary encryption terminals, referred to as E3 Terminals. The following table summarizes our Equipment-related income for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands of dollars):

| | Nine Months Ended | | Change from | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------|--------|----|
| | September 30, | | Prior Year | | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | Amount | % | |
| Equipment-related income | | | | | |
| Card Processing | \$13,306 | \$14,248 | \$(942) | (6.6) |)% |
| Heartland School Solutions | 6,552 | 1,201 | 5,351 | 445.5 | % |
| Micropayments | 5,725 | 4,884 | 841 | 17.2 | % |
| Campus Solutions | 4,626 | 4,562 | 64 | 1.4 | % |
| Other | 1,261 | 1,469 | (208) | (14.2) |)% |
| Total Equipment-related income | \$31,470 | \$26,364 | \$5,106 | 19.4 | % |

Net revenue. Net revenue, which we define as total revenues less interchange fees and dues, assessments and fees, increased 14.1% from \$357.1 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011, to \$407.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The increase in net revenue was driven primarily by increases in SME bankcard processing volume, and increases in Heartland School Solutions processing and equipment-related revenues, Payroll processing revenues, and Loyalty and Gift revenues. The following table summarizes our Net Revenue components for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands of dollars):

| | Nine Months Ended | | Change from | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|----|
| | September 30, | | Prior Year | | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | Amount | % | |
| Merchant Card Processing Revenue: | | | | | |
| SME card processing | \$1,325,592 | \$1,366,276 | | | |
| Less: interchange, dues, assessments and fees | (1,042,262) | (1,110,574) | | | |
| SME card processing net revenue | 283,330 | 255,702 | \$27,628 | 10.8 | % |
| Network Services card processing | 110,107 | 95,666 | | | |
| Less: interchange, dues, assessments and fees | (73,551) | (57,812) | | | |
| Network Services card processing net revenue | 36,556 | 37,854 | (1,298) | (3.4) |)% |
| CPOS card processing net revenue | 7,093 | 6,064 | 1,029 | 17.0 | % |
| Card processing net revenue | 326,979 | 299,620 | 27,359 | 9.1 | % |
| Heartland School Solutions income | 18,557 | 3,642 | 14,915 | 409.5 | % |
| Prepaid card income | 12,579 | 11,096 | 1,483 | 13.4 | % |
| Other miscellaneous revenue | 1,481 | 1,583 | (102) | (6.4) |)% |
| Processing net revenue | 359,596 | 315,941 | 43,655 | 13.8 | % |

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| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|---|
| Payroll processing revenues | 16,279 | 14,836 | 1,443 | 9.7 | % |
| Equipment-related revenues | 31,470 | 26,364 | 5,106 | 19.4 | % |
| Total net revenue | \$407,345 | \$357,141 | \$50,204 | 14.1 | % |

Costs of services. Costs of services decreased 3.1% from \$1,376.0 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$1,332.9 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, due primarily to the decrease in interchange expense resulting from the Durbin Amendment. Interchange expense decreased 8.5% from \$1,055.0 million in the nine months ended

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September 30, 2011 to \$965.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, and represented 63.4% of total revenues in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, compared to 69.2% in the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Dues, assessments and fees increased 32.7% from \$113.4 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$150.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, primarily as a result of increases in Visa and MasterCard assessments and fees which we pass through to our merchants, and also due to higher SME bankcard processing volume and Network Services transactions. Dues, assessments and fees were 9.9% of total revenues in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, compared to 7.4% in the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Processing and servicing expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 increased by \$8.3 million or 5.2%, compared with the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The increase in processing and servicing expense was due to increased costs associated with processing and servicing higher SME bankcard processing volume, increased residual commission expense and increased cost of sales and servicing related to higher Heartland School Solutions, Payroll processing, and Loyalty and Gift revenues. The increase in processing and servicing expense also reflects refined allocations of certain information technology related expenses, previously reported in general and administrative expense, to processing and servicing in the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Partially offsetting the increases in Processing and servicing expense were decreases in merchant losses, service center expense and card related equipment costs. As a percentage of total revenue, processing and servicing expense increased to 11.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared with 10.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Customer acquisition costs for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 decreased by \$2.3 million, or 6.4% compared with the nine months ended September 30, 2011. This decline primarily reflects the impacts of lower signing bonus amortization, as capitalized signing bonuses recorded in periods having higher new gross margin installs have become fully amortized. Customer acquisition costs for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 included the following components (in thousands of dollars):

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Amortization of signing bonuses, net | \$22,017 | \$24,260 |
| Amortization of capitalized customer deferred acquisition costs | 11,741 | 11,688 |
| Increase in accrued buyout liability | 12,336 | 10,344 |
| Capitalized customer deferred acquisition costs | (12,748 |) (10,670 |
| Total customer acquisition costs | \$33,346 | \$35,622 |

Depreciation and amortization expenses increased 31.6% from \$10.8 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$14.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The increase reflects higher depreciation and amortization for investments in our information technology platforms and amortization of intangible assets recorded in Heartland School Solutions acquisitions. Most of our investments in information technology have been for security-related enhancements and in support of the continuing development of our processing platforms.

Depreciation and amortization expense recorded on these investments is included in processing and servicing expense. Additionally, we capitalized salaries, fringe benefits and other expenses incurred by our employees that worked on internally developed software projects and we capitalized some outsourced programming expenses as well.

Amortization does not begin on the internally developed software until the project is complete and placed in service, at which time we begin to amortize the asset over expected lives of three to five years. The amount capitalized in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was \$19.4 million and \$16.9 million, respectively. The total amount of capitalized costs for projects placed in service in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was \$19.9 million and \$9.5 million, respectively.

General and administrative. General and administrative expenses increased \$11.9 million, or 13.0%, from \$91.7 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to \$103.6 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012. General and administrative expenses in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 included \$1.1 million and \$0.3 million, respectively for our periodic sales and servicing organization summit held in March 2012. Excluding these summit expenses, our general and administrative expenses in 2012 increased \$11.0 million, or 12.1%, primarily

due to a \$10.1 million increase in personnel costs, including a \$5.4 million increase for share-based compensation. Personnel costs from the Heartland School Solutions acquisitions are the primary drivers of the remaining increase. General and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 benefited from refined allocations of certain information technology related expenses, previously reported in general and administrative expense, now recorded in processing and servicing expense. Offsetting this benefit was the increase in personnel costs which included additional personnel costs relating to the acquisition of the Heartland School Solutions businesses and an increase in share-based compensation expense. See "— Critical Accounting Estimates — Share-based Compensation" for more detail on share-based compensation expense. General and administrative

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expenses as a percentage of total revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was 6.8%, an increase from 6.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Income from operations. As a result of the increase in net revenue and lower increases in processing and servicing expenses and general and administrative expenses, our income from operations, which we also refer to as operating income, improved to \$86.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, from \$57.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Our operating margin, which we measure as operating income divided by net revenue, was 21.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, compared to 16.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$2.5 million, compared to \$3.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Interest expense in both periods includes interest incurred under our Credit Facilities and interest we recorded on payables to our sponsor banks. The decline in interest expense primarily reflects lower borrowings due to payments we made on our Term Loan Facility. See “—Liquidity and Capital Resources —Credit Facility” for more detail on our borrowings.

Provision for processing system intrusion costs. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we incurred approximately \$0.5 million, or \$0.01 per share, for legal fees and costs incurred related to the Processing System Intrusion. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we expensed approximately \$0.8 million, or \$0.01 per share, related to the Processing System Intrusion.

Other income (expense), net. Other income (expense), net for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 included pre-tax charges of \$0.9 million related primarily to write downs of capitalized information technology development projects. Other income (expense), net for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 included pre-tax charges of \$0.8 million reflecting the estimated liability for costs (primarily accrued staff termination costs and fixed asset write downs) associated with the closing of our Johnson City, Tennessee service center.

Income taxes. Income tax expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$31.4 million, reflecting an effective tax rate of 38.0%. This compares to income tax expense of \$20.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, reflecting an effective tax rate of 37.8%.

Net income attributable to Heartland. As a result of the above factors, we recorded net income of \$50.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This compares to a net income of \$32.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Balance Sheet Information

| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Selected Balance Sheet Data | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$45,055 | \$40,301 |
| Funds held for payroll customers | 39,217 | 42,511 |
| Receivables, net | 185,923 | 176,535 |
| Capitalized customer acquisition costs, net | 56,450 | 55,014 |
| Property and equipment, net | 121,505 | 115,579 |
| Goodwill | 115,902 | 103,399 |
| Intangible assets, net | 35,856 | 32,498 |
| Total assets | 633,157 | 596,921 |
| Due to sponsor banks | 53,058 | 63,881 |
| Accounts payable | 61,989 | 47,373 |
| Deposits held for payroll customers | 39,217 | 42,511 |

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| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Borrowings: | | |
| Current portion | 18,750 | 15,003 |
| Long term portion | 55,000 | 70,000 |
| Accrued buyout liability: | | |
| Current portion | 10,152 | 8,104 |
| Long term portion | 24,441 | 23,554 |
| Total liabilities | 385,135 | 376,869 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 246,795 | 219,410 |

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September 30, 2012 Compared to December 31, 2011

Total assets increased \$36.2 million, or 6.1%, to \$633.2 million at September 30, 2012 from \$596.9 million at December 31, 2011, primarily due to increases in goodwill and intangible assets, receivables and fixed assets. Cash increased \$4.8 million, or 11.8%, primarily due to an increase in operating cash for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 (see “— Liquidity and Capital Resources” for more detail). The increase in total assets is partially offset by a \$3.3 million decrease in funds held for payroll customers, which is offset by an equal decrease in deposits held for payroll customers.

The increases in goodwill and intangibles are primarily due to the June 2012 acquisition of the Heartland School Solutions business, Lunch Byte Systems (see “— Liquidity and Capital Resources” for more detail).

Our receivables, which increased \$9.4 million, or 5.3% from December 31, 2011, are primarily due from our bankcard processing merchants and result in large part from our practice of advancing interchange fees to most of our SME merchants during the month and collecting those fees from our merchants at the beginning of the following month, as well as from transaction fees we charge merchants for processing transactions. Generally, these advances to our SME merchants are funded first with our available cash, then by incurring a payable to our sponsor banks when that cash has been expended. Our receivables from SME bankcard processing merchants increased \$6.2 million from December 31, 2011. At September 30, 2012, we used \$41.5 million of available cash to fund merchant advances and at December 31, 2011, we used \$40.0 million of available cash to fund merchant advances. The amount due to sponsor banks for funding advances was \$43.8 million at September 30, 2012 and \$45.2 million at December 31, 2011. The payable to sponsor banks is repaid at the beginning of the following month out of the fees we collect from our merchants. Receivables from merchants also include transaction fees due from Network Services Merchants, up approximately \$4.0 million from December 31, 2011, and receivables from the sale of point of sale terminal equipment. Total receivables also include amounts due from bankcard networks for pre-funding of Discover and American Express transactions to our merchants as well as amounts due from Visa for PIN debit transactions. These amounts are recovered from the networks the following business day from the date of processing the transaction and were down approximately \$3.1 million from December 31, 2011.

Total borrowings decreased \$11.3 million, or 13.2%, to \$73.8 million at September 30, 2012 from \$85.0 million at December 31, 2011, primarily due to \$11.3 million of amortization payments due and paid on our Term Credit Facility. See “— Liquidity and Capital Resources” for discussion of Credit Facilities.

Total stockholders' equity increased \$27.4 million from December 31, 2011 primarily due to recording net income of \$50.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Other increases in total stockholders' equity for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 included proceeds received from the exercise of stock options, tax benefits related to those stock option exercises and share-based compensation expense. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we repurchased \$49.2 million of our outstanding common stock and paid cash dividends of \$7.0 million. See “— Liquidity and Capital Resources” for discussions of common stock repurchases and dividends.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

General. Liquidity and capital resource management is a process focused on providing the funding we need to meet our short and long-term cash and working capital needs. We have used our funding sources to build our merchant portfolio, our servicing technology platforms, and our Jeffersonville, Indiana service center, and to make acquisitions with the expectation that these investments will generate cash flows sufficient to cover our working capital needs and other anticipated needs for capital.

Our cash requirements include funding payments to salespersons for signing bonuses, residual commissions and residual buyouts, paying interest expense and other operating expenses, including taxes, investing in our technology

infrastructure, and making acquisitions of businesses or assets. We expect that our future cash requirements will continue to include amounts used to repurchase our common stock as authorized by our Board of Directors.

Other than borrowings we had used to fund certain acquisitions and settlements of claims related to the Processing System Intrusion, we fund our cash needs primarily with cash flow from our operating activities and through our agreements with our sponsor banks to fund SME merchant advances. We believe that our current cash and investment balances, cash generated from operations and our agreements with our sponsor banks to fund SME merchant advances will provide sufficient liquidity to meet our anticipated needs for operating capital for at least the next twelve months. Working Capital. Our working capital, defined as current assets less current liabilities, was positive by \$25.0 million at September 30, 2012.

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At September 30, 2012, we had cash on our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet totaling \$45.1 million compared to \$40.3 million at December 31, 2011. Our cash balance included processing-related cash in transit and collateral of approximately \$27.4 million and \$28.0 million at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. As of September 30, 2012, we had used \$41.5 million of our available cash to fund SME merchant advances and at December 31, 2011, we had used \$40.0 million of our cash to fund advances.

On September 30, 2012, we had \$50.0 million available under our Revolving Credit Facility. See “— Credit Facilities” for more details.

Acquisitions. On January 12, 2011, February 4, 2011, September 30, 2011 and June 29, 2012 we acquired the Heartland School Solutions businesses of Comalex, Inc., mySchoolBucks, LLC, School-Link Technologies, Inc, and Lunch Byte Systems, Inc, respectively. We made cash payments of \$6.1 million, \$1.5 million, \$15.6 million and \$26.0 million, respectively, for the net assets of these four businesses. These acquisitions, which were funded through a combination of cash on hand and our Revolving Credit Facility, enable us to offer school nutrition and point-of-sale solutions including Internet payment capability enabling on-line deposits of funds into student accounts, to a wide base of schools, students and their parents. Comalex, mySchoolBucks, School-Link and Lunch Byte contributed approximately 3,700, 900, 10,000 and 10,000 schools, respectively, to our Heartland School Solutions product. These acquisitions, added to the December 30, 2010 acquisition of Lunchbox and its approximately 4,400 schools, have given us an almost 30% market share in this industry. We plan to consolidate the individual platforms and products of these acquired businesses to optimize synergies, cost efficiencies and product offerings to our customers.

The \$7.7 million cash payment for the Lunchbox acquisition in December 2010 was financed through a combination of cash on hand and our Revolving Credit Facility. We repaid the amount we borrowed under our Revolving Credit Facility in the first quarter of 2011.

Cash Flow Provided By Operating Activities. We reported net cash provided by operating activities of \$98.7 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2012, compared to \$75.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Cash provided by operating activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 included a \$16.7 million tax refund received from the carry back of our 2010 federal tax operating loss to prior years and \$16.8 million of tax payments for the 2011 nine-month period, while the 2012 nine month period reflected tax payments of \$25.2 million. Cash provided by operating activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 reflects the benefit of our increase in pre-tax income for the current year and increases in payables, especially as related to increased dues and fees due to the card networks.

Other major determinants of operating cash flow are net signing bonus payments, which consume operating cash as we install new merchants, and payouts on the accrued buyout liability, which represent the costs of buying out residual commissions owned by our salespersons. See “— Critical Accounting Estimates — Capitalized Customer Acquisition Costs” and “— Critical Accounting Estimates — Accrued Buyout Liability” for more information. We paid net signing bonuses of \$22.4 million and \$21.2 million, respectively, in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011. The increase in net signing bonuses paid during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 reflects a year-over-year improvement in newly installed gross margin. In the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, we reduced our accrued buyout liability by making buyout payments of \$9.4 million and \$8.7 million, respectively. Cash Flow Used In Investing Activities. Net cash used in investing activities was \$50.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, compared to \$53.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The amount of cash used in investing activities during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 included \$23.7 million, net of cash acquired, for the acquisition of Lunch Byte and during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 included \$23.2 million for the acquisitions of Comalex, mySchoolBucks and School-Link Technologies.

We made capital expenditures of \$25.0 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, compared to \$29.0 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Capital expenditures in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 include costs of \$6.4 million related to additions to our primary service center facility in Jeffersonville, Indiana. We also continue building our technology infrastructure and developing and expanding our operating platforms. To further develop our technology, we anticipate that these expenditures will continue near current levels.

Cash Flow Used In Financing Activities. Net cash used in financing activities was \$43.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and \$28.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

In both the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, we made term loan amortization payments of \$11.3 million due under our Term Credit Facility. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, we paid down \$26.0

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million and \$23.2 million, respectively, on our Revolving Credit Facility. See “— Credit Facilities” for more details. Cash used in financing activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 included cash for common stock repurchases. See “— Common Stock Repurchases” for more information on our common stock repurchase authorizations. We used \$48.2 million of cash to repurchase 1,674,423 shares of our common stock during the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

Cash dividends paid in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were \$7.0 million, compared to cash dividends paid of \$4.7 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011. See “— Dividends on Common Stock” for more information on our common stock dividends. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, employees exercised stock options generating cash proceeds in the aggregate of \$16.8 million and \$7.9 million, respectively. Credit Facilities. On November 24, 2010, we entered into a Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the “Credit Agreement”) with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent, and certain lenders who are a party to the Credit Agreement. Credit extended under the Credit Agreement is guaranteed by our subsidiaries and is secured by substantially all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries. The Credit Agreement amended and restated in its entirety our previous amended and restated credit agreement entered into on May 30, 2008, as amended, between us and certain of the parties to the Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement provides for a revolving credit facility in the aggregate amount of up to \$50 million (the “Revolving Credit Facility”), of which up to \$10 million may be used for the issuance of letters of credit and up to \$5 million is available for swing line loans. Upon the prior approval of the administrative agent, we may increase the total revolving commitments by \$50 million for a total commitment under the Revolving Credit Facility of \$100 million. On July 20, 2012, we entered into Amendment No. 1 (the “Amendment”) to the Credit Agreement. The Amendment amends the Credit Agreement by, among other things, allowing us to increase the total Revolving Credit Facility commitments from \$100 million to \$150 million upon the prior approval of the administrative agent. The Revolving Credit Facility is available to us on a revolving basis until November 24, 2015. All principal and interest not previously paid on the Revolving Credit Facility will mature and be due and payable on November 24, 2015.

The Credit Agreement also provides for a term credit facility in the aggregate amount of up to \$100 million (the “Term Credit Facility”). The Term Credit Facility requires amortization payments in the amount of \$3.75 million for each fiscal quarter during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and 2012, \$5.0 million for each fiscal quarter during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013 and 2014, and \$7.5 million for each fiscal quarter during the period commencing on January 1, 2015 through the maturity date on November 24, 2015. All principal and interest not previously paid on the Term Credit Facility will mature and be due and payable on November 24, 2015. The Credit Agreement contains covenants which include: maintenance of certain leverage and fixed charge coverage ratios; limitations on our indebtedness, liens on our properties and assets, investments in, and loans to other business units, our ability to enter into business combinations and asset sales; and certain other financial and non-financial covenants. These covenants also apply to certain of our subsidiaries. We were in compliance with these covenants as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 and expect we will remain in compliance with these covenants for at least the next twelve months.

At September 30, 2012, there was \$73.8 million outstanding under the Term Credit Facility and no borrowings outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility. At December 31, 2011, we had \$85.0 million outstanding under the Term Credit Facility and no borrowings outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility.

Common Stock Repurchases. On October 21, 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$50 million worth of our outstanding common stock. Repurchases under this program were completed by June 30, 2012. On July 27, 2012, our Board of Directors authorized a new program to repurchase up to \$50 million of our outstanding common stock. Repurchases under these programs were made through the open market in accordance

with applicable laws and regulations. We funded repurchases with cash flow from operations, existing cash on the balance sheet, and other sources including the proceeds of options exercises. At September 30, 2012, we had \$34.0 million remaining under the July 27, 2012 authorization to repurchase our common stock. In the month of October 2012, we completed all remaining repurchases authorized under this program. No common stock was repurchased in the nine months ended September 30, 2011. A summary of the repurchase activity under these authorizations is as follows:

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| | Three Months Ended | | | Total |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | December 31, 2011 | March 31, 2012 | June 30, 2012 | |
| October 2011 Authorization Shares Repurchased | 778,889 | 419,249 | 738,191 | 1,936,329 |
| Cost of Shares Repurchased | \$16.8 million | \$11.4 million | \$21.8 million | \$50.0 million |
| Average Cost Per Share | \$21.61 | \$27.16 | \$29.51 | \$25.82 |
| Remaining Authorization | \$33.2 million | \$21.8 million | — | — |

| | Three Months Ended | Month Ended | Total |
|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | September 30, 2012 | October 2012 | |
| July 2012 Authorization Shares Repurchased | 516,983 | 1,243,821 | 1,760,804 |
| Cost of Shares Repurchased | \$16.0 million | \$34.0 million | \$50.0 million |
| Average Cost Per Share | \$31.03 | \$27.30 | \$28.40 |
| Remaining Authorization | \$34.0 million | — | — |

On November 2, 2012, our Board of Directors authorized a new program to repurchase up to \$50 million of our outstanding common stock. Repurchases will be made in accordance with applicable securities laws in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. Depending on market conditions and other factors, these repurchases may be commenced or suspended from time to time without prior notice.

Dividends on Common Stock. The following table summarizes quarterly cash dividends declared and paid on our common stock during 2012 and 2011:

| Date Declared | Record Date | Date Paid | Amount Paid Per Common Share |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012: | | | |
| February 8, 2012 | March 2, 2012 | March 15, 2012 | \$0.06 |
| May 1, 2012 | May 24, 2012 | June 15, 2012 | \$0.06 |
| July 27, 2012 | August 24, 2012 | September 14, 2012 | \$0.06 |
| Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2011: | | | |
| February 16, 2011 | March 4, 2011 | March 15, 2011 | \$0.04 |
| May 13, 2011 | May 24, 2011 | June 15, 2011 | \$0.04 |
| August 2, 2011 | August 24, 2011 | September 15, 2011 | \$0.04 |
| October 21, 2011 | November 24, 2011 | December 15, 2011 | \$0.04 |

On November 1, 2012, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.06 per share of common stock, payable on December 14, 2012 to stockholders of record as of November 23, 2012.

Contractual Obligations. The card brand networks generally allow chargebacks up to four months after the later of the date the transaction is processed or the delivery of the product or service to the cardholder. If the merchant incurring the chargeback is unable to fund the refund to the card issuing bank, we must do so. As the majority of our SME transactions involve the delivery of the product or service at the time of the transaction, a good basis to estimate our

exposure to chargebacks is the last four months' bankcard processing volume on our SME portfolio, which was \$25.1 billion for the four months ended September 30, 2012 and \$22.3 billion for the four months ended December 31, 2011. However, during the four months ended September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, we were presented with \$12.0 million and \$12.2 million, respectively, of chargebacks by issuing banks. In the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and the year ended December 31, 2011, we incurred merchant credit losses of \$1.4 million and \$5.1 million, respectively, on total SME bankcard dollar volumes processed of \$54.1 billion and \$67.5 billion, respectively. These credit losses are included in processing and servicing expense in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

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The following table reflects our significant contractual obligations as of September 30, 2012:

| Contractual Obligations | Payments Due by Period | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Total | Less than 1 year | 1 to 3 years | 3 to 5 years | More than 5 years |
| | (in thousands) | | | | |
| Processing providers (a) | \$19,645 | \$7,678 | \$10,582 | \$1,385 | \$— |
| Telecommunications providers | 1,247 | 1,247 | — | — | — |
| Office and equipment leases | 24,647 | 7,732 | 8,095 | 4,204 | 4,616 |
| Term Credit Facility (b) | 73,750 | 18,750 | 47,500 | 7,500 | — |
| | \$119,289 | \$35,407 | \$66,177 | \$13,089 | \$4,616 |

We have agreements with several third-party processors to provide to us on a non-exclusive basis payment processing and transmittal, transaction authorization and data capture services, and access to various reporting tools. Our agreements with third-party processors require us to submit a minimum monthly number of transactions or volume for processing. If we submit a number of transactions or volume that is lower than the minimum, we are required to pay the third-party processors the fees that they would have received if we had submitted the required minimum number or volume of transactions.

(a)

Interest rates on the Term Credit Facility are variable in nature; however, in January 2011 we entered into fixed-pay amortizing interest rate swaps having an initial notional amount of \$50.0 million and a current notional amount of \$36.9 million. If interest rates were to remain at the September 30, 2012 level, we would make interest (b) payments of \$2.2 million in the next 1 year and \$2.4 million in the next 1 to 3 years or a total of \$4.6 million including net settlements on the fixed-pay amortizing interest rate swaps. In addition, we had no borrowings outstanding under our Revolving Credit Facility at September 30, 2012. The Revolving Credit Facility is available on a revolving basis until November 24, 2015.

Unrecognized Tax Benefits. At September 30, 2012, we had gross tax-effected unrecognized tax benefits of approximately \$2.5 million. See “— Critical Accounting Estimates — Income Taxes.” As of September 30, 2012 we are unable to make reasonably reliable estimates of the period of cash settlement with the respective taxing authority, hence the unrecognized tax benefits have been excluded from the above commitment and contractual obligations table.

Legal and Regulatory Considerations

The following is a description of material developments that occurred during the quarter ended September 30, 2012 in legal proceedings reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012.

On June 10, 2009, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (the “JPML”) entered an order centralizing the class action cases for pre-trial proceedings before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, under the caption *In re Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, MDL No. 2046, 4:09-md-2046. On August 24, 2009, the court appointed interim co-lead and liaison counsel for the financial institution and consumer plaintiffs.

On September 23, 2009, the financial institution plaintiffs filed a Master Complaint in the MDL proceedings, which we moved to dismiss on October 23, 2009. On December 1, 2011, the Court entered an order granting in part our motion to dismiss the financial institution plaintiffs' master complaint against us, but allowing the plaintiffs leave to amend to re-plead certain claims. Plaintiffs elected not to file an amended complaint. The parties then jointly moved for the entry of final judgment on those claims in the master complaint that the Court had dismissed. On August 16, 2012, the Court entered final judgment on the dismissed claims and, on September 17, 2012, Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal from that final judgment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Plaintiffs' principal brief is due December 5, 2012. On September 12, 2012, Plaintiffs stipulated to dismissal with prejudice of the remaining claims pending before the District Court.

On December 18, 2009, we and interim counsel for the consumer plaintiffs filed with the Court a proposed settlement agreement, subject to court approval, of the consumer class action claims. On May 3, 2010, the Court entered an order preliminarily certifying the settlement class, authorizing notice to the class to proceed, and scheduling a fairness hearing for December 10, 2010, which was later adjourned to December 13, 2010. On March 20, 2012, the Court issued a memorandum and opinion granting final approval to the settlement and on April 12, 2012, the Court entered a judgment, which has since become final.

In the ordinary course of our business, we are party to various legal proceedings, which we believe are incidental to the operation of our business. We believe that the outcome of the proceedings to which we are currently a party will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

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Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk. Our primary market risk exposure is to changes in interest rates.

We have interest rate risk related to our payable to our sponsor banks. Within our amount payable to our sponsor banks are balances which Wells Fargo Bank and Heartland Bank have advanced to our SME merchants for interchange fees. We fund these advances first by applying a portion of our available cash and then by incurring a significant payable to our sponsor banks, bearing interest at the prime rate. At September 30, 2012, our payable to sponsor banks included \$43.8 million for funding interchange advances to our SME merchants. This payable is repaid on the first business day of the following month out of fees collected from our merchants. During the quarter ended September 30, 2012 the average daily interest-bearing balance of that payable was approximately \$17.3 million. The outstanding balance of our payable to our sponsor banks is directly related to our bankcard processing volume and also will fluctuate depending on the amount of our available cash. A hypothetical 100 basis point change in short-term interest rates applied to our average payable to sponsor banks would result in a change of approximately \$173,000 in annual pre-tax income.

We also incur interest rate risk on borrowings under our Credit Agreement. The Credit Agreement provides for a Revolving Credit Facility of \$50.0 million and a Term Credit Facility of \$100.0 million. At September 30, 2012, there was \$73.8 million outstanding under the Term Credit Facility and no outstanding balance under the Revolving Credit Facility. The Term Credit Facility requires amortization payments in the amount of \$3.75 million for each fiscal quarter during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and 2012, \$5.0 million for each fiscal quarter during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013 and 2014, and \$7.5 million for each fiscal quarter during the period commencing on January 1, 2015 through the maturity date on November 24, 2015. Under the terms of the Credit Agreement, we may borrow, at our option, at interest rates equal to one, two, three or six month adjusted LIBOR rates, or equal to the greater of the prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.50% and the adjusted LIBOR rate plus 1%, in each case plus a margin determined by our current leverage ratio. In January 2011, we entered into fixed-pay amortizing interest rate swaps having an initial notional amount of \$50.0 million on the variable rate debt outstanding under the Term Credit Facility. These interest rate swaps convert that initial notional amount to fixed rate. At September 30, 2012, the remaining notional amount of these interest rate swaps was \$36.9 million. At September 30, 2012, there was no outstanding balance on the Revolving Credit Facility which was used to fund the acquisition of Lunch Byte and was repaid in July 2012. The impact which a hypothetical 100 basis point increase in short-term interest rates would have on our outstanding September 30, 2012 balances under the Credit Agreement would be a decline of approximately \$369,000 in annual pre-tax income, including the effect from interest rate swaps.

While the bulk of our cash and cash-equivalents are held in checking accounts or money market funds, we do hold certain fixed-income investments with maturities within three years. At September 30, 2012, a hypothetical 100 basis point increase in short-term interest rates would result in an increase of approximately \$53,000 in annual pre-tax income from money market fund holdings, but a decrease in the value of fixed-rate investments of approximately \$27,000. A hypothetical 100 basis point decrease in short-term interest rates would result in a decrease of approximately \$53,000 in annual pre-tax income from money market funds, but an increase in the value of fixed-rate instruments of approximately \$27,000.

Foreign Currency Risk. While substantially all of our business is conducted in U.S. dollars, our 70% owned Canadian processing subsidiary, CPOS, conducts its operations in Canadian dollars. Consequently, a portion of CPOS' revenues and expenses may be affected by fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. We are also affected by fluctuations in exchange rates on assets and liabilities related to our CPOS subsidiary. We have not hedged our translation risk on foreign currency exposure. For the year ended December 31, 2011, foreign currency exposures had an immaterial impact on our revenues and our net income. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, fluctuations in exchange

rates on CPOS' assets and liabilities increased our total other comprehensive income and noncontrolling interests by \$464,000.

We do not hold or engage in the trading of foreign exchange instruments.

Office Facilities

At September 30, 2012, we owned one facility and leased nineteen facilities which we use for operational, sales and administrative purposes.

Our principal executive offices are located in approximately 9,300 square feet of leased office space on Nassau Street in Princeton, New Jersey. The Nassau Street lease expires in May 2013.

We own 35 acres of land in Jeffersonville, Indiana, on which we constructed our credit card operations and service center. The state-of-the-art facility is comprised of 238,000 square feet of space supporting customer service, operations,

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deployment, day care, fitness, cafeteria, and large company meetings.

We also leased the following facilities as of September 30, 2012:

| Location | Square Feet | Expiration |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Auburn, Alabama | 2,382 | April 30, 2014 |
| Chattanooga, Tennessee | 9,461 | June 30, 2014 |
| Cleveland, Ohio | 41,595 | June 30, 2019 |
| Colorado Springs, Colorado | 9,920 | February 28, 2015 |
| Edmond, Oklahoma | 1,446 | January 31, 2013 |
| Harlan, Kentucky | 5,000 | May 25, 2014 |
| Johnson City, Tennessee | 5,252 | April 17, 2014 |
| Phoenix, Arizona | 1,284 | April 30, 2013 |
| Phoenix, Arizona | 1,930 | October 31, 2012 |
| Plano, Texas | 53,976 | May 31, 2015 for 26,988 square feet. January 14, 2019 for 26,988 square feet. |
| Plano, Texas | 26,020 | January 31, 2015 |
| Portland, Oregon | 11,564 | September 30, 2013 |
| Rochester, New York | 18,000 | June 30, 2023 |
| Tempe, Arizona | 14,315 | September 30, 2014 |
| Tempe, Arizona | 2,500 | September 30, 2014 |
| Toronto, Ontario, Canada | 14,094 | July 31, 2020 |
| West Windsor Township, New Jersey | 5,288 | May 31, 2013 |
| West Windsor Township, New Jersey | 4,886 | May 31, 2013 |

We believe that our facilities are suitable and adequate for our current business operations and, if necessary, could be replaced with little disruption to our company. We periodically review our space requirements and may acquire new space to meet our business needs or consolidate and dispose of or sublet facilities which are no longer required.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations –Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.”

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) and Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”), we evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“the Exchange Act”) as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Based upon that evaluation, our CEO and CFO concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective and provided reasonable assurance that the information required to be disclosed by us in reports filed under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms, and are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in those reports is accumulated and communicated to management, including our CEO and CFO, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system will be met. In addition, the design of any control system is based, in part, upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. Because of these and other inherent limitations of control systems, there is only reasonable assurance that our controls will succeed in achieving their goals under all potential future conditions.

Changes in Internal Controls

During the quarter ended September 30, 2012, there was no change in our internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13 a-15(f) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

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Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Except as disclosed in “Legal and Regulatory Considerations” of Part I of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, there were no material developments that occurred since the filing of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 in the proceedings reported under Part I, Item 3. Legal Proceedings in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, nor are we aware of any other material legal proceedings initiated against us during such time.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes in our Risk Factors as previously reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

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

(a) None

(b) None

(c) Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

Common Stock Repurchases. On October 21, 2011, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$50 million worth of the Company's outstanding common stock. Repurchases under this program were made through the open market in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Company funded repurchases with cash flow from operations, existing cash on the balance sheet, and other sources including the proceeds of options exercises.

Under the October 21, 2011 authorization from its Board of Directors, during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and the year ended December 31, 2011, respectively, the Company repurchased an aggregate of 1,157,440 shares of its common stock at a total cost of \$33.2 million, at an average cost of \$28.66 per share, and 778,889 shares of its common stock at a total cost of \$16.8 million, at an average cost of \$21.61 per share. No common stock was repurchased in the nine months ended September 30, 2011. At September 30, 2012, the Company had no amounts remaining under the October 21, 2011 authorization to repurchase its common stock.

On July 27, 2012, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a new program to repurchase up to \$50 million of the Company's outstanding common stock under essentially the same terms as the October 21, 2011 program. Under this authorization, during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 the Company repurchased an aggregate of 516,983 shares of its common stock at a total cost of \$16.0 million, at an average cost of \$31.03 per share. At September 30, 2012, the Company had \$34.0 million remaining under the July 27, 2012 authorization to repurchase its common stock. In the month of October 2012, the Company completed all remaining repurchases authorized under this program. No common stock was repurchased in the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

The following table presents information with respect to those purchases of our common stock made during the three months ended September 30, 2012:

| | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs | Maximum number (or approximate dollar value) of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (In thousands) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| July 1— 31, 2012 | — | \$— | — | \$50,000 |
| August 1— 31, 2012 | 295,003 | 30.58 | 295,003 | 40,978 |

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| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| September 1 — 30, 2012 | 221,980 | 31.64 | 221,980 | 33,956 |
| Total | 516,983 | \$31.03 | 516,983 | |

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not Applicable

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Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit
Number

Description

- *10.1 Merchant BIN and ICA Sponsorship and Services Agreement entered into by and between Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. and The Bancorp Bank as of November 23, 2009.
 - *31.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
 - *31.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
 - *32.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
 - *32.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- The following financial information from the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, formatted in XBRL ("Extensible Business Reporting Language") and furnished electronically herewith: (i) the Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income; (ii) The Consolidated Balance Sheets; (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow; (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Equity; and (v) the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

* Filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

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

Date: November 6, 2012

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

(Registrant)

By: /S/ ROBERT O. CARR
Robert O. Carr
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

By: /S/ Maria Rueda
Maria Rueda
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

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*Filed herewith.