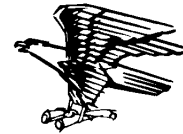


ALTA NEWS

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**AMERICAN
LAND TITLE
ASSOCIATION**



For Immediate Release

ALTA RELEASES TITLE INDUSTRY THIRD QUARTER 2008 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Washington, D.C., December 23, 2008— The American Land Title Association today released financial results for the title industry for the third quarter of 2008, reporting an operating loss of \$332.1 million, compared to an operating gain of \$168.7 million for same period in 2007.

The 3rd Quarter of 2008 marked the 10th consecutive quarter in which title premiums written declined from the prior year's equivalent quarter. Furthermore, each successive quarter's decline was greater than the previous quarter. The third quarter 2007 decline was more than 15%, the fourth quarter decline was 22%, the first quarter 2008 decline was over 26%, the second quarter 2008 declined almost 28%, and the third quarter declined over 30%, indicating that poor markets not only continue through the current year, but were still worsening through the third quarter.

Despite these struggles, the industry remains in a very strong financial position with Admitted Assets of over \$9.5 billion, including over \$8 billion in Cash and Invested Assets. Also, Statutory Reserves were in excess of \$5.3 billion and Statutory Surplus was at almost \$2.6 billion.

Title Insurance Industry Market Share and Financial Statement compilations for the third quarter of 2008 are now available on the ALTA website (www.alta.org/industry/financial.cfm).

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