

Title Insurance Industry Market Share and Financial Statement compilations for the 3rd Quarter of 2009 are now available on the ALTA website (www.alta.org/industry/financial.cfm).

Due to improved market conditions, the title insurance industry reported a substantial increase in its performance for the 3rd Quarter of 2009 over the earlier quarters this year, as well as over the 3rd Quarter of 2008.

Third Quarter Operating Income increased 7% over last year, while Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses were down 7% and Operating Expenses and Deductions were down 4%. This, coupled with a \$200 million increase in Net Investment Gain resulted in 3rd Quarter Net Income of \$376 million as compared to a Net Loss last year of \$76.3 million.

For the first nine months of 2009, Operating Income was down 10%, while Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses were down 29% and Operating Expenses and Deductions were down 12%, producing a nine month 2009 Operating Gain of \$19.4 million versus a nine month Operating Loss of \$334.4 million in 2008. Net Investment Gain was up by \$226 million or 114%, resulting in Net Income of \$370 million versus a 2008 Net Loss of \$41.9 million.

Consequently, the industry remains in a strong financial position at September 30th, with Admitted Assets of over \$8.6 billion, including over \$7.4 billion in Cash and Invested Assets. Also, Statutory Reserves were almost \$5 billion and Statutory Surplus exceeded \$2.3 billion.

After 13 consecutive quarters in which title premiums written declined from the prior year's equivalent quarter, the 3rd Quarter of 2009 ended this string by reporting an increase of 1.4% in title premiums written compared to the 3rd Quarter of 2008.

On a state-by-state basis, 32 states showed 3rd Quarter 2009 written premiums increasing over 3rd Quarter 2008 and only 18 states, plus the District of Columbia recording decreases. Six states were up over 30%, led by Alaska, up 76.3%, Rhode Island at 57% and Iowa at 56%. Of those reporting decreases, only two declined more than 30% - Kansas, down 36% and Mississippi at 33%. Of the six largest states, California (#1), was up 13%, Pennsylvania (#5) up 5% and New Jersey (#6) up 36%. Texas (#2), Florida (#3) and New York (#4) were down 10%, 16% and 26%, respectively.