

NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP  
Form 10-K  
February 15, 2013

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549  
FORM 10-K

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

for the fiscal year ended DECEMBER 31, 2012

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

for the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 1-8339

NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Virginia (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	52-1188014 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
Three Commercial Place Norfolk, Virginia	23510-2191 Zip Code
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (757) 629-2680	

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

Title of each Class	Name of each exchange on which registered
---------------------	---

Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

Norfolk Southern Corporation  
Common Stock (Par Value \$1.00)

New York Stock Exchange

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or Section 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 (X) 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 Regulations S-T during the preceding 12 months. Yes (X) No ( )

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

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

Large accelerated filer (X) Accelerated filer ( ) Non-accelerated filer ( ) Smaller reporting company ( )

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

The aggregate market value of the voting common equity held by non-affiliates at June 30, 2012, was \$22,858,970,932 (based on the closing price as quoted on the New York Stock Exchange on that date).

The number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, at January 31, 2013: 314,516,374 (excluding 20,320,777 shares held by the registrant's consolidated subsidiaries).

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

Portions of the Registrant's definitive proxy statements to be filed electronically pursuant to Regulation 14A not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year, are incorporated herein by reference in Part III.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

	Page
Part I. Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties	K3
Item 1A. Risk Factors	K13
Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments	K16
Item 3. Legal Proceedings	K16
Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures	K16
Executive Officers of the Registrant	K17
Part II. Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	K18
Item 6. Selected Financial Data	K19
Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	K20
Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	K37
Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	K38
Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	K78
Item 9A. Controls and Procedures	K78
Item 9B. Other Information	K78
Part III. Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance	K79
Item 11. Executive Compensation	K79
Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	K80
Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	K83
Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services	K83
Part IV. Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statements Schedules	K84
Power of Attorney	K99
Signatures	K99

## PART I

### NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### Item 1. Business and Item 2. Properties

GENERAL – Norfolk Southern Corporation is a Norfolk, Virginia based company that owns a major freight railroad, Norfolk Southern Railway Company. Norfolk Southern Corporation was incorporated on July 23, 1980, under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our common stock (Common Stock) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol “NSC.”

Unless indicated otherwise, Norfolk Southern Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Norfolk Southern Railway Company, are referred to collectively as NS, we, us, and our.

We are primarily engaged in the rail transportation of raw materials, intermediate products, and finished goods primarily in the Southeast, East, and Midwest and, via interchange with rail carriers, to and from the rest of the United States. We also transport overseas freight through several Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports. We provide comprehensive logistics services and offer the most extensive intermodal network in the eastern half of the United States.

We make available free of charge through our website, [www.nscorp.com](http://www.nscorp.com), our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In addition, the following documents are available on our website and in print to any shareholder who requests them:

- Corporate Governance Guidelines
- Charters of the Committees of the Board of Directors
- The Thoroughbred Code of Ethics
- Code of Ethical Conduct for Senior Financial Officers
- Categorical Independence Standards for Directors

K3

RAILROAD OPERATIONS – At December 31, 2012, our railroads operated approximately 20,000 miles of road in 22 states and the District of Columbia.

Our system reaches many individual industries, electric generating facilities, mines (in western Virginia, eastern Kentucky, southern and northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania), distribution centers, transload facilities, and other businesses located in our service area.

Corridors with heaviest freight volume:

- New York City area to Chicago (via Allentown and Pittsburgh)
- Chicago to Macon (via Cincinnati, Chattanooga, and Atlanta)

Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

- Appalachian coal fields of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky to Norfolk, Virginia and Sandusky, Ohio
- Cleveland to Kansas City
- Birmingham to Meridian
- Memphis to Chattanooga

K4



The miles operated, which include major leased lines between Cincinnati, Ohio, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, and an exclusive operating agreement for trackage rights over property owned by North Carolina Railroad Company, were as follows:

Mileage Operated at December 31, 2012

	Miles of Road	Second and Other Main Track	Passing Track, Crossovers and Turnouts	Way and Yard Switching	Total
Owned	15,375	2,780	2,001	8,292	28,448
Operated under lease, contract or trackage rights	4,648	1,881	381	802	7,712
Total	20,023	4,661	2,382	9,094	36,160

Triple Crown Operations - Triple Crown Services Company (Triple Crown), one of our subsidiaries, provides bimodal truckload transportation service utilizing RoadRailer® trailers, a hybrid technology that facilitates both over-the-road and on-the-rail transportation utilizing enclosed trailers that are pulled over the highways in tractor-trailer configuration and over the rails by locomotives. In addition, Triple Crown utilizes conventional trailers that are also moved on rail flatcars. Triple Crown provides service in the eastern United States as well as Ontario and Quebec through a network of terminals strategically located in 13 cities.

The following table sets forth certain statistics relating to our railroads' operations for the past 5 years:

	Years ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Revenue ton miles (billions)	186	192	182	159	195
Freight train miles traveled (millions)	76.3	75.7	72.6	67.5	80.0
Revenue per ton mile	\$0.0595	\$0.0582	\$0.0523	\$0.0503	\$0.0546
Revenue ton miles per employee-hour worked	3,153	3,207	3,218	2,900	3,075
Ratio of railway operating expenses to railway operating revenues	71.7%	71.2%	71.9%	75.4%	71.1%

RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES – Total railway operating revenues were \$11.0 billion in 2012. Following is an overview of our three major market groups.

COAL – Coal is our largest commodity group as measured by revenues. Revenues from coal accounted for about 26% of our total railway operating revenues in 2012. We handled a total of 156.1 million tons, or 1.4 million carloads, in 2012, most of which originated on our lines from major eastern coal basins, with the balance from major western coal basins via Memphis and Chicago gateways. Our coal franchise supports the electric generation market, serving approximately 100 coal generation plants, as well as the export, metallurgical and industrial markets primarily through direct rail and river, lake, and coastal facilities, including various terminals on the Ohio River, Lambert’s Point in Norfolk, Virginia, the Port of Baltimore, and Lake Erie.

See the discussion of coal revenues and tonnage, by type of coal, in Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

K5

GENERAL MERCHANDISE – Our general merchandise market group is composed of five major commodity groupings: chemicals; agriculture, consumer products and government; metals and construction; automotive; and paper, clay and forest products.

- Chemicals includes sulfur and related chemicals, petroleum products, chlorine and bleaching compounds, plastics, rubber, industrial chemicals, chemical wastes, and municipal wastes.
- Agriculture, consumer products, and government includes soybeans, wheat, corn, fertilizer, livestock and poultry feed, food oils, flour, beverages, canned goods, sweeteners, consumer products, ethanol, and items for the military.
- Metals and construction includes steel, aluminum products, machinery, scrap metals, cement, aggregates, bricks, and minerals.
- Automotive includes finished vehicles for BMW, Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Toyota and Volkswagen, and auto parts for Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Subaru, and Toyota.
- Paper, clay and forest products includes lumber and wood products, pulp board and paper products, wood fibers, wood pulp, scrap paper, and clay.

In 2012, 119 million tons of general merchandise freight, or approximately 65% of total general merchandise tonnage we handled, originated online. The balance of general merchandise freight was received from connecting carriers at interterritorial gateways. Our principal interchange points for received freight included Chicago, New Orleans, East St. Louis, Memphis, Buffalo, and Detroit. General merchandise carloads handled in 2012 were 2.3 million, the revenues from which accounted for 54% of our total railway operating revenues.

See the discussion of general merchandise revenues by commodity group in Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

INTERMODAL – Our intermodal market group consists of shipments moving in trailers, domestic and international containers, and RoadRailer® equipment. These shipments are handled on behalf of intermodal marketing companies, international steamship lines, truckers, and other shippers. Intermodal units handled in 2012 were 3.4 million, the revenues from which accounted for 20% of our total railway operating revenues.

See the discussion of intermodal revenues in Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

FREIGHT RATES – In 2012, we continued our reliance on private contracts and exempt price quotes as the predominant pricing mechanisms. Thus, a major portion of our freight business is not currently economically regulated by the government. In general, market forces have been substituted for government regulation and now are the primary determinant of rail service prices.

In 2012, our railroads were found by the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the regulatory board that has broad jurisdiction over railroad practices, to be “revenue adequate” on an annual basis based on results for the year 2011. The STB has not made its revenue adequacy determination for the year 2012. A railroad is “revenue adequate” on an annual basis under the applicable law when its return on net investment exceeds the rail industry’s composite cost of capital. This determination is made pursuant to a statutory requirement.

K6

PASSENGER OPERATIONS – Amtrak operates regularly scheduled passenger trains on our lines between the following locations:

- Alexandria and Lynchburg, Virginia
- Alexandria and Orange, Virginia
- Petersburg and Norfolk, Virginia
- Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina
- Selma and Charlotte, North Carolina
- Chicago, Illinois, and Porter, Indiana
- Chicago, Illinois, and Cleveland, Ohio
- Chicago, Illinois, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, Michigan
- Kalamazoo and Detroit, Michigan
- Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Two transportation commissions of the Commonwealth of Virginia operate commuter trains on our line between Manassas and Alexandria.

We lease the Chicago to Manhattan, Illinois, line to the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority of Northeast Illinois (METRA).

We operate freight service over lines with significant ongoing Amtrak and commuter passenger operations, and conduct freight operations over trackage owned or leased by:

- Amtrak
- New Jersey Transit
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
- Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company

- Maryland Department of Transportation

Amtrak and various commuter agencies conduct passenger operations over trackage owned by Conrail in the Shared Assets Areas (Note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements).

NONCARRIER OPERATIONS – Our noncarrier subsidiaries engage principally in the acquisition, leasing, and management of coal, oil, gas and minerals; the development of commercial real estate; telecommunications; and the leasing or sale of rail property and equipment. In 2012, no such noncarrier subsidiary or industry segment grouping of noncarrier subsidiaries met the requirements for a reportable business segment under relevant authoritative accounting guidance.

#### RAILWAY PROPERTY

Our railroad system extends across 22 states and the District of Columbia. The railroad infrastructure makes us capital intensive with net property of approximately \$26 billion on a historical cost basis.

Property Additions – Property additions for the past five years were as follows (including capitalized leases):

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
	(\$ in millions)				
Road and all other property	\$1,465	\$1,222	\$1,153	\$1,128	\$1,070
Equipment	776	938	317	171	488
Total	\$2,241	\$2,160	\$1,470	\$1,299	\$1,558

K7

Our capital spending and replacement programs are and have been designed to assure the ability to provide safe, efficient, and reliable rail transportation services. For 2013, we have budgeted \$2.0 billion of property additions.

We have invested and will continue to invest in various projects and corridor initiatives to expand our rail network to increase capacity and improve transit times, while returning value to shareholders. Initiatives include the following:

- The MidAmerica Corridor is a proposed arrangement between us and Canadian National Railway (CN) to share track between Chicago, St. Louis, Kentucky, and Mississippi in order to establish more efficient routes for shipments moving between the Midwest and Southeast, including potential shipments from CN-served Illinois Basin coal producers to southeastern utility plants we serve.
- Pan Am Southern LLC, a joint venture with Pan Am Railways, Inc., is a 155-mile main line track that runs between Mechanicville, New York and Ayer, Massachusetts, along with 281 miles of secondary and branch lines, including trackage rights in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont designed to increase intermodal and automotive capacity.
- The Crescent Corridor consists of a program of projects for infrastructure and other facility improvements geared toward creating seamless, high-capacity intermodal routes spanning 11 states from New Jersey to Louisiana and offering truck-competitive service along several major interstate highway corridors, including I-81, I-85, I-20, I-40, I-59, I-78, and I-75.
- The Heartland Corridor, which opened in 2010, was a package of clearance improvements and other facilities that created a seamless, high-capacity intermodal route across Virginia and West Virginia to Midwest markets.
- Meridian Speedway LLC, a joint venture with Kansas City Southern, is a 320-mile rail line between Meridian, Mississippi and Shreveport, Louisiana designed to increase capacity and improve service.
- The CREATE project is a public-private partnership to reduce rail and highway congestion and add freight and passenger capacity in the metropolitan Chicago area. We and other railroads have agreed to participate in CREATE.

Equipment – At December 31, 2012, we owned or leased the following units of equipment:

	Owned*	Leased**	Total	Capacity of Equipment (Horsepower)
Locomotives:				
Multiple purpose	3,763	79	3,842	13,606,600
Auxiliary units	122	-	122	-
Switching	110	-	110	165,250
Total locomotives	3,995	79	4,074	13,771,850
(Tons)				
Freight cars:				
Gondola	33,820	3,839	37,659	4,098,830
Hopper	15,234	521	15,755	1,737,636
Box	12,356	1,470	13,826	1,151,821
Covered hopper	10,558	158	10,716	1,182,466
Flat	2,506	1,133	3,639	335,196
Other	4,608	87	4,695	225,067
Total freight cars	79,082	7,208	86,290	8,731,016
Other:				
Highway trailers and containers	8,199	8,179	16,378	
RoadRailer®	6,378	27	6,405	
Work equipment	4,525	313	4,838	
Vehicles	4,011	-	4,011	
Miscellaneous	12,765	9,031	21,796	
Total other	35,878	17,550	53,428	

\* Includes equipment leased to outside parties and equipment subject to equipment trusts, conditional sale agreements, and capitalized leases.

\*\* Includes short-term and long-term operating leases. Freight cars include 521 leased from Consolidated Rail Corporation (CRC).

The following table indicates the number and year built for locomotives and freight cars owned at December 31, 2012:

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2003- 2007	1998- 2002	1997 & Before	Total
--	------	------	------	------	------	---------------	---------------	------------------	-------



Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

Locomotives:

No. of units	60	90	42	-	40	628	648	2,487	3,995
% of fleet	2%	2%	1%	-%	1%	16%	16%	62%	100%

Freight cars:

No. of units	2,025	3,840	150	514	2,349	1,691	3,317	65,196	79,082
% of fleet	3%	5%	-%	1%	3%	2%	4%	82%	100%

K9

The following table shows the average age of our owned locomotive and freight car fleets at December 31, 2012, and information regarding 2012 retirements:

	Locomotives	Freight Cars
Average age – in service	21.6 years	30.2 years
Retirements	49 units	2,482 cars
Average age – retired	41.2 years	42.4 years

Our ongoing locomotive and freight car maintenance programs are intended to ensure the highest standards of safety, reliability, customer satisfaction, and equipment availability. The locomotive bad order ratio includes all units (owned and leased) out of service for required periodic inspections, unscheduled maintenance and program work which includes such activity as overhauls.

	Annual Average Bad Order Ratio				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Locomotives	7.1%	7.3%	6.7%	6.1%	5.8%
Freight cars	5.3%	5.7%	5.8%	4.5%	4.5%

Encumbrances – Certain railroad equipment is subject to the prior lien of equipment financing obligations totaling \$34 million at December 31, 2012.

Track Maintenance – Of the approximately 36,160 total miles of track we operate, we are responsible for maintaining about 29,220 miles, with the remainder being operated under trackage rights from other parties responsible for maintenance.

Over 81% of the main line trackage (including first, second, third, and branch main tracks, all excluding rail operated pursuant to trackage rights) has rail ranging from 131 to 155 pounds per yard with the standard installation currently at 136 pounds per yard. Approximately 42% of our lines, excluding rail operated pursuant to trackage rights, carried 20 million or more gross tons per track mile during 2012.

The following table summarizes several measurements regarding our track roadway additions and replacements during the past five years:

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Track miles of rail installed	509	484	422	434	459

Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

Miles of track surfaced	5,642	5,441	5,326	5,568	5,209
New crossties installed (millions)	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7

Microwave System – Our microwave system, consisting of approximately 6,968 radio route miles, 421 core stations, 30 secondary stations, and four passive repeater stations, provides communications between most operating locations. We use the microwave system primarily for voice communications, VHF radio control circuits, data and facsimile transmissions, traffic control operations, and AEI data transmissions.

Traffic Control – Of the approximately 16,500 route miles we dispatch, about 11,025 miles are signalized, including 8,150 miles of centralized traffic control (CTC) and 2,875 miles of automatic block signals. Of the 8,150 miles of CTC, approximately 5,100 miles are controlled by data radio originating at 340 base station radio sites.

Computers – A computer network consisting of a centralized production and backup data center near Atlanta, Georgia, and various distributed computers throughout the company connects the yards, terminals, transportation offices, rolling stock repair points, sales offices, and other key system locations. Operating and traffic data are processed and stored to provide customers with information on their shipments throughout the system. Computer systems provide current information on the location of every train and each car on line, as well as related waybill and other train and car movement data. In addition, our computer systems assist us in the performance of a

K10

variety of functions and services including payroll, car and revenue accounting, billing, material management activities and controls, and special studies.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS** – Compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment is a principal goal of ours. To date, such compliance has not had a material effect on our financial position, results of operations, liquidity, or competitive position. See “Legal Proceedings,” Part I, Item 3; “Personal Injury, Environmental, and Legal Liabilities” in Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” and Note 16 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**EMPLOYEES** – The following table shows the average number of employees and the average cost per employee for wages and benefits:

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Average number of employees	30,943	30,329	28,559	28,593	30,709
Average wage cost per employee	\$69,000	\$71,000	\$69,000	\$63,000	\$66,000
Average benefit cost per employee	\$38,000	\$39,000	\$37,000	\$32,000	\$31,000

More than 80% of our railroad employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements with various labor unions. See the discussion of “Labor Agreements” in Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

**GOVERNMENT REGULATION** – In addition to environmental, safety, securities, and other regulations generally applicable to all business, our railroads are subject to regulation by the STB. The STB has jurisdiction over some rates, routes, fuel surcharges, conditions of service, and the extension or abandonment of rail lines. The STB also has jurisdiction over the consolidation, merger, or acquisition of control of and by rail common carriers. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulates certain track and mechanical equipment standards.

The relaxation of economic regulation of railroads, following the Staggers Rail Act of 1980, included exemption from STB regulation of the rates and most service terms for intermodal business (trailer-on-flat-car, container-on-flat-car), rail boxcar shipments, lumber, manufactured steel, automobiles, and certain bulk commodities such as sand, gravel, pulpwood, and wood chips for paper manufacturing. Further, all shipments that we have under contract are effectively removed from regulation for the duration of the contract. About 86% of our revenues comes from either exempt shipments or shipments moving under transportation contracts; the remainder comes from shipments moving under public tariff rates.

Efforts have been made over the past several years to re-subject the rail industry to increased federal economic regulation, and such efforts are expected to continue in 2013. The Staggers Rail Act of 1980, which substantially balanced such regulation, encouraged and enabled rail carriers to innovate, invest in their infrastructure, and compete for business, thereby contributing to the economic health of the nation and to the revitalization of the industry. Accordingly, we will continue to oppose efforts to reimpose increased economic regulation.

Government regulations concerning the safety and security of our railroads are discussed within the “Security of Operations” section contained herein.

**COMPETITION** – There is continuing strong competition among rail, water, and highway carriers. Price is usually only one factor of importance as shippers and receivers choose a transport mode and specific hauling company. Inventory carrying costs, service reliability, ease of handling, and the desire to avoid loss and damage during transit are also important considerations, especially for higher-valued finished goods, machinery, and consumer products. Even for raw materials, semi-finished goods, and work-in-progress, users are increasingly sensitive to transport arrangements that minimize problems at successive production stages.

K11

Our primary rail competitor is CSX Corporation; both railroads operate throughout much of the same territory. Other railroads also operate in parts of the territory. We also compete with motor carriers, water carriers, and with shippers who have the additional options of handling their own goods in private carriage, sourcing products from different geographic areas, and using substitute products.

Certain marketing strategies among railroads and between railroads and motor carriers enable railroads to compete more effectively in specific markets.

**SECURITY OF OPERATIONS** – We have taken significant steps to provide enhanced security for our rail system. In particular, we have developed and implemented a comprehensive security plan that is modeled on and was developed in conjunction with the security plan prepared by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) post September 11, 2001. The AAR Security Plan defines four Alert Levels and details the actions and countermeasures that are being applied across the railroad industry as a terrorist threat increases or decreases. The Alert Level actions include countermeasures that will be applied in three general areas: (1) operations (including transportation, engineering, and mechanical); (2) information technology and communications; and, (3) railroad police. Although security concerns preclude public disclosure of its contents, our System Security Plan outlines the protocol within our company for all concerned to be notified of AAR Alert Level changes. All of our Operations Division employees are advised by their supervisors or train dispatchers, as appropriate, of any change in Alert Level and any additional responsibilities they may incur due to such change.

Our plan also effectively addresses and complies with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) security regulations pertaining to training and security plans with respect to the transportation of hazardous materials. As part of the plan, security awareness training is given to all railroad employees who directly affect hazardous material transportation safety, and this training is integrated into recurring hazardous material training and re-certification programs. Toward that end, we, working closely with the National Transit Institute at Rutgers University, have developed a four-module uniform national training program. We have also worked with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in developing other industry training programs. More in-depth security training has been given to select employees of ours who have been given specific security responsibilities, and additional, location-specific security plans have been developed for certain metropolitan areas and each of the six port facilities we serve. With respect to the ports, each facility plan has been approved by the applicable Captain of the Port and is subject to inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Additionally, we engage in close and regular coordination with numerous federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the TSA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the FRA, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and various state Homeland Security offices. As one notable example, one of our Police Special Agents in Charge (SAC), under the auspices of the AAR, has been assigned to the National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF) operated by the FBI, and located at the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) in Arlington, Virginia to represent and serve as liaison to the North American rail industry. This arrangement improves logistical flow of vital security and law enforcement information with respect to the rail industry as a whole, while having the post filled by one of our SACs has also served to foster a strong working

relationship between us and the FBI. We also have become a member of the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program sponsored by U.S. Customs. C-TPAT allows us to work closely with U.S. Customs and our customers to develop measures that will help ensure the integrity of freight shipments moving on our railroads, particularly those moving to or from a foreign country. Based on participation in C-TPAT, we have ensured that our plan meets all current applicable security recommendations made by U.S. Customs.

Similarly, we are guided in our operations by various supplemental security action items issued by DHS and DOT, U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Security requirements, as well as voluntary security action items developed in collaboration with TSA, DOT, and the freight railroads. Many of the action items are based on lessons learned from DHS and DOT security assessments of rail corridors in High Threat Urban Areas (HTUA). Particular attention is aimed at reducing risk in HTUA by: (1) the establishment of secure storage areas for rail cars carrying toxic-by-inhalation (TIH) materials; (2) the expedited movement of trains transporting rail cars carrying TIH materials; (3) the minimization of unattended loaded tank cars carrying TIH materials; and (4) cooperation with

K12

federal, state, local and tribal governments to identify, through risk assessments, those locations where security risks are the highest. These action items and our compliance initiatives are outlined in the various departmental sections of our System Security Plan. We have taken appropriate actions to be compliant with the TSA Final Security Rule addressing Rail Security Sensitive Materials (RSSM) to ensure these shipments are properly inspected and that positive chain-of-custody is maintained when required. We are in compliance with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) rail-routing regulations outlined in Docket HM-232E. We conduct ongoing route evaluations. In 2011, as part of the FRA's bi-annual review, this methodology and selected routes were found to be compliant with the regulation. The next review by the FRA is expected mid-year 2013.

In 2012, through participation in the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) Program, we provided rail accident response training to approximately 5,087 emergency responders, such as local police and fire personnel, representing over 19,023 hours of emergency response training. We also conducted railroad operations classes for FBI agents and the railroad liaison agents from NJTTF and participated in four drills for local, state, and federal agencies. We also have ongoing programs to sponsor local emergency responders at the Security and Emergency Response Training Course conducted at the AAR Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colorado.

Improvements in equipment design also are expected to play a role in enhancing rail security. PHMSA, in coordination with the FRA, has amended the Hazardous Materials Regulations to prescribe enhanced safety for rail transportation of TIH materials, has provided interim design standards for railroad tank cars. The rule mandates commodity-specific improvements in safety features and design standards for newly manufactured DOT specification tank cars and an improved top fittings performance standard. The interim standards established in this rule will enhance the accident survivability of TIH tank cars.

#### Item 1A. Risk Factors

We are subject to significant governmental legislation and regulation over commercial, operating and environmental matters. Railroads are subject to the enactment of laws by Congress that could increase economic regulation of the industry. Railroads presently are subject to commercial regulation by the STB, which has jurisdiction over some rates, routes, fuel surcharges, conditions of service, and the extension or abandonment of rail lines. The STB also has jurisdiction over the consolidation, merger, or acquisition of control of and by rail common carriers. Additional economic regulation of the rail industry by Congress or the STB, whether under new or existing laws, could have a significant negative impact on our ability to determine prices for rail services and result in a material adverse effect in the future on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter. This potential material adverse effect could also result in reduced capital spending on our rail network or abandonment of lines.

Railroads are subject to safety and security regulation by DOT and DHS, which regulate most aspects of our operations. Compliance with the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 will result in additional operating costs



associated with the statutorily mandated implementation of positive train control by 2015. In addition to increased capital expenditures, implementation may result in reduced operational efficiency and service levels, as well as increased compensation and benefits expenses, and increased claims and litigation costs.

Our operations are subject to extensive federal and state environmental laws and regulations concerning, among other things, emissions to the air; discharges to waterways or groundwater supplies; handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of waste and other materials; and the cleanup of hazardous material or petroleum releases. The risk of incurring environmental liability – for acts and omissions, past, present, and future – is inherent in the railroad business. This risk includes property owned by us, whether currently or in the past, that is or has been subject to a variety of uses, including our railroad operations and other industrial activity by past owners or our past and present tenants.

Environmental problems that are latent or undisclosed may exist on these properties, and we could incur environmental liabilities or costs, the amount and materiality of which cannot be estimated reliably at this time,

K13

with respect to one or more of these properties. Moreover, lawsuits and claims involving other unidentified environmental sites and matters are likely to arise from time to time, and the resulting liabilities could have a significant effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

As a common carrier by rail, we must offer to transport hazardous materials, regardless of risk. Transportation of certain hazardous materials could create catastrophic losses in terms of personal injury and property damage costs, and compromise critical parts of our rail network.

We may be affected by terrorism or war. Any terrorist attack, or other similar event, any government response thereto, and war or risk of war could cause significant business interruption and may adversely affect our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter. Because we play a critical role in the nation's transportation system, we could become the target of such an attack or have a significant role in the government's preemptive approach or response to an attack or war.

Although we currently maintain insurance coverage for third-party liability arising out of war and acts of terrorism, we maintain only limited insurance coverage for first-party property damage and damage to property in our care, custody, or control caused by certain acts of terrorism. In addition, premiums for some or all of our current insurance programs covering these losses could increase dramatically, or insurance coverage for certain losses could be unavailable to us in the future.

We may be affected by general economic conditions. Prolonged negative changes in domestic and global economic conditions affecting the producers and consumers of the commodities we carry may have an adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter. Economic conditions resulting in bankruptcies of one or more large customers could have a significant impact on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

We may be affected by climate change legislation or regulation. Concern over climate change has led to significant federal, state, and international legislative and regulatory efforts to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Moreover, even without such legislation or regulation, government incentives and adverse publicity relating to GHGs could affect certain of our customers and the markets for certain of the commodities we carry. Restrictions, caps, taxes, or other controls on GHG emissions, including diesel exhaust, could significantly increase our operating costs, decrease the amount of traffic handled, and decrease the value of coal reserves we own, and thus could have an adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter. Such restrictions could affect our customers that (1) use commodities that we carry to produce energy, including coal, (2) use significant amounts of energy in producing or delivering the commodities we carry, or (3) manufacture or produce goods that consume significant amounts of energy.

We face competition from other transportation providers. We are subject to competition from motor carriers, railroads and, to a lesser extent, ships, barges, and pipelines, on the basis of transit time, pricing, and quality and reliability of service. While we have used primarily internal resources to build or acquire and maintain our rail system, trucks and barges have been able to use public rights-of-way maintained by public entities. Any future improvements or expenditures materially increasing the quality or reducing the cost of alternative modes of transportation in the regions in which we operate, or legislation granting materially greater latitude for motor carriers with respect to size or weight limitations, could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

The operations of carriers with which we interchange may adversely affect our operations. Our ability to provide rail service to customers in the U.S. and Canada depends in large part upon our ability to maintain cooperative relationships with connecting carriers with respect to, among other matters, freight rates, revenue division, car supply and locomotive availability, data exchange and communications, reciprocal switching, interchange, and trackage rights. Deterioration in the operations of or service provided by connecting carriers, or in our relationship with those connecting carriers, could result in our inability to meet our customers' demands or require us to use alternate train routes, which could result in significant additional costs and network inefficiencies.

K14

We rely on technology and technology improvements in our business operations. If we experience significant disruption or failure of one or more of our information technology systems, including computer hardware, software, and communications equipment, we could experience a service interruption, a security breach, or other operational difficulties. Additionally, if we do not have sufficient capital to acquire new technology or we are unable to implement new technology, we may suffer a competitive disadvantage within the rail industry and with companies providing other modes of transportation service. Any of these factors could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

The vast majority of our employees belong to labor unions, and labor agreements, strikes, or work stoppages could adversely affect our operations. More than 80% of our railroad employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements with various labor unions. If unionized workers were to engage in a strike, work stoppage, or other slowdown, we could experience a significant disruption of our operations. Additionally, future national labor agreements, or renegotiation of labor agreements or provisions of labor agreements, could significantly increase our costs for healthcare, wages, and other benefits. Any of these factors could have a material adverse impact on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

We may be subject to various claims and lawsuits that could result in significant expenditures. The nature of our business exposes us to the potential for various claims and litigation related to labor and employment, personal injury, commercial disputes, freight loss and other property damage, and other matters. Job-related personal injury and occupational claims are subject to the Federal Employer's Liability Act (FELA), which is applicable only to railroads. FELA's fault-based tort system produces results that are unpredictable and inconsistent as compared with a no-fault worker's compensation system. The variability inherent in this system could result in actual costs being very different from the liability recorded.

Any material changes to current litigation trends or a catastrophic rail accident involving any or all of freight loss property damage, personal injury, and environmental liability could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity to the extent not covered by insurance. We have obtained insurance for potential losses for third-party liability and first-party property damages. Specified levels of risk are retained on a self-insurance basis (currently up to \$50 million and above \$1 billion per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage to third parties and up to \$25 million and above \$175 million per occurrence for property owned by us or in our care, custody, or control). Insurance is available from a limited number of insurers and may not continue to be available or, if available, may not be obtainable on terms acceptable to us.

Severe weather could result in significant business interruptions and expenditures. Severe weather conditions and other natural phenomena, including hurricanes, floods, fires, and earthquakes, may cause significant business interruptions and result in increased costs, increased liabilities, and decreased revenues, which could have an adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

Unpredictability of demand for rail services resulting in the unavailability of qualified personnel could adversely affect our operational efficiency and ability to meet demand. Workforce demographics, training requirements, and the availability of qualified personnel, particularly engineers and trainmen, could each have a negative impact on our ability to meet demand for rail service. Unpredictable increases in demand for rail services may exacerbate such risks, which could have a negative impact on our operational efficiency and otherwise have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

We may be affected by supply constraints resulting from disruptions in the fuel markets or the nature of some of our supplier markets. We consumed about 460 million gallons of diesel fuel in 2012. Fuel availability could be affected by any limitation in the fuel supply or by any imposition of mandatory allocation or rationing regulations. A severe fuel supply shortage arising from production curtailments, increased demand in existing or emerging foreign markets, disruption of oil imports, disruption of domestic refinery production, damage to

K15

refinery or pipeline infrastructure, political unrest, war or other factors, could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter. Also, such an event could impact us as well as our customers and other transportation companies.

Due to the capital intensive nature and industry-specific requirements of the rail industry, high barriers of entry exist for potential new suppliers of core railroad items, such as locomotives and rolling stock equipment. Additionally, we compete with other industries for available capacity and raw materials used in the production of certain track materials, such as rail and ties. Changes in the competitive landscapes of these limited-supplier markets could result in increased prices or significant shortages of materials that could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity in a particular year or quarter.

The state of capital markets could adversely affect our liquidity. From time-to-time we rely on the capital markets to provide some of our capital requirements, including the issuance of long-term debt instruments and commercial paper, as well as the sale of certain receivables. Significant instability or disruptions of the capital markets, including the credit markets, or deterioration of our financial condition due to internal or external factors could restrict or eliminate our access to, and/or significantly increase the cost of, various financing sources, including bank credit facilities and issuance of corporate bonds. Instability or disruptions of the capital markets and deterioration of our financial condition, alone or in combination, could also result in a reduction in our credit rating to below investment grade, which could prohibit or restrict us from accessing external sources of short- and long-term debt financing and/or significantly increase the associated costs.

#### Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

#### Item 3. Legal Proceedings

On November 6, 2007, various antitrust class actions filed against us and other Class I railroads in various Federal district courts regarding fuel surcharges were consolidated in the District of Columbia by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. On June 21, 2012, the court certified the case as a class action. The defendant railroads have appealed such certification, and a decision by the court to either reject the appeal outright or proceed with ruling on its merits is pending. We believe the allegations in the complaints are without merit and intend to vigorously defend the cases. We do not believe the outcome of these proceedings will have a material effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity. A lawsuit containing similar allegations against us and four other major railroads that was filed on March 25, 2008, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota was voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiff subject to a tolling agreement entered into in August 2008.

We received a Notice of Violation (NOV) issued by the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation concerning soil runoff in connection with construction of the Memphis Regional Intermodal Facility in Rossville, Tennessee. Although we will contest liability and the imposition of any penalties, this matter is described here consistent with SEC rules and requirements concerning governmental proceedings with respect to environmental laws and regulations. We do not believe that the outcome of this proceeding will have a material effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

K16

## Executive Officers of the Registrant

Our executive officers generally are elected and designated annually by the Board of Directors at its first meeting held after the annual meeting of stockholders, and they hold office until their successors are elected. Executive officers also may be elected and designated throughout the year as the Board of Directors considers appropriate. There are no family relationships among our officers, nor any arrangement or understanding between any officer and any other person pursuant to which the officer was selected. The following table sets forth certain information, at February 1, 2013, relating to our officers.

Name, Age, Present Position	Business Experience During Past Five Years
Charles W. Moorman, 60, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer	Present position since February 1, 2006.
Deborah H. Butler, 58, Executive Vice President – Planning and Chief Information Officer	Present position since June 1, 2007.
James A. Hixon, 59, Executive Vice President – Law and Corporate Relations	Present position since October 1, 2005.
Mark D. Manion, 60, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer	Present position since April 1, 2009. Served as Executive Vice President – Operations from October 1, 2004 to April 1, 2009.
John P. Rathbone, 60, Executive Vice President – Finance and Chief Financial Officer	Present position since August 1, 2012. Served as Executive Vice President – Administration from October 1, 2004 to August 1, 2012.
Donald W. Seale, 60, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer	Present position since April 1, 2006.
James A. Squires, 51, Executive Vice President – Administration	Present position since August 1, 2012. Served as Executive Vice President – Finance and Chief Financial Officer from July 1, 2007 to August 1, 2012.



Clyde H. Allison, Jr., 49,  
Vice President and Controller

Present position since April 1, 2009.  
Served as Assistant Vice President Corporate Accounting  
from February 1, 2008 to April 1, 2009.

K17

## PART II

## NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

## STOCK PRICE AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION

Common Stock is owned by 32,347 stockholders of record as of December 31, 2012 and is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "NSC." The following table shows the high and low sales prices as reported by Bloomberg L.P. on its internet-based service and dividends per share, by quarter, for 2012 and 2011.

	Quarter			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
2012				
Market Price				
High	\$78.24	\$74.41	\$75.10	\$67.71
Low	64.45	63.67	63.63	56.34
Dividends per share	0.47	0.47	0.50	0.50
2011				
Market Price				
High	\$69.56	\$74.93	\$76.99	\$75.75
Low	60.38	66.27	60.44	60.01
Dividends per share	0.40	0.40	0.43	0.43

## ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Total Number of Shares (or Units)	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that may yet be Purchased under
---	--	---	--

Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

Period	Purchased (1)	(or Unit)	or Programs	(2) the Plans or Programs (2)
October 1-31, 2012	310,189	\$62.31	307,000	48,616,759
November 1-30, 2012	2,029,148	58.70	2,029,148	46,587,611
December 1-31, 2012	2,917	61.55	-	46,587,611
Total	2,342,254		2,336,148	

(1) Of this amount, 6,106 represents shares tendered by employees in connection with the exercise of stock options under the stockholder-approved Long-Term Incentive Plan.

(2) Our Board of Directors authorized a share repurchase program, pursuant to which up to 125 million shares of Common Stock could be purchased through December 31, 2014. On August 1, 2012, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to an additional 50 million shares of Common Stock through December 31, 2017.

K18

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

## FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
	(\$ in millions, except per share amounts)				
<b>RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</b>					
Railway operating revenues	\$11,040	\$11,172	\$9,516	\$7,969	\$10,661
Railway operating expenses	7,916	7,959	6,840	6,007	7,577
Income from railway operations	3,124	3,213	2,676	1,962	3,084
Other income – net	129	160	153	127	110
Interest expense on debt	495	455	462	467	444
Income before income taxes	2,758	2,918	2,367	1,622	2,750
Provision for income taxes	1,009	1,002	871	588	1,034
Net income	\$1,749	\$1,916	\$1,496	\$1,034	\$1,716
<b>PER SHARE DATA</b>					
Net income – basic	\$5.42	\$5.52	\$4.06	\$2.79	\$4.58
– diluted	5.37	5.45	4.00	2.76	4.52
Dividends	1.94	1.66	1.40	1.36	1.22
Stockholders' equity at year end	31.08	30.00	29.85	28.06	26.23
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION</b>					
Total assets	\$30,342	\$28,538	\$28,199	\$27,369	\$26,297
Total debt	8,682	7,540	7,025	7,153	6,667
Stockholders' equity	9,760	9,911	10,669	10,353	9,607
<b>OTHER</b>					
Property additions	\$2,241	\$2,160	\$1,470	\$1,299	\$1,558

Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

Average number of shares outstanding (thousands)	320,864	345,484	366,522	367,077	372,276
Number of stockholders at year end	32,347	33,381	35,416	37,486	35,466
Average number of employees:					
Rail	30,543	29,933	28,160	28,173	30,241
Nonrail	400	396	399	420	468
Total	30,943	30,329	28,559	28,593	30,709

See accompanying consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

K19

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Norfolk Southern Corporation and Subsidiaries  
Management's Discussion and Analysis of  
Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes and the Selected Financial Data.

OVERVIEW

We are one of the nation's premier transportation companies. Our Norfolk Southern Railway Company subsidiary operates approximately 20,000 miles of road in 22 states and the District of Columbia, serves every major container port in the eastern United States, and provides efficient connections to other rail carriers. We operate the most extensive intermodal network in the East and are a major transporter of coal, automotive, and industrial products. In 2012, as part of our Crescent Corridor initiative, we opened the new Memphis Regional Intermodal Facility in Rossville, TN as well as the new Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility in McCalla, AL, in order to position ourselves to handle increased intermodal volumes faster and more reliably.

Financial results for 2012 were adversely affected as utility coal volumes declined, reflecting competition from low natural gas prices and reduced electrical demand in NS-served regions. In addition, export coal average revenue per unit dropped, a result of market-based pricing pressure. These decreases more than offset gains in our intermodal and merchandise sectors, resulting in a 1% decline in railway operating revenues, which more than offset the 1% reduction in railway operating expenses. As a result, the railway operating ratio (a measure of the amount of operating revenues consumed by operating expenses) rose to 71.7%, as compared with 71.2% in 2011, and net income declined 9%.

Cash provided by operating activities totaled \$3.1 billion which, along with proceeds from borrowings and cash on hand, allowed for property additions, share repurchases, dividend payments, and debt repayments. During 2012, we repurchased 18.8 million shares of Common Stock at a total cost of \$1.3 billion. Since inception of our stock repurchase program in 2006, we have repurchased and retired 128.4 million shares of Common Stock at a total cost of \$7.5 billion. At December 31, 2012, cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments totaled \$668 million.

In 2013, we expect revenues to increase, reflecting higher volumes. We plan to continue to focus on safety, cost control, increased productivity, improved serviced levels and operational efficiency, and an ongoing market-based approach to pricing.

K20

## SUMMARIZED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### 2012 Compared with 2011

Net income in 2012 was \$1.7 billion, or \$5.37 per diluted share, down \$167 million, or 9%, compared with \$1.9 billion, or \$5.45 per diluted share, in 2011. The decrease in net income was due to lower income from railway operations, lower nonoperating income items, higher interest expense on debt, and a higher effective income tax rate (Note 3). Railway operating revenues decreased modestly, \$132 million, reflecting lower average revenue per unit, including fuel surcharges. Railway operating expenses also decreased modestly, \$43 million, largely driven by the absence of the \$58 million unfavorable arbitration ruling in 2011 and declines related to network efficiency and productivity gains, offset by higher depreciation and intermodal volume-related expenses.

Oil prices affect our results of operations in a variety of ways and can have an overall favorable or unfavorable impact in any particular period. In addition to the impact of oil prices on general economic conditions and traffic volume, oil prices directly affect our revenues through market-based fuel surcharges and contract escalators (see “Railway Operating Revenues”) and also affect fuel costs (see “Railway Operating Expenses”). For 2012, excluding the impact of decreased consumption, the increase in fuel surcharge revenue was less than the increase in fuel expense. Future changes in oil prices may cause volatility in operating results that could be material to a particular year or quarter.

### 2011 Compared with 2010

Net income in 2011 was \$1.9 billion, or \$5.45 per diluted share, up \$420 million, or 28%, compared with

\$1.5 billion, or \$4.00 per diluted share, in 2010. The increase in net income was primarily due to higher income from railway operations and a lower effective tax rate (Note 3). Railway operating revenues increased \$1.7 billion, reflecting higher average revenue per unit, including fuel surcharges, and higher volumes. Railway operating expenses increased \$1.1 billion, primarily due to higher fuel prices and volume-related expenses.

## DETAILED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### Railway Operating Revenues



Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

Railway operating revenues were \$11.0 billion in 2012, \$11.2 billion in 2011, and \$9.5 billion in 2010. The following table presents a three-year comparison of revenues, volumes, and average revenue per unit by market group.

	Revenues			Units			Revenue per Unit		
	2012	2011	2010	2012	2011	2010	2012	2011	2010
	(\$ in millions)			(in thousands)			(\$ per unit)		
Coal	\$2,879	\$3,458	\$2,719	1,414.1	1,619.6	1,556.7	\$2,036	\$2,135	\$1,747
General merchandise:									
Chemicals	1,467	1,368	1,302	388.8	373.7	406.1	3,772	3,662	3,207
Agr./consumer/gov't.	1,446	1,439	1,326	595.9	599.4	627.7	2,427	2,400	2,113
Metals/construction	1,335	1,241	1,013	669.7	665.0	628.4	1,993	1,867	1,612
Automotive	897	780	648	374.6	332.2	290.4	2,395	2,348	2,232
Paper/clay/forest	775	756	712	305.8	314.3	327.7	2,536	2,404	2,171
General merchandise	5,920	5,584	5,001	2,334.8	2,284.6	2,280.3	2,536	2,444	2,193
Intermodal	2,241	2,130	1,796	3,358.3	3,210.5	2,927.1	667	663	614
Total	\$11,040	\$11,172	\$9,516	7,107.2	7,114.7	6,764.1	\$1,553	\$1,570	\$1,407

K21

Revenues decreased \$132 million in 2012, but increased \$1.7 billion in 2011. As reflected in the table below, the decrease in 2012 was due to lower average revenue per unit (as the negative effects of changes in the mix of traffic offset rate increases and slightly higher fuel surcharges) and slightly lower volume. The increase in 2011 was due to higher average revenue per unit (which was driven by rate increases and higher fuel surcharges, offset in part by the effects of changes in the mix of business) and increased volumes. Fuel surcharge revenue increased \$23 million in 2012 and \$531 million in 2011, and totaled \$1.3 billion in both years. If fuel prices remain at or near year-end 2012 levels, fuel surcharge revenue will be lower in 2013.

Many of our negotiated fuel surcharges for coal and general merchandise shipments are based on the monthly average price of West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil (WTI Average Price). These surcharges are reset the first day of each calendar month based on the WTI Average Price for the second preceding calendar month. This two-month lag in applying WTI Average Price increased fuel surcharge revenue by approximately \$39 million in 2012, but decreased fuel surcharge revenue by approximately \$44 million in 2011 and \$28 million in 2010.

	Revenue Variance Analysis Increase (Decrease)	
	2012 vs. 2011 (\$ in millions)	2011 vs. 2010
Revenue per unit	\$ (120)	\$ 1,163
Traffic volume (units)	(12)	493
Total	\$ (132)	\$ 1,656

For 2012, the unfavorable revenue per unit variance accounted for 91% of the total revenues decrease, reflecting the negative effect of changes in the mix of business, offset in part by higher rates. The slightly unfavorable volume variance was a reflection of lower coal, paper/clay/forest products, and agriculture/consumer products/government shipments, which offset gains in the automotive, intermodal, chemicals, and metals/construction commodity groups.

In 2011, the favorable revenue per unit variance accounted for 70% of the total revenues increase, reflecting higher rates and increased fuel surcharges, offset in part by the effects of changes in mix. The favorable volume variance reflected increases for all commodity groups, except chemicals, agriculture/consumer products/government, and paper/clay/forest products, driven primarily by increased consumer demand.

One of our customers, DuPont, has a rate reasonableness complaint pending before the STB alleging that our tariff rates for transportation of regulated movements are unreasonable. We dispute this allegation. Since June 1, 2009, we have been billing and collecting from DuPont amounts based on the challenged tariff rates. We presently expect resolution of the DuPont case to occur in 2014 and believe the estimate of reasonably possible loss will not have a material effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity. With regard to rate cases, we record adjustments to revenues in the periods, if and when, such adjustments are probable and estimable.

COAL revenues decreased \$579 million, or 17%, compared with 2011, reflecting a 13% decrease in carload volume primarily due to fewer shipments of utility coal. Coal average revenue per unit was down 5%, the result of lower pricing (mainly market-based export metallurgical coal) and decreased fuel surcharge revenue, partially offset by the positive effect of changes in mix.

In 2011, coal revenues increased \$739 million, or 27%, compared with 2010, reflecting higher average revenue per unit and a 4% increase in volume principally due to a rise in domestic and global steel production. Coal average revenue per unit was up 22% compared with 2010, reflecting improved pricing and increased fuel surcharge revenue.

For 2013, coal revenues are expected to decrease due to lower average revenue per unit driven by continued market-based pricing pressure in the export coal market. Coal carload volumes are also anticipated to be lower in 2013.

K22

Coal represented 26% of our revenues in 2012 and 80% of shipments handled originated on our lines. As shown in the following table, tonnage decreased in each coal market.

Coal Tonnage by Market

	2012	2011	2010
	(tons in thousands)		
Utility	101,636	122,004	120,737
Export	28,304	28,461	22,750
Domestic metallurgical	18,793	19,702	19,771
Industrial	7,376	7,713	7,573
Total	156,109	177,880	170,831

Utility coal tonnage dropped 17% in 2012, reflecting competition from low natural gas prices and reduced electrical demand in NS-served regions. Additional tonnage declines resulted from coal plant closures and plant maintenance.

In 2011, utility coal tonnage improved a modest 1%, primarily a result of new business and the resumption in the first quarter of shipments to electrical generation units that had been idled in 2009. These increases were tempered by the effects of increased natural gas generation due to low natural gas prices, reduced electrical demand in NS-served regions, and severe weather disruptions in 2011.

For 2013, we expect utility coal tonnage to decrease, reflecting the effects of plant closures, continued low natural gas prices, and higher-than-normal utility stockpiles.

Export coal tonnage decreased 1% compared to 2011, a reflection of weaker global demand for metallurgical coal used in steel production in NS-served markets, in addition to the negative impact of the return of Australian supply, offset in part by increased thermal shipments. Tonnage handled through Norfolk was down 1.3 million tons, or 6%, whereas tonnage through Baltimore increased 0.3 million tons, or 4%. Other export tonnage handled increased 0.8 million tons.

In 2011, export coal tonnage increased 25% compared with 2010, reflecting increased global demand for coal used in steel production and tightened supply from Australia due to flooding in the first half of 2011. Tonnage handled through Norfolk was up 4.7 million tons, or 30%, and Baltimore tonnage handled increased 0.8 million tons, or 11%.

For 2013, export coal tonnage is expected to decrease as a result of sluggish demand from Europe partially offset by improvement in Asia beginning in the second half of 2013.

Domestic metallurgical coal tonnage was down 5% in 2012, compared with 2011, as declines in coke and iron ore shipments (primarily due to a plant closure) offset improved domestic steel production experienced in the first half of 2012.

Domestic metallurgical coal tonnage was flat in 2011, compared with 2010.

For 2013, domestic metallurgical coal tonnage is expected to decrease as domestic steel production continues to decelerate.

K23

Industrial coal tonnage decreased 4% in 2012, compared with 2011, as weak industrial demand was partially offset by new business.

In 2011, industrial coal tonnage increased 2% compared to 2010, as new business completely offset the impact of tight coal supply and network delays experienced in the early part of the year.

For 2013, new business is expected to drive increases in industrial coal tonnage.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE revenues in 2012 increased \$336 million, or 6%, compared with 2011, reflecting a 4% rise in average revenue per unit as a result of higher rates and fuel surcharges. Carload volume increased 2%.

In 2011, general merchandise revenues increased \$583 million, or 12%, compared with 2010, reflecting an 11% rise in average revenue per unit as a result of higher rates and fuel surcharges. Overall, carload volume was relatively flat.

Chemicals revenues in 2012 increased 7%, compared with 2011, reflecting 4% growth in volume and a 3% increase in average revenue per unit that resulted from higher rates and fuel surcharges. The volume improvement was primarily the result of more carloads of crude oil from the Bakken and Canadian oil fields. Additionally, there were more carloads of liquefied petroleum gas, as well as higher shipments of plastics driven by greater demand for plastic bottles. These increases were offset in part by fewer shipments of rock salt as a mild winter resulted in higher inventory levels throughout 2012.

In 2011, chemicals revenues grew 5%, compared with 2010, as a 14% increase in average revenue per unit that resulted from higher rates and fuel surcharges more than offset the effects of an 8% decrease in volume. The decline in volume was primarily a result of reduced shipments of fly ash, due to the completion of the Tennessee Valley Authority ash project in the fourth quarter of 2010.

For 2013, chemicals revenues are anticipated to increase as a result of higher shipments of crude oil, as well as more carloads of plastics linked to the projected resurgence of the housing market and continued growth in the automotive market. Additionally, average revenue per unit is expected to be higher.

Agriculture, consumer products, and government revenues were relatively flat in 2012, compared with 2011, as higher average revenue per unit was offset by lower volume. The volume decline was driven by reduced corn shipments (due

to plant closures), fewer carloads of fertilizer (led by certain network classification changes), and reduced shipments of wheat to the eastern U.S. (due to customer sourcing changes). These volume declines were offset in part by more shipments of soybean and soybean meal due to a poor South American bean crop, as well as higher shipments of corn-based feed to Texas.

In 2011, agriculture, consumer products, and government revenues increased 9%, compared with 2010, the result of a 14% improvement in average revenue per unit, which reflected higher rates and fuel surcharges. Volume declined 5% as a result of fewer shipments of fertilizer due to certain network classification changes and reduced shipments of corn to the Midwest due to the impact of a healthier Midwest crop.

For 2013, agriculture, consumer products, and government revenues are expected to improve as a result of higher average revenue per unit offset in part by a decrease in volume. The projected decline in volume is primarily due to fewer shipments of feed and corn as a result of the negative impact of the 2012 Midwest drought, in addition to fewer revenue movements of empty equipment, which is expected to be offset in part by more fertilizer carloads.

Metals and construction revenues increased 8% in 2012, compared with 2011. The revenue improvement resulted from 7% higher average revenue per unit, which reflected higher rates and fuel surcharges. Volume improved 1%, reflecting more coil steel shipments driven by increased automotive production. The mild winter weather experienced in early and late 2012 led to more shipments of cement for construction projects. There were also higher shipments of fractionating sand for natural gas drilling. These increases were partially offset by fewer

aggregates carloads, primarily driven by weak market conditions in road/highway construction, and as lower coal utility burn led to fewer shipments of scrubber stone.

In 2011, metals and construction revenues increased 23%, compared with 2010. The improvement resulted from 16% growth in average revenue per unit, which reflected higher rates and fuel surcharges. Volume improved 6%, reflecting increased automotive production that led to more shipments of coil steel and more carloads of fractionating sand for natural gas drilling.

For 2013, metals and construction revenues are expected to increase reflecting higher average revenue per unit and a modest increase in volume due to more shipments of fractionating sand and other materials as a result of expected growth in the natural gas drilling sector.

Automotive revenues rose 15%, compared to 2011, reflecting 13% growth in volume due to increased North American light vehicle production at NS-served plants and a 2% improvement in average revenue per unit, including fuel surcharges.

In 2011, automotive revenues rose 20%, compared to 2010, reflecting a 14% rise in volume due to increased domestic production of North American light vehicles and a 5% improvement in average revenue per unit, driven by pricing gains and higher fuel surcharges.

For 2013, automotive revenues are expected to grow as a result of volume gains driven by a continued increase in domestic production of North American light vehicles at NS-served plants, in addition to slightly higher average revenue per unit.

Paper, clay and forest products revenues increased 3% in 2012, compared with 2011, reflecting a 5% improvement in average revenue per unit due to increased rates, which more than offset the effects of a 3% volume decline. The lower volume was due to reduced shipments of miscellaneous wood driven by the loss of business and fewer carloads of pulp as a result of declining export market demand.

In 2011, paper, clay, and forest products revenues increased 6%, compared with 2010, reflecting an 11% improvement in average revenue per unit due to higher rates and fuel surcharges, which more than offset the effects of a 4% volume decline. The lower volume was principally due to fewer shipments of wood chips as drier weather in the Southeast prompted customer sourcing changes, in addition to the closure of a plant in the third quarter of 2011. Reduced shipments of kaolin and newsprint associated with lower demand and the loss of some lower-rated business also



impacted the year.

For 2013, paper, clay, and forest products revenues are expected to increase reflecting higher volumes of lumber as housing starts continue to improve, in addition to higher average revenue per unit.

INTERMODAL revenues increased \$111 million, or 5%, compared with 2011, reflecting 5% growth in volume largely due to increased domestic units resulting from continued highway-to-rail conversions. Average revenue per unit improved 1% as a result of higher fuel surcharges, partially offset by lower pricing.

Domestic volume (which includes truckload and intermodal marketing companies) increased 11%, reflecting continued highway conversions.

Premium business, which includes parcel and less-than-truckload (LTL) carriers, rose 1%, as a result of stronger market demand and new business.

International traffic volume fell 1%, as the loss of business from a shipping line was partially offset by growth across remaining international customers.

Triple Crown Services (Triple Crown), a service with rail-to-highway trailers, experienced a 1% volume decline, reflecting the elimination of some lower-margin business.

K25

In 2011, intermodal revenues increased \$334 million, or 19%, compared with 2010, reflecting 10% growth in volume and an 8% improvement in average revenue per unit as a result of higher fuel surcharges and rates. In 2011, all intermodal segments experienced volume increases, reflecting a steadily improving economy as well as tight truck capacity. Domestic volume increased 15%; international volume improved 5%; premium business rose 9%; and Triple Crown grew 1%.

For 2013, intermodal revenues are expected to increase due to higher volume and average revenue per unit as a result of stronger market demand due to continued highway conversions.

### Railway Operating Expenses

Railway operating expenses in 2012 were \$7.9 billion, down \$43 million, or 1% compared to 2011. Expenses in 2011 were \$8.0 billion, up \$1.1 billion, or 16% compared to 2010. The decrease in 2012 reflected the absence of last year's \$58 million unfavorable arbitration ruling and lower equipment rents due to gains in network efficiency. These favorable decreases were offset in part by higher depreciation expense, which resulted from an increased capital base, in addition to higher purchased services. The increase in 2011 was primarily due to higher fuel prices, increased volume-related expenses, and the unfavorable arbitration ruling.

The following table shows the changes in railway operating expenses summarized by major classifications.

	Operating Expense Variances Increase (Decrease)	
	2012 vs. 2011	2011 vs. 2010
	(\$ in millions)	
Materials and other	\$ (65)	\$ 167
Compensation and benefits	(14)	266
Fuel	(12)	510
Purchased services and rents	(6)	133
Depreciation	54	43

Total                                   \$ (43)   \$ 1,119

Materials and other expenses (including the estimates of costs related to personal injury, property damage, and environmental matters) decreased \$65 million, or 7%, in 2012, but increased \$167 million, or 22%, in 2011, as shown in the following table.

	2012	2011	2010
	(\$ in millions)		
Materials	\$408	\$408	\$346
Casualties and other claims	130	216	142
Other	321	300	269
Total	\$859	\$924	\$757

The decrease in 2012 reflected the absence of the prior year's unfavorable arbitration ruling discussed below and more favorable personal injury claims development for prior years' claims (\$34 million). These favorable items were partially offset by higher costs associated with property taxes and environmental remediation.

The increase in 2011 reflected the unfavorable arbitration ruling and higher costs associated with locomotive and railcar materials, taxes (primarily sales and use, property, and excise), employee travel, and supply costs, as well as less favorable personal injury claims development.

The Consolidated Balance Sheets reflect long-term receivables for estimated recoveries from our insurance carriers for claims associated with the January 6, 2005, derailment in Graniteville, S.C. In the first quarter of 2011, we received an unfavorable ruling for an arbitration claim with an insurance carrier and were denied recovery of the contested portion of the claim. As a result, we recorded a \$43 million charge for the receivables associated with the contested portion of the claim and a \$15 million charge for other receivables affected by the ruling for which recovery was no longer probable.

The largest component of casualties and other claims expense is personal injury costs. Cases involving occupational injuries comprised about 40% of total employee injury cases resolved and about 25% of total employee injury payments made. With our long-established commitment to safety, we continue to work actively to eliminate all employee injuries and reduce the associated costs. With respect to occupational injuries, which are not caused by a specific accident or event but allegedly result from a claimed exposure over time, the benefits of any existing safety initiatives may not be realized immediately. The majority of these types of claims are being asserted by former or retired employees, some of whom have not been actively employed in the rail industry for decades. The rail industry remains uniquely susceptible to litigation involving job-related accidental injury and occupational claims because of the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA), which is applicable only to railroads. FELA's fault-based system, which covers employee claims for job-related injuries, produces results that are unpredictable and inconsistent as compared with a no-fault workers' compensation system.

We maintain substantial amounts of insurance for potential third-party liability and property damage claims. We also retain reasonable levels of risk through self-insurance (Note 16).

Compensation and benefits, which represents 37% of total operating expenses, decreased \$14 million in 2012, reflecting changes in:

- employee activity levels (down \$40 million),
- incentive and stock-based compensation (down \$35 million),
- pay rates (up \$43 million), and
- pension and postretirement benefit costs (up \$16 million).

In 2011, compensation and benefits increased \$266 million, or 10%, compared with 2010, primarily due to higher:

- agreement employee activity levels associated with increased volumes (up \$70 million),
- health and welfare benefit costs for agreement employees (up \$50 million),
- incentive compensation (up \$39 million),
- payroll taxes (up \$37 million),
- pension benefit costs (up \$19 million), and
- wage rates (up \$16 million).

Our employment averaged 30,943 in 2012, compared with 30,329 in 2011, and 28,559 in 2010. The 2012 increase was a result of additional mechanical and maintenance of way personnel to support field operations. Looking forward to 2013, we expect employment levels to be lower than 2012 as we continue to benefit from productivity increases and operational efficiencies. We also expect increased compensation and benefits costs as a result of higher wage rates.

Fuel expense, which includes the cost of locomotive fuel as well as other fuel used in railway operations, decreased \$12 million, or 1%, in 2012, but increased \$510 million, or 47%, in 2011. The decline in 2012 was principally the result of lower fuel consumption (locomotive fuel consumption declined 3%), which had an impact of \$52 million, offset in part by higher fuel prices (locomotive fuel prices rose 3%), which had an impact of \$40 million.

K27

The increase in 2011 reflected higher fuel prices (locomotive fuel prices increased 37%), which had an effect of \$431 million, as well as increased fuel consumption (locomotive fuel consumption rose 8%), which had an effect of \$79 million.

Purchased services and rents includes the costs of services purchased from outside contractors, including the net costs of operating joint (or leased) facilities with other railroads and the net cost of equipment rentals. This category of expenses decreased \$6 million in 2012, but increased \$133 million, or 9%, in 2011.

	2012	2011	2010
	(\$ in millions)		
Purchased services	\$1,321	\$1,272	\$1,151
Equipment rents	283	338	326
Total	\$1,604	\$1,610	\$1,477

The increase in 2012 for purchased services costs reflected higher professional and consulting fees, intermodal operations expenses, Conrail-related casualty costs (\$15 million), and advertising expenses. These increases were partially offset by lower haulage expenses. The increase in 2011 was principally driven by higher costs associated with greater volumes.

Equipment rents, which includes our cost of using equipment (mostly freight cars) owned by other railroads or private owners less the rent paid to us for the use of our equipment, decreased in 2012 as a result of increased velocity and improved equipment utilization, whereas the increase in 2011 was principally due to higher traffic volumes.

Depreciation expense grew \$54 million, or 6%, in 2012, and \$43 million, or 5%, in 2011. These increases reflect our larger roadway and equipment capital base as we continue to invest in our infrastructure and rolling stock.

#### Other Income – Net

Other income – net was \$129 million in 2012, \$160 million in 2011, and \$153 million in 2010 (Note 2). The decline in 2012 reflected fewer gains on the sale of property, decreased coal royalties, and higher interest expense (net) on uncertain tax positions offset in part by higher net returns from corporate-owned life insurance (COLI), increased

equity in the earnings of Conrail, and higher rental income. During the fourth quarter of 2012, we closed on the sale of certain assets to the Michigan Department of Transportation. The associated gain on the sale has been deferred until we cease to have ongoing obligations associated with the assets, which is expected to occur within the next 12 months.

The increase in 2011 reflected reduced interest expense (net) on uncertain tax positions, higher net COLI returns, and increased coal royalties. The increases were offset in part by fewer gains on the sale of property and increased professional and legal fees associated with the third quarter debt exchange and the fourth quarter credit facility renewal (up \$7 million).

K28

## Income Taxes

Income tax expense in 2012 was \$1 billion, an effective rate of 37%, compared with 34% in 2011 and 37% in 2010. The increase in the rate for 2012 primarily reflects the absence of the prior year's favorable resolution of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) examination of our 2008 return and review of certain claims for refund (\$40 million) and the absence of a favorable reduction in deferred tax expense for state law changes (\$28 million). The decrease in the rate for 2011 was primarily due to the favorable adjustments discussed above and the absence of a 2010 charge to deferred tax expense (\$27 million) due to a change in the tax law impacting the Medicare Part D retiree drug subsidy program. These decreases were offset in part by the absence of a 2010 \$34 million benefit resulting from a change in estimate for deferred taxes.

Fifty-percent bonus depreciation was allowed for federal income taxes for 2010. In December 2010, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act increased bonus depreciation to 100 percent for the period September 2010 through the end of 2011 and allowed fifty-percent bonus depreciation in 2012. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which was signed into law on January 2, 2013, extended fifty-percent bonus depreciation for an additional year. While bonus depreciation does not affect our total provision for income taxes or effective rate, the absence of bonus depreciation after 2013 is expected to increase current income tax expense and the related cash outflows for the payment of income taxes beginning in 2014. The American Taxpayer Relief Act also reinstated certain business tax credits retroactively to January 1, 2012. The effects of changes in tax laws, including retroactive changes, are recognized in the period in which the changes are enacted. Accordingly, we expect to recognize approximately \$9 million of income tax benefits in the first quarter of 2013 for these tax law changes.

IRS examinations have been completed for all years prior to 2011. We expect the IRS will begin auditing our 2011 and 2012 consolidated income tax returns in late 2013.

## FINANCIAL CONDITION, LIQUIDITY, AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash provided by operating activities, our principal source of liquidity, was \$3.1 billion in 2012 compared with \$3.2 billion in 2011 and \$2.7 billion in 2010. The decline in 2012 reflects increased tax payments driven by reduced bonus depreciation, in addition to lower operating results. The increase in 2011 reflected better operating results and lower income taxes paid due to additional bonus depreciation. We had working capital of \$161 million at December 31, 2012, compared with \$50 million at December 31, 2011, primarily reflecting a higher cash balance as a result of new debt issued and lower share repurchase activity in 2012. Cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investment balances totaled \$668 million and \$301 million at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and were invested in accordance with our corporate investment policy as approved by the Board of Directors. The portfolio contains securities that are subject to market risk. There are no limits or restrictions on our access to these assets. We expect cash on hand combined with cash provided by operating activities will be sufficient to meet our ongoing obligations.



K29

Contractual obligations at December 31, 2012, were comprised of interest on fixed-rate long-term debt and capital leases, long-term debt and capital leases (Note 8), operating leases (Note 9), unconditional purchase obligations (Note 16), agreements with CRC and long-term advances from Conrail (Note 5), and unrecognized tax benefits (Note 3):

	Total	2013	2014 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2018 and Subsequent	Other
	(\$ in millions)					
Interest on fixed-rate long-term debt and capital lease principal	\$12,951	\$503	\$974	\$887	\$ 10,587	\$ -
Long-term debt and capital lease principal	8,482	50	447	1,050	6,935	-
Operating leases	749	91	141	95	422	-
Unconditional purchase obligations	560	385	108	37	30	-
Agreements with CRC	382	33	66	66	217	-
Long-term advances from Conrail	133	-	-	-	133	-
Unrecognized tax benefits*	63	-	-	-	-	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,320</b>	<b>\$1,062</b>	<b>\$1,736</b>	<b>\$2,135</b>	<b>\$ 18,324</b>	<b>\$ 63</b>

\* When the amount and timing of liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits can be reasonably estimated, the amount is shown in the table under the appropriate period. When the year of settlement cannot be reasonably estimated, the amount is shown in the Other column.

Off balance sheet arrangements consist of obligations related to operating leases, which are included in the table of contractual obligations above and disclosed in Note 9.

Cash used in investing activities was \$2.0 billion in 2012, compared with \$1.8 billion in 2011, and \$1.5 billion in 2010. The increase in 2012 primarily reflects a decrease in investment sales, net of purchases, and increased property additions that were offset in part by proceeds from property sales. The 2011 increase resulted from higher property additions offset in part by a decrease in investment purchases.

Property additions account for most of the recurring spending in this category. The following tables show capital spending (including capital leases) and track and equipment statistics for the past five years.

#### Property Additions

Edgar Filing: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP - Form 10-K

2012 2011 2010 2009 2008  
 (\$ in millions)

Road and other property	\$1,465	\$1,222	\$1,153	\$1,128	\$1,070
Equipment	776	938	317	171	488
Total	\$2,241	\$2,160	\$1,470	\$1,299	\$1,558

Track Structure Statistics (Capital and Maintenance)

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Track miles of rail installed	509	484	422	434	459
Miles of track surfaced	5,642	5,441	5,326	5,568	5,209
New crossties installed (millions)	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7

K30

## Average Age of Owned Railway Equipment

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
	(years)				
Freight cars	30.2	30.3	31.0	30.3	29.9
Locomotives	21.6	21.0	20.5	19.9	18.9
Retired locomotives	41.2	31.7	28.4	31.2	34.4

For 2013, we budgeted \$2.0 billion for property additions. The anticipated spending includes \$831 million for the normalized replacement of rail, ties and ballast and the improvement or replacement of bridges. Planned equipment spending of \$420 million includes new and rebuilt locomotives, rebodging of coal cars, intermodal containers and chassis, and multilevel automobile racks. Investments in facilities and terminals are anticipated to be \$203 million, and include intermodal terminals and equipment to add capacity to the intermodal network (including the Crescent Corridor initiative), mechanical service shops and bulk transfer facilities. We budgeted \$229 million for the continued implementation of positive train control (PTC) and expect additional PTC-related property additions of at least \$674 million in 2014 and 2015. We also expect to spend \$84 million on infrastructure improvements to increase mainline capacity, accommodate business growth and provide our share of funding for various public/private partnership investments such as Crescent Corridor and the Chicago CREATE project. Technology investments of \$57 million are planned for new or upgraded systems and computers.

The Crescent Corridor consists of a program of projects for infrastructure and other facility improvements geared toward creating a seamless, high-capacity intermodal route spanning 11 states from New Jersey to Louisiana and offering truck-competitive service along several major interstate highway corridors, including I-81, I-85, I-20,

I-40, I-59, I-78, and I-75. Based on the public benefits that stand to be derived in the form of highway congestion relief, we plan to implement certain elements of the Crescent Corridor through a series of public-private partnerships. Currently, the Crescent Corridor has received or expects to receive a total of \$295 million in public capital funding commitments from the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia, the State of Tennessee, the federal TIGER Stimulus Program and other federal funding sources related to projects in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and North Carolina. With respect to the private funding component, we currently anticipate spending up to \$300 million for the substantial completion of work on these projects, which is expected in 2014. Planned 2013 investments for the Crescent Corridor approximate \$42 million.

Cash used in financing activities was \$694 million in 2012, compared with \$2.0 billion in 2011, and

\$1.4 billion in 2010. The change in 2012 reflects lower share repurchases, increased proceeds from borrowings, reduced debt repayments and maturities, offset in part by higher dividends. The change in 2011 reflected increased share repurchases, offset in part by higher proceeds from borrowing, net of debt repayments.

Share repurchases totaled \$1.3 billion in 2012, \$2.1 billion in 2011, and \$863 million in 2010 for the purchase and retirement of 18.8 million, 30.2 million, and 14.7 million shares, respectively. On August 1, 2012, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to an additional 50 million shares of Common Stock through December 31, 2017. The timing and volume of future share repurchases will be guided by our assessment of market conditions and other pertinent factors. Any near-term purchases under the program are expected to be made with internally generated cash, cash on hand, or proceeds from borrowings. As of December 31, 2012, we had remaining authority from our Board of Directors to repurchase 46.6 million shares through December 31, 2017.

K31

During 2012, we issued:

- \$600 million of 3.00% senior notes due 2022,
- \$600 million of 3.95% senior notes due 2042, and
- \$600 million of 2.90% senior notes due 2023 and paid \$115 million of premium in cash in exchange for \$521 million of previously issued notes (\$156 million at 7.25% due 2031, \$140 million at 5.64% due 2029, \$115 million at 5.59% due 2025, \$72 million at 7.80% due 2027, and \$38 million at 7.05% due 2037). The exchange premium was reflected as a reduction of debt in the 2012 Consolidated Balance Sheet and reflected within “Debt repayments” in the 2012 Statement of Cash Flows, and will be amortized as additional interest expense over the term of the new debt.

Our debt-to-total capitalization ratio was 47.1% at December 31, 2012, compared with 43.2% at December 31, 2011.

As of December 31, 2012, we had authority from our Board of Directors to issue an additional \$600 million of debt or equity securities through public or private sale. We have on file with the SEC a Form S-3 automatic shelf registration statement for well-known seasoned issuers under which securities may be issued pursuant to this authority.

We also have in place and available a \$750 million, five-year credit agreement expiring in 2016, which provides for borrowings at prevailing rates and includes covenants. We had no amounts outstanding under this facility at December 31, 2012 and are in compliance with all of its covenants. In October 2012, we renewed our \$350 million accounts receivable securitization program with a 364-day term to run until October 2013. There was \$300 million outstanding under this program at December 31, 2012 and \$200 million outstanding at December 31, 2011 (Note 8).

Upcoming annual debt maturities are relatively modest (Note 8). Overall, our goal is to maintain a capital structure with appropriate leverage to support our business strategy and provide flexibility through business cycles.

#### APPLICATION OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates and assumptions may require significant judgment about matters that are inherently uncertain, and future events are likely to occur that may require us to make changes to these estimates and assumptions. Accordingly, we regularly review these estimates and assumptions based on historical

experience, changes in the business environment, and other factors we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. We regularly discuss the development, selection, and disclosures concerning critical accounting estimates with the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

#### Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits

Accounting for pensions and other postretirement benefit plans requires us to make several estimates and assumptions (Note 11). These include the expected rate of return from investment of the plans' assets, projected increases in medical costs, and the expected retirement age of employees as well as their projected earnings and mortality. In addition, the amounts recorded are affected by changes in the interest rate environment because the associated liabilities are discounted to their present value. We make these estimates based on our historical experience and other information that we deem pertinent under the circumstances (for example, expectations of future stock market performance). We utilize an independent actuarial consulting firm's studies to assist us in selecting appropriate assumptions and valuing related liabilities.

K32

Net pension expense, which is included in “Compensation and benefits” in the Consolidated Statements of Income, was \$60 million for 2012. In recording this amount, we assumed a long-term investment rate of return of 8.25%, which was supported by the long-term total rate of return on plan assets since inception. A one percentage point change to this rate of return assumption would result in a \$17 million change in pension expense and, as a result, an equal change in “Compensation and benefits” expense. Changes that are reasonably likely to occur in assumptions concerning retirement age, projected earnings, and mortality would not be expected to have a material effect on our net pension expense or net pension liability in the future. The net pension liability is recorded at net present value using a discount rate that is based on the current interest rate environment in light of the timing of expected benefit payments. We utilize analyses in which the projected annual cash flows from the pension and postretirement benefit plans are matched with yield curves based on an appropriate universe of high-quality corporate bonds. We use the results of the yield curve analyses to select the discount rates that match the payment streams of the benefits in these plans.

Net cost for other postretirement benefits, which is also included in “Compensation and benefits,” was \$107 million for 2012. In recording this expense and valuing the net liability for other postretirement benefits, we estimated future increases in healthcare costs. These assumptions, along with the effect of a one-percentage point change in them, are described in Note 11.

#### Properties and Depreciation

Most of our total assets are long-lived railway properties (Note 6). As disclosed in Note 1, properties are depreciated using group depreciation. The primary depreciation method for our asset base is group life. Units of production is the principal method of depreciation for rail in high density corridors and for depletion of natural resources. Remaining properties are depreciated generally using the straight-line method over the lesser of estimated service or lease lives.

Depreciation expense is based on assumptions concerning expected service lives of properties as well as the expected net salvage that will be received upon their retirement. In developing these assumptions, we utilize periodic depreciation studies that are performed by an independent outside firm of consulting engineers and approved by the STB. Depreciation studies are conducted about every three years for equipment and every six years for track assets and other roadway property. The frequency of these studies correlates with guidelines established by the STB.

Key factors which are considered in developing average service life and salvage estimates include:

- statistical analyses of historical retirement data and surviving asset records;
- review of historical salvage received and current market rates;



- review of our operations including expected changes in technology, customer demand, maintenance practices and asset management strategies;
- review of accounting policies and assumptions; and
- industry review and analysis.

The units of production depreciation rate for rail in high density corridors is derived based on consideration of annual gross ton miles as compared to the total or ultimate capacity of rail in these corridors. Our experience has shown that traffic density is a leading factor in determination of the expected service life of rail in high density corridors. In developing the respective depreciation rate, consideration is also given to several rail characteristics including age, weight, condition (new or second hand) and type (curve or straight). As a result, a composite depreciation rate is developed which is applied to the depreciable base.

Recent experience with these studies has been that while they do result in changes in depreciation rates, these changes have not caused a significant effect to annual depreciation expense. Changes in rates as a result of depreciation studies are implemented prospectively. These studies may also indicate that the recorded amount of accumulated depreciation is deficient (or in excess) of the amount indicated by the study. Any such deficiency (or excess) is amortized as a component of depreciation expense over the remaining service lives of the affected class

K33

of property, as determined by the study. Depreciation expense for 2012 totaled \$916 million. Our composite depreciation rates for 2012 are disclosed in Note 6; a one-tenth percentage point increase (or decrease) in these rates would have resulted in a \$33 million increase (or decrease) to depreciation expense. For 2012, roadway depreciation rates ranged from 0.83% to 33.3% and equipment depreciation rates ranged from 1.32% to 37.84%.

When properties other than land and nonrail assets are sold or retired in the ordinary course of business, the cost of the assets, net of sale proceeds or salvage, is charged to accumulated depreciation, and no gain or loss is recognized in earnings. Actual historical cost values are retired when available, such as with equipment assets. The use of estimates in recording the retirement of certain roadway assets is necessary based on the impracticality of tracking individual asset costs. When retiring rail, ties, and ballast, we use statistical curves that indicate the relative distribution of the age of the assets retired. The historical cost of other roadway assets is estimated using a combination of inflation indices specific to the rail industry and those published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The indices are applied to the replacement value based on the age of the retired assets. These indices are used because they closely correlate with the costs of roadway assets. Gains and losses on disposal of land and nonrail assets are included in "Other income – net" (Note 2) since such income is not a product of our railroad operations.

A retirement is considered abnormal if it does not occur in the normal course of business, if it relates to disposition of a large segment of an asset class and if the retirement varies significantly from the retirement profile identified through our depreciation studies, which inherently consider the impact of normal retirements on expected service lives and depreciation rates. Gains or losses from abnormal retirements would be recognized in earnings; however, there were no such gains or losses in 2012, 2011, or 2010.

We review the carrying amount of properties whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such carrying amount may not be recoverable based on future undiscounted cash flow. Assets that ar