HALLMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES INC
Form 10-Q
August 07, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2018

Commission file number 001-11252

Hallmark Financial Services, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada	87-0447375
(State or other jurisdiction of Incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
777 Main Street, Suite 1000, Fort Worth, Texas	76102
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (817) 348-1600

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes 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 Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes x No ¨

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

Large accelerated filer ¨ Accelerated filer x
Non-accelerated filer ¨ Smaller reporting company ¨ Emerging growth company ¨

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 15(a) of the Exchange Act.¨

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date: Common Stock, par value $.18 per share – 18,058,676 shares outstanding as of August 7, 2018.

PART I

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Balance Sheets

($ in thousands, except par value)

	June 30, 2018 (unaudited)	December 31, 2017
ASSETS		
Investments:		
Debt securities, available-for-sale, at fair value (cost: $566,520 in 2018 and $604,999 in 2017)	$ 568,826	$ 605,746
Equity securities (cost: $40,308 in 2018 and $30,253 in 2017)	57,914	51,763
Other investments (cost, $3,763 in 2018 and 2017)	3,060	3,824
Total investments	629,800	661,333
Cash and cash equivalents	79,583	64,982
Restricted cash	3,078	2,651
Ceded unearned premiums	127,504	112,323
Premiums receivable	112,188	104,373
Accounts receivable	2,051	1,513
Receivable for securities	3,780	5,235
Reinsurance recoverable	215,045	182,928
Deferred policy acquisition costs	14,058	16,002
Goodwill	44,695	44,695
Intangible assets, net	8,791	10,023
Deferred federal income taxes, net	2,584	1,937
Federal income tax recoverable	-	7,532
Prepaid expenses	2,692	1,743
Other assets	13,431	13,856
Total assets	$ 1,259,280	$ 1,231,126
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Revolving credit facility payable	$ 30,000	$ 30,000
Subordinated debt securities (less unamortized debt issuance cost of $924 in 2018 and $949 in 2017)	55,778	55,753
Reserves for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	520,552	527,100
Unearned premiums	290,177	276,642
Reinsurance balances payable	65,559	52,487
Current federal income tax payable	187	-
Pension liability	1,470	1,605
Payable for securities	6,706	7,488

Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	31,942	28,933
Total liabilities	$ 1,002,371	$ 980,008
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 17)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, $.18 par value, authorized 33,333,333; issued 20,872,831 shares in 2018 and 2017	3,757	3,757
Additional paid-in capital	123,017	123,180
Retained earnings	156,585	136,474
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(865)	12,234
Treasury stock (2,814,155 shares in 2018 and 2,703,803 in 2017), at cost	(25,585)	(24,527)
Total stockholders' equity	$ 256,909	$ 251,118
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	$ 1,259,280	$ 1,231,126

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements

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Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Operations

(Unaudited)

($ in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2018	Three Months Ended June 30, 2017	Six Months Ended June 30, 2018	Six Months Ended June 30, 2017
Gross premiums written	$ 173,219	$ 162,056	$ 326,724	$ 297,168
Ceded premiums written	(83,373)	(61,162)	(145,445)	(107,755)
Net premiums written	89,846	100,894	181,279	189,413
Change in unearned premiums	1,132	(10,187)	1,646	(9,483)
Net premiums earned	90,978	90,707	182,925	179,930
Investment income, net of expenses	4,406	4,587	8,846	9,066
Investment gains (losses), net	533	(3,479)	(4,302)	(1,419)
Finance charges	1,161	936	2,201	1,989
Commission and fees	1,032	653	1,735	725
Other income	15	71	61	132
Total revenues	98,125	93,475	191,466	190,423
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	63,648	70,704	127,323	132,546
Other operating expenses	26,360	25,879	53,573	53,374
Interest expense	1,128	1,193	2,155	2,349
Amortization of intangible assets	617	617	1,234	1,234
Total expenses	91,753	98,393	184,285	189,503
Income (loss) before tax	6,372	(4,918)	7,181	920
Income tax expense (benefit)	1,282	(1,568)	1,444	284
Net income (loss)	5,090	(3,350)	5,737	636
Net income (loss) per share:				
Basic	$ 0.28	$ (0.18)	$ 0.32	$ 0.03
Diluted	$ 0.28	$ (0.18)	$ 0.31	$ 0.03

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements

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Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(Unaudited)

($ in thousands)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income (loss)	$ 5,090	$ (3,350)	$ 5,737	$ 636
Other comprehensive income :				
Change in net actuarial gain	26	35	53	70
Tax effect on change in net actuarial gain	(5)	(12)	(11)	(24)
Unrealized holding gains arising during the period	1,962	2,654	1,567	7,900
Tax effect on unrealized holding gains arising during the period	(412)	(929)	(329)	(2,765)
Reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses included in net income	(22)	10	(7)	(2,491)
Tax effect on reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses included in net income	5	(3)	2	872
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	1,554	1,755	1,275	3,562
Comprehensive income (loss)	$ 6,644	$ (1,595)	$ 7,012	$ 4,198

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements

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Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity

(Unaudited)

($ in thousands)

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2018	Three Months Ended June 30, 2017	Six Months Ended June 30, 2018	Six Months Ended June 30, 2017
Common Stock				
Balance, beginning of period	$3,757	$3,757	$3,757	$3,757
Balance, end of period	3,757	3,757	3,757	3,757
Additional Paid-In Capital				
Balance, beginning of period	123,224	123,183	123,180	123,166
Equity based compensation	(43)	19	1	46
Shares issued under employee benefit plans	(164)	(92)	(164)	(102)
Balance, end of period	123,017	123,110	123,017	123,110
Retained Earnings				
Balance, beginning of period	151,495	152,013	136,474	148,027
Cumulative effect of adoption of updated accounting guidance for equity financial instruments at January 1, 2018	-	-	16,993	-
Reclassification of certain tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive income at January 1, 2018	-	-	(2,619)	-
Net income (loss)	5,090	(3,350)	5,737	636
Balance, end of period	156,585	148,663	156,585	148,663
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income				
Balance, beginning of period	(2,419)	12,178	12,234	10,371
Cumulative effect of adoption of updated accounting guidance for equity financial instruments at January 1, 2018	-	-	(16,993)	-
Reclassification of certain tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive income at January 1, 2018	-	-	2,619	-
Additional minimum pension liability, net of tax	21	23	42	46
Unrealized holding gains arising during period, net of tax	1,550	1,725	1,238	5,135
Reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses included in net income, net of tax	(17)	7	(5)	(1,619)
Balance, end of period	(865)	13,933	(865)	13,933
Treasury Stock				
Balance, beginning of period	(24,904)	(20,105)	(24,527)	(19,585)
Acquisition of treasury stock	(1,087)	(3,862)	(1,464)	(4,425)

Shares issued under employee benefit plans	406	204	406	247
Balance, end of period	(25,585)	(23,763)	(25,585)	(23,763)
Total Stockholders' Equity	$256,909	$265,700	$256,909	$265,700

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements

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Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

($ in thousands)

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2018	2017
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	$ 5,737	$ 636
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization expense	2,479	2,256
Deferred federal income taxes	(988)	(2,174)
Investment losses, net	4,302	1,419
Share-based payments expense	1	46
Change in ceded unearned premiums	(15,181)	(11,156)
Change in premiums receivable	(7,815)	(18,091)
Change in accounts receivable	(538)	513
Change in deferred policy acquisition costs	1,944	(142)
Change in unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	(6,548)	23,791
Change in unearned premiums	13,535	20,639
Change in reinsurance recoverable	(32,117)	(16,613)
Change in reinsurance balances payable	13,072	7,690
Change in current federal income tax recoverable/payable	7,719	2,154
Change in all other liabilities	2,899	(745)
Change in all other assets	1,604	2,161
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(9,895)	12,384
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,118)	(1,231)
Purchases of investment securities	(97,610)	(124,366)
Maturities, sales and redemptions of investment securities	124,873	111,440
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	26,145	(14,157)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from exercise of employee stock options	242	145
Purchase of treasury shares	(1,464)	(4,425)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,222)	(4,280)

Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash	15,028	(6,053)
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at beginning of period	67,633	86,959
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at end of period	$ 82,661	$ 80,906

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements

Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)

1. General

Hallmark Financial Services, Inc. (“Hallmark” and, together with subsidiaries, “we,” “us” or “our”) is an insurance holding company engaged in the sale of property/casualty insurance products to businesses and individuals. Our business involves marketing, distributing, underwriting and servicing our insurance products, as well as providing other insurance related services.

We pursue our business activities primarily through subsidiaries whose operations are organized into product-specific operating units that are supported by our insurance company subsidiaries. Our Contract Binding operating unit offers commercial insurance products and services in the excess and surplus lines market. Our Specialty Commercial operating unit offers general aviation and satellite launch insurance products and services, low and middle market commercial umbrella and primary/excess liability insurance, medical and financial professional liability insurance products and services, and primary/excess commercial property coverages for both catastrophe and non-catastrophe exposures. Our Standard Commercial P&C operating unit offers industry-specific commercial insurance products and services in the standard market. Our Workers Compensation operating unit specializes in small and middle market workers compensation business. Effective July 1, 2015, this operating unit no longer markets or retains any risk on new or renewal policies. Our Specialty Personal Lines operating unit offers non-standard personal automobile and renters insurance products and services. Our insurance company subsidiaries supporting these operating units are American Hallmark Insurance Company of Texas (“AHIC”), Hallmark Insurance Company (“HIC”), Hallmark Specialty Insurance Company (“HSIC”), Hallmark County Mutual Insurance Company, Hallmark National Insurance Company and Texas Builders Insurance Company.

These operating units are segregated into three reportable industry segments for financial accounting purposes. The Specialty Commercial Segment includes our Contract Binding operating unit and our Specialty Commercial operating unit. The Standard Commercial Segment includes our Standard Commercial P&C operating unit and our Workers Compensation operating unit. The Personal Segment consists solely of our Specialty Personal Lines operating unit.

2. Basis of Presentation

Our unaudited consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and include our accounts and the accounts of our subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have been condensed or omitted pursuant to rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") for interim financial reporting. These unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC.

The interim financial data as of June 30, 2018 and 2017 is unaudited. However, in the opinion of management, the interim data includes all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of the results for the interim periods. The results of operations for the period ended June 30, 2018 are not necessarily indicative of the operating results to be expected for the full year.

Reclassifications

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.

Income Taxes

We file a consolidated federal income tax return. Deferred federal income taxes reflect the future tax consequences of differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their financial reporting amounts at each year end. Deferred taxes are recognized using the liability method, whereby tax rates are applied to cumulative temporary differences based on when and how they are expected to affect the tax return. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are adjusted for tax rate changes in effect for the year in which these temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of the Financial Statements

Our preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect our reported amounts of assets and liabilities and our disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of our consolidated financial statements, as well as our reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Refer to “Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments” under Item 7 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 for information on accounting policies that we consider critical in preparing our consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair value estimates are made at a point in time based on relevant market data as well as the best information available about the financial instruments. Fair value estimates for financial instruments for which no or limited observable market data is available are based on judgments regarding current economic conditions, credit and interest rate risk. These estimates involve significant uncertainties and judgments and cannot be determined with precision. As a result, such calculated fair value estimates may not be realizable in a current sale or immediate settlement of the instrument. In addition, changes in the underlying assumptions used in the fair value measurement technique, including discount rate and estimates of future cash flows, could significantly affect these fair value estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents: The carrying amounts reported in the balance sheet for these instruments approximate their fair values.

Restricted Cash: The carrying amount for restricted cash reported in the balance sheet approximates the fair value.

Revolving Credit Facility Payable: A revolving credit facility with Frost Bank had a carried value of $30.0 million and a fair value of $30.2 million as of June 30, 2018. The fair value is based on the lower of the discounted cash flows using a discount rate derived from LIBOR spot rates plus a market spread resulting in discount rates ranging between 4.7% to 5.2% for each future payment date or 100.5% of par. This revolving credit facility would be included in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy if it was reported at fair value.

Subordinated Debt Securities: Our trust preferred securities have a carried value of $55.8 million and a fair value of $46.2 million as of June 30, 2018. The fair value of our trust preferred securities is based on discounted cash flows using a current yield to maturity of 8.0%, which is based on similar issues to discount future cash flows. Our trust preferred securities would be included in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy if they were reported at fair value.

For reinsurance balances, premiums receivable, federal income tax recoverable/payable, other assets and other liabilities, the carrying amounts approximate fair value because of the short maturity of such financial instruments.

Variable Interest Entities

On June 21, 2005, we formed Hallmark Statutory Trust I ("Trust I"), an unconsolidated trust subsidiary, for the sole purpose of issuing $30.0 million in trust preferred securities. Trust I used the proceeds from the sale of these securities and our initial capital contribution to purchase $30.9 million of subordinated debt securities from Hallmark. The debt securities are the sole assets of Trust I, and the payments under the debt securities are the sole revenues of Trust I.

On August 23, 2007, we formed Hallmark Statutory Trust II ("Trust II"), an unconsolidated trust subsidiary, for the sole purpose of issuing $25.0 million in trust preferred securities. Trust II used the proceeds from the sale of these securities and our initial capital contribution to purchase $25.8 million of subordinated debt securities from Hallmark. The debt securities are the sole assets of Trust II, and the payments under the debt securities are the sole revenues of Trust II.

We evaluate on an ongoing basis our investments in Trust I and Trust II (collectively the "Trusts") and have determined that we do not have a variable interest in the Trusts. Therefore, the Trusts are not included in our consolidated financial statements.

We are also involved in the normal course of business with variable interest entities ("VIE's") primarily as a passive investor in mortgage-backed securities and certain collateralized corporate bank loans issued by third party VIE's. The maximum exposure to loss with respect to these investments is the investment carrying values included in the consolidated balance sheets.

Adoption of New Accounting Pronouncements

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-01, "Clarifying the Definition of a Business" (Topic 715). ASU 2017-01 is intended to assist entities with evaluating whether transactions should be accounted for as acquisitions (or disposals) of assets or businesses. ASU 2017-01 is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those annual periods. Effective January 1, 2018, we adopted this new guidance, which did not have a material impact on our financial results or disclosures.

On February 14, 2018, the FASB issued updated guidance that allows a reclassification of the stranded tax effects in accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI) resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA). Current guidance requires the effect of a change in tax laws or rates on deferred tax balances to be reported in income from continuing operations in the accounting period that includes the period of enactment, even if the related income tax effects were originally charged or credited directly to AOCI. The amount of the reclassification would include the effect of the change in the U.S. federal corporate income tax rate on the gross deferred tax amounts and related valuation allowances, if any, at the date of the enactment of TCJA related to items in AOCI. The updated guidance was effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018 and is to be applied retrospectively to each period in which the effect of the TCJA related to items remaining in AOCI are recognized or at the beginning of the period of adoption. Early adoption is permitted. The Company adopted the updated guidance effective January 1, 2018 and elected to reclassify the income tax effects of the TCJA from AOCI to retained earnings as of January 1, 2018. This reclassification resulted in a decrease in retained earnings of $2.6 million as of January 1, 2018 and an increase in AOCI by the same amount.

In January 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-01, “Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities” (Subtopic 825-10). ASU 2016-01 will require equity investments that are not consolidated or accounted for under the equity method of accounting to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income. ASU 2016-01 will also require us to assess the ability to realize our deferred tax assets (“DTAs”) related to an available-for-sale debt security in combination with our other DTAs. ASU 2016-01 was effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those fiscal years. The adoption of this guidance resulted in the recognition of $17.0 million of net after-tax unrealized gains on equity investments as a cumulative effect adjustment that increased retained earnings as of January 1, 2018 and decreased AOCI by the same amount. The Company elected to report changes in the fair value of equity investments in investment gains and (losses) in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. At December 31, 2017, equity investments were classified as available-for-sale on the Company's balance sheet. However, upon adoption, the updated guidance eliminated the available-for-sale balance sheet classification for equity investments.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-15, “Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments” (Topic 230). ASU 2016-15 will reduce diversity in practice on how eight specific cash receipts and payments are classified on the statement of cash flows. The ASU will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those years. Effective January 1, 2018, we adopted this new guidance, which did not have a material impact on our financial results or disclosures.

In November 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-18, “Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Restricted Cash.” The purpose of ASU 2016-18 is to eliminate the diversity in classifying and presenting changes in restricted cash in the statement of cash flows. The new guidance requires restricted cash to be combined with cash and cash equivalents when reconciling the beginning and ending balances of cash on the statement of cash flows, thereby no longer requiring transactions such as transfers between restricted and unrestricted cash to be treated as a cash flow activity. Further, the new guidance requires the nature of the restrictions to be disclosed, as well as a reconciliation between the balance sheet and the statement of cash flows on how restricted and unrestricted cash are segregated. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods within that fiscal year, with early adoption permitted. Effective January 1, 2018, we retrospectively adopted this new guidance.

In May 2014, the FASB issued guidance which revises the criteria for revenue recognition. Under the guidance, the transaction price is attributed to underlying performance obligations in the contract and revenue is recognized as the entity satisfies the performance obligations and transfers control of a good or service to the customer. Incremental costs of obtaining a contract may be capitalized to the extent the entity expects to recover those costs. The guidance was effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017 and is to be applied retrospectively. Revenue from insurance contracts is excluded from the scope of this new guidance. While insurance contracts are excluded from this guidance, policy fee income, billing and other fees and fee income related to property business written as a cover-holder through a Lloyds Syndicate is subject to this updated guidance. Effective January 1, 2018, we adopted this new guidance which did not have a material impact on our financial results or disclosures.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In March 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-08, “Premium Amortization on Purchased Callable Securities” (Subtopic 310-20). ASU 2017-08 is intended to enhance the accounting for amortization of premiums for purchased callable debt securities. The guidance amends the amortization period for certain purchased callable debt securities held at a premium. Securities that contain explicit, noncontingent call features that are callable at fixed prices and on preset dates should shorten the amortization period for the premium to the earliest call date (and if the call option is not exercised, the effective yield is reset using the payment terms of the debt security). The standard is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2018, and is to be applied on a modified retrospective basis through a cumulative-effect adjustment directly to retained earnings. We are currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of ASU 2017-08 will have on our financial results and disclosures.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-04, “Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment” (Topic 350). ASU 2017-04 requires only a one-step quantitative impairment test, whereby a goodwill impairment loss will be measured as the excess of a reporting unit’s carrying amount over its fair value (not to exceed the total goodwill allocated to that reporting unit). It eliminates Step 2 of the current two-step goodwill impairment test, under which a goodwill impairment loss is measured by comparing the implied fair value of a reporting unit’s goodwill. The ASU is effective for annual or any interim goodwill impairment tests in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019. We are currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of ASU 2017-04 will have on our financial results and disclosures.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, “Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments” (Topic 326). ASU 2016-13 requires organizations to estimate credit losses on certain types of financial instruments, including receivables and available-for-sale debt securities, by introducing an approach based on expected losses. The expected loss approach will require entities to incorporate considerations of historical information, current information and reasonable and supportable forecasts. ASU 2016-13 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, including interim periods within those fiscal years. ASU 2016-13 requires a modified retrospective transition method and early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of this standard will have on our financial results and disclosures, but do not anticipate that any potential impact would be material.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, “Leases” (Topic 842). ASU 2016-02 requires organizations that lease assets to recognize on the balance sheet the assets and liabilities for the rights and obligations created by those leases. Additionally, ASU 2016-02 modifies current guidance for lessors' accounting. ASU 2016-02 is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2019, with early adoption permitted. We do not anticipate that this standard will have a material impact on our results of operations, but we anticipate an increase to the value of our assets and liabilities related to leases, with no material impact to equity.

3. Fair Value

ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a consistent framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosure requirements about fair value measurements. ASC 820, among other things, requires us to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. In addition, ASC 820 precludes the use of block discounts when measuring the fair value of instruments traded in an active market, which were previously applied to large holdings of publicly traded equity securities.

We determine the fair value of our financial instruments based on the fair value hierarchy established in ASC 820. In accordance with ASC 820, we utilize the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1: quoted prices in active markets for identical assets;
- Level 2: inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, inputs of identical assets for less active markets, and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the instrument; and
- Level 3: inputs to the valuation methodology that are unobservable for the asset or liability.

This hierarchy requires the use of observable market data when available.

Under ASC 820, we determine fair value based on the price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. It is our policy to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when developing fair value measurements, in accordance with the fair value hierarchy described above. Fair value measurements for assets and liabilities where there exists limited or no observable market data are calculated based upon our pricing policy, the economic and competitive environment, the characteristics of the asset or liability and other factors as appropriate. These estimated fair values may not be realized upon actual sale or immediate settlement of the asset or liability.

Where quoted prices are available on active exchanges for identical instruments, investment securities are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. Level 1 investment securities include common and preferred stock and an equity warrant classified as Other Investments.

Level 2 investment securities include corporate bonds, collateralized corporate bank loans, municipal bonds, U.S. Treasury securities, other obligations of the U.S. Government and mortgage-backed securities for which quoted prices are not available on active exchanges for identical instruments. We use third party pricing services to determine fair values for each Level 2 investment security in all asset classes. Since quoted prices in active markets for identical assets are not available, these prices are determined using observable market information such as quotes from less active markets and/or quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, among other things. We have reviewed the processes used by the pricing services and have determined that they result in fair values consistent with the requirements of ASC 820 for Level 2 investment securities. We have not adjusted any prices received from third party pricing sources. There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 securities.

In cases where there is limited activity or less transparency around inputs to the valuation, investment securities are classified within Level 3 of the valuation hierarchy. Level 3 investments are valued based on the best available data in order to approximate fair value. This data may be internally developed and consider risk premiums that a market participant would require. Investment securities classified within Level 3 include other less liquid investment securities.

The following table presents for each of the fair value hierarchy levels, our assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis at June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

	As of June 30, 2018			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government	$ -	$ 47,133	$ -	$ 47,133
Corporate bonds	-	248,969	315	249,284
Collateralized corporate bank loans	-	130,244	-	130,244
Municipal bonds	-	129,597	-	129,597
Mortgage-backed	-	12,568	-	12,568
Total debt securities	-	568,511	315	568,826
Total equity securities	57,914	-	-	57,914
Total other investments	3,060	-	-	3,060
Total investments	$ 60,974	$ 568,511	$ 315	$ 629,800

	As of December 31, 2017			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government	$ -	$ 49,947	$ -	$ 49,947
Corporate bonds	-	278,760	313	279,073
Collateralized corporate bank loans	-	125,937	-	125,937
Municipal bonds	-	131,433	2,823	134,256

Mortgage-backed	-	16,533	-	16,533
Total debt securities	-	602,610	3,136	605,746
Total equity securities	51,142	-	621	51,763
Total other investments	3,824	-	-	3,824
Total investments	$54,966	$602,610	$ 3,757	$661,333

Due to significant unobservable inputs into the valuation model for one corporate bond as of June 30, 2018, we classified this investment as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. Due to significant unobservable inputs into the valuation model for certain municipal bonds, one corporate bond and one equity security as of December 31, 2017, we classified these investments as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. We used an income approach in order to derive an estimated fair value of the municipal bonds classified as Level 3, which included inputs such as expected holding period, benchmark swap rate, benchmark discount rate and a discount rate premium for illiquidity. The corporate bond is a convertible senior note and its fair value was estimated by the sum of the bond value using an income approach discounting the scheduled interest and principal payments and the conversion feature utilizing a binomial lattice model. We also estimated the fair value of the corporate bond utilizing an as-if converted basis into the underlying securities. Significant changes in the unobservable inputs in the fair value measurement of this corporate bond could result in a significant change in the fair value measurement. The equity security previously classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy was transferred to Level 1 during the second quarter of 2018.

The following table summarizes the changes in fair value for all financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 (in thousands):

Beginning balance as of January 1, 2018	$3,757
Sales	(2,925)
Settlements	-
Purchases	-
Issuances	-
Total realized/unrealized gains included in net income	104
Net gains included in other comprehensive income	-
Transfers into Level 3	-
Transfers out of Level 3	(621)
Ending balance as of June 30, 2018	$315
Beginning balance as of January 1, 2017	$5,945
Sales	-
Settlements	(150)
Purchases	775
Issuances	-
Total realized/unrealized gains included in net income	-
Net gains included in other comprehensive income	533
Transfers into Level 3	-
Transfers out of Level 3	-
Ending balance as of June 30, 2017	$7,103

4. Investments

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of investments in debt and equity securities by category is as follows (in thousands):

As of June 30, 2018	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government	$ 47,852	$ -	$ (719)	$ 47,133
Corporate bonds	250,817	366	(1,899)	249,284
Collateralized corporate bank loans	130,377	337	(470)	130,244
Municipal bonds	124,396	6,127	(926)	129,597
Mortgage-backed	13,078	18	(528)	12,568
Total debt securities	566,520	6,848	(4,542)	568,826
Total equity securities	40,308	21,446	(3,840)	57,914
Total other investments	3,763	-	(703)	3,060
Total investments	$ 610,591	$ 28,294	$ (9,085)	$ 629,800
As of December 31, 2017				
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government	$ 50,088	$ 7	$ (148)	$ 49,947
Corporate bonds	278,611	1,204	(742)	279,073
Collateralized corporate bank loans	125,536	702	(301)	125,937
Municipal bonds	134,052	709	(505)	134,256
Mortgage-backed	16,712	37	(216)	16,533
Total debt securities	604,999	2,659	(1,912)	605,746
Total equity securities	30,253	23,014	(1,504)	51,763
Total other investments	3,763	61	-	3,824
Total investments	$ 639,015	$ 25,734	$ (3,416)	$ 661,333

Major categories of net investment gains (losses) on investments are summarized as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Corporate bonds	(14)	(148)	(22)	(18)
Collateralized corporate bank loans	35	20	47	48
Municipal bonds	2	101	(19)	84
Mortgage-backed	(1)	-	1	-
Realized gains (losses) on fixed maturities	22	(27)	7	114
Realized gains (losses) on equity securities	359	17	359	2,377
Realized gains (losses) on other investments	-	-	-	-
Total realized gains (losses) on investments	381	(10)	366	2,491
Other-than-temporary impairments	-	(3,407)	-	(3,407)
Unrealized losses on other investments	(401)	(62)	(764)	(503)
Unrealized gains (losses) on equity investments	553	-	(3,904)	-
Investment gains (losses), net	$ 533	$ (3,479)	$ (4,302)	$ (1,419)

We realized gross gains on investments of $0.5 million and $0.4 million during the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and $0.6 million and $3.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. We realized gross losses on investments of $0.1 million and $0.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and $0.2 million and $0.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. We recorded proceeds from the sale of investment securities of $14.2 million and $0.1 million during the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and $14.2 million and $8.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Realized investment gains and losses are recognized in operations on the first in-first out method.

The following schedules summarize the gross unrealized losses showing the length of time that investments have been continuously in an unrealized loss position as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

	As of June 30, 2018					
	12 months or less		Longer than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government	$47,133	$ (719)	$ -	$ -	$47,133	$ (719)
Corporate bonds	227,333	(1,898)	379	(1)	227,712	(1,899)
Collateralized corporate bank loans	77,457	(379)	5,687	(91)	83,144	(470)
Municipal bonds	35,600	(783)	7,980	(143)	43,580	(926)
Mortgage-backed	7,728	(324)	926	(204)	8,654	(528)
Total debt securities	395,251	(4,103)	14,972	(439)	410,223	(4,542)
Total equity securities	13,106	(2,990)	2,564	(850)	15,670	(3,840)
Total other investments	3,060	(703)	-	-	3,060	(703)
Total investments	$411,417	$ (7,796)	$ 17,536	$ (1,289)	$428,953	$ (9,085)

	As of December 31, 2017					
	12 months or less		Longer than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government	$28,825	$ (145)	$ 1,997	$ (3)	$30,822	$ (148)
Corporate bonds	176,061	(736)	2,378	(6)	178,439	(742)
Collateralized corporate bank loans	30,008	(280)	2,517	(21)	32,525	(301)
Municipal bonds	35,200	(370)	8,917	(135)	44,117	(505)
Mortgage-backed	6,419	(127)	1,415	(89)	7,834	(216)
Total debt securities	276,513	(1,658)	17,224	(254)	293,737	(1,912)
Total equity securities	8,375	(1,504)	-	-	8,375	(1,504)
Total other investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total investments	$284,888	$ (3,162)	$ 17,224	$ (254)	$302,112	$ (3,416)

At June 30, 2018, the gross unrealized losses more than twelve months old were attributable to 25 debt security positions and one equity security. At December 31, 2017, the gross unrealized losses more than twelve months old were attributable to 25 debt security positions. We consider these losses as a temporary decline in value as they are predominately on securities that we do not intend to sell and do not believe we will be required to sell prior to recovery of our amortized cost basis. We see no other indications that the decline in values of these securities is other-than-temporary.

We complete a detailed analysis each quarter to assess whether any decline in the fair value of any fixed maturity investment below cost is deemed other-than-temporary. All fixed maturity investments with an unrealized loss are reviewed. We recognize an impairment loss when an investment's value declines below cost, adjusted for accretion, amortization and previous other-than-temporary impairments, and it is determined that the decline is other-than-temporary.

We assess whether we intend to sell, or it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell, a fixed maturity investment before recovery of its amortized cost basis less any current period credit losses. For fixed maturity investments that are considered other-than-temporarily impaired and that we do not intend to sell and will not be required to sell, we separate the amount of the impairment into the amount that is credit related (credit loss component) and the amount due to all other factors. The credit loss component is recognized in earnings and is the difference between the investment's amortized cost basis and the present value of its expected future cash flows. The remaining difference between the investment's fair value and the present value of future expected cash flows is recognized in other comprehensive income.

Details regarding the carrying value of the other investments portfolio as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 are as follows (in thousands):

	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Investment Type		
Equity warrant	$ 3,060	$ 3,824
Total other investments	$ 3,060	$ 3,824

We acquired this warrant in an active market. The warrant entitles us to buy the underlying common stock of a publicly traded company at a fixed price until the expiration date of January 19, 2021.

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of debt securities at June 30, 2018 by contractual maturity are as follows. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because certain borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without penalties.

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value

	(in thousands)	
Due in one year or less	$134,743	$134,885
Due after one year through five years	265,203	268,821
Due after five years through ten years	125,657	125,402
Due after ten years	27,839	27,150
Mortgage-backed	13,078	12,568
	$566,520	$568,826

5. Pledged Investments

We have pledged certain of our securities for the benefit of various state insurance departments and reinsurers. These securities are included with our available-for-sale debt securities because we have the ability to trade these securities. We retain the interest earned on these securities. These securities had a carrying value of $29.8 million and $26.2 million at June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

6. Reserves for Unpaid Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

Activity in the consolidated reserves for unpaid losses and LAE is summarized as follows (in thousands):

	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017
Balance at January 1	$527,100	$481,567
Less reinsurance recoverable	154,612	123,237
Net balance at January 1	372,488	358,330
Incurred related to:		
Current year	122,870	122,862
Prior years	4,453	9,684
Total incurred	127,323	132,546
Paid related to:		
Current year	28,321	33,687
Prior years	140,339	90,042
Total paid	168,660	123,729
Net balance at June 30	331,151	367,147
Plus reinsurance recoverable	189,401	138,211
Balance at June 30	$520,552	$505,358

The impact from the unfavorable (favorable) net prior years' loss development on each reporting segment is presented below:

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2018	2017
Specialty Commercial Segment	$ 6,861	$ 8,332
Standard Commercial Segment	(1,560)	264
Personal Segment	(848)	1,088
Corporate	-	-
Total unfavorable (favorable) net prior years' development	$ 4,453	$ 9,684

The following describes the primary factors behind each segment's prior accident year reserve development for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017:

Six months ended June 30, 2018:

- ***Specialty Commercial Segment.*** Our Contract Binding operating unit experienced net unfavorable development in the 2016 and prior accident years primarily in the commercial auto liability line of business, partially offset by favorable development primarily in the commercial auto and general liability lines of business in the 2017 accident year. Our Specialty Commercial operating unit experienced net unfavorable development in general aviation, commercial excess liability, satellite launch insurance products, primary/excess commercial property, professional liability and specialty risk programs lines of business.

- ***Standard Commercial Segment.*** Our Standard Commercial P&C operating unit experienced net favorable development in the 2016 and prior accident years primarily in the general liability line of business, partially offset by net unfavorable development primarily in the commercial property line of business in the 2017 accident year and net unfavorable development in the 2017 and prior accident years in the occupational accident line of business.

- ***Personal Segment.*** Net favorable development in our Specialty Personal Lines operating unit was mostly attributable to the 2013 through 2017 accident years, partially offset by unfavorable development in the 2012 and prior accident years.

Six months ended June 30, 2017:

- ***Specialty Commercial Segment.*** Our Contract Binding operating unit experienced net unfavorable development primarily in the commercial auto liability line of business in the 2015 and prior accident years, partially offset by favorable development in the 2016 accident year. Our Specialty Commercial operating unit experienced net unfavorable development in general aviation primarily in the 2010 accident year, commercial excess liability primarily in the 2013 accident year and specialty risk programs primarily in the 2015, 2013 and 2012 accident years, partially offset by net favorable development in the medical professional liability lines of business primarily in the 2016 accident year.

- ***Standard Commercial Segment.*** Our Standard Commercial P&C operating unit experienced net unfavorable development in the 2016 and prior accident years in the occupational accident line of business, partially offset by net favorable development primarily in the general liability line of business in the 2016 and prior accident years.

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Personal Segment. Net unfavorable development in our Specialty Personal Lines operating unit was mostly attributable to the 2016, 2014 and 2013 accident years, partially offset by favorable development in the 2015 accident year.

7. Share-Based Payment Arrangements

Our 2005 Long Term Incentive Plan ("2005 LTIP") is a stock compensation plan for key employees and non-employee directors that was initially approved by the shareholders on May 26, 2005 and expired by its terms on May 27, 2015. As of June 30, 2018, there were outstanding incentive stock options to purchase 26,074 shares of our common stock, non-qualified stock options to purchase 244,157 shares of our common stock. The exercise price of all such outstanding stock options is equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant.

Our 2015 Long Term Incentive Plan ("2015 LTIP") was approved by shareholders on May 29, 2015. There are 2,000,000 shares authorized for issuance under the 2015 LTIP. As of June 30, 2018, restricted stock units representing the right to receive up to 292,257 shares of our common stock were outstanding under the 2015 LTIP. There were no stock option awards granted under the 2015 LTIP as of June 30, 2018.

Stock Options:

Incentive stock options granted under the 2005 LTIP prior to 2009 vest 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% on the first, second, third and fourth anniversary dates of the grant, respectively, and terminate five to ten years from the date of grant. Incentive stock options granted in 2009 vest in equal annual increments on each of the first seven anniversary dates and terminate ten years from the date of grant. One grant of 25,000 incentive stock options in 2010 vests in equal annual increments on each of the first three anniversary dates and terminates ten years from the date of grant. Non-qualified stock options granted under the 2005 LTIP generally vest 100% six months after the date of grant and terminate ten years from the date of grant. One grant of 200,000 non-qualified stock options in 2009 vests in equal annual increments on each of the first seven anniversary dates and terminates ten years from the date of grant.

A summary of the status of our stock options as of June 30, 2018 and changes during the six months then ended is presented below:

	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value ($000)
Outstanding at January 1, 2018	406,731	$ 7.85		
Granted	-			

Exercised	(36,500)	$ 6.61		
Forfeited or expired	(100,000)	$ 10.98		
Outstanding at June 30, 2018	270,231	$ 6.86	1.0	$ 843
Exercisable at June 30, 2018	270,231	$ 6.86	1.0	$ 843

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The following table details the intrinsic value of options exercised, total cost of share-based payments charged against income before income tax benefit and the amount of related income tax benefit recognized in income for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Intrinsic value of options exercised	$ 122	$ 80	$ 122	$ 101
Cost of share-based payments (non-cash)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Income tax benefit of share-based payments recognized in income	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

As of June 30, 2018, there was no unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock options granted under our plans which is expected to be recognized in the future.

The fair value of each stock option granted is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Expected volatilities are based on the historical volatility of Hallmark's and similar companies' common stock for a period equal to the expected term. The risk-free interest rates for periods within the contractual term of the options are based on rates for U.S. Treasury Notes with maturity dates corresponding to the options expected lives on the dates of grant. Expected term is determined based on the simplified method as we do not have sufficient historical exercise data to provide a basis for estimating the expected term. There were no stock options granted during the first six months of 2018 or 2017.

Restricted Stock Units:

Restricted stock units awarded under the 2015 LTIP represent the right to receive shares of common stock upon the satisfaction of vesting requirements, performance criteria and other terms and conditions. Restricted stock units vest and, if performance criteria have been satisfied, shares of common stock become issuable on March 31 of the third calendar year following the year of grant.

The performance criteria for all restricted stock units require that we achieve certain compound average annual growth rates in book value per share as well as certain average combined ratio percentages over the vesting period in order to receive shares of common stock in amounts ranging from 50% to 150% of the number of restricted stock units granted. Grantees of restricted stock units do not have any rights of a stockholder, and do not participate in any distributions to our common stockholders, until the award fully vests upon satisfaction of the vesting schedule, performance criteria and other conditions set forth in their award agreement. Therefore, unvested restricted stock units are not considered participating securities under ASC 260, “Earnings Per Share,” and are not included in the calculation of basic or diluted earnings per share.

Compensation cost is measured as an amount equal to the fair value of the restricted stock units on the date of grant and is expensed over the vesting period if achievement of the performance criteria is deemed probable, with the amount of the expense recognized based on our best estimate of the ultimate achievement level. The grant date fair value of restricted stock units granted in 2015, 2016 and 2017 was $11.10, $11.41 and $10.20 per unit, respectively. We incurred compensation (benefit) expense of ($43) thousand and $1 thousand related to restricted stock units during the three months and six months ended June 30, 2018, respectively. We incurred compensation expense of $19 thousand and $46 thousand during the three months and six months ended June 30, 2017, respectively. We recorded income tax expense of $9 thousand and $0 thousand related to restricted stock units during the three months and six months ended June 30, 2018, respectively. We recorded income tax benefit of $7 thousand and $16 thousand related to restricted stock units during the three months and six months ended June 30, 2017, respectively.

A summary of the status of our restricted stock units as of June 30, 2018 and 2017 and changes during the six months then ended is presented below:

	Number of Restricted Stock Units	
	2018	2017
Non-vested at January 1	385,779	296,574
Granted	-	-
Vested	(8,198)	(5,998)
Forfeited	(182,743)	(43,509)
Non-vested at June 30	194,838	247,067

As of June 30, 2018, there was $1.0 million of unrecognized grant date compensation cost related to unvested restricted stock units. Based on the current performance estimate, we expect to recognize $0.3 million of compensation cost related to unvested restricted stock units, of which $0.1 million is expected to be recognized during the remainder of 2018, $0.1 million is expected to be recognized in 2019 and $0.1 million is expected to be recognized in 2020.

8. Segment Information

The following is business segment information for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Revenues:				
Specialty Commercial Segment	$ 72,081	$ 69,501	$ 145,205	$ 135,336
Standard Commercial Segment	19,247	17,322	38,122	35,048
Personal Segment	7,916	10,684	15,536	22,547
Corporate	(1,119)	(4,032)	(7,397)	(2,508)
Consolidated	$ 98,125	$ 93,475	$ 191,466	$ 190,423
Pre-tax income (loss):				
Specialty Commercial Segment	$ 8,770	$ 3,632	$ 18,528	$ 11,730
Standard Commercial Segment	2,656	(199)	3,975	652
Personal Segment	(1)	(892)	(23)	(1,650)
Corporate	(5,053)	(7,459)	(15,299)	(9,812)
Consolidated	$ 6,372	$ (4,918)	$ 7,181	$ 920

The following is additional business segment information as of the dates indicated (in thousands):

	June 30, 2018	**December 31, 2017**
Assets:		
Specialty Commercial Segment	$ 848,485	$ 810,133
Standard Commercial Segment	159,679	162,152
Personal Segment	224,630	232,441
Corporate	26,486	26,400
	$ 1,259,280	$ 1,231,126

9. Reinsurance

We reinsure a portion of the risk we underwrite in order to control the exposure to losses and to protect capital resources. We cede to reinsurers a portion of these risks and pay premiums based upon the risk and exposure of the policies subject to such reinsurance. Ceded reinsurance involves credit risk and is generally subject to aggregate loss limits. Although the reinsurer is liable to us to the extent of the reinsurance ceded, we are ultimately liable as the direct insurer on all risks reinsured. Reinsurance recoverables are reported after allowances for uncollectible amounts. We monitor the financial condition of reinsurers on an ongoing basis and review o