

**NOTE 25 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Primary Government**

**General**

The State has elected not to purchase commercial insurance for many of the risks of losses to which it is exposed. The State is self-insured for most general liability and property losses, portions of its employee insurance benefit and employee bonding programs, automobile liability, and workers' compensation and unemployment compensation claims. Areas of risk where some level of insurance coverage is purchased include: aircraft liability, property and loss rental insurance that may be required by bond or lease agreements, portions of the State employee insurance benefits program, certain State artifacts, builder's risk coverage, boiler and machinery coverage, and employee bonding. Settled claims have not exceeded commercial coverage in any of the past ten fiscal years.

The State has established two internal service funds, which are described below, to account for certain aspects of the risk management program. Fund expenditures (expenses) are recognized in the paying funds in a manner similar to purchased commercial insurance. For other uninsured losses not covered by an internal service fund program, such as general liability and property losses, the State recognizes fund liabilities in the fund incurring the loss as follows: governmental funds record an expenditure when a loss is due and payable; proprietary funds record an expense when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount can be reasonably estimated. As explained more fully in Note 15, losses for workers' compensation and certain types of litigation losses have been recognized as liabilities in the government-wide financial statements.

For unemployment claims, the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) bills the State for the actual amount of claims paid to former State employees. The State accrues liabilities in the governmental fund financial statements for unemployment compensation, only to the extent paid by UIA through September 30. During fiscal year 2008, expenditures for payments to former State employees (not including university employees) totaled \$12.2 million. The potential liability for future payments cannot be estimated.

The State's two internal service funds, which account for certain areas of risk management, such as portions of its employee insurance benefits, employee bonding, and automobile liability, follow accounting standards established by the GASB. This results in a reporting which is very similar to that used in the private insurance industry. The various component programs within the two funds may incur deficits during a given year, but each program's surplus and unrestricted net asset balance is considered in calculating future charges or benefit levels.

**Risk Management Fund**

This fund was established during fiscal year 1990 to account for insurance management activities implemented within the Department of Management and Budget. The automotive liability and administrative functions are accounted for as operating activities of this fund. Expenses and liabilities for claims, including incurred but not reported or not processed claims, have been recorded in the amount of \$5.1 million. This includes a long-term portion, which is recorded at \$3.1 million. Changes in the Risk Management Fund's claims for automobile liability for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2008 and 2007 are as follows (in millions):

	2008	2007
Balance - beginning	\$ 5.8	\$ 6.3
Current year claims and changes in estimates	.6	2.0
Claim payments	(1.3)	(2.5)
Balance - ending	\$ 5.1	\$ 5.8

Workers' compensation payments for State agencies are processed centrally through the Risk Management Fund. Changes in Workers' Compensation claims for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2008 and 2007 are as follows (in millions):

	2008	2007
Balance - beginning	\$ 112.9	\$ 111.8
Current year claims and changes in estimates	23.7	25.9
Claim payments	(25.1)	(24.9)
Balance - ending	\$ 111.5	\$ 112.9

Workers' Compensation is further described in Note 15.

**State Sponsored Group Insurance Fund**

The Department of Management and Budget and the Civil Service Commission use this fund to account for employee benefit programs, which are largely self-funded. In compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 45, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, the retiree insurance benefits programs are no longer reported in this fund. Expenses and liabilities for claims, which include incurred but not reported or not processed benefit claims, based on preliminary estimates from the plan administrators, have been recorded as liabilities in the amount of \$132.9 million. This includes a long-term portion, which is recorded at a discounted present value of \$86.3 million. For all claims incurred prior to October 1, 2008, the discounted present value of the long-term disability liability was calculated over a 10 year period using a discount rate of approximately 2%.

**Michigan**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

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Payments to the State Sponsored Group Insurance Fund are based on estimates of amounts needed to pay prior and current year claims. In addition, a portion of the fund's net assets has been designated for catastrophic losses. The risk management designation represents the level of reserves that should be maintained to ease large fluctuations in premium levels in years of unexpected excessive claims. That designation was \$47.7 million at September 30, 2008. Unrestricted net assets totaled \$40.4 million at September 30, 2008.

Changes in the State Sponsored Group Insurance Fund's claims liability for employee benefit programs for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2008 and 2007 are as follows (in millions):

	2008	2007*
Balance - beginning	\$ 134.3	\$ 134.7
Current year claims and changes in estimates	643.9	632.7
Claim payments	(645.3)	(633.1)
Balance - ending	<u>\$ 132.9</u>	<u>\$ 134.3</u>

\*2007 amounts were restated due to removal of retiree benefit programs.

***Discretely Presented Component Units***

**State Universities**

The State university component units participate with the other Michigan public universities in the Michigan Universities Self-Insurance Corporation (MUSIC), which provides indemnity to its members against comprehensive general liability, errors and omissions losses, and property damage commonly covered by insurance. Loss coverages for comprehensive general liability and property are structured on a three-layer basis with each member retaining a portion of its losses, MUSIC covering the second layer, and commercial carriers covering the third layer. For all policy years through June 30, 1993, errors and omissions coverage was structured on a two-layer basis with no excess insurance provided. Effective July 1, 1993, MUSIC obtained excess insurance coverage from commercial carriers covering the third layer. For automobile liability there is no member retention. Comprehensive general liability, property and automobile liability coverage is provided on an occurrence basis; errors and omissions coverage is provided on a claims-made basis.