

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2013

OR

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 0-25581

priceline.com Incorporated

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

06-1528493

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

800 Connecticut Avenue

Norwalk, Connecticut 06854

(address of principal executive offices)

(203) 299-8000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed, since last report)

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 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 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No .

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

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

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

Number of shares of Common Stock outstanding at November 1, 2013:

Common Stock, par value \$0.008 per share

51,427,568

(Class)

(Number of Shares)

priceline.com Incorporated
Form 10-Q

For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2013

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PART I — FINANCIAL INFORMATION
Item 1. Financial Statements

priceline.com Incorporated
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

	September 30, 2013	December 31, 2012
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,096,094	\$ 1,536,349
Restricted cash	9,034	6,641
Short-term investments	5,487,526	3,646,845
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$12,256 and \$10,322, respectively	706,234	367,512
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	107,688	84,290
Deferred income taxes	82,471	40,738
Total current assets	7,489,047	5,682,375
Property and equipment, net	119,766	89,269
Intangible assets, net	1,038,863	208,113
Goodwill	1,761,194	522,672
Deferred income taxes	827	31,485
Other assets	35,958	35,828
Total assets	\$ 10,445,655	\$ 6,569,742
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 312,896	\$ 184,648
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	544,021	387,911
Deferred merchant bookings	430,661	368,823
Convertible debt (see Note 8)	538,266	520,344
Total current liabilities	1,825,844	1,461,726
Deferred income taxes	371,498	45,159
Other long-term liabilities	83,934	68,944
Convertible debt (see Note 8)	1,731,027	881,996
Total liabilities	4,012,303	2,457,825
Redeemable noncontrolling interests (see Note 11)	—	160,287
Convertible debt (see Note 8)	36,730	54,655
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.008 par value; authorized 1,000,000,000 shares, 60,274,497 and 58,055,586 shares issued, respectively	468	450
Treasury stock, 9,214,110 and 8,184,787 shares, respectively	(1,943,615)	(1,060,607)
Additional paid-in capital	4,459,333	2,612,197
Accumulated earnings	3,840,675	2,368,611
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	39,761	(23,676)
Total stockholders' equity	6,396,622	3,896,975
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 10,445,655	\$ 6,569,742

See Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

priceline.com Incorporated
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Agency revenues	\$ 1,576,434	\$ 1,118,128	\$ 3,411,002	\$ 2,427,751
Merchant revenues	620,904	584,969	1,729,692	1,632,402
Advertising and other revenues	72,565	3,213	111,459	10,163
Total revenues	2,269,903	1,706,310	5,252,153	4,070,316
Cost of revenues	280,838	309,809	869,568	926,385
Gross profit	1,989,065	1,396,501	4,382,585	3,143,931
Operating expenses:				
Advertising — Online	533,164	375,204	1,399,452	966,820
Advertising — Offline	39,891	8,441	99,750	29,519
Sales and marketing	65,274	52,961	177,392	145,943
Personnel, including stock-based compensation of \$34,551, \$17,555, \$90,996 and \$51,690, respectively	186,443	135,210	486,658	343,916
General and administrative	63,113	42,287	178,195	122,768
Information technology	18,536	10,799	48,717	31,974
Depreciation and amortization	35,747	16,007	80,854	47,513
Total operating expenses	942,168	640,909	2,471,018	1,688,453
Operating income	1,046,897	755,592	1,911,567	1,455,478
Other income (expense):				
Interest income	867	905	2,882	3,004
Interest expense	(24,135)	(17,067)	(61,097)	(45,208)
Foreign currency transactions and other	(3,278)	(8,256)	(7,002)	(7,427)
Total other income (expense)	(26,546)	(24,418)	(65,217)	(49,631)
Earnings before income taxes	1,020,351	731,174	1,846,350	1,405,847
Income tax expense	187,362	131,201	331,629	271,405
Net income	832,989	599,973	1,514,721	1,134,442
Less: net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	—	3,387	135	3,539
Net income applicable to common stockholders	\$ 832,989	\$ 596,586	\$ 1,514,586	\$ 1,130,903
Net income applicable to common stockholders per basic common share	\$ 16.22	\$ 11.97	\$ 29.88	\$ 22.70
Weighted average number of basic common shares outstanding	51,363	49,851	50,690	49,830
Net income applicable to common stockholders per diluted common share	\$ 15.72	\$ 11.66	\$ 29.00	\$ 22.05
Weighted average number of diluted common shares outstanding	52,984	51,185	52,226	51,295

See Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

priceline.com Incorporated
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(In thousands)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Net income	\$ 832,989	\$ 599,973	\$ 1,514,721	\$ 1,134,442
Other comprehensive income, net of tax				
Foreign currency translation adjustments ⁽¹⁾	114,366	48,366	52,547	29,715
Unrealized gain (loss) on marketable securities ⁽²⁾	977	244	476	(544)
Comprehensive income	948,332	648,583	1,567,744	1,163,613
Less: Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests (See Note 11)	—	7,222	(10,279)	8,000
Comprehensive income attributable to common stockholders	<u>\$ 948,332</u>	<u>\$ 641,361</u>	<u>\$ 1,578,023</u>	<u>\$ 1,155,613</u>

(1) Net of tax benefit of \$42,253 and \$27,969 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, and net of tax benefit of \$7,965 and tax of \$2,770 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, associated with hedges of foreign denominated net assets. See Note 12.

(2) Net of tax of \$452 and \$201 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, and net of tax of \$178 and tax benefit of \$167 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively.

See Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

priceline.com Incorporated
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013
(In thousands)

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount				
Balance, December 31, 2012	58,056	\$ 450	(8,185)	\$(1,060,607)	\$2,612,197	\$ 2,368,611	\$ (23,676)	\$3,896,975
Net income applicable to common stockholders	—	—	—	—	—	1,514,586	—	1,514,586
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax benefit of \$27,969	—	—	—	—	—	—	62,961	62,961
Unrealized gain on marketable securities, net of tax of \$201	—	—	—	—	—	—	476	476
Redeemable noncontrolling interests fair value adjustments	—	—	—	—	—	(42,522)	—	(42,522)
Reclassification adjustment for convertible debt in mezzanine	—	—	—	—	17,925	—	—	17,925
Exercise of stock options and vesting of restricted stock units and performance share units	696	6	—	—	86,304	—	—	86,310
Repurchase of common stock	—	—	(1,029)	(883,008)	—	—	—	(883,008)
Stock-based compensation and other stock-based payments	—	—	—	—	91,810	—	—	91,810
Issuance of convertible senior notes	—	—	—	—	92,239	—	—	92,239
Common stock issued in an acquisition	1,522	12	—	—	1,281,122	—	—	1,281,134
Vested stock options assumed in an acquisition	—	—	—	—	264,423	—	—	264,423
Conversion of debt	—	—	—	—	(5)	—	—	(5)
Excess tax benefit on stock-based compensation	—	—	—	—	13,318	—	—	13,318
Balance, September 30, 2013	<u>60,274</u>	<u>\$ 468</u>	<u>(9,214)</u>	<u>\$(1,943,615)</u>	<u>\$4,459,333</u>	<u>\$ 3,840,675</u>	<u>\$ 39,761</u>	<u>\$6,396,622</u>

See Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

priceline.com Incorporated
UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In thousands)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$ 1,514,721	\$ 1,134,442
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	33,965	23,321
Amortization	46,889	24,192
Provision for uncollectible accounts, net	12,678	11,287
Deferred income taxes	11,450	16,446
Stock-based compensation expense and other stock-based payments	91,810	52,042
Amortization of debt issuance costs	4,352	3,790
Amortization of debt discount	41,225	28,831
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(283,961)	(232,660)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(8,514)	(97,057)
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities	280,945	318,054
Other	1,403	6,243
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,746,963</u>	<u>1,288,931</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(7,100,081)	(4,790,106)
Proceeds from sale of investments	5,341,488	3,069,242
Additions to property and equipment	(56,958)	(38,950)
Acquisitions and other equity investments, net of cash acquired	(331,557)	(13,871)
Proceeds from settlement of foreign currency contracts	3,266	78,828
Payments on foreign currency contracts	(56,045)	(2,222)
Change in restricted cash	(1,506)	(3,474)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(2,201,393)</u>	<u>(1,700,553)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from the issuance of convertible debt	980,000	1,000,000
Payment of debt issuance costs	(910)	(20,916)
Payments related to conversion of senior notes	(8)	(1)
Repurchase of common stock	(883,008)	(255,397)
Payments to purchase subsidiary shares from noncontrolling interests	(192,530)	(61,079)
Payments of stock issuance costs	(1,191)	—
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	86,310	2,655
Excess tax benefit on stock-based compensation	13,318	12,911
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>1,981</u>	<u>678,173</u>
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	12,194	(917)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(440,255)	265,634
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	1,536,349	632,836
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 1,096,094</u>	<u>\$ 898,470</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:		
Cash paid during the period for income taxes	<u>\$ 265,303</u>	<u>\$ 205,256</u>
Cash paid during the period for interest	<u>\$ 18,614</u>	<u>\$ 13,463</u>
Non-cash fair value increase for redeemable noncontrolling interests	<u>\$ 42,522</u>	<u>\$ 59,255</u>
Non-cash financing activity for acquisitions	<u>\$ 1,546,748</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

See Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

priceline.com Incorporated
Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Priceline.com Incorporated (the "Priceline Group" or the "Company") is responsible for the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this document. The Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") and include all normal and recurring adjustments that management of the Company considers necessary for a fair presentation of its financial position and operating results. The Company prepared the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements following the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission for interim reporting. As permitted under those rules, the Company condensed or omitted certain footnotes or other financial information that are normally required by GAAP for annual financial statements. These statements should be read in combination with the Consolidated Financial Statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including KAYAK Software Corporation ("KAYAK") since its acquisition on May 21, 2013 (see Note 14). All inter-company accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The functional currency of the Company's foreign subsidiaries is generally the respective local currency. Assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. Dollars at the rate of exchange existing at the balance sheet date. Income statement amounts are translated at the average exchange rates for the period. Translation gains and losses are included as a component of "Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)" on the accompanying Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are included on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations in "Foreign currency transactions and other."

Revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities can vary during each quarter of the year. Therefore, the results and trends in these interim financial statements may not be the same as those for the full year.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued accounting guidance which requires entities to provide additional information about items reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI") to net income. Changes in AOCI balances by component, both before tax and after tax, must be disclosed and significant items reclassified out of AOCI by component must be reported either on the face of the income statement or in a separate footnote to the financial statements. The accounting guidance is effective for public companies for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2012. See Note 12 for information on AOCI balances. There were no reclassifications out of AOCI to net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012.

In July 2013, the FASB issued an accounting update which provides guidance on financial statement presentation of an unrecognized tax benefit when a net operating loss carryforward or a tax credit carryforward exists in the same taxing jurisdiction. Per this guidance, an entity must present the unrecognized tax benefit as a reduction to a deferred tax asset, except when the carryforward is not available as of the reporting date under the governing tax law to settle taxes or the entity does not intend to use the deferred tax asset for this purpose. This amendment does not impact the recognition or measurement of uncertain tax positions or the disclosure reconciliation of gross unrecognized tax benefits. The update is effective for public companies beginning after December 15, 2013. Early adoption of the update is permitted and an entity may choose to apply this amendment retrospectively to each reporting period presented. The adoption of this accounting update is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

2. STOCK-BASED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Stock-based compensation expense included in personnel expenses in the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations was approximately \$34.6 million and \$17.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, and \$91.0 million and \$51.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

The cost of stock-based transactions is recognized in the financial statements based upon fair value. The fair value of performance share units and restricted stock units is determined based on the number of units or shares, as applicable, granted and the quoted price of the Company's common stock as of the grant date. Stock-based compensation related to performance share units reflects the estimated probable outcome at the end of the performance period. The fair value of employee stock

options assumed in the acquisition of KAYAK was determined using the Black-Scholes model and the market value of the Company's common stock at the merger date. Fair value is recognized as expense on a straight line basis, net of estimated forfeitures, over the employee requisite service period.

Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Units

The following table summarizes the activity of unvested restricted stock units and performance share units ("share-based awards") during the nine months ended September 30, 2013:

Share-Based Awards	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Unvested at December 31, 2012	540,128	\$ 389.21
Granted	154,001	\$ 710.65
Vested	(256,021)	\$ 240.30
Performance Share Units Adjustment	15,391	\$ 659.39
Forfeited	(10,372)	\$ 555.36
Unvested at September 30, 2013	<u>443,127</u>	\$ 592.46

As of September 30, 2013, there was \$132.2 million of total future compensation cost related to unvested share-based awards to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.6 years.

During the three months ended March 31, 2013, the Company made broad-based grants of 43,431 restricted stock units that generally vest after three years. These share-based awards had a total grant date fair value of \$30.2 million based on a weighted average grant date fair value per share of \$695.62. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, the Company made broad-based grants of 4,334 restricted stock units that generally vest after three years. These share-based awards had a total grant date fair value of \$3.5 million based on a weighted average grant date fair value per share of \$801.43. During the three months ended September 30, 2013, the Company made broad-based grants of 1,371 restricted stock units that generally vest after three years. These share-based awards had a total grant date fair value of \$1.3 million based on a weighted average grant date fair value per share of \$969.89.

In addition, during the three months ended March 31, 2013, the Company granted 92,615 performance share units to certain executives. The performance share units had a total grant date fair value of \$64.4 million based upon a weighted average grant date fair value per share of \$695.62. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, the Company granted 12,250 performance share units to certain executives which had a total grant date fair value of \$10.0 million based upon a weighted average grant date fair value per share of \$816.45. The performance share units are payable in shares of the Company's common stock upon vesting. Subject to certain exceptions for terminations related to a change in control and terminations other than for "cause," for "good reason" or on account of death or disability, recipients of these performance share units must continue their service through the three year requisite service period in order to receive any shares. Stock-based compensation related to performance share units reflects the estimated probable outcome at the end of the performance period. The actual number of shares to be issued on the vesting date will be determined upon completion of the performance period which ends December 31, 2015, assuming there is no accelerated vesting for, among other things, a termination of employment under certain circumstances, or a change in control. As of September 30, 2013, the estimated number of probable shares to be issued is a total of 103,277 shares. If the maximum performance thresholds are met at the end of the performance period, a maximum number of 226,124 total shares could be issued. If the minimum performance thresholds are not met, 40,581 shares would be issued at the end of the performance period.

2012 Performance Share Units

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company granted 60,365 performance share units with a grant date fair value of \$39.0 million, based on a weighted average grant date fair value per share of \$645.86. The actual number of shares to be issued will be determined upon completion of the performance period which ends December 31, 2014.

At September 30, 2013, there were 58,120 unvested 2012 performance share units outstanding, net of performance share units that were forfeited or vested since the grant date. As of September 30, 2013, the number of shares estimated to be issued pursuant to these performance share units at the end of the performance period is a total of 77,943 shares. If the maximum thresholds are met at the end of the performance period, a maximum of 116,240 total shares could be issued pursuant

to these performance share units. If the minimum performance thresholds are not met, 36,366 shares would be issued at the end of the performance period.

2011 Performance Share Units

During the year ended December 31, 2011, the Company granted 77,144 performance share units with a grant date fair value of \$35.9 million, based on a weighted average grant date fair value per share of \$464.79. The actual number of shares to be issued will be determined upon completion of the performance period which ends December 31, 2013.

At September 30, 2013, there were 73,045 unvested 2011 performance share units outstanding, net of performance share units that were forfeited or vested since the grant date. As of September 30, 2013, the number of shares estimated to be issued pursuant to these performance share units at the end of the performance period is a total of 149,701 shares. If the maximum performance thresholds are met at the end of the performance period, a maximum of 156,310 total shares could be issued pursuant to these performance share units. If the minimum performance thresholds are not met, 18,697 shares would be issued at the end of the performance period.

Stock Options

Excluding employee stock options assumed in the acquisition of KAYAK (refer to disclosure below on assumed employee stock options), during the nine months ended September 30, 2013, stock options were exercised for 59,005 shares of common stock with a weighted average exercise price per share of \$19.22. As of September 30, 2013, the aggregate number of stock options outstanding and exercisable (excluding employee stock options assumed in the acquisition of KAYAK) was 11,996 shares, with a weighted average exercise price per share of \$22.67 and a weighted average remaining term of 1.3 years.

The following table summarizes for the second and third quarters of 2013 stock option activity for vested and unvested employee stock options assumed in the acquisition of KAYAK:

Assumed Employee Stock Options	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (000's)	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (in years)
Balance, May 21, 2013	540,179	\$ 260.96	\$ 314,133	6.8
Exercised	(329,687)	\$ 207.93		
Forfeited	(2,210)	\$ 395.99		
Balance, June 30, 2013	208,282	\$ 343.47	\$ 100,641	7.5
Exercised	(44,204)	\$ 288.48		
Forfeited	(11,023)	\$ 463.23		
Balance, September 30, 2013	153,055	\$ 350.74	\$ 101,048	7.3
Vested and exercisable as of September 30, 2013	85,583	\$ 257.74	\$ 64,462	6.7
Vested and exercisable as of September 30, 2013 and expected to vest thereafter, net of estimated forfeitures	149,438	\$ 347.46	\$ 99,150	7.3

The total intrinsic value of employee stock options assumed in the acquisition of KAYAK that were exercised during the periods of May 22 through June 30, 2013 and the three months ended September 30, 2013 was \$197.5 million and \$29.0 million, respectively.

At May 21, 2013, there were vested employee stock options assumed in the acquisition of KAYAK for 408,716 shares of common stock with a fair value of \$260.9 million. The fair value of these assumed vested employee stock options was included in the purchase price allocation, with a corresponding increase in additional paid-in capital.

At May 21, 2013, there were unvested employee stock options assumed in the acquisition of KAYAK for 131,463 shares of common stock with a fair value of \$57.4 million and a weighted average fair value per share of \$443.92. During the second and third quarters of 2013, assumed unvested employee stock options vested for 15,923 shares and 34,835 shares of common stock with a fair value of \$7.6 million and \$15.4 million, respectively.

The following assumptions were used for the three months ended June 30, 2013 to determine the fair value of the assumed options:

	Weighted Average	Range
Risk-free interest rate	0.23%	0.11% - 0.63%
Expected volatility	32%	25% - 39%
Expected life (in years)	2.2	9 months - 4 years
Dividend yield	—%	

For the second and third quarters of 2013, the Company recorded stock-based compensation expense of \$11.0 million and \$12.0 million, respectively, for the KAYAK unvested assumed employee stock options. As of September 30, 2013, there was \$27.3 million of total future compensation cost related to these KAYAK unvested assumed employee stock options to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.1 years.

3. NET INCOME PER SHARE

The Company computes basic net income per share by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share is based upon the weighted average number of common and common equivalent shares outstanding during the period.

Common equivalent shares related to stock options, restricted stock units and performance share units are calculated using the treasury stock method. Performance share units are included in the weighted average common equivalent shares based on the number of shares that would be issued if the end of the reporting period were the end of the performance period, if the result would be dilutive.

The Company's convertible debt issues have net share settlement features requiring the Company upon conversion to settle the principal amount of the debt for cash and the conversion premium for cash or shares of the Company's common stock, at the Company's option. The convertible notes are included in the calculation of diluted net income per share if their inclusion is dilutive under the treasury stock method.

A reconciliation of the weighted average number of shares outstanding used in calculating diluted earnings per share is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Weighted average number of basic common shares outstanding	51,363	49,851	50,690	49,830
Weighted average dilutive stock options, restricted stock units and performance share units	338	353	359	475
Assumed conversion of convertible debt	1,283	981	1,177	990
Weighted average number of diluted common and common equivalent shares outstanding	52,984	51,185	52,226	51,295
Anti-dilutive potential common shares	2,923	2,335	2,931	2,246

Anti-dilutive potential common shares for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 include approximately 2.4 million and 2.5 million shares, respectively, that could be issued under the Company's outstanding convertible notes, if the Company experiences substantial increases in its common stock price. Under the treasury stock method, the convertible notes will generally have a dilutive impact on net income per share if the Company's average stock price for the period exceeds the conversion price for the convertible notes.

In 2006, the Company issued \$172.5 million aggregate principal amount of convertible notes due September 30, 2013 (the "2013 Notes"). In 2006, the Company also entered into hedge transactions (the "Conversion Spread Hedges") relating to the potential dilution of the Company's common stock upon conversion of the 2013 Notes at their stated maturity date.

The Conversion Spread Hedges were settled in October 2013 and the Company received 42,160 shares of common stock from the counterparties. The settlement will be accounted for as an equity transaction. Since the impact of the Conversion Spread Hedges was anti-dilutive, it is excluded from the calculation of net income per share until the shares of common stock are received in October.

4. INVESTMENTS

The following table summarizes, by major security type, the Company's short-term investments as of September 30, 2013 (in thousands):

	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Available for sale securities				
Foreign government securities	\$ 3,605,525	\$ 686	\$ (458)	\$ 3,605,753
U.S. government securities	1,880,675	700	(4)	1,881,371
Corporate debt securities	402	—	—	402
Total	\$ 5,486,602	\$ 1,386	\$ (462)	\$ 5,487,526

As of September 30, 2013, foreign government securities included investments in debt securities issued by the governments of Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

The following table summarizes, by major security type, the Company's short-term investments as of December 31, 2012 (in thousands):

	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Available for sale securities				
Foreign government securities	\$ 1,886,822	\$ 18	\$ (287)	\$ 1,886,553
U.S. government securities	1,759,773	520	(1)	1,760,292
Total	\$ 3,646,595	\$ 538	\$ (288)	\$ 3,646,845

There were no realized gains or losses related to investments for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012.

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value as of September 30, 2013 are classified in the table below in the categories described below (in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
ASSETS:				
Short-term investments				
Foreign government securities	\$ —	\$ 3,605,753	\$ —	\$ 3,605,753
U.S. government securities	—	1,881,371	—	1,881,371
Corporate debt securities	—	402	—	402
Foreign exchange derivatives	—	168	—	168
Total assets at fair value	\$ —	\$ 5,487,694	\$ —	\$ 5,487,694

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
LIABILITIES:				
Foreign exchange derivatives	\$ —	\$ 80,573	\$ —	\$ 80,573
Redeemable noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	—
Total liabilities at fair value	\$ —	\$ 80,573	\$ —	\$ 80,573

Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value as of December 31, 2012 were classified in the table below in the categories described below (in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
ASSETS:				
Short-term investments				
Foreign government securities	\$ —	\$ 1,886,553	\$ —	\$ 1,886,553
U.S. government securities	—	1,760,292	—	1,760,292
Foreign exchange derivatives	—	1,038	—	1,038
Total assets at fair value	\$ —	\$ 3,647,883	\$ —	\$ 3,647,883

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
LIABILITIES:				
Foreign exchange derivatives	\$ —	\$ 63,151	\$ —	\$ 63,151
Redeemable noncontrolling interests	—	—	160,287	160,287
Total liabilities at fair value	\$ —	\$ 63,151	\$ 160,287	\$ 223,438

There are three levels of inputs to measure fair value. The definition of each input is described below:

- Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets that are accessible by the Company at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 2: Inputs that are observable, either directly or indirectly. Such prices may be based upon quoted prices for identical or comparable securities in active markets or inputs not quoted on active markets, but corroborated by market data.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs are used when little or no market data is available.

Investments in foreign government and U.S. Treasury securities are considered "Level 2" valuations because the Company has access to quoted prices, but does not have visibility to the volume and frequency of trading for all of these investments. Investments in corporate debt securities are valued using recently executed transactions, bid price or spread, and benchmark curves and are considered "Level 2" valuations. For the Company's investments, a market approach is used for

recurring fair value measurements and the valuation techniques use inputs that are observable, or can be corroborated by observable data, in an active marketplace.

The Company's derivative instruments are valued using pricing models. Pricing models take into account the contract terms as well as multiple inputs where applicable, such as interest rate yield curves, option volatility and currency rates. Derivatives are considered "Level 2" fair value measurements. The Company's derivative instruments are typically short-term in nature.

The Company considered its redeemable noncontrolling interests to represent a "Level 3" fair value measurement that requires a high degree of judgment to determine fair value. The fair value of the redeemable noncontrolling interests was determined by industry peer comparable analysis and a discounted cash flow valuation model. In April 2013, the Company purchased the remaining shares underlying redeemable controlling interests. See Note 11 for information on the estimated fair value of redeemable noncontrolling interests.

As of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the carrying value of the Company's cash and cash equivalents approximated their fair value and consisted primarily of foreign and U.S. government securities and bank deposits. Other financial assets and liabilities, including restricted cash, accounts receivable, accrued expenses and deferred merchant bookings are carried at cost which approximates their fair value because of the short-term nature of these items. See Note 4 for information on the carrying value of investments and Note 8 for the estimated fair value of the Company's convertible senior notes.

In the normal course of business, the Company is exposed to the impact of foreign currency fluctuations. The Company limits these risks by following established risk management policies and procedures, including the use of derivatives. The Company does not use derivatives for trading or speculative purposes. All derivative instruments are recognized in the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets at fair value. Gains and losses resulting from changes in the fair value of derivative instruments which are not designated as hedging instruments for accounting purposes are recognized in the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations in the period that the changes occur. Changes in the fair value of derivatives designated as net investment hedges are recorded as currency translation adjustments to offset a portion of the translation adjustment of the international subsidiary's net assets and are recognized in the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets in "Accumulated other comprehensive loss."

Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments — The Company is exposed to adverse movements in currency exchange rates as the operating results of its international operations are translated from local currency into U.S. Dollars upon consolidation. The Company's derivative contracts principally address short-term foreign exchange fluctuations for the Euro and British Pound Sterling versus the U.S. Dollar. As of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, there were no outstanding derivative contracts associated with foreign currency translation risk. Foreign exchange losses of \$1.1 million and foreign exchange gains of \$1.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, and foreign exchange losses of \$5.3 million and foreign exchange gains of \$0.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, were recorded in "Foreign currency transactions and other" on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The Company also enters into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge its exposure to the impact of movements in currency exchange rates on its transactional balances denominated in currencies other than the functional currency. Foreign exchange derivatives outstanding as of September 30, 2013 associated with hedging these risks resulted in a net liability of \$1.1 million, with \$0.1 million recorded in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" and \$1.2 million recorded in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities" on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet. Foreign exchange derivatives outstanding as of December 31, 2012 associated with hedging these risks resulted in a net asset of \$0.3 million, with \$0.8 million recorded in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" and \$0.5 million recorded in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities" on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet. Foreign exchange gains of \$1.5 million and \$1.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 compared to foreign exchange gains of \$1.5 million and foreign exchange losses of \$1.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 were recorded related to these derivatives in "Foreign currency transactions and other" on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The settlement of derivative contracts not designated as hedging instruments resulted in a net cash inflow of \$3.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 compared to a net cash inflow of \$3.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, and are reported within "Net cash provided by operating activities" on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments — As of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the Company had outstanding foreign currency forward contracts with a notional value of 2.4 billion Euros and 1.5 billion Euros, respectively, to hedge a portion of its net investment in a foreign subsidiary. These contracts are all short-term in nature. Hedge ineffectiveness is assessed and measured based on changes in forward exchange rates. The fair value of these derivatives at September 30, 2013 was a net liability of \$79.3 million, with \$0.1 million recorded in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" and \$79.4 million recorded in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities" on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet. The fair value of these derivatives at December 31, 2012 was a net liability of \$62.4 million, with \$62.6 million recorded in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities" and \$0.2 million recorded in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet. A net cash outflow of \$52.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 compared to a net cash inflow of \$76.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 is reported within "Net cash used in investing activities" on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

6. INTANGIBLE ASSETS AND GOODWILL

The Company's intangible assets at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 consisted of the following (in thousands):

	September 30, 2013			December 31, 2012			Amortization Period	Weighted Average Useful Life
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount		
Supply and distribution agreements	\$ 576,478	\$ (148,233)	\$ 428,245	\$ 269,523	\$ (122,940)	\$ 146,583	10 - 20 years	16 years
Technology	96,790	(29,088)	67,702	23,329	(23,250)	79	3 - 5 years	5 years
Patents	1,638	(1,481)	157	1,638	(1,446)	192	15 years	15 years
Customer lists	—	—	—	20,500	(20,500)	—	0 years	0 years
Internet domain names	44,611	(10,074)	34,537	39,559	(3,817)	35,742	2 - 20 years	8 years
Trade names	550,256	(42,038)	508,218	53,817	(28,305)	25,512	5 - 20 years	19 years
Other	326	(322)	4	326	(321)	5	3 - 10 years	4 years
Total intangible assets	<u>\$ 1,270,099</u>	<u>\$ (231,236)</u>	<u>\$ 1,038,863</u>	<u>\$ 408,692</u>	<u>\$ (200,579)</u>	<u>\$ 208,113</u>		

Intangible assets with determinable lives are amortized on a straight-line basis. Intangible asset amortization expense was approximately \$22.9 million and \$7.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Intangible asset amortization expense was approximately \$46.9 million and \$24.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

The amortization expense for intangible assets for the remainder of 2013, the annual expense for the next five years, and the expense thereafter is expected to be as follows (in thousands):

2013	\$	22,457
2014		89,820
2015		86,869
2016		83,864
2017		79,857
2018		63,977
Thereafter		612,019
	\$	<u>1,038,863</u>

The change in goodwill for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 consists of the following (in thousands):

Balance at December 31, 2012	\$	522,672
Acquisitions		1,234,480
Currency translation adjustments		4,042
Balance at September 30, 2013	\$	<u>1,761,194</u>

During the three months ended September 30, 2013, the Company performed its annual goodwill impairment testing and concluded that there was no impairment of goodwill. A substantial portion of the intangible assets and goodwill relates to the acquisition of the KAYAK business in May 2013. See Note 14 for further information on the acquisition. The fair values of the Company's other reporting units substantially exceed their respective carrying values.

7. OTHER ASSETS

Other assets at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 consisted of the following (in thousands):

	<u>September 30, 2013</u>	<u>December 31, 2012</u>
Deferred debt issuance costs	\$ 20,011	\$ 23,523
Other	15,947	12,305
Total	<u>\$ 35,958</u>	<u>\$ 35,828</u>

Deferred debt issuance costs arose from (i) the \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of 1.0% Convertible Senior Notes, due March 15, 2018, issued in March 2012; (ii) a \$1.0 billion revolving credit facility entered into in October 2011; (iii) the Company's issuance, in March 2010, of the \$575.0 million aggregate principal amount of 1.25% Convertible Senior Notes, due March 15, 2015, and (iv) the \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of 0.35% Convertible Senior Notes, due June 15, 2020, issued in May 2013. Deferred debt issuance costs are being amortized using the effective interest rate method and the period of amortization was determined at inception of the related debt agreements based upon the stated maturity dates.

8. DEBT

Revolving Credit Facility

In October 2011, the Company entered into a \$1.0 billion five-year unsecured revolving credit facility with a group of lenders. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility will bear interest, at the Company's option, at a rate per annum equal to either (i) the adjusted LIBOR for the interest period in effect for such borrowing plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.00% to 1.50%; or (ii) the greatest of (a) JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association's prime lending rate, (b) the federal funds rate plus 0.50%, and (c) an adjusted LIBOR for an interest period of one month plus 1.00%, plus an applicable margin ranging from 0.00% to 0.50%. Undrawn balances available under the revolving credit facility are subject to commitment fees at the applicable rate ranging from 0.10% to 0.25%.

The revolving credit facility provides for the issuance of up to \$100.0 million of letters of credit as well as borrowings of up to \$50.0 million on same-day notice, referred to as swingline loans. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility may

be made in U.S. Dollars, Euros, British Pounds Sterling and any other foreign currency agreed to by the lenders. The proceeds of loans made under the facility will be used for working capital and general corporate purposes. As of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, there were no borrowings under the facility and there were approximately \$1.9 million of letters of credit issued under the facility for both periods.

Convertible Debt

Convertible debt as of September 30, 2013 consisted of the following (in thousands):

	Outstanding Principal Amount	Unamortized Debt Discount	Carrying Value
September 30, 2013			
1.25% Convertible Senior Notes due March 2015	\$ 574,996	\$ (36,730)	\$ 538,266
1.0% Convertible Senior Notes due March 2018	1,000,000	(102,168)	897,832
0.35% Convertible Senior Notes due June 2020	1,000,000	(166,805)	833,195
Outstanding convertible debt	<u>\$ 2,574,996</u>	<u>\$ (305,703)</u>	<u>\$ 2,269,293</u>

Convertible debt as of December 31, 2012 consisted of the following (in thousands):

	Outstanding Principal Amount	Unamortized Debt Discount	Carrying Value
December 31, 2012			
1.25% Convertible Senior Notes due March 2015	\$ 574,999	\$ (54,655)	\$ 520,344
1.0% Convertible Senior Notes due March 2018	1,000,000	(118,004)	881,996
Outstanding convertible debt	<u>\$ 1,574,999</u>	<u>\$ (172,659)</u>	<u>\$ 1,402,340</u>

Based upon the closing price of the Company's common stock for the prescribed measurement period during the three months ended September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the contingent conversion threshold on the 2015 Notes (as defined below) was exceeded. Therefore, the 2015 Notes were convertible at the option of the holders. Accordingly, the Company reported the carrying value of the 2015 Notes as a current liability as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012. Since these notes are convertible at the option of the holders and the principal amount is required to be paid in cash, the difference between the principal amount and the carrying value is reflected as convertible debt in the mezzanine section on the Company's Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets. Therefore, with respect to the 2015 Notes, the Company reclassified \$36.7 million and \$54.7 million before tax from additional paid-in capital to convertible debt in the mezzanine section on the Company's Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. The determination of whether or not the 2015 Notes are convertible must continue to be performed on a quarterly basis. Consequently, the 2015 Notes may not be convertible in future quarters, and therefore may again be classified as long-term debt, if the contingent conversion threshold is not met in such quarters. As of October 25, 2013, the Company had received early conversion notices for an aggregate principal amount of approximately \$390 million associated with the 1.25% Convertible Senior Notes due March 2015. During the three months ended December 31, 2013, the Company will deliver cash of approximately \$390 million to satisfy the aggregate principal amount and will issue shares of its common stock in satisfaction of the conversion value in excess of the principal amount for the convertible debt that was converted prior to maturity.

The contingent conversion thresholds on the 2018 Notes (as defined below) and the 2020 Notes (as defined below) were not exceeded at September 30, 2013 and the contingent conversion threshold for the 2018 Notes was not exceeded at December 31, 2012, and therefore these Notes are reported as a non-current liability on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets.

As of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the estimated market value of the outstanding convertible senior notes was approximately \$4.3 billion and \$2.3 billion, respectively, and was considered a "Level 2" fair value measurement (see Note 5). Fair value was estimated based upon actual trades at the end of the reporting period or the most recent trade available as well as the Company's stock price at the end of the reporting period. A substantial portion of the market value of the Company's debt in excess of the outstanding principal amount relates to the conversion premium on the convertible senior notes.

Description of Senior Notes

In May 2013, the Company issued in a private placement \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of Convertible Senior Notes due June 15, 2020, with an interest rate of 0.35% (the "2020 Notes"). The 2020 Notes were issued with an initial discount of \$20.0 million. The Company paid \$0.9 million in debt issuance costs during the nine months ended September 30, 2013, related to this offering. The 2020 Notes are convertible, subject to certain conditions, into the Company's common stock at a conversion price of approximately \$1,315.10 per share. The 2020 Notes are convertible, at the option of the holder, prior to June 15, 2020, upon the occurrence of specific events, including but not limited to a change in control, or if the closing sales price of the Company's common stock for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the immediately preceding calendar quarter is more than 150% of the applicable conversion price in effect for the notes on the last trading day of the immediately preceding quarter. In the event that all or substantially all of the Company's common stock is acquired on or prior to the maturity of the 2020 Notes in a transaction in which the consideration paid to holders of the Company's common stock consists of all or substantially all cash, the Company would be required to make additional payments in the form of additional shares of common stock to the holders of the 2020 Notes in an aggregate value ranging from \$0 to approximately \$397.0 million depending upon the date of the transaction and the then current stock price of the Company. As of March 15, 2020, holders will have the right to convert all or any portion of the 2020 Notes. The 2020 Notes may not be redeemed by the Company prior to maturity. The holders may require the Company to repurchase the 2020 Notes for cash in certain circumstances. Interest on the 2020 Notes is payable on June 15 and December 15 of each year.

In March 2012, the Company issued in a private placement \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of Convertible Senior Notes due March 15, 2018, with an interest rate of 1.0% (the "2018 Notes"). The Company paid \$20.9 million in debt issuance costs during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, related to this offering. The 2018 Notes are convertible, subject to certain conditions, into the Company's common stock at a conversion price of approximately \$944.61 per share. The 2018 Notes are convertible, at the option of the holder, prior to March 15, 2018, upon the occurrence of specific events, including but not limited to a change in control, or if the closing sales price of the Company's common stock for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the immediately preceding calendar quarter is more than 150% of the applicable conversion price in effect for the notes on the last trading day of the immediately preceding quarter. In the event that all or substantially all of the Company's common stock is acquired on or prior to the maturity of the 2018 Notes in a transaction in which the consideration paid to holders of the Company's common stock consists of all or substantially all cash, the Company would be required to make additional payments in the form of additional shares of common stock to the holders of the 2018 Notes in aggregate value ranging from \$0 to approximately \$344.0 million depending upon the date of the transaction and the then current stock price of the Company. As of December 15, 2017, holders will have the right to convert all or any portion of the 2018 Notes. The 2018 Notes may not be redeemed by the Company prior to maturity. The holders may require the Company to repurchase the 2018 Notes for cash in certain circumstances. Interest on the 2018 Notes is payable on March 15 and September 15 of each year.

In March 2010, the Company issued in a private placement \$575.0 million aggregate principal amount of Convertible Senior Notes due March 15, 2015, with an interest rate of 1.25% (the "2015 Notes"). The Company paid \$13.3 million in debt issuance costs associated with the 2015 Notes for the year ended December 31, 2010. The 2015 Notes are convertible, subject to certain conditions, into the Company's common stock at a conversion price of approximately \$303.06 per share. The 2015 Notes are convertible, at the option of the holder, prior to March 15, 2015 upon the occurrence of specified events, including, but not limited to a change in control, or if the closing sales price of the Company's common stock for at least 20 trading days in the period of the 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the immediately preceding calendar quarter is more than 150% of the applicable conversion price in effect for the notes on the last trading day of the immediately preceding quarter. In the event that all or substantially all of the Company's common stock is acquired on or prior to the maturity of the 2015 Notes in a transaction in which the consideration paid to holders of the Company's common stock consists of all or substantially all cash, the Company would be required to make additional payments in the form of additional shares of common stock to the holders of the 2015 Notes in aggregate value ranging from \$0 to approximately \$132.7 million depending upon the date of the transaction and the then current stock price of the Company. As of December 15, 2014, holders will have the right to convert all or any portion of the 2015 Notes. The 2015 Notes may not be redeemed by the Company prior to maturity. The holders may require the Company to repurchase the 2015 Notes for cash in certain circumstances. Interest on the 2015 Notes is payable on March 15 and September 15 of each year.

Accounting guidance requires that cash-settled convertible debt, such as the Company's convertible senior notes, be separated into debt and equity components at issuance and each be assigned a value. The value assigned to the debt component is the estimated fair value, as of the issuance date, of a similar bond without the conversion feature. The difference between the bond cash proceeds and this estimated fair value, representing the value assigned to the equity component, is recorded as a debt discount. Debt discount is amortized using the effective interest method over the period from the origination date through the

stated maturity date. The Company estimated the straight debt borrowing rates at debt origination to be 5.89% for the 2015 Notes, 3.50% for the 2018 Notes, and 3.13% for the 2020 Notes. The yield to maturity was estimated at an at-market coupon priced at par.

Debt discount after tax of \$92.4 million (\$154.3 million before tax) and financing costs associated with the equity component of convertible debt of \$0.1 million after tax were recorded in additional paid-in capital related to the 2020 Notes at June 30, 2013. Debt discount after tax of \$80.9 million (\$135.2 million before tax) and financing costs associated with the equity component of convertible debt of \$2.8 million after tax were recorded in additional paid-in capital related to the 2018 Notes at March 31, 2012. Debt discount after tax of \$69.1 million (\$115.2 million before tax) and financing costs associated with the equity component of convertible debt of \$1.6 million after tax were recorded in additional paid-in-capital related to the 2015 Notes at March 31, 2010. The Company reclassified \$36.7 million before tax and \$54.7 million before tax out of additional paid-in capital to the mezzanine section in the Company's Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively, related to the 2015 Notes.

For the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, the Company recognized interest expense of \$23.5 million and \$16.4 million, respectively, related to convertible notes. Interest expense related to convertible notes for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 was comprised of \$5.2 million and \$4.3 million, respectively, for the contractual coupon interest, \$17.0 million, which includes \$0.6 million of original issuance discount for the 2020 Notes, and \$10.9 million, respectively, related to the amortization of debt discount and \$1.3 million and \$1.2 million, respectively, for amortization of debt issuance costs. The effective interest rate for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 was 4.1% and 4.7%, respectively.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, the Company recognized interest expense of \$59.1 million and \$43.2 million, respectively, related to convertible notes. Interest expense related to convertible notes for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 was comprised of \$14.1 million and \$11.2 million, respectively, for the contractual coupon interest, \$41.2 million, which includes \$0.8 million of original issuance discount for the 2020 Notes, and \$28.8 million, respectively, related to the amortization of debt discount and \$3.8 million and \$3.2 million, respectively, related to the amortization of debt issuance costs. The effective interest rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 was 4.4% and 4.9%, respectively.

9. TREASURY STOCK

In the second quarter of 2013, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a program to purchase \$1.0 billion of the Company's common stock. The Company repurchased 431,910 shares in the second quarter of 2013 for an aggregate cost of \$345.5 million in privately negotiated, off-market transactions. In the third quarter of 2013, the Company repurchased 484,361 shares for an aggregate cost of \$459.2 million.

In the first quarter of 2012, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a one-time purchase of the Company's common stock up to \$200 million concurrent with the issuance of the 2018 Notes. The Company repurchased 263,913 shares in the first quarter of 2012 for an aggregate cost of \$166.2 million.

As of September 30, 2013, the Company has a remaining aggregate amount from all authorizations granted by the Board of Directors of \$654.5 million to purchase its common stock. The Company may make additional repurchases of shares under its stock repurchase programs, depending on prevailing market conditions, alternate uses of capital and other factors.

The Board of Directors has also given the Company the general authorization to repurchase shares of its common stock to satisfy employee withholding tax obligations related to stock-based compensation. The Company repurchased 113,052 shares and 138,576 shares at aggregate costs of \$78.3 million and \$89.2 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, to satisfy employee withholding taxes related to stock-based compensation.

As of September 30, 2013, there were approximately 9.2 million shares of the Company's common stock held in treasury.

10. INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense includes U.S. and international income taxes, determined using an estimate of the Company's annual effective tax rate. A deferred tax liability is recognized for all taxable temporary differences, and a deferred tax asset is recognized for all deductible temporary differences and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. A valuation allowance is provided when it is more likely than not that some portion or all of a deferred tax asset will not be realized.

The Company recognizes income tax expense related to income generated outside of the United States based upon the applicable tax rates and tax laws of the foreign countries in which the income is generated. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, a substantial majority of the Company's foreign-sourced income was generated in the Netherlands. Income tax expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 differs from the expected tax expense at the U.S. statutory rate of 35%, primarily due to lower foreign tax rates, including the Innovation Box Tax benefit discussed below, partially offset by state income taxes and certain non-deductible expenses.

According to Dutch corporate income tax law, income generated from qualifying "innovative" activities is taxed at a rate of 5% ("Innovation Box Tax") rather than the Dutch statutory rate of 25%. Booking.com obtained a ruling from the Dutch tax authorities in February 2011 confirming that a portion of its earnings is eligible for Innovation Box Tax treatment. The ruling from the Dutch tax authorities is valid through December 31, 2017.

The Company has significant deferred tax assets, resulting principally from U.S. net operating loss carryforwards ("NOLs"). The amount of NOLs available for the Company's use is limited by Section 382 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code ("IRC Section 382"). At December 31, 2012, after considering the impact of IRC Section 382, the Company had approximately \$1.2 billion of available NOLs for U.S. federal income tax purposes, comprised of \$0.3 billion of NOLs generated from operating losses and approximately \$0.9 billion of NOLs generated from equity-related transactions, including equity-based compensation and stock warrants. The NOLs mainly expire from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2021. The utilization of these NOLs is dependent upon the Company's ability to generate sufficient future taxable income in the United States. The Company periodically evaluates the likelihood of the realization of deferred tax assets, and reduces the carrying amount of these deferred tax assets by a valuation allowance to the extent it believes a portion will not be realized. The Company considers many factors when assessing the likelihood of future realization of the deferred tax assets, including its recent cumulative earnings experience by taxing jurisdiction, expectations of future income, the carryforward periods available for tax reporting purposes, and other relevant factors.

11. REDEEMABLE NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS

On May 18, 2010, the Company, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, priceline.com International Ltd. ("PIL"), paid \$108.5 million, net of cash acquired, to purchase a controlling interest of the outstanding equity of TravelJigsaw Holdings Limited and its operating subsidiary, TravelJigsaw Limited (now known as the rentalcars.com business), a Manchester, U.K.-based international rental car reservation service.

Certain key members of TravelJigsaw's management team retained a noncontrolling ownership interest in TravelJigsaw Holdings Limited. In addition, certain key members of the management team of Booking.com purchased a 3% ownership interest in TravelJigsaw from PIL in June 2010 (together with TravelJigsaw management's investment, the "Redeemable Shares"). The holders of the Redeemable Shares had the right to put their shares to PIL and PIL had the right to call the shares in each case at a purchase price reflecting the fair value of the Redeemable Shares at the time of exercise. Subject to certain exceptions, one-third of the Redeemable Shares were subject to the put and call options in each of 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively, during specified option exercise periods. In April 2012 and April 2011, in connection with the exercise of call and put options, PIL purchased a portion of the shares underlying redeemable noncontrolling interests for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$61.1 million and \$13.0 million, respectively. As a result of the April 2012 purchase, the redeemable noncontrolling interests in TravelJigsaw Holdings Limited were reduced from 19.0% to 12.7%. In April 2013, in connection with the exercise of the March 2013 call and put options, PIL purchased the remaining outstanding shares underlying redeemable noncontrolling interests for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$192.5 million.

Redeemable noncontrolling interests are measured at fair value, both at the date of acquisition and subsequently at each reporting period. The redeemable noncontrolling interests are reported on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets in mezzanine equity in "Redeemable noncontrolling interests."

A reconciliation of redeemable noncontrolling interests for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Balance, beginning of period	\$ —	\$ 110,184	\$ 160,287	\$ 127,045
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	—	3,387	135	3,539
Fair value adjustments ⁽¹⁾	—	15,815	42,522	59,255
Purchases of subsidiary shares at fair value ⁽¹⁾	—	—	(192,530)	(61,079)
Currency translation adjustments	—	3,835	(10,414)	4,461
Balance, end of period	\$ —	\$ 133,221	\$ —	\$ 133,221

(1) The fair value of the redeemable noncontrolling interests was determined by industry peer comparable analysis and a discounted cash flow valuation model.

12. ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

The table below provides the balances for each classification of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 (in thousands):

	September 30, 2013	December 31, 2012
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax ⁽¹⁾	\$ 39,175	\$ (23,786)
Net unrealized gain on marketable securities, net of tax ⁽²⁾	586	110
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 39,761	\$ (23,676)

(1) Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax, includes net losses from fair value adjustments at September 30, 2013 of \$17.8 million after tax (\$30.9 million before tax) and net gains from fair value adjustments at December 31, 2012 of \$23.8 million after tax (\$38.7 million before tax) associated with net investment hedges (see Note 5). The remaining balance in currency translation adjustments excludes income taxes due to the Company's practice and intention to reinvest the earnings of its foreign subsidiaries in those operations.

(2) The unrealized gain before tax at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 was \$0.9 million and \$0.2 million, respectively.

13. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Litigation Related to Travel Transaction Taxes

The Company and certain third-party online travel companies ("OTCs") are currently involved in approximately forty lawsuits, including certified and putative class actions, brought by or against states, cities and counties over issues involving the payment of travel transaction taxes (e.g., hotel occupancy taxes, excise taxes, sales taxes, etc.). The Company's subsidiaries Lowestfare.com LLC and Travelweb LLC are named in some but not all of these cases. Generally, each complaint alleges, among other things, that the OTCs violated each jurisdiction's respective relevant travel transaction tax ordinance with respect to the charges and remittance of amounts to cover taxes under each law. Each complaint typically seeks compensatory damages, disgorgement, penalties available by law, attorneys' fees and other relief. In addition, approximately seventy-nine municipalities or counties, and at least eleven states, have initiated audit proceedings (including proceedings initiated by more than forty municipalities in California, which have been inactive for several years), issued proposed tax assessments or started inquiries relating to the payment of travel transaction taxes. Additional state and local jurisdictions are likely to assert that the Company is subject to travel transaction taxes and could seek to collect such taxes, retroactively and/or prospectively.

With respect to the principal claims in these matters, the Company believes that the laws at issue do not apply to the services it provides, namely the facilitation of travel reservations, and, therefore, that it does not owe the taxes that are claimed to be owed. Rather, the Company believes that the laws at issue generally impose travel transaction taxes on entities that own, operate or control hotels (or similar businesses) or furnish or provide hotel rooms or similar accommodations or other travel

services. In addition, in many of these matters, the taxing jurisdictions have asserted claims for "conversion" - essentially, that the Company has collected a tax and wrongfully "pocketed" those tax dollars - a claim that the Company believes is without basis and has vigorously contested. The taxing jurisdictions that are currently involved in litigation and other proceedings with the Company, and that may be involved in future proceedings, have asserted contrary positions and will likely continue to do so. From time to time, the Company has found it expedient to settle, and may in the future agree to settle, claims pending in these matters without conceding that the claims at issue are meritorious or that the claimed taxes are in fact due to be paid.

In connection with some of these tax audits and assessments, the Company may be required to pay any assessed taxes, which amounts may be substantial, prior to being allowed to contest the assessments and the applicability of the laws in judicial proceedings. This requirement is commonly referred to as "pay to play" or "pay first." For example, the City of San Francisco assessed the Company approximately \$3.4 million (an amount that includes interest and penalties) relating to hotel occupancy taxes, which the Company paid in July 2009, and issued a second assessment totaling approximately \$2.7 million, which the Company paid in January 2013. Payment of these amounts, if any, is not an admission that the Company believes it is subject to such taxes and, even if such payments are made, the Company intends to continue to assert its position vigorously that it should not be subject to such taxes. In the San Francisco action, for example, the court ruled in February 2013 that the Company and OTCs do not owe transient accommodations tax to the city and ordered the city to refund the pay first amounts paid in July 2009; the Company is also seeking a refund of the amounts paid first in January 2013. It is possible the city may take the position that it need not refund the pay first amounts until after it has exhausted all appeals.

Litigation is subject to uncertainty and there could be adverse developments in these pending or future cases and proceedings. For example, in January 2013, the Tax Appeal Court for the State of Hawaii held that the Company and other OTCs are not liable for the State's transient accommodations tax, but held that the OTCs, including the Company, are liable for the State's general excise tax on the full amount the OTC collects from the customer for a hotel room reservation, without any offset for amounts passed through to the hotel. The Company recorded an accrual for travel transaction taxes (including estimated interest and penalties), with a corresponding charge to cost of revenues, of approximately \$16.5 million in December 2012 and approximately \$18.7 million in the three months ended March 31, 2013, primarily related to this ruling. During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the Company paid approximately \$20.1 million under protest to the State of Hawaii related to this ruling. The Company has filed an appeal with the Hawaii appellate court and intends to vigorously appeal this ruling. Other adverse rulings include a decision in September 2012, in which the Superior Court in the District of Columbia granted summary judgment in favor of the District and against the OTCs ruling that tax is due on the OTCs' margin and service fees. As a result, the Company increased its accrual for travel transaction taxes (including estimated interest), with a corresponding charge to cost of revenues, by approximately \$4.8 million in September 2012 and by approximately \$5.6 million in the three months ended March 31, 2013. In addition, in October 2009, a jury in a San Antonio class action found that the Company and the other OTCs that are defendants in the lawsuit "control" hotels for purposes of the local hotel occupancy tax ordinances at issue and are, therefore, subject to the requirements of those ordinances. The Company intends to vigorously appeal the trial court's final judgment.

An unfavorable outcome or settlement of pending litigation may encourage the commencement of additional litigation, audit proceedings or other regulatory inquiries. In addition, an unfavorable outcome or settlement of these actions or proceedings could result in substantial liabilities for past and/or future bookings, including, among other things, interest, penalties, punitive damages and/or attorney fees and costs. There have been, and will continue to be, substantial ongoing costs, which may include "pay first" payments, associated with defending the Company's position in pending and any future cases or proceedings. An adverse outcome in one or more of these unresolved proceedings could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and could be material to the Company's results of operations or cash flow in any given operating period.

To the extent that any tax authority succeeds in asserting that the Company has a tax collection responsibility, or the Company determines that it has such a responsibility, with respect to future transactions, the Company may collect any such additional tax obligation from its customers, which would have the effect of increasing the cost of travel reservations to its customers and, consequently, could make the Company's travel reservation service less competitive (as compared to the services of other OTCs or travel service providers) and reduce the Company's travel reservation transactions; alternatively, the Company could choose to reduce the compensation for its services. Either action could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and results of operations.

In many of the judicial and other proceedings initiated to date, the taxing jurisdictions seek not only historical taxes that are claimed to be owed, but also, among other things, interest, penalties, punitive damages and/or attorney fees and costs. Therefore, any liability associated with travel transaction tax matters is not constrained to the Company's liability for tax owed, but may also include, among other things, penalties, interest and attorneys' fees. To date, the majority of the taxing jurisdictions in which the Company facilitates travel reservations have not asserted that taxes are due and payable on the Company's travel services. With respect to taxing jurisdictions that have not initiated proceedings to date, it is possible that

they will do so in the future or that they will seek to amend their tax statutes and seek to collect taxes from the Company only on a prospective basis.

Reserve for Travel Transaction Taxes

As a result of this litigation and other attempts by jurisdictions to levy similar taxes, the Company has established an accrual (including estimated interest and penalties) for the potential resolution of issues related to travel transaction taxes in the amount of approximately \$60 million at September 30, 2013 and approximately \$56 million at December 31, 2012 (which includes, among other things, amounts related to the litigation in the State of Hawaii, District of Columbia, San Antonio and Chicago). The accrual is based on the Company's estimate of the probable cost of resolving these issues. The Company's legal expenses for these matters are expensed as incurred and are not reflected in the amount accrued. The actual cost may be less or greater, potentially significantly, than the liabilities recorded. An estimate for a reasonably possible loss or range of loss in excess of the amount accrued cannot be reasonably made.

Developments in and after the Quarter Ended September 30, 2013

On September 10, 2013, the Florida Supreme Court accepted jurisdiction over Leon County, et al. v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (filed November 2009); (Florida First District Court of Appeal; filed in May 2012). On February 28, 2013, the First District Court of Appeal had affirmed summary judgment in favor of defendants.

On July 8, 2013, in City of Chicago, Illinois v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois; filed in November 2005), the Cook County Circuit Court entered an order denying the OTCs' motion for summary judgment and granting, in part, the City's motion for summary judgment relating to the Chicago Hotel Accommodations Tax ("CHAT") and related common law claims, holding that the Company and the other OTCs are liable for that tax and other obligations under CHAT. The Court's order applied only to liability and did not address or resolve any issues as to damages.

On July 8, 2013, in Warrenville, et al. v. Priceline.com Incorporated, et al. (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; filed in April 2013), the plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed the putative class action pending in federal court, and filed a new class action complaint in Illinois state court. That action, which was removed to federal court, is captioned Village of Bedford Park, et al. v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; filed in July 2013). The complaint alleges violation of the municipalities' respective accommodations ordinances, conversion, civil conspiracy, unjust enrichment, breach of fiduciary duty, and seeks a declaratory judgment, imposition of a constructive trust, and an accounting.

In Hamilton County, Ohio, et al. v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; filed in August 2010), the district court granted summary judgment to defendant OTCs on August 30, 2013. Plaintiffs did not appeal that decision.

On August 16, 2013, in Leon County v. Expedia, Inc. et al. (Second Judicial Circuit Court for Leon County, Florida; filed in December 2009); (Florida First District Court of Appeal; appeal filed in October 2012), in a per curiam decision, the First District Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's grant of summary judgment in favor of the OTCs. On October 9, 2013, that court also denied the County's motion for rehearing, rehearing en banc, for certified question of great importance, and for written opinion. On October 24, 2013, the County filed a notice to invoke the discretionary jurisdiction of the Florida Supreme Court.

In County of Nassau v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (Supreme Court of Nassau County, New York; filed in September 2011; Appellate Division, Second Department; appeal filed in April 2013), the Company received notice on September 11, 2013, that the City of New York opted out of the class certified in that action. No other localities filed notices to opt out of the certified class.

On September 30, 2013, in City of Atlanta, Georgia v. Hotels.com L.P., et al. (Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia; filed in March 2006; Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia; appeal filed in January 2007; Georgia Supreme Court; further appeal filed in December 2007; petition for writs of mandamus and prohibition filed in December 2012), the trial court granted defendant OTCs' summary judgment dismissing all of plaintiff's remaining claims. The Georgia Supreme Court had earlier ruled that the district court's entry of summary judgment against Atlanta on July 30, 2010 had not decided the City's claim for conversion. After the City amended its complaint to add new claim for breach of trust, the OTCs moved again for summary judgment. The September 30, 2013 ruling addresses, and dismisses, all claims remaining.

On October 10, 2013, in Pine Bluff Advertising and Promotion Commission, Jefferson County, Arkansas, et al. v.

Hotels.com, LP, et al. (Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Arkansas; filed in September 2009); (Arkansas Supreme Court; appeal filed in March 2013), the Arkansas Supreme Court affirmed certification of a class.

Four new actions commenced:

- Department of Revenue, Finance and Administration Cabinet, Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (Franklin Circuit Court, Kentucky) was filed on July 15, 2013. The complaint alleges violation of the state's accommodations tax law, breach of fiduciary duty, conversion and money had and received, and seeks imposition of a constructive trust and injunctive relief.
- City of Columbia, South Carolina, et al. v. Hotelguides.com, Inc. et al. (Court of Common Pleas, Ninth Judicial Circuit, County of Charleston; filed in July 2013) is a putative class action brought on behalf of South Carolina local governments and taxing authorities against the Company and other OTCs (and other defendants) alleging that the defendants have failed to collect and/or remit transient accommodations taxes as required by the putative class members' respective ordinances. The complaint asserts violations of these ordinances, conversion, civil conspiracy, "voluntary undertaking" and "contractual undertaking" by defendants, and other equitable claims, including constructive trust, unjust enrichment and an accounting.
- On September 27, 2013, the Company and other OTCs' filed a complaint in Expedia, Inc., et al. v. Oregon Department of Revenue (Oregon Tax Court), seeking declaratory relief as to Oregon House Bill 2656. On the same date, the Company and other OTCs' filed a request with the Oregon Department of Revenue for an administrative ruling with respect to that bill. HB 2656 purports to amend Oregon's transient lodging tax statute, effective October 7, 2013, to subject the OTCs' compensation subject to the tax insofar as the OTCs are "transient lodging intermediaries."
- State of New Hampshire v. priceline.com Incorporated, et al. (Merrimack Superior Court) was filed on October 16, 2013. The complaint alleges violation of the state meals and rooms tax, violation of the New Hampshire Consumer Protection Act, breach of fiduciary duty, conversion, unjust enrichment, assumpsit for money had and received and civil conspiracy, and seeks an accounting, imposition of a constructive trust and injunctive relief with respect to the OTCs' merchant model hotel and rental car services.

Two matters were resolved. In The Village of Rosemont, Illinois v. Priceline.com, Inc., et al. (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; filed in July 2009) (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, appeal filed in November 2012), the Company and other OTC defendants resolved the litigation through settlement. The case was dismissed with prejudice on August 6, 2013. The Company and other OTC defendants also resolved the remaining issues in City of Gallup, New Mexico v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico; filed in July 2007); (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; appeal filed in April 2013). The case was remanded to the district court, which has granted preliminary approval of the settlement. A settlement fairness hearing has been set for November 19, 2013. In addition, in District of Columbia v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (Superior Court of District of Columbia; filed in March 2011), the Company reached agreement with the District on a stipulated damage amount. The Company intends to vigorously pursue its appeal in that case.

The Company intends to vigorously defend against the claims in all of the proceedings described below.

Statewide Class Actions and Putative Class Actions

Such actions include:

- City of Los Angeles, California v. Hotels.com, Inc., et al. (California Superior Court, Los Angeles County; filed in December 2004)
- City of Rome, Georgia, et al. v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia; filed in November 2005); (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit appeal filed in September 2012)
- City of San Antonio, Texas v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas; filed in May 2006)
- City of Gallup, New Mexico v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico; filed in July 2007); (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; appeal filed in April 2013)
- Pine Bluff Advertising and Promotion Commission, Jefferson County, Arkansas, et al. v. Hotels.com, LP, et al. (Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Arkansas; filed in September 2009); (Arkansas Supreme Court; appeal filed in March 2013)
- County of Lawrence, Pennsylvania v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (Court of Common Pleas of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania; filed Nov. 2009); (Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania; appeal filed in November 2010)
- Elizabeth McAllister, et al. v. Hotels.com L.P., et al. (Circuit Court of Saline County, Arkansas; filed in

- February 2011); (Arkansas Supreme Court; appeal filed in June 2013)
- Town of Breckenridge, Colorado v. Colorado Travel Company, LLC, et al. (District Court for Summit County, Colorado; filed in July 2011)
- County of Nassau v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (Supreme Court of Nassau County, New York; filed in September 2011); (Appellate Division, Second Department; appeal filed in April 2013)
- Village of Bedford Park, et al. v. Expedia, Inc. et al. (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; filed in July 2013)
- City of Columbia, South Carolina, et al. v. Hotelguides.com, Inc. et al. (Court of Common Pleas, Ninth Judicial Circuit, County of Charleston; filed in July 2013).

Actions Filed on Behalf of Individual Cities, Counties and States

Such actions include:

- City of Chicago, Illinois v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois; filed in November 2005)
- City of San Diego, California v. Hotels.com L.P., et al. (California Superior Court, San Diego County; filed in September 2006) (Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County) (California Court of Appeal; appeal filed in August 2012)
- City of Atlanta, Georgia v. Hotels.com L.P., et al. (Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia; filed in March 2006); (Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia; appeal filed in January 2007); (Georgia Supreme Court; further appeal filed in December 2007; petition for writs of mandamus and prohibition filed in December 2012)
- Wake County, North Carolina v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al. (General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Wake County, North Carolina; filed in November 2006); (Court of Appeals of North Carolina; appeal filed in January 2013); Dare County, North Carolina v. Hotels.com, LP, et al. (General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Dare County, North Carolina; filed in January 2007); (Court of Appeals of North Carolina; appeal filed in January 2013); Buncombe County, North Carolina v. Hotels.com, LP, et al. (General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Buncombe County, North Carolina; filed in February 2007); (Court of Appeals of North Carolina; appeal filed in January 2013); Mecklenburg County, North Carolina v. Hotels.com LP, et al. (General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; filed in January 2008); (Court of Appeals of North Carolina; appeal filed in January 2013)
- Leon County, et al. v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (Second Judicial Circuit Court for Leon County, Florida; filed November 2009); (Florida First District Court of Appeal; appeal filed in May 2012); (Florida Supreme Court; jurisdiction accepted in September 2013)
- Leon County v. Expedia, Inc. et al. (Second Judicial Circuit Court for Leon County, Florida; filed in December 2009); (Florida First District Court of Appeal; appeal filed in October 2012)
- Montana Department of Revenue v. Priceline.com, Inc., et al. (First Judicial District Court of Lewis and Clark County, Montana; filed in November 2010)
- District of Columbia v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (Superior Court of District of Columbia; filed in March 2011)
- Volusia County, et al. v. Expedia, Inc., et al. (Circuit Court for Volusia County, Florida; filed in April 2011)
- State of Mississippi v. Priceline.com Inc., et al., (Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi; filed in January 2012)
- County of Kalamazoo, Michigan v. Hotels.com L.P., et al. (Circuit Court for the County of Kalamazoo; filed August 2012)
- Fargo v. Expedia, Inc. et al. (District Court for the County of Cass; filed in February 2013)
- Department of Revenue, Finance and Administration Cabinet, Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Expedia, Inc. et al. (Franklin Circuit Court, Kentucky; filed in July 2013)
- State of New Hampshire v. priceline.com Incorporated, et al. (Merrimack Superior Court; filed in October 2013)

Judicial Actions Relating to Assessments Issued by Individual Cities, Counties and States

The Company may seek judicial review of assessments issued by an individual city or county. Currently pending actions seeking such a review include:

- Priceline.com, Inc., et al. v. Broward County, Florida (Circuit Court - Second Judicial Circuit, Leon County, Florida; filed in January 2009); (Florida First District Court of Appeal; filed in February 2013)
- Priceline.com, Inc. v. Indiana Department of State Revenue (Indiana Tax Court; filed in March 2009)

- Priceline.com, Inc., et al. v. City of San Francisco, California, et al. (California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles; filed in June 2009)
- Priceline.com, Inc. v. Miami-Dade County, Florida, et al. (Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court for Miami-Dade, County, Florida; filed in December 2009)
- Priceline.com Incorporated, et al. v. Osceola County, Florida, et al. (Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit, in and For Leon County, Florida; filed in January 2011)
- In the Matter of the Tax Appeal of priceline.com Inc. and In the Matter of the Tax Appeal of Travelweb LLC (Tax Appeal Court of the State of Hawaii; filed in March 2011) (Intermediate Court of Appeals; filed September 2013); In the Matter of the Tax Appeal of priceline.com Inc. and In the Matter of the Tax Appeal of Travelweb LLC (Tax Appeal Court of the State of Hawaii, filed in July 2012) (Intermediate Court of Appeals; filed September 2013); In the Matter of the Tax Appeal of priceline.com Inc. and In the Matter of Tax Appeal of Travelweb LLC (Tax Appeal Court of the State of Hawaii, filed in June 2013)
- Expedia, Inc. et al. v. City of Portland (Circuit Court for Multnomah County, Oregon, filed in February 2012)
- Expedia, Inc., et al. v. City and County of Denver, et al. (District Court for Denver County, Colorado, filed in March 2012); (Colorado Supreme Court; appeal filed in April 2013)
- Travelocity.com LP, et al., v. Wyoming Department of Revenue (District Court for the County of Laramie, 1st Judicial Dist.; petition for review filed and petition granted by Wyoming Supreme Court in April 2013)
- Expedia, Inc., et al. v. Oregon Department of Revenue (Oregon Tax Court; filed in September 2013)

Administrative Proceedings and Other Possible Actions

At various times, the Company has also received inquiries or proposed tax assessments from municipalities and other taxing jurisdictions relating to the Company's charges and remittance of amounts to cover state and local travel transaction taxes. Among others, the City of Phoenix, Arizona (on behalf of itself and twelve other Arizona cities); the City of Paradise Valley, Arizona; fifteen cities (and one county) in Colorado; Arlington, Texas; Lake County, Indiana; Saratoga County, New York; and state tax officials from Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin have begun formal or informal administrative procedures or stated that they may assert claims against the Company relating to allegedly unpaid state or local travel transaction taxes. Between 2008 and 2010, the Company received audit notices from more than forty cities in the state of California. The audit proceedings in those cities have not been active but are not yet concluded. The Company has also been contacted for audit by five counties in the state of Utah and by the City of St. Louis, Missouri.

OFT Inquiry

In July 2012, the Office of Fair Trading (the "OFT"), the competition authority in the United Kingdom, issued a "Statement of Objections" ("SO") to Booking.com, which sets out the OFT's preliminary views on why it believes Booking.com and others in the hotel online booking sector have allegedly breached E.U. and U.K. competition law. The SO alleges, among other things, that there are agreements or concerted practices between hotels and Booking.com and between hotels and at least one other OTC that restrict Booking.com's (and the other OTC's) ability to discount hotel room reservations, which the OFT alleges is a form of resale price maintenance. The Company disputes the allegations in the SO.

On August 9, 2013, the OFT announced its intention to accept commitments offered by Booking.com, as well as Expedia and Intercontinental Hotel Group, to close the investigation. The OFT sought feedback on the proposed commitments from the public. The public comment period expired on September 13, 2013. The OFT is now considering the public comments and input from the European Commission before making its final decision whether to accept the commitments. If the proposed commitments are accepted by the OFT, the investigation will be closed with no finding of infringement or admission of wrongdoing and no imposition of a fine.

The proposed commitments provide, among other things, that hotels will continue to be able to set retail prices for hotel room reservations on all OTC websites, such as Booking.com. OTCs, such as Booking.com, will have the flexibility to discount a hotel's retail price, but only to members of closed user groups, a concept that is defined in the proposed commitments, who have previously made a booking with the OTC.

If the commitments are not accepted by the OFT, the Company will have the right to respond to the allegations in the SO in writing and orally. If the OFT chooses to maintain its objections after hearing Booking.com's responses, the OFT will issue a "Decision" which will state its case against Booking.com and others under investigation. The Company will have the opportunity to challenge an adverse Decision in the U.K. courts.

In connection with a Decision, the OFT may impose a fine against Booking.com. The Company estimates that a fine could range from \$0 to approximately \$50 million. A fine in this amount could adversely impact the Company's cash flow and results of operations. In addition, the OFT may require changes to Booking.com's business practices, including changes to its approach to pricing and the use of "Most Favored Nation" clauses in contracts with hotels. The Company is unable at this time to predict the outcome of the proceedings before the OFT and, if necessary, before the U.K. courts, and the impact of changes to its business practices that may be required, if any, on its business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, the Company is also unable to predict at this time the extent to which other regulatory authorities may pursue similar claims against it.

Lawsuits Alleging Antitrust Violations

On August 20, 2012, one complaint was filed on behalf of a putative class of persons who purchased hotel room reservations from certain hotels (the "Hotel Defendants") through certain OTC defendants, including the Company. The initial complaint, *Turik v. Expedia, Inc.*, Case No. 12-cv-4365, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, alleges that the Hotel Defendants and the OTC defendants violated federal and state laws by entering into a conspiracy to enforce a minimum resale price maintenance scheme pursuant to which putative class members paid inflated prices for hotel room reservations that they purchased through the OTC defendants. Thirty-one other complaints containing similar allegations have been filed in a number of federal jurisdictions across the country. Plaintiffs in these actions seek treble damages and injunctive relief.

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("JPML") heard arguments on a motion for consolidation and transfer of pretrial proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 on November 29, 2012. Pursuant to JPML orders, all of the pending cases were consolidated before Judge Boyle in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. On May 1, 2013, an amended consolidated complaint was filed.

On July 1, 2013, the Company, together with the OTC and hotel defendants, filed an omnibus motion to dismiss the amended consolidated complaint.

The Company intends to defend vigorously against the claims in all of the proceedings described in this Note 13. The Company has accrued for certain legal contingencies where it is probable that a loss has been incurred and the amount can be reasonably estimated. Except as disclosed, such amounts accrued are not material to the Company's consolidated balance sheets and provisions recorded have not been material to the Company's consolidated results of operations or cash flows. The Company is unable to estimate a reasonably possible range of loss.

From time to time, the Company has been, and expects to continue to be, subject to legal proceedings and claims in the ordinary course of business, including claims of alleged infringement of third party intellectual property rights. Such claims, even if not meritorious, could result in the expenditure of significant financial and managerial resources, divert management's attention from the Company's business objectives and adversely affect the Company's business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

14. ACQUISITION

On May 21, 2013, the Company acquired 100% of KAYAK Software Corporation in a stock and cash transaction. The purchase value was approximately \$2.1 billion (\$1.9 billion net of cash acquired). The Company paid \$0.5 billion in cash, from cash on hand in the United States, and \$1.6 billion in shares of its common stock (based upon the market value of the Company's common stock at the merger date) and the fair value of the assumed vested KAYAK stock options. These assumed KAYAK stock options are related to pre-combination service.

KAYAK is a leading travel research site that allows people to easily compare hundreds of travel sites at once when searching for flights, hotels, and rental cars, and gives travelers choices on where to book. KAYAK has built a strong brand in online travel research and its track record of profitable growth is demonstrative of its popularity with consumers and value to advertisers. KAYAK also has world class technology and a tradition of innovation in building great user interfaces across multiple platforms and devices. The Company believes that it can be helpful with KAYAK's plans to build a global online travel brand.

Also in conjunction with the acquisition, the Company assumed unvested KAYAK employee stock options, which relate to post-combination service, with an acquisition date fair value of \$57.4 million. See Note 2 for further information on the assumed KAYAK unvested employee stock options.

As a result of the acquisition of KAYAK, the Company expensed approximately \$8.6 million of professional fees for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. These acquisition-related expenses were included in "General and administrative" expenses on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations. In addition, the Company paid approximately \$1.2 million of stock issuance costs in the nine months ended September 30, 2013, with an offsetting charge to additional paid-in capital.

The aggregate purchase price was preliminarily allocated to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed as follows (in millions):

Current assets ⁽¹⁾	\$	321
Identifiable intangible assets ⁽²⁾		871
Goodwill ⁽³⁾		1,234
Other long-term assets		12
Total liabilities ⁽⁴⁾		<u>(370)</u>
Total consideration	\$	<u>2,068</u>

(1) Includes cash acquired of \$194 million.

(2) Acquired definite-lived intangibles, with a weighted average life of 18.7 years, consisted of trade names of \$496 million with an estimated useful life of 20 years, supply and distribution agreements of \$302 million with an estimated useful life of 20 years, and technology of \$73 million with estimated useful life of 5 years.

(3) Goodwill is not tax deductible.

(4) Includes deferred tax liabilities of \$326 million.

KAYAK's revenues and earnings since the acquisition date and pro forma results of operations have not been presented as such financial information is not material to the Company's results of operations.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements, including the notes to those statements, included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q, and the Section entitled "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in this Form 10-Q. As discussed in more detail in the Section entitled "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements," this discussion contains forward-looking statements, which involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause those differences include those discussed in "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this Form 10-Q.

Overview

We are a leading online travel company that offers consumers hotel and accommodation (generally referred to as "hotel") reservations through the Booking.com, priceline.com, and Agoda.com brands. In the United States, we offer consumers reservations for car rentals, airline tickets, vacation packages, destination services and cruises through the priceline.com U.S. brand. We offer car rental reservations worldwide through rentalcars.com. We also allow consumers to easily compare airline ticket, hotel room reservation and rental car reservation information from hundreds of travel sites at once through KAYAK's websites and mobile apps. We refer to our company and all of our subsidiaries and brands, including Booking.com, priceline.com, Agoda.com, KAYAK, and rentalcars.com, collectively as the "Priceline Group," the "Company," "we," "our" or "us."

We launched our business in the United States in 1998 under the priceline.com brand and have since expanded our operations to include Booking.com, Agoda.com, KAYAK, and rentalcars.com, which are independently managed and operated brands. Our principal goal is to serve consumers with worldwide leadership in online hotel, accommodation and rental car reservations. Our business is driven primarily by international results. During the year ended December 31, 2012, our international business (the substantial majority of which is generated by Booking.com) represented approximately 82% of our gross bookings (an operating and statistical metric referring to the total dollar value, generally inclusive of all taxes and fees, of all travel services purchased by our customers), and approximately 92% of our consolidated operating income. Given that our international business is primarily comprised of hotel reservation services, and that hotel reservations also represent a significant majority of our domestic business, gross profit earned in connection with the reservation of hotel room nights represents a substantial majority of our gross profit.

Our priceline.com U.S. brand offers merchant *Name Your Own Price*[®] travel services (sometimes referred to as "opaque" travel services because certain elements of the service are not disclosed to the customer prior to booking), which are recorded in revenue on a "gross" basis and have associated cost of revenue. Retail and semi-opaque price-disclosed travel services offered by both our U.S. and international brands are recorded in revenue on a "net" basis and have no associated cost of revenue. Therefore, revenue increases and decreases are impacted by changes in the mix of our revenues between *Name Your Own Price*[®] and retail travel services. Gross profit reflects the net margin earned for both our *Name Your Own Price*[®] and retail travel services. Consequently, gross profit has become an increasingly important measure of evaluating growth in our business. At present, we derive substantially all of our gross profit from the following sources:

- Commissions earned from facilitating reservations of price-disclosed hotels, rental cars, cruises and other travel services;
- Transaction gross profit and customer processing fees from our price-disclosed hotel, rental car, and vacation package reservation services;
- Transaction gross profit and customer processing fees from our *Name Your Own Price*[®] and *Express Deals*SM services;
- Advertising revenues primarily earned by KAYAK from sending referrals to travel service providers and online travel agents ("OTAs") and from advertising placements on KAYAK websites and mobile applications; and
- Global distribution system ("GDS") reservation booking fees related to our *Name Your Own Price*[®] hotel, rental car and airline ticket reservation services, and price-disclosed airline ticket and rental car services.

Over the last several years we have experienced strong growth in our hotel reservation services. We believe this growth is the result of, among other things, the broader shift of travel purchases from offline to online, the widespread adoption of mobile devices, the high growth of travel overall in emerging markets such as Asia-Pacific and South America, and the continued innovation and execution by our teams around the world to build hotel supply, content and distribution and to improve the customer experience on our websites and mobile apps. We experienced strong year-over-year growth in recent years, though that growth has generally decelerated. For example, in the nine months ended September 30, 2013, our hotel room night reservation growth was 37%, a deceleration from 40% in the same period in 2012 and a deceleration from 52% in

the same period in 2011. Given the sheer size of our hotel reservation business, we believe it is highly likely that our year-over-year growth rates will continue to decelerate, though the rate of deceleration may fluctuate.

Many governments around the world, including the U.S. government and certain European governments, are operating at large financial deficits. Failure to reach political consensus regarding workable solutions to these issues has resulted in a high level of uncertainty regarding the future economic outlook. This uncertainty, as well as concern over governmental austerity measures including higher taxes and reduced government spending, could impair consumer spending and adversely affect travel demand. Over the past year, we have experienced volatility in transaction growth rates and weaker trends in hotel average daily rates ("ADR's") across many regions of the world, particularly in those European countries that appear to be most affected by economic uncertainties. We believe that these business trends are likely impacted by weak economic conditions and sovereign debt concerns. The uncertainty of macro-economic factors and their impact on consumer behavior across regions, which may differ, makes it more difficult to forecast industry and consumer trends and the timing and degree of their impact on our markets and business, which in turn could adversely affect our ability to effectively manage our business and adversely affect our results of operations.

We compete with both online and traditional travel reservation services. The market for the travel reservation services we offer is intensely competitive, and current and new competitors can launch new services at a relatively low cost. Some of our current and potential competitors, such as Google, Apple and Facebook, have access to significantly greater and more diversified resources than we do, and they may be able to leverage other aspects of their businesses (e.g., search or mobile device businesses) to enable them to compete more effectively with us.

We currently, or potentially will, compete with a variety of companies, including:

- Internet travel reservation services such as those owned by Expedia, Orbitz, Travelocity, Ctrip, Rakuten, Jalan and Wotif;
- large online portal, social networking, group buying and search companies, such as Google, Facebook and Groupon;
- traditional travel agencies, wholesalers and tour operators, such as Carlson Wagonlit, American Express, Thomas Cook and Tui Travel, as well as thousands of individual travel agencies around the world;
- travel service providers such as hotel companies, rental car companies and airlines; and
- online travel search and price comparison services (generally referred to as "meta-search" services), such as trivago (in which Expedia has acquired a majority ownership interest), TripAdvisor, Qunar and HotelsCombined.

TripAdvisor, the world's leading travel research and review website and the world's largest online travel service with over 260 million unique monthly visitors across its sites, Google, the world's largest search engine, and other large, established companies with substantial resources and expertise in developing online commerce and facilitating Internet traffic have launched "meta-search" services and may create additional inroads into online travel, both in the United States and internationally. Meta-search services (like those offered by KAYAK, which we acquired in May 2013) leverage their search technology to aggregate travel search results for the consumer's specific itinerary across travel service provider (e.g., hotels and other accommodations, rental car companies or airlines), OTA and other travel websites and, in many instances, compete directly with us for customers. Meta-search services intend to appeal to consumers by showing more detailed travel search results than may be available through OTAs or other travel websites, which could lead to travel service providers or others gaining a larger share of search traffic. TripAdvisor recently transitioned some of its offerings to meta-search functionality. TripAdvisor has begun supporting its new meta-search service with offline advertising, while trivago, a leading meta-search service in Europe, recently expanded its offline advertising campaign into the United States. Google launched "Hotel Finder", a meta-search service that Google has at times placed at or near the top of hotel-related search results.

As consumers attempt to be more efficient in their shopping behavior, they may favor travel services offered by meta-search sites or search companies over OTAs, which could reduce traffic to our travel reservation websites, increase consumer awareness of our competitors' brands and websites and increase our advertising and other customer acquisition costs. To the extent any such consumer behavior leads to growth in our KAYAK meta-search business, such growth may not result in sufficient increases in profits from our KAYAK meta-search business to offset any related decrease in profits experienced by our OTA brands. Further, meta-search services may evolve into more traditional OTAs by offering consumers the ability to make travel reservations directly through their websites. For example, TripAdvisor sells room night reservations on its transactional sites Tingo and Jetsetter and intends to allow consumers to make a reservation while staying on TripAdvisor. To the extent consumers book travel services through a meta-search site or directly with a travel service provider after visiting a

meta-search site or meta-search utility on a traditional search engine without using an OTA like us, or if meta-search services limit our participation within their search results, we may need to increase our advertising or other customer acquisition costs to maintain or grow our bookings, any of which could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

In August 2013, Expedia and Travelocity announced that they had entered into an exclusive, long-term strategic marketing agreement, whereby Expedia will power the technology platforms for Travelocity's existing websites in the United States and Canada, while providing Travelocity access to Expedia's supply and customer services. To the extent this arrangement enhances Expedia's and/or Travelocity's ability to compete with us in the affected markets, our market share and results of operations could be adversely affected.

As a result of our recent acquisition of KAYAK, a meta-search service, we now compete more directly with other meta-search services. As a meta-search service, KAYAK depends on access to information related to travel service pricing, schedules, availability and other related information from OTAs and travel service providers. KAYAK accesses some of its information from ITA Software, Inc., a major flight information software company that was acquired by Google. To the extent ITA, other OTAs or travel service providers no longer provide such information to KAYAK, whether due to its affiliation with us or otherwise, KAYAK's business and results of operations could be harmed and the value of our investment in KAYAK could be adversely affected.

Widespread adoption of mobile devices, such as the iPhone, Android-enabled smart phones, and tablets such as the iPad, coupled with the improved web browsing functionality and development of thousands of useful "apps" available on these devices, is driving substantial traffic and commerce activity to mobile platforms. We have experienced a significant shift of business to mobile platforms and our advertising partners are also seeing a rapid shift of traffic to mobile platforms. Our major competitors and certain new market entrants are offering mobile applications for travel products and other functionality, including proprietary last-minute discounts for hotel bookings. Advertising and distribution opportunities may be more limited on mobile devices given their smaller screen sizes. The gross profit earned on a mobile transaction may be less than a typical desktop transaction due to different consumer purchasing patterns. For example, hotel reservations made on a mobile device typically are for shorter lengths of stay and are not made as far in advance. We have made significant progress creating mobile offerings, which have received strong reviews, solid download trends, and are driving a material and increasing share of our business. We believe that mobile bookings present an opportunity for growth and are necessary to maintain and grow our business as consumers increasingly turn to mobile devices instead of a personal computer and to mobile applications instead of a web browser. If we are unable to continue to rapidly innovate and create new and differentiated mobile offerings, and efficiently and effectively advertise and distribute on these platforms, we could lose market share to existing competitors or new entrants.

Apple, Inc., one of the most innovative and successful companies in the world and producer of, among other things, the iPhone and iPad, obtained a patent for "iTravel," a mobile app that would allow a traveler to check in for a travel reservation. In addition, Apple's iPhone operating system includes "Passbook," a virtual wallet app that holds tickets, boarding passes, coupons and gift cards, and along with iTravel, may be indicative of Apple's intent to enter the travel reservations business in some capacity. Apple has substantial market share in the smart phone category and controls integration of offerings, including travel services, into its mobile operating system. Apple also has more experience producing and developing mobile apps and has access to greater resources than we have. Apple may use or expand iTravel, Passbook, Siri (Apple's voice recognition "concierge" service) or another mobile app as a means of entering the travel reservations marketplace. Similarly, Google's Android operating system is the leading smart phone operating system in the world. As a result, Google could leverage its Android operating system to give its travel services a competitive advantage, either technically or with prominence on its Google Play app store or within its mobile search results. To the extent Apple or Google use their mobile operating systems or app distribution channels to favor their own travel service offerings, our business could be harmed.

There has been a proliferation of new channels through which hotels can offer hotel room reservations. For example, some hotels offer room reservations through "daily deal" websites such as Groupon and Living Social, which sell coupons to customers at a substantial discount. In 2011, Expedia, one of our largest competitors, entered into a partnership with Groupon to sell hotel room reservations to Groupon customers under the "Groupon Getaways" brand name. New entrants, such as BackBid, GuestMob, Tingo, Hipmunk and Room 77, have developed new and differentiated offerings that endeavor to provide savings on hotel rooms to consumers and that compete directly with us. If any of these new services are successful, we may experience less demand for our services and are likely to face more competition for access to the limited supply of discounted hotel room rates.

We use third party websites, including online search engines and meta-search services, and affiliate marketing as primary means of generating traffic to our websites. As a result, our online advertising expense has increased significantly in recent years, a trend we expect to continue. In addition, our online advertising expense has generally been growing faster than

our gross profit due to (1) lower returns on investment ("ROIs") from our online advertising, (2) brand mix within The Priceline Group and (3) channel mix within certain of our brands. Our online advertising ROIs have recently been down year-over-year. Furthermore, our international brands are growing faster than our priceline.com U.S. brand, and spend a higher percentage of gross profit on online advertising. Finally, certain of our brands are obtaining an increasing share of traffic through paid online advertising channels.

The inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013 had a favorable impact on online advertising as a percentage of gross profit for the second and third quarters of 2013 because KAYAK spends a lower percentage of gross profit on online advertising than our other brands, and our consolidated results exclude intercompany advertising by our brands on KAYAK.

Advertising efficiency is impacted by a number of factors that are subject to variability and that are outside of our control, including ADRs, costs per click, cancellation rates, foreign exchange rates and our ability to convert paid traffic to booking customers and then having customers return directly to our websites or mobile apps for future bookings.

International Trends. The size of the travel market outside of the United States is substantially greater than that within the United States. Historically, Internet adoption rates and e-commerce adoption rates of international consumers have trailed those of the United States. However, international consumers are rapidly moving to online means for purchasing travel. Accordingly, recent international online travel growth rates have substantially exceeded, and are expected to continue to exceed, the growth rates within the United States. We expect that over the long-term, international online travel growth rates will follow a similar trend to that experienced in the United States. In addition, the base of hotel properties in Europe and Asia is particularly fragmented compared to that in the United States, where the hotel market is dominated by large hotel chains. We believe online reservation systems like ours may be more appealing to small chains and independent hotels more commonly found outside of the United States. Our growth has primarily been generated by our international hotel reservation service brands, Booking.com and Agoda.com. Booking.com, our most significant brand, includes over 355,000 hotels and accommodations on its website as of November 4, 2013 (updated property counts are available on the Booking.com website). Booking.com has added properties over the past year in its core European market as well as higher-growth markets such as North America (which is a newer market for Booking.com), Asia-Pacific and South America. An increasing amount of our business from both a destination and point-of-sale perspective is conducted in these newer markets which are growing faster than our overall growth rate. We believe that the opportunity to continue to grow our business exists for the markets in which we operate. We believe these trends and factors have enabled us to become the leading online hotel and accommodation reservation service provider in the world as measured by room nights booked.

As our international business represents the substantial majority of our results, we expect to continue to see our operating results and other financial metrics largely driven by international performance. For example, certain newer markets in which we operate that are in earlier stages of development have lower operating margins compared to more mature markets, which could have a negative impact on our overall margins as these markets increase in size over time. Also, we intend to continue to invest in adding properties to our websites. Many of the newer properties we add, especially in highly penetrated markets, may have fewer rooms, lower ADRs or higher credit risk, and may appeal to a smaller subset of customers (for example, hostels and bed and breakfasts), and therefore may also negatively impact our margins over time.

Another impact of the size of our international business is our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk. Because we are conducting a substantial majority of our business outside the United States and are reporting our results in U.S. Dollars, we face exposure to adverse movements in currency exchange rates as the financial results of our international business are translated from local currency (principally the Euro and the British Pound Sterling) into U.S. Dollars upon consolidation. For example, a strengthening of the Euro increases our Euro-denominated net assets, gross bookings, gross profit, operating expenses, and net income as expressed in U.S. Dollars, while a weakening of the Euro decreases our Euro-denominated net assets, gross bookings, gross profit, operating expenses, and net income as expressed in U.S. Dollars. Greece, Ireland, Portugal and certain other European Union countries with high levels of sovereign debt have had difficulty refinancing their debt. Concern around devaluation or abandonment of the Euro common currency, or that sovereign default risk may be more widespread and could include the United States, has led to significant volatility in the exchange rate between the Euro, the U.S. Dollar and other currencies. We generally enter into derivative instruments to minimize the impact of short-term currency fluctuations on our consolidated operating results. However, such derivative instruments are short term in nature and not designed to hedge against currency fluctuation that could impact our foreign currency denominated gross bookings, revenue or gross profit (see Note 5 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on our derivative contracts). For example, while revenue from our international operations grew year-over-year on a local currency basis by approximately 39% and 41% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, as a result of the positive impact of currency exchange rates, revenue from our international operations as reported in U.S. Dollars grew 42% for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively.

Domestic Trends. Competition in U.S. online travel remains intense and online travel companies are creating new promotions and consumer value features in an effort to gain competitive advantages. In particular, the competition to provide "opaque" hotel reservation services to consumers, an area in which our priceline.com U.S. business has been a leader, has become more intense. For example, Expedia makes opaque hotel room reservations available on its principal website under the name "Expedia Unpublished Rates" and has supported this initiative with steeper discounts through lower margins. As with our opaque *Name Your Own Price*[®] and *Express Deals*SM hotel reservation services, the name of the hotel is not disclosed until after booking. We believe these offerings, in particular "Expedia Unpublished Rates", have adversely impacted the market share and year-over-year room night reservations growth rate for our *Name Your Own Price*[®] opaque hotel reservation service, which began to experience a decline in the third quarter of 2011. In addition, some hotels offer discounted room reservations through "daily deal" websites such as Groupon and Living Social. If Expedia or others are successful in growing their opaque hotel reservation services, and/or "daily deal" websites are successful in garnering a sizable share of discounted hotel bookings, we may have less consumer demand for our opaque hotel reservation services over time, and we would face more competition for access to the limited supply of discounted hotel room rates. In an effort to compete more effectively against these new offerings, in 2012 we launched *Express Deals*SM, a semi-opaque price-disclosed hotel reservation service. While *Express Deals*SM has been a significant contributor to the recently improved performance of our opaque hotel reservation service, the offering may not ultimately be successful at recovering or growing U.S. hotel reservation service market share. As a result of this increased competition, our share of the discount hotel reservation market in the United States could further decrease.

While demand for online travel services in the United States continues to experience growth, we believe that the U.S. market share of third-party distributors is impacted in part by a concerted initiative by travel service providers to direct customers to their own websites in an effort to reduce distribution expenses and establish more direct control over their pricing. In addition, certain airlines have attempted to charge additional fees to customers who book airline reservations through an online channel other than their own website. Travel service providers who sell on their own websites typically do not charge a processing fee, and, in some instances, offer advantages such as web-only fares, bonus miles or loyalty points, which could make their offerings more attractive to consumers than models like ours.

U.S. airlines have reduced capacity and increased fares since the latter part of 2009, a trend which may continue. Decreases in capacity reduce the amount of airline tickets available, while significant increases in average airfares have adversely impacted leisure travel demand. Generally, reduced airline capacity and demand negatively impact our priceline.com air ticket reservation service, which in turn can have negative repercussions on our priceline.com hotel and rental car services. Our *Name Your Own Price*[®] airline ticket and rental car services were negatively impacted in 2012 by reduced availability of discounted rates. Although availability has improved in 2013, we expect continued variability in the breadth and depth of discounted airline tickets and rental car rates made available to us in the future, depending on market conditions from time to time.

Seasonality. A meaningful amount of retail gross bookings are generated early in the year, as customers plan and reserve their spring and summer vacations in Europe and North America. We expense the substantial majority of our advertising activities as they are incurred, which is typically in the quarter in which bookings are generated. However, we generally do not recognize associated revenue until future quarters when the travel occurs. As a result, we typically experience our highest levels of profitability in the second and third quarters of the year, which is when we experience the highest levels of booking and travel consumption for the year for our North American and European businesses. However, we experience the highest levels of booking and travel consumption for our Asia-Pacific and South American businesses in the first and fourth quarters. Therefore, if these businesses continue to grow faster than our North American and European businesses, our operating results for the first and fourth quarters of the year may become more significant over time as a percentage of full year operating results. In addition, our *Name Your Own Price*[®] services are generally non-refundable in nature, and accordingly, we recognize travel revenue at the time a booking is generated. In contrast, for example, we recognize revenue generated from our retail hotel services at the time that the customer checks out of the hotel. Therefore, if our retail hotel business continues to grow faster than our *Name Our Own Price*[®] services, we expect our quarterly results to become increasingly impacted by these seasonal factors. In addition, the date on which Easter falls can have an impact on our first and second quarters. For example, in 2013 our first quarter growth rates in revenue, gross profit, operating income, and operating margins were favorably affected by Easter falling in the first quarter as compared to the same period in 2012. Conversely, those growth rates were negatively impacted in our second quarter 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012. The impact of seasonality can be exaggerated in the short-term by the gross bookings growth rate of the business. For example, in periods where our growth rate substantially decelerates, our operating margins typically benefit from relatively less variable advertising expense. In addition, gross profit growth is typically less impacted in the near term due to the benefit of revenue booked in previous quarters.

Other Factors. We believe that our success will depend in large part on our ability to continue to profitably grow our brands worldwide, and, over time, to offer other travel services and further expand into other international markets. Factors beyond our control, such as worldwide recession, higher oil prices, terrorist attacks, unusual weather patterns, natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions (such as the April 2010 eruption of a volcano in Iceland), travel related health concerns including pandemics and epidemics such as Influenza H1N1, avian bird flu and SARS, political instability, regional hostilities, imposition of taxes or surcharges by regulatory authorities or travel related accidents, could adversely affect our business and results of operations and impair our ability to effectively implement all or some of the initiatives described above.

For example, in late 2012 Hurricane Sandy disrupted travel in the northeastern United States. In early 2011, Japan was struck by a major earthquake, tsunami and nuclear emergency. In October 2011, severe flooding in Thailand, a key market for our Agoda.com business and the Asian business of Booking.com, negatively impacted booking volumes and cancellation rates in this market. In addition, in early 2010, Thailand experienced disruptive civil unrest, which caused the temporary relocation of Agoda.com's Thailand-based operations. Future natural disasters or civil or political unrest could further disrupt our business and operations.

We intend to continue to invest in marketing and promotion, technology and personnel within parameters consistent with attempts to improve long-term operating results, even if those expenditures create pressure on operating margins. We have experienced pressure on operating margins as we prioritize initiatives that drive growth. We also intend to broaden the scope of our business, and to that end, we explore strategic alternatives from time to time in the form of, among other things, mergers and acquisitions. Our goal is to grow gross profit and achieve healthy operating margins in an effort to maintain profitability. The uncertain environment described above makes the prediction of future results of operations difficult, and accordingly, we may not be able to sustain gross profit growth and profitability.

On May 21, 2013, we acquired KAYAK Software Corporation, a leading travel meta-search service, in a stock and cash transaction. The purchase value was approximately \$2.1 billion (\$1.9 billion net of cash acquired). We paid \$0.5 billion in cash, from cash on hand in the United States, and \$1.6 billion in shares of our common stock and assumed stock options. See Note 2 and Note 14 to the Unaudited Financial Statements for further information on the acquisition.

Results of Operations

Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013 compared to the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012

Operating Metrics

Our financial results are driven by certain operating metrics that encompass the booking activity generated by our travel services. Specifically, reservations of hotel room nights, rental car days and airline tickets capture the volume of units purchased by our customers. Gross bookings is an operating and statistical metric that captures the total dollar value, generally inclusive of taxes and fees, of all travel services booked by our customers and is widely used in the travel business. International gross bookings reflect gross bookings generated principally by our Booking.com, Agoda.com and rentalcars.com businesses and domestic gross bookings reflect gross bookings generated principally by our priceline.com business, in each case without regard to the travel destination or the location of the customer purchasing the travel.

Gross bookings resulting from hotel room nights, rental car days and airline tickets reserved through our international and U.S. operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 were as follows (numbers may not total due to rounding):

	Three Months Ended September 30, (in millions)			Nine Months Ended September 30, (in millions)		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>International</i>	\$ 9,179	\$ 6,473	41.8%	\$ 25,541	\$ 17,876	42.9%
<i>Domestic</i>	1,586	1,359	16.7%	4,493	3,996	12.4%
<i>Total</i>	\$ 10,765	\$ 7,831	37.5%	\$ 30,035	\$ 21,872	37.3%

Gross bookings increased by 37.5% and 37.3% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012 (growth on a local currency basis was approximately 36% and 37% for the three and nine month periods, respectively), principally due to growth of 35.6% and 37.1% in hotel room night reservations and growth of 27.5% and 38.4% in rental car day reservations, respectively. The 41.8% and 42.9% increase in international gross bookings for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012 (growth on a local currency basis was approximately 41% and 42% for the three and nine month periods, respectively) was primarily attributable to growth in hotel room night reservations for our Booking.com and Agoda.com businesses, as well as growth in rental car day reservations for our rentalcars.com business. Domestic gross bookings increased by 16.7% and 12.4% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily due to an increase in priceline.com's retail airline ticket service, *Express DealsSM* hotel reservation service, and retail rental car service, partially offset by a decline in our *Name Your Own Price[®]* opaque hotel service (driven in part by customer shift to *Express DealsSM*).

Gross bookings resulting from reservations of hotel room nights, rental car days and airline tickets made through our agency and merchant models for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 were as follows (numbers may not total due to rounding):

	Three Months Ended September 30, (in millions)			Nine Months Ended September 30, (in millions)		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Agency</i>	\$ 9,023	\$ 6,423	40.5%	\$ 25,096	\$ 17,982	39.6%
<i>Merchant</i>	1,742	1,408	23.7%	4,939	3,890	27.0%
<i>Total</i>	\$ 10,765	\$ 7,831	37.5%	\$ 30,035	\$ 21,872	37.3%

Agency gross bookings increased 40.5% and 39.6% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily due to growth in Booking.com hotel room night reservations, as well as growth in priceline.com's retail airline ticket service. Merchant gross bookings increased 23.7% and 27.0% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily due to an increase in the sale of Agoda.com hotel room night reservations, priceline.com *Express DealsSM* room night reservations, rentalcars.com

rental car day reservations and *Name Your Own Price*[®] airline ticket reservations, partially offset by a decline in our *Name Your Own Price*[®] opaque hotel service.

Units sold for hotel room nights, rental car days and airline tickets for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30, (in millions)			Nine Months Ended September 30, (in millions)		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Hotel Room Nights</i>	74.8	55.2	35.6%	207.4	151.3	37.1%
<i>Rental Car Days</i>	12.0	9.4	27.5%	34.4	24.9	38.4%
<i>Airline Tickets</i>	1.8	1.7	8.6%	5.2	5.0	3.9%

Hotel room night reservations increased by 35.6% and 37.1% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, principally due to an increase in Booking.com, Agoda.com and priceline.com semi-opaque *Express Deals*SM and retail hotel room night reservations, partially offset by a decline in our *Name Your Own Price*[®] opaque hotel room night reservations. Booking.com, our most significant brand, includes over 355,000 hotels and accommodations on its website as of November 4, 2013 (updated hotel and accommodations are available on the Booking.com website). Booking.com has added hotels and accommodations over the past year in its core European market as well as higher-growth markets such as North America (which is a newer market for Booking.com), Asia-Pacific and South America. An increasing amount of our business from a destination and point-of-sale perspective is conducted in these newer markets which are growing faster than our overall growth rate and our core European market. Our priceline.com agency hotel reservations benefited from the integration of the growing number of hotels and accommodations on the Booking.com extranet.

Rental car day reservations increased by 27.5% and 38.4% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, due to an increase in rental car day reservations for rentalcars.com and priceline.com.

Airline ticket reservations increased by 8.6% and 3.9% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, due to an increase in *Name Your Own Price*[®] and price-disclosed airline ticket reservations.

Revenues

We classify our revenue into three categories:

- Agency revenues are derived from travel related transactions where we are not the merchant of record and where the prices of the travel services are determined by third parties. Agency revenues include travel commissions, GDS reservation booking fees related to certain travel services and customer processing fees and are reported at the net amounts received, without any associated cost of revenue. Substantially all of the revenue for Booking.com is agency revenue comprised of travel commissions.
- Merchant revenues are derived from services where we are the merchant of record and therefore charge the customer's credit card for the travel services provided. Merchant revenues include (1) transaction revenues representing the selling price of *Name Your Own Price*[®] hotel room night, rental car and airline ticket reservations and price-disclosed vacation packages; (2) transaction revenues representing the amount charged to a customer, less the amount charged by travel service providers in connection with (a) the hotel room reservations provided through our merchant price-disclosed hotel service at Agoda.com and priceline.com and (b) the reservations provided through our merchant semi-opaque rental car service at rentalcars.com and merchant semi-opaque *Express Deals*SM hotel service at priceline.com, which allows customers to see the price of the reservation prior to purchase but not the identity of the travel service provider; (3) customer processing fees charged in connection with the sale of *Name Your Own Price*[®] hotel room night, rental car and airline ticket reservations and merchant price-disclosed hotel reservations; and (4) ancillary fees, including GDS reservation booking fees related to certain of the services listed above.
- Advertising and other revenues are derived primarily from KAYAK for sending referrals to travel service providers and OTAs and from advertising placements on KAYAK websites and mobile applications.

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Agency Revenues</i>	\$ 1,576,434	\$ 1,118,128	41.0%	\$ 3,411,002	\$ 2,427,751	40.5%
<i>Merchant Revenues</i>	620,904	584,969	6.1%	1,729,692	1,632,402	6.0%
<i>Advertising and other Revenues</i>	72,565	3,213	2,158.5%	111,459	10,163	996.7%
<i>Total Revenues</i>	\$ 2,269,903	\$ 1,706,310	33.0%	\$ 5,252,153	\$ 4,070,316	29.0%

Agency Revenues

Agency revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 increased 41.0% and 40.5%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily as a result of growth in the business of Booking.com. Our priceline.com agency revenues benefited from growth in our retail rental car business as well as the integration on the priceline.com website of the growing number of hotels and accommodations on the Booking.com extranet.

Merchant Revenues

Merchant revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 increased 6.1% and 6.0%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily due to increases in our rentalcars.com rental car reservation service, Agoda.com hotel reservation service and priceline.com *Name Your Own Price*[®] air and *Express Deals*SM hotel reservation services, partially offset by a decline in *Name Your Own Price*[®] opaque hotel revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, compared to the same periods in 2012. Merchant revenue growth over the prior year periods was substantially lower than merchant gross bookings growth because our merchant revenues are disproportionately affected by our *Name Your Own Price*[®] service. *Name Your Own Price*[®] revenues are recorded "gross" with a corresponding supplier cost recorded in cost of revenues, and represented a smaller percentage, year-over-year, of total revenues compared to our faster-growing Agoda.com, rentalcars.com and priceline.com *Express Deals*SM services, which are recorded in revenue "net" of supplier cost. As a result, we believe that gross profit is an important measure of evaluating growth in our business.

Advertising and Other Revenues

Advertising and other revenues during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 consisted primarily of advertising revenues. Advertising revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 includes \$68.4 million and \$99.5 million, respectively, as a result of the inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013, and excludes intercompany revenues earned by KAYAK from other Priceline Group brands.

Cost of Revenues

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Cost of Revenues</i>	\$ 280,838	\$ 309,809	(9.4)%	\$ 869,568	\$ 926,385	(6.1)%

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, cost of revenues consisted primarily of: (1) the cost of *Name Your Own Price*[®] hotel room reservations from our suppliers, net of applicable taxes, (2) the cost of *Name Your Own Price*[®] rental cars from our suppliers, net of applicable taxes; (3) the cost of *Name Your Own Price*[®] airline tickets, net of the federal air transportation tax, segment fees and passenger facility charges imposed in connection with the sale of airline tickets; (4) the cost of vacation packages from our suppliers, net of applicable taxes; and (5) the cost related to accruals for travel transaction taxes (e.g., hotel occupancy taxes, excise taxes, sales taxes, etc.). Cost of revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 decreased by 9.4% and 6.1%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily due to a decrease in our *Name Your Own Price*[®] hotel reservation service, partially offset by increases in our other *Name Your Own Price*[®] services and, for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, higher accruals for travel transaction taxes. Cost of revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 includes an accrual recorded in the first quarter of 2013 of approximately \$20.5 million (including estimated interest and penalties) for travel transaction taxes, principally related to

unfavorable rulings in the State of Hawaii and the District of Columbia. Cost of revenue for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 includes an accrual of approximately \$4.8 million related to travel transaction taxes.

Gross Profit

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
Gross Profit	\$ 1,989,065	\$ 1,396,501	42.4%	\$ 4,382,585	\$ 3,143,931	39.4%
Gross Margin	87.6%	81.8%		83.4%	77.2%	

Total gross profit for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 increased by 42.4% and 39.4%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily as a result of increased revenue discussed above. Total gross margin (gross profit expressed as a percentage of total revenue) increased during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, compared to the same periods in 2012, because our revenues are disproportionately affected by our *Name Your Own Price*[®] service. *Name Your Own Price*[®] revenues are recorded "gross" with a corresponding travel service provider cost recorded in cost of revenues, and in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 represented a smaller percentage of total revenues than in the same periods in 2012. Our retail price-disclosed and semi-opaque services, which are recorded in revenue "net" of supplier cost have been growing faster than our *Name Your Own Price*[®] services. As a result, we believe that gross profit is an important measure of evaluating growth in our business. Our international operations accounted for approximately \$1.8 billion and \$3.9 billion of our gross profit for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, which compares to \$1.2 billion and \$2.7 billion, respectively, for the same periods in 2012. Gross profit attributable to our international operations increased, on a local currency basis, by approximately 39% and 41% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012. Gross profit attributable to our U.S. businesses increased by approximately 45% and 23% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, compared to the same periods in 2012. Gross profit for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 was positively impacted by the inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013. Gross profit for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 was negatively impacted by an accrual recorded in the first quarter of 2013 of approximately \$20.5 million (including estimated interest and penalties) for travel transaction taxes, principally related to unfavorable rulings in the State of Hawaii and the District of Columbia. Gross profit for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 was negatively impacted by an accrual of approximately \$4.8 million related to an unfavorable court judgment regarding travel transaction taxes in the District of Columbia.

Operating Expenses

Advertising

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
Online Advertising	\$ 533,164	\$ 375,204	42.1%	\$ 1,399,452	\$ 966,820	44.7%
% of Total Gross Profit	26.8%	26.9%		31.9%	30.8%	
Offline Advertising	\$ 39,891	\$ 8,441	372.6%	\$ 99,750	\$ 29,519	237.9%
% of Total Gross Profit	2.0%	0.6%		2.3%	0.9%	

Online advertising expenses primarily consist of the costs of (1) search engine keyword purchases; (2) referrals from meta-search and travel research websites; (3) affiliate programs; (4) banner, pop-up and other Internet advertisements; and (5) e-mail campaigns. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, online advertising expenses increased over the same periods in 2012, primarily to generate increased gross bookings. Online advertising as a percentage of gross profit decreased for the three months ended September 30, 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. The inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013 had a favorable impact on online advertising as a percentage of gross profit because KAYAK spends a lower percentage of gross profit on online advertising than our other brands, and our consolidated results exclude intercompany advertising by our brands on KAYAK. Excluding the impact of KAYAK, online advertising as a percentage of gross profit increased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 compared to the same periods in 2012 due to (1) lower ROIs for our online advertising, (2) brand mix within The Priceline Group and (3) channel mix within certain of our brands. Our online advertising ROIs have been down year-over-year for the last several quarters. Furthermore,

our international brands are growing faster than our priceline.com U.S. brand, and spend a higher percentage of gross profit on online advertising. Finally, certain of our brands are obtaining an increasing share of traffic through paid online advertising channels.

Offline advertising expenses are related to our television, print and radio advertising for our priceline.com, Booking.com, and KAYAK businesses. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, offline advertising increased 372.6% and 237.9%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2012, due mainly to Booking.com launching in the United States its first offline advertising campaign in 2013, as well as the inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013.

Sales and Marketing

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Sales and Marketing</i>	\$ 65,274	\$ 52,961	23.2%	\$ 177,392	\$ 145,943	21.5%
<i>% of Total Gross Profit</i>	3.3%	3.8%		4.0%	4.6%	

Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of (1) credit card processing fees associated with merchant transactions; (2) fees paid to third-parties that provide call center, website content translations and other services; (3) provisions for bad debt, primarily related to agency hotel commission receivables; and (4) provisions for credit card chargebacks. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, sales and marketing expenses, which are substantially variable in nature, increased over the same periods in 2012, primarily due to increased gross booking volumes as well as expenses related to increased content translations and the inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013. Sales and marketing expenses as a percentage of gross profit are typically higher for our merchant business which incurs credit card processing fees. Our merchant business grew more slowly than our agency business, and as a result, sales and marketing expenses as a percentage of total gross profit for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, declined compared to the same period in 2012. In addition, our Agoda.com business achieved a year-over-year decline in its sales and marketing expense per transaction.

Personnel

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ 186,443	\$ 135,210	37.9%	\$ 486,658	\$ 343,916	41.5%
<i>% of Total Gross Profit</i>	9.4%	9.7%		11.1%	10.9%	

Personnel expenses consist of compensation to our personnel, including salaries, stock-based compensation, bonuses, payroll taxes and employee health benefits. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, personnel expenses increased over the same periods in 2012, due primarily to increased headcount to support the growth of our businesses and the inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013. Stock-based compensation expense was approximately \$34.6 million and \$91.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to \$17.6 million and \$51.7 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively. Stock-based compensation expense of \$11.0 million and \$12.0 million for KAYAK unvested assumed employee stock options and payroll taxes of \$2.7 million and \$0.5 million for KAYAK stock option exercises were recorded in the second and third quarters of 2013, respectively.

In July 2012, the Dutch Government enacted certain amendments to Dutch tax law including, among other things, a one-time irrevocable levy on an employer equal to 16% of an employee's 2012 earnings in excess of 150,000 Euros. The levy was remitted to the tax authorities in 2013. This levy resulted in additional payroll taxes recorded in personnel expense of approximately \$13 million (approximately \$11 million after income tax) in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The Dutch Government is currently considering adopting a similar levy for 2013, and we expect that such a levy will be approved during the fourth quarter 2013. If adopted, we estimate that our additional payroll taxes recorded in personnel expense with respect to the levy would be approximately \$12 million (before income tax).

General and Administrative

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>General and Administrative</i>	\$ 63,113	\$ 42,287	49.2%	\$ 178,195	\$ 122,768	45.1%
<i>% of Total Gross Profit</i>	3.2%	3.0%		4.1%	3.9%	

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of: (1) personnel related expenses such as recruiting, training and travel expenses; (2) occupancy expenses; and (3) fees for outside professionals, including litigation expenses. General and administrative expenses increased during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 over the same periods in 2012, primarily due to higher recruiting, training and travel expenses related to increased headcount in all our businesses, higher occupancy and office expenses related to the expansion of our international businesses, and the inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013. General and administrative expenses for nine months ended September 30, 2013 included approximately \$8.6 million of professional fees related to the acquisition of KAYAK. General and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 included a charge of approximately \$3 million related to certain leased space that was vacated in connection with the relocation of Booking.com's headquarters to a new location in Amsterdam.

Information Technology

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Information Technology</i>	\$ 18,536	\$ 10,799	71.6%	\$ 48,717	\$ 31,974	52.4%
<i>% of Total Gross Profit</i>	0.9%	0.8%		1.1%	1.0%	

Information technology expenses consist primarily of: (1) outsourced data center costs; (2) system maintenance and software license fees; (3) data communications and other expenses associated with operating our services; and (4) payments to outside consultants. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, the increase in information technology expenses compared to the same periods in 2012 was due primarily to growth in our worldwide operations and the inclusion of KAYAK since its acquisition on May 21, 2013.

Depreciation and Amortization

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
<i>Depreciation and Amortization</i>	\$ 35,747	\$ 16,007	123.3%	\$ 80,854	\$ 47,513	70.2%
<i>% of Total Gross Profit</i>	1.8%	1.1%		1.8%	1.5%	

Depreciation and amortization expenses consist of: (1) amortization of intangible assets with determinable lives; (2) depreciation on computer equipment; (3) depreciation of internally developed and purchased software; and (4) depreciation of leasehold improvements, office equipment and furniture and fixtures. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, depreciation and amortization expense increased from the same periods in 2012 related to the KAYAK acquisition for \$14.5 million and \$21.0 million, respectively, due principally to intangible amortization, and increased depreciation expense due to capital expenditures for additional data center capacity and office build outs to support growth and geographic expansion, principally related to our Booking.com brand.

Other Income (Expense)

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
Interest Income	\$ 867	\$ 905	(4.2)%	\$ 2,882	\$ 3,004	(4.1)%
Interest Expense	(24,135)	(17,067)	41.4 %	(61,097)	(45,208)	35.1 %
Foreign Currency Transactions and Other	(3,278)	(8,256)	(60.3)%	(7,002)	(7,427)	(5.7)%
Total	\$ (26,546)	\$ (24,418)	8.7 %	\$ (65,217)	\$ (49,631)	31.4 %

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, interest income on cash and marketable securities decreased over the same periods in 2012, primarily due to lower yields partially offset by an increase in the average balance invested. Interest expense increased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 as compared to the same periods in 2012, primarily due to an increase in the average outstanding debt resulting from the May 2013 issuance of \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes and the March 2012 issuance of \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes.

Derivative contracts that hedge our exposure to the impact of currency fluctuations on the translation of our international operating results into U.S. Dollars upon consolidation resulted in foreign exchange losses of \$1.1 million and foreign exchange gains of \$1.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared with foreign exchange losses of \$5.3 million and foreign exchange gains of \$0.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, and are recorded in "Foreign currency transactions and other" on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Foreign exchange transaction losses, including costs related to foreign exchange transactions, resulted in losses of \$2.1 million and \$7.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to foreign exchange transaction losses of \$2.9 million and \$8.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, and are recorded in "Foreign currency transactions and other" on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Income Taxes

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
Income Tax Expense	\$ 187,362	\$ 131,201	42.8%	\$ 331,629	\$ 271,405	22.2%

Our effective tax rates for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 were 18.4% and 18.0%, respectively, as compared to 17.9% and 19.3% in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively. Our effective tax rate differs from the expected tax provision at the U.S. statutory tax rate of 35%, principally due to lower tax rates outside the United States, partially offset by state income taxes and certain non-deductible expenses. Our effective tax rates were higher for the three months ended September 30, 2013, compared to the same period in 2012, due to the acquisition of KAYAK (which is principally taxed at the higher U.S. tax rates) and lower for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, compared to the same period in 2012, due to growth in our international businesses.

According to Dutch corporate income tax law, income generated from qualifying "innovative" activities is taxed at a rate of 5% ("Innovation Box Tax") rather than the Dutch statutory rate of 25%. Booking.com obtained a ruling from the Dutch tax authorities in February 2011 confirming that a portion of its earnings is eligible for Innovation Box Tax treatment. The ruling from the Dutch tax authorities is valid through December 31, 2017.

Until our U.S. net operating loss carryforwards are utilized or expire, most of our U.S. income will not be subject to a cash tax liability, other than federal alternative minimum tax and state income taxes. However, we expect to pay foreign taxes on our non-U.S. income. We expect that our international operations will grow their pretax income at higher rates than the U.S.

business over the long term and, therefore, it is our expectation that our cash tax payments will increase as our international businesses generate an increasing share of our pre-tax income.

Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	\$000			\$000		
	2013	2012	Change	2013	2012	Change
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	\$ —	\$ 3,387	(100.0)%	\$ 135	\$ 3,539	(96.2)%

Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest is lower for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, compared to the same periods in 2012, mainly due to a reduction in redeemable noncontrolling interests. We purchased the remaining outstanding shares underlying the redeemable noncontrolling interests in April 2013.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of September 30, 2013, we had \$6.6 billion in cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments. Approximately \$4.4 billion of our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments are held by our international subsidiaries and are denominated primarily in Euros and, to a lesser extent, in British Pounds Sterling and other currencies. We currently intend to permanently reinvest this cash in our international operations. We could not repatriate this cash to the United States without utilizing our net operating loss carryforwards and potentially incurring additional tax payments in the United States. Cash equivalents and short-term investments are primarily comprised of foreign and U.S. government securities and bank deposits.

In May 2013, we issued in a private placement \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes due 2020, with an interest rate of 0.35%. Interest on the notes is payable in June and December of each year. As discussed below, we have used approximately \$804.7 million of the net proceeds to repurchase outstanding common stock. We intend to use the remaining net proceeds to repurchase shares of our common stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time, as well as for general corporate purposes, which may include repaying outstanding debt and corporate acquisitions. See Note 8 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for further details on these notes.

In March 2012, we issued in a private placement \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes due 2018, with an interest rate of 1.0%. Interest on the notes is payable in March and September of each year. We used approximately \$166.2 million of the net proceeds to repurchase outstanding common stock in privately negotiated, off-market transactions concurrent with the issuance of the convertible notes. The net proceeds will also be used for general corporate purposes, which may include repurchasing shares of our common stock from time to time, repaying outstanding debt and corporate acquisitions. See Note 8 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for further details on these notes.

In October 2011, we entered into a \$1.0 billion five-year unsecured revolving credit facility with a group of lenders. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility will bear interest, at our option, at a rate per annum equal to either (i) the adjusted LIBOR for the interest period in effect for such borrowing plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.00% to 1.50%; or (ii) the greatest of (a) JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association's prime lending rate, (b) the federal funds rate plus 0.50%, and (c) an adjusted LIBOR for an interest period of one month plus 1.00%, plus an applicable margin ranging from 0.00% to 0.50%. Undrawn balances available under the revolving credit facility are subject to commitment fees at the applicable rate ranging from 0.10% to 0.25%.

The revolving credit facility provides for the issuance of up to \$100.0 million of letters of credit as well as borrowings of up to \$50.0 million on same-day notice, referred to as swingline loans. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility may be made in U.S. Dollars, Euros, British Pounds Sterling and any other foreign currency agreed to by the lenders. The proceeds of loans made under the facility will be used for working capital and general corporate purposes. As of September 30, 2013, there were no borrowings under the facility, and approximately \$1.9 million of letters of credit were issued under the facility.

In the second quarter of 2013, the Company purchased 431,910 shares of its common stock for a total value of \$345.5 million, which includes the purchase of 182,538 shares made concurrent with the issuance of the convertible notes in May 2013 in privately negotiated, off-market transactions. In the third quarter of 2013, the Company purchased 484,361 shares for a total value of \$459.2 million. As of September 30, 2013, we have a remaining aggregate amount of \$654.5 million authorized by our

Board of Directors to purchase our common stock. We may from time to time make additional repurchases of our common stock, depending on prevailing market conditions, alternate uses of capital, and other factors.

In April 2013, we purchased the remaining outstanding shares underlying redeemable noncontrolling interests in TravelJigsaw Holdings Limited for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$192.5 million. See Note 11 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for further details.

Our merchant transactions are structured such that we collect cash up front from our customers and then we pay most of our suppliers at a subsequent date. We therefore tend to experience significant swings in deferred merchant bookings and supplier payables seasonally and depending on the absolute level of our merchant transactions during the last few weeks of every quarter.

On May 21, 2013, we acquired KAYAK Software Corporation, a leading travel meta-search service, in a stock and cash transaction. The purchase value was approximately \$2.1 billion (\$1.9 billion net of cash acquired). We paid \$0.5 billion in cash, from cash on hand in the United States, and \$1.6 billion in shares of our common stock and assumed stock options. See Note 2 and Note 14 to the Unaudited Financial Statements for further information on the acquisition.

As of October 25, 2013, the Company had received early conversion notices for an aggregate principal amount of approximately \$390 million associated with the 1.25% Convertible Senior Notes due March 2015. During the three months ended December 31, 2013, the Company will deliver cash of approximately \$390 million to satisfy the aggregate principal amount and will issue shares of its common stock in satisfaction of the conversion value in excess of the principal amount for the convertible debt that was converted prior to maturity.

Net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, was \$1.7 billion, resulting from net income of \$1.5 billion and a favorable impact of \$242.4 million for non-cash items not affecting cash flows, partially offset by net unfavorable changes in working capital of \$11.5 million. For the nine months ended September 30, 2013, accounts receivable increased \$284.0 million and accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities increased by \$280.9 million. The increase in these working capital balances was primarily related to seasonality and increases in business volume. Our bookings and revenues are generally higher in the third quarter of the year than in the fourth quarter of the year which typically results in higher accounts receivable, deferred merchant bookings, accounts payable and accrued expenses at September 30, 2013 compared to December 31, 2012. Non-cash items were principally associated with stock-based compensation expense, depreciation and amortization, amortization of debt discount of our convertible notes, and deferred income taxes.

Net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, was \$1.3 billion, resulting from net income of \$1.1 billion and a favorable impact of \$159.9 million for non-cash items not affecting cash flows, partially offset by net unfavorable changes in working capital of \$5.4 million. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, prepaid and other current assets increased by \$97.1 million, principally related to prepaid deposits to settle payments to hotels. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, accounts receivable increased \$232.7 million and accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities increased by \$318.1 million. The increase in these working capital balances was primarily related to seasonality and increases in business volume. Non-cash items were principally associated with stock-based compensation expense, depreciation and amortization, amortization of debt discount of our convertible notes, and deferred income taxes.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$2.2 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. Investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 were affected by net purchases of investments of \$1.8 billion, \$331.6 million for acquisitions, net of cash acquired, and net payments of \$52.8 million for the settlement of foreign currency contracts, and a change in restricted cash of \$1.5 million. Net cash used in investing activities was \$1.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were affected by net purchases of investments of \$1.7 billion, payments of \$13.9 million for acquisitions, and a change in restricted cash of \$3.5 million, partially offset by cash proceeds of \$76.6 million for the settlement of foreign currency contracts. Cash invested in purchase of property and equipment was \$57.0 million and \$39.0 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$2.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. The cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 primarily consisted of proceeds from the issuance of convertible senior notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$1.0 billion less \$20.0 million of initial debt discount, proceeds from the exercise of employee stock options of \$86.3 million, and excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation of \$13.3 million, which was almost entirely offset by, among other things, treasury stock purchases of \$883.0 million, \$192.5 million spent to purchase the remaining shares underlying noncontrolling interests, and payments of \$1.2

million for stock issuances costs. Net cash provided by financing activities was approximately \$678.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was primarily related to proceeds from the issuance of convertible senior notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$1.0 billion, \$2.7 million of proceeds from the exercise of employee stock options, and \$12.9 million of excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation, partially offset by treasury stock purchases of \$255.4 million, \$61.1 million spent to purchase a portion of the shares underlying noncontrolling interests in rentalcars.com, and \$20.9 million of debt issuance costs.

Contingencies

A number of jurisdictions have initiated lawsuits against online travel companies, including us, related to, among other things, the payment of travel transaction taxes (e.g., hotel occupancy taxes, excise taxes, sales taxes, etc.). In addition, a number of U.S. states, counties and municipalities have initiated audit proceedings, issued proposed tax assessments or started inquiries relating to the payment of travel transaction taxes. To date, the majority of taxing jurisdictions in which we facilitate the making of travel reservations have not asserted that taxes are due and payable on our travel services. With respect to jurisdictions that have not initiated proceedings to date, it is possible that they will do so in the future or that they will seek to amend their tax statutes and seek to collect taxes from us only on a prospective basis. See Note 13 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for a description of these pending cases and proceedings, and Part II Item 1A Risk Factors - "*Adverse application of state and local tax laws could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations*" in this Quarterly Report.

As a result of this litigation and other attempts by jurisdictions to levy similar taxes, we have established an accrual for the potential resolution of issues related to travel transaction taxes in the amount of approximately \$60 million at September 30, 2013 and approximately \$56 million at December 31, 2012 (which includes, among other things, amounts related to the litigation in the State of Hawaii, District of Columbia, San Antonio and Chicago). The accrual is based on our estimate of the probable cost of resolving these issues. Our legal expenses for these matters are expensed as incurred and are not reflected in the amount accrued. The actual cost may be less or greater, potentially significantly, than the liabilities recorded. An estimate for a reasonably possible loss or range of loss in excess of the amount accrued cannot be reasonably made. We believe that even if we were to suffer adverse determinations in the near term in more of the pending proceedings than currently anticipated given results to date, because of our available cash, it would not have a material impact on our liquidity.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of September 30, 2013, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future effect on our financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Sections of this Form 10-Q including, in particular, our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations above and the Risk Factors contained in Part II Item 1A hereof, contain forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements reflect the views of our management regarding current expectations and projections about future events and are based on currently available information. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict; therefore, actual results could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements.

Expressions of future goals and expectations and similar expressions, including "may," "will," "should," "could," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "intends," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential," "targets," or "continue," reflecting something other than historical fact are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements for various reasons including the risks we face which are more fully described in Part II Item 1A, Risk Factors. Unless required by law, we undertake no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. However, readers should carefully review the reports and documents we file or furnish from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, particularly our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and any Current Reports on Form 8-K.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We manage our exposure to interest rate risk and foreign currency risk through internally established policies and procedures and, when deemed appropriate, through the use of derivative financial instruments. We use foreign exchange derivative contracts to manage short-term foreign currency risk.

The objective of our policies is to mitigate potential income statement, cash flow and fair value exposures resulting from possible future adverse fluctuations in rates. We evaluate our exposure to market risk by assessing the anticipated near-term and long-term fluctuations in interest rates and foreign exchange rates. This evaluation includes the review of leading market indicators, discussions with financial analysts and investment bankers regarding current and future economic conditions and the review of market projections as to expected future rates. We utilize this information to determine our own investment strategies as well as to determine if the use of derivative financial instruments is appropriate to mitigate any potential future market exposure that we may face. Our policy does not allow speculation in derivative instruments for profit or execution of derivative instrument contracts for which there are no underlying exposures. We do not use financial instruments for trading purposes and are not a party to any leveraged derivatives. To the extent that changes in interest rates and currency exchange rates affect general economic conditions, we would also be affected by such changes.

We did not experience any material changes in interest rate exposures during the three months ended September 30, 2013. Based upon economic conditions and leading market indicators at September 30, 2013, we do not foresee a significant adverse change in interest rates in the near future.

Fixed rate investments are subject to unrealized gains and losses due to interest rate volatility. We performed a sensitivity analysis to determine the impact a change in interest rates would have on the fair value of our available for sale investments assuming an adverse change of 100 basis points. A hypothetical 100 basis points (1.0%) increase in interest rates would have resulted in a decrease in the fair values of our investments as of September 30, 2013 of approximately \$18 million. These hypothetical losses would only be realized if we sold the investments prior to their maturity.

As of September 30, 2013, the outstanding aggregate principal amount of our debt was \$2.6 billion. We estimate that the market value of such debt was approximately \$4.3 billion as of September 30, 2013. A substantial portion of the market value of our debt in excess of the outstanding principal amount is related to the conversion premium on our outstanding convertible bonds.

We conduct a significant portion of our business outside the United States through subsidiaries with functional currencies other than the U.S. Dollar (primarily Euros). As a result, we face exposures to adverse movements in currency exchange rates as the operating results of our international operations are translated from local currency into U.S. Dollars upon consolidation. If the U.S. Dollar weakens against the local currency, the translation of these foreign-currency-denominated balances will result in increased net assets, gross bookings, gross profit, operating expenses, and net income. Similarly, our net assets, gross bookings, gross profit, operating expenses, and net income will decrease if the U.S. Dollar strengthens against the local currency. Additionally, foreign exchange rate fluctuations on transactions, denominated in currencies other than the functional currency results in gains and losses that are reflected in the Unaudited Consolidated Statement of Operations.

From time to time, we enter into foreign exchange derivative contracts to minimize the impact of short-term foreign currency fluctuations on our consolidated operating results. These derivative contracts principally address foreign exchange fluctuation risk for the Euro and the British Pound Sterling versus the U.S. Dollar. As of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, there were no such outstanding derivative contracts. Foreign exchange losses of \$1.1 million and foreign exchange gains of \$1.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, respectively, compared to foreign exchange losses of \$5.3 million and foreign exchange gains of \$0.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, were recorded in "Foreign currency transactions and other" on the Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations.

As of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, we had outstanding forward currency contracts with a notional value of 2.4 billion Euros and 1.5 billion Euros, respectively, that are designated as hedges of our net investment in a foreign subsidiary for accounting purposes. These contracts are all short-term in nature. Mark-to-market adjustments on these net investment hedges are recorded as currency translation adjustments. The fair value of these derivatives at September 30, 2013 was a net liability of \$79.3 million, with \$0.1 million recorded in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" and \$79.4 million recorded in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities" on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet. The fair value of these derivatives at December 31, 2012 was a liability of \$62.4 million, with \$62.6 million recorded in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities" and \$0.2 million recorded in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" on the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet. A hypothetical 10% strengthening of the foreign exchange rates relative to the U.S. Dollar, with

all other variables held constant, would have resulted in a derivative liability of approximately \$390 million as of September 30, 2013. See Note 5 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for further detail on our derivative instruments.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined under Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e). Based on this evaluation, our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

In May 2013, we acquired KAYAK and, as a result of that acquisition, we intend to undertake a review of its internal controls and, if necessary, make any changes that we believe to be appropriate to those internal controls as we integrate KAYAK's business with ours.

No change in our internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e), occurred during the three months ended September 30, 2013 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

A description of material legal proceedings to which we are a party, and updates thereto, is contained in Note 13 to our Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended September 30, 2013, and is incorporated into this Item 1 by reference thereto.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The following risk factors and other information included in this Quarterly Report should be carefully considered. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair our business, results of operations or financial condition. If any of the following risks occur, our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows could be materially adversely affected.

Declines or disruptions in the travel industry could adversely affect our business and financial performance.

Our financial prospects are significantly dependent upon the sale of travel services, particularly leisure travel. Travel, including hotel and other accommodation (generally referred to collectively as "hotel"), rental car and airline ticket reservations, is dependent on discretionary spending levels. As a result, sales of travel services tend to decline during general economic downturns and recessions when consumers engage in less discretionary spending, are concerned about unemployment or inflation, have reduced access to credit or experience other concerns or effects that reduce their ability or willingness to travel. Accordingly, the recent worldwide recession led to a weakening in the fundamental demand for our travel reservation services and an increase in the number of consumers who canceled existing travel reservations with us. Further, many governments around the world, including the U.S. government and certain European governments, are operating at large financial deficits. Disruptions in the economies of such countries could cause, contribute to or be indicative of deteriorating macro-economic conditions. Failure to reach political consensus regarding workable solutions to these issues has resulted in a high level of uncertainty regarding the future economic outlook. This uncertainty, as well as concern over governmental austerity measures including higher taxes and reduced government spending, could impair consumer spending and adversely affect travel demand. At times, we have experienced volatility in transaction growth rates and weaker trends in hotel average daily rates ("ADR's") across many regions of the world, particularly in those European countries that appear to be most affected by economic uncertainties. We believe that these business trends are likely impacted by weak economic conditions and sovereign debt concerns. The uncertainty of macro-economic factors and their impact on consumer behavior across regions, which may differ, makes it more difficult to forecast industry and consumer trends and the timing and degree of their impact on our markets and business, which in turn could adversely affect our ability to effectively manage our business and adversely affect our results of operations.

During the recent worldwide recession, the hotel industry experienced a significant decrease in occupancy rates and ADRs, and an increase in reservation cancellation rates. While lower occupancy rates have historically resulted in hotel room providers increasing their distribution of hotel room reservations through third-party intermediaries such as us, our remuneration for hotel room reservation transactions changes proportionately with room price, and therefore, lower ADRs generally have a negative effect on our hotel room reservation business and a negative effect on our gross profit.

In addition, other unforeseen events beyond our control, such as higher oil prices, terrorist attacks, unusual weather patterns, natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions (such as the April 2010 eruption of a volcano in Iceland), travel related health concerns including pandemics and epidemics such as Influenza H1N1, avian bird flu and SARS, political instability, regional hostilities, imposition of taxes or surcharges by regulatory authorities or travel related accidents, could adversely affect our business and results of operations. Because these events are largely unpredictable, they can dramatically and suddenly affect travel behavior by consumers, and therefore demand for our services, which can adversely affect our results of operations. For example, in late 2012 Hurricane Sandy disrupted travel in the northeastern United States. In early 2011, Japan was struck by a major earthquake, tsunami and nuclear emergency. In October 2011, severe flooding in Thailand, a key market for our Agoda.com business and the Asian business of Booking.com, negatively impacted booking volumes and cancellation rates in that market. In addition, in early 2010, Thailand experienced disruptive civil unrest, which caused the temporary relocation of Agoda.com's Thailand-based operations. Future natural disasters or civil or political unrest could further disrupt our business and operations.

We face risk related to the growth rate and expansion of our international business.

We derive a substantial portion of our revenues, and have significant operations, outside the United States. Our international operations include the Netherlands-based hotel reservation service Booking.com, the Asia-based hotel reservation service Agoda.com, the U.K.-based rental car reservation service rentalcars.com and, to a lesser extent, KAYAK's international meta-search services. Our international operations have achieved significant year-over-year growth in their gross bookings (an operating and statistical metric referring to the total dollar value, generally inclusive of all taxes and fees, of all travel services purchased by our customers). This growth rate, which has contributed significantly to our growth in consolidated revenue, gross profit and earnings per share, has declined, a trend we expect to continue as the absolute level of our gross bookings grows larger. Other factors may also slow the growth rates of our revenues derived from our international business, including, for example, worldwide economic conditions, any strengthening of the U.S. Dollar versus the Euro and other currencies, declines in ADRs, increases in cancellations, adverse changes in travel market conditions and the competitiveness of the market. A decline in the growth rates of our international business could have a negative impact on our future gross profit and earnings per share growth rates and, as a consequence, our stock price.

Our strategy involves continued rapid international expansion in regions throughout the world. Many of these regions have different customs, different currencies, different levels of customer acceptance of the Internet and different legislation, regulatory environments, tax laws and levels of political stability. International markets may have strong local competitors with an established brand and travel service provider relationships that may make expansion in that market difficult and costly and take more time than anticipated. In addition, compliance with non-U.S. legal, regulatory or tax requirements places demands on our time and resources, and we may nonetheless experience unforeseen and potentially adverse legal, regulatory or tax consequences. If we are unsuccessful in rapidly expanding in new and existing markets and managing that expansion, our business, results of operations and financial condition would be adversely affected.

Certain markets in which we operate that are in earlier stages of development have lower operating margins compared to more mature markets, which could have a negative impact on our overall margins as these markets increase in size over time. Also, we intend to continue to invest in adding hotels and accommodations as participants in our reservation services. Many of the newer accommodations we add to our travel reservation services, especially in highly penetrated markets, may have fewer rooms, may have lower ADRs, may have higher credit risk and may appeal to a smaller subset of consumers (e.g., hostels and bed and breakfasts), and therefore may also negatively impact our margins.

We believe that the increase in the number of hotel and other accommodation providers that participate on our websites, and the corresponding access to hotel and accommodation room nights, has been a key driver of the growth of our international hotel reservation business. The growth in our hotel and accommodation bookings typically makes us an attractive source of consumer demand for our hotel and other accommodation providers. However, hotel and accommodation providers may wish to limit the amount of business that flows through a single distribution channel. As a result, we may experience constraints on the number of hotel and accommodation room nights available to us, which could negatively impact our growth rate and results of operations.

The number of our employees worldwide has grown from less than 700 in the first quarter of 2007, to approximately 9,400 as of September 30, 2013, which growth is mostly comprised of hires by our international operations, including as a result of our international acquisitions. As a result of such rapid expansion, the average tenure of our employees has become shorter. We may not be able to hire, train, retain, motivate and manage required personnel, which may limit our growth, damage our reputation, negatively affect our financial performance, and otherwise harm our business. In addition, expansion increases the complexity of our business and places additional strain on our management, operations, technical performance, financial resources and internal financial control and reporting functions. Our current and planned personnel, systems, procedures and controls may not be adequate to support and effectively manage this growth and our future operations, especially as we employ personnel in multiple geographic locations around the world. We are subject to risks typical of international businesses, including differing economic conditions, differing customs, languages and customer expectations, changes in political climate, differing tax structures and other regulations and restrictions, including labor laws and customs, and foreign exchange rate volatility.

Intense competition could reduce our market share and harm our financial performance.

We compete with both online and traditional travel reservation services. The market for the travel reservation services we offer is intensely competitive, and current and new competitors can launch new services at a relatively low cost. Some of our current and potential competitors, such as Google, Apple and Facebook, have access to significantly greater and more diversified resources than we do, and they may be able to leverage other aspects of their businesses (e.g., search or mobile device businesses) to enable them to compete more effectively with us.

We currently, or potentially will, compete with a variety of companies, including:

- Internet travel reservation services such as Expedia, Hotels.com, Hotwire, Elong, CarRentals.com and Venere, which are owned by Expedia; Travelocity, lastminute.com and Holiday Auto, which are owned by the Sabre Group; Orbitz.com, Cheaptickets, ebookers, HotelClub and RatesToGo, which are owned by Orbitz Worldwide; laterooms and asiarooms, which are owned by Tui Travel; Gullivers and octopustravel, which are owned by Kuoni; Hotel Reservation Service and hotel.de, which are owned by Hotel Reservation Service; and AutoEurope, Car Trawler, Ctrip, MakeMyTrip, Webjet, Rakuten, Jalan and Wotif;
- large online portal, social networking, group buying and search companies, such as Google, Yahoo! (including Yahoo! Travel), Facebook, Groupon and Living Social;
- traditional travel agencies, wholesalers and tour operators, many of which combine physical locations, telephone services and online services, such as Carlson Wagonlit, American Express, Thomas Cook and Tui Travel, as well as thousands of individual travel agencies around the world;
- travel service providers such as hotel companies, rental car companies and airlines, many of which have their own branded websites to which they drive business, including joint efforts by travel service providers such as Room Key, an online hotel reservation service owned by several major hotel companies; and
- online travel search and price comparison services (generally referred to as "meta-search" services), such as trivago (in which Expedia has acquired a majority ownership interest), TripAdvisor, Qunar and HotelsCombined.

TripAdvisor, the world's leading travel research and review website and the world's largest online travel service with over 230 million unique monthly visitors across its sites, Google, the world's largest search engine, and other large, established companies with substantial resources and expertise in developing online commerce and facilitating Internet traffic have launched "meta-search" services and may create additional inroads into online travel, both in the United States and internationally. Meta-search services (like those offered by KAYAK, which we acquired in May 2013) leverage their search technology to aggregate travel search results for the consumer's specific itinerary across travel service provider (e.g., hotels and other accommodations, rental car companies or airlines), OTA and other travel websites and, in many instances, compete directly with us for consumers. Meta-search services intend to appeal to consumers by showing more detailed travel search results than may be available through OTAs or other travel websites, which could lead to travel service providers or others gaining a larger share of search traffic. TripAdvisor recently transitioned some of its offerings to meta-search functionality. TripAdvisor has begun supporting its new meta-search service with offline advertising, while trivago, a leading meta-search service in Europe, recently expanded its offline advertising campaign into the United States. Google launched "Hotel Finder", a meta-search service that Google has at times placed at or near the top of hotel-related search results.

As consumers attempt to be more efficient in their shopping behavior, they may favor travel services offered by meta-search sites or search companies over OTAs, which could reduce traffic to our travel reservation websites, increase consumer awareness of our competitors' brands and websites and increase our advertising and other customer acquisition costs. To the extent any such consumer behavior leads to growth in our KAYAK meta-search business, such growth may not result in sufficient increases in profits from our KAYAK meta-search business to offset any related decrease in profits experienced by our OTA brands. Further, meta-search services may evolve into more traditional OTAs by offering consumers the ability to make travel reservations directly through their websites. For example, TripAdvisor sells hotel reservations on its transaction sites Tingo and Jetsetter and intends to allow consumers to make a reservation while staying on TripAdvisor. To the extent consumers book travel services through a meta-search site or directly with a travel service provider after visiting a meta-search site or meta-search utility on a traditional search engine without using an OTA like us, or if meta-search services limit our participation within their search results, we may need to increase our advertising or other customer acquisition costs to maintain or grow our bookings, any of which could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

In August 2013, Expedia and Travelocity announced that they had entered into an exclusive, long-term strategic marketing agreement, whereby Expedia will power the technology platforms for Travelocity's existing websites in the United States and Canada, while providing Travelocity access to Expedia's supply and customer services. To the extent this arrangement enhances Expedia's and/or Travelocity's ability to compete with us in the affected markets, our market share and results of operations could be adversely affected.

As a result of our recent acquisition of KAYAK, a meta-search service, we now compete more directly with other meta-search services. As a meta-search service, KAYAK depends on access to information related to travel service pricing, schedules, availability and other related information from OTAs and travel service providers. KAYAK accesses some of its

information from ITA Software, Inc., a major flight information software company that was acquired by Google. To the extent ITA, other OTAs or travel service providers no longer provide such information to KAYAK, whether due to its affiliation with us or otherwise, KAYAK's business and results of operations could be harmed and the value of our investment in KAYAK could be adversely affected.

Several major hotel companies, comprising Choice Hotels International, Hilton Worldwide, Hyatt, InterContinental Hotels Group, Wyndham Hotel Group, Marriott, La Quinta and Millennium, launched Room Key, an online hotel reservation service that competes directly with our hotel reservation services. The hotel companies that own Room Key have a stated goal of driving consumers directly to their brand websites, thus reducing the bookings done through OTAs. They may also attempt to improve their competitive position by offering lower room rates, better room availability or additional features or amenities through Room Key than are available through services like ours. If Room Key is successful, our share of the online hotel reservation market could be negatively affected and our business could suffer.

There has been a proliferation of new channels through which hotels can offer hotel room reservations. For example, some hotels offer room reservations through "daily deal" websites such as Groupon and Living Social, which sell coupons to customers at a substantial discount. In 2011, Expedia, one of our largest competitors, entered into a partnership with Groupon to sell hotel room reservations to Groupon customers under the "Groupon Getaways" brand name. New entrants, such as BackBid, GuestMob, Tingo, Hipmunk and Room 77, have developed new and differentiated offerings that endeavor to provide savings on hotel rooms to consumers and that compete directly with us. If any of these new services are successful, we may experience less demand for our services and are likely to face more competition for access to the limited supply of discounted hotel room rates.

Competition in U.S. online travel remains intense and online travel companies are creating new promotions and consumer value features in an effort to gain competitive advantages. In particular, the competition to provide "opaque" hotel reservation services to consumers, an area in which our priceline.com U.S. business has been a leader, has become more intense. For example, Expedia makes opaque hotel room reservations available on its principal website under the name "Expedia Unpublished Rates" and has supported this initiative with steeper discounts through lower margins. As with our opaque *Name Your Own Price*[®] hotel booking service, the name of the hotel is not disclosed until after booking. We believe these offerings, in particular "Expedia Unpublished Rates", have adversely impacted the market share and year-over-year growth rate of our *Name Your Own Price*[®] opaque hotel service, which began to experience a decline in room night reservations in the third quarter of 2011. These and other competitors could also launch opaque rental car services, which could negatively impact our opaque *Name Your Own Price*[®] rental car service. If Expedia or others are successful in growing their opaque and semi-opaque hotel reservation services, we may have less consumer demand for our opaque and semi-opaque hotel reservation services over time, and we would face more competition for access to the limited supply of discounted hotel room rates. In an effort to compete more effectively against these new offerings, in 2012 we launched *Express Deals*SM, a semi-opaque price-disclosed hotel reservation service. While *Express Deals*SM has been a significant contributor to the recently improved performance of our opaque hotel reservation service, the offering may not ultimately be successful at recovering or growing U.S. hotel reservation service market share. As a result of this increased competition, our share of the discount hotel reservation market in the United States could further decrease, which would harm our business and results of operations.

We believe that a number of factors, including recent year-over-year increases in retail airfares, could cause consumers to engage in increased shopping behavior before making a travel purchase than they engaged in previously. Increased shopping behavior reduces our advertising efficiency and effectiveness because traffic becomes less likely to result in a purchase on our website, and such traffic is more likely to be obtained through paid online advertising channels than through free direct channels. Further, as consumers attempt to be more efficient in their shopping behavior, they may favor travel services offered by search companies or meta-search sites over OTAs, which could reduce traffic to our travel reservation websites, increase consumer awareness of our competitors' brands and websites, increase our advertising and other customer acquisition costs and adversely affect our business, margins and results of operations. To the extent any such increased shopping behavior leads to growth in our KAYAK meta-search business, such growth may not result in sufficient increases in revenues from our KAYAK meta-search business to offset any related decrease in gross profit or increase in advertising and other customer acquisition costs experienced by our OTA brands.

The launch of Room Key discussed above is demonstrative of the effort of many hotel, airline and rental car companies, including those with which we conduct business, to drive online demand to their own websites in lieu of third-party distributors such as us. Certain airlines have attempted to charge additional fees to customers who book airline reservations through an online channel other than their own website. Furthermore, some airlines may distribute their tickets exclusively through their own websites. Providers who sell on their own websites typically do not charge a processing fee, and, in some instances, offer advantages such as web-only fares, bonus miles or loyalty points, which could make their offerings more attractive to consumers than models like ours.

We rely on online advertising channels to enhance our brand awareness and to generate a significant amount of traffic to our websites.

We believe that maintaining and expanding the Booking.com, priceline.com, Agoda.com, KAYAK and rentalcars.com brands, along with our other owned brands, are important aspects of our efforts to attract and retain customers. Effective online advertising has been an important factor in our growth, and we believe it will continue to be important to our future success. As our competitors spend increasingly more on advertising, we are required to spend more in order to maintain our brand recognition and, in the case of online advertising, to maintain and grow traffic to our websites. In addition, we have invested considerable money and resources in the establishment and maintenance of the Booking.com, priceline.com, Agoda.com, KAYAK and rentalcars.com brands, and we will continue to invest resources in advertising, marketing and other brand building efforts to preserve and enhance consumer awareness of our brands. We may not be able to successfully maintain or enhance consumer awareness and acceptance of these brands, and, even if we are successful in our branding efforts, such efforts may not be cost-effective. If we are unable to maintain or enhance consumer awareness and acceptance of our brands in a cost-effective manner, our business, market share and results of operations would be materially adversely affected.

Our advertising efficiency is impacted by a number of factors that are subject to variability and that are outside of our control, including ADRs, costs per click, cancellation rates, foreign exchange rates and our ability to convert paid traffic to booking customers and then having customers return directly to our websites or mobile apps for future bookings. We use third party websites, including online search engines and meta-search services, and affiliate marketing as primary means of generating traffic to our websites. As a result, our online advertising expense has increased significantly in recent years, a trend we expect to continue. In addition, our online advertising has grown faster than our gross profit due to (1) lower returns on investment ("ROIs") from our online advertising, (2) brand mix within The Priceline Group and (3) channel mix within certain of our brands. Our online advertising ROIs have recently been down year-over-year. Furthermore, our international brands are generally growing faster than our priceline.com U.S. brand, and typically spend a higher percentage of gross profit on online advertising. Finally, certain of our brands are obtaining an increasing share of traffic through paid online advertising channels. Any reduction in our advertising efficiency could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations, whether through reduced gross profit, gross profit growth or through advertising expenses increasing faster than gross profit and thereby reducing margins and earnings growth.

Recent trends in consumer adoption and use of mobile devices create new challenges and may enable device companies such as Apple to compete directly with us.

Widespread adoption of mobile devices, such as the iPhone, Android-enabled smart phones, and tablets such as the iPad, coupled with the improved web browsing functionality and development of thousands of useful "apps" available on these devices, is driving substantial traffic and commerce activity to mobile platforms. We have experienced a significant shift of business to mobile platforms and our advertising partners are also seeing a rapid shift of traffic to mobile platforms. Our major competitors and certain new market entrants are offering mobile applications for travel products and other functionality, including proprietary last-minute discounts for hotel bookings. Advertising and distribution opportunities may be more limited on mobile devices given their smaller screen sizes. The gross profit earned on a mobile transaction may be less than a typical desktop transaction due to different consumer purchasing patterns. For example, hotel reservations made on a mobile device typically are for shorter lengths of stay and are not made as far in advance. Further, given the device sizes and technical limitations of tablets and smartphones, mobile consumers may not be willing to download multiple apps from multiple travel service providers and instead prefer to use one or a limited number of apps for their mobile travel activity. As a result, the consumer experience with mobile apps as well as brand recognition and loyalty are likely to become increasingly important. We have made significant progress creating mobile offerings that have received strong reviews and achieved solid download trends, and that are driving a material and increasing share of our business. We believe that mobile bookings present an opportunity for growth and are necessary to maintain and grow our business as consumers increasingly turn to mobile devices instead of a personal computer and to mobile applications instead of a web browser. Further, many consumers use a mobile device based web browser instead of an app. As a result, it is increasingly important for us to develop and maintain effective mobile websites optimized for mobile devices to provide customers with appealing easy-to-use mobile website functionality. If we are unable to continue to rapidly innovate and create new, user-friendly and differentiated mobile offerings and efficiently and effectively advertise and distribute on these platforms, or if our mobile apps are not downloaded and used by travel consumers, we could lose market share to existing competitors or new entrants and our future growth and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Apple, one of the most innovative and successful companies in the world and producer of, among other things, the iPhone and iPad, obtained a patent for "iTravel," a mobile app that would allow a traveler to check in for a travel reservation. In addition, Apple's iPhone operating system includes "Passbook," a virtual wallet app that holds tickets, boarding passes, coupons and gift cards, and, along with iTravel, may be indicative of Apple's intent to enter the travel reservations business in

some capacity. Apple has substantial market share in the smart phone category and controls integration of offerings, including travel services, into its mobile operating system. Apple also has more experience producing and developing mobile apps and has access to greater resources than we have. Apple may use or expand iTravel, Passbook, Siri (Apple's voice recognition "concierge" service) or another mobile app as a means of entering the travel reservations marketplace. Similarly, Google's Android operating system is the leading smart phone operating system in the world. As a result, Google could leverage its Android operating system to give its travel services a competitive advantage, either technically or with prominence on its Google Play app store or within its mobile search results. To the extent Apple or Google use their mobile operating systems or app distribution channels to favor their own travel service offerings, our business could be harmed.

We are exposed to fluctuations in currency exchange rates.

We conduct a substantial majority of our business outside the United States but are reporting our results in U.S. Dollars. As a result, we face exposure to adverse movements in currency exchange rates as the financial results of our international business are translated from local currency (principally the Euro and the British Pound Sterling) into U.S. Dollars upon consolidation. For example, a strengthening of the Euro increases our Euro-denominated net assets, gross bookings, gross profit, operating expenses, and net income as expressed in U.S. Dollars, while a weakening of the Euro decreases our Euro-denominated net assets, gross bookings, gross profit, operating expenses, and net income as expressed in U.S. Dollars. Additionally, foreign exchange rate fluctuations on transactions denominated in currencies other than the functional currency result in gains and losses that are reflected in our financial results. Greece, Ireland, Portugal and certain other European Union countries with high levels of sovereign debt have had difficulty refinancing their debt. Concern around devaluation or abandonment of the Euro common currency, or that sovereign default risk may become more widespread and could include the United States, has led to significant volatility in the exchange rate between the Euro, the U.S. Dollar and other currencies. Sovereign debt issues in the European Union could lead to further significant, and potentially longer-term, devaluation of the Euro against the U.S. Dollar, which would adversely impact our Euro-denominated net assets, gross bookings, revenues, operating expenses, and net income as expressed in U.S. Dollars.

We rely on the performance of highly skilled personnel and, if we are unable to retain or motivate key personnel or hire, retain and motivate qualified personnel, our business would be harmed.

Our performance is largely dependent on the talents and efforts of highly skilled individuals. Our future success depends on our continuing ability to identify, hire, develop, motivate and retain highly skilled personnel for all areas of our organization. In particular, the contributions of certain key senior management in the United States, Europe and Asia are critical to the overall management of our business. We may not be able to retain the services of any members of our senior management or other key employees, the loss of whom could harm our business.

In addition, competition for well-qualified employees in all aspects of our business, including software engineers, mobile communication talent and other technology professionals, is intense both in the United States and abroad. Our international success in particular has led to increased efforts by our competitors and others to hire our international employees. Our continued ability to compete effectively depends on our ability to attract new employees and to retain and motivate existing employees. If we do not succeed in attracting well-qualified employees or retaining and motivating existing employees, our business would be adversely affected. We do not maintain any key person life insurance policies.

Our processing, storage, use and disclosure of personal data exposes us to risks of internal or external security breaches and could give rise to liabilities.

The security of data when engaging in electronic commerce is essential to maintaining consumer and travel service provider confidence in our services. Any security breach whether instigated internally or externally on our system or other Internet based systems could significantly harm our reputation and therefore our business, brand, market share and results of operations. We currently require consumers who use certain of our services to guarantee their offers with their credit card, either online or, in some instances, through our toll-free telephone service. It is possible that computer circumvention capabilities, new discoveries or advances or other developments, including our own acts or omissions, could result in a compromise or breach of consumer transaction data.

Our existing security measures may not be successful in preventing security breaches. A party (whether internal, external, an affiliate or unrelated third party) that is able to circumvent our security systems could steal consumer information or transaction data or other proprietary information. In 2012, several major companies, including Zappos, Apple, AOL, LinkedIn, Google, and Yahoo! experienced high-profile security breaches that exposed their customers' personal information. We expend significant resources to protect against security breaches, and we may need to increase our security related expenditures to maintain or increase our systems' security or to address problems caused and liabilities incurred by breaches. These issues are likely to become more difficult to manage as we expand the number of places where we operate and as the

tools and techniques used in such attacks become more advanced. Security breaches could result in negative publicity, damage our reputation, expose us to risk of loss or litigation and possible liability and subject us to regulatory penalties and sanctions. Security breaches could also cause consumers to lose confidence in our security and choose to use the services of our competitors, which would have a negative effect on the value of our brand, our market share and our results of operations. Our insurance policies carry low coverage limits, and would likely not be adequate to reimburse us for losses caused by security breaches.

We also face risks associated with security breaches affecting third parties conducting business over the Internet. Consumers generally are concerned with security and privacy on the Internet, and any publicized security problems could inhibit the growth of the Internet and consumers' willingness to provide private information or effect commercial transactions on the Internet and, therefore, our services. Additionally, security breaches at third parties such as travel service providers or global distribution systems ("GDSs") upon which we rely could result in negative publicity, damage our reputation, expose us to risk of loss or litigation and possible liability and subject us to regulatory penalties and sanctions. Some of our business is conducted with third party marketing affiliates, which may generate travel reservations through our infrastructure or through other systems. A security breach at such a third party could be perceived by consumers as a security breach of our systems and could result in negative publicity, damage our reputation, expose us to risk of loss or litigation and possible liability and subject us to regulatory penalties and sanctions. In addition, such third parties may not comply with applicable disclosure requirements, which could expose us to liability.

In our processing of travel transactions, we receive and store a large volume of personally identifiable data. This data is increasingly subject to legislation and regulations in numerous jurisdictions around the world, including the Commission of the European Union through its Data Protection Directive and variations of that directive in the member states of the European Union. This government action is typically intended to protect the privacy of personal data that is collected, processed and transmitted in or from the governing jurisdiction. In many cases, these laws apply not only to third-party transactions, but also to transfers of information between us and our subsidiaries. These laws continue to develop and may be inconsistent from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Non-compliance with these laws could result in penalties or significant legal liability. We could be adversely affected if legislation or regulations are expanded to require changes in our business practices or if governing jurisdictions interpret or implement their legislation or regulations in ways that negatively affect our business, results of operations or financial condition.

We may have exposure to additional tax liabilities.

As an international business providing travel reservation and advertising services around the world, we are subject to income taxes and non-income based taxes in both the United States and various non-U.S. jurisdictions. Significant judgment is required in determining our worldwide provision for income taxes and other tax liabilities. Although we believe that our tax estimates are reasonable, the final determination of tax audits or tax disputes may be different from what is reflected in our historical income tax provisions and accruals. To date, we have been audited in several taxing jurisdictions with no significant impact on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. If future audits find that additional taxes are due, we may be subject to incremental tax liabilities, possibly including interest and penalties, which could have a material adverse effect on our cash flows, financial condition and results of operations.

For example, French authorities have initiated an audit to determine whether we are in compliance with our tax obligations in France. It is our understanding that several large companies, including Google and Microsoft, are involved in tax related investigations in France. While we believe that we comply with French tax law, French tax authorities may determine that we owe additional taxes, and may also assess penalties and interest. In general, governments in the United States and Europe are increasingly focused on ways to increase revenues, which has contributed to an increase in audit activity and harsher stances taken by tax authorities. Any such additional taxes or other assessments may be in excess of our current tax provisions or may require us to modify our business practices in order to reduce our exposure to additional taxes going forward, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We will be subject to increased income taxes in the event that our cash balances held outside the United States are remitted to the United States. As of September 30, 2013, we held approximately \$4.4 billion of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments outside of the United States. We currently intend to use our cash held outside the United States to reinvest in our non-U.S. operations. If our cash balances outside the United States continue to grow and our ability to reinvest those balances outside the United States diminishes, it will become increasingly likely that we will repatriate some of these cash balances to the United States. In such event, we would likely be subject to additional income tax expense in the United States with respect to our unremitted non-U.S. earnings. We would not make additional income tax payments unless we were to actually repatriate our international cash balances to the United States. We would only pay federal alternative minimum tax and certain state income taxes as long as we have net operating loss carryforwards available to offset our U.S. taxable income. Additionally, if we were to repatriate cash held outside the United States to the United States, it would use a portion of our U.S.

net operating loss carryforwards which could result in us being subject to a cash income tax liability on the earnings of our U.S. business sooner than would otherwise have been the case.

U.S. President Barack Obama's Administration has proposed significant changes to U.S. international tax laws that include a minimum tax on foreign earnings, limiting U.S. deductions for interest expense related to un-repatriated non-U.S.-source income and putting in place certain tax disincentives for offshoring jobs or business segments. We cannot determine whether all of these proposals will be enacted into law or what, if any, changes may be made to such proposals prior to being enacted into law. If U.S. tax laws change in a manner that increases our tax obligations, our results of operations could be adversely impacted.

Additionally, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development ("OECD") issued an action plan in July 2013 calling for a coordinated multi-jurisdictional approach to "base erosion and profit shifting" by multinational companies. The action plan expressed the OECD's view that international tax standards have not kept pace with changes in global business practices and concluded that changes are needed to international tax laws to address situations where multinationals may pay little or no tax in certain jurisdictions by shifting profits away from jurisdictions where the activities creating those profits may take place. The action plan identified 15 actions the OECD determined are needed to address "base erosion and profit shifting" and generally set target dates for completion of each of the items between 2014 and 2015. Any changes to international tax laws, including new definitions of permanent establishment, could impact the tax treatment of our foreign earnings and adversely impact our effective tax rate. Due to the large and expanding scale of our international business activities, any changes in U.S. or international taxation of our activities may increase our worldwide effective tax rate and could adversely affect our financial position and results of operations.

We are also subject to non-income based taxes, such as value-added, payroll, sales, use, net worth, property and goods and services taxes, in both the United States and various non-U.S. jurisdictions, as well as the potential for travel transaction taxes in the United States as discussed below. From time to time, we are under audit by tax authorities with respect to these non-income based taxes and may have exposure to additional non-income based tax liabilities.

For example, in July 2012, the Dutch Government enacted certain amendments to Dutch tax law including, among other things, a one-time irrevocable levy on an employer equal to 16% of an employee's 2012 earnings in excess of 150,000 Euros. This levy resulted in additional payroll taxes of approximately \$13 million (approximately \$11 million after income tax) in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The Dutch Government is currently considering adopting a similar levy for 2013, and we expect that such a levy will be approved during the fourth quarter 2013. If adopted, we estimate that our additional payroll taxes with respect to the levy would be approximately \$12 million (before income tax).

Adverse application of state and local tax laws could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

A number of jurisdictions in the United States have initiated lawsuits against online travel companies, including us, related to, among other things, the payment of travel transaction taxes (e.g., hotel occupancy taxes, excise taxes, sales taxes, etc.). In addition, a number of U.S. states, counties and municipalities have initiated audit proceedings, issued proposed tax assessments or started inquiries relating to the payment of travel transaction taxes. See Note 13 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for a description of these pending cases and proceedings. Additional state and local jurisdictions are likely to assert that we are subject to, among other things, travel transaction taxes and could seek to collect such taxes, either retroactively or prospectively, or both.

In connection with some travel transaction tax audits and assessments, we may be required to pay any assessed taxes, which amounts may be substantial, prior to being allowed to contest the assessments and the applicability of the laws in judicial proceedings. This requirement is commonly referred to as "pay to play" or "pay first." Payment of these amounts, if any, is not an admission that we believe that we are subject to such taxes and, even if we make such payments, we intend to continue to vigorously assert our position that we should not be subject to such taxes.

Litigation is subject to uncertainty and there could be adverse developments in these pending or future cases and proceedings. For example, in September 2012, the Superior Court in the District of Columbia granted a summary judgment in favor of the city and against online travel companies. As a result, we are required to remit sales tax on our margin and we increased our accrual for travel transaction taxes (including estimated interest) by approximately \$4.8 million in September 2012 and by approximately \$5.6 million in the three months ended March 31, 2013. Similarly, in January 2013, the Tax Appeal Court for the State of Hawaii held that online travel companies, including us, are liable for the State's general excise tax on the full amount the online travel company collects from the customer for a hotel room reservation, without any offset for amounts passed through to the hotel. We recorded an accrual for travel transaction taxes (including estimated interest and penalties) of approximately \$16.5 million in December 2012 and approximately \$18.7 million in the three months ended March 31, 2013, primarily related to this ruling. During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the Company paid approximately \$20.1

million under protest to the State of Hawaii related to this ruling. The Company has filed an appeal with the Tax Appeal Court and intends to vigorously appeal this ruling. These decisions and any similar decisions in other jurisdictions could have a material adverse effect on our business, margins and results of operations. An unfavorable outcome or settlement of pending litigation may encourage the commencement of additional litigation, audit proceedings or other regulatory inquiries. In addition, an unfavorable outcome or settlement of these actions or proceedings could result in substantial liabilities for past and/or future bookings, including, among other things, interest, penalties, punitive damages and/or attorney fees and costs. There have been, and will continue to be, substantial ongoing costs, which may include "pay first" payments, associated with defending our position in pending and any future cases or proceedings. An adverse outcome in one or more of these unresolved proceedings could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations and could be material to our results of operations or cash flows in any given operating period.

To the extent that any tax authority succeeds in asserting that we have a tax collection responsibility, or we determine that we have such a responsibility, with respect to future transactions, we may collect any such additional tax obligation from our customers, which would have the effect of increasing the cost of travel reservations to our customers and, consequently, could make our travel reservation service less competitive (i.e., versus the websites of other online travel companies or travel service providers) and reduce our travel reservation transactions; alternatively, we could choose to reduce the compensation for our services on travel transactions. Either action could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

In many of the judicial and other proceedings initiated to date, the taxing jurisdictions seek not only historical taxes that are claimed to be owed on our gross profit, but also, among other things, interest, penalties, punitive damages and/or attorney fees and costs. Therefore, any liability associated with travel transaction tax matters is not constrained to our liability for tax owed, but may also include, among other things, penalties, interest and attorneys' fees. To date, the majority of the taxing jurisdictions in which we facilitate travel reservations have not asserted that taxes are due and payable on our travel services. With respect to taxing jurisdictions that have not initiated proceedings to date, it is possible that they will do so in the future or that they will seek to amend their tax statutes and seek to collect taxes from us only on a prospective basis.

Our stock price is highly volatile.

The market price of our common stock is highly volatile and is likely to continue to be subject to wide fluctuations in response to factors such as the following, some of which are beyond our control:

- operating results that vary from the expectations of securities analysts and investors;
- quarterly variations in our operating results;
- changes in expectations as to our future financial performance, including financial estimates by securities analysts and investors;
- worldwide economic conditions in general and in Europe in particular;
- fluctuations in currency exchange rates, particularly between the U.S. Dollar and the Euro;
- announcements of technological innovations or new services by us or our competitors;
- changes in our capital structure;
- changes in market valuations of other Internet or online service companies;
- announcements by us or our competitors of price reductions, promotions, significant contracts, acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;
- loss of a major travel service provider participant, such as a hotel chain, rental car company or airline, from our services;
- changes in the status of our intellectual property rights;
- lack of success in the expansion of our business model geographically;

- announcements by third parties of significant claims or initiation of litigation proceedings against us or adverse developments in pending proceedings;
- occurrences of a significant security breach;
- additions or departures of key personnel; and
- trading volume fluctuations.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock could adversely affect the market price of our common stock by introducing a large number of sellers to the market. Given the volatility that exists for our shares, such sales could cause the market price of our common stock to decline significantly. In addition, fluctuations in our stock price and our price-to-earnings multiple may have made our stock attractive to momentum, hedge or day-trading investors who often shift funds into and out of stocks rapidly, exacerbating price fluctuations in either direction, particularly when viewed on a quarterly basis.

The trading prices of Internet company stocks in general, including ours, have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. To the extent that the public's perception of the prospects of Internet or e-commerce companies is negative, our stock price could decline, regardless of our results. Other broad market and industry factors may decrease the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. Market fluctuations, as well as general political and economic conditions, such as a recession or interest rate or currency rate fluctuations, also may decrease the market price of our common stock. Negative market conditions could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital or the value of our stock for purposes of acquiring other companies or businesses.

We have, in the past, been a defendant in securities class action litigation. Securities class action litigation has often been brought against a company following periods of volatility in the market price of its securities. To the extent our stock price declines or is volatile, we may in the future be the target of additional litigation. This additional litigation could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources, either of which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We may not be able to maintain our "Innovation Box Tax" benefit.

The Netherlands corporate income tax law provides that income generated from qualifying "innovative" activities is taxed at the rate of 5% ("Innovation Box Tax") rather than the Dutch statutory rate of 25%. Booking.com obtained a ruling from the Dutch tax authorities in February 2011 confirming that a portion of its earnings ("qualifying earnings") is eligible for Innovation Box Tax treatment. This ruling was renewed in July 2013 and is valid through December 31, 2017.

In order to be eligible for Innovation Box Tax treatment, Booking.com must, among other things, apply for and obtain a research and development ("R&D") certificate from a Dutch governmental agency every six months confirming that the activities that Booking.com intends to be engaged in over the subsequent six month period are "innovative." The R&D certificate is current but should Booking.com fail to secure such a certificate in any future period - for example, because the governmental agency does not view Booking.com's new or anticipated activities as innovative - or should this agency determine that the activities contemplated to be performed in a prior period were not performed as contemplated or did not comply with the agency's requirements, Booking.com may lose its certificate and, as a result, the Innovation Box Tax benefit may be reduced or eliminated.

Booking.com intends to apply for continued Innovation Box Tax treatment for future periods. However, Booking.com's application may not be accepted, or, if accepted, the amount of qualifying earnings may be reduced or the applicable tax rate on qualifying earnings may be higher than the current rate. In addition, the tax law may change resulting in a reduction or elimination of the tax benefit. The loss of the Innovation Box Tax benefit would increase our effective tax rate and adversely impact our results of operations.

We are dependent on providers of hotel rooms and other accommodations, rental cars and airline tickets.

We rely on providers of hotel rooms and other accommodations, rental cars and airline tickets to make their services available to consumers through us. Our arrangements with travel service providers generally do not require them to make available any specific quantity of hotel room or accommodation reservations, rental cars or airline tickets, or to make hotel room or accommodation reservations, rental cars or airline tickets available in any geographic area, for any particular route or at any particular price. During the course of our business, we are in continuous dialog with our major travel service providers about the nature and extent of their participation in our system. A significant reduction on the part of any of our major travel service providers or providers that are particularly popular with customers of their participation in our system for a sustained

period of time or their complete withdrawal could have a material adverse effect on our business, market share and results of operations. To the extent any of those major or popular travel service providers ceased to participate in our system in favor of one of our competitors' systems or decided to require consumers to purchase services directly from them, our business, market share and results of operations could be harmed.

Further, KAYAK, a meta-search service, depends on access to information related to travel service pricing, schedules, availability and other related information from OTAs and travel service providers to attract consumers. To obtain this information, KAYAK maintains relationships with travel service providers and OTAs. Many of KAYAK's agreements with travel service providers and OTAs are short-term agreements that may be terminated on 30 days' notice. To the extent OTAs or travel service providers no longer provide such information to KAYAK, whether due to its affiliation with us or otherwise, KAYAK's ability to provide comprehensive travel service information to consumers could be diminished and its brand, business and results of operations could be harmed. To the extent consumers do not view KAYAK as a reliable source of comprehensive travel service information, fewer consumers would likely visit its websites, which would also likely have a negative impact on KAYAK's advertising revenue and results of operations. In addition, if travel service providers or OTAs choose not to advertise with KAYAK or choose to reduce or eliminate the fees paid to KAYAK for referrals from query results, KAYAK's results of operations and the value of our investment in KAYAK could be materially adversely affected.

Our business could be negatively affected by changes in search engine algorithms and dynamics or traffic-generating arrangements.

We utilize Internet search engines, principally through the purchase of travel-related keywords, and other travel demand aggregation websites, such as meta-search services, to generate traffic to our websites. In particular, we rely to a significant extent on Google to generate business and, to a much lesser extent, other search engines and other travel demand aggregation websites. Search engines such as Google frequently update and change the logic which determines the placement and display of results of a consumer's search, such that the placement of links to our sites can be negatively affected. For example, Google launched "Hotel Finder," a utility that allows consumers to search and compare hotel accommodations based on parameters set by the consumer and that Google has at times placed at or near the top of hotel-related search results. If Google changes its search algorithms in a manner that is competitively disadvantageous to us, whether to support its own travel related services or otherwise, our ability to generate traffic to our websites would be harmed, which in turn could have an adverse effect on our business, market share and results of operations.

A significant amount of our website traffic is directed to our websites through participation in pay-per-click advertising campaigns on Internet search engines whose pricing and operating dynamics can experience rapid change commercially, technically and competitively. In addition, we purchase website traffic from a number of sources, including some operated by our competitors, in the form of pay-per-click arrangements that can be terminated with little or no notice. If one or more of such arrangements is terminated, our business, market share and results of operations could be adversely affected.

In addition, we rely on various third party distribution channels (i.e., marketing affiliates) to distribute hotel room and rental car reservations. Should one or more of such third parties cease distribution of reservations made through us, or suffer deterioration in its search engine ranking, due to changes in search engine algorithms or otherwise, our business and results of operations could be negatively affected.

The success of our recent acquisition of KAYAK is subject to numerous risks and uncertainties.

As a result of our acquisition of KAYAK, we are subject to risks associated with KAYAK's business. Such risks include: continued access to travel services information provided by other OTAs and travel service providers; reduction in advertising on KAYAK's websites by competitors of ours; and KAYAK's ability to expand its offerings into international markets. Uncertainty regarding KAYAK's business operations following the acquisition may cause consumers, travel service providers and advertisers to delay or defer decisions concerning KAYAK's services. Some of our competitors, such as Expedia, have commercial arrangements with KAYAK that they may decide to terminate or not renew out of competitive concerns related to our ownership of KAYAK. In addition, management focus and resources could be diverted from the day-to-day operation of the business to matters relating to integration of KAYAK with The Priceline Group. Current and prospective KAYAK employees may experience uncertainty about their future roles with us or may decide that they do not want to work for The Priceline Group, which could adversely affect our ability to attract and retain key KAYAK management, sales, marketing, operations and technical personnel. Any of these risks could harm KAYAK's business and results of operations and adversely affect the value of our investment in KAYAK.

System capacity constraints, system failures or "denial-of-service" or other attacks could harm our business.

We have experienced rapid growth in customer traffic to our websites and through our mobile apps, the number of hotels and accommodations on our extranets and the geographic breadth of our operations. If our systems cannot be expanded to cope with increased demand or fail to perform, we could experience unanticipated disruptions in service, slower response times, decreased customer service and customer satisfaction and delays in the introduction of new services, any of which could impair our reputation, damage our brands and materially and adversely affect our results of operations. While we do maintain redundant systems and hosting services, it is possible that we could experience an interruption in our business, and we do not carry business interruption insurance sufficient to compensate us for all losses that may occur.

Our computer hardware for operating our services is currently located at hosting facilities around the world. These systems and operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from human error, floods, fires, power loss, telecommunication failures and similar events. They are also subject to break-ins, sabotage, intentional acts of vandalism and similar misconduct. Despite any precautions we may take, the occurrence of any disruption of service due to any such misconduct, natural disaster or other unanticipated problems at such facilities, or the failure by such facilities to provide our required data communications capacity could result in lengthy interruptions or delays in our services. Any system failure that causes an interruption or delay in service could impair our reputation, damage our brands or result in consumers choosing to use a competitive service, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Our existing security measures may not be successful in preventing attacks on our systems, and any such attack could cause significant interruptions in our operations. For instance, from time to time, we have experienced "denial-of-service" type attacks on our systems that have made portions of our websites slow or unavailable for periods of time. We expend significant resources in an attempt to prepare for and mitigate the effects of any such attacks. Reductions in website availability and response time could cause loss of substantial business volumes during the occurrence of any such attack on our systems, and measures we may take to divert suspect traffic in the event of such an attack could result in the diversion of bona fide customers. These issues are likely to become more difficult to manage as we expand the number of places where we operate and as the tools and techniques used in such attacks become more advanced. Successful attacks could result in negative publicity, damage our reputation and prevent consumers from booking travel services through us during the attack, any of which could cause consumers to use the services of our competitors, which would have a negative effect on the value of our brand, our market share and our results of operations.

We rely on certain third party computer systems and third party service providers, including GDSs and computerized central reservation systems of the hotel, rental car and airline industries in connection with providing some of our services. Any interruption in these third party services systems or deterioration in their performance could prevent us from booking related hotel room, rental car and airline reservations and have a material adverse effect on our business, brands and results of operations. Our agreements with some third party service providers are terminable upon short notice and often do not provide recourse for service interruptions. In the event our arrangement with any such third party is terminated, we may not be able to find an alternative source of systems support on a timely basis or on commercially reasonable terms and, as a result, it could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We depend upon various third parties to process credit cards for our merchant transactions around the world. In addition, we rely on third parties to provide credit card numbers which we use as a payment mechanism for merchant transactions. If any such third party were wholly or partially compromised, our cash flows could be disrupted or we may not be able to generate merchant transactions (and related revenues) until such a time as a replacement process could be put in place with a different vendor.

We do not have a completely formalized or comprehensive disaster recovery plan in every geographic region in which we conduct business. In the event of certain system failures, we may not be able to switch to back-up systems immediately and the time to full recovery could be prolonged. Like many online businesses, we have experienced system failures from time to time. In addition to placing increased burdens on our engineering staff, these outages create a significant amount of consumer questions and complaints that need to be addressed by our customer support personnel. Any unscheduled interruption in our service could result in an immediate loss of revenues that can be substantial, increase customer service cost, harm our reputation and cause some consumers to switch to our competitors. If we experience frequent or persistent system failures, our reputation and brand could be permanently and significantly harmed. We have taken and continue to take steps to increase the reliability and redundancy of our systems. These steps are expensive, may reduce our margins and may not be successful in reducing the frequency or duration of unscheduled downtime.

We use both internally developed systems and third-party systems to operate our services, including transaction processing, order management and financial systems. If the number of consumers using our services increases substantially, or if critical third-party systems stop operating as designed, we will need to significantly expand and upgrade our technology,

transaction processing systems, financial and accounting systems and other infrastructure. We may not be able to upgrade our systems and infrastructure to accommodate such conditions in a timely manner, and, depending on the third-party systems affected, our transactional, financial and accounting systems could be impacted for a meaningful amount of time before upgrade, expansion or repair.

Our financial results will likely be materially impacted by payment of income taxes in the future.

Until our U.S. net operating loss carryforwards are utilized or expire, we do not expect to make tax payments on most of our U.S. income, except for U.S. federal alternative minimum tax and state income taxes. However, we expect to pay non-U.S. taxes on our non-U.S. income. We expect that our international business will continue to generate most of our revenues and profits and will continue to grow pretax income at a higher rate than our U.S. business and, therefore, we expect that our tax payments will continue to increase. Any increase in our effective tax rate would have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

We may not be able to keep up with rapid technological changes.

The markets in which we compete are characterized by rapidly changing technology, evolving industry standards, consolidation, frequent new service announcements, introductions and enhancements and changing consumer demands. We may not be able to keep up with these rapid changes. In addition, these market characteristics are heightened by the progress of technology adoption in various markets, including the continuing adoption of the Internet and online commerce in certain geographies and the emergence and growth of the use of smart phones and tablets for mobile e-commerce transactions, including through the increasing use of mobile apps. As a result, our future success will depend on our ability to adapt to rapidly changing technologies, to adapt our services to evolving industry standards and to continually improve the performance, features and reliability of our service in response to competitive service offerings and the evolving demands of the marketplace. In particular, we believe that it will be increasingly important for us to effectively offer our services through mobile applications and mobile optimized websites on smart phones and tablets. Any failure by us to successfully develop and achieve customer adoption of our mobile applications and mobile optimized websites would likely have a material and adverse effect on our growth, market share, business and results of operations. We believe that ease-of-use, comprehensive functionality and the look and feel of our mobile apps and mobile optimized websites will be increasingly competitively critical as consumers obtain more of their travel services through mobile devices. As a result, we intend to continue to spend significant resources maintaining, developing and enhancing our websites, including our mobile optimized websites, and our mobile apps and other technology.

In addition, the widespread adoption of new Internet, networking or telecommunications technologies or other technological changes could require us to incur substantial expenditures to modify or adapt our services or infrastructure to those new technologies, which could adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition. For example, KAYAK generates revenues, in part, by allowing consumers to compare search results that appear in additional "pop-under" windows. Recent changes in browser functionality may either block or otherwise limit the use of "pop-under" windows, which could have a negative impact on our revenues. Any failure to implement or adapt to new technologies in a timely manner or at all could adversely affect our ability to compete, increase our customer acquisition costs or otherwise adversely affect our business, and therefore adversely affect our brand, market share and results of operations.

Regulatory and legal requirements and uncertainties could harm our business.

The services we offer are subject to legal regulations (including laws, ordinances, rules and other requirements and regulations) of national and local governments and regulatory authorities around the world, many of which are evolving and subject to the possibility of new or revised interpretations. Our ability to provide our services is and will continue to be affected by such regulations. The implementation of unfavorable regulations or unfavorable interpretations of existing regulations by judicial or regulatory bodies could require us to incur significant compliance costs, cause the development of the affected markets to become impractical and otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Compliance with the laws and regulations of multiple jurisdictions increases our cost of doing business. These laws and regulations, which vary and sometimes conflict, include the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act and local laws which also prohibit corrupt payments to governmental officials or third parties, data privacy requirements, labor relations laws, tax laws, antitrust or competition laws, U.S., E.U. or U.N. sanctioned country or sanctioned persons mandates, and consumer protection laws. Violations of these laws and regulations could result in fines and/or criminal sanctions against us, our officers or our employees and/or prohibitions on the conduct of our business. Any such violations could result in prohibitions on our ability to offer our services in one or more countries, could delay or prevent potential acquisitions, and could also materially damage our reputation, our brands, our international expansion efforts, our ability to attract and retain employees, our business and our operating results. Our success depends, in part, on our ability to anticipate these risks and

manage these difficulties. We are also subject to a variety of other regulatory and legal risks and challenges in managing an organization operating in various countries, including those related to:

- regulatory changes or other government actions;
- additional complexity to comply with regulations in multiple jurisdictions, as well as overlapping or inconsistent legal regimes, in particular with respect to tax, labor, consumer protection, digital content, advertising, promotions, privacy and anti-trust laws;
- our ability to repatriate funds held by our non-U.S. subsidiaries to the United States at favorable tax rates;
- difficulties in transferring funds from or converting currencies in certain countries; and
- reduced protection for intellectual property rights in some countries.

Our business has grown substantially over the last several years and continues to expand into new geographic locations. In addition, we have made efforts and expect to make further efforts to integrate access to travel services across our various brands. These changes add complexity to legal and tax compliance, and our increased size and operating history may increase the likelihood that we will be subject to audits by taxing authorities in various jurisdictions.

In July 2012, the Office of Fair Trading (the "OFT"), the competition authority in the United Kingdom, issued a "Statement of Objections" ("SO") to Booking.com, which sets out the OFT's preliminary views on why it believes Booking.com and others in the online hotel reservation sector have allegedly breached E.U. and U.K. competition law. The SO alleges, among other things, that there are agreements or concerted practices between hotels and Booking.com and at least one other online travel company that restrict Booking.com's (and the other online travel company's) ability to discount hotel room reservations, which the OFT alleges is a form of resale price maintenance. We dispute the allegations against Booking.com in the SO and intend to contest them vigorously. Booking.com runs an agency model hotel and accommodation reservation platform in which hotels and accommodations have complete discretion and control over setting the prices that appear on the Booking.com website. Booking.com is a facilitator of hotel and accommodation room reservations; it does not take possession of or title to hotel and accommodation rooms and is not a reseller of hotel and accommodation rooms. Because Booking.com plays no role in price setting, does not control pricing and does not resell hotel and accommodation rooms, it does not believe that it engages in the conduct alleged in the SO. On August 9, 2013, the OFT announced its intention to accept commitments offered by Booking.com, as well as Expedia and Intercontinental Hotel Group, to close the investigation. The OFT sought feedback on the proposed commitments from the public. The public comment period expired on September 13, 2013. The OFT is now considering the public comments and input from the European Commission before making its final decision whether to accept the commitments. If the proposed commitments are accepted by the OFT, the investigation will be closed with no finding of infringement or admission of wrongdoing and no imposition of a fine. The proposed commitments provide, among other things, that hotels will continue to be able to set retail prices for hotel room reservations on all online travel company websites, such as Booking.com. Online travel companies, such as Booking.com, will have the flexibility to discount a hotel's retail price, but only to members of closed user groups, a concept that is defined in the proposed commitments, who have previously made a booking with the online travel company. If the commitments are not accepted by the OFT, we will have the right to respond to the allegations in the SO in writing and orally. If the OFT chooses to maintain its objections after hearing Booking.com's responses, the OFT will issue a "Decision" which will state its case against Booking.com and others under investigation. We will have the opportunity to challenge an adverse Decision in the U.K. courts. In connection with a Decision, the OFT may impose a fine against Booking.com. We estimate that a fine could range from \$0 to approximately \$50 million. A fine in this amount could adversely impact our cash flow and results of operations. In addition, the OFT may require changes to Booking.com's business practices, including changes to its approach to pricing and the use of "Most Favored Nation" clauses in contracts with hotels. We are unable at this time to predict the outcome of the proceedings before the OFT and, if necessary, before the U.K. courts, and the impact of changes to our business practices that may be required, if any, on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, we are aware that other European regulatory authorities have begun investigations into competitive practices within the online travel industry, and we may be involved or affected by such investigations and their results. We are unable at this time to predict the extent of such investigations or how our business may be affected. However, to the extent that regulatory authorities require changes to our business practices or to those currently common to the industry, our business, competitive position and results of operations could be adversely affected. Further, negative publicity regarding any such investigations could adversely affect our brand and therefore our market share and results of operations.

"Cookie" laws could negatively impact the way we do business.

A "cookie" is a text file that is stored on a user's web browser by a website. Cookies are common tools used by thousands of websites, including ours, to, among other things, store or gather information (e.g., remember log-on details so a user does not have to re-enter them when revisiting a site) and enhance the user experience on a website. Cookies are valuable tools for websites like ours to improve the customer experience and increase conversion on their websites.

The European Union's ePrivacy Directive requires member countries to adopt regulations governing the use of "cookies" by websites servicing customers in the European Union. For example, on June 5, 2012, an amendment to the Dutch Telecommunications Act became effective. The amended act requires websites, including Booking.com, to provide Dutch users with clear and comprehensive information about the storage and use of certain cookies and obtain prior consent from the user before placing certain cookies on a user's web browser. To the extent any such regulations require "opt-in" consent before certain cookies can be placed on a user's web browser, our ability, in particular Booking.com's ability, to serve certain customers in the manner we currently do might be adversely affected and our ability to continue to improve and optimize performance on our websites might be impaired, either of which could negatively affect a customer's experience using our services. As a result, these regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, market share and results of operations.

We face risks related to our intellectual property.

We regard our intellectual property as critical to our success, and we rely on domain name, trademark, copyright and patent law, trade secret protection and confidentiality and/or license agreements with our employees, travel service providers, partners and others to protect our proprietary rights. We have filed various applications for protection of certain aspects of our intellectual property in both the United States and other jurisdictions, and we currently hold a number of issued patents in multiple jurisdictions. Further, in the future we may acquire additional patents or patent portfolios, which could require significant cash expenditures. We have licensed in the past, and expect to license in the future, certain of our proprietary rights, such as trademarks or copyrighted material, to third parties, and these licensees may take actions that diminish the value of our proprietary rights or harm our reputation. In addition, effective intellectual property protection may not be available in every country in which our services are made available online. We may be required to expend significant time and resources to prevent infringement or to enforce our intellectual property rights.

While we believe that our intellectual property rights, including our issued patents and pending patent applications, help to protect our business, there can be no assurance that:

- a third party will not have or obtain one or more patents that can prevent us from practicing features of our business or that will require us to pay for a license to use those features;
- our operations do not or will not infringe valid, enforceable patents of third parties;
- we can successfully defend our patents against challenges by third parties;
- pending patent applications will result in the issuance of patents;
- competitors or potential competitors will not devise new methods of competing with us that are not covered by our patents or patent applications;
- because of variations in the application of our business model to each of our services, our patents will be effective in preventing one or more third parties from utilizing a copycat business model to offer the same service in one or more categories;
- new prior art will not be discovered that may diminish the value of or invalidate an issued patent; or
- legislative or judicial action will not directly or indirectly affect the scope and validity of any of our patent rights, including the ability to obtain and enforce so called "business method patents".

If we are not successful in protecting our intellectual property, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, brands and results of operations.

From time to time, in the ordinary course of our business, we have been subject to, and are currently subject to, legal proceedings and claims relating to the intellectual property rights of others, and we expect that third parties will continue to

assert intellectual property claims, in particular patent claims, against us, particularly as we expand the complexity and scope of our business. We endeavor to defend our intellectual property rights diligently, but intellectual property litigation is extremely expensive and time consuming, and has and is likely to continue to divert managerial attention and resources from our business objectives. Successful infringement claims against us could result in significant monetary liability or prevent us from operating our business, or portions of our business. In addition, resolution of claims may require us to obtain licenses to use intellectual property rights belonging to third parties, which may be expensive to procure, or possibly to cease using those rights altogether. Any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

Our use of "open source" software could adversely affect our ability to protect our proprietary software and subject us to possible litigation.

We use open source software in connection with our software development. From time to time, companies that use open source software have faced claims challenging the use of open source software and/or compliance with open source license terms. We could be subject to suits by parties claiming ownership of what we believe to be open source software, or claiming non-compliance with open source licensing terms. Some open source licenses require users who distribute software containing open source to make available all or part of such software, which in some circumstances could include valuable proprietary code of the user. While we monitor our use of open source software and try to ensure that none is used in a manner that would require us to disclose our proprietary source code or that would otherwise breach the terms of an open source agreement, such use could inadvertently occur, in part because open source license terms are often ambiguous. Any requirement to disclose our proprietary source code or pay damages for breach of contract could be harmful to our business, results of operations or financial condition, and could help our competitors develop services that are similar to or better than ours.

Our business is exposed to risks associated with processing credit card transactions.

Our results have been negatively impacted by purchases made using fraudulent credit cards. Because we act as the merchant of record in a majority of our priceline.com transactions as well as those of Agoda.com and rentalcars.com, we may be held liable for accepting fraudulent credit cards on our websites as well as other payment disputes with our customers. Additionally, we are held liable for accepting fraudulent credit cards in certain retail transactions when we do not act as merchant of record. Accordingly, we calculate and record an allowance for the resulting credit card chargebacks. If we are unable to combat the use of fraudulent credit cards on our websites, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

In addition, in the event that one of our major travel service providers voluntarily or involuntarily declares bankruptcy, we could experience an increase in credit card chargebacks from customers with travel reservations with such travel service provider. For example, airlines that participate in our system and declare bankruptcy or cease operations may be unable or unwilling to honor tickets sold for their flights. Our policy in such event is to direct customers seeking a refund or exchange to the airline, and not to provide a remedy ourselves. Because we are the merchant-of-record on sales of *Name Your Own Price*[®] airline tickets to our customers, however, we could experience a significant increase in demands for refunds or credit card chargebacks from customers, which could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. For example, in April 2008, Aloha Airlines and ATA Airlines each ceased operations, and we experienced an increase in credit card chargebacks from customers with tickets on those airlines. Agoda.com and rentalcars.com process credit card transactions and operate in numerous currencies. Credit card costs are typically higher for foreign currency transactions and in instances where cancellations occur.

We are party to legal proceedings which, if adversely decided, could materially adversely affect us.

We are a party to the legal proceedings described in Note 13 to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this report. These actions may increase our expenses and an adverse outcome in any of such actions could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. However, we believe that adverse determinations in more of the pending proceedings than currently anticipated would not have a material impact on our liquidity due to our available cash resources.

Investment in new business strategies and acquisitions could disrupt our ongoing business and present risks not originally contemplated.

We have invested, and in the future may invest, in new business strategies or acquisitions. Such endeavors may involve significant risks and uncertainties, including distraction of management from current operations, greater than expected liabilities and expenses, inadequate return of capital, and unidentified issues not discovered in our investigations and evaluations of those strategies and acquisitions. We may decide to make minority investments, including through joint

ventures, in which we have limited or no management or operational control. The controlling person in such a case may have business interests, strategies or goals that are inconsistent with ours, and decisions of the company or venture in which we invested may result in harm to our reputation or adversely affect the value of our investment. Further, we may issue shares of our common stock in these transactions, which could result in dilution to our stockholders.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

The following table sets forth information relating to repurchases of our equity securities during the three months ended September 30, 2013.

ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	(d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
July 1, 2013 – July 31, 2013				\$ 44,865,918 (1)
				\$ 20,447,500 (2)
				\$ 393,920,089 (3)
				\$ 654,533,249 (4)
August 1, 2013 – August 31, 2013	497 (5)	\$ 965.28		
	47,759	\$ 939.42	47,759	\$ — (1)
	21,705	\$ 942.05	21,705	\$ — (2)
	255,870	\$ 942.69	255,870	\$ 152,713,243 (3)
				\$ 654,533,249 (4)
September 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013	11 (5)	\$ 938.53		\$ — (1)
				\$ — (2)
	159,027	\$ 960.30	159,027	\$ 382 (3)
				\$ 654,533,249 (4)
Total	484,869		484,361	\$ 654,533,631

(1) Pursuant to a stock repurchase program announced on November 2, 2005, whereby the Company was authorized to repurchase up to \$50,000,000 of its common stock.

(2) Pursuant to a stock repurchase program announced on September 21, 2006, whereby the Company was authorized to repurchase up to \$150,000,000 of its common stock.

(3) Pursuant to a stock repurchase program announced on March 4, 2010, whereby the Company was authorized to repurchase up to \$500,000,000 of its common stock.

(4) Pursuant to a stock repurchase program announced on May 29, 2013, whereby the Company was authorized to repurchase up to \$1,000,000,000 of its common stock.

(5) Pursuant to a general authorization, not publicly announced, whereby the Company is authorized to repurchase shares of its common stock to satisfy employee withholding tax obligations related to stock-based compensation.

Item 6. Exhibits

The exhibits listed below are filed as part of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Exhibit Number	Description
31.1	Certification of Jeffery H. Boyd, the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Daniel J. Finnegan, the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Jeffery H. Boyd, the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Daniel J. Finnegan, the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101	The following materials from the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended September 30, 2013 are furnished herewith, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations, (iii) Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iv) Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

PRICELINE.COM INCORPORATED
(Registrant)

Date: November 7, 2013

By: /s/ Daniel J. Finnegan

Name: Daniel J. Finnegan

Title: Chief Financial Officer

(On behalf of the Registrant and as principal financial officer)

Exhibit Index

Exhibit Number	Description
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CERTIFICATION

I, Jeffery H. Boyd, certify that:

1. I have reviewed the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of priceline.com Incorporated (the "Registrant");
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15(d)-15(f)) for the Registrant and we have:
 - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. disclosed in this report any change in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the Registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the Registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Dated: November 7, 2013

/s/ Jeffery H. Boyd

Name: Jeffery H. Boyd
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel J. Finnegan, certify that:

1. I have reviewed the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of priceline.com Incorporated (the "Registrant");
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the Registrant and we have:
 - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. disclosed in this report any change in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the Registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the Registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Dated: November 7, 2013

/s/ Daniel J. Finnegan

Name: Daniel J. Finnegan
Title: Chief Financial Officer

Certification
Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
(Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 1350, Chapter 63 of Title 18, United States Code)

Pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (subsections (a) and (b) of section 1350, chapter 63 of title 18, United States Code), the undersigned officer of priceline.com Incorporated, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), hereby certifies that, to his knowledge:

The Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013 (the "Report") of the Company fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: November 7, 2013

/s/ Jeffery H. Boyd

Name: Jeffery H. Boyd

Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (subsections (a) and (b) of section 1350, chapter 63 of title 18, United States Code) and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate disclosure document.

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

Certification
Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
(Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 1350, Chapter 63 of Title 18, United States Code)

Pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (subsections (a) and (b) of section 1350, chapter 63 of title 18, United States Code), the undersigned officer of priceline.com Incorporated, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), hereby certifies that, to his knowledge:

The Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013 (the "Report") of the Company fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: November 7, 2013

/s/ Daniel J. Finnegan

Name: Daniel J. Finnegan

Title: Chief Financial Officer

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (subsections (a) and (b) of section 1350, chapter 63 of title 18, United States Code) and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate disclosure document.

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

