

ASSURANT INC
Form 11-K
June 26, 2012
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001-31978

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

ASSURANT 401(k) PLAN A

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

ASSURANT, INC.

ONE CHASE MANHATTAN PLAZA, 41ST FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10005

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Assurant 401(k) Plan A

Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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<i>All schedules required by 29 CFR 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 have been omitted as the conditions under which they are required are not present.</i>	

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Participants and Administrator of

Assurant 401(k) Plan A

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of Assurant 401(k) Plan A (the Plan) at December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2011 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (signed)

New York, New York

June 25, 2012

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Assurant 401(k) Plan A

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

At December 31, 2011 and 2010

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	\$	\$ 59,857,992
Receivables:		
Employer contributions		3,877,962
Employee contributions		159,219
Notes receivable from participants		2,612,718
Total receivables		6,649,899
Total assets		66,507,891
Liabilities		
Accounts payable		652
Net assets available for benefits	\$	\$ 66,507,239

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

Table of Contents**Assurant 401(k) Plan A****Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits****Year Ended December 31, 2011**

	Year Ended December 31, 2011
Additions	
Interest and dividend income	\$ 1,285,450
Interest income, notes receivable from participants	118,610
	1,404,060
Contributions:	
Employer (net of forfeitures)	4,108,259
Employee	4,230,885
	8,339,144
Other	1,132
Total additions	9,744,336
Deductions	
Benefits paid to participants	7,653,447
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	1,482,161
Administrative expenses	15,983
Net transfers from Plan A to Plan B for changes in job categories	4,225,576
Net transfers from Plan A to Plan B due to Plan amendment	62,874,391
Other	17
Total deductions	76,251,575
Net decrease	(66,507,239)
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	66,507,239
End of year	\$

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

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1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Assurant 401(k) Plan A (the Plan) provides general information only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan s provisions. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

- a. *General.* The Plan, formerly the Fortis, Inc. Employees Uniform Profit Sharing Plan, has been in existence since June 21, 1983. Effective January 1, 2001, the Fortis, Inc. Employees Uniform Profit Sharing Plan was split into two separate Plans, the Fortis 401(k) Plan A and Fortis 401(k) Plan B. Effective February 4, 2004, the Plans were renamed Assurant 401(k) Plan A and Assurant 401(k) Plan B (Plan B) (collectively, the Plans). Effective April 30, 2004, the portions of the Plans invested in Assurant, Inc. (the Plan Sponsor, the Company, or the Employer) stock were designated as an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). The Plan was then amended and restated effective January 1, 2006.

The Plans are contributory defined contribution retirement plans covering substantially all employees of the Employer and its subsidiaries with participation by the employee on a voluntary basis. The Plan Administrator is the Employer s Benefit Plans Committee. Prior to the 2011 Amendment discussed below, the Plan covers Eligible Employees whom the Employer classifies as being in job category numbers 100 through 400 as of January 1 of the prior Plan year, or the Employee s hire date, if later. Plan B covers Eligible Employees whom the Employer classifies as being in job categories 500 through 999 as of January 1 of the prior Plan year, or the Employee s hire date, if later. If a participant in the Plan changes to job category number 500 through 999, such participant shall automatically participate in Plan B as of the first day of the subsequent Plan Year, and his account under the Plan shall be transferred to Plan B. Conversely, if a Plan B participant s job category number changes to a job category number 100 through 400, such participant shall automatically participate in the Plan as of the first day of the subsequent Plan Year and his account under Plan B shall be transferred to the Plan. As of January 1, 2011, net transfers of existing assets of \$4,225,576 were made from the Plan to Plan B due to changes in employee job categories. Included in this amount is \$290,840 of employer contribution receivables, which were transferred from the Plan to Plan B in 2011 due to changes in employee job categories. Employer contribution receivables transferred in 2011 relate to Employer contributions recorded in the year 2010.

Over time, various 401(k) plans have been merged into the Plans due to Company acquisitions. If a participant rolled over a balance under any of these plans, the account is now held by the Plans and is generally subject to the Plans current rules. However, there are certain situations where the rules of the predecessor plan may apply. (See the Plan Document for details.)

- b. *2011 Amendment.* Effective December 31, 2011, the Plan was merged into Plan B to form one single plan and \$62,874,391, representing the total of Plan assets, was transferred to Plan B on that date, with Plan B being the surviving plan. Effective January 1, 2012, the following revisions were made to Plan B:

Plan B was renamed the Assurant 401(k) Plan.

An automatic savings and investments program was implemented. Employees who are not already enrolled in the Plan or who are contributing less than 3% to the Plan on a pre-tax basis will be automatically enrolled at a 3% pre-tax contribution rate. Employees have the option to elect a different contribution rate or to opt out of the automatic contributions.

A uniform Company matching contribution formula was implemented, with pre-tax contributions matched dollar-for-dollar up to 6% of eligible pay, regardless of tenure or years of service. Company matching contributions will be deposited each pay period, rather than 14 months after the first contribution in each calendar year.

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Employees are immediately eligible for Company matching contributions and are no longer required to complete one year of eligibility service to qualify for the matching contributions.

The vesting period for Company matching contributions made in 2012 has been shortened to two years of eligible service. The vesting period for Company matching contributions made prior to 2012 will remain at three years.

- c. *Contributions.* Participants direct the investment of all contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan.
- i. *Employee Contributions -* Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan at commencement of employment if they are regularly scheduled to work at least 20 hours per week. If the employee is scheduled to work less than 20 hours a week, participation may commence after completing a year of eligible service. Each participant may elect to make contributions to the Plan on a pre-tax and/or after-tax basis through payroll deductions from 1% through 50% of such participant's eligible compensation for each pay period up to an annual maximum of \$16,500 for 2011. In addition, participants who are age 50 or older and have made the maximum contribution to the Plan could make an additional catch up contribution to the Plan up to an annual maximum of \$5,500 in 2011. Participants can change the rate at which they contribute at any time during the year. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans.
- ii. *Employer Contributions -* The Employer contribution is discretionary. At the present time, the Plan Sponsor intends to follow the following formula to determine the Employer contribution. On or after the first day of the month following the completion of one year of eligibility service, the Employer matches a percentage of pre-tax contributions deducted from eligible pay. Participants must be actively employed on the last regularly scheduled workday of the calendar year to be eligible for the Employer contribution unless they retire, become totally disabled, die during the year or are part of a reduction in force during the 4th quarter of the calendar year. Employer contributions are based on the first 5% of eligible pay contributed by the participant on a pre-tax basis and on a participant's years of vesting service as follows: If the participant was hired or rehired after December 31, 2000 and has fewer than five years of vesting service, the Employer will contribute 100% on the first 3% of eligible pay contributed pre-tax and 50% on the next 2% of eligible pay contributed pre-tax. If the participant was employed prior to January 1, 2001 (and not rehired thereafter) or has five or more years of vesting service, the Employer will contribute 200% of the first 3% of eligible pay contributed pre-tax and 50% of the next 2% of eligible pay contributed pre-tax.
- d. *Participant Accounts.* Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant's account is credited with employee contributions, Employer contributions and investment earnings and charged with the allocation of investment losses.
- e. *Vesting.* A participant becomes vested in their Company Contribution Account based upon their years of vesting service. The participant will not become vested in the Company Contribution Account until they have three years of vesting service, at which time they will become 100% vested. In addition, a participant becomes 100% vested when they reach normal or early retirement date, when they reach the first anniversary of the date on which they became totally disabled or if they die while employed by the Employer.

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- f. *Participant Loans.* Participants may borrow a minimum of \$500 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 from their fund accounts, reduced by the highest outstanding balance of loans taken in the previous 12 months, and 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from 1 to 5 years or up to 10 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are collateralized by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate of 1.0% above the Prime Rate (as reported by Reuters) in effect when the participant applies for the loan. At December 31, 2011, outstanding participant loans had interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 9.25%. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions. Related loan fees and expenses incurred by the Plan are paid by Assurant, Inc., except for a \$40-\$90 loan origination fee and a \$25 annual maintenance fee on loans initiated on or after April 1, 2003, which are paid by the loan participants.
- g. *Payment of Benefits.* Upon retirement, death or disability, Plan participants or their beneficiaries are entitled to receive the total amount in the participant's account. Upon termination of employment for other than the aforementioned reasons, Plan participants will receive their contributions and their vested share of Employer contributions plus income accrued thereon, if any.
- h. *Withdrawals.* Withdrawals are permitted under certain circumstances. There are two types of withdrawals: non-hardship and hardship. A non-hardship withdrawal of the vested account balance is available under all circumstances. Included under non-hardship withdrawals are after-tax withdrawals and age 59 1/2 withdrawals. Hardship withdrawals are available under certain circumstances for which the participant must provide documentation.
- i. *Forfeitures.* Forfeited balances of terminated participants' non-vested accounts shall be first applied to restore amounts previously forfeited by non-vested former employees who have been rehired. Thereafter, any remaining forfeited balances can be used to reduce Plan administrative expenses and future Employer contributions. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, there was no forfeiture account balance. For the year ended December 31, 2011, the amount of forfeitures used to reduce Employer contributions was \$3,490.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The financial statements of the Plan have been prepared under the accrual basis of accounting.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Plan uses an exit price for its fair value measurements. An exit price is defined as the amount received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In measuring fair value, the Plan gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs.

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Investment securities are stated at fair value. Such investment securities are composed of shares of mutual funds, money market funds and the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund, all of which are valued at their year end net asset value. The net asset value is based on the closing market prices of the securities in the fund's portfolio.

Notes receivable from participants (participant loans) are stated at their unpaid principal balances.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded as earned on the accrual basis of accounting. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Net depreciation in the fair value of investments includes realized gains/losses for securities sold as well as the change in unrealized gains/losses for securities held at year-end. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are recorded on the average cost method.

Benefit payments and transfers are recorded when paid.

3. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Recent Accounting Pronouncements - Adopted

On December 31, 2010, the Plan adopted the amendments to existing guidance on reporting loans to participants by defined contribution pension plans. These amendments required that participant loans be classified as notes receivable from participants, which are segregated from plan investments and measured at their unpaid principal balances. The adoption of these amendments did not have an impact on the Plan's net assets available for benefits or the changes in net assets available for benefits.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements - Not Yet Adopted

In May 2011, the FASB issued amendments to existing guidance on fair value measurement. This amended guidance changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands required disclosures to include quantitative and qualitative information about unobservable inputs in Level 3 measurements to achieve common fair value measurement and disclosure requirements in GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards. The amendments are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2011.

4. Fair Value Measurements

The fair value measurements and disclosures guidance defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, creates a fair value hierarchy based on the quality of inputs used to measure fair value and enhances disclosure requirements for fair value measurements. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In accordance with this guidance, the Plan has categorized its recurring basis financial assets based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation technique into a three-level fair value hierarchy.

The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls has been determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The Plan's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the asset or liability.

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The levels of the fair value hierarchy and its application to the Plan's financial assets are described below:

Level 1 inputs utilize quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access. Financial assets utilizing Level 1 inputs include mutual funds.

Level 2 inputs utilize other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable in the marketplace for the asset. Financial assets utilizing Level 2 inputs include the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable but are significant to the fair value measurement for the asset, and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the asset. These inputs reflect the Plan's own assumptions about the assumptions a market participant would use in pricing the asset. There are no financial assets utilizing Level 3 inputs.

Changes in the observability of valuation inputs may result in a reclassification of levels for certain securities within the fair value hierarchy.

There were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 financial assets in 2011.

As of December 31, 2011, there were no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis. The following table presents the Plan's fair value hierarchy for those recurring basis assets as of December 31, 2010.

Financial Assets	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Mutual funds:				
Balanced funds	\$ 16,358,494	\$ 16,358,494	\$	\$
Index fund	6,599,209	6,599,209		
Fixed income fund	6,386,895	6,386,895		
U.S. large cap funds	9,855,159	9,855,159		
U.S. small cap fund	3,823,678	3,823,678		
International fund	4,072,469	4,072,469		
Money market fund	11,360,946	11,360,946		
Assurant, Inc. stock fund	1,401,142		1,401,142	
Total financial assets	\$ 59,857,992	\$ 58,456,850	\$ 1,401,142	\$

The fair value measurements and disclosures guidance describes three different valuation techniques to be used in determining fair value for financial assets and liabilities: the market, income or cost approaches. The three valuation techniques are consistent with generally accepted valuation methodologies. The market approach valuation techniques use prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets. When possible, quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets are used as of the period-end date (such as for mutual funds).

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While not all three approaches are applicable to all financial assets, where appropriate, one or more valuation techniques may be used. For all the financial assets included in the above hierarchy, the market valuation technique is used.

The Plan Sponsor evaluates the following factors in order to determine whether the market for a financial asset is inactive. The factors include, but are not limited to:

There are few recent transactions,

Little information is released publicly,

The available prices vary significantly over time or among market participants,

The prices are stale (i.e., not current), and

The magnitude of the bid-ask spread.

Illiquidity did not have an impact in the fair value determination of the Plan's financial assets.

The Plan Sponsor obtains one price for each investment. The Plan Sponsor reviews the month-end prices received from the Plan administrator for the Plan's investments to validate that the month-end net asset value was used to price each investment. As a result of this analysis, if the Plan Sponsor determines that the month-end net asset value was not used by the Plan administrator to price the Plan's investments based upon available market data, which happens infrequently, the price of the investment would be adjusted accordingly.

5. Investments

The Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (Vanguard) is the trustee of the Plan. The Plan's investments are held in a nondiscretionary trust.

The Plan held no investments at December 31, 2011. At December 31, 2010, the Plan held the following investments whose fair values represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits:

Fair value at December 31, 2010:	
American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund	\$ 4,024,568
American Funds Growth Fund of America	5,377,916
PIMCO Total Return Fund	6,364,044
T. Rowe Price Small-Cap Stock Fund	3,823,678
Vanguard 500 Index Fund	6,473,553
Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund	11,360,946

The Plan's investments (including realized gains and losses on investments sold during the year) depreciated in value by \$1,482,161 in 2011, as follows:

	Net (Depreciation) Appreciation in Fair Value
Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund	\$ 73,492

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Registered investment companies	(1,555,653)
	\$ (1,482,161)

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6. Plan Amendments

See Note 1 - Description of the Plan for a description on Plan amendments enacted in 2011. There were no significant amendments to the Plan during the year ended December 31, 2010.

7. Income Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated February 12, 2009, stating that the Plan is qualified under section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, a plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan Sponsor believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt. Since the trust is exempt from taxation, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements.

The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The Plan Sponsor believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2005.

8. Plan Termination

The Company reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions, though no such termination is planned. Upon such termination of the Plan, the interest of each participant in the trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the Code. Upon termination of the Plan, the Benefit Plans Committee shall direct the trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the trust fund. In the event of Plan termination, all participants would become 100% vested in all of their accounts.

9. Related Parties

A substantial portion of the Plan's investments are shares of mutual funds managed by Vanguard. Vanguard is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, the buying and selling of such shares would qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

Loan fees paid by participants of \$15,983 for the year ended December 31, 2011 represent maintenance fees paid to Vanguard by Plan participants.

The Plan Sponsor pays for certain expenses related to the Plans. These expenses include asset management fees to registered investment companies other than Vanguard and legal fees. During 2011, the Plan Sponsor paid \$190,759 to Vanguard for administration fees and approximately \$128,274 for legal expenses related to the Plans.

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A participant may change the investment of any portion of the participant's account that is invested in the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund into one or more other investment funds at any time in accordance with Plan rules.

Effective April 30, 2004, the Plan Sponsor established an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) as a component of the Plan. Under the ESOP, the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund became an available investment option for participants of the Plan. This program allows participants to transfer up to 25% of their current account balance into the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund as well as allocate up to 25% of future contributions to the fund.

Each participant who has any portion of his account invested in the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund may elect to have dividends paid on Assurant, Inc. stock held in his account either paid to him in cash or to have such dividends reinvested in the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund. Each participant will be 100% vested at all times in any cash dividends that he elects to have either reinvested in the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund or paid to him.

When any participant who has not made an election regarding payment of dividends first invests into the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund, he shall be given the opportunity to make such an election. If a participant fails to make such an election, any dividends paid on the Assurant, Inc. stock will be reinvested in the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund.

The Plan held no investments in the Assurant, Inc. Stock Fund at December 31, 2011. At December 31, 2010, the Plan held 36,374 shares of common stock of Assurant, Inc., with a fair value of and \$1,401,142 and a cost basis of \$1,298,071. For the year ended December 31, 2011, the Plan recorded dividend income of \$25,899 from the investment in Assurant, Inc. common stock.

10. Risks and Uncertainties

Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate fluctuations, market volatility and credit quality. The market, credit, investment, and liquidity risks associated with each of the mutual funds in which the Plan invests are described in the prospectus and statement of additional information for each of the mutual funds. The Plan is subject to such risks as a result of its investment in the mutual funds.

The price of securities held by the Fund may decline in response to certain events, including those directly involving the companies whose securities are owned by the Fund; conditions affecting the general economy; overall market changes; local, regional or global political, social or economic instability; and currency, interest rate and commodity price fluctuations. The growth-oriented, equity-type securities generally purchased by the Fund may involve large price swings and potential for loss.

Investments in securities issued by entities based outside the United States may be subject to the risk described above and may also be affected by currency controls; different accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and legal standards and practices in some countries; expropriation; changes in tax policy; greater market volatility; differing securities market structures; higher transaction costs; and various administrative difficulties, such as delays in clearing and settling portfolio transactions or in receiving payment of dividends. These risks may be heightened in connection with investments in developing countries.

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11. Reconciliation of Plan Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements as of December 31, 2011 and 2010.

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$	\$ 66,507,239
Less: Deemed distributions from current year		(24,740)
Less: Deemed distributions from prior years		(2,052)
 Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	 \$	 \$ 66,480,447

Deemed distributions are loans in default and are determined to be uncollectible.

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SIGNATURES

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Administrator of the Assurant, Inc. 401(k) Plan A has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: June 25, 2012

Assurant 401(k) Plan A

By: /s/ Robyn Price Stonehill
Name: *Robyn Price Stonehill*
Title: **SVP, Compensation and Benefits,**

Member of the Benefit Plans Committee

(Plan Administrator)

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EXHIBIT INDEX

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