

UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORP  
Form 10-Q/A  
March 10, 2004

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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## FORM 10-Q/A

(Amendment No. 2)

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)**

**OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

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

For the quarterly period ended **June 30, 2003**

**OR**

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 1-9712

# UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**62-1147325**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**8410 West Bryn Mawr, Suite 700, Chicago, Illinois 60631**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(773) 399-8900**

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 the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class	Outstanding at June 30, 2003
Common Shares, \$1 par value	53,132,721 Shares
Series A Common Shares, \$1 par value	33,005,877 Shares

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

United States Cellular Corporation ( U.S. Cellular ) is filing this Amendment No. 2 to its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, which was originally filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ) on August 8, 2003, and which was amended by Amendment No. 1 on February 17, 2004 (the "Quarterly Report"), to amend Part 1, Item 1 "Financial Statements" and Item 2 "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition" and Part II, Item 6 "Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K" of the Quarterly Report. In addition, as required by Rule 12b-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, updated certifications by the U.S. Cellular principal executive officer and principal financial officer are being filed as exhibits to this Form 10Q/A.

This amendment does not amend any other Items except those indicated above and does not update any of the disclosures contained in the Quarterly Report as previously amended except as expressly provided herein. The filing of this Form 10-Q/A shall not be deemed an admission that the original or amended filings, when made, included any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary to make a statement not misleading.

UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION

**2ND QUARTER REPORT ON FORM 10-Q/A**

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**



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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

Unaudited

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003 (As Restated)	2002 (As Restated)	2003 (As Restated)	2002 (As Restated)
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)				
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>				
Service	\$ 610,109	\$ 501,153	\$ 1,174,710	\$ 962,266
Equipment sales	29,701	23,186	61,014	40,493
Total Operating Revenues	639,810	524,339	1,235,724	1,002,759
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
System operations (excluding Depreciation shown separately below)	147,032	118,138	284,997	226,059
Marketing and selling	98,548	78,899	207,469	158,125
Cost of equipment sold	57,362	36,588	122,127	66,955
General and administrative	175,638	113,033	333,087	221,511
Depreciation	87,463	68,957	182,363	134,934
Amortization and accretion	17,231	7,452	31,908	14,227
Loss on assets held for sale	3,500		27,000	
Total Operating Expenses	586,774	423,067	1,188,951	821,811
OPERATING INCOME	53,036	101,272	46,773	180,948
<b>INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>				
Investment income	13,484	7,287	25,862	17,748
Interest income	376	1,375	803	2,413
Other income (expense), net	1,145	1,268	979	1,626
Interest expense	(16,444)	(8,657)	(31,898)	(17,687)
Loss on investments		(244,699)	(3,500)	(244,699)
Total Investment and Other Income (Expense)	(1,439)	(243,426)	(7,754)	(240,599)
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND MINORITY INTEREST	51,597	(142,154)	39,019	(59,651)
Income tax expense (benefit)	21,656	(54,993)	20,507	(19,316)
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE MINORITY INTEREST	29,941	(87,161)	18,512	(40,335)
Minority share of income	(1,630)	(1,221)	(4,859)	(3,654)
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF ACCOUNTING CHANGES	28,311	(88,382)	13,653	(43,989)
Cumulative effect of accounting changes, net of tax			(14,346)	4,097
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
<b>BASIC WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING (000s)</b>				
	86,134	86,083	86,127	86,068

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BASIC EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE (Note 6)								
Income (Loss) Before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	0.16	\$	(0.51)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes						(0.17)		0.05
Net Income (Loss)	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.46)
DILUTED WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING(000s)								
		86,501		86,083		86,483		86,068
DILUTED EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE (Note 6)								
Income (Loss) Before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	0.16	\$	(0.51)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes						(0.17)		0.05
Net Income (Loss)	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.46)

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIESCONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWSUnaudited

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002
	(As Restated)	(As Restated)
	(Dollars in thousands)	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net income (loss)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
Add (Deduct) adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation, amortization and accretion	214,271	149,161
Deferred income tax provision	18,051	(56,688)
Investment income	(25,862)	(17,748)
Minority share of income	4,859	3,654
Cumulative effect of accounting changes	14,346	(4,097)
Loss on assets held for sale	27,000	
Loss on investments	3,500	244,699
Other noncash expense	7,021	5,702
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Change in accounts receivable	35,229	(20,506)
Change in inventory	(32,643)	26,785
Change in accounts payable	(91,449)	(19,462)
Change in accrued interest	562	504
Change in accrued taxes	17,472	31,652
Change in customer deposits and deferred revenues	13,007	9,798
Change in other assets and liabilities	(9,679)	(6,771)
	194,992	306,791
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(294,461)	(236,061)
System development costs	(9,541)	(20,713)
Refund of deposit from FCC		47,565
Acquisitions, excluding cash acquired	(1,244)	(18,010)
Distributions from unconsolidated entities	17,564	5,773
Other investing activities	(1,527)	(2,097)
	(289,209)	(223,543)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from contracts payable		159,918
Increase in notes payable	239,278	57,444
Repayment of notes payable	(94,278)	(306,444)
Repurchase of long-term debt	(40,680)	

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Capital (distributions) to minority partners	(1,706)	(3,616)
Other financing activities	2,428	(1,247)
	105,042	(93,945)
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>10,825</b>	<b>(10,697)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS-</b>		
Beginning of period	14,864	28,941
End of period	\$ 25,689	\$ 18,244

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements  
are an integral part of these statements.

**UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETSASSETS

(Unaudited)

	June 30, 2003	December 31, 2002
	(As Restated)	
	(Dollars in thousands)	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents		
General funds	\$ 24,966	\$ 14,155
Affiliated cash equivalents	723	709
	25,689	14,864
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
Customers, less allowance of \$19,330 and \$17,866, respectively	193,554	220,430
Roaming	42,203	53,545
Other	32,345	41,276
Inventory	87,498	55,490
Prepaid expenses	23,272	19,749
Prepaid income taxes	16,142	26,610
Other current assets	24,153	21,309
	444,856	453,273
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
Licenses	979,759	1,038,556
Goodwill	547,663	643,629
Customer lists, net of accumulated amortization of \$15,543 and \$6,567, respectively	31,111	40,087
Marketable equity securities	202,879	185,961
Investments in unconsolidated entities	171,214	161,451
Notes and interest receivable long-term	6,476	7,287
	1,939,102	2,076,971
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
In service and under construction	3,251,063	3,085,583
Less accumulated depreciation	1,167,121	1,051,792
	2,083,942	2,033,791
<b>DEFERRED CHARGES</b>		
System development costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$104,133 and \$89,320, respectively	107,375	114,642
Other, net of accumulated amortization of \$5,486 and \$5,023, respectively	20,613	21,164
	127,988	135,806
<b>ASSETS OF OPERATIONS HELD FOR SALE</b>	<b>223,876</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,819,764</b>	<b>\$ 4,699,841</b>

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

are an integral part of these statements.



UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETSLIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(Unaudited)

	June 30, 2003	December 31, 2002
	(As Restated)	
	(Dollars in thousands)	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
9% senior notes	\$	\$ 45,200
Notes payable	605,000	460,000
Accounts payable		
Affiliates	4,170	4,958
Trade	205,863	301,929
Customer deposits and deferred revenues	92,898	82,639
Accrued interest	9,858	9,295
Accrued taxes	30,593	24,401
Accrued compensation	26,541	30,279
Other current liabilities	23,040	20,323
	997,963	979,024
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>		
Long-term debt-affiliated	105,000	105,000
6% zero coupon convertible debentures	153,065	148,604
7.25% notes	250,000	250,000
8.75% notes	130,000	130,000
Variable prepaid forward contracts	159,856	159,856
Other	13,000	13,000
	810,921	806,460
<b>DEFERRED LIABILITIES AND CREDITS</b>		
Net deferred income tax liability	436,956	424,728
Asset retirement obligation	58,761	
Derivative liability	15,368	8,709
Other	11,195	10,818
	522,280	444,255
<b>LIABILITIES OF OPERATIONS HELD FOR SALE</b>	9,005	
<b>MINORITY INTEREST</b>	57,723	55,068
<b>COMMON SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Common Shares, par value \$1 per share; authorized 140,000,000 Shares; issued and outstanding 55,046,268 shares	55,046	55,046
Series A Common Shares, par value \$1 per share; authorized 50,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 33,005,877 shares	33,006	33,006
Additional paid-in capital	1,306,970	1,307,185
Treasury Shares, at cost, 1,913,547 and 1,932,322 shares, respectively	(115,757)	(117,262)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	16,546	10,307
Retained earnings	1,126,061	1,126,752

			2,421,872		2,415,034
Total Liabilities and Shareholders	Equity	\$	4,819,764	\$	4,699,841

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

are an integral part of these statements.

UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared by United States Cellular Corporation ( U.S. Cellular ), without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and note disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( U.S. GAAP ) have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations, although U.S. Cellular believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. It is suggested that these consolidated financial statements be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in U.S. Cellular 's latest annual report on Form 10-K.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring items) necessary to present fairly the financial position as of June 30, 2003 and December 31, 2002, the results of operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2003 and 2002, and the cash flows for the six months ended June 30, 2003 and 2002. The results of operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2003, are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

Certain amounts reported in prior periods have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

U.S. Cellular adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations, in January 2003. In the fourth quarter of 2003, U.S. Cellular revised the probability that its lease cell sites would require remediation resulting in U.S. Cellular restating its financial statements for the three and six months ended June 30, 2003. See Note 5 Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes and Note 16 Restatement of Financial Statements.

U.S. Cellular made changes to its accounting policies, which required it to restate certain items on its income statement for the three and six months ended June 30, 2002. See Note 5 Effects of 2002 Accounting Changes for the impact on operating income, net income (loss) and earnings (loss) per share.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Asset Retirement Obligation (As Restated)

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 143 Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations was issued in June 2001, and became effective for U.S. Cellular beginning January 1, 2003. SFAS No. 143 requires entities to record the fair value of a liability for legal

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obligations associated with an asset retirement in the period in which the obligations are incurred. When the liability is initially recorded, the entity capitalizes the cost of the asset retirement obligation by increasing the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. Over time, the liability is accreted to its present value each period, and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. Upon settlement of the obligation, any difference between the cost to retire the asset and the liability recorded is recognized in the statement of operations as a gain or loss.

U.S. Cellular is subject to asset retirement obligations associated primarily with its cell sites, retail sites and office locations. Legal obligations include obligations to remediate leased land on which U.S. Cellular's cell sites and switching offices are located. U.S. Cellular is also required to return lease retail store premises and office space to their pre-existing conditions.

U.S. Cellular determined that it had an obligation to remove long-lived assets in its cell sites, retail sites and office locations as described by SFAS 143, and recorded a \$54.4 million liability upon adoption. U.S. Cellular also recorded a charge for a non-cash cumulative change in accounting

principle of \$14.3 million representing accumulated accretion and depreciation through December 31, 2002. The asset retirement obligation increased by \$4.4 million to \$58.8 million as of June 30, 2003. The increase was due to additional liabilities incurred of \$2.2 million and accretion of \$2.2 million. See Note 16 Restatement of Financial Statements for a discussion of the periodic impact due to accretion and depreciation.

In accordance with the transition rules of SFAS No. 143, the following pro forma amounts show the effect of the retroactive application of the change in accounting principle for the adoption of SFAS No. 143:

	Three months ended June 30,		Six months ended June 30,	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
<b>Actual</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.03)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.46)
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.03)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.46)
<b>Pro forma</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$ 28,311	\$ (89,119)	\$ 13,653	\$ (41,347)
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.04)	\$ 0.16	\$ (0.48)
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.04)	\$ 0.16	\$ (0.48)

	At December 31, 2002	At January 1, 2002
<b>Pro forma Balance Sheet Data</b>		
Asset Retirement Obligation	\$ 54,438	\$ 45,246

#### Assets and Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale

On March 10, 2003, U.S. Cellular announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement with AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. ( AT&T Wireless ) to exchange wireless properties. When this transaction is fully consummated, U.S. Cellular will receive 10 and 20 megahertz personal communication service licenses in 13 states, approximately \$31 million in cash (excluding a working capital adjustment) and minority interests in six markets it currently controls. U.S. Cellular will transfer wireless assets and customers in 10 markets in Florida and Georgia to AT&T Wireless. The assignment and development of certain licenses will be deferred by U.S. Cellular for a period of up to five years from the closing date, in accordance with the exchange agreement. The acquisition of licenses in the exchange will be accounted for as a purchase by U.S. Cellular and the transfer of the properties by U.S. Cellular to AT&T Wireless will be accounted for as a sale. The closing of the transfer of the U.S. Cellular properties to AT&T Wireless and the assignments to U.S. Cellular from AT&T Wireless of a portion of the personal communication service licenses will occur on August 1, 2003.

In accordance with SFAS No. 144 Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets , the balance sheet as of June 30, 2003 reflects the assets and liabilities of the wireless properties to be transferred to AT&T Wireless as assets and liabilities of operations held for sale. The assets and liabilities of operations held for sale have been presented separately in the asset and liability sections of the balance sheet. The revenues and expenses of these markets are included in operations. See Note 9 - Assets and Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale for a summary of assets and liabilities of the markets to be disposed of.

Stock-Based Compensation

U.S. Cellular accounts for stock options, stock appreciation rights ( SARs ) and employee stock purchase plans under Accounting Principles Board ( APB ) Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees as allowed by SFAS No. 123 Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation .

No compensation costs have been recognized for the stock option and employee stock purchase plans. Had compensation costs for all plans been expensed and the value determined consistent with SFAS No. 123, U.S. Cellular's net income (loss) and earnings per share would have been reduced to the following pro forma amounts.

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
	As Restated		As Restated	
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)				
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>				
As Reported	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
Pro Forma Expense	2,183	1,201	3,491	2,402
Pro Forma Net Income (Loss)	\$ 26,128	\$ (89,583)	\$ (4,184)	\$ (42,294)
<b>Basic Earnings Per Share</b>				
As Reported	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.03)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.46)
Pro Forma Expense Per Share	(0.03)	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.03)
Pro Forma Basic Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.30	\$ (1.04)	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.49)
<b>Diluted Earnings Per Share</b>				
As Reported	\$ 0.33	\$ (1.03)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.46)
Pro Forma Expense Per Share	(0.03)	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.03)
Pro Forma Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.30	\$ (1.04)	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.49)

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

SFAS No. 149 *Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities* was issued in April 2003, and is effective for contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003 and for hedging relationships designated after June 30, 2003. SFAS No. 149 amends and clarifies financial accounting and reporting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts and for hedging activities under SFAS No. 133 *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. U.S. Cellular will adopt the provisions of this Standard to contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003 and to hedging relationships designated after June 30, 2003. Since the provisions of this Statement will be applied prospectively, there will be no impact on U.S. Cellular's June 30, 2003 financial position or results of operations.

SFAS No. 150 *Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity* was issued in May 2003, and is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise beginning July 1, 2003. SFAS No. 150 requires freestanding financial instruments within its scope to be recorded as a liability in the financial statements. Freestanding financial instruments include mandatorily redeemable financial instruments, obligations to repurchase issuer's equity shares and certain obligations to issue a variable number of issuer's shares. As of June 30, 2003, U.S. Cellular has no freestanding financial instruments within the scope of SFAS No. 150. Upon adoption, this Statement is not expected to have any effect on U.S. Cellular's financial position or results of operations.

FASB Interpretation No. 46 ( *FIN 46* ) *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities* was issued in January 2003, and is effective for all variable interests in variable interest entities created after January 31, 2003, and is effective July 1, 2003 for variable interests in variable interest entities created before February 1, 2003. This Interpretation clarifies the application of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51 *Consolidated Financial Statements* to certain entities in which equity investors do not have the characteristics of a controlling financial interest or do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. U.S. Cellular has reviewed the provisions of FIN 46 and has determined that it does not have an impact on U.S. Cellular's financial position or results of operations.

3. Income Taxes

Net income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change includes losses from investments and losses on assets held for sale for the three and six months ended June 30, 2003 and 2002. The following table summarizes the effective income tax (benefit) rates in each of the periods from net income before cumulative effect of accounting change excluding losses and from net income before cumulative effect of accounting change.



	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
	As Restated		As Restated	
Effective Tax Rate From				
Income before cumulative effect of accounting change excluding losses on investments and assets held for sale	41.6%	43.0%	41.6%	43.1%
Losses on investments and assets held for sale	(35.3)%	(40.5)%	(27.5)%	(40.5)%
Income (Loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change	42.0%	38.7%	52.6%	32.4%

#### 4. Loss on Investments

U.S. Cellular recorded a license impairment loss of \$3.5 million (\$2.1 million after subtracting taxes of \$1.4 million) in the first quarter of 2003 related to the investment in a non-operational market in Florida that will remain with U.S. Cellular after the exchange with AT&T Wireless is completed.

The loss on investments in 2002 reflects an other than temporary investments loss of \$244.7 million (\$145.6 million, net of \$99.1 million of income taxes) on U.S. Cellular's marketable equity securities. The adjusted cost basis of U.S. Cellular's marketable equity securities was written down to market value upon determining that the unrealized losses on the securities were other than temporary.

#### 5. Cumulative Effects of Accounting Changes (as restated)

Effective January 1, 2003, U.S. Cellular adopted SFAS No.143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations and recorded the initial liability for legal obligations associated with an asset retirement. The cumulative effect of the implementation of this accounting standard on periods prior to 2003 was recorded in the first quarter of 2003, decreasing net income by \$14.3 million, net of tax and minority interest, or \$0.17 per basic and diluted share.

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U.S. Cellular made certain changes to its accounting policies in the fourth quarter of 2002 which required U.S. Cellular to restate certain items on its income statement for the three and six month periods ending June 30, 2002. Other than the cumulative effect of the accounting change, none of the prior period changes have a significant impact on operating income, net income (loss) or earnings per share for the periods presented below.

	<b>Three Months Ended June 30, 2002</b>		
	<b>As Reported</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>As Restated</b>
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)			
<b>Effects of 2002 Accounting Changes</b>			
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Changes related to EITF 01-09 reclassification (1)	\$ 527,710	\$ (3,371)	\$ 524,339
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Changes related to EITF 01-09 reclassification (1)		(3,371)	
Changes related to SAB 101(2)		(1,223)	
	427,661	(4,594)	423,067
Operating Income	100,049	1,223	101,272
(Loss) before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Change	(89,102)	720	(88,382)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Change (2)			
Net (Loss)	\$ (89,102)	\$ 720	\$ (88,382)
<b>Earnings Per Share Cumulative Effect of Accounting Change</b>			
Basic	\$	\$	\$
Fully Diluted	\$	\$	\$
<b>Earnings Per Share Net (Loss)</b>			
Basic	\$ (1.04)	\$ .01	\$ (1.03)
Fully Diluted	\$ (1.04)	\$ .01	\$ (1.03)

	<b>Six Months Ended June 30, 2002</b>		
	<b>As Reported</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>As Restated</b>
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)			
<b>Effects of 2002 Accounting Changes</b>			
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Changes related to EITF 01-09 reclassification (1)	\$ 1,006,130	\$ (3,371)	\$ 1,002,759
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Changes related to EITF 01-09 reclassification (1)		(3,371)	
Changes related to SAB 101(2)		(2,053)	
	827,235	(5,424)	821,811
Operating Income	178,895	2,053	180,948
(Loss) before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Change	(45,210)	1,221	(43,989)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Change (2)		4,097	4,097
Net (Loss)	\$ (45,210)	\$ 5,318	\$ (39,892)

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Earnings Per Share	Cumulative Effect of Accounting Change					
Basic	\$		\$	0.05	\$	0.05
Fully Diluted	\$		\$	0.05	\$	0.05

Earnings Per Share	Net (Loss)					
Basic	\$	(0.53)	\$	0.07	\$	(0.46)
Fully Diluted	\$	(0.53)	\$	0.07	\$	(0.46)

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(1) U.S. Cellular changed its accounting for certain rebate transactions pursuant to Emerging Issues Task Force Statement No. 01-09 ( EITF No. 01-09 ) in the fourth quarter of 2002. Under EITF No. 01-09, all rebates paid to agents who participate in qualifying new activation and retention transactions are recorded as a reduction of equipment sales revenues. Previously, U.S. Cellular had recorded new activation rebates as marketing and selling expense and retention rebates as general and administrative expense. Further, these rebates are now recorded at the time handsets are sold by U.S. Cellular to these agents. Previously, U.S. Cellular recorded these transactions at the time the handsets were delivered by agents to U.S. Cellular's customers.

(2) U.S. Cellular changed its accounting policy related to certain transactions pursuant to Staff Accounting Bulletin ( SAB ) No. 101 during the fourth quarter of 2002. U.S. Cellular had adopted SAB No. 101 as of January 1, 2000, and began deferring certain customer activation fees as of that date. As permitted by SAB No. 101, as of January 1, 2002, U.S. Cellular began deferring commissions expenses equal to the amount of activation fees deferred. In conjunction with this change, U.S. Cellular recorded a \$4.1 million addition to net income as of January 1, 2002, related to commissions expenses which would have been deferred in prior years had U.S. Cellular adopted its new policy at the time it adopted SAB No. 101.

## 6. Earnings per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed using net income available to common and weighted average common shares adjusted to include the effect of potentially dilutive securities. Potentially dilutive securities included in diluted earnings per share represent incremental shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding stock options and conversion of debentures.

The amounts used in computing Earnings per Common and Series A Common Shares and the effect on income and the weighted average number of Common and Series A Common Shares of dilutive potential common stock are as follows:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003 As Restated	2002	2003 As Restated	2002
(Dollars and shares in thousands)				
<b>Basic Earnings per Share:</b>				
Income (Loss) Before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ 13,653	\$ (43,989)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes			(14,346)	4,097
Net Income (Loss) used in Basic Earnings per Share	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
<b>Diluted Earnings per Share:</b>				
Income (Loss) Before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ 13,653	\$ (43,989)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes			(14,346)	4,097
Net Income (Loss) used in Diluted Earnings per Share	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
Weighted Average Number of Common Shares used in Basic Earnings per Share	86,134	86,083	86,127	86,068
<b>Effect of Dilutive Securities:</b>				
Stock options and stock appreciation rights (1)	367		356	
Weighted Average Number of Common Shares used in Diluted Earnings per Share	86,501	86,083	86,483	86,068

## Basic Earnings per Share:

Income (Loss) Before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	0.16	\$	(0.51)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes						(0.17)		0.05
	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.46)

## Diluted Earnings per Share:

Income (Loss) Before Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	0.16	\$	(0.51)
Cumulative Effect of Accounting Changes						(0.17)		0.05
	\$	0.33	\$	(1.03)	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.46)

(1) Stock options and convertible debentures convertible into 3,763,000 Common shares in the three and six months ended June 30, 2002 were not included in computing Diluted Earnings per Share because their effects were antidilutive. Stock options and convertible debentures convertible into 4,369,000 Common shares in the three and six months ended June 30, 2003 were not included in computing Diluted Earnings per Share because their effects were antidilutive.

## 7. Marketable Equity Securities

U.S. Cellular and its subsidiaries hold a substantial amount of marketable equity securities that are publicly traded and can have volatile share prices. U.S. Cellular does not make direct investments in publicly traded companies and all of these interests were acquired as a result of sales, exchanges or reorganization of other investments. The market values of the marketable securities may fall below the accounting cost basis of such securities. If management determines the decline in value of the marketable securities to be other than temporary, any unrealized loss included in accumulated other comprehensive income is recognized and recorded as a loss in the Statement of Operations.

During the six months ended June 30, 2002, management determined that the decline in the value of its investment in Vodafone relative to its accounting cost basis was other than temporary and charged a \$244.7 million loss to the Statement of Operations (\$145.6 million, net of tax of \$99.1 million) and reduced the accounting cost basis of the marketable securities by a corresponding amount. The loss was reported in the caption Loss on investments in the Statement of Operations.

U.S. Cellular and its subsidiaries have entered into a number of forward contracts in 2002 related to the marketable equity securities that they hold. The risk management objective of the forward contracts is to hedge the value of the marketable equity securities from losses due to decreases in the market prices of the securities while retaining a share of gains from increases in the market prices of such securities. The downside risk is hedged at or above the accounting cost basis thereby eliminating the risk of an other than temporary loss being recorded on these contracted securities.

U.S. Cellular terminated all securities lending agreements with investment banks related to its Vodafone American Depositary Receipts in the second quarter of 2003.

Information regarding U.S. Cellular's marketable equity securities and the components of accumulated other comprehensive income are summarized below.

	June 30, 2003	December 31, 2002
(Dollars in thousands)		
<b>Marketable Equity Securities</b>		
Fair Value		
Vodafone Group Plc		
10,245,370 American Depositary Receipts	\$ 201,322	\$ 185,646
Rural Cellular Corporation		
370,882 Common Shares	1,557	315
Aggregate Fair Value	202,879	185,961
Accounting Cost Basis*	160,162	160,362
Gross Unrealized Holding Gains	42,717	25,599
Income Tax (Expense)	(16,873)	(10,111)
Unrealized Holding Gains, net of tax	25,844	15,488
Derivative Accounting, net of tax	(9,298)	(5,181)

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Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	\$	16,546	\$	10,307
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\*The accounting cost basis of the marketable equity securities was reduced by an other-than-temporary loss of \$200,000 recognized related to U.S. Cellular's investment in Rural Cellular Corporation during 2003. This loss is recorded in Other income (expense), net.

## 8. Goodwill

U.S. Cellular has recorded goodwill as a result of the acquisition of wireless licenses and markets. Included in U.S. Cellular's balance sheet is goodwill related to various acquisitions structured to be tax-free. No deferred taxes have been provided on goodwill related to tax-free acquisitions.

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the six months ended June 30, 2003 and 2002 were as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 643,629	\$ 473,975
Allocation to assets of operations held for sale (1)	(93,658)	
Other	(2,308)	
Balance, end of period	\$ 547,663	\$ 473,975

(1) See Note 9 Assets and Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale for discussion of allocation.

## 9. Assets and Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale

On March 10, 2003, U.S. Cellular announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement with AT&T Wireless to exchange wireless properties. When this transaction is fully consummated, U.S. Cellular will receive 10 and 20 megahertz personal communication service licenses in 13 states, representing 12.2 million incremental population equivalents contiguous to existing properties and 4.4 million population equivalents that overlap existing properties in the Midwest and the Northeast. U.S. Cellular will also receive approximately \$31 million in cash (excluding a working capital adjustment) and minority interests in six markets it currently controls. U.S. Cellular will transfer wireless assets and customers in 10 markets, representing 1.5 million population equivalents, in Florida and Georgia to AT&T Wireless. The assignment and development of certain licenses may be deferred by U.S. Cellular for a period of up to five years from the closing date, in accordance with the exchange agreement. The acquisition of licenses in the exchange will be accounted for as a purchase by U.S. Cellular and the transfer of the properties by U.S. Cellular to AT&T Wireless will be accounted for as a sale. The closing of the transfer of the U.S. Cellular properties to AT&T Wireless and the assignments to U.S. Cellular from AT&T Wireless of a portion of the personal communication service licenses is expected to occur on August 1, 2003. U.S. Cellular will not report the transaction as discontinued operations as disclosed in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

U.S. Cellular's consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2003 reflects the assets and liabilities to be transferred as assets and liabilities of operations held for sale in accordance with SFAS No. 144. The results of operations of the markets to be transferred continue to be included in results from operations.



U.S. Cellular allocated \$93.7 million of goodwill to assets of operations held for sale in accordance with SFAS No. 142 Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets. A \$27 million loss was recorded and reported as a loss on assets held for sale (included in operating expenses), representing the difference between the book value of the markets to be transferred to AT&T Wireless and the fair value of the assets to be received in the transaction. The fair value of the assets to be received was determined using an independent valuation. Subsequent to recording the loss, the recorded value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to transfer to AT&T Wireless is equal to the fair value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to receive from AT&T Wireless. This loss may require an adjustment during the third quarter of 2003 to reflect the final amounts of the fair value of assets received and the recorded value of the assets transferred.

U.S. Cellular anticipates that it will record an additional charge to the Statement of Operations of approximately \$12 million for income taxes and will have a current liability of approximately \$4 million related to state income taxes on the completion of the transaction. As a result of the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, enacted in May of 2003, U.S. Cellular anticipates that it will claim additional federal tax depreciation deductions in 2003. Such additional depreciation deductions are expected to result in a federal net operating loss for U.S. Cellular for 2003; accordingly, U.S. Cellular anticipates that there will be no current federal tax liability in 2003 attributable to the planned

exchange of assets with AT&T Wireless.

Assets and liabilities relating to operations held for sale are summarized as follows.

	<b>June 30, 2003</b>	
	<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>	
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	7
Accounts receivable		11,777
Other current assets		1,074
Investment in licenses		55,147
Goodwill		93,658
Property, plant and equipment, net		88,415
Loss on assets held for sale		(27,000)
Other assets		798
Assets of Operations Held for Sale	\$	223,876
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$	5,405
Other current liabilities		3,600
Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale	\$	9,005

#### 10. Common Share Repurchase Program

U.S. Cellular's Board of Directors from time to time has authorized the repurchase of U.S. Cellular Common Shares not owned by TDS. In 2000, U.S. Cellular authorized the repurchase of up to 4.2 million Common Shares through three separate 1.4 million share programs. U.S. Cellular may use repurchased shares to fund acquisitions and for other corporate purposes. There are 859,000 shares available to be repurchased under the most recent 1.4 million share authorization, which expires in December 2003.

As of June 30, 2003, U.S. Cellular had repurchased 4,139,000 Common Shares under these and other authorized programs. No shares were repurchased in the first six months of 2003 or 2002.

11. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The cumulative balance of unrealized gains and (losses) on securities and derivative instruments and related income tax effects included in Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) are as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002
(Dollars in thousands)		
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 10,307	\$ (78,997)
<b>Marketable Equity Securities</b>		
Add (Deduct):		
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities	16,918	(132,155)
Income tax (expense) benefit	(6,683)	53,591
Net unrealized gains (losses)	10,235	(78,564)
Deduct (Add):		
Recognized (losses) on securities	(200)	(244,699)
Income tax benefit	79	99,112
Net recognized (losses) from Marketable Equity Securities Included in Net Income	(121)	(145,587)
	10,356	67,023
<b>Derivative Instruments</b>		
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments	(6,659)	17,000
Income tax (expense) benefit	2,542	(6,885)
Net unrealized gains (losses) on derivative instruments	(4,117)	10,115
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) included in Comprehensive Income (Loss)	6,239	77,138
Balance, end of period	\$ 16,546	\$ (1,859)
<b>Accumulated Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivative Instruments</b>		
Balance, beginning of period	\$ (5,181)	\$
Add (Deduct):		
Change in unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments	(6,659)	17,000
Income tax (expense) benefit	2,542	(6,885)
	(4,117)	10,115
Balance, end of period	\$ (9,298)	\$ 10,115

Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
2003	2002	2003	2002

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	As Restated		As Restated	
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Comprehensive Income (Loss)				
Net Income (loss) available to common	\$ 28,311	\$ (88,382)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) on securities and derivative instruments	3,715	125,618	6,239	77,138
	\$ 32,026	\$ 37,236	\$ 5,546	\$ 37,246

12. Customer Lists

U.S. Cellular's customer lists represent intangible assets from the acquisition of wireless properties and are being amortized based on the average customer retention periods using the declining balance method. Amortization expense was \$4.5 million and \$9.0 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2003, respectively. There was no amortization of customer lists in the three and six months ended June 30, 2002. The related amortization expense for the remainder of 2003 and for the years 2004-2007 is expected to be \$6.7 million, \$9.5 million, \$5.8 million, \$3.5 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.

### 13. Supplemental Cash Flow Information

The following summarizes certain noncash transactions and interest and income taxes paid.

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Interest paid	\$ 25,704	\$ 12,178
Income taxes paid (refunds received)	(8,846)	10,503
Noncash interest expense	5,220	4,596

### 14. Contingencies

U.S. Cellular is involved in legal proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission and various state and federal courts from time to time. Management does not believe that any such proceedings should have a material adverse impact on the financial position, results of operations or cash flows of U.S. Cellular.

### 15. Subsequent Event

U.S. Cellular completed the transaction with AT&T Wireless on August 1, 2003 as contemplated and discussed in Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Note 9 Assets and Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale.

### 16. Restatement of Financial Statements

U.S. Cellular is restating its financial statements included in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003 that was originally filed on August 8, 2003. This restatement relates to the adoption of SFAS No. 143, as explained below.

U.S. Cellular adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations, effective January 1, 2003. An asset retirement obligation is the cost of closing facilities and removing assets, or performing other remediation to a property as required by contractual agreement. This accounting principle requires entities to record the estimated fair value of a legal liability for an asset retirement obligation in the period it is incurred. Adoption of this standard in the first quarter of 2003 required U.S. Cellular to recognize estimated liabilities related to the future remediation of certain leased properties. **Initially, U.S. Cellular used a zero probability in determining its liability for cell site remediation due to the absence of history of remediation.**

**During the fourth quarter of 2003, based on management's re-assessment of the assumptions used in determining probability, U.S. Cellular revised the probability that its leased cell sites would require remediation. In its restatement, U.S. Cellular uses a 100% probability in calculating the asset retirement obligation on the cell site leases.**

As a result of this change, U.S. Cellular has restated its 2003 financial statements for the first six months of 2003 to reflect a liability for future remediation of \$54.4 million and a charge of \$14.3 million, net of taxes and minority interest, as a cumulative effect of an accounting change. This cumulative effect reflects accretion and depreciation that would have been charged to expense in prior years had SFAS No. 143 been effective for periods prior to January 1, 2003. This change also resulted in additional charges to income for depreciation and non-cash accretion expense in the three and six months ended June 30, 2003. There was no impact to the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2002 or the results of operations or cash flows for the three and six months ended June 30, 2002. A summary of changes to the three and six months ended June 30, 2003 is included below.

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)	Three Months Ended June 30, 2003			As Restated
	As Originally Reported	Effects of 2003 Accounting Changes		
<b>Statement of Operations:</b>				
Depreciation expense:				
SFAS 143 reclassification of retail/office leases		\$		
SFAS 143 depreciation for period			359	
Total	\$ 87,104		359	\$ 87,463
Amortization and accretion expense	16,167		1,064	17,231
Operating Income (Loss)				
SFAS 143 reversal of one-time adjustment				
SFAS 143 depreciation for period			(359)	
SFAS 143 accretion for period			(1,064)	
Total	54,459		(1,423)	53,036
Income tax expense (benefit)	22,247		(591)	21,656
Minority share of (income) loss	(1,659)		29	(1,630)
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change	29,114		(803)	28,311
Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of tax:				
SFAS 143 retail/office leases				
SFAS 143 cell site leases				
Total	\$	\$	\$	
Net income (loss)	\$ 29,114	\$	(803)	\$ 28,311
Basic earnings per share				
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ 0.34	\$	(0.01)	\$ 0.33
Cumulative effect of accounting change	\$	\$	\$	
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.34	\$	(0.01)	\$ 0.33
Diluted earnings (loss) per share				
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ 0.34	\$	(0.01)	\$ 0.33
Cumulative effect of accounting change	\$	\$	\$	
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.34	\$	(0.01)	\$ 0.33

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)	Six Months Ended June 30, 2003			
	As Originally Reported	Effects of 2003 Accounting Changes		As Restated
<b>Statement of Operations:</b>				
Depreciation expense:				
SFAS 143 reclassification of retail/office leases		\$	(1,321)	
SFAS 143 depreciation for period			708	
Total	\$ 182,976		613	\$ 182,363
Amortization and accretion expense	29,798		2,110	31,908
Operating Income (Loss)				
SFAS 143 reversal of one-time adjustment			1,321	
SFAS 143 depreciation for period			(708)	
SFAS 143 accretion for period			(2,110)	
Total	48,270		(1,497)	46,773
Income tax expense (benefit)	21,129		(622)	20,507
Minority share of income	(4,916)		57	(4,859)
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change	14,471		(818)	13,653
Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of tax:				
SFAS 143 retail/office leases			(799)	
SFAS 143 cell site leases			(13,547)	
Total			(14,346)	(14,346)
Net income (loss)	\$ 14,471	\$	(15,164)	\$ (693)
Basic earnings (loss) per share				
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ 0.17	\$	(0.01)	\$ 0.16
Cumulative effect of accounting change	\$	\$	(0.17)	\$ (0.17)
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.17	\$	(0.18)	\$ (0.01)
Diluted earnings (loss) per share				
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ 0.17	\$	(0.01)	\$ 0.16
Cumulative effect of accounting change	\$	\$	(0.17)	\$ (0.17)
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.17	\$	(0.18)	\$ (0.01)
<b>Balance Sheet:</b>				
Prepaid income taxes	\$ 16,089	\$	53	\$ 16,142
Property, plant and equipment in service	3,214,214		36,849	3,251,063
Accumulated depreciation	(1,159,849)		(7,272)	(1,167,121)



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Total Assets	\$	4,790,134	\$	29,630	\$	4,819,764
Net deferred income tax liability	\$	447,194	\$	(10,238)	\$	436,956
Asset retirement obligation				58,761		58,761
Other deferred liabilities and credits		14,404		(3,209)		11,195
Minority interest		58,243		(520)		57,723
Retained earnings		1,141,225		(15,164)		1,126,061
Total Liabilities and Stockholders Equity	\$	4,790,134	\$	29,630	\$	4,819,764

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

United States Cellular Corporation ( U.S. Cellular - AMEX symbol: USM) owns, operates and invests in wireless markets throughout the United States. U.S. Cellular is an 82.2%-owned subsidiary of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. ( TDS ).

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with U.S. Cellular's interim consolidated financial statements and footnotes included herein, and with its audited consolidated financial statements and footnotes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

U.S. Cellular is restating certain portions of its management's discussion and analysis of results of operations and financial condition included in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003 that was originally filed on August 8, 2003. This restatement relates to the adoption of SFAS No. 143, as explained below.

U.S. Cellular adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations, effective January 1, 2003. An asset retirement obligation is the cost of closing facilities and removing assets, or performing other remediation to a property as required by contractual agreement. This accounting principle requires entities to record the estimated fair value of a legal liability for an asset retirement obligation in the period it is incurred. Adoption of this standard in the first quarter of 2003 required U.S. Cellular to recognize estimated liabilities related to the future remediation of certain leased properties. During the fourth quarter of 2003, U.S. Cellular revised the probability that its leased cell sites would require remediation.

As a result of this change, U.S. Cellular has restated its financial statements for the first six months of 2003 to reflect a liability for future remediation of \$54.4 million and a charge of \$14.3 million, net of taxes and minority interest, as a cumulative effect of an accounting change. This cumulative effect reflects amounts that would have been charged to expense in prior years had SFAS No. 143 been effective for periods prior to January 1, 2003. This change also requires additional charges to income for depreciation and non-cash accretion expense in the second quarter and first six months of 2003. See Note 16 Restatement of Financial Statements.

U.S. Cellular is also including additional disclosures such as, but not limited to, defining the calculation of certain statistics, defining equivalent access lines, deleting acronyms, including total dollars in narratives, disclosing the make-up of selling and marketing cost per gross customer activation and disclosing additional information on critical accounting policies and estimates.

Except as expressly stated herein, this amendment does not update any of the disclosures contained in the original filing to reflect any events that occurred after the original filing date of August 8, 2003.

U.S. Cellular owned, or had the right to acquire pursuant to certain agreements, either majority or minority interests in 165 cellular markets and 70 personal communications service basic trading area markets at June 30, 2003. The markets in which U.S. Cellular has a controlling interest for financial reporting purposes ( consolidated markets ) include 10 markets that it transferred to AT&T Wireless on August 1, 2003 pursuant to

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an agreement reached in March 2003. U.S. Cellular expects to receive from AT&T Wireless controlling interests in 36 personal communication service licenses and minority interests in six cellular markets in which U.S. Cellular currently owns a controlling interest, 14 of which were transferred to it on August 1, 2003. A summary of the number of markets U.S. Cellular owns or has acquirable as of June 30, 2003 follows.

	Number of Markets
Consolidated markets which have begun marketing activities and have signed up customers for service ( operational consolidated markets ) (1)	150
Consolidated markets which have not yet begun marketing activities	28
Consolidated markets to be acquired pursuant to existing agreements (2)	35
Operational consolidated markets to be divested pursuant to existing agreements (1)	(10)
Minority interests accounted for using equity method	26
Minority interests accounted for using cost method	6
Total current and acquirable	235

(1) Includes the 10 markets transferred to AT&T Wireless, as the operations of these markets are included in U.S. Cellular's consolidated results for 2003.

(2) Excludes one personal communication service licensed area to be acquired from AT&T Wireless in which U.S. Cellular current owns a personal communication service license. The other 35 personal communication service licenses to be acquired from AT&T Wireless are in areas in which U.S. Cellular does not currently own a personal communication service license.

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

### **Six Months Ended 6/30/03 Compared to Six Months Ended 6/30/02**

Following is a table of summarized operating data for U.S. Cellular's consolidated operations.

	Six Months Ended or At June 30, (1)	
	2003	2002
Total market population (in thousands) (2)	41,288	30,384
Customers	4,343,000	3,547,000
Market penetration	10.52%	11.67%
Markets in operation	150	148
Total employees	6,200	5,175
Cell sites in service	4,106	3,145
Average monthly service revenue per customer (3)	\$ 46.24	\$ 45.82
Postpay churn rate per month (4)	1.5%	1.8%
Marketing cost per gross customer addition	\$ 367	\$ 374(5) (6)

(1) All amounts in both periods include the results of the 10 markets transferred to AT&T Wireless.

(2) Represents 100% of the population of U.S. Cellular's consolidated markets, regardless of whether the market has begun marketing operations. The total market population of 1.5 million in the 10 markets that U.S. Cellular transferred to AT&T Wireless is included in this amount, as the customers and operating results of these 10 markets are included in U.S. Cellular's consolidated results for both periods presented. Market penetration is calculated using 2002 and 2001 Claritas population estimates for 2003 and 2002, respectively.

(3) Average monthly service revenue per customer is calculated as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30, 2002  As Restated
Service Revenues per statement of operations	\$ 1,174,710	\$ 962,266
Divided by average customers during period (000s)	4,234	3,500
Divided by six months in each period	6	6
Average monthly revenue per unit	\$ 46.24	\$ 45.82

(4) Postpay churn rate per month represents the percentage of the customer base on postpay service plans (i.e., service plans where customers are billed in arrears for service) which disconnects service each month. The calculation divide the total number of customers on postpay service plans who disconnect service during the period by the number of months in such period, then divides that quotient by the average monthly postpay service customer base for such period.

(5) Restated to reflect U.S. Cellular's change in application of Staff Accounting Bulletin ( SAB ) No. 101 in 2002.

(6) For a discussion of the components of this calculation, see Operating Expenses Cost of Equipment Sold .

U.S. Cellular's operations include 100% of the revenues and expenses of its consolidated markets plus its corporate office operations. Operating revenues, driven by a 22% increase in customers served, rose \$232.9 million, or 23%, to \$1,235.7 million in 2003 from \$1,002.8 in 2002. Operating expenses, driven by growth in customers, fixed assets and minutes of use and the continued integration of the Chicago market into its operations, increased \$367.2 million, or 45%, to \$1,189.0 million in 2003 from \$821.8 million in 2002. Operating income decreased \$134.2 million, or 74%, to \$46.8 million in 2003 from \$181.0 million in 2002. The decline in operating income primarily reflects increases in all recurring operating expense captions that were larger than the growth in operating revenues. In addition, U.S. Cellular recorded a loss, included in operating expenses, of \$27.0 million in 2003 related to the assets transferred to AT&T Wireless. U.S. Cellular expects operating income for the full year of 2003 to be lower than in 2002.

Investment and other (expense) totaled \$7.8 million in 2003 and \$240.6 million in 2002. In 2003, interest expense increased related to the financing of the acquisition of the Chicago market during the second half of 2002. In 2002, U.S. Cellular recorded a loss of \$244.7 million on the other than temporary writedown of its marketable securities. Net income (loss) and diluted earnings per share totaled a loss of \$0.7 million and \$(0.01), respectively, in 2003 and a loss of \$39.9 million and \$(0.46), respectively, in 2002. Excluding the after-tax effects of the cumulative effect of accounting change, net income (loss) and diluted earnings per share totaled income of \$13.7 million and \$0.16, respectively, in 2003 and a loss of \$44.0 million and \$(0.51), respectively, in 2002.

On August 7, 2002, U.S. Cellular completed the acquisition of the assets and certain liabilities of Chicago 20, LLC, now known as United States Cellular Operating Company of Chicago, LLC ( USCOC of Chicago or the Chicago market ) from PrimeCo Wireless Communications LLC ( PrimeCo ). USCOC of Chicago operates a wireless system in the Chicago major trading area. USCOC of Chicago is the holder of certain FCC licenses, including a 20 megahertz personal communication service license in the Chicago major trading area (excluding Kenosha County, Wisconsin) covering a total population of 13.2 million. The Chicago market's operations are included in consolidated operations for the first half of 2003 but not for the comparable period of 2002. The Chicago market's operations contributed to the increases in U.S. Cellular's operating revenues and expenses during 2003 compared to 2002.

## **Operating Revenues**



## Six Months Ended June 30,

2003 2002

(Dollars in millions)

Operating Revenues			
Retail service	\$	962.5	\$ 774.1
Inbound roaming		111.4	116.7
Long-distance and other		100.8	71.5
Service Revenues		1,174.7	962.3
Equipment sales		61.0	40.5
Total Operating Revenues	\$	1,235.7	\$ 1,002.8

*Operating revenues* increased \$232.9 million, or 23%, to \$1,235.7 million in 2003 from \$1,002.8 million in 2002.

*Service revenues* primarily consist of: (i) charges for access, airtime and value-added services provided to U.S. Cellular's retail customers ( retail service ); (ii) charges to other wireless carriers whose customers use U.S. Cellular's wireless systems when roaming ( inbound roaming ); and (iii) charges for long-distance calls made on U.S. Cellular's systems. Service revenues increased \$212.4 million, or 22%, to \$1,174.7 million in 2003 from \$962.3 million in 2002. The increase was primarily due to the growing number of retail customers. Monthly service revenue per customer averaged \$46.24 in 2003, a 1% increase from an average of \$45.82 in 2002.

*Retail service revenue* increased \$188.4 million, or 24%, to \$962.5 million in 2003 from \$774.1 million in 2002. Growth in U.S. Cellular's customer base and an increase in average monthly retail service revenue per customer were the primary reasons for the increase in retail service revenue. The number of customers increased 22% to 4,343,000 at June 30, 2003, due to customer additions from its marketing channels as well as the addition of customers from the Chicago market acquisition over the past 12 months, and average monthly retail service revenue per customer increased 3% to \$37.89 in 2003.

Management anticipates that overall growth in U.S. Cellular's customer base will continue at a slower pace in the future, primarily as a result of an increase in the number of competitors in its markets and continued penetration of the consumer market. As U.S. Cellular expands its operations in the Chicago market and into other personal communication service markets in the remainder of 2003 and in 2004, it anticipates adding customers and revenues in those markets.

Monthly local retail minutes of use per customer averaged 401 in 2003 and 259 in 2002. The increase in monthly local retail minutes of use was driven by U.S. Cellular's focus on designing incentive programs and rate plans to stimulate overall usage, as well as the acquisition of the Chicago market, whose customers used more minutes per month than U.S. Cellular average. The impact on retail service revenue of the increase in minutes of use in 2003 was partially offset by a decrease in average revenue per minute of use. Management anticipates that U.S. Cellular's average revenue per minute of use will continue to decline in the future, reflecting increased competition and penetration of the consumer market.

*Inbound roaming revenue* decreased \$5.3 million, or 4%, to \$111.4 million in 2003 from \$116.7 million in 2002. The decrease in revenue related to inbound roaming on U.S. Cellular's systems primarily resulted from a decrease in revenue per roaming minute of use, partially offset by the increase in roaming minutes used. The increase in inbound roaming minutes of use was primarily driven by the overall growth in the number of customers throughout the wireless industry. The decline in revenue per minute of use is primarily due to the general downward trend in negotiated rates.

Management anticipates that the rate of growth in inbound roaming minutes of use will continue to slow down due to two factors:

newer customers may roam less than existing customers, reflecting further penetration of the consumer market, and

as new wireless operators begin service in U.S. Cellular's markets, its roaming partners may switch their business from it to these new operators or to their own systems.

Management also anticipates that average inbound roaming revenue per minute of use will continue to decline, reflecting the continued general downward trend in negotiated rates.

*Long-distance and other revenue* increased \$29.3 million, or 41%, to \$100.8 million in 2003 from \$71.5 million in 2002, primarily related to a \$19.2 million increase in amounts billed to U.S. Cellular's customers to offset costs related to certain regulatory mandates, such as universal service funding, wireless number portability and E-911 infrastructure, which are being passed through to customers. Additionally, the amounts U.S. Cellular charges to its customers to offset universal service funding costs increased significantly due to changes in FCC regulations beginning April 1, 2003, contributing to the \$19.2 million increase.

The increase in long-distance and other revenue was also driven by an increase in the volume of long-distance calls billed by U.S. Cellular from inbound roamers using U.S. Cellular's systems to make long-distance calls. This effect was partially offset by price reductions primarily related to long-distance charges on roaming minutes of use as well as U.S. Cellular's increasing use of pricing plans for its customers which include long-distance calling at no additional charge.

*Equipment sales revenues* increased \$20.5 million, or 51%, to \$61.0 million in 2003 from \$40.5 million in 2002. The increase in equipment sales revenues reflects a change in U.S. Cellular's method of distributing handsets to its agent channel. Beginning in the second quarter of 2002, U.S. Cellular began selling handsets to its agents at a price approximately equal to its cost before applying any rebates. Previously, U.S. Cellular's agents purchased handsets from third parties. Selling handsets to agents enables U.S. Cellular to provide better control over handset quality, set roaming preferences and pass along quantity discounts. Management anticipates that U.S. Cellular will continue to sell handsets to agents in the future, and that it will continue to provide rebates to agents who provide handsets to new and current customers.

In these transactions, equipment sales revenue is recognized upon delivery of the related products to the agents, net of any anticipated agent rebates. In most cases, the agents receive a rebate from U.S. Cellular at the time these agents provide handsets to sign up a new customer or retain a current customer.

Handset sales to agents, net of all rebates, increased equipment sales revenues by approximately \$27.5 million during 2003. Equipment sales to customers through U.S. Cellular's non-agent channels decreased \$7.0 million, or 20%, from 2002. Gross customer activations, the primary driver of equipment sales revenues, increased 41% in 2003. The increase in gross customer activations in 2003 was driven by an increase in store traffic in U.S. Cellular's markets and the acquisition of the Chicago market, which added to U.S. Cellular's distribution network. The decrease in equipment sales revenues from U.S. Cellular's non-agent channels is primarily attributable to lower revenue per handset in 2003, reflecting declining handset prices on most models and the reduction in sales prices to end users as a result of increased competition.

## Operating Expenses

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002
	As Restated	
	(Dollars in millions)	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
System operations (excluding Depreciation shown separately below)	\$ 285.0	\$ 226.1
Marketing and selling	207.5	158.1
Cost of equipment sold	122.1	67.0
General and administrative	333.1	221.5
Depreciation	182.4	134.9
Amortization and accretion	31.9	14.2
Loss on assets held for sale	27.0	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,189.0</b>	<b>\$ 821.8</b>

*Operating expenses* increased \$367.2 million, or 45%, to \$1,189.0 million in 2003 from \$821.8 million in 2002.

*System operations expenses (excluding depreciation)* increased \$58.9 million, or 26%, to \$285.0 million in 2003 from \$226.1 million in 2002. System operations expenses include charges from other telecommunications service providers for U.S. Cellular's customers' use of their facilities, costs related to local interconnection to the landline network, charges for maintenance of U.S. Cellular's network, long-distance charges and outbound roaming expenses. The increase in system operations expenses in 2003 was due to the following factors:

a 31% increase in the number of cell sites within U.S. Cellular's systems, to 4,106 in 2003 from 3,145 in 2002, as it continues to expand and enhance coverage in its service areas through both acquisitions and internal growth; and

increases in minutes of use both on U.S. Cellular's systems and by its customers using other systems while roaming.

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The ongoing reduction both in the per-minute cost of usage on U.S. Cellular's systems and in negotiated roaming rates partially offset the above factors.

As a result of the above factors, the components of system operations expenses were affected as follows:

maintenance, utility and cell site expenses increased \$25.8 million, or 44%;

the cost of minutes used on U.S. Cellular's systems increased \$25.6 million, or 47%; and

expenses incurred when U.S. Cellular's customers used other systems when roaming increased \$7.6 million, or 7%.

In 2003, system operations expenses increased due to the acquisition of the Chicago market, whose expenses are included in the increases noted above. The increase in expenses in the Chicago market was partially offset by a reduction in expenses in other markets, primarily in the Midwest, when customers in those markets used the Chicago system. In 2002, U.S. Cellular paid roaming charges to third parties when its customers roamed in the Chicago market.

In total, management expects system operations expenses to increase over the next few years, driven by the following factors:

increases in the number of cell sites within U.S. Cellular's systems as it continues to add capacity and

enhance quality in all markets, and begins startup activities in new markets; and

increases in minutes of use, both on U.S. Cellular's systems and by U.S. Cellular's customers on other systems when roaming.

These factors are expected to be partially offset by anticipated decreases in the per-minute cost of usage both on U.S. Cellular's systems and on other carriers' networks. As the Chicago area has historically been U.S. Cellular's customers' most popular roaming destination, management anticipates that the continued integration of the Chicago market into its operations will result in a further increase in minutes of use by U.S. Cellular's customers on its systems and a corresponding decrease in minutes of use by its customers on other systems, resulting in a lower overall increase in minutes of use by U.S. Cellular's customers on other systems. Such a shift in minutes of use should reduce U.S. Cellular's per-minute cost of usage in the future, to the extent that its customers use its systems rather than other carriers' networks. Additionally, U.S. Cellular's acquisition and subsequent buildout of licensed areas received in the AT&T Wireless transaction may shift more minutes of use to U.S. Cellular's systems, as many of these licensed areas are major roaming destinations for its current customers.

*Marketing and selling expenses* increased \$49.4 million, or 31%, to \$207.5 million in 2003 from \$158.1 million in 2002. Marketing and selling expenses primarily consist of salaries, commissions and expenses of field sales and retail personnel and offices; agent commissions and related expenses; corporate marketing, merchandise management and telesales department salaries and expenses; advertising; and public relations expenses. The increase in 2003 was primarily due to the following factors:

the 41% increase in gross customer activations in 2003, which drove a \$14.9 million, or 30%, increase in commissions and agent-related payments; and

a \$21.2 million increase in advertising costs, primarily related to the continued marketing of the U.S. Cellular brand in the Chicago market.

*Cost of equipment sold* increased \$55.1 million, or 82%, to \$122.1 million in 2003 from \$67.0 million in 2002. The increase in 2003 is primarily due to the \$52.9 million increase in handset costs related to the sale of handsets to agents beginning in the second quarter of 2002. Cost of equipment sold from non-agent channels increased by \$2.2 million, or 4%, in 2003. The increase in cost of equipment sold from non-agent channels primarily reflects a 41% increase in gross customer activations, almost fully offset by the effects of economies realized from U.S. Cellular's merchandise management system.

Sales and marketing cost per gross customer activation decreased 2% to \$367 in 2003 from \$374 in 2002. The numerator of the sales and marketing cost per gross customer activation calculation is the sum of the statement of operations line items Marketing and selling expenses and Cost of equipment sold, less Equipment sales revenues (excluding agent rebates related to customer retention), incurred during a specific period. The denominator is the number of gross new customers activated on the U.S. Cellular network during such period, excluding renewals and upgrades.

Agent rebates related to the retention of current customers increased \$13.2 million in 2003. Such handset rebate amounts paid to agents related to the renewal or upgrade of service contracts of existing U.S. Cellular customers are excluded from the numerator of the sales and marketing

cost per gross customer activation calculation, as these costs are not related to the addition of new customers. Due to the exclusion of these agent handset rebates from the calculation, sales and marketing cost per gross customer activation is not calculable using financial information derived directly from the statement of operations. U.S. Cellular's definition of sales and marketing cost per gross customer activation may not be comparable to similarly titled measures that are reported by other companies. Below is a summary of sales and marketing cost per gross customer activation for each period:

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002 (As Restated)
Components of cost (000s):		
Marketing and selling expenses	\$ 207,469	\$ 158,125
Cost of equipment sold	122,127	66,955
Less equipment sales revenues	(61,014)	(40,493)
Less retention-related agent rebate reductions of equipment sales revenues	(13,638)	(394)
Total costs	\$ 254,944	\$ 184,193
Gross customer activations (000s)	695	493
Sales and marketing cost per gross customer activation	\$ 367	\$ 374

*General and administrative expenses* increased \$111.6 million or 50%, to \$333.1 million, in 2003 from \$221.5 million in 2002. These expenses include the costs of operating U.S. Cellular's customer care centers, the costs of serving and retaining customers and the majority of its corporate expenses. Monthly general and administrative expenses per customer increased 29% to \$13.65 in 2003 from \$10.57 in 2002. General and administrative expenses represented 28% of service revenues in 2003 and 23% in 2002. The increase in general and administrative expenses in 2003 is primarily due to the following factors:

- a \$25.8 million increase in billing-related expenses, primarily due to the expenses related to the maintenance of the Chicago market's billing system and the ongoing conversion of such billing system to the system used in U.S. Cellular's other operations;

- a \$13.0 million increase in customer retention expenses;

- a \$12.0 million increase in bad debt expenses;

- a \$10.4 million increase in expenses related to payments into the federal universal service fund, based on an increase in rates due to changes in FCC regulations; and

- an increase in customer service-related expenses as a result of the 22% increase in U.S. Cellular's customer base.

The above factors were all impacted by the acquisition of the Chicago market.



U.S. Cellular anticipates that customer retention expenses will increase in the future as it changes to a single digital technology platform and certain customers will require new handsets. A substantial portion of these customer retention expenses are anticipated to be agent rebates, which are recorded as a reduction of equipment sales revenues.

*Depreciation expense* increased \$47.5 million, or 35%, to \$182.4 million in 2003 from \$134.9 million in 2002. The increases reflect rising average fixed asset balances, which increased 33% in 2003. Increased fixed asset balances in 2003 resulted from the following factors:

the addition of new cell sites built to improve coverage and capacity in U.S. Cellular's markets;

the acquisition of the Chicago market;

U.S. Cellular's migration of its network to a single digital equipment platform, which began during the second half of 2002;

the addition of digital radio channels to U.S. Cellular's network to accommodate increased usage;

upgrades to provide digital service in more of U.S. Cellular's service areas; and

investments in U.S. Cellular's billing and office systems.

See *Financial Resources and Liquidity* and *Liquidity and Capital Resources* for further discussion of U.S. Cellular's capital expenditures.

*Amortization and accretion expense* increased \$17.7 million, or 124%, to \$31.9 million in 2003 from \$14.2 million in 2002, primarily driven by the \$11.1 million of amortization related to the customer list intangible assets and other deferred charges acquired in the USCOC of Chicago transaction during 2002. These customer list assets are amortized based on the average customer retention periods of each customer list. Amortization and accretion expense includes \$2.2 million of accretion related to the asset retirement

obligation in 2003.

*Loss on assets held for sale* totaled \$27.0 million in 2003. This loss represents the difference between the fair value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to receive in the AT&T Wireless transaction, as determined by an independent valuation, and the recorded value of the assets it expects to transfer to AT&T Wireless. Subsequent to recording the loss, the recorded value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to transfer to AT&T Wireless is equal to the fair value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to receive from AT&T Wireless. This loss may require an adjustment during the third quarter of 2003 to reflect the final amounts of the fair value of assets received and the recorded value of the assets transferred.

### **Operating Income**

*Operating income* totaled \$46.8 million in 2003 compared to \$181.0 million in 2002, a \$134.2 million, or 74%, decrease. The operating income margins (as a percent of service revenues) were 4.0% in 2003 and 18.8% in 2002. The decline in operating income and operating income margin in 2003 reflects the following:

the loss on assets held for sale related to the asset exchange transaction with AT&T Wireless;

the acquisition and subsequent brand launch and transition costs related to the Chicago market;

increased general and administrative expenses, primarily driven by the acquisition and subsequent transition of the Chicago market's billing system as well as increased customer retention, bad debt and universal service funding expenses;

increased system operations expenses, primarily driven by increases in the number of cell sites in and the number of minutes used by U.S. Cellular's customers and on its network;

increased equipment subsidies, primarily due to U.S. Cellular's practice of selling handsets to agents, which began in the second quarter of 2002; and

increased depreciation expense, driven by an increase in average fixed assets related to ongoing improvements to U.S. Cellular's wireless network.

These were partially offset by increased service revenues, driven by growth in the number of customers served by U.S. Cellular's systems and an increase in average monthly revenue per customer.

U.S. Cellular expects most of the above factors, except for those related to the launch and transition of the Chicago market, to continue to have an effect on operating income and operating margins for the next several quarters. Any changes in the above factors, as well as the effects of other drivers of U.S. Cellular's operating results, may cause operating income and operating margins to fluctuate over the next several quarters.

Related to its acquisition and subsequent transition of the Chicago market's operations, U.S. Cellular plans to incur additional expenses during the remainder of 2003 as it competes in the Chicago market. Additionally, U.S. Cellular plans to build out its network into other as yet unserved portions of its personal communication service licensed areas, and will begin marketing operations in those areas during 2003 and 2004. As a result, U.S. Cellular's operating income and operating margin may be below historical levels for the full year of 2003 compared to the full year of 2002.

U.S. Cellular expects service revenues to continue to grow during the remainder of 2003; however, management anticipates that average monthly service revenue per customer may decrease, as retail service revenue per minute of use and inbound roaming revenue per minute of use decline. Additionally, U.S. Cellular expects expenses to remain higher than normal during the remainder of 2003 as it incurs costs associated with customer growth, service and retention, initiation of service in new markets and fixed asset additions.

Management continues to believe there exists a seasonality in both service revenues, which tend to increase more slowly in the first and fourth quarters, and operating expenses, which tend to be higher in the fourth quarter due to increased marketing activities and customer growth, which may cause operating income to vary from quarter to quarter. Management anticipates that the impact of such seasonality will decrease in the future, particularly as it relates to operating expenses, as the proportion of full year customer activations derived from fourth quarter holiday sales is expected to decline.

Additionally, competitors licensed to provide wireless services have initiated service in substantially all of U.S. Cellular's markets over the past several years. U.S. Cellular expects other wireless operators to

continue deployment of their networks throughout all of its service areas during the remainder of 2003 and in 2004. Management continues to monitor other wireless communications providers' strategies to determine how additional competition is affecting U.S. Cellular's results.

The effects of additional wireless competition and the downturn in the nation's economy have significantly slowed customer growth in certain of U.S. Cellular's markets. Management anticipates that overall customer growth may be slower in the future, primarily as a result of the increase in competition in its markets and due to the maturation of the wireless industry.

The FCC has mandated that all wireless carriers must be capable of facilitating wireless number portability beginning in November 2003. At that time, any wireless customer in the largest 100 metropolitan statistical areas in the United States may switch carriers and keep their current wireless telephone number. U.S. Cellular believes it will have the infrastructure in place to accommodate wireless number portability as of the November 2003 deadline. The implementation of wireless number portability may impact U.S. Cellular's churn rate in the future; however, U.S. Cellular is unable to predict the impact that the implementation of wireless number portability will have on its overall business.

**Investment and Other (Expense)**

*Investment and other (expense)* totaled \$7.8 million in 2003 and \$240.6 million in 2002.

*Investment income* was \$25.9 million in 2003 and \$17.7 million in 2002. Investment income primarily represents U.S. Cellular's share of net income from the markets managed by others that are accounted for by the equity method.

*Interest expense* totaled \$31.9 million in 2003 and \$17.7 million in 2002. Interest expense in 2003 is primarily related to Liquid Yield Option Notes (\$4.6 million); U.S. Cellular's 7.25% Notes (\$9.3 million); its 8.75% Notes (\$5.7 million); its revolving credit facilities with a series of banks (\$4.1 million); its contracts with a series of banks related to its investment in Vodafone AirTouch plc (ticker symbol VOD) (forward contracts) (\$1.5 million); and its intercompany note with TDS (the Intercompany Note) (\$4.3 million). Interest expense in 2002 was primarily related to Liquid Yield Option Notes (\$4.4 million), the 7.25% Notes (\$9.2 million) and U.S. Cellular's revolving credit facility entered into in 1997 with a series of banks (the 1997 Revolving Credit Facility) (\$2.6 million).

The Liquid Yield Option Notes are zero coupon convertible debentures which accrete interest at 6% annually, but do not require current cash payments of interest. All accreted interest is added to the outstanding principal balance on June 15 and December 15 of each year.

U.S. Cellular's \$250 million principal amount of 7.25% Notes are unsecured and become due in August 2007. Interest on the Notes is payable semi-annually on February 15 and August 15 of each year.

In November 2002, U.S. Cellular sold \$130 million of 8.75% Senior Notes. Interest is payable quarterly. The notes are callable by U.S. Cellular, at the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, at any time on and after November 7, 2007. U.S. Cellular issued the 8.75% Senior Notes under the \$500 million shelf registration statement on Form S-3 filed in May 2002.

For information regarding U.S. Cellular's 1997 and 2002 Revolving Credit Facilities, see Liquidity and Capital Resources - Revolving Credit Facilities. For information regarding the forward contracts, see Market Risk. For information regarding the Intercompany Note from TDS, see Certain Relationships and Related Transactions.

*Loss on investments* totaled \$3.5 million in 2003 and \$244.7 million in 2002. In 2003, a license impairment loss was recorded related to U.S. Cellular's investment in a non-operational market in Florida that remains with it after the exchange with AT&T Wireless was completed.

U.S. Cellular and its subsidiaries hold a substantial amount of marketable equity securities that are publicly traded and can have volatile share prices. U.S. Cellular and its subsidiaries do not make direct investments in publicly traded companies and all of these interests were acquired as a result of sales, trades or reorganizations of other assets. U.S. Cellular has not disposed of the investments because of



their low tax cost basis would likely trigger a substantial taxable gain upon disposal. See Liquidity Marketable Equity Securities and Forward Contracts for a discussion on marketable equity securities.

In June 2002, U.S. Cellular recognized other than temporary losses on its investments in Vodafone and Rural Cellular Corporation.

### **Income Taxes**

*Income tax expense (benefit)* totaled expense of \$20.5 million in 2003 and a benefit of \$19.3 million in 2002. The overall effective tax rates were 53% in 2003 and 32% in 2002. The effective tax rates in 2003 and 2002 were impacted by the loss on assets held for sale and the losses on investments, which have different tax rates than U.S. Cellular's overall operations. For an analysis of U.S. Cellular's effective tax rates in 2003 and 2002, see Note 3 Income Taxes.

TDS and U.S. Cellular are parties to a Tax Allocation Agreement, pursuant to which U.S. Cellular is included in a consolidated federal income tax return with other members of the TDS consolidated group.

For financial reporting purposes, U.S. Cellular computes federal income taxes as if it was filing a separate return as its own affiliated group and was not included in the TDS group.

As a result of the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, enacted in May of 2003, U.S. Cellular anticipates that it will claim additional federal tax depreciation deductions in 2003. Such additional depreciation deductions may result in a federal net operating loss for U.S. Cellular for the full year of 2003.

### **Cumulative Effect of Accounting Change**

Effective January 1, 2003, U.S. Cellular adopted SFAS No.143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations* and recorded the initial liability for legal obligations associated with an asset retirement. The cumulative effect of the implementation of this accounting standard on periods prior to 2003 was recorded in the first quarter of 2003, decreasing net income by \$14.3 million, net of tax and minority interest, or \$0.17 per basic and diluted share.

Effective January 1, 2002, U.S. Cellular changed its method of accounting for commissions expenses related to customer activations and began deferring expense recognition of a portion of commissions expenses in the amount of activation fees revenue deferred. The cumulative effect of this accounting change on periods prior to 2002 was recorded in the first quarter of 2002, increasing net income by \$4.1 million, net of tax and minority interest, or \$0.05 per diluted share.

**Net Income (Loss)**

*Net income (loss)* totaled a loss of \$0.7 million in 2003 and a loss of \$39.9 million in 2002. *Diluted earnings (loss) per share* was \$(0.01) in 2003 and \$(0.46) in 2002.

**Three Months Ended 6/30/03 Compared to Three Months Ended 6/30/02**

Operating revenues totaled \$639.8 million in the second quarter of 2003, an increase of \$115.5 million, or 22%, from \$524.3 million in 2002.

Retail service revenues increased \$97.9 million, or 24%, to \$498.2 million in 2003 from \$400.3 million in 2002, primarily due to 22% growth in U.S. Cellular's customer base and a 2% increase in average monthly retail service revenue per customer.

Inbound roaming revenue decreased \$5.5 million, or 9%, to \$56.8 million in 2003 from \$62.3 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003.

Long-distance and other revenues increased \$16.6 million, or 43%, to \$55.1 million in 2003 from \$38.5 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003.

Equipment sales revenue increased \$6.5 million, or 28%, to \$29.7 million in 2003 from \$23.2 million in 2002. The increase in equipment sales revenues primarily reflects an increase in handset sales to agents,



which began in the second quarter of 2002. Such handset sales to agents, net of all rebates, increased equipment sales revenues by approximately \$9.8 million during 2003. Equipment sales to customers through U.S. Cellular's non-agent channels decreased \$3.3 million, or 18%, from 2002. Gross customer activations increased 34% in 2003. The decrease in equipment sales revenues from U.S. Cellular's non-agent channels is primarily attributable to lower revenue per handset in the second quarter of 2003, reflecting declining handset prices on most models and the reduction in sales prices to end users as a result of increased competition.

Operating expenses totaled \$586.8 million in the second quarter of 2003, an increase of \$163.7 million, or 39%, from \$423.1 million in 2002.

System operations expenses (excluding depreciation) increased \$28.9 million, or 24%, to \$147.0 million in 2003 from \$118.1 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003.

Marketing and selling expenses increased \$19.6 million, or 25%, to \$98.5 million in 2003 from \$78.9 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003. Gross customer activations increased 34% in the second quarter of 2003 compared to the same period in 2002.

Cost of equipment sold increased \$20.8 million, or 57%, to \$57.4 million in 2003 from \$36.6 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003.

Sales and marketing cost per gross customer activations decreased 2% to \$378 in 2003 from \$386 in 2002. Below is a summary of sales and marketing cost per gross customer activations for each period.

	Three Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002 (As Restated)
Components of cost (000s):		
Marketing and selling expenses	\$ 98,548	\$ 78,899
Cost of equipment sold	57,362	36,588
Less equipment sales revenues	(29,701)	(23,187)
Less retention-related agent rebate reductions of equipment sales revenues	(5,774)	(394)
Total costs	\$ 120,435	\$ 91,906
Gross customer activations (000s)	319	238
Sales and marketing cost per gross customer activation	\$ 378	\$ 386

General and administrative expenses increased \$62.6 million, or 55%, to \$175.6 million in 2003 from \$113.0 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003. Monthly general and administrative expenses per customer increased 31% to \$14.09 in 2003 from \$10.75 in 2002. General and administrative expenses as a percent of service revenues were 29% in 2003 and 23% in 2002.

Depreciation expense increased \$18.5 million, or 27%, to \$87.5 million in 2003 from \$69.0 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003. Average fixed asset balances increased 30% in 2003.

Amortization of deferred charges, customer lists and accretion expense increased \$9.7 million, or 131%, to \$17.2 million in 2003 from \$7.5 million in 2002, for reasons generally the same as for the first six months of 2003.

Operating income decreased \$48.3 million, or 48%, to \$53.0 million in 2003 from \$101.3 million in 2002; operating income margins (as a percent of service revenues) totaled 8.7% in 2003 and 20.2% in 2002.

Investment and other (expense) totaled \$1.4 million in 2003 and \$243.4 million in 2002. Investment income increased \$6.2 million, or 85%, in 2003 as U.S. Cellular's share of net income from the markets managed by others that are accounted for by the equity method increased. Loss on investments totaled \$244.7 million in 2002, as U.S. Cellular recognized an other than temporary loss on its investments in Vodafone and Rural Cellular Corporation.

Interest expense increased \$7.7 million, or 90%, to \$16.4 million in 2003 from \$8.7 million in 2002, as U.S.

Cellular's average debt balances increased since June 2002, primarily to finance the USCOC of Chicago acquisition and subsequent operations and to fund capital expenditures.

Income tax expense (benefit) totaled expense of \$21.7 million in 2003 and a benefit of \$55.0 million in 2002. For an analysis of U.S. Cellular's effective tax rates in 2003 and 2002, see Note 3 - Income Taxes.

Net income (loss) totaled income of \$28.3 million in 2003 compared to a net loss of \$88.4 million in 2002. Diluted earnings (loss) per share totaled \$0.33 in 2003 and (\$1.03) in 2002.

### **RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 149 - Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities was issued in April 2003, and is effective for contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003 and for hedging relationships designated after June 30, 2003. SFAS No. 149 amends and clarifies financial accounting and reporting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts and for hedging activities under SFAS No. 133 - Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. U.S. Cellular will adopt the provisions of this Standard to contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003 and to hedging relationships designated after June 30, 2003. Since the provisions of this Statement will be applied prospectively, there will be no impact to U.S. Cellular's June 30, 2003 financial position or results of operations.

SFAS No. 150 - Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity was issued in May 2003, and is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise beginning July 1, 2003. SFAS No. 150 requires freestanding financial instruments within its scope to be recorded as a liability in the financial statements. Freestanding financial instruments include mandatorily redeemable financial instruments, obligations to repurchase issuer's equity shares and certain obligations to issue a variable number of issuer's shares. As of June 30, 2003, U.S. Cellular has no freestanding financial instruments within the scope of SFAS No. 150. Upon adoption, this Statement is not expected to have any effect on U.S. Cellular's financial position or results of operations.

FASB Interpretation No. 46 (FIN 46), Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, was issued in January 2003, and is effective for all variable interests in variable interest entities created after January 31, 2003, and is effective July 1, 2003 for variable interests in variable interest entities created before February 1, 2003. This Interpretation clarifies the application of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51 - Consolidated Financial Statements to certain entities in which equity investors do not have the characteristics of a controlling financial interest or do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. U.S. Cellular has reviewed the provisions of FIN 46 and has determined that it does not have an impact on U.S. Cellular's financial position and results of operations.

**FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY**

U.S. Cellular operates a capital- and marketing-intensive business. In recent years, U.S. Cellular has generated cash from its operations, received cash proceeds from divestitures and used its short-term credit facilities to fund its network construction costs and operating expenses. U.S. Cellular anticipates further increases in wireless customers, revenues, operating expenses, cash flows from operating activities and fixed asset additions in the future. Cash flows may fluctuate from quarter to quarter depending on the seasonality of each of these growth factors.

*Cash flows from operating activities* provided \$195.0 million in 2003 and \$306.8 million in 2002. Income excluding adjustments to reconcile income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities, excluding noncash items and changes in assets and liabilities from operations, totaled \$262.5 million in 2003 and \$284.8 million in 2002. Changes in assets and liabilities from operations required \$67.5 million in 2003 and provided \$22.0 million in 2002, reflecting timing differences in the payment of accounts payable and accrued taxes and the receipt of accounts receivable. Income taxes and interest paid totaled \$16.9 million in 2003 and \$22.7 million in 2002.

The following table is a summary of the components of cash flows from operating activities.

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003 As Restated	2002
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Net income (loss)	\$ (693)	\$ (39,892)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities	263,186	324,684
	262,493	284,792
Increase (decrease) due to changes in assets and liabilities	(67,501)	21,999
	\$ 194,992	\$ 306,791

*Cash flows from investing activities* required \$289.2 million in 2003 and \$223.5 million in 2002. Cash required for property, plant and equipment and system development expenditures totaled \$304.0 million in 2003 and \$256.8 million in 2002. In 2003, these expenditures were financed primarily with internally generated cash and borrowings from U.S. Cellular's revolving credit facilities. In 2002, these expenditures were financed primarily with internally generated cash. These expenditures primarily represent the construction of 192 and 170 cell sites in 2003 and 2002, respectively, as well as other plant additions and costs related to the development of U.S. Cellular's office systems. In 2003, these plant additions included approximately \$43 million for the migration to a single digital equipment platform. In both periods, other plant additions included significant amounts related to the replacement of retired assets and the changeout of analog equipment for digital equipment. Acquisitions required \$1.2 million in 2003 and \$18.0 million in 2002. Cash distributions from wireless entities in which U.S. Cellular has an interest provided \$17.6 million in 2003 and \$5.8 million in 2002. In 2002, U.S. Cellular was refunded \$47.6 million of its deposit with the FCC related to the January 2001 FCC spectrum auction.

*Cash flows from financing activities* provided \$105.0 million in 2003 and required \$93.9 million in 2002. In 2003, U.S. Cellular repaid the remaining principal amount outstanding on its 9% Series A Notes due 2032 (the 9% Series A Notes ) with \$40.7 million in cash, which was financed using U.S. Cellular's revolving credit facilities. The 9% Series A Notes were issued to PrimeCo in a private placement on August 2002 and are now retired. In 2002, U.S. Cellular received \$160.0 million from the monetization of its Vodafone investment through the forward contracts. In 2002, U.S. Cellular repaid \$306.4 million under the 1997 Revolving Credit Facility. In 2003 and 2002, U.S. Cellular borrowed \$145.0 million and \$57.4 million, respectively, under its revolving credit facilities.

**Acquisitions and Divestitures**

*Acquisitions*

U.S. Cellular assesses its wireless holdings on an ongoing basis in order to maximize the benefits derived

from its operating markets. U.S. Cellular also reviews attractive opportunities for the acquisition of additional wireless spectrum.

In the first six months of 2003, U.S. Cellular did not complete any material acquisitions of wireless interests.

In the first six months of 2002, U.S. Cellular, through joint ventures, acquired majority interests in licenses in two personal communication service markets, representing a total population of 911,000, for \$18.0 million in cash.

*Divestitures*



In the first six months of 2003 and 2002, U.S. Cellular did not complete any material divestitures of wireless interests.

*Pending Transactions at June 30, 2003*

On March 10, 2003, U.S. Cellular announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement with AT&T Wireless to exchange wireless properties. The closing of the transfer of Company properties to AT&T Wireless and the assignments to U.S. Cellular by AT&T Wireless of a portion of the personal communication service licenses covered by the agreement with AT&T Wireless occurred on August 1, 2003. When this transaction is fully consummated, U.S. Cellular will receive 10 and 20 personal communication service licenses in 13 states, representing 12.2 million incremental population equivalents contiguous to existing properties and 4.4 million population equivalents that overlap existing properties in the Midwest and Northeast. On the initial closing date, U.S. Cellular also received approximately \$31 million in cash (excluding a working capital adjustment) and minority interests in six cellular markets it currently controls. Also on the initial closing date, U.S. Cellular transferred wireless assets and customers in 10 markets, representing 1.5 million population equivalents, in Florida and Georgia to AT&T Wireless. The assignment and development of certain licenses has been deferred by U.S. Cellular until later periods. The acquisition of licenses in the exchange will be accounted for as a purchase by U.S. Cellular and the transfer of the properties by it to AT&T Wireless will be accounted for as a sale.

As a result of the agreement, U.S. Cellular's consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2003 reflects the wireless assets and liabilities to be transferred as assets and liabilities of operations held for sale, in accordance with SFAS No. 144. The results of operations of the markets transferred continue to be included in results from operations. Service revenues from the Florida and Georgia markets transferred totaled \$29 million and \$58 million in the three and six months ended June 30, 2003, respectively, while operating income totaled \$12.6 million and \$22.4 million, respectively. Operating income does not include shared services costs that have been allocated to the markets from the U.S. Cellular corporate office.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

#### **Capital Expenditures**

Anticipated capital expenditures requirements for 2003 primarily reflect U.S. Cellular's plans for construction, system expansion, the execution of its plans to migrate to a single digital equipment platform and the buildout of certain of its personal communication service licensed areas. U.S. Cellular's estimated capital spending for 2003 is \$650 million to \$670 million, of which \$304 million of expenditures have been incurred as of June 30, 2003. These expenditures will primarily address the following needs:

Expand and enhance U.S. Cellular's coverage in its service areas.

Provide additional capacity to accommodate increased network usage by current customers.

Addition of digital service capabilities to its systems, including the migration to a single digital equipment platform, Code Division Multiple Access ( CDMA ), from a mixture of CDMA and another digital technology, Time Division Multiple Access ( TDMA ).

Build out certain personal communication service licensed areas acquired in 2001, 2002 and expected to be acquired in 2003.

Enhance U.S. Cellular's office systems.



U.S. Cellular expects its conversion to CDMA to be completed during 2004, at a revised approximate cost of \$385 million to \$410 million spread over 2002 to 2004. The estimates have been revised from the original estimate of \$400 million to \$450 million to reflect more favorable pricing than expected as well as additional efficiencies in the conversion process. Capital expenditures related to this conversion totaled \$215 million in 2002, and are estimated to be \$50 million in 2003 and \$120 million to \$145 million is planned for 2004. U.S. Cellular has contracted with multiple infrastructure vendors to provide a substantial portion of the equipment related to the conversion.

U.S. Cellular expects capital expenditures related to the buildout of the personal communication service licensed areas it acquired in 2001-2003, including those included in the AT&T Wireless transaction, to be substantial. U.S. Cellular plans to build networks to serve these licensed areas and launch commercial service in these areas over the next several years. Approximately \$80 million of the estimated capital spending for the remainder of 2003 is allocated to the buildout of certain of these licenses, and U.S. Cellular expects a significant portion of its capital spending over the next few years to be related to the buildout of personal communication service licensed areas.

#### **Repurchase of Securities**

U.S. Cellular, as market conditions warrant, may continue the repurchase of its common shares, on the open market or at negotiated prices in private transactions. There are 859,000 shares available to be repurchased under the most recent 1.4 million share authorization, which expires in December 2003. The repurchases of common shares will be funded by internal cash flow, supplemented by short-term borrowings and other sources.

U.S. Cellular's board of directors has authorized management to opportunistically repurchase Liquid Yield Option Notes in private transactions. U.S. Cellular may also purchase a limited amount of Liquid Yield Option Notes in open-market transactions from time to time. U.S. Cellular's Liquid Yield Option Notes are convertible, at the option of their holders, at any time prior to maturity, redemption or purchase, into USM Common Shares at a conversion rate of 9.475 USM Common Shares per Liquid Yield Option Note. Upon conversion, U.S. Cellular has the option to deliver to holders either USM Common Shares or cash equal to the market value of the USM Common Shares into which the Liquid Yield Option Notes are convertible. U.S. Cellular may redeem the Liquid Yield Option Notes for cash at the issue price plus accrued original issue discount through the date of redemption.

### **Revolving Credit Facilities and Long-Term Debt**

U.S. Cellular is generating substantial cash from its operations and anticipates financing all of the 2003 obligations listed above with internally generated cash and with borrowings under its revolving credit facilities as the timing of such expenditures warrants. U.S. Cellular had \$25.7 million of cash and cash equivalents at June 30, 2003.

At June 30, 2003, \$20 million of the 1997 Revolving Credit Facility and \$200 million of the 2002 Revolving Credit Facility, respectively, were unused and remained available to meet any short-term borrowing requirements.

The 1997 Revolving Credit Facility expires in August 2004 and provides for borrowings with interest at LIBOR plus a margin percentage based on U.S. Cellular's credit rating, which was 19.5 basis points as of June 30, 2003 (for a rate of 1.32% as of June 30, 2003).

The 2002 Revolving Credit Facility expires in June 2007 and permits revolving loans on terms and conditions substantially similar to U.S. Cellular's 1997 Revolving Credit Facility. The terms of the 2002 Revolving Credit Facility provide for borrowings with interest at LIBOR plus a margin percentage based on U.S. Cellular's credit rating, which was 55 basis points as of June 30, 2003 (for a rate of 1.67% as of June 30, 2003).

The continued availability of these revolving lines of credit requires U.S. Cellular to comply with certain negative and affirmative covenants, maintain certain financial ratios and to represent certain matters at the time of each borrowing. At June 30, 2003, U.S. Cellular was in compliance with all covenants and other requirements set forth in the revolving credit facilities. U.S. Cellular's interest cost related to both lines of

credit would increase if its credit rating goes down, which would increase its cost of financing, but such lines of credit would not cease to be available solely as a result of a decline in its credit rating.

Management believes that U.S. Cellular's cash flows from operations and sources of external financing, including the above-referenced 1997 and 2002 Revolving Credit Facilities, provide sufficient financial flexibility for it to meet both its short- and long-term needs. U.S. Cellular also may have access to public and private capital markets to help meet its long-term financing needs. U.S. Cellular anticipates issuing debt and equity securities when capital requirements (including acquisitions), financial market conditions and other factors warrant.

However, the availability of financial resources is dependent on economic events, business developments, technological changes, financial conditions or other factors, some of which may not be in U.S. Cellular's control. If at any time financing is not available on terms acceptable to it, U.S. Cellular might be required to reduce its business development and capital expenditure plans, which could have a materially adverse effect on its business and financial condition. U.S. Cellular does not believe that any circumstances that could materially adversely affect its liquidity or capital resources are currently reasonably likely to occur, but it cannot provide assurances that such circumstances will not occur or that they will not occur rapidly. Economic downturns, changes in financial markets or other factors could rapidly change the availability of U.S. Cellular's liquidity and capital resources. Uncertainty of access to capital for telecommunications companies, further deterioration in the capital markets, other changes in market conditions or other factors could limit or restrict the availability of financing on terms and prices acceptable to U.S. Cellular, which could require it to reduce its construction, development and acquisition programs.

At June 30, 2003, U.S. Cellular is in compliance with all covenants and other requirements set forth in long-term debt indentures. U.S. Cellular does not have any rating downgrade triggers that would accelerate the maturity dates of its debt. However, a downgrade in U.S. Cellular's credit rating could adversely affect its ability to renew existing, or obtain access to new, credit facilities in the future.

In June 2003, Moody's Investors Service placed the debt ratings of U.S. Cellular and TDS, its parent company, under review for possible downgrade. Moody's has stated that the review will focus on 1) U.S. Cellular's ability to improve its earnings and generate meaningful free cash flow given its substantial capital expenditure requirements, slowing industry subscriber growth rates, declining roaming revenues, intensifying competition and higher operating expenses associated with competition, increasing network usage and expansion of distribution channels and 2) the extent and timing of the de-leveraging of the balance sheet of TDS.

#### **Marketable Equity Securities and Forward Contracts**

U.S. Cellular and its subsidiaries hold a substantial amount of marketable equity securities that are publicly traded and can have volatile share prices. U.S. Cellular and its subsidiaries do not make direct investments in publicly traded companies and all of these interests were acquired as a result of sales, trades or reorganizations of other assets. The investment in Vodafone resulted from certain sales or trades of non-strategic cellular investments to or settlements with AirTouch Communications in exchange for stock of AirTouch, which was then acquired by Vodafone for American Depositary Receipts representing Vodafone stock. The investment in Rural Cellular Corporation is the result of a consolidation of several cellular partnerships in which U.S. Cellular subsidiaries held interests into Rural Cellular Corporation, and the distribution of Rural Cellular Corporation stock in exchange for these interests. U.S. Cellular has not disposed of the investments because their low tax cost basis would likely trigger a substantial taxable gain upon disposition.

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A subsidiary of U.S. Cellular has entered into a number of variable prepaid forward contracts ( forward contracts ) related to the marketable equity securities that it holds. The forward contracts mature in May 2007 and, at U.S. Cellular's option, may be settled in shares of the respective security or cash. U.S. Cellular has provided guarantees to the lenders which provide assurance to the lenders that all principal and interest amounts are paid upon settlement of the contracts by its subsidiary. If shares are delivered in the settlement of the forward contract, U.S. Cellular would incur a current tax liability at the time of delivery based on the difference between the tax basis of the marketable equity securities delivered and the net amount realized through maturity. Deferred taxes have been provided for the difference between the financial reporting basis and the income tax basis of the marketable equity securities and are included in

deferred tax liabilities on the balance sheet. As of June 30, 2003, such deferred tax liabilities totaled \$63.6 million.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

U.S. Cellular has no material transactions, arrangements, obligations (including contingent obligations), or other relationships with unconsolidated entities or other persons ( off-balance sheet arrangements ), that may have or are reasonably likely to have a material current or future effect on financial condition, changes in financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, capital resources, or significant components of revenues or expenses.



**APPLICATION OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES**

U.S. Cellular prepares its consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( GAAP ). U.S. Cellular's significant accounting policies are discussed in detail in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Management bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions and information that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Management believes the following critical accounting estimates reflect its more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements. U.S. Cellular's senior management has discussed the development and selection of each of the following accounting estimates and the following disclosures with the audit committee of U.S. Cellular's board of directors.

### **Investment in Licenses and Goodwill**

U.S. Cellular reported \$979.8 million of investment in licenses and \$547.7 million of goodwill at June 30, 2003 as a result of the acquisition of wireless licenses and markets. Included in Assets of Operations Held for Sale as of June 30, 2003 was \$55.1 million of investment in licenses and \$93.7 million of goodwill.

Investments in licenses and goodwill must be reviewed for impairment annually, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired. U.S. Cellular performs the annual impairment review on investments in licenses and goodwill during the second quarter. There can be no assurance that, upon review at a later date, material impairment charges will not be required.

The intangible asset impairment test consists of comparing the fair value of the intangible asset to the carrying amount of the intangible asset. If the carrying amount exceeds the fair value, an impairment loss is recognized for the difference. The goodwill impairment test is a two-step process. The first step compares the fair value of the reporting unit, as identified in accordance with SFAS No. 142, to its carrying value. If the carrying amount exceeds the fair value, the second step of the test is performed to measure the amount of impairment loss, if any. The second step compares the implied fair value of reporting unit goodwill with the carrying amount of that goodwill. To calculate the implied fair value of goodwill, an enterprise allocates the fair value of the reporting unit to all of the assets and liabilities of that reporting unit (including any unrecognized intangible assets) as if the reporting unit had been acquired in a business combination and the fair value was the price paid to acquire the reporting unit. The excess of the fair value of the reporting unit over the amounts assigned to the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit is the implied fair value of goodwill. If the carrying amount exceeds the implied fair value, an impairment loss is recognized for that difference.

The fair value of an intangible asset and reporting unit goodwill is the amount at which that asset or reporting unit could be bought or sold in a current transaction between willing parties. Therefore, quoted market prices in active markets are the best evidence of fair value and should be used when available. If



quoted market prices are not available, the estimate of fair value is based on the best information available, including prices for similar assets and the use of other valuation techniques. Other valuation techniques include present value analysis, multiples of earnings or revenue or a similar performance measure. The use of these techniques involve assumptions by management about factors that are highly uncertain including future cash flows, the appropriate discount rate and other inputs. Different assumptions for these inputs could create materially different results.

U.S. Cellular tests goodwill for impairment at the level of reporting referred to as a reporting unit. U.S. Cellular has identified seven reporting units pursuant to paragraph 30 of SFAS No. 142. The seven reporting units represent seven geographic groupings of FCC licenses, constituting seven markets or service areas. U.S. Cellular combines its FCC licenses into seven units of accounting for purposes of testing the licenses for impairment pursuant to EITF 02-7 and SFAS No. 142, using the same geographic groupings as its reporting units.

U.S. Cellular retained a third-party valuation firm to prepare valuations of the seven reporting units. A discounted cash flow approach was used to value each of the reporting units, using value drivers and risks specific to each individual geographic region. The cash flow estimates incorporate assumptions that market participants would use in their estimates of fair value. Key assumptions made in this process were the selection of a discount rate, estimated future cash flow levels, projected capital expenditures, and selection of terminal values.

U.S. Cellular also retained a third party valuation firm to prepare valuations of the seven groupings of FCC licenses (units of accounting pursuant to EITF 02-7). The valuations were prepared using an excess earnings methodology, through the use of a discounted cash flow approach. This excess earnings methodology estimates the fair value of the intangible assets (FCC license units of accounting) by measuring the future cash flows of the license groups, reduced by charges for contributory assets such as working capital, trademarks, existing subscribers, fixed assets, assembled workforce and goodwill.

In the first quarter of 2003, a license impairment loss of \$3.5 million was recorded related to U.S. Cellular's investment in a non-operational market in Florida that will remain after the exchange with AT&T Wireless is completed. The annual impairment review of goodwill and license costs for 2003, completed in the second quarter, did not result in any impairment losses.

#### **Asset Retirement Obligations**

SFAS No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations, was issued in June 2001, and became effective for U.S. Cellular beginning January 1, 2003. SFAS No. 143 requires entities to record the fair value of a liability for legal obligations associated with an asset retirement in the period in which the obligations are incurred. When the liability is initially recorded, the entity capitalizes the cost of the asset retirement obligation by increasing the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. Over time, the liability is accreted to its present value each period, and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset.

The calculation of the asset retirement obligation for U.S. Cellular is a critical accounting estimate because changing the factors used in calculating the obligation could result in larger or smaller estimated obligation that could have a significant impact on its results of operations and financial condition. Such factors may include probabilities or likelihood of remediation, cost estimates, lease renewals and salvage values. Actual results may differ materially from estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

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U.S. Cellular is subject to asset retirement obligations associated primarily with its cell sites, retail sites and office locations. Asset retirement obligations include costs to remediate leased land on which U.S. Cellular's cell sites and switching offices are located. U.S. Cellular is also required to return lease retail store premises and office space to their pre-existing conditions. Upon settlement of the obligation, any difference between the cost to retire the asset and the liability recorded is recognized in the statement of operations as a gain or loss.

U.S. Cellular determined that it had an obligation to remove long-lived assets in its cell sites, retail sites and office locations as described by SFAS 143, and has recorded a \$54.4 million liability upon adoption.

## Income Taxes

The accounting for income taxes, the amounts of income tax assets and liabilities and the related income tax provision are critical accounting estimates because such amounts are significant to U.S. Cellular's financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of operations.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires U.S. Cellular to calculate its provision for income taxes. This process involves estimating the actual current income tax liability together with assessing temporary differences resulting from the different treatment of items, such as depreciation expense, for tax and accounting purposes. These temporary differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are included in U.S. Cellular's consolidated balance sheet. U.S. Cellular must then assess the likelihood that deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income, and, to the extent management believes that recovery is not likely, establish a valuation allowance. Management's judgment is required in determining the provision for income taxes, deferred tax assets and liabilities and any valuation allowance recorded against deferred tax assets. U.S. Cellular's current net deferred tax asset, included in Other current assets on its consolidated balance sheet, was \$10.4 million as of June 30, 2003, representing primarily the deferred tax effects of the allowance for doubtful accounts on accounts receivable.

The temporary differences that gave rise to the noncurrent deferred tax assets and liabilities as of June 30, 2003 are as follows:

	<b>June 30, 2003</b>	
	<b>As Restated</b>	
	<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>	
<b>Deferred Tax Asset</b>		
Net operating loss carryforward	\$	37,008
Derivative investments		6,071
Unearned revenue		6,856
Other		(18,632)
		31,303
Less valuation allowance		8,534
<b>Total Deferred Tax Asset</b>		<b>22,769</b>
<b>Deferred Tax Liability</b>		
Property, plant and equipment		244,611
Licenses		151,507
Marketable equity securities		63,607
<b>Total Deferred Tax Liability</b>		<b>459,725</b>
<b>Net Deferred Income Tax Liability</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>436,956</b>

The valuation allowance relates to state net operating loss carryforwards and the federal operating loss carryforwards for those subsidiaries not included in the federal income tax return since it is more than likely that a portion will expire before such carryforwards can be utilized.

The deferred income tax liability relating to marketable equity securities of \$63.6 million at June 30, 2003 represents deferred income taxes calculated on the difference between the book basis and the tax basis of the marketable securities. Income taxes will be payable when U.S.

Cellular sells the marketable equity securities.

U.S. Cellular is routinely subject to examination of its income tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ) and other tax authorities. U.S. Cellular periodically assesses the likelihood of adjustments to its tax liabilities resulting from these examinations to determine the adequacy of its provision for income taxes, including related interest. Management 's judgment is required in assessing the eventual outcome of these examinations. Changes to such assessments affect the calculation of U.S. Cellular 's income tax expense. The IRS has completed audits of U.S. Cellular 's federal income tax returns (through its parent company TDS) for tax years through 1996.

In the event of an increase in the value of tax assets or a decrease in the value of tax liabilities, U.S. Cellular would decrease the income tax expense or increase the income tax benefit by an equivalent amount. In the event of a decrease in the value of tax assets or an increase in the value of tax liabilities,

U.S. Cellular would increase the income tax expense or decrease the income tax benefit by an equivalent amount.

The Jobs & Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, enacted in May 2003, provides for increases in bonus depreciation from 30% to 50% and extends the bonus depreciation provisions until December 31, 2004. U.S. Cellular expects to take advantage of the new rules. Such additional depreciation deductions are expected to result in a federal net operating loss for U.S. Cellular in 2003.

**Assets and Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale**



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In connection with the exchange of properties with AT&T Wireless, U.S. Cellular's consolidated balance sheets reflect the assets and liabilities to be transferred as of June 30, 2003 as assets and liabilities of operations held for sale in accordance with SFAS No. 144 Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets. The results of operations of the markets to be transferred continue to be included in U.S. Cellular's consolidated results of operations through the closing date of August 1, 2003.

An independent appraisal was performed to determine the fair value of the assets to be received from AT&T Wireless as well as the allocation of goodwill associated with the markets sold. The value of goodwill and licenses allocated to the transferred markets is a critical accounting estimate because it is significant to the recorded value of the assets being transferred. The values of such allocations include underlying assumptions about uncertain matters that are material to the determination of the values, and different estimates could have had a material impact on U.S. Cellular's financial presentation that would have been used in the current period.

Assets and liabilities relating to operations held for sale are summarized as follows.

		<b>June 30, 2003</b>
		<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	7
Accounts receivable		11,777
Other current assets		1,074
Investment in licenses		55,147
Goodwill		93,658
Property, plant and equipment, net		88,415
(Loss) on assets held for sale		(27,000)
Other assets		798
<b>Assets of Operations Held for Sale</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>223,876</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$	5,405
Other current liabilities		3,600
<b>Liabilities of Operations Held for Sale</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,005</b>

In accordance with SFAS No. 144, U.S. Cellular recorded an estimated pre-tax loss of \$27.0 million related to the sale of assets to AT&T Wireless. This loss represents the difference between the fair value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to receive in the AT&T Wireless transaction, as determined by an independent valuation, and the recorded value of the assets it transferred to AT&T Wireless. Subsequent to recording the loss, the recorded value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to transfer to AT&T Wireless is equal to the fair value of the assets U.S. Cellular expects to receive from AT&T Wireless. This loss may require an adjustment during the third quarter of 2003 to reflect the final amounts of the fair value of assets received and the recorded value of the assets transferred.

U.S. Cellular anticipates that it will record an additional charge to the Statement of Operations of approximately \$12 million for income taxes and will have a current liability of approximately \$4 million related to state income taxes on the completion of the transaction. As a result of the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, enacted in May of 2003, U.S. Cellular anticipates that it will claim additional federal tax depreciation deductions in 2003. Such additional depreciation deductions are expected to result in a federal net operating loss for U.S. Cellular for 2003; accordingly, U.S. Cellular anticipates that there will be no current federal tax liability in 2003 attributable to the planned exchange of



assets with AT&T Wireless.

**OUTLOOK**

This outlook section summarizes U.S. Cellular's expectations for 2003. Notwithstanding its expectations regarding its ability to deliver these results, U.S. Cellular can never be certain that future revenues or earnings will be achieved at any particular level. Estimates of future financial performance are forward-looking statements and are subject to uncertainty created by the risk factors otherwise identified under Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 Safe Harbor Cautionary Statement.

Based on the completion of its transaction with AT&T Wireless, U.S. Cellular has reviewed its forward-looking statements. The revised statements for the year 2003, inclusive of costs for buildout of some markets acquired in the AT&T Wireless transaction, are as follows:

2003 Outlook

Net customer additions	475,000 - 500,000
Service revenues	\$2.35 billion - \$2.4 billion
Depreciation and amortization expenses	\$445 million - \$450 million
Operating income *	\$170 million - \$190 million
Capital spending	\$650 million - \$670 million

\* Includes \$27 million in operating expenses related to loss on assets held for sale related to the AT&T Wireless exchange.

**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

In August 2002, U.S. Cellular entered into a loan agreement with TDS under which it borrowed \$105 million, which was used for the USCOC of Chicago purchase. The loan bears interest at an annual rate of 8.1%, payable quarterly, and becomes due in August 2008, with prepayments optional. The terms of the loan do not contain covenants that are more restrictive than those included in U.S. Cellular's senior debt, except that the loan agreement provides that it may not incur senior debt in an aggregate principal amount in excess of \$325 million unless it obtains the consent of TDS as lender. The loan is subordinated to the 2002 Revolving Credit Facility. U.S. Cellular's Board of Directors, including independent directors, approved the terms of this loan and determined that such terms were fair to U.S. Cellular and all of its shareholders.

U.S. Cellular is billed for all services it receives from TDS, pursuant to the terms of various agreements between it and TDS. The majority of these billings are included in U.S. Cellular's general and administrative expenses. Some of these agreements were established at a time prior to U.S. Cellular's initial public offering when TDS owned more than 90% of U.S. Cellular's outstanding capital stock and may not reflect terms that would be obtainable from an unrelated third party through arms-length negotiations. The principal arrangements that affect U.S. Cellular's operations are described in Item 13 of its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002. Management believes the method TDS uses to allocate common expenses is reasonable and that all expenses and costs applicable to U.S. Cellular are reflected in its financial statements on a basis which is representative of what they would have been if it operated on a stand-alone basis.

The following persons are partners of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, the principal law firm of U.S. Cellular and its subsidiaries: Walter C. D. Carlson, a director of U.S. Cellular, a director and non-executive Chairman of the Board of Directors of TDS and a trustee and beneficiary of a voting trust that controls TDS; William S. DeCarlo, the General Counsel of TDS and an Assistant Secretary of TDS and certain subsidiaries of TDS; and Stephen P. Fitzell, the General Counsel and an Assistant Secretary of U.S. Cellular and the Assistant Secretary of certain other subsidiaries of TDS. Walter C. D. Carlson does not provide legal services to TDS, U.S. Cellular or their subsidiaries.

**PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995 SAFE HARBOR CAUTIONARY STATEMENT**

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition and other sections of this Quarterly Report to Shareholders contain statements that are not based on historical fact, including the words "believes", "anticipates", "intends", "expects", and similar words. These statements constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, events or developments to be significantly different from any future results, events or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following risks:

*Increases in the level of competition in the markets in which U.S. Cellular operates could adversely affect U.S. Cellular's revenues or increase its costs to compete.*

*Advances or changes in telecommunications technology could render certain technologies used by U.S. Cellular obsolete or could increase U.S. Cellular's cost of doing business.*

*Changes in the telecommunications regulatory environment, related to wireless number portability and E-911 services in particular, could adversely affect U.S. Cellular's financial condition or results of operations or ability to do business.*

*Changes in the supply or demand of the market for wireless licenses, adverse developments in U.S. Cellular's business or the wireless industry and/or other factors could result in an impairment of the value of U.S. Cellular's investment in licenses, goodwill and/or physical assets, which may require it to write down the value of such assets.*

*Conversions of debt, early redemptions of debt or repurchases of debt, changes in prepaid forward contracts, operating leases, purchase obligations or other factors or developments could cause the amounts reported under Contractual Obligations to be different from the amounts presented.*

*Changes in accounting policies, estimates and/or the assumptions underlying the accounting estimates, including those described under Critical Accounting Policies, could have a material effect on U.S. Cellular's financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of operations.*

*Settlements, judgments, restraints on its current or future manner of doing business and/or legal costs resulting from pending or future litigation could have an adverse effect on U.S. Cellular's financial condition, results of operations or ability to do business.*

*Costs, integration problems or other factors associated with acquisitions/divestitures of properties and or licenses could have an adverse effect on U.S. Cellular's financial condition or results of operations.*

*Changes in prices, the number of wireless customers, average revenue per customer, penetration rates, churn rates, roaming rates and the mix of products and services offered in wireless markets could have an adverse effect on U.S. Cellular's operations.*

*Continued uncertainty of access to capital for telecommunications companies, continued deterioration in the capital markets, other changes in market conditions, changes in U.S. Cellular's credit ratings or other factors could limit or restrict the availability of financing on terms and prices acceptable to U.S. Cellular, which could require U.S. Cellular to reduce its construction, development and acquisition programs.*

*Changes in the income tax rates or other tax law changes could have an adverse effect on U.S. Cellular's financial condition and results of operations.*

*War, conflicts, hostilities and/or terrorist attacks could have an adverse effect on U.S. Cellular's business.*

*Changes in general economic and business conditions, both nationally and in the markets in which U.S. Cellular operates, could have an adverse effect on U.S. Cellular's business.*

U.S. Cellular undertakes no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Readers should evaluate any statements in light of these important factors.

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**



Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K.

(a) Exhibits:

Exhibit 11 - Statement regarding computation of per share earnings is included herein as Note 6 to the financial statements.

Exhibit 12 - Statement regarding computation of ratios.\*

Exhibit 31.1 - Chief Executive Officer certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Exhibit 31.2 Chief Financial Officer certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Exhibit 32.1 Chief Executive Officer certification pursuant to Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Exhibit 32.2 Chief Financial Officer certification pursuant to Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Exhibit 99.1 News release dated August 1, 2003 announcing the completion of a portion of the exchange of assets between U.S. Cellular and AT&T Wireless\*.

\*Previously filed as an exhibit to the U.S. Cellular Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2003.

(b) Reports on Form 8-K filed during the quarter ended June 30, 2003:

U.S. Cellular filed a Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 5, 2003, for the purpose of filing its first quarter 2003 earnings release.

**SIGNATURES**

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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.

UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

Date March 10, 2004

/s/ John E. Rooney  
John E. Rooney  
President  
(Chief Executive Officer)

Date March 10, 2004

/s/ Kenneth R. Meyers  
Kenneth R. Meyers  
Executive Vice President-Finance and  
Treasurer  
(Chief Financial Officer)

Date March 10, 2004

/s/ Thomas S. Weber  
Thomas S. Weber  
Vice President and Controller  
(Principal Accounting Officer)