

# BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC.

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 5, 2010**

Omaha, NE (BRK.A; BRK.B) –

Berkshire's operating results for the third quarter and first nine months of 2010 are summarized in the following paragraphs. However, we urge investors and reporters to read our 10-Q, which has been posted at [www.berkshirehathaway.com](http://www.berkshirehathaway.com). *The limited information that follows in this press release is not adequate for making an informed investment judgment.*

Earnings of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries for the third quarter and first nine months of 2010 and 2009 are summarized below. Earnings are stated on an after-tax basis. (Dollar amounts are in millions, except for per share amounts).

	<u>Third Quarter</u>		<u>First Nine Months</u>	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Operating earnings.....	\$2,787	\$2,055	\$8,083	\$5,540
Investment and derivative gains (losses) –				
Sales of investments .....	307	73	780	(166)
Holding gain * .....	—	—	979	—
Other-than-temporary impairments of investments (writedowns) .....	(10)	(16)	(10)	(2,047)
Derivative gains (losses).....	(95)	1,126	(1,242)	1,672
	<u>202</u>	<u>1,183</u>	<u>507</u>	<u>(541)</u>
Net earnings attributable to Berkshire shareholders .....	<u>\$2,989</u>	<u>\$3,238</u>	<u>\$8,590</u>	<u>\$4,999</u>
* Represents the excess of the fair value of 76.8 million shares of Burlington Northern Santa Fe (“BNSF”) we owned on February 12, 2010, (the date of our acquisition of the remaining 264.5 million outstanding BNSF shares), over our then carrying value under the equity method.				
Operating earnings per Class A equivalent share .....	\$1,692	\$1,325	\$4,954	\$3,572
Investment and derivative gains (losses) per Class A equivalent share....	<u>122</u>	<u>762</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>(349)</u>
Net earnings per Class A equivalent share attributable to				
Berkshire shareholders .....	<u>\$1,814</u>	<u>\$2,087</u>	<u>\$5,265</u>	<u>\$3,223</u>
Average Class A equivalent shares outstanding.....	1,647,593	1,551,727	1,631,489	1,550,986

Note: Per share amounts for the Class B shares are 1/1,500<sup>th</sup> those shown for the Class A.

An analysis of Berkshire's operating earnings follows (dollar amounts are in millions).

	<u>Third Quarter</u>		<u>First Nine Months</u>	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Insurance-underwriting .....	\$ 199	\$ 346	\$ 887	\$ 614
Insurance-investment income.....	873	1,018	2,949	3,285
Non-insurance businesses .....	1,766	759	4,421	1,849
Other.....	(51)	(68)	(174)	(208)
Operating earnings .....	<u>\$2,787</u>	<u>\$2,055</u>	<u>\$8,083</u>	<u>\$5,540</u>

In the table at the top of the page (which, as noted, reports after-tax results), we give investment and derivative gains (losses) lines of their own *because the amounts of these in any given quarter or year are often meaningless.*

Operating earnings for the third quarter and first nine months of 2010 increased 35.6% and 45.9% from the comparable periods in 2009. BNSF was the major contributor adding \$1.59 billion to net earnings since our acquisition on February 12, 2010, including \$706 million during the third quarter. Its acquisition increased our shares outstanding by 6.1%. Another major reason for the improvement occurred at NetJets with a swing from a pre-tax loss of \$531 million in the first nine months of 2009 to a pre-tax profit of \$158 million in 2010.

At September 30, 2010, our book value had increased by 7.5% to \$90,823 per Class A equivalent share. Insurance float (the net liabilities we assume under insurance contracts) at September 30, 2010 was \$66 billion and includes float related to our life annuity business that was previously part of our finance and financial products segment.

### **Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

This press release includes certain non-GAAP financial measures. The reconciliations of such measures to the most comparable GAAP figures in accordance with Regulation G are included herein.

Berkshire presents its results in the way it believes will be most meaningful and useful, as well as most transparent, to the investing public and others who use Berkshire's financial information. That presentation includes the use of certain non-GAAP financial measures. In addition to the GAAP presentations of net earnings, Berkshire shows operating earnings defined as net earnings exclusive of investment and derivative gains/losses.

Although the investment of insurance and reinsurance premiums to generate investment income and investment gains or losses is an integral part of Berkshire's operations, the generation of investment gains or losses is independent of the insurance underwriting process. Moreover, under applicable GAAP accounting requirements, losses can be created as the result of other-than-temporary declines in value without actual realization or when certain types of investments are marked-to-market through earnings. In sum, investment and derivative gains/losses for any particular period are not indicative of quarterly business performance.

### **About Berkshire**

Berkshire Hathaway and its subsidiaries engage in diverse business activities including property and casualty insurance and reinsurance, utilities and energy, freight rail transportation, finance, manufacturing, retailing and services. Common stock of the company is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, trading symbols BRK.A and BRK.B.

### **Cautionary Statement**

Certain statements contained in this press release are "forward looking" statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are not guaranties of future performance and actual results may differ materially from those forecasted.

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