

Edgar Filing: COMMERCE GROUP INC /MA - Form SC 13G

COMMERCE GROUP INC /MA  
Form SC 13G  
February 14, 2008

United States  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. 9)

The Commerce Group, Inc.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common stock \$0.50 Par Value  
(Title of Class of Securities)

200641108  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2007  
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)  
 Rule 13d-1(c)  
 Rule 13d-1(d)

(1) The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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THE COMMERCE GROUP, INC.  
SCHEDULE 13G  
ADMENDMENT No. 9  
FEBRUARY 14, 2008

1. Name of Reporting Person  
I.R.S. Identification No. of above Person  
  
The Commerce Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
ID#: 04-6643047
2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group  
(a)   
(b)
3. SEC Use Only
4. Citizenship or Place of Organization  
  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICAILLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

- |    |                          |           |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER        | 0         |
| 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER      | 5,646,110 |
| 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   | 0         |
| 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER | 5,646,110 |
9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person  
  
5,646,110
10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares  
  
N/A
11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
  
9.4%
12. Type of Reporting Person  
  
EP

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THE COMMERCE GROUP, INC.  
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FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Item 1.

- a. The Commerce Group, Inc.
- b. 211 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570

Item 2.

- a. The Commerce Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("Plan")
- b. 211 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570
- c. Massachusetts
- d. Common stock
- e. CUSIP 200641108

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (f) An Employee Benefit Plan or Endowment Fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F).

Item 4. Ownership

At December 31, 2007, the Plan was the record owner of a total of 5,646,110 shares of common stock of the issuer, or approximately 9.4% of the issuer's outstanding common stock (issued less treasury shares). The Plan, is an employee benefit plan with individual accounts for the benefit of participating employees and their beneficiaries. Plan Participants who are current employees of The Commerce Group, Inc. or its subsidiaries (the Company) and who are 100% vested in their Plan accounts can annually elect to transfer out of the Plan up to 100% of their allocated Company stock in the form of an eligible rollover distribution into another eligible retirement plan, such as a qualified individual retirement arrangement. Approximately 4,359,606 shares held by the Plan at December 31, 2007 are allocated to the Plan accounts of these individuals. Plan Participants who are former employees of the Company are 100% vested in their Plan account and may generally elect to withdraw from the Plan the shares allocated to their accounts at any time. Approximately 1,094,588 shares held by the Plan at December 31, 2007 are allocated to the Plan accounts of these individuals. The remaining approximately 191,915 shares held by the Plan at December 31, 2007 are allocated to the Plan accounts of Participants who have not yet reached 100% vesting in their account balances. Disposition of these unvested shares is restricted under the Plan. The shares allocated to Participant accounts are voted as directed by the account holders; unallocated shares, if any, and shares as to which no voting instructions have been received are voted by the Plan Trustee.

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Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

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Item 5 is not applicable

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Item 6 is not applicable

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company

Item 7 is not applicable

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Item 8 is not applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Item 9 is not applicable

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THE COMMERCE GROUP, INC.  
SCHEDULE 14G  
ADMENDMENT No. 9  
FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 14, 2008

/s/ Randall V. Becker, Trustee  
Randall V. Becker, ESOP Committee Member  
The Commerce Group, Inc.  
Employee Stock Ownership Plan