

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 28, 2001

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

|                                                      |                             |                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Delaware                                             | 1-7182                      | 13-2740599                              |
| (State or Other<br>Jurisdiction of<br>Incorporation) | (Commission<br>File Number) | (I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification No.) |

4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 449-1000

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report.)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

Filed herewith is the Preliminary Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 29, 2000 for Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. and subsidiaries ("Merrill Lynch"). Also filed herewith is a statement setting forth the computation of certain financial ratios for the periods presented.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

(c) Exhibits

(12) Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends.

(99) Additional Exhibits

(i) Preliminary Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet of Merrill Lynch as of December 29, 2000.

SIGNATURE

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, hereunto duly authorized.

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

-----  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Thomas H. Patrick

-----  
Thomas H. Patrick  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 28, 2001

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description                                                                                                    | Page    |
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| (12)        | Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges<br>and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends | 5       |
| (99)        | Additional Exhibits                                                                                            |         |
|             | (i) Preliminary Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet<br>as of December 29, 2000                                | 6-7     |

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MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
COMPUTATION OF RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND  
COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS  
(dollars in millions)

|                                                                                                                        | YEAR ENDED LAST FRIDAY IN DECEMBER |            |            |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                                                                                                                        | 2000                               | 1999       | 1998       | 1997       |
| 1996                                                                                                                   | -----                              | -----      | -----      | -----      |
| (52 weeks)                                                                                                             | (52 weeks)                         | (53 weeks) | (52 weeks) | (52 weeks) |
| <S>                                                                                                                    | <C>                                | <C>        | <C>        | <C>        |
| <C>                                                                                                                    |                                    |            |            |            |
| Pre-tax earnings                                                                                                       | \$ 5,717                           | \$ 4,206   | \$ 2,120   | \$ 3,102   |
| \$ 2,671                                                                                                               |                                    |            |            |            |
| Add: Fixed charges (excluding capitalized<br>interest and preferred security<br>dividend requirements of subsidiaries) | 18,307                             | 13,235     | 17,237     | 15,128     |
| 11,605                                                                                                                 |                                    |            |            |            |
| -----                                                                                                                  | -----                              | -----      | -----      | -----      |
| Pre-tax earnings before fixed charges                                                                                  | 24,024                             | 17,441     | 19,357     | 18,230     |
| 14,276                                                                                                                 |                                    |            |            |            |
| Fixed charges:                                                                                                         |                                    |            |            |            |
| Interest                                                                                                               | 18,052                             | 12,987     | 17,014     | 14,938     |
| 11,426                                                                                                                 |                                    |            |            |            |
| Other (a)                                                                                                              | 465                                | 451        | 354        | 240        |
| 187                                                                                                                    |                                    |            |            |            |
| -----                                                                                                                  | -----                              | -----      | -----      | -----      |
| Total fixed charges                                                                                                    | 18,517                             | 13,438     | 17,368     | 15,178     |
| 11,613                                                                                                                 |                                    |            |            |            |
| Preferred stock dividends                                                                                              | 55                                 | 56         | 58         | 62         |
| 74                                                                                                                     |                                    |            |            |            |
| -----                                                                                                                  | -----                              | -----      | -----      | -----      |
| Total combined fixed charges<br>and preferred stock dividends                                                          | \$18,572                           | \$13,494   | \$17,426   | \$15,240   |
| \$11,687                                                                                                               |                                    |            |            |            |
| -----                                                                                                                  | -----                              | -----      | -----      | -----      |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges                                                                                     | 1.30                               | 1.30       | 1.11       | 1.20       |
| 1.23                                                                                                                   |                                    |            |            |            |
| Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges<br>and preferred stock dividends                                           | 1.29                               | 1.29       | 1.11       | 1.20       |
| 1.22                                                                                                                   |                                    |            |            |            |

(a) Other fixed charges consists of the interest factor in rentals, amortization of debt issuance costs, preferred security dividend requirements of subsidiaries, and amortization of capitalized interest.

Note: Prior period amounts have been restated to reflect the merger with Herzog, Heine, Geduld, Inc. as required under pooling-of-interests accounting.

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EXHIBIT 99 (i)

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
PRELIMINARY UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

| (dollars in millions)                                                                                   | Dec. 29,<br>2000 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| -----                                                                                                   | -----            |
| <S>                                                                                                     | <C>              |
| ASSETS                                                                                                  |                  |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS.....                                                                          | \$ 23,205        |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| CASH AND SECURITIES SEGREGATED FOR REGULATORY PURPOSES<br>OR DEPOSITED WITH CLEARING ORGANIZATIONS..... | 6,092            |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| RECEIVABLES UNDER RESALE AGREEMENTS AND SECURITIES BORROWED TRANSACTIONS.....                           | 114,581          |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| MARKETABLE INVESTMENT SECURITIES.....                                                                   | 49,251           |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| TRADING ASSETS, AT FAIR VALUE                                                                           |                  |
| Equities and convertible debentures.....                                                                | 19,347           |
| Corporate debt and preferred stock.....                                                                 | 18,262           |
| Contractual agreements.....                                                                             | 20,361           |
| U.S. Government and agencies.....                                                                       | 19,673           |
| Mortgages, mortgage-backed, and asset-backed.....                                                       | 8,225            |
| Non-U.S. governments and agencies.....                                                                  | 2,855            |
| Municipals and money markets.....                                                                       | 2,791            |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
|                                                                                                         | 91,514           |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| SECURITIES PLEDGED AS COLLATERAL.....                                                                   | 9,097            |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| OTHER RECEIVABLES                                                                                       |                  |
| Customers (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$68).....                                         | 41,613           |
| Brokers and dealers.....                                                                                | 26,421           |
| Interest and other.....                                                                                 | 8,879            |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| Total.....                                                                                              | 76,913           |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| INVESTMENTS OF INSURANCE SUBSIDIARIES.....                                                              | 4,002            |
| LOANS, NOTES, AND MORTGAGES (net of allowance for loan losses of \$176).....                            | 17,472           |
| OTHER INVESTMENTS.....                                                                                  | 4,938            |
| EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (net of accumulated depreciation<br>and amortization of \$4,658).....          | 3,444            |
| GOODWILL (net of accumulated amortization of \$720).....                                                | 4,407            |
| OTHER ASSETS.....                                                                                       | 2,284            |
|                                                                                                         | -----            |
| TOTAL ASSETS.....                                                                                       | \$407,200        |
|                                                                                                         | =====            |

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EXHIBIT 99 (i)

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
PRELIMINARY UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

(dollars in millions, except per share amount)

Dec. 29,  
2000

&lt;S&gt;

&lt;C&gt;

## LIABILITIES

## PAYABLES UNDER REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS AND SECURITIES

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| LOANED TRANSACTIONS..... | \$103,883 |
|--------------------------|-----------|

|                                                       |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| COMMERCIAL PAPER AND OTHER SHORT-TERM BORROWINGS..... | 15,183 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| DEMAND AND TIME DEPOSITS..... | 67,648 |
|-------------------------------|--------|

## TRADING LIABILITIES, AT FAIR VALUE

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Contractual agreements..... | 21,587 |
|-----------------------------|--------|

|                                          |        |
|------------------------------------------|--------|
| Equities and convertible debentures..... | 18,535 |
|------------------------------------------|--------|

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| U.S. Government and agencies..... | 14,466 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

|                                        |       |
|----------------------------------------|-------|
| Non-U.S. governments and agencies..... | 7,135 |
|----------------------------------------|-------|

|                                                     |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Corporate debt, municipals and preferred stock..... | 7,134 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Total..... | 68,857 |
|------------|--------|

## OTHER PAYABLES

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Customers..... | 24,762 |
|----------------|--------|

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Brokers and dealers..... | 9,514 |
|--------------------------|-------|

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Interest and other..... | 22,204 |
|-------------------------|--------|

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Total..... | 56,480 |
|------------|--------|

|                                            |       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| LIABILITIES OF INSURANCE SUBSIDIARIES..... | 3,908 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| LONG-TERM BORROWINGS..... | 70,223 |
|---------------------------|--------|

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| TOTAL LIABILITIES..... | 386,182 |
|------------------------|---------|

|                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| PREFERRED SECURITIES ISSUED BY SUBSIDIARIES..... | 2,714 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|

## STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

|                                                                                                          |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (42,500 shares issued, liquidation preference<br>\$10,000 per share)..... | 425 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

## COMMON STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

|                                            |    |
|--------------------------------------------|----|
| Shares exchangeable into common stock..... | 68 |
|--------------------------------------------|----|

|                                               |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|
| Common stock, par value \$1.33 1/3 per share; |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| authorized: 1,000,000,000 shares; |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| issued: 962,533,498 shares..... | 1,283 |
|---------------------------------|-------|

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Paid-in capital..... | 2,843 |
|----------------------|-------|

|                                                        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss (net of tax)..... | (345) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Retained earnings..... | 16,156 |
|------------------------|--------|

|  |        |
|--|--------|
|  | 20,005 |
|--|--------|

|                                                        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Less: Treasury stock, at cost: 154,578,945 shares..... | 1,273 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Employee stock transactions..... | 853 |
|----------------------------------|-----|

|                                        |        |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Total Common Stockholders' Equity..... | 17,879 |
|----------------------------------------|--------|

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Total Stockholders' Equity..... | 18,304 |
|---------------------------------|--------|

|                                                   |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--|
| Total Liabilities, Preferred Securities Issued by |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--|

|                                             |           |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Subsidiaries, and Stockholders' Equity..... | \$407,200 |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|

&lt;/TABLE&gt;