

Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG
Form 10-K
February 17, 2015
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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

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: 001-32938

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Switzerland

(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

Gubelstrasse 24, Park Tower, 15th Floor 6300 Zug, Switzerland

(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)

41-41-768-1080

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class

Common Shares, par value CHF 4.10 per share

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Act. Yes No

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 by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in the definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

Yes No

The aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2014 (the last business day of the registrant’s most recently completed second fiscal quarter) was approximately \$3.6 billion based on the closing sale price of the registrant’s common shares on the New York Stock Exchange on that date.

As of February 9, 2015, 96,004,829 common shares were outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The registrant’s definitive proxy statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A with respect to the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the registrant scheduled to be held on April 30, 2015 is incorporated in Part III of this Form 10-K.

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PART I

References in this Annual Report on Form 10-K to the terms “we,” “us,” “our,” “the company” or other similar terms mean the consolidated operations of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, a Swiss holding company, and our consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise. References in this Form 10-K to the terms “Allied World Switzerland” or “Holdings” means only Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG. References to our “insurance subsidiaries” may include our reinsurance subsidiaries. References in this Form 10-K to \$ are to the lawful currency of the United States and to CHF are to the lawful currency of Switzerland. References in this Form 10-K to Holdings’ “common shares” means its registered voting shares. For your convenience, we have included a glossary beginning on page 35 of selected insurance and reinsurance terms.

Item 1. Business

Overview

We are a Swiss-based holding company headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, whose subsidiaries provide innovative property, casualty and specialty insurance and reinsurance solutions to clients worldwide. We were formed in Bermuda in 2001 and have continued to maintain significant insurance and reinsurance operations there following our redomestication to Switzerland in 2010. In 2014, we received approval from Lloyd’s, the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority to establish our own Lloyd’s managing agent, Allied World Managing Agency Limited, to manage Allied World’s Lloyd’s Syndicate 2232. In August 2014, we also announced that Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd reached definitive agreements to acquire the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc (“RSA”) for approximately \$201.8 million. The transaction is expected to close early in the second quarter of 2015.

As of December 31, 2014, we had \$12.4 billion of total assets and \$3.8 billion of shareholders’ equity. For the year ended December 31, 2014, our North American Insurance segment accounted for 58.4%, our Global Markets Insurance segment accounted for 9.6% and our Reinsurance segment accounted for 32.0% of our total gross premiums written of \$2,935.4 million. As of December 31, 2014, we had a total of 1,040 full-time employees. We believe that our employee relations are good. No employees are subject to collective bargaining agreements.

Available Information

We maintain a website at www.awac.com. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

We make available, free of charge through our website, our financial information, including the information contained in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish such material to, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). We also make available, free of charge through our website, our Audit Committee Charter, Compensation Committee Charter, Investment Committee Charter, Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee Charter, Enterprise Risk Committee Charter, Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Ethics for CEO and Senior Financial Officers and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. Such information is also available in print for any shareholder who sends a request to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, Gubelstrasse 24, Park Tower 15th Floor, 6300, Zug, Switzerland, attention: Wayne H. Datz, Corporate Secretary, or via e-mail to secretary@awac.com. Reports and other information we file with the SEC may also be viewed at the SEC’s website at www.sec.gov or viewed or obtained at the SEC Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Information on the operation of the SEC Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling

the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

Our Strategy

Our business objective is to generate attractive returns on equity and book value per share growth for our shareholders. We seek to achieve this objective by executing the following strategies:

Capitalize on profitable underwriting opportunities. Our management and underwriting teams are positioned to identify business with attractive risk/reward characteristics. We pursue a strategy that emphasizes profitability, not market share. Key elements of this strategy are prudent risk selection, appropriate pricing and adjusting our business mix to remain flexible and opportunistic. We seek ways to take advantage of underwriting opportunities that we believe will be profitable.

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Exercise underwriting and risk management discipline. We believe that we exercise underwriting and risk management discipline by: (i) maintaining a diverse spread of risk across product lines and geographic zones, (ii) managing our aggregate property catastrophe exposure through the application of sophisticated modeling tools, (iii) monitoring our exposures on non-property catastrophe coverages, (iv) adhering to underwriting guidelines across our business lines and (v) fostering a culture that focuses on enterprise risk management and strong internal controls.

Employ a diversified investment strategy. We believe that we follow a diversified investment strategy designed to emphasize the preservation of capital, provide adequate liquidity for the prompt payment of claims and generate returns for our shareholders. Our investment portfolio consists primarily of investment-grade, fixed-maturity securities of short-to medium-term duration.

Our premium revenues are generated by operations conducted from our corporate headquarters in Switzerland and our other offices worldwide. For information concerning our gross premiums written by geographic location of underwriting office, see Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Results of Operations — Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013" and "— Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012."

Competition

Competition in the insurance and reinsurance industry is substantial with market participants competing on the basis of many factors, including premium rates, policy terms and conditions, financial strength ratings assigned by independent rating agencies, service quality, claims handling service and expertise, and reputation and experience in the risks underwritten. We compete with major U.S. and non-U.S. companies, some of which have longer operating histories, more capital and/or higher ratings than we do, as well as greater marketing, management and business resources.

In addition, risk-linked securities, derivatives, captive companies and other alternative risk transfer vehicles, many of which are offered by entities other than insurance and reinsurance companies, compete with us. The availability of these non-traditional products could reduce the demand for both traditional insurance and reinsurance products.

Our Operating Segments

During the fourth quarter of 2014, our Chief Executive Officer reorganized how the company manages its business, and as a result, we realigned our executive management team and changed our reportable segments to correspond to the reorganization. Our Bermuda direct insurance operations, which had previously been included in the international insurance segment, were combined with the U.S. insurance segment, with the new segment renamed the "North American Insurance segment". The remaining direct insurance operations of the international insurance segment were renamed the "Global Markets Insurance segment". The Reinsurance segment remained unchanged. The change in reportable segment structure had no impact on our historical consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows previously reported.

These segments and their respective lines of business and products may, at times, be subject to different underwriting cycles. We modify our product strategy as market conditions change and new opportunities emerge by developing new products, targeting new industry classes or de-emphasizing existing lines. Our diverse underwriting skills and flexibility allow us to concentrate on the business lines where we expect to generate the greatest returns. Each of our segments utilizes significant gross limit capacity.

Distribution

As a commercial insurer, we primarily offer products through independent insurance intermediaries, including retail brokerage firms and excess and surplus lines wholesalers. We typically pay a commission to agents and brokers for business that we accept from them. Within our North American Insurance segment, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. ("Marsh") and Aon plc ("Aon") accounted for 16.6% and 12.3%, respectively, of gross premiums written in the North American Insurance segment during 2014. Our Global Markets Insurance segment maintains significant relationships with Marsh, Aon and Willis Group Holdings ("Willis"), which accounted for 18.9%, 17.5% and 12.8%, respectively, of our gross premiums written in this segment during 2014.

Due to a number of factors, including transactional size and complexity, the distribution infrastructure of the reinsurance marketplace is characterized by relatively few intermediary firms. As a result, we have close business relationships with a

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small number of reinsurance intermediaries, and our business during 2014 was primarily with affiliates of Marsh, Aon and Willis accounting for 42.4%, 24.2% and 12.9%, respectively, of total gross premiums written in this segment during 2014.

In our opinion, no material part of our business is dependent upon a single insured or a single group of insureds, however, due to the substantial percentage of premiums produced in our Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance segments by the top three intermediaries, the loss of business from any one of them could have a material adverse effect on our business. Likewise, the loss of business from Marsh and Aon could have a material adverse effect on our North American insurance business.

Certain of our products within our North American Insurance segment and Global Markets Insurance segment are also underwritten and distributed through third-party program administrators. To help align interests, we seek to establish incentive-based compensation as a component of the fees paid to program administrators, which encourages better long-term underwriting results. We contract with third-party agencies to underwrite a variety of programs. We generally retain responsibility for administration of program claims, although we have opted to outsource the claims-handling in selected programs. Before delegating underwriting authority, we consider the integrity, experience and reputation of each program administrator, as well as the availability of reinsurance and the potential profitability of the business. Once a program is established, we conduct regular ongoing reviews and audits of the administrator. We do not believe that the loss of any one program or relationship with any one program administrator would have a material adverse effect on our business, and no single program accounts for as much as 10% of our total revenues.

Financial data relating to our three segments is included in Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and in our consolidated financial statements included in this report.

The gross premiums written in each segment for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		Year Ended December 31, 2013		Year Ended December 31, 2012			
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total		
	(\$ in millions)							
North American Insurance	\$1,716.3	58.4	% \$1,572.4	57.4	% \$1,376.0	59.1	%	
Global Markets Insurance	280.5	9.6	% 232.6	8.5	% 193.0	8.3	%	
Reinsurance	938.6	32.0	% 933.8	34.1	% 760.3	32.6	%	
Total	\$2,935.4	100.0	% \$2,738.8	100.0	% \$2,329.3	100.0	%	

North American Insurance Segment

General

The North American Insurance segment is comprised of our direct insurance operations in the United States, Bermuda and Canada. Within this segment we provide an increasingly diverse range of specialty liability products, with a particular emphasis on coverages for healthcare and professional liability risks. Additionally, we offer a selection of direct general casualty insurance and general property insurance products. Our Bermuda operations underwrite primarily larger, Fortune 1000 casualty and property risks for accounts domiciled in North America, while our operations in the U.S. and Canada generally write small- and middle-market, non-Fortune 1000 accounts domiciled in North America, including public entities, private companies and non-profit organizations. Our underwriters are spread among our locations in the United States, Bermuda and Canada, because we believe it is important to be physically present in the major insurance markets where we compete for business. We believe that over the years we have become a significant writer of primary professional liability and other specialty liability coverage, and we intend to continue to seek attractive opportunities in the North American market.

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The table below illustrates the breakdown of the company's North American direct insurance gross premiums written by line of business for the year ended December 31, 2014.

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	Amount (\$ in millions)	% of Total	
General casualty	\$549.4	32.0	%
Professional liability	412.6	24.0	%
General property	223.6	13.0	%
Healthcare	203.7	11.9	%
Programs	159.5	9.3	%
Inland marine	67.5	3.9	%
Environmental	57.6	3.4	%
Other(1)	42.4	2.5	%
	\$1,716.3	100.0	%

(1) Includes our primary construction and surety lines of business.

Products and Customer Base

Our casualty operations focus on insuring specialty liability risks, such as professional liability, environmental liability, product liability, healthcare liability, and commercial general liability risks. We regularly assess our product mix, and we evaluate new products and markets where we believe our underwriting and service will allow us to differentiate our offerings. We offer professional liability products including policies covering directors and officers, employment practices and fiduciary liability insurance. We also offer errors and omissions liability policies designed for a variety of service providers, including law firms, technology companies, insurance companies, insurance agents and brokers, and municipalities. In addition, we provide both primary and excess liability and other casualty coverages to the healthcare industry, including hospitals and hospital systems, managed care organizations, accountable care organizations and other medical service providers.

With respect to general casualty products, we provide both primary and excess capacity, and our focus is on complex liability risks in a variety of industries including construction, real estate, public entities, retailers, manufacturing, transportation, and finance and insurance services. We also offer comprehensive insurance to contractors and their employees working outside of the United States on contracts for agencies of the U.S. government or foreign operations of U.S. companies.

Our property insurance operations focus on direct coverage of physical property and business interruption coverage for commercial property risks as well as inland marine business. We write solely commercial coverages and concentrate on primary risk layers of insurance (as opposed to excess layers). This means that we are typically part of the first group of insurers that cover a loss up to a specified limit. We offer general property products from our underwriting platforms in North America and cover risks for retail chains, real estate, manufacturers, hotels and casinos, and municipalities.

For more information concerning our gross premiums written by line of business in our North American Insurance segment, see Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Underwriting Results by Operating Segments — North American Insurance Segment — Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013" and "— Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012."

Global Markets Insurance Segment

General

The Global Markets Insurance segment includes all of our direct insurance operations outside of North America. We operate primarily in Europe and Asia and have an office in Miami that underwrites Latin American risks. While our European offices have historically focused on mid-sized to large European and multi-national companies domiciled outside of North America, we continue to expand our product offerings for small- and middle-market accounts and for specialist classes of business with global exposures. We underwrite a variety of professional liability, general casualty and healthcare liability products from our offices in Asia. In addition, Syndicate 2232 writes international property, general casualty and professional liability, marine, aviation and on-shore construction targeted either at key territories or where our customers have requested a Lloyd's policy. Our staff in the Global Markets Insurance segment is spread among London, Ireland, Hong Kong, Singapore

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and Miami because we believe it is important that our underwriters be physically present in the major insurance markets around the world where we compete for business.

The table below illustrates the breakdown of the company's global markets insurance gross premiums written by line of business for the year ended December 31, 2014.

	Year Ended		
	December 31, 2014		
	Amount	% of Total	
	(\$ in millions)		
Professional liability	\$102.7	36.6	%
General property	39.4	14.0	%
General casualty	36.0	12.8	%
Aviation	35.8	12.8	%
Trade credit	32.0	11.4	%
Healthcare	22.1	7.9	%
Other(1)	12.5	4.5	%
	\$280.5	100.0	%

(1) Includes our marine cargo and onshore construction lines of business.

Products and Customer Base

Within our Global Markets Insurance segment, we provide general casualty products, including product liability, employers' liability, environmental liability, professional liability, errors & omissions and healthcare liability products. Our general casualty lines of business serves a wide variety of industries and is increasingly focused on small- and middle-market accounts. With respect to professional liability and errors & omissions, we offer a diverse mix of coverages for commercial entities such as law firms, technology companies, financial institutions, insurance companies and brokers, and engineering and construction firms. Our healthcare underwriters provide products to a variety of healthcare providers, such as hospitals, clinics, miscellaneous medical facilities, physicians and physician groups.

Our property products include physical damage and business interruption coverage for commercial risks as well as specialized products that cover specific building projects during the course of construction. We offer aviation products that encompass airline, aerospace and general aviation classes of business. Our marine products cover all types of goods in transit. We offer short- and medium-term trade credit insurance for clients that export primarily to emerging markets.

For more information on our gross premiums written by line of business in our Global Markets Insurance segment, see Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Underwriting Results by Operating Segments — Global Markets Insurance Segment — Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013" and "— Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012."

Reinsurance Segment

General

Our Reinsurance segment includes the reinsurance of property, general casualty, professional liability, specialty lines and property catastrophe coverages written by other insurance companies. In order to diversify our portfolio and complement our direct insurance business, we write reinsurance on both a treaty and a facultative basis targeting several niche markets including professional liability lines, specialty casualty, property for U.S. regional insurers,

accident and health, marine, aerospace and crop risks. Overall, we strive to diversify our reinsurance portfolio through the appropriate combination of business lines, ceding source, geography and mix of product between quota share and excess-of-loss treaties. Our primary customer focus is on highly-rated carriers with proven underwriting skills and dependable operating models.

We determine appropriate pricing either by using pricing models built or approved by our actuarial staff or by relying on established pricing set by one of our pricing actuaries for a specific treaty. Pricing models are generally used for facultative reinsurance, property catastrophe reinsurance, property per risk reinsurance, workers compensation and personal accident catastrophe reinsurance. Other types of reinsurance rely on actuarially-established pricing. On a written basis, our business mix is more heavily weighted to reinsurance during the first three months of the year.

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The table below illustrates the breakdown of the company's reinsurance gross premiums written by line of business for the year ended December 31, 2014.

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	Amount (\$ in millions)	% of Total	
Property	\$470.8	50.2	%
Casualty	261.1	27.8	%
Specialty	206.7	22.0	%
	\$938.6	100.0	%

Product Lines and Customer Base

Property, casualty and specialty reinsurance is the principal source of revenue for this segment. The insurers we reinsure range from single state to nationwide insurers located in the United States as well as specialty carriers or the specialty divisions of standard lines carriers. For our international treaty unit, our clients include multi-national insurers, single territory insurers, niche carriers and Lloyd's syndicates. We focus on niche programs and coverages, frequently sourced from excess and surplus lines insurers. We target a portfolio of well-rated companies that are highly knowledgeable in their product lines, have the financial resources to execute their business plans and are committed to underwriting discipline throughout the underwriting cycle.

Our property reinsurance treaties protect insurers who write residential, commercial and industrial accounts globally. We also write Euro-centric business and Continental European companies, and are expanding our capabilities in Asia and Latin America, including through the use of our Syndicate 2232. Our property reinsurance treaties are structured as either quota share or excess-of-loss.

Our casualty reinsurance business consists of general casualty and professional liability lines. We write mostly treaty business for global accounts, focused primarily in the United States. Our general casualty treaties cover working layer, intermediate layer and catastrophe exposures. We sell both quota share and excess-of-loss reinsurance. We principally underwrite general liability, auto liability and commercial excess and umbrella liability for both admitted and non-admitted companies. Our general casualty facultative business is principally comprised of lower-attachment, individual-risk reinsurance covering automobile liability, general liability and workers compensation risks for many of the largest U.S. property-casualty and surplus lines insurers. Our professional liability treaties cover several products, primarily directors' and officers' liability, but also attorneys' malpractice, medical malpractice, miscellaneous professional classes and transactional risk liability. The complex exposures undertaken by this unit demand highly technical underwriting and pricing analysis.

For our specialty reinsurance business, we underwrite on a global basis crop, marine and aviation, and other specialty lines of business, including accident and health business with an emphasis on catastrophe personal accident programs and workers compensation catastrophe business.

For more information on our gross premiums written by line of business in our Reinsurance segment, see Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Underwriting Results by Operating Segments — Reinsurance Segment — Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013" and "— Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012."

Enterprise Risk Management

While the assumption of risk is inherent in our business, we believe that we have developed a strong risk management culture that is fostered and maintained by our senior management. Our enterprise risk management (“ERM”) consists of numerous processes and controls that have been designed by our senior management, with oversight by our Board of Directors, including through its Enterprise Risk Committee, and implemented by employees across our organization. One key element of our ERM is our economic capital model. Utilizing this modeling framework, we review the relative interaction between risks impacting us from underwriting through investment risks. Our ERM supports our firm-wide decision making process by aiming to provide reliable and timely risk information. Our primary ERM objectives are to ensure the sustainability of the enterprise, and maximize our risk-adjusted returns on capital.

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We have identified the following as the main categories of risk within our business:

Insurance Risk: Risk of fluctuations in benefits payable to policyholders and cedents including premium or underwriting risk, catastrophe risk and reserve risk.

Investment risk: Risk arising from fluctuations in values of, or income from, invested assets, including fluctuations due to movements in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, credit spreads, credit defaults and/or equity volatility.

Reinsurance credit risk: The ceding of policies we write to other reinsurers is a principal risk management activity, and it requires careful monitoring of the concentration of our reinsured exposures and the creditworthiness of the reinsurers to which we cede business.

Operational risk: Encompasses a wide range of risks related to our operations, including: corporate governance, claims settlement processes, regulatory compliance, employment practices and information technology ("IT") exposures (including disaster recovery, cyber-security and business continuity planning).

Our risk governance structure includes committees comprised of senior underwriting, actuarial, finance, legal, investment and operations staff that identify, monitor and help manage each of these risks. Our management-based Risk Management Committee, chaired by our Chief Risk Officer, focuses primarily on identifying correlations among our primary categories of risk, developing metrics to assess our overall risk position, performing an annual risk assessment and reviewing continually factors that may impact our organizational risk. This risk governance structure is complemented by our internal audit department, which assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal control systems and coordinates risk-based audits and compliance reviews and other specific initiatives to evaluate and address risk within targeted areas of our business as well as our risk-mitigation efforts. Our ERM is a dynamic process, with periodic updates being made to reflect organizational processes and the recalibration of our models, as well as staying current with changes within our industry and the global economic environment.

Our management's internal ERM efforts are overseen by our Board of Directors, primarily through its Enterprise Risk Committee. This committee, comprised of independent directors, is charged with reviewing and recommending to the Board of Directors our overall firm-wide risk appetite as well as overseeing management's compliance therewith. Our Enterprise Risk Committee reviews our risk management methodologies, standards, tolerances and risk strategies, and oversees management's processes for monitoring and aggregating risks across our organization. Our Audit Committee, Investment Committee and Compensation Committee also oversee aspects of our financial, investment and compensation risks, respectively. Internal controls and ERM can provide a reasonable but not absolute assurance that our control objectives will be met. The possibility of material financial loss remains in spite of our ERM efforts.

Financial Strength Ratings

Ratings are an important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance and reinsurance companies. A.M. Best, Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings have each developed a rating system to provide an opinion of an insurer's or reinsurer's financial strength and ability to meet ongoing obligations to its policyholders. Each rating reflects the rating agency's opinion of the capitalization, management and sponsorship of the entity to which it relates, and is neither an evaluation directed to investors in our common shares nor a recommendation to buy, sell or hold our common shares. A.M. Best ratings currently range from "A++" (Superior) to "F" (In Liquidation) and include 15 separate ratings categories. Moody's maintains a letter scale rating system ranging from "Aaa" (Exceptional) to "C" (Lowest-rated) and includes 21 separate ratings categories. Standard & Poor's maintains a letter scale rating system ranging from "AAA" (Extremely Strong) to "R" (under regulatory supervision) and includes 22 separate ratings categories. Fitch Ratings maintains a letter scale rating system ranging from "AAA" (Extremely Strong) to "C" (Distressed) and includes 19 separate ratings categories. Our principal operating subsidiaries and their respective ratings from each rating agency

are provided in the table below. These ratings are subject to periodic review, and may be revised upward, downward or revoked, at the sole discretion of the rating agencies.

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Subsidiary	Rated "A" (Excellent) from A.M. Best(1)	Rated "A2" (Good) from Moody's(2)	Rated "A" (Strong) from Standard & Poor's(3)	Rated "A+" (Strong) from Fitch Ratings(4)
Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd	X	X	X	X
Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc.	X	X	X	X
Allied World National Assurance Company	X	X	X	X
Allied World Insurance Company	X	X	X	X
Allied World Specialty Insurance Company	X	—	—	—
Allied World Surplus Lines Insurance Company	X	—	—	—
Allied World Assurance Company, AG	—	—	X(5)	—
Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited	X	—	X	—

(1) Third highest of 15 available ratings from A.M. Best.

(2) Sixth highest of 21 available ratings from Moody's.

(3) Sixth highest of 22 available ratings from Standard & Poor's.

(4) Fifth highest of 19 available ratings from Fitch Ratings.

(5) This credit rating reflects the benefit of the unconditional guarantee provided by Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, whereby it guarantees all of the obligations under the insurance policies and reinsurance contracts of Allied World Assurance Company, AG where such obligations have become due and payable in accordance with their terms.

In addition to the above-named subsidiaries, we underwrite through our Lloyd's Syndicate 2232. All Lloyd's syndicates benefit from Lloyd's central resources, including Lloyd's brand, its network of global licenses and the central fund. As all of Lloyd's policies are ultimately backed by this common security, a single market rating can be applied. A.M. Best has assigned Lloyd's a financial strength rating of "A" (Excellent), Standard & Poor's has assigned Lloyd's a financial strength rating of "A+" (Strong) and Fitch Ratings have assigned Lloyd's a financial strength rating of "AA-" (Very Strong).

Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses

We are required by applicable insurance laws and regulations in the countries in which we operate and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("U.S. GAAP") to establish loss reserves to cover our estimated liability for the payment of all losses and loss expenses incurred with respect to premiums earned on the policies and treaties that we write. These reserves are balance sheet liabilities representing estimates of losses and loss expenses we are required to pay for insured or reinsured claims that have occurred as of or before the balance sheet date. It is our policy to establish these losses and loss expense reserves using prudent actuarial methods after reviewing all information known to us as of the date they are recorded. For more specific information concerning the statistical and actuarial methods we use to estimate ultimate expected losses and loss expenses, see Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies — Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses."

The following tables show the development of gross and net reserves for losses and loss expenses, respectively. The tables do not present accident or policy year development data. Each table begins by showing the original year-end reserves recorded at the balance sheet date for each of the years presented ("as originally estimated"). This represents the estimated amounts of losses and loss expenses arising in all prior years that are unpaid at the balance sheet date, including reserves for losses incurred but not reported ("IBNR"). The re-estimated liabilities reflect additional information regarding claims incurred prior to the end of the preceding financial year. A (redundancy) or deficiency arises when the re-estimation of reserves recorded at the end of each prior year is (less than) or greater than its

estimation at the preceding year-end. The cumulative (redundancies) or deficiencies represent cumulative differences between the original reserves and the currently re-estimated liabilities over all prior years. Annual changes in the estimates are reflected in the consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive income for each year, as the liabilities are re-estimated.

The lower sections of the tables show the portions of the original reserves that were paid (claims paid) as of the end of subsequent years. This section of each table provides an indication of the portion of the re-estimated liability that is settled and is unlikely to develop in the future. For our quota share treaty reinsurance business, we have estimated the allocation of claims paid to applicable years based on a review of large losses and earned premium percentages.

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Development of Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses Cumulative Deficiency (Redundancy)

Gross Losses

	Year Ended December 31,										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008(1)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	(\$ in millions)										
As Originally Estimated:	\$2,084.3	\$3,543.8	\$3,900.5	\$4,307.6	\$4,576.8	\$4,761.8	\$4,879.2	\$5,225.1	\$5,645.5	\$5,766.5	\$5,881.1
Liability Re-estimated as of:											
One Year Later	1,961.2	3,403.3	3,622.7	3,484.9	4,290.3	4,329.3	4,557.8	4,991.2	5,375.6	5,491.1	5,606.7
Two Years Later	1,873.6	3,249.3	3,247.9	3,149.3	3,877.8	3,975.2	4,246.5	4,707.7	5,138.5	5,253.6	5,368.7
Three Years Later	1,733.7	2,894.5	2,911.3	2,791.1	3,576.8	3,670.3	3,953.8	4,449.1	4,880.0	4,995.1	5,110.2
Four Years Later	1,513.7	2,558.6	2,605.8	2,533.6	3,295.7	3,446.4	3,719.4	4,150.3	4,581.2	4,696.3	4,811.4
Five Years Later	1,306.2	2,315.9	2,432.6	2,300.1	3,101.7	3,285.2	3,558.1	3,989.0	4,420.0	4,535.1	4,650.2
Six Years Later	1,235.6	2,190.5	2,314.2	2,184.3	3,037.9	3,221.4	3,494.3	3,925.2	4,356.1	4,471.2	4,586.3
Seven Years Later	1,207.7	2,168.5	2,263.0	2,115.2	2,974.3	3,157.8	3,424.7	3,855.6	4,286.5	4,401.6	4,516.7
Eight Years Later	1,199.7	2,151.4	2,237.5	2,089.7	2,910.8	3,094.3	3,361.2	3,792.1	4,223.0	4,338.1	4,453.2
Nine Years Later	1,197.1	2,155.1	2,241.2	2,093.4	2,915.3	3,098.8	3,365.7	3,796.6	4,227.5	4,342.6	4,457.7
Ten Years Later	1,192.6	2,158.8	2,244.9	2,097.9	2,919.8	3,103.3	3,370.2	3,801.5	4,231.4	4,346.5	4,461.6
Cumulative (Redundancy)	(891.7)	(1,388.7)	(1,663.0)	(2,192.4)	(1,538.9)	(1,476.6)	(1,159.8)	(776.0)	(507.0)	(275.4)	(160.3)
Cumulative Claims Paid as of:											
One Year Later	374.6	718.3	560.2	583.4	574.8	634.5	656.6	852.1	1,112.6	1,165.6	1,218.7
Two Years Later	574.4	1,154.9	1,002.5	943.9	1,089.5	1,036.2	1,242.1	1,577.0	1,961.8	2,014.9	2,068.0
Three Years Later	726.0	1,521.6	1,252.9	1,311.4	1,391.3	1,408.0	1,671.5	2,185.2	2,570.1	2,623.2	2,676.3
Four Years Later	842.9	1,662.8	1,531.9	1,469.3	1,680.7	1,737.2	2,097.7	2,582.1	2,967.0	3,020.1	3,073.2
Five Years Later	910.4	1,829.0	1,622.5	1,634.5	1,904.4	2,071.9	2,431.6	2,916.5	3,301.4	3,354.5	3,407.6
Six Years Later	972.0	1,864.9	1,705.9	1,789.1	2,136.2	2,303.7	2,664.4	3,159.3	3,544.2	3,597.3	3,650.4
Seven Years Later	994.8	1,916.9	1,810.5	1,910.2	2,281.3	2,448.8	2,809.5	3,364.4	3,749.3	3,802.4	3,855.5
Eight Years Later	1,031.9	1,995.1	1,920.2	1,993.7	2,342.4	2,510.0	2,870.7	3,425.6	3,810.5	3,863.6	3,916.7
	1,071.9	2,033.3	1,958.3	2,031.8	2,382.9	2,550.5	2,911.2	3,466.1	3,851.0	3,904.1	3,957.2

Nine Years

Later

Ten Years 1,112.2

Later

(1) Reserve for losses and loss expenses includes the reserves for losses and loss expenses of Allied World Insurance Company, which we acquired in February 2008, and AW Underwriters Inc., which we acquired in October 2008.

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Development of Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses Cumulative Deficiency (Redundancy)

Gross Losses

	Year Ended December 31,										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Liability Re-estimated as of:											
One Year Later	94	% 96	% 93	% 81	% 94	% 91	% 93	% 96	% 95	% 95	%
Two Years Later	90	% 92	% 83	% 73	% 85	% 83	% 87	% 90	% 91	%	
Three Years Later	83	% 82	% 75	% 65	% 78	% 77	% 81	% 85	%		
Four Years Later	73	% 72	% 67	% 59	% 72	% 72	% 76	%			
Five Years Later	63	% 65	% 62	% 53	% 68	% 69	%				
Six Years Later	59	% 62	% 59	% 51	% 66	%					
Seven Years Later	58	% 61	% 58	% 49	%						
Eight Years Later	58	% 61	% 57	%							
Nine Years Later	57	% 61	%								
Ten Years Later	57	%									
Cumulative (Redundancy)	(43)%	(39)%	(43)%	(51)%	(34)%	(31)%	(24)%	(15)%	(9)%	(5)%	
Gross Loss and Loss Expense Cumulative Paid as a Percentage of Originally Estimated Liability											
Cumulative Claims Paid as of:											
One Year Later	18	% 20	% 14	% 14	% 13	% 13	% 13	% 16	% 20	% 20	%
Two Years Later	28	% 33	% 26	% 22	% 24	% 22	% 25	% 30	% 35	%	
Three Years Later	35	% 43	% 32	% 30	% 30	% 30	% 34	% 42	%		
Four Years Later	40	% 47	% 39	% 34	% 37	% 36	% 43	%			
Five Years Later	44	% 52	% 42	% 38	% 42	% 44	%				
Six Years Later	47	% 53	% 44	% 42	% 47	%					
Seven Years Later	48	% 54	% 46	% 44	%						
Eight Years Later	50	% 56	% 49	%							
Nine Years Later	51	% 57	%								
Ten Years Later	53	%									

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Development of Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses Cumulative Deficiency (Redundancy)

Losses Net of Reinsurance

	Year Ended December 31,										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008(1)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	(\$ in millions)										
As Originally Estimated:	\$1,809.6	\$2,826.9	\$3,211.4	\$3,624.9	\$3,688.5	\$3,841.8	\$3,951.6	\$4,222.2	\$4,504.4	\$4,532.0	\$4,532.0
Liability Re-estimated as of:											
One Year Later	1,760.5	2,662.7	2,978.3	3,312.2	3,440.5	3,528.4	3,698.1	4,051.9	4,324.1	4,319.4	
Two Years Later	1,655.7	2,551.9	2,699.6	3,032.1	3,128.3	3,256.0	3,474.3	3,855.7	4,157.0		
Three Years Later	1,551.1	2,281.0	2,417.0	2,742.5	2,882.6	3,020.0	3,271.5	3,670.5			
Four Years Later	1,354.0	1,986.8	2,152.2	2,518.5	2,655.7	2,854.8	3,092.9				
Five Years Later	1,162.3	1,776.5	1,997.0	2,326.5	2,516.9	2,720.3					
Six Years Later	1,098.7	1,663.6	1,896.0	2,240.0	2,451.8						
Seven Years Later	1,075.3	1,644.2	1,857.4	2,185.0							
Eight Years Later	1,067.1	1,630.6	1,841.5								
Nine Years Later	1,067.2	1,639.9									
Ten Years Later	1,064.5										
Cumulative (Redundancy)	(745.1)	(1,187.0)	(1,369.9)	(1,439.9)	(1,236.7)	(1,121.5)	(858.7)	(551.7)	(347.4)	(212.6)	
Cumulative Claims Paid as of:											
One Year Later	306.9	461.3	377.3	415.2	415.9	498.1	542.6	743.8	974.0	1,001.5	
Two Years Later	482.0	759.3	699.0	681.3	811.7	843.7	1,050.8	1,365.8	1,688.5		
Three Years Later	624.9	990.5	884.1	964.8	1,069.3	1,171.5	1,430.2	1,879.5			
Four Years Later	733.3	1,090.7	1,094.0	1,100.0	1,318.8	1,458.2	1,787.3				
Five Years Later	783.1	1,220.0	1,167.6	1,244.9	1,515.5	1,735.1					
Six Years Later	833.9	1,248.3	1,241.5	1,379.9	1,712.4						
Seven Years Later	851.3	1,293.1	1,335.9	1,496.3							
	883.2	1,362.9	1,441.8								

Eight Years Later		
Nine Years Later	917.7	1,398.0
Ten Years Later	946.6	

Reserve for losses and loss expenses net includes the reserves for losses and loss expenses of Allied World (1)Insurance Company, which we acquired in February 2008, and AW Underwriters Inc., which we acquired in October 2008.

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Losses Net of Reinsurance

	Year Ended December 31,										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Liability Re-estimated as of:											
One Year Later	97	% 94	% 93	% 91	% 93	% 92	% 94	% 96	% 96	% 95	%
Two Years Later	91	% 90	% 84	% 84	% 85	% 85	% 88	% 91	% 92	%	
Three Years Later	86	% 81	% 75	% 76	% 78	% 79	% 83	% 87	%		
Four Years Later	75	% 70	% 67	% 69	% 72	% 74	% 78	%			
Five Years Later	64	% 63	% 62	% 64	% 68	% 71	%				
Six Years Later	61	% 59	% 59	% 62	% 66	%					
Seven Years Later	59	% 58	% 58	% 60	%						
Eight Years Later	59	% 58	% 57	%							
Nine Years Later	59	% 58	%								
Ten Years Later	59	%									
Cumulative (Redundancy)	(41)%	(42)%	(43)%	(40)%	(34)%	(29)%	(22)%	(13)%	(8)%	(5)%	
Net Loss and Loss Expense Cumulative Paid as a Percentage of Originally Estimated Liability											
Cumulative Claims Paid as of:											
One Year Later	17	% 16	% 12	% 11	% 11	% 13	% 14	% 18	% 22	% 22	%
Two Years Later	27	% 27	% 22	% 19	% 22	% 22	% 27	% 32	% 37	%	
Three Years Later	35	% 35	% 28	% 27	% 29	% 30	% 36	% 45	%		
Four Years Later	41	% 39	% 34	% 30	% 36	% 38	% 45	%			
Five Years Later	43	% 43	% 36	% 34	% 41	% 45	%				
Six Years Later	46	% 44	% 39	% 38	% 46	%					
Seven Years Later	47	% 46	% 42	% 41	%						
Eight Years Later	49	% 48	% 45	%							
Nine Years Later	51	% 49	%								
Ten Years Later	52	%									

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Losses Net of Reinsurance

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending liability for unpaid losses and loss expenses for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoveries.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions)		
Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, January 1	\$4,532.0	\$4,504.4	\$4,222.2
Incurring related to:			
Current year non-catastrophe	1,346.8	1,290.0	1,130.0
Current year property catastrophe	65.0	13.5	179.6
Prior year	(212.6) (180.3) (170.3
Total incurred	1,199.2	1,123.2	1,139.3
Paid related to:			
Current year non-catastrophe	153.1	115.6	99.1
Current year property catastrophe	18.7	—	18.1
Prior year	1,001.5	974.0	743.8
Total paid	1,173.3	1,089.6	861.0
Foreign exchange revaluation	(17.0) (6.0) 3.9
Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, December 31	4,540.9	4,532.0	4,504.4
Losses and loss expenses recoverable	1,340.3	1,234.5	1,141.1
Reserve for losses and loss expenses, December 31	\$5,881.2	\$5,766.5	\$5,645.5

Investments

As of December 31, 2014, we had total investments and cash and cash equivalents of \$8.5 billion, including restricted cash, fixed-maturity securities, equity securities, hedge fund, private equity investments and other securities. The average credit quality of our investments is rated AA- by Standard & Poor's and Aa3 by Moody's. Our current Investment Policy Statement requires that short-term instruments must be rated a minimum of A-1, F-1 or P-1 by Standard & Poor's, Moody's or Fitch. The target duration range is 1.00 to 4.25 years. The portfolio has a total return rather than income orientation. The average duration of our investment portfolio was 2.0 years as of December 31, 2014.

We believe that we follow a diversified investment strategy designed to emphasize the preservation of our invested assets, and provide adequate liquidity for the prompt payment of claims as well as attractive returns for our shareholders. The Investment Committee of our Board of Directors approves an Investment Policy Statement that contains investment guidelines and supervises our investment strategy, investment activity and investment risk. The Investment Committee regularly monitors our overall investment results and compliance with investment objectives and guidelines set forth in the Investment Policy Statement, and ultimately reports our overall investment results to the Board of Directors.

To help ensure adequate liquidity for the payment of claims, we take into account the maturity and duration of our investment portfolio and our general liability profile. In making investment decisions, we consider the impact of various catastrophic events to which we may be exposed. The majority of our assets are invested in the fixed income markets. Our Investment Policy Statement contains restrictions on the maximum amount of our investment portfolio that may be invested in alternative investments (such as hedge funds and private equity vehicles) as well as a minimum amount that must be maintained in investment grade fixed income securities and cash. Our Investment Policy Statement also includes restrictions on the portfolio's composition, including limits on the type of issuer, sector limits, credit quality limits, portfolio duration, limits on the amount of investments in approved countries and permissible security types.

For several asset classes we have engaged outside investment managers to provide us with certain discretionary investment management services. We have agreed to pay investment management fees based on the market values of the investments in the portfolio. The fees, which vary depending on the amount of assets under management, are included as a deduction to net investment income. These investment management agreements may generally be terminated by either party upon 30 days prior written notice.

We have also developed investment guidelines that include restrictions on the permissible security types the investment managers may include in the portfolios that they manage. We may direct our investment managers to invest some of the

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investment portfolio in currencies other than the U.S. dollar based on the business we have written, the currency in which our loss reserves are denominated on our books or regulatory requirements.

For more information on the securities in our investment portfolio, including breakdowns of asset classes, credit quality and duration, please see Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies — Fair Value of Financial Instruments;” Item 7A “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk” and Notes 3, 4 and 5 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements in this Form 10-K.

Our Principal Operating Subsidiaries

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is a registered Class 4 Bermuda insurance and reinsurance company that writes business from its offices in Bermuda, from branch offices in Asia and under a license in Labuan; Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited, is incorporated in Ireland and writes business primarily originating from Dublin, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Continental Europe; Allied World Assurance Company, AG, is incorporated in Switzerland and writes insurance and reinsurance from our office in Zug, Switzerland and is also approved to operate a branch from our office in Bermuda; and Allied World Managing Agency Limited, which is incorporated in the United Kingdom and is the managing agent of our Lloyd’s Syndicate 2232. In addition, we write direct insurance in the United States through Allied World Insurance Company, Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc., Allied World National Assurance Company, Allied World Specialty Insurance Company and Allied World Surplus Lines Insurance Company, which are authorized or eligible to write insurance on both a surplus lines and admitted basis throughout the United States. We write reinsurance business in the United States through Allied World Reinsurance Management Company, which is licensed to write as a managing general underwriter for our U.S. reinsurance business.

Regulatory Matters

General

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries must comply with many laws and regulations in the countries where we operate and where we sell our products. Compliance obligations are increasing in most jurisdictions as the focus on insurance regulatory controls has escalated in recent years, with particular emphasis on regulation of solvency, risk management and controls.

Group Supervision

The Bermuda Monetary Authority (“BMA”) acts as the group supervisor for Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, our lead insurance and reinsurance subsidiary which has been named the “designated insurer” for group supervisory purposes. In accordance with the Group Supervisory and Insurance Group Solvency Rules effective in January 2012, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is required to prepare and submit to the BMA annual group U.S. GAAP financial statements, annual group statutory financial statements, annual group statutory financial and capital returns, and unaudited quarterly returns.

Bermuda

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is subject to the Bermuda Insurance Act 1978 (the “Insurance Act”). The Insurance Act imposes solvency and liquidity standards as well as auditing and reporting requirements on Bermuda insurers and reinsurers, and it empowers the BMA to supervise and investigate the affairs of these companies. There are a number of remedial actions the BMA can take to protect the public interest if it determines that a Bermuda

insurer or reinsurer may become insolvent or that a breach of the Insurance Act or of a registration condition has or is about to occur.

In addition to maintaining a principal office in Bermuda and appointing specified officers, the following are some significant aspects of the Bermuda regulatory framework with which Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd must comply:

Solvency and Capital Standards. It must maintain a minimum solvency margin and hold available statutory capital and surplus equal to or exceeding its enhanced capital requirement and target capital level as determined by the BMA under the Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement model (the “BSCR model”). The BSCR model is a risk-based capital model that establishes an enhanced capital requirement and total capital level by taking into account risk characteristics specific to an insurer’s business. Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is required to maintain a minimum solvency margin that is equal to the greatest of (1) \$100,000,000, (2) 50% of net premiums written, (3) 15% of net losses and loss expense reserves and (4) 25% of its enhanced group capital requirement.

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Eligible Capital and Liquidity. It must disclose the makeup of its capital under a “three-tiered capital system,” under which capital instruments are classified as either basic or ancillary capital, and then classified into one of three tiers based on “loss absorbency” characteristics. The maximum of tier 1, 2 and 3 capital that may be used to support a company’s minimum solvency margin, enhanced capital requirement and target capital level are determined in accordance with BMA rules. In addition, minimum liquidity must be maintained at a ratio at least equal to the value of relevant assets at not less than 75% of the amount of relevant liabilities.

Dividends. It is prohibited from declaring or paying a dividend during any financial year if it is, or would be after such dividend, in breach of its minimum solvency margin, minimum liquidity ratio or enhanced capital requirements. It must also receive BMA approval prior to declaring or paying within any financial year dividends of more than 25% of its total statutory capital and surplus or reducing its total statutory capital by 15%. Additionally, under the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda, no Bermuda company may pay a dividend if such company has reasonable grounds for believing that it is, or would after the payment be, unable to pay its liabilities as they become due, or that the realizable value of its assets would thereby be less than its liabilities.

Code of Conduct. It must comply with the BMA’s Insurance Code of Conduct, which prescribes the duties, standards, procedures and sound business principles with which all companies registered under the Insurance Act must comply.

Change of Control. The BMA also requires written notification from any person who, directly or indirectly, becomes a holder of at least 10% of the voting shares of Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd or its parents within a stipulated period after becoming such a holder. The BMA may object to such a person if determined to be not fit and proper to be such a holder or it may require the shareholder to reduce its holdings or voting rights.

Security Arrangements

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, is not admitted as an insurer nor is it accredited as a reinsurer in any jurisdiction in the United States, although it is qualified as an “eligible” or “certified” reinsurer in several U.S. states. Except in states where it has qualified as an eligible or certified reinsurer, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is generally required to post collateral security with respect to any reinsurance liabilities it assumes from ceding insurers domiciled in the United States in order for these cedents to obtain credit on their U.S. statutory financial statements with respect to insurance liabilities ceded by them. Under applicable statutory provisions, the security arrangements may be in the form of letters of credit, reinsurance trusts maintained by trustees or funds-withheld arrangements where assets are held by the ceding company. For a description of the security arrangements used by us, see Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Pledged Assets.”

Ireland

Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited is authorized as a non-life insurance and reinsurance undertaking regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland (“CBI”) pursuant to the Irish Insurance Acts and Central Bank Acts, as well as statutory instruments relating to insurance made or adopted after the European Communities Acts. In addition, the Third Non-Life Directive of the European Union established a common framework for the authorization and regulation of non-life insurance undertakings within the E.U., permitting non-life insurance undertakings authorized in one member state to operate in other member states either directly from the home state (on a freedom to provide services basis) or through local branches (by way of permanent establishment). Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited operates branch offices in the United Kingdom and Switzerland and operates on a freedom to provide services basis in other European Union member states.

Lloyd’s

Our Syndicate 2232 is managed by Allied World Managing Agency Limited, which is authorized and regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority and is licensed by Lloyd's to underwrite certain lines of insurance and reinsurance business. As the Syndicate's sole corporate member, Allied World Capital (Europe) Limited must comply with Lloyd's bye laws and the Financial and Services and Markets Act 2000 ("FSMA"). Lloyd's has various powers and duties under the FSMA and the Lloyd's Acts to regulate its members' operations, including minimum solvency standards and requirements as to member management and control. In addition to establishing the capital required to support a syndicate's annual underwriting capacity (referred to as the "funds at Lloyd's"), Lloyd's has discretion to call or assess up to 3% of a member's underwriting capacity in any one year as a Central Fund contribution.

Our business plan (including the maximum underwriting capacity) for Syndicate 2232 requires annual approval by Lloyd's. Lloyd's may require changes to the business plan and may also require additional capital to support an approved

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business plan. Prior to the closure of any underwriting year, “funds at Lloyd’s” cannot typically be reduced without the consent of Lloyd’s, and such consent will usually be considered only where a member has surplus “funds at Lloyd’s”. Lloyd’s approval is also required before any person can acquire control of a Lloyd’s managing agent or Lloyd’s corporate member.

Lloyd’s worldwide insurance and reinsurance business is subject to various laws, regulations, treaties and policies of the E.U. as well as each jurisdiction in which it operates. Material changes in governmental requirements or laws could have an adverse effect on Lloyd’s and its member companies, including Allied World Capital (Europe) Limited.

Switzerland

Allied World Assurance Company, AG is licensed by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (“FINMA”) to carry on insurance and reinsurance business in specific non-life lines in Switzerland. It must comply with Swiss insurance supervisory laws under regulations and guidance issued by FINMA, and it is currently required to satisfy capital and solvency requirements, based on two independent methodologies: the E.U.’s Solvency I (solvency margin calculated by applying defined percentages to a base and comparing coverage in terms of the company’s admissible funds against the required solvency margin) and the Swiss Solvency Test, which is similar in nature to the methodology to be applied under the E.U.’s Solvency II regime.

In addition to quantitative risk measures, FINMA requires full qualitative governance and control of risk in the firm, including: fitness, propriety and competence of the directors and senior management, observance of ethical standards, objective and appropriate remuneration procedures, management of conflicts of interests, the institution of a compliance function, independence and adequate resourcing of control functions (including the responsible actuary, the risk management function and the internal audit function). Insurance companies are required to implement documented procedures for risk management and internal control.

United States

Our U.S. insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are admitted or surplus lines eligible in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Allied World Insurance Company is domiciled in New Hampshire and is the lead U.S. subsidiary for regulatory purposes. Allied World National Assurance Company is also domiciled in New Hampshire. Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World Specialty Insurance Company are each domiciled in Delaware. Allied World Surplus Lines Insurance Company and Vantapro Specialty Insurance Company are each domiciled in Arkansas.

The regulation of U.S. insurance and reinsurance companies varies by state. Generally, states regulate insurance holding companies to assure the fairness of inter-affiliate transactions, the propriety of dividends paid to corporate parents and the benefits of any proposed change-of-control transaction. States also regulate insurer solvency, accounting matters and risk management, as well as a range of operational matters including: authorized lines of business, permitted investments, policy forms and premium rates, maximum single policy risks, adequacy of reserves for losses and unearned premiums and maintenance of in-state deposits for the benefit of policyholders. To monitor compliance, state departments conduct periodic examinations of the market conduct and financial fitness of insurance companies and require the filing of annual and other reports relating to the financial condition of companies and other matters.

Several of our U.S. companies serve primarily the excess and surplus lines markets and, as such, are subject to somewhat reduced regulation and reporting requirements in the jurisdictions in which they write surplus lines insurance. These companies are generally exempt from form and rate pre-approval requirements and from state guaranty fund laws and involuntary pool participation

Guaranty Fund Assessments and Involuntary Pools. Virtually all states require admitted insurers to participate in various forms of guaranty associations in order to bear a portion of the losses to insureds caused by the insolvency of other insurers. Assessments are generally between 1% and 2% of the annual premiums written. Many states also require participation in assigned risk pools involving workers compensation and automobile insurance.

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Risk-Based Capital. U.S. insurers are subject to risk-based capital (or “RBC”) guidelines that provide a method to measure the total adjusted capital (statutory capital and surplus plus other adjustments) taking into account the specific risk characteristics of the company’s investments and products. The guidelines establish capital requirements for four categories: asset risk, insurance risk, interest rate risk and business risk. As of December 31, 2014, we believe all of our U.S. subsidiaries had RBC in excess of amounts requiring company or regulatory action.

Other

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd has received regulatory approval to operate branch offices in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Labuan, the Malaysian financial district. Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is also registered as a foreign reinsurer in a number of Latin American countries in order to service markets in Latin America and the Caribbean. Allied World Specialty Insurance Company is licensed by the Canadian Office of the Supervisor of Financial Institutions.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and other documents we file with the SEC include the following:

Risks Related to Our Company

Downgrades or the revocation of the financial strength ratings of our operating insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries may affect our standing among brokers and customers and may cause our premiums and earnings to decrease significantly. Downgrades in our debt ratings could raise our borrowing costs and impact our ability to access capital markets.

Financial strength ratings are an important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance and reinsurance companies. The objective of these rating systems is to provide an opinion of an insurer's or reinsurer's financial strength and ability to meet ongoing obligations to its policyholders or cedents. Our operating insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are rated by third-party rating agencies. Each rating is subject to periodic review by, and may be revised downward or revoked at the sole discretion of, the rating agency. For the financial strength rating of each of our principal operating subsidiaries, please see Item 1. “Business — Financial Strength Ratings”.

A ratings downgrade or revocation could adversely affect our competitive position in the insurance and reinsurance industry and may make it more difficult for us to market our products, possibly resulting in substantial loss of business as customers and brokers that place this business move to competitors with higher financial strength ratings. Additionally, it is common for our reinsurance contracts to contain terms that would allow the ceding companies to cancel the contract for the portion of our obligations if our insurance subsidiaries are downgraded below an A- by either A.M. Best or Standard & Poor's (“S&P”). Our U.S. reinsurance subsidiary typically does not post collateral for the reinsurance contracts it writes. Should our U.S. reinsurance subsidiary be downgraded below an A- by A.M. Best or S&P, in addition to the cancellation right discussed above, some ceding companies would have the ability to require our U.S. reinsurance subsidiary to post collateral under its contracts. Furthermore, a ratings downgrade or revocation of certain of our operating subsidiaries would be an event of default under our credit facilities, please see Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Liquidity — Credit Facility”. Finally, if our debt ratings were downgraded we could also incur higher borrowing costs and may have more limited means to access capital.

Our debt and financial strength ratings are neither an evaluation directed to our investors nor a recommendation to buy, sell or hold our securities. We cannot assure you that third-party rating agencies will not downgrade or revoke

our financial strength or debt ratings, which would have an adverse effect on our business and financial condition.

Actual claims may exceed our reserves for losses and loss expenses.

Our success depends in part on our ability to accurately assess the potential losses associated with the risks that we insure and reinsure. We establish reserves for losses and related expenses that represent our estimates of what we expect the ultimate resolution and administration of claims will cost. The process of establishing loss reserves can be highly complex and is subject to considerable variability and uncertainty as it requires the use of informed estimates and judgments. These estimates and judgments are based on: actuarial and statistical projections, claims information, our assessment of currently available data, industry modeling, discussions with individual insureds and reinsureds, estimates

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of future trends in claims severity and frequency, judicial theories of liability and other factors. Loss reserve estimates are refined on a quarterly basis as experience develops and claims are reported and resolved. In addition, changes in the level of inflation may also result in an increased level of uncertainty in our estimation of loss reserves because premiums are established before the ultimate amounts of loss and loss adjustment expense are known. Our reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses include assumptions about future payments for settlement of claims and related expenses, such as the value of replacing property and associated labor costs for the property business we write, the value of medical treatments and litigation costs. To the extent inflation causes these costs to increase above established reserves, we will be required to increase our loss reserves with a corresponding reduction in net income for the period in which the deficiency is identified. Although we consider the potential effects of inflation when setting premium rates, our premiums may not fully offset the effects of inflation and may result in our underpricing of the risks we insure and reinsure. As a result, actual losses and loss adjustment expenses paid may deviate, perhaps substantially, from the reserve estimates reflected in our financial statements.

Establishing an appropriate level of loss reserves is an inherently uncertain process and it is possible that our loss reserves at any given time will prove to be inadequate. Please see Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies — Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses”. If our loss reserves are determined to be inadequate, we will be required to increase our reserves to reflect our changed expectations at the time of such determination. This could cause a material increase in our liabilities and a material reduction in our profitability and capital, which could result in operating losses in the period in which the inadequacy becomes known and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Actual losses incurred may vary from those estimated and may be significantly greater or less than the loss reserves held at the time actual losses are determined.

We may experience significant losses and volatility in our financial results from natural and man-made disasters.

As a casualty and property insurer and reinsurer, we may experience significant losses from claims arising out of natural and man-made disasters. These events can be caused by various unpredictable natural disasters, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, windstorms, hailstorms, drought, severe winter weather, floods, fires, tornadoes, pandemic diseases and man-made disasters, including terrorism, explosions, war, nuclear accidents, oil spills, environmental contamination and cyber breaches. In recent years, changing weather patterns and climatic conditions, referred to as global warming, may have added to the unpredictability and frequency of natural catastrophes in certain parts of the world and created additional uncertainty with regard to legal, regulatory and social responses thereto, as well as to future trends and exposures. A substantial portion of our revenues are derived from the underwriting of property insurance and reinsurance around the world and any large scale climate change or other systemic weather-related change could increase the frequency and severity of our loss costs due to weather-related catastrophes. In addition, increases in the values and concentrations of insured property and the effects of inflation have resulted in increased severity of losses to the industry, and we expect this trend to continue.

We also have exposure to losses resulting from acts of terrorism and political instability. Although we generally exclude acts of terrorism from our property insurance policies and property reinsurance treaties, we provide coverage in circumstances where we believe we are adequately compensated for assuming those risks. Managing risks associated with terrorism is particularly challenging given the unpredictable nature, frequency and severity of terrorist events, and the limited availability of terrorism reinsurance. In addition, our trade credit and political risk insurance lines of business protect insureds against risks arising from adverse action by foreign governments. We attempt to manage our exposure to political risk event losses, by among other things, setting credit limits by country, region, industry and individual counterparty and regularly reviewing our aggregate exposures.

The loss limitation methods we employ, such as establishing restrictive underwriting guidelines and purchasing reinsurance, may not be sufficient protection against losses from natural or man-made disasters. These types of events

are inherently unpredictable and there is a possibility that loss reserves for such disasters will be inadequate. In addition, because U.S. GAAP does not permit insurers and reinsurers to reserve for weather-related catastrophes until they occur, claims from these events could cause substantial volatility in our financial results and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and ratings.

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The risk models we use to quantify natural and man-made disaster exposures and risk accumulations may prove inadequate.

We use widely accepted and industry-recognized disaster risk modeling programs to help us quantify our aggregate exposure to any one event. These models rely on various methodologies and assumptions, which are subject to uncertainty. As with any model of physical systems, particularly those with low frequencies of occurrence and potentially high severity of outcomes, the accuracy of the model's predictions is largely dependent on the accuracy and quality of the data provided in the underwriting process and the judgments of our employees and other industry professionals. These models do not anticipate all potential perils or events that could result in a catastrophic loss to us. Furthermore, it is often difficult for models to anticipate and incorporate events that have not been experienced during or as a result of prior disaster events. Accordingly, it is possible for us to be subject to events or contingencies that have not been anticipated by our disaster risk models and which could have a material adverse effect on our reserves and results of operations.

The failure of any of the loss limitation methods we employ could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

We seek to limit our loss exposure by implementing a number of strategies intended to mitigate our risk exposure, such as adhering to maximum limitations on policies written in defined geographical zones, limiting program size for each client, adjusting retention levels and establishing per-risk and per-occurrence limitations for each event and prudent underwriting guidelines for each insurance program written. Many of our direct liability insurance policies also include maximum aggregate limitations. We cannot assure you that any of these loss limitation methods will be effective. In particular, geographic zone limitations involve significant underwriting judgments, including the determination of the areas of the zones and whether a policy falls within particular zone limits. Legal disputes relating to loss limitation provisions in our policies may also arise. As a result, various provisions of our policies that are designed to limit risks, such as choice of forum and exclusions from coverage, may not be enforceable in the manner we intend and some or all of our other loss limitation methods may prove to be ineffective. It is also possible that losses could manifest themselves in ways that we do not anticipate and that our risk mitigation strategies are not designed to address. There are inherent limitations in all of the loss limitation methods we use and an event or series of events may result in loss levels that exceed our expectations. The failure of any of our loss limitation methods may result in claims and expenses that could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

U.S. and global economic events could harm our business, liquidity and financial condition, and our share price.

Global economic events may adversely affect the demand for and claims made under our products; our counterparty credit risk; and the ability of our customers, counterparties and others to establish or maintain their relationships with us. Our investment performance and volatility in the U.S. and other securities markets may also adversely affect our share price and our ability to access and efficiently use internal and external capital resources.

The risk associated with underwriting treaty reinsurance business could adversely affect us.

Like other reinsurers, our reinsurance group does not separately evaluate each of the individual risks assumed under reinsurance treaties. Therefore, we are largely dependent on the original underwriting decisions made by the ceding companies. We are subject to the risk that the ceding companies may not have adequately evaluated the risks to be reinsured and that the premiums ceded may not adequately compensate us for the risks we assume.

If our Bermuda reinsurance subsidiary is unable to provide collateral to ceding companies, its ability to conduct business could be significantly and negatively affected.

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, our Bermuda insurance and reinsurance company, is not licensed or admitted as an insurer in any jurisdiction in the United States, nor is it accredited as a reinsurer in any jurisdiction in the United States although Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd has been approved as a “certified reinsurer” in certain U.S. states that allow reduced collateral for reinsurance ceded to such reinsurers. Insurance regulations in the United States do not permit U.S. cedents to take financial statement credit for reinsurance obtained from unlicensed or non-admitted reinsurers unless security is posted. Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd’s assumed reinsurance contracts generally require it to post a letter of credit or provide other security, even in U.S. states where it has been approved for reduced collateral. As a result, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is required to post collateral security with respect to most reinsurance liabilities it assumes from ceding insurers domiciled in the United States . Under applicable statutory

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provisions, the security arrangements may be in the form of letters of credit, reinsurance trusts maintained by trustees or funds-withheld arrangements where assets are held by the ceding company. If we are unable to post security in the form of letters of credit or trust funds when required, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd's ability to provide reinsurance to U.S.-domiciled insurers may be severely limited and adversely affected.

In addition, security arrangements with ceding insurers may subject our assets to security interests or may require that a portion of our assets be pledged to, or otherwise held by, third parties. Although the investment income derived from our assets while held in trust typically accrues to our benefit, the investment of these assets is governed by the terms of the letter of credit facilities and the investment regulations of the state of domicile of the ceding insurer, which generally regulate the amount and quality of investments permitted and which may be more restrictive than the investment regulations applicable to us under Bermuda law. These restrictions may result in lower investment yields on these assets, which could adversely affect our profitability.

We depend on a small number of brokers for a large portion of our revenues. The loss of business provided by any one of them could adversely affect us.

We market our insurance and reinsurance products worldwide through insurance and reinsurance brokers. Our top three brokers were Marsh, Aon (including Benfield Group Ltd.) and Willis represented approximately 51.5% of our total gross premiums written for 2014, with each representing 25%, 17% and 10%, of total gross premiums, respectively. Loss of all or a substantial portion of the business produced by any one of those brokers could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and business.

Our exposure to counterparties in various industries and reliance on brokers subjects us to credit risk.

We have exposure to counterparties through our insurance and reinsurance business and in various industries, including banks, hedge funds and other investment vehicles, and derivative transactions that expose us to credit risk in the event our counterparty fails to perform its obligations. We also have exposure to financial institutions in the form of secured and unsecured debt instruments and equity securities.

In accordance with industry practice, we frequently pay amounts owed on claims under our insurance and reinsurance contracts to brokers, and these brokers, in turn, pay these amounts to the customers that have purchased insurance or reinsurance from us. If a broker fails to make such a payment, it is likely that we will be liable to the client for the deficiency because of local law or contractual obligations. Likewise, when a customer pays premiums for policies written by us to a broker for further payment to us, these premiums are considered to have been paid and the client will no longer be liable to us for those amounts, whether or not we actually receive the premiums. Consequently, we assume a degree of credit risk associated with the brokers we use.

We may be unable to purchase reinsurance for our own account on commercially acceptable terms or to collect under any reinsurance we have purchased.

We purchase reinsurance to mitigate the effects of large or multiple losses on our financial condition. From time to time, market conditions beyond our control have limited, and in some cases prevented, insurers and reinsurers from obtaining the types and amounts of reinsurance they consider adequate for their business needs. We cannot assure that reinsurance will remain continuously available to us in amounts that we consider sufficient and at rates that we consider acceptable or that we will be able to obtain coverage from entities with satisfactory financial resources.

Furthermore, a reinsurer's insolvency, or inability or refusal to make payments under a reinsurance or retrocessional reinsurance agreement with us, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations because the ceding of risk to reinsurers does not relieve us of our liability to the entities we insure or

reinsure.

Our investment performance may adversely affect our financial performance and ability to conduct business.

We derive a significant portion of our income from our invested assets. As a result, our operating results depend in part on the performance of our investment portfolio. Our investment portfolio is overseen by our Chief Investment Officer and managed by professional investment management firms in accordance with the Investment Policy Statement approved by the Investment Committee of our Board of Directors. Our investment performance is subject to a variety of risks, including risk related to general economic conditions, market volatility and interest rate fluctuations, liquidity risk and credit default risk. The volatility of the markets may cause us to incur capital losses. Realized and unrealized losses

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in our investment portfolio would generally reduce our book value, and if significant, can affect our ability to conduct business.

Volatility in interest rates and changes in credit spreads could impact the performance of our investment portfolio, which could have an adverse effect on our investment income and operating results. Although we take measures to manage the risks of investing in a changing interest rate environment, we may not be able to effectively mitigate interest rate sensitivity. Our mitigation efforts include maintaining a high-quality portfolio of primarily fixed income investments with a relatively short duration to reduce the effect of interest rate changes on book value. A significant increase in interest rates would generally have an adverse effect on our book value. Additionally, changes in the credit spread (the difference in the percentage yield) between U.S. Treasury securities and non-U.S. Treasury securities may negatively impact our investment portfolio as we may not be able to effectively mitigate credit spread sensitivity.

While our investment portfolio consists primarily of investment grade, fixed-maturity securities, there are no assurances that their high ratings will be maintained. The assignment of a high credit rating does not preclude the potential for the risk of default on any investment instrument. In addition, a smaller portion of our portfolio is invested in below investment-grade securities. These securities, which pay higher rates of interest, also have a higher degree of credit or default risk and may also be less liquid and/or may experience default in times of economic weakness or market disruptions (such as a recession), which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our investment portfolio includes securities that may be more volatile than fixed maturity instruments and certain of these instruments may be illiquid.

Our investment portfolio includes equity securities and hedge fund and private equity limited partnership interests that may experience significant volatility in their investment returns and valuations. Moreover, our hedge fund and private equity limited partnership interests are subject to transfer restrictions and may be illiquid. If the investment returns or value of these investments declines, or if we are unable to dispose of these investments at their carrying value, it could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We may be adversely affected by fluctuations in currency exchange rates.

The U.S. dollar is our reporting currency and the functional currency of all of our operating subsidiaries. We enter into insurance and reinsurance contracts where the premiums receivable and losses payable are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. In addition, we maintain a portion of our investments and liabilities in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Assets in non-U.S. currencies are generally converted into U.S. dollars at the time of receipt. When we incur a liability in a non-U.S. currency, we carry such liability on our books in the original currency. These liabilities are converted from the non-U.S. currency to U.S. dollars at the time of payment. We may incur foreign currency exchange gains or losses as we ultimately receive premiums and settle claims required to be paid in foreign currencies.

We have currency hedges in place that seek to alleviate our potential exposure to volatility in foreign exchange rates and intend to consider the use of additional hedges when we are advised of known or probable significant losses that will be paid in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. To the extent that we do not seek to hedge our foreign currency risk or our hedges prove ineffective, the impact of a movement in foreign currency exchange rates could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations.

We may require additional capital in the future that may not be available to us on commercially favorable terms.

Our future capital requirements depend on many factors, including regulatory requirements and our ability to write new business and to establish premium rates and loss reserves at levels sufficient to cover losses. To the extent that the

funds generated by insurance and reinsurance premiums received and sale proceeds and income from our investment portfolio are insufficient to fund future operating requirements and cover losses and loss expenses, we may need to raise additional funds through financings or reduce our assets. We may also seek to refinance existing debt or credit arrangements as amounts become due or our existing commitments expire. Any future financing or refinancing, if available at all, may be on terms that are not favorable to us. In the case of equity financings, dilution to our shareholders could result, and the securities issued may have rights, preferences and privileges that are senior or otherwise superior to those of our common shares.

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Our business could be adversely affected if we lose any member of our management team or are unable to attract and retain our personnel.

Our success depends in substantial part on our ability to attract and retain our employees who generate and service our business. We rely substantially on the services of our executive management team. If we lose the services of any member of our executive management team, our business could be adversely affected. If we are unable to attract and retain other talented personnel, the further implementation of our business strategy could be impeded. This, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our business. We do not maintain key man life insurance policies for any of our employees.

Employee error and misconduct may be difficult to detect and prevent and could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We may experience losses from fraud, illegal acts, errors, failure to document transactions properly or to obtain proper internal authorization, misuse of customer or proprietary information, or the failure to comply with regulatory or legal requirements or our internal policies. It is not always possible to deter or prevent employee misconduct and the precautions we take to prevent and detect this activity may not be effective in all cases. Losses related to employee error or misconduct could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and business.

If we experience difficulties with outsourcing and similar third party relationships, our ability to conduct our business might be negatively impacted.

We outsource certain business and administrative functions and rely on third parties to perform certain services on our behalf. We may do so increasingly in the future. If we fail to develop and implement our outsourcing strategies or our third party providers fail to perform as anticipated, we may experience operational difficulties, increased costs, reputational damage and a loss of business that may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition. By utilizing third parties to perform certain business and administrative functions, we may be exposed to greater risk of cyber-attacks and data security breaches. Any breach of data security could damage our reputation and/or result in monetary damages, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

If we experience difficulties with our information technology infrastructure and telecommunications systems and/or data security, our ability to conduct our business might be adversely affected.

We rely heavily on the successful, secure and uninterrupted functioning of our IT infrastructure, technology and telecommunications systems. Our business depends on effective information security and systems and the integrity and timeliness of the data our information systems used to run our business. Our ability to adequately price products and services, to establish reserves, to provide effective, efficient and secure service to our customers, to value our investments and to timely and accurately report our financial results also depends significantly on the integrity of the data we maintain, including that within our information systems, as well as data in third-party service provider systems. A failure of our IT infrastructure, technology and telecommunication systems or the termination of third-party software licenses we rely on in order to maintain such systems could materially impact our ability to write and process business, provide customer service, pay claims in a timely manner or perform other necessary actuarial, legal, financial and other business functions. Although we have implemented administrative and technical controls and take protective actions to reduce the risk of cyber incidents and protect our IT systems and data, and we undertake to modify such procedures as circumstances warrant, such measures may be insufficient to prevent unauthorized access, computer viruses, malware or other malicious code or cyber-attack, catastrophic events, system failures and disruptions and other events that could have security consequences that may result in liability to us, cause our data to be corrupted and cause us to commit resources, management time and money to prevent or correct security breaches.

Some of our key business partners rely on our systems for critical underwriting and administration functions and interruption and/or failure of these systems could cause significant liability to them. If we do not maintain adequate IT infrastructure, technology and telecommunications systems, we could experience adverse consequences, including inadequate information on which to base critical decisions, the loss of existing customers, difficulty in attracting new customers, damage to our reputation, litigation exposures and increased administrative expenses. As a result, our ability to conduct our business might be adversely affected.

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The integration of acquired companies, the growth of our operations through new lines of insurance or reinsurance business, the expansion into new geographic regions and/or the entering into joint ventures or partnerships may expose us to operational risks.

Acquisitions involve numerous risks, including operational, strategic and financial risks such as potential liabilities associated with the acquired business. We may experience difficulties in integrating an acquired company, which could adversely affect the acquired company's performance or prevent us from realizing anticipated synergies, cost savings and operational efficiencies. Our existing businesses could also be negatively impacted by acquisitions. See "Risks Related to Our Transactions with RSA".

Expanding our lines of business, expanding our geographic reach and entering into joint ventures or partnerships also involve operational, strategic and financial risks, including retaining qualified management and implementing satisfactory budgetary, financial and operational controls. Our failure to manage these risks may adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations or business, or we may not realize any of the intended benefits.

Shareholder voting requirements under Swiss law may limit our flexibility with respect to certain aspects of capital management.

Swiss law allows our shareholders to authorize share capital which can be issued by the Board of Directors without shareholder approval, and this authorization must be renewed by the shareholders every two years. Swiss law does not provide as much flexibility in the various terms that can attach to different classes of stock as permitted in other jurisdictions. Swiss law also reserves for approval by shareholders many corporate actions over which our Board of Directors previously had authority when we were domiciled in Bermuda. For example, dividends must be approved by shareholders. While we do not believe that Swiss law requirements relating to our capital management will have an adverse effect on us, we cannot assure that situations will not arise where such flexibility would have provided substantial benefits to our shareholders.

Risks Related to Our Transaction with RSA

On August 22, 2014, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd entered into (i) a Sale of Business Agreement with RSA, with respect to RSA's Hong Kong insurance operations (the "Hong Kong Purchase Agreement"); and (ii) a Sale of Business Agreement with RSA with respect to RSA's Singapore insurance operations (the "Singapore Purchase Agreement" and together with the Hong Kong Purchase Agreement, collectively, the "Purchase Agreements"). The Purchase Agreements provide that Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd will, subject to the satisfaction of certain closing conditions, acquire the in-force insurance portfolios and related assets and liabilities of RSA's Hong Kong and Singapore insurance operations. The following are a number of risks that we face in connection with the proposed acquisitions.

The occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the Purchase Agreements could adversely affect our future business.

There are significant risks and uncertainties associated with the acquisitions. The occurrence of certain events, changes or any other circumstances could give rise to the termination of one or both of the Purchase Agreements and cause the acquisitions not to be completed. There is no assurance that we will receive the necessary regulatory approvals from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance in Hong Kong and the Monetary Authority of Singapore as well as the High Court of Singapore. If we fail to obtain such approvals or meet other conditions necessary to complete the acquisitions set forth in the Purchase Agreements, we would not be able to close the transactions. Failure to complete the acquisition(s) would prevent us from realizing its anticipated benefits to our business.

We must obtain regulatory approvals to complete the acquisitions, which, if delayed, not granted or granted with unacceptable conditions may jeopardize or delay the acquisitions, result in additional expense or reduce the anticipated benefits of the acquisitions.

We must obtain regulatory approvals from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance in Hong Kong and the Monetary Authority of Singapore as well as the High Court of Singapore prior to the completion of the acquisitions. The regulatory authorities from which we seek approvals have broad discretion in administering relevant laws and regulations. As a condition to the approval of the acquisitions, regulatory authorities may impose requirements or limitations that could negatively affect the way we conduct our Hong Kong and/or Singapore business operations post-acquisition. If we agree to any material conditions or restrictions in order to obtain any approvals required to complete

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the acquisitions, these conditions or restrictions could adversely affect our ability to integrate each company's businesses or reduce the anticipated benefits of the acquisitions.

Our business could be adversely impacted by uncertainty related to the proposed acquisitions, whether or not the acquisitions are completed.

Whether or not the acquisitions are completed, the announcement and pendency of the acquisitions could impact our business, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and the success of the acquisitions, including:

- that the proposed acquisitions disrupt our current business plans and operations;

- our management's attention being directed toward the completion of the acquisitions and transaction-related considerations and being diverted away from our day-to-day business operations and the execution of our current business plans; and

- we may incur significantly higher transaction costs than we currently anticipate, such as legal and accounting fees, and other costs, fees, expenses and charges related to the acquisitions, whether or not the acquisitions are completed.

The anticipated benefits of the acquisitions may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected.

The acquisitions involve the integration of RSA's Hong Kong and Singapore operations with and into our current Hong Kong and Singapore branch operations, which have previously operated independently. We will devote significant management attention and resources integrating the Hong Kong and Singapore businesses. Delays in this process could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and share price after the completion of the acquisitions. Achieving the anticipated benefits of the acquisitions is subject to a number of uncertainties, including whether RSA's Hong Kong and Singapore businesses and our business are integrated in an efficient and effective manner, and general competitive factors in the marketplace. We may experience unanticipated difficulties or expenses in connection with integrating these businesses, including:

- retaining existing employees, clients, brokers, distribution partners, agents and third-party service providers of RSA's Hong Kong and Singapore operations;

- retaining and integrating management and other key employees of RSA's Hong Kong and Singapore operations;

- unanticipated issues in integrating information, communications, marketing, administrative and other systems; and

- potential charges to earnings resulting from the application of purchase accounting to the transaction.

Even if the business operations are integrated successfully, there can be no assurance that we will realize the full benefits of synergies that we currently expect from this integration or that these benefits will be achieved within the anticipated time frame. Failure to achieve these anticipated benefits could result in increased costs, decreases in the amount of expected revenues and diversion of management's time and energy and could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Risks Related to the Insurance and Reinsurance Business

The insurance and reinsurance business is historically cyclical and we expect to experience periods with excess

underwriting capacity and unfavorable premium rates and policy terms and conditions.

Historically, insurers and reinsurers have experienced significant fluctuations in operating results due to competition, frequency of occurrence or severity of catastrophic events, levels of underwriting capacity, general economic conditions and other factors. The supply of insurance and reinsurance is related to prevailing prices, the level of insured losses and the level of industry surplus which, in turn, may fluctuate in response to changes in rates of return on investments being earned in the insurance and reinsurance industry. The occurrence, or non-occurrence, of

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catastrophic events, the frequency and severity of which are unpredictable, affects both industry results and consequently prevailing market prices for certain of our products. As a result of these factors, the insurance and reinsurance business historically has been a cyclical industry characterized by periods of intense competition on price and policy terms due to excessive underwriting capacity as well as periods when shortages of capacity permit favorable premium rates and policy terms and conditions. Increases in the supply of insurance and reinsurance may have adverse consequences for us, including fewer policies and contracts written, lower premium rates, increased expenses for customer acquisition and retention and less favorable policy terms and conditions.

Competition in the insurance and reinsurance markets could reduce our margins.

Insurance and reinsurance markets are highly competitive. We compete on an international and regional basis with major U.S., Bermuda, European, and other international insurers and reinsurers and with underwriting syndicates, some of which have greater financial, marketing, and management resources than we do. We also compete with new companies that continue to be formed to enter the insurance and reinsurance markets. In addition, capital market participants have created alternative products that are intended to compete with reinsurance products. Increased competition could result in fewer submissions and contracts written, lower premium rates, and less favorable policy terms and conditions, which could have a material adverse effect on our growth, financial condition or results of operations.

The effects of emerging claim and coverage issues on our business are uncertain.

As industry practices and legislative, regulatory, judicial, social, financial, technology and other environmental conditions change, unexpected and unintended issues related to claims and coverage may emerge. These issues may adversely affect our business by either extending coverage beyond our underwriting intent or by increasing the frequency and severity of claims. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until some time after we have issued insurance or reinsurance contracts that are affected by the changes. As a result, the full extent of liability under our insurance or reinsurance contracts may not be known for many years after a contract is issued.

Risks Related to Laws and Regulations Applicable to Us

Compliance by our insurance subsidiaries with the legal and regulatory requirements to which they are subject is expensive. Any failure to comply could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries conduct business globally. Our businesses are subject to varying degrees of regulation and supervision both in the jurisdictions in which they are organized and in the jurisdictions they operate. The purpose of insurance laws and regulations generally is to protect policyholders and ceding insurance companies, not our shareholders. The laws and regulations of the jurisdictions in which our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are domiciled require, among other things, maintenance of minimum levels of statutory capital, surplus, and liquidity; various solvency standards; and periodic examinations of subsidiaries' financial condition. In some jurisdictions, laws and regulations also restrict payments of dividends and reductions of capital. Applicable statutes, regulations, and policies may also restrict the ability of these subsidiaries to write insurance and reinsurance policies, to make certain investments, and to distribute funds.

The insurance and regulatory environment, in particular for offshore insurance and reinsurance companies, has become subject to increased scrutiny in many jurisdictions, including the United States, various states within the United States and the United Kingdom. It is not possible to predict the future impact of changes in laws and regulations on our operations. The cost of complying with any new legal requirements affecting our subsidiaries could have a material adverse effect on our business.

In addition, our subsidiaries may not always be able to obtain or maintain necessary licenses, permits, authorizations or accreditations. They also may not be able to fully comply with, or obtain appropriate exemptions from, the laws and regulations applicable to them. Any failure to comply with applicable law or to obtain appropriate exemptions could result in restrictions on either the ability of the company in question, as well as potentially its affiliates, to do business in one or more of the jurisdictions in which they operate or on brokers on which we rely to produce business for us. Any such failure to comply with applicable laws or to obtain appropriate exemptions could result in the imposition of fines or other sanctions. Any of these sanctions could have a material adverse effect on our business. For more information, please see Item 1. “Business —Regulatory Matters”.

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Our Bermuda operating company could become subject to regulation in the United States.

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, our Bermuda operating company is not admitted as an insurer, nor accredited as a reinsurer, in any jurisdiction in the United States. For the year ended December 31, 2014, more than 70% of the gross premiums written by Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, however, are derived from insurance or reinsurance contracts entered into with entities domiciled in the United States. The insurance laws of each state in the United States regulate the sale of insurance and reinsurance within the state's jurisdiction by foreign insurers. Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd conducts its business through its Bermuda office and does not maintain an office, and its personnel do not solicit insurance business, resolve claims or conduct other insurance business, in the United States. While Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd does not believe it is in violation of insurance laws of any jurisdiction in the United States, we cannot be certain that inquiries or challenges to our insurance and reinsurance activities will not be raised in the future. It is possible that, if Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd were to become subject to any laws of this type at any time in the future, we would not be in compliance with the requirements of those laws.

Our holding company structure and regulatory and other constraints affect our ability to pay dividends and make other payments.

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG is a holding company, and as such has no substantial operations of its own. It does not have any significant assets other than its ownership of the shares of its direct and indirect subsidiaries. Dividends and other permitted distributions from our subsidiaries are expected to be our sole source of funds for Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG to meet any ongoing cash requirements and to pay any dividends to shareholders. Some of our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to significant regulatory restrictions limiting their ability to declare and pay dividends. The inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends in an amount sufficient to enable us to meet our cash requirements at the holding company level could have an adverse effect on our operations and our ability to pay dividends to our shareholders, meet our debt service obligations and repurchase shares of our common stock.

Legislative, regulatory and industry initiatives could adversely affect our business.

The insurance and reinsurance industry is affected by political, judicial, and legal developments that may create new and expanded regulations and theories of liability. Governmental authorities in the United States and worldwide seem increasingly interested in the potential risks posed by the insurance and reinsurance industry as a whole, and to commercial and financial systems in general. While we do not believe these inquiries have identified meaningful new risks posed by the insurance and reinsurance industry, and while we cannot predict the exact nature, timing or scope of possible governmental initiatives, there may be increased regulatory intervention in our industry in the future. For example, the U.S. federal government has increased its scrutiny of the insurance regulatory framework in recent years, and some state legislators have considered or enacted laws that will alter and likely increase state regulation of insurance and reinsurance companies and holding companies. Further, the NAIC, which is an association of the insurance commissioners of all 50 states and the District of Columbia and state insurance regulators, regularly reexamine existing laws and regulations.

We derive substantial revenues from healthcare liability underwriting in the United States through providing insurance to individuals and institutions that participate in the U.S. healthcare delivery infrastructure. The Affordable Care Act has and will continue to effect far-reaching changes in the healthcare delivery system and the healthcare cost reimbursement structure in the United States and could negatively impact our healthcare liability business. Additionally, future healthcare proposals could include tort reform provisions under which plaintiffs would be restricted in their ability to bring suit against healthcare providers, which could negatively impact the demand for our healthcare liability products. While the impact of this healthcare legislation or future healthcare proposals on our

business is difficult to predict, any material changes in how healthcare providers insure their malpractice liability risks could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) effected changes to financial services regulation in the United States. The Dodd-Frank Act establishes the Financial Services Oversight Council (“FSOC”) and the Federal Insurance Office (“FIO”) and in limited instances authorizes the federal preemption of certain state insurance laws. The FSOC and FIO are authorized to study, monitor and report to Congress on the U.S. insurance and reinsurance industry and the significance of global reinsurance to the U.S. insurance market. The FIO also can recommend to the FSOC that it designate an insurer as an entity posing risks to U.S. financial stability in the event of the insurer’s material financial distress or failure. An insurer so designated by FSOC could be subject to Federal Reserve supervision and heightened prudential standards. Our business could be affected by changes to the U.S. system of

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insurance and reinsurance regulation or the designation of insurers or reinsurers with which we do business as systemically significant non-bank financial companies.

With respect to international measures, an E.U. directive concerning the capital adequacy, risk management and regulatory reporting for insurers and reinsurers (“Solvency II”) which was adopted by the European Parliament in April 2009, may affect our insurance businesses. Implementation of Solvency II by E.U. member states is anticipated to be effective January 1, 2016. Implementing those measures necessary for compliance with the requirements of Solvency II may require us to utilize a significant amount of resources. In addition, the capital and solvency margin requirements of Solvency II may lead to either an increase or decrease of the capital required by our E.U. domiciled insurers in order that they comply with Solvency II. Solvency II provides for the supervision of insurers and reinsurers on both a solo (entity level) and group basis. In respect of our non-E.U. subsidiaries engaging in E.U. insurance or reinsurance business, should the regulatory regime in which they are operating not be deemed equivalent to that established within the E.U. pursuant to Solvency II, additional capital requirements may be imposed in order that such companies may continue to insure or reinsure E.U. domiciled risk/cedents.

We are unable to predict the future impact on our operations of changes in the laws and regulations to which we are or may become subject. Moreover, our exposure to potential regulatory initiatives could be heightened by the fact that our principal insurance subsidiary is domiciled in, and operates exclusively from, Bermuda. For example, Bermuda, a small jurisdiction, may be disadvantaged in participating in global or cross-border regulatory matters as compared with larger jurisdictions such as the United States or the leading E.U. countries. In addition, Bermuda, which is currently an overseas territory of the United Kingdom, may consider changes to its relationship with the United Kingdom in the future. These changes could adversely affect Bermuda’s position with respect to its regulatory initiatives, which could adversely impact us commercially. We may not be able to comply fully with, or obtain appropriate exemptions from, applicable statutes and regulations and any changes thereto resulting from legislative, regulatory and industry initiatives. Failure to comply with or to obtain appropriate authorizations and/or exemptions under any applicable laws and regulations could result in restrictions on our ability to do business or undertake activities that are regulated in one or more of the jurisdictions in which we conduct business and could subject us to fines and other sanctions, which could have an adverse effect on our business.

Changes in current accounting practices and future pronouncements may materially impact our reported financial results.

Developments in accounting practices, for example a convergence of U.S. GAAP with International Financial Reporting Standards, or IFRS, may require considerable additional expense to comply with, particularly if we are required to prepare information relating to prior periods for comparison purposes or to apply the new requirements retroactively. The impact of changes in current accounting practices and future pronouncements cannot be predicted, but may affect the results of our operations, including among other things, the calculation of net income.

We are subject to the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act 2010 and similar worldwide anti-bribery laws, which impose restrictions and may carry substantial penalties.

The U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act 2010 and anti-bribery laws in other jurisdictions generally prohibit companies and their intermediaries from making improper payments for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business or other commercial advantage. Our corporate policies mandate compliance with these anti-bribery laws, which often carry substantial penalties. We cannot assure you that our internal control policies and procedures will protect us from reckless or other inappropriate acts committed by our directors, officers, employees, affiliates or agents. Violations of these laws, or allegations of such violations, could have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, financial position and results of operations and could cause the market value of our common shares to decline.

Risks Related to Ownership of Our Common Shares

Our Articles of Association contain restrictions on voting, ownership and transfers of our common shares, which could impede an attempt to replace or remove our directors or effect a change in control and which could diminish the value of our common shares.

Our Articles of Association generally provide that shareholders have one vote for each common share held by them and are entitled to vote at all meetings of shareholders. However, the voting rights exercisable by a shareholder may be limited so that certain persons or groups are not deemed to hold 10% or more of the voting power conferred by our

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common shares. Moreover, these provisions could have the effect of reducing the voting power of some shareholders who would not otherwise be subject to the limitation by virtue of their direct share ownership. Our Board of Directors may refuse to register holders of shares as shareholders with voting rights based on certain grounds, including if the holder would, directly or indirectly, formally, constructively or beneficially own (as described in Articles 8 and 14 of our Articles of Association) or otherwise control voting rights with respect to 10% or more of our registered share capital recorded in the Swiss Commercial Register. In addition, our Board of Directors shall reject entry of holders of voting shares as shareholders with voting rights in the share register or shall decide on their deregistration when the acquirer or shareholder upon request does not expressly state that it has acquired or holds the voting shares for its own account and benefit. Furthermore, our Board of Directors may cancel, with retroactive application, the registration of a shareholder with voting rights if the initial registration was on the basis of false information in the shareholder's application. Shareholders registered without voting rights may not participate in or vote at our shareholders meetings, but will be entitled to dividends, preemptive rights and liquidation proceeds. Only shareholders that are registered as shareholders with voting rights on the relevant record date are permitted to participate in and vote at a shareholders meeting.

These restrictions on the voting, ownership and transfer of our shares may make it more difficult for shareholders to replace directors even if the shareholders consider it beneficial to do so. In addition, these provisions could delay or prevent a change of control that shareholders might consider favorable.

As a shareholder of our company, you may have greater difficulties in protecting your interests than as a shareholder of a U.S. corporation.

Swiss law differs in material respects from laws generally applicable to U.S. corporations and their shareholders. Taken together with the provisions of our Articles of Association, some of these differences may result in your having greater difficulties in protecting your interests as a shareholder of our company than you would have as a shareholder of a U.S. corporation. This affects, among other things, the circumstances under which transactions involving an interested director are voidable, whether an interested director can be held accountable for any benefit realized in a transaction with our company, what approvals are required for business combinations by our company with a large shareholder or a wholly-owned subsidiary, what rights you may have as a shareholder to enforce specified provisions of Swiss corporate law or our Articles of Association, the rights of shareholders to bring class action and derivative lawsuits and the circumstances under which we may indemnify our directors and officers.

It may be difficult to enforce service of process and enforcement of judgments against us and our officers and directors.

Holdings is incorporated pursuant to the laws of Switzerland. In addition, certain of our directors and officers reside outside the United States, and all or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of such persons are located in jurisdictions outside the United States. As such, it may be difficult or impossible to effect service of process within the United States upon us or those persons or to recover against us or them on judgments of U.S. courts, including judgments predicated upon civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws.

We have been advised by Swiss counsel, that there is doubt as to whether the courts in Switzerland would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our directors and officers, predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws or original actions brought in Switzerland against us or such persons predicated solely upon U.S. federal securities laws. Further, we have been advised by Swiss counsel that there is no treaty in effect between the United States and Switzerland providing for the enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts. Some remedies available under the laws of U.S. jurisdictions, including some remedies available under the U.S. federal securities laws, may not be allowed in Swiss courts as contrary to that jurisdiction's public policy. Because judgments of U.S. courts are not automatically enforceable in Switzerland, it may be difficult for investors to recover

against us based upon such judgments.

There are regulatory limitations on the ownership and transfer of our common shares.

The BMA must approve all issuances and transfers of securities of our Bermuda exempted companies. Before any shareholder acquires 10% or more of the voting shares, either directly or indirectly, of any of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries, that shareholder must file an acquisition statement with and obtain prior approval from the domiciliary insurance commissioner of the respective company. Similar provisions apply to our Lloyd's corporate member. While our Articles of Association limit the voting power of any shareholder to less than 10%, we cannot assure you that the applicable regulatory body would agree that a shareholder who owned 10% or more of our common shares did not, because of the limitation on the voting power of such shares, control the applicable insurance subsidiary. These laws

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may discourage potential acquisition proposals and may delay, deter, or prevent a change of control of our company, including transactions that some or all of our shareholders might consider to be desirable.

Risks Related to Taxation

U.S. taxation of our non-U.S. companies could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We believe that our non-U.S. companies, including our Swiss, Bermuda and Irish companies, have operated and will operate their respective businesses in a manner that will not cause them to be subject to U.S. tax (other than U.S. federal excise tax on insurance and reinsurance premiums and withholding tax on specified investment income from U.S. sources) on the basis that none of them are engaged in a U.S. trade or business. However, there are no definitive standards under current law as to those activities that constitute a U.S. trade or business and the determination of whether a non-U.S. company is engaged in a U.S. trade or business is inherently factual. Therefore, we cannot assure you that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") will not contend that a non-U.S. company is engaged in a U.S. trade or business. If any of the non-U.S. companies are engaged in a U.S. trade or business and does not qualify for benefits under the applicable income tax treaty, such company may be subject to U.S. federal income taxation at regular corporate rates on its premium income from U.S. sources and investment income that is effectively connected with its U.S. trade or business. In addition, a U.S. federal branch profits tax at the rate of 30% may be imposed on the earnings and profits attributable to such income. All of the premium income from U.S. sources and a significant portion of investment income of such company (as computed under Section 842 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which requires that a foreign company carrying on a U.S. insurance or reinsurance business have a certain minimum amount of effectively connected net investment income, determined in accordance with a formula that depends, in part, on the amount of U.S. risks insured or reinsured by such company) may be subject to U.S. federal income and branch profits taxes.

If Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, our Bermuda insurance subsidiary, or any Bermuda insurance subsidiary we form or acquire in the future is engaged in a U.S. trade or business and qualifies for benefits under the United States-Bermuda tax treaty, U.S. federal income taxation of such subsidiary will depend on whether (i) it maintains a U.S. permanent establishment and (ii) the relief from taxation under the treaty generally applies to non-premium income. We believe that our Bermuda insurance subsidiary has operated and will continue to operate its business in a manner that will not cause it to maintain a U.S. permanent establishment. However, the determination of whether an insurance company maintains a U.S. permanent establishment is inherently factual. Therefore, we cannot assure you that the IRS will not successfully assert that our Bermuda insurance subsidiary maintains a U.S. permanent establishment. In such case, our Bermuda insurance subsidiary will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular corporate rates and branch profit tax at the rate of 30% with respect to its income attributable to the permanent establishment. Furthermore, although the provisions of the treaty clearly apply to premium income, it is uncertain whether they generally apply to other income of a Bermuda insurance company. Therefore, if a Bermuda insurance subsidiary of our company qualifies for benefits under the treaty and does not maintain a U.S. permanent establishment but is engaged in a U.S. trade or business, and the treaty is interpreted not to apply to income other than premium income, such subsidiary will be subject to U.S. federal income and branch profits taxes on its investment and other non-premium income as described in the preceding paragraph. In addition, a Bermuda subsidiary will qualify for benefits under the treaty only if more than 50% of its shares are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by individuals who are Bermuda residents or U.S. citizens or residents. Our Bermuda subsidiaries may not be able to continually satisfy such beneficial ownership test or be able to establish it to the satisfaction of the IRS.

If any of our Swiss or Irish companies are engaged in a U.S. trade or business and qualify for benefits under the relevant income tax treaty with the United States, U.S. federal income taxation of such company will depend on whether it maintains a U.S. permanent establishment. We believe that each such company has operated and will

continue to operate its business in a manner that will not cause it to maintain a U.S. permanent establishment. However, the determination of whether a non-U.S. company maintains a U.S. permanent establishment is inherently factual. Therefore, we cannot assure you that the IRS will not successfully assert that any of such companies maintains a U.S. permanent establishment. In such case, the company will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular corporate rates and branch profits tax at the rate of 5% with respect to its income attributable to the permanent establishment.

U.S. federal income tax, if imposed, will be based on effectively connected or attributable income of a non-U.S. company computed in a manner generally analogous to that applied to the income of a U.S. corporation, except that all deductions and credits claimed by a non-U.S. company in a taxable year can be disallowed if the company does not file a U.S. federal income tax return for such year. Penalties may be assessed for failure to file such return. None of our non-

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U.S. companies filed U.S. federal income tax returns for the 2002 and 2001 taxable years. However, we have filed protective U.S. federal income tax returns on a timely basis for each non-U.S. company for subsequent years in order to preserve our right to claim tax deductions and credits in such years if any of such companies is determined to be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

If any of our non-U.S. companies is subject to such U.S. federal taxation, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

Our U.S. subsidiaries may be subject to additional U.S. taxes in connection with our interaffiliate arrangements.

Our U.S. subsidiaries reinsure a significant portion of their insurance policies with Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd. While we believe that the terms of these reinsurance arrangements are arm's length, we cannot assure you that the IRS will not successfully assert that the payments made by the U.S. subsidiaries with respect to such arrangements exceed arm's length amounts. In such case, our U.S. subsidiaries will be treated as realizing additional income that may be subject to additional U.S. income tax, possibly with interest and penalties. Such excess amount may also be deemed to have been distributed as dividends to the indirect parent of the U.S. subsidiaries, Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd, in which case this deemed dividend will also be subject to a U.S. federal withholding tax of 5%, assuming that the parent is eligible for benefits under the United States-Ireland income tax treaty (or a withholding tax of 30% if the parent is not so eligible). If any of these U.S. taxes are imposed, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In addition, if legislation is enacted in the U.S. that limits or eliminates our ability to enter into interaffiliate arrangements, our financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

We may not be able to make distributions or repurchase shares without subjecting you to Swiss withholding tax.

If we are not successful in our efforts to make distributions, if any, through a reduction of par value or pay dividends out of reserves from capital contributions, then any dividends paid by us will generally be subject to a Swiss federal withholding tax at a rate of 35%. The withholding tax must be withheld from the gross distribution and paid to the Swiss Federal Tax Administration. A U.S. holder that qualifies for benefits under the Convention between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income may apply for a refund of the tax withheld in excess of the 15% treaty rate (or in excess of the 5% reduced treaty rate for qualifying corporate shareholders with at least 10% participation in our voting shares, or for a full refund in case of qualified pension funds). Payment of a capital distribution in the form of a par value reduction or out of reserves from capital contributions is not subject to Swiss withholding tax. However, there can be no assurance that our shareholders will approve such dividends, that we will be able to meet the other applicable legal requirements, or that Swiss withholding rules will not be changed in the future. In addition, over the long term, the amount of par value available for us to use for par value reductions or available funds out of reserves from capital contributions will be limited. If we are unable to make a distribution through a reduction in par value or pay a dividend out of reserves from capital contributions, we may not be able to make distributions without subjecting you to Swiss withholding taxes. The repurchase of our shares to be held in treasury will generally not be subject to Swiss withholding tax. However, under Swiss law, we are generally prohibited from holding in treasury an aggregate amount of voting shares and non-voting shares in excess of 10% of our aggregate share capital, which could limit our ability to repurchase our shares in the future.

You may be subject to U.S. income taxation with respect to income of our non-U.S. companies and ordinary income characterization of gains on disposition of our shares under the controlled foreign corporation ("CFC") rules.

Generally, each "United States shareholder" of a CFC will be subject to (i) U.S. federal income taxation on its ratable share of the CFC's subpart F income, even if the earnings attributable to such income are not distributed, provided that

such “United States shareholder” holds directly or through non-U.S. entities shares of the CFC; and (ii) potential ordinary income characterization of gains from the sale or exchange of the directly owned shares of the non-U.S. corporation. For these purposes, any U.S. person who owns directly, through non-U.S. entities, or under applicable constructive ownership rules, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of any non-U.S. company will be considered to be a “United States shareholder.” An insurance company is classified as a CFC only if its “United States shareholders” own 25% or more of the vote or value of its stock. Although our non-U.S.

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companies may be or become CFCs, for the following reasons we believe it is unlikely that any U.S. person holding our shares directly, or through non-U.S. entities, would be subject to tax as a “United States shareholder.”

First, although certain of our principal U.S. shareholders previously owned 10% or more of our common shares, no such shareholder currently owns more than 10%. We will be classified as a CFC only if United States shareholders own 25% or more of our stock; one United States shareholder alone will not be subject to tax on subpart F income unless that shareholder owns 25% or more of our stock or there is at least one other United States shareholder that in combination with the first United States shareholder owns 25% or more of our common stock. Second, our Articles of Association provide that no individual or legal entity may, directly or through Constructive Ownership (as defined in Article 14 of our Articles of Association) or otherwise control voting rights with respect to 10% or more of our registered share capital recorded in the Swiss Commercial Register and authorize our Board of Directors to refuse to register holders of shares as shareholders with voting rights under certain circumstances. We cannot assure you, however, that the provisions of the Articles of Association referenced in this paragraph will operate as intended or that we will be otherwise successful in preventing a U.S. person from exceeding, or being deemed to exceed, these voting limitations. Accordingly, U.S. persons who hold our shares directly or through non-U.S. entities should consider the possible application of the CFC rules.

You may be subject to U.S. income taxation under the related person insurance income (“RPII”) rules.

Our non-U.S. insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries may currently insure and reinsure and may continue to insure and reinsure directly or indirectly certain of our U.S. shareholders and persons related to such shareholders. We believe that U.S. persons that hold our shares directly or through non-U.S. entities will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation with respect to the income realized in connection with such insurance and reinsurance prior to distribution of earnings attributable to such income either on the basis (i) that RPII, determined on a gross basis, realized by each non-U.S. insurance and reinsurance subsidiary will be less than 20% of its gross insurance income in each taxable year; or (ii) that at all times during the year U.S. insureds hold less than 20% of the combined voting power of all classes of our shares entitled to vote and hold less than 20% of the total value of our shares. However, the identity of all of our shareholders, as well as some of the factors that determine the extent of RPII in any period, may be beyond our knowledge or control. For example, we may be considered to insure indirectly the risk of our shareholder if an unrelated company that insured such risk in the first instance reinsures such risk with us. Therefore, we cannot assure you that we will be successful in keeping the RPII realized by the non-U.S. insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries or the ownership of us by U.S. insureds below the 20% limit in each taxable year. Furthermore, even if we are successful in keeping the RPII or the ownership of us by U.S. insureds below the 20% limit, we cannot assure you that we will be able to establish that fact to the satisfaction of the U.S. tax authorities. If we are unable to establish that the RPII of any non-U.S. insurance or reinsurance subsidiary is less than 20% of that subsidiary’s gross insurance income in any taxable year, and no other exception from the RPII rules applies, each U.S. person who owns our shares, directly or through non-U.S. entities, on the last day of the taxable year will be generally required to include in its income for U.S. federal income tax purposes that person’s ratable share of that subsidiary’s RPII for the taxable year, determined as if that RPII were distributed proportionately to U.S. holders at that date, regardless of whether that income was actually distributed.

The RPII rules provide that if a holder who is a U.S. person disposes of shares in a foreign insurance corporation that has RPII (even if the amount of RPII is less than 20% of the corporation’s gross insurance income and the ownership of us by U.S. insureds is below 20%) and in which U.S. persons own 25% or more of the shares, any gain from the disposition will generally be treated as a dividend to the extent of the holder’s share of the corporation’s undistributed earnings and profits that were accumulated during the period that the holder owned the shares (whether or not those earnings and profits are attributable to RPII). In addition, such a shareholder will be required to comply with specified reporting requirements, regardless of the amount of shares owned. These rules should not apply to dispositions of our shares because Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG is not itself directly engaged in the insurance

business and these rules appear to apply only in the case of shares of corporations that are directly engaged in the insurance business. We cannot assure you, however, that the IRS will interpret these rules in this manner or that the proposed regulations addressing the RPII rules will not be promulgated in final form in a manner that would cause these rules to apply to dispositions of our shares.

U.S. tax-exempt entities may recognize unrelated business taxable income (“UBTI”).

A U.S. tax-exempt entity holding our shares generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to dividends and gains on our shares, provided that such entity does not purchase our shares with borrowed funds. However, if a U.S. tax-exempt entity realizes income with respect to our shares under the CFC or RPII rules, as discussed above, such entity will be generally subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to such income as UBTI.

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Accordingly, U.S. tax-exempt entities that are potential investors in our shares should consider the possible application of the CFC and RPII rules.

You may be subject to additional U.S. federal income taxation with respect to distributions on and gains on dispositions of our shares under the passive foreign investment company (“PFIC”) rules.

We believe that U.S. persons holding our shares should not be subject to additional U.S. federal income taxation with respect to distributions on and gains on dispositions of shares under the PFIC rules. We expect that our insurance subsidiaries will be predominantly engaged in, and derive their income from the active conduct of, an insurance business and will not hold reserves in excess of reasonable needs of their business, and therefore qualify for the insurance exception from the PFIC rules. However, the determination of the nature of such business and the reasonableness of such reserves is inherently factual. Furthermore, we cannot assure you, as to what positions the IRS or a court might take in the future regarding the application of the PFIC rules to us. Therefore, we cannot assure you that we will not be considered to be a PFIC. If we are considered to be a PFIC, U.S. persons holding our shares could be subject to additional U.S. federal income taxation on distributions on and gains on dispositions of shares. Accordingly, each U.S. person who is considering an investment in our shares should consult his or her tax advisor as to the effects of the PFIC rules.

Application of a published IRS Revenue Ruling with respect to our insurance or reinsurance arrangements can materially adversely affect us.

The IRS published Revenue Ruling 2005-40 (the “Ruling”) addressing the requirement of adequate risk distribution among insureds in order for a primary insurance arrangement to constitute insurance for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the IRS successfully contends that our insurance or reinsurance arrangements, including such arrangements with affiliates of our principal shareholders, and with our U.S. subsidiaries, do not provide for adequate risk distribution under the principles set forth in the Ruling, we could be subject to material adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences.

Our non-U.K. companies may be subject to U.K. tax, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Two of our subsidiaries, Allied World Capital (Europe) Limited and Allied World Managing Agency Limited, are incorporated in the United Kingdom and, are therefore, subject to tax in the United Kingdom. None of our other companies are incorporated in the United Kingdom. Accordingly, none of our other companies should be treated as being resident in the United Kingdom for corporation tax purposes unless the central management and control of any such company is exercised in the United Kingdom. The concept of central management and control is indicative of the highest level of control of a company, which is wholly a question of fact. Each of our companies currently intend to manage our affairs so that none of our other companies are resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes.

The rules governing the taxation of foreign companies operating in the United Kingdom through a branch or agency were amended by the Finance Act 2003. The current rules apply to the accounting periods of non-U.K. resident companies which start on or after January 1, 2003. Accordingly, a non-U.K. resident company will only be subject to U.K. corporation tax if it carries on a trade in the United Kingdom through a permanent establishment in the United Kingdom. In that case, the company is, in broad terms, taxable on the profits and gains attributable to the permanent establishment in the United Kingdom. Broadly a company will have a permanent establishment if it has a fixed place of business in the United Kingdom through which the business of the company is wholly or partly carried on or if an agent acting on behalf of the company has and habitually exercises authority in the United Kingdom to do business on behalf of the company. Each of our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited (which has established a branch in the United Kingdom), currently intend to operate in such a manner so that none of

our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited, carry on a trade through a permanent establishment in the United Kingdom.

If any of our U.S. subsidiaries were trading in the United Kingdom through a branch or agency and the U.S. subsidiaries were to qualify for benefits under the applicable income tax treaty between the United Kingdom and the United States, only those profits which were attributable to a permanent establishment in the United Kingdom would be subject to U.K. corporation tax.

If Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd was trading in the United Kingdom through a branch or agency and it was entitled to the benefits of the tax treaty between Ireland and the United Kingdom, it would only be subject to

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U.K. taxation on its profits which were attributable to a permanent establishment in the United Kingdom. The branch established in the United Kingdom by Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited constitute a permanent establishment of that company and the profits attributable to that permanent establishment is subject to U.K. corporation tax.

The United Kingdom has no income tax treaty with Bermuda.

There are circumstances in which companies that are neither resident in the United Kingdom nor entitled to the protection afforded by a double tax treaty between the United Kingdom and the jurisdiction in which they are resident may be exposed to income tax in the United Kingdom (other than by deduction or withholding) on income arising in the United Kingdom (including the profits of a trade carried on there even if that trade is not carried on through a branch agency or permanent establishment), but each of our companies currently operates in such a manner that none of our companies will fall within the charge to income tax in the United Kingdom (other than by deduction or withholding) in this respect.

If any of our non-U.K. companies were treated as being resident in the United Kingdom for U.K. corporation tax purposes, or if any of our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited, were to be treated as carrying on a trade in the United Kingdom through a branch agency or of having a permanent establishment in the United Kingdom, our results of operations and your investment could be materially adversely affected.

We may be subject to Irish tax, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Companies resident in Ireland are generally subject to Irish corporation tax on their worldwide income and capital gains. None of our companies, other than our Irish companies and Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd, which resides in Ireland, should be treated as being resident in Ireland unless the central management and control of any such company is exercised in Ireland. The concept of central management and control is indicative of the highest level of control of a company, and is wholly a question of fact. Each of our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd and our Irish companies, currently intends to operate in such a manner so that the central management and control of each of our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd and our Irish companies, is exercised outside of Ireland. Nevertheless, because central management and control is a question of fact to be determined based on a number of different factors, the Irish Revenue Commissioners might contend successfully that the central management and control of any of our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd or our Irish companies, is exercised in Ireland. Should this occur, such company will be subject to Irish corporation tax on their worldwide income and capital gains.

The trading income of a company not resident in Ireland for Irish tax purposes can also be subject to Irish corporation tax if it carries on a trade through a branch or agency in Ireland. Each of our companies currently intend to operate in such a manner so that none of our companies carry on a trade through a branch or agency in Ireland. Nevertheless, because neither case law nor Irish legislation definitively defines the activities that constitute trading in Ireland through a branch or agency, the Irish Revenue Commissioners might contend successfully that any of our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd and our Irish companies, is trading through a branch or agency in Ireland. Should this occur, such companies will be subject to Irish corporation tax on profits attributable to that branch or agency.

If any of our companies, other than Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd and our Irish companies, were treated as resident in Ireland for Irish corporation tax purposes, or as carrying on a trade in Ireland through a branch or agency, our results of operations and your investment could be materially adversely affected.

If corporate tax rates in Ireland increase, our business and financial results could be adversely affected.

Trading income derived from the insurance and reinsurance businesses carried on in Ireland by our Irish companies is generally taxed in Ireland at a rate of 12.5%. Over the past number of years, various E.U. Member States have, from time to time, called for harmonization of corporate tax rates within the E.U. Ireland, along with other member states, has consistently resisted any movement towards standardized corporate tax rates in the E.U. The Government of Ireland has also made clear its commitment to retain the 12.5% rate of corporation tax until at least the year 2025. Should, however, tax laws in Ireland change so as to increase the general corporation tax rate in Ireland, our results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

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If investments held by our Irish companies are determined not to be integral to the insurance and reinsurance businesses carried on by those companies, additional Irish tax could be imposed and our business and financial results could be adversely affected.

Based on administrative practice, taxable income derived from investments made by our Irish companies is generally taxed in Ireland at the rate of 12.5% on the grounds that such investments either form part of the permanent capital required by regulatory authorities, or are otherwise integral to the insurance and reinsurance businesses carried on by those companies. Our Irish companies intend to operate in such a manner so that the level of investments held by such companies does not exceed the amount that is integral to the insurance and reinsurance businesses carried on by our Irish companies. If, however, investment income earned by our Irish companies exceeds these thresholds, or if the administrative practice of the Irish Revenue Commissioners changes, Irish corporation tax could apply to such investment income at a higher rate (currently 25%) instead of the general 12.5% rate, and our results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

We may become subject to taxes in Bermuda after March 31, 2035, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and our investment.

The Bermuda Minister of Finance, under the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966 of Bermuda, has given our Bermuda subsidiaries an assurance that if any legislation is enacted in Bermuda that would impose tax computed on profits or income, or computed on any capital asset, gain or appreciation, or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, then the imposition of any such tax will not be applicable to such entities or their operations, shares, debentures or other obligations until March 31, 2035. Given the limited duration of the Minister of Finance's assurance, we cannot be certain that we will not be subject to any Bermuda tax after March 31, 2035.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

None.

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GLOSSARY OF SELECTED INSURANCE AND OTHER TERMS

Admitted insurer	An insurer that is licensed or authorized to write insurance in a particular state; to be distinguished from an insurer eligible to write excess and surplus lines insurance on risks located within a jurisdiction.
Assumed reinsurance	That portion of a risk that a reinsurer accepts from an insurer in return for a stated premium.
Attachment point	The loss point of which an insurance or reinsurance policy becomes operative and below which any losses are retained by either the insured or other insurers or reinsurers, as the case may be. Comprised of commissions, brokerage fees and insurance taxes. Commissions and brokerage fees are usually calculated as a percentage of premiums and depend on the market and line of business.
Acquisition costs	Acquisition costs are reported after (1) deducting commissions received on ceded reinsurance, (2) deducting the part of acquisition costs relating to unearned premiums and (3) including the amortization of previously deferred acquisition costs.
Acquisition cost ratio	Calculated by dividing “acquisition costs” by “net premiums earned”. The maximum percentage of surplus, or the dollar amount of exposure, that an insurer or reinsurer is willing or able to place at risk. Capacity may apply to a single risk, a program, a line of business or an entire portfolio of business. Capacity may be constrained by legal restrictions, corporate restrictions or indirect restrictions.
Capacity	Loss reserves, established with respect to specific, individual reported claims.
Case reserves	Insurance that is primarily concerned with losses due to injuries to persons and liability imposed on the insured for such injury or for damage to the property of others.
Casualty lines	A severe loss, typically involving multiple claimants. Common perils include earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, hailstorms, severe winter weather, floods, fires, tornadoes, explosions and other natural or man-made disasters. Catastrophe losses may also arise from acts of war, acts of terrorism and political instability.
Catastrophe exposure or event	A form of excess-of-loss reinsurance that, subject to a specified limit, indemnifies the ceding company for the amount of loss in excess of a specified retention with respect to an accumulation of losses resulting from a catastrophic event. The actual reinsurance document is called a “catastrophe cover.” These reinsurance contracts are typically designed to cover property insurance losses but can be written to cover other types of insurance losses such as workers’ compensation policies.
Catastrophe reinsurance	When an insurer transfers some or all of its risk to a reinsurer, it “cedes” business and is referred to as the “ceding company” or “cedent.”
Cede, cedent, ceding company	Calculated as the sum of the “loss and loss expense ratio”, the “acquisition cost ratio” and the “general and administrative expense ratio”.
Combined ratio	Insurance products that are sold to entities and individuals in their business or professional capacity, and which are intended for other than the insured’s personal or household use.
Commercial coverage	

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Coverholder	A Lloyd's approved service company that is authorized to enter into policies or contracts of insurance and reinsurance to be underwritten by the Lloyd's syndicate in accordance with the terms of a binding authority or service company agreement.
Deductible	The amount of exposure an insured retains on any one risk or group of risks. The term may apply to an insurance policy, where the insured is an individual or business, or a reinsurance contract, where the insured is an insurance company. See "Retention."
Direct insurance	Insurance sold by an insurer that contracts directly with the insured, as distinguished from reinsurance.
Directors and officers liability	Insurance that covers liability for corporate directors and officers for wrongful acts, subject to applicable exclusions, terms and conditions of the policy.
Earned premiums or Premiums earned	That portion of premiums written that applies to the expired portion of the policy term. Earned premiums are recognized as revenues under both statutory accounting practice and U.S. GAAP.
Employment practices liability insurance	Insurance that primarily provides liability coverage to organizations and their employees for losses arising from acts of discrimination, harassment and retaliation against current and prospective employees of the organization.
Errors and omissions insurance	Insurance that provides liability coverage for claims arising from professional negligence or malpractice, subject to applicable exclusions, terms and conditions of the policy.
Excess and surplus lines	A risk or a part of a risk for which there is no insurance market available among admitted insurers; or insurance written by non-admitted insurance companies to cover such risks.
Excess layer	Insurance to cover losses in one or more layers above a certain amount with losses below that amount usually covered by the insured's primary policy and its self-insured retention.
Excess-of-loss reinsurance	Reinsurance that indemnifies the insured against all or a specified portion of losses over a specified amount or "retention."
Exclusions	Provisions in an insurance or reinsurance policy excluding certain risks or otherwise limiting the scope of coverage.
Expense ratio	Calculated by adding the "acquisition cost ratio" and the "general and administrative cost ratio".
Exposure	The possibility of loss. A unit of measure of the amount of risk a company assumes.
Facultative reinsurance	The reinsurance of all or a portion of the insurance provided by a single policy. Each policy reinsured is separately negotiated.
Fiduciary liability insurance	Insurance that primarily provides liability coverage to fiduciaries of employee benefit and welfare plans for losses arising from the breach of any fiduciary duty owed to plan beneficiaries.
Frequency	The number of claims occurring during a specified period of time.
General and administrative expense ratio	Calculated by dividing "general and administrative expenses" by "net premiums earned".

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General casualty	Insurance that is primarily concerned with losses due to injuries to persons and liability imposed on the insured for such injury or for damage to the property of others.
Gross premiums written	Total premiums for insurance and reinsurance written during a given period.
Healthcare liability or Healthcare lines	Insurance coverage, often referred to as medical malpractice insurance, which addresses liability risks of doctors, surgeons, nurses, other healthcare professionals and the institutions (hospitals, clinics) in which they practice.
Incurred but not reported (“IBNR”) reserves	Reserves established by us for claims that have occurred but have not yet been reported to us as well as for changes in the values of claims that have been reported to us but are not yet settled.
In-force	Policies that have not expired or been terminated and for which the insurer remains on risk as of a given date.
Limits	The maximum amount that an insurer or reinsurer will insure or reinsure for a specified risk, a portfolio of risks or on a single insured entity. The term also refers to the maximum amount of benefit payable for a given claim or occurrence.
Loss development	The difference between the original loss as initially reserved by an insurer or reinsurer and its subsequent evaluation at a later date or at the time of its closure. Loss development occurs because of inflation and time lags between the occurrence of claims and the time they are actually reported to an insurer or reinsurer. To account for these increases, a “loss development factor” or multiplier is usually applied to a claim or group of claims in an effort to more accurately project the ultimate amount that will be paid.
Losses incurred	The total losses and loss adjustment expenses paid, plus the change in loss and loss adjustment expense reserves, including IBNR, sustained by an insurance or reinsurance company under its insurance policies or other insurance or reinsurance contracts.
Losses and loss expense ratio	Calculated by dividing net “losses and loss expenses” by “net premiums earned”.
Losses and loss expenses	“Losses” are an occurrence that is the basis for submission or payment of a claim. Losses may be covered, limited or excluded from coverage, depending on the terms of the insurance policy or other insurance or reinsurance contracts. “Loss expenses” are the expenses incurred by an insurance or reinsurance company in settling a loss.
Loss reserves	Liabilities established by insurers and reinsurers to reflect the estimated cost of claims incurred that the insurer or reinsurer will ultimately be required to pay. Reserves are established for losses and for loss expenses, and consist of case reserves and IBNR reserves. As the term is used in this Form 10-K, “loss reserves” is meant to include reserves for both losses and for loss expenses.
Loss year	The year to which a claim is attributed based upon the terms in the underlying policy or contract. All years referred to are years ending December 31.
Net premiums earned	The portion of net premiums written during or prior to a given period that was recognized as income during such period.
Net premiums written	Gross premiums written, less premiums ceded to reinsurers.

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Paid losses	Claim amounts paid to insureds or ceding companies.
Per occurrence limitations	The maximum amount recoverable under an insurance or reinsurance policy as a result of any one event, regardless of the number of claims. Insurance that absorbs the losses immediately above the insured's retention layer. A primary insurer will pay up to a certain dollar amount of losses over the insured's retention, at which point a higher layer excess insurer will be liable for additional losses. The coverage terms of a primary insurance layer typically assume an element of regular loss frequency.
Primary insurance	
Producer	A licensed professional, often referred to as an insurance agent, insurance broker or intermediary, who acts as intermediary between the insurance carrier and the insured or reinsured (as the case may be).
Product liability	Insurance that provides coverage to manufacturer and/or distributors of tangible goods against liability for personal injury caused if such products are unsafe or defective.
Professional liability	Insurance that provides liability coverage to directors and officers, attorneys, doctors, accountants and other professionals who offer services to the general public and claim expertise in a particular area greater than the ordinary layperson for their negligence or malfeasance.
Property catastrophe coverage	In reinsurance, coverage that protects the ceding company against accumulated losses in excess of a stipulated sum that arise from a catastrophic event such as an earthquake, fire or windstorm. "Catastrophe loss" generally refers to the total loss of an insurer arising out of a single catastrophic event.
Quota share reinsurance	A proportional reinsurance treaty in which the ceding company cedes an agreed-on percentage of every risk it insures that falls within a class or classes of business subject to the treaty.
Reinsurance	The practice whereby one insurer, called the reinsurer, in consideration of a premium paid to that reinsurer, agrees to indemnify another insurer, called the ceding company, for part or all of the liability of the ceding company under one or more policies or contracts of insurance that it has issued.
Reserves	Liabilities established by insurers and reinsurers to reflect the estimated cost of claims incurred that the insurer or reinsurer will ultimately be required to pay. Reserves are established for losses and for loss expenses, and consist of case reserves and IBNR reserves. As the term is used in this report, "reserves" are meant to include reserves for both losses and for loss expenses.
Retention	The amount of exposure an insured retains on any one risk or group of risks. The term may apply to an insurance policy, where the insured is an individual or business, or a reinsurance contract, where the insured is an insurance company. See "Deductible."
Retrocessional coverage	A transaction whereby a reinsurer cedes to another reinsurer, the retrocessionaire, all or part of the reinsurance that the first reinsurer has assumed. Retrocessional reinsurance does not legally discharge the ceding reinsurer from its liability with respect to its obligations to the reinsured. Reinsurance companies cede risks to retrocessionaires for reasons similar to those that cause insurers to purchase reinsurance: to

reduce net liability on individual risks, to protect against catastrophic losses, to stabilize financial ratios and to obtain additional underwriting capacity.

Run-off

Liability of an insurance or reinsurance company for existing claims that it expects to pay in the future and for which a loss reserve has been established.

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Self-insured	<p>A term which describes a risk, or part of a risk, retained by the insured in lieu of transferring the risk to an insurer. A policy deductible or retention feature allows a policyholder to self-insure a portion of an exposure and thereby reduce its risk-transfer costs.</p>
Specialty lines	<p>A term used in the insurance and reinsurance industry to describe types of insurance or classes of business that require specialized expertise to underwrite. Insurance and reinsurance for these classes of business is not widely available and is typically purchased from the specialty lines divisions of larger insurance companies or from small specialty lines insurers.</p>
Subpart F income	<p>Insurance and reinsurance income (including underwriting and investment income) and foreign personal holding company income (including interest, dividends and other passive investment income). As determined under statutory accounting principles, the amount remaining after all liabilities, including loss reserves, are subtracted from all of the “admitted” assets (i.e., those permitted by regulation to be recognized on the statutory balance sheet). Surplus is also referred to as “statutory surplus” or “surplus as regards policyholders” for statutory accounting purposes.</p>
Surplus (or statutory surplus)	<p>As determined under statutory accounting principles, the amount remaining after all liabilities, including loss reserves, are subtracted from all of the “admitted” assets (i.e., those permitted by regulation to be recognized on the statutory balance sheet). Surplus is also referred to as “statutory surplus” or “surplus as regards policyholders” for statutory accounting purposes.</p>
Surplus lines	<p>A risk or a part of a risk for which there is no insurance market available among admitted insurers or insurance written by non-admitted insurance companies to cover such risks.</p>
Treaties	<p>Reinsurance contracts under which the ceding company agrees to cede and the reinsurer agrees to assume risks of a particular class or classes of business.</p>
Treaty year	<p>The year in which the contract incepts. Exposure from contracts incepting during the current treaty year will potentially affect both the current loss year as well future loss years.</p>
Ultimate loss	<p>Total of all expected settlement amounts, whether paid or reserved together with any associated loss adjustment expenses, and is the estimated total amount of loss at the measurement date. For purposes of this Form 10-K, “ultimate loss” is the sum of paid losses, case reserves and IBNR.</p>
Underwriter	<p>An employee of an insurance or reinsurance company who examines, accepts or rejects risks and classifies accepted risks in order to charge an appropriate premium for each accepted risk. The underwriter is expected to select business that will produce an average risk of loss no greater than that anticipated for the class of business.</p>
Underwriting results	<p>The pre-tax profit or loss experienced by an insurance company that is calculated by deducting net losses and loss expenses, net acquisition costs and general and administration expenses from net premiums earned. This profit or loss calculation includes reinsurance assumed and ceded but excludes investment income.</p>
Unearned premium	<p>The portion of premiums written that is allocable to the unexpired portion of the policy term or underlying risk.</p>
Working layer	<p>Primary insurance that absorbs the losses immediately above the insured’s retention layer. A working layer insurer will pay up to a certain dollar amount of losses over the insured’s retention, at which point a higher layer excess insurer will be liable for additional losses.</p>

The coverage terms of a working layer typically assume an element of loss frequency.

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Item 2. Properties.

Our corporate headquarters are located in offices owned by the Company in Switzerland. In addition, we lease space in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, Singapore and the United States for the operation of our North American Insurance, Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance segments. Our leases have remaining terms ranging from approximately two years to approximately seventeen years in length. We renew and enter into new leases in the ordinary course of business as needed. While we believe that the office space from these leased properties is sufficient for us to conduct our operations for the foreseeable future, we may need to expand into additional facilities to accommodate future growth. For more information on our leasing arrangements, please see Note 15 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements in this Form 10-K.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

The company, in common with the insurance industry in general, is subject to litigation and arbitration in the normal course of its business. These legal proceedings generally relate to claims asserted by or against the company in the ordinary course of insurance or reinsurance operations. Estimated amounts payable under these proceedings are included in the reserve for losses and loss expenses in the company's consolidated balance sheets. As of December 31, 2014, the company was not a party to any material legal proceedings arising outside the ordinary course of business that management believes will have a material adverse effect on the company's results of operations, financial position or cash flow.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

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PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

Our common shares are publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AWH". The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales prices per share of our common shares as reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape.

	High	Low
2014:		
First quarter ⁽¹⁾	\$37.42	\$31.04
Second quarter ⁽¹⁾	\$38.13	\$33.64
Third quarter	\$39.74	\$34.37
Fourth quarter	\$39.19	\$35.48
2013 - As Adjusted ⁽¹⁾ :		
First quarter	\$30.92	\$26.40
Second quarter	\$31.66	\$29.33
Third quarter	\$33.33	\$30.12
Fourth quarter	\$37.76	\$32.91

(1) On May 1, 2014, the shareholders approved a 3-for-1 stock split of the Company's common shares, which became effective on May 23, 2014. The per share data above reflects the impact of the stock split.

On February 2, 2015, the last reported sale price for our common shares was \$39.03 per share. At February 2, 2015, there were 28 holders of record of our common shares.

The following dividends were paid during 2014 and 2013:

Dividend Paid	Dividend Per Share ⁽¹⁾
October 2, 2014	\$0.225
July 2, 2014	\$0.225
April 3, 2014	\$0.167
January 2, 2014	\$0.167
October 3, 2013	\$0.167
July 3, 2013	\$0.167
March 12, 2013	\$0.125

(1) On May 1, 2014, the shareholders approved a 3-for-1 stock split of the Company's common shares, which became effective on May 23, 2014. The per share data above reflects the impact of the stock split.

At each of the Annual Shareholder Meetings in May 2013 and May 2014, our shareholders approved the payment of a quarterly cash dividend to shareholders in four quarterly installments in the form of distributions out of "general legal reserves from capital contributions". In May 2013, shareholders approved dividends of \$0.167 per share. In May 2014, shareholders approved dividends of \$0.225 per share. The third of these dividends was paid in January 2015 and the fourth dividend is anticipated to be paid in April 2015.

The continued declaration and payment of dividends to holders of common shares is expected but will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and subject to legal, regulatory, financial and other restrictions. Specifically, any future declaration and payment of any cash dividends by the company will:

- depend upon its results of operations, financial condition, cash requirements and other relevant factors;
- be subject to shareholder approval;
- be subject to restrictions contained in our credit facilities and other debt covenants; and
- be subject to other restrictions on dividends imposed by Swiss law.

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Under Swiss law, our shareholders have the power to declare dividends without the agreement of the Board of Directors. Consequently, dividends may be declared by resolution of the shareholders even if our Board of Directors and management do not believe it is in the best interest of the company or the shareholders. As a holding company, our principal source of income is dividends or other statutorily permissible payments from our subsidiaries. The ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends is limited by the applicable laws and regulations of the various countries in which we operate, including Bermuda, the United States and Ireland. See Item 1. “Business — Regulatory Matters,” Item 1A. Risk Factors — Our holding company structure and regulatory and other constraints affect our ability to pay dividends and make other payments,” Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Pledged Assets” and Note 16 of the notes to consolidated financial statements included in this Form 10-K.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table summarizes our repurchases of our common shares during the three months ended December 31, 2014:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Dollar Value (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 1 - 31, 2014	—	\$—	—	\$429.2 million
November 1 - 30, 2014	40,000	37.55	40,000	427.7 million
December 1 - 31, 2014	250,242	37.33	250,242	418.4 million
Total	290,242	\$37.36	290,242	\$418.4 million

At the 2014 Annual Shareholder Meeting on May 1, 2014, Holdings’ shareholders approved a new, two-year \$500 (1)million share repurchase program. Share repurchases may be effected from time to time through open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, tender offers or otherwise.

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PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following information is not deemed to be “soliciting material” or to be “filed” with the SEC or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and the report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any prior or subsequent filing by the company under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

The following graph shows the cumulative total return, including reinvestment of dividends, on the common shares compared to such return for Standard & Poor’s 500 Composite Stock Price Index (“S&P 500”), and Standard & Poor’s Property & Casualty Insurance Index for the five year period beginning on December 31, 2009 and ending on December 31, 2014, assuming \$100 was invested on December 31, 2009. The measurement point on the graph represents the cumulative shareholder return as measured by the last reported sale price on such date during the relevant period.

TOTAL RETURN TO SHAREHOLDERS
(INCLUDES REINVESTMENT OF DIVIDENDS)

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Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

The following table sets forth our summary historical statement of operations data and summary balance sheet data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010. Statement of operations data and balance sheet data are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. These historical results are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected from any future period. For further discussion of this risk see Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in this Form 10-K. You should read the following selected financial data in conjunction with the other information contained in this Form 10-K, including Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and Item 8. "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data".

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011 (1)	2010 (2)
	(\$ in millions, except per share amounts)				
Summary Statement of Operations Data:					
Gross premiums written	\$2,935.4	\$2,738.7	\$2,329.3	\$1,939.5	\$1,758.4
Net premiums written	\$2,322.1	\$2,120.5	\$1,837.8	\$1,533.8	\$1,392.4
Net premiums earned	\$2,182.7	\$2,005.8	\$1,748.9	\$1,457.0	\$1,359.5
Net investment income	176.9	157.6	167.1	195.9	244.1
Net realized investment gains	89.0	59.5	306.4	10.1	285.6
Net impairment charges recognized in earnings	—	—	—	—	(0.2)
Other income	2.1	—	—	101.7	0.9
Total revenues	\$2,450.7	\$2,222.9	\$2,222.4	\$1,764.7	\$1,889.9
Net losses and loss expenses	1,199.2	1,123.2	1,139.3	959.2	707.9
Total expenses	1,929.9	1,795.3	1,711.0	1,459.2	1,198.0
Income before income taxes	\$520.8	\$427.6	\$511.4	\$305.5	\$691.9
Income tax expense	30.5	9.8	18.4	31.0	26.9
Net income	\$490.3	\$417.8	\$493.0	\$274.5	\$665.0
Per Share Data:					
Basic earnings per share (3)	\$5.03	\$4.08	\$4.56	\$2.40	\$4.77
Diluted earnings per share (3)	\$4.92	\$3.98	\$4.43	\$2.31	\$4.44
Dividends paid per share (3), (4)	\$0.784	\$0.458	\$0.625	\$0.250	\$0.350

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	Year Ended December 31,					
	2014	2013	2012	2011 (1)	2010 (2)	
Selected Ratios:						
Loss and loss expense ratio	54.9	% 56.0	% 65.1	% 65.8	% 52.1	%
Acquisition cost ratio	13.5	% 12.6	% 11.8	% 11.5	% 11.7	%
General and administrative expense ratio	16.8	% 17.6	% 17.6	% 18.6	% 21.1	%
Expense ratio	30.3	% 30.2	% 29.4	% 30.1	% 32.8	%
Combined ratio	85.2	% 86.2	% 94.5	% 95.9	% 84.9	%

	As of December 31,					
	2014	2013	2012	2011 (1)	2010 (2)	
Summary Balance Sheet Data:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$589.3	\$531.9	\$681.9	\$634.0	\$757.0	
Investments	7,868.7	7,712.0	7,933.9	7,406.6	7,183.6	
Reinsurance recoverable	1,340.3	1,234.5	1,141.1	1,002.9	927.6	
Total assets	12,421.6	11,945.8	12,029.9	11,122.2	10,427.6	
Reserve for losses and loss expenses	5,881.2	5,766.5	5,645.5	5,225.1	4,879.2	
Unearned premiums	1,555.3	1,396.3	1,218.0	1,078.4	962.2	
Total debt	818.0	798.5	798.2	797.9	797.7	
Total shareholders' equity	\$3,778.3	\$3,519.8	\$3,326.3	\$3,149.0	\$3,075.8	

(1) Other income for the year ended December 31, 2011 includes termination fees (net of expenses) of \$101.7 million related to the termination of the previously announced merger agreement with Transatlantic.

Effective July 1, 2010, the Company elected the fair value option for any investment in a beneficial interest in a securitized asset. As a result, the Company elected the fair value option for all of its mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities held as of June 30, 2010. On July 1, 2010, the Company reclassified net unrealized gains of \$41.9 million from "accumulated other comprehensive income" to "retained earnings". As a result of the fair value election, any change in fair value of the mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities is recognized in "net realized investment gains" on the consolidated income statement.

(2) On May 1, 2014, the shareholders' approved a 3-for-1 stock split of the Company's common shares. All historical per share amounts reflect the effect of the stock split.

(3) A dividend of \$0.225 was also paid on January 2, 2015 to shareholders of record on December 24, 2014.

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Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Some of the statements in this Form 10-K include forward-looking statements within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. These statements include in general forward-looking statements both with respect to us and the insurance industry. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements that use terms such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends," "plans," "projects," "seeks" and "will" and that relate to our plans and objectives for future operations, are forward-looking statements. In light of the risks and uncertainties inherent in all forward-looking statements, the inclusion of such statements in this Form 10-K should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our objectives or plans will be achieved. These statements are based on current plans, estimates and expectations. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in such forward-looking statements and therefore you should not place undue reliance on them. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements are set forth in Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in this Form 10-K. We undertake no obligation to release publicly the results of any future revisions we make to the forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Overview

Our Business

We are a Swiss-based global provider of a diversified portfolio of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance products with operations in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States as well as our Lloyd's Syndicate 2232. We manage our business through three operating segments: North American Insurance, Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance. As of December 31, 2014, we had approximately \$12.4 billion of total assets, \$3.8 billion of total shareholders' equity and \$4.6 billion of total capital, which includes shareholders' equity, senior notes and other long-term debt.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we continued to grow our direct insurance business, in particular in the United States and Europe, as we entered new lines of business and added scale to our existing lines of business while our Reinsurance segment remained flat year-over-year by selectively writing accounts where pricing, terms and conditions met our underwriting requirements. During the year, we experienced positive rate improvements in certain lines of business, such as general casualty, primary casualty, healthcare and professional liability in our U.S. direct insurance operations of the North American Insurance segment. During the year, we also experienced negative rate changes in our general property line of business in both our North American Insurance and Global Markets Insurance segments, as well as negative rate changes in our professional liability, general casualty and aviation lines of business in the Global Markets Insurance segment. We believe in the near-term, there will be pricing pressure across most lines of business, in particular in our Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance segments.

Our consolidated gross premiums written increased by \$196.7 million, or 7.2%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 driven by the growth in our North American Insurance and Global Markets Insurance segments. Our net income increased by \$72.4 million to \$490.3 million compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was primarily due to higher underwriting income and investment returns (net investment income and realized gains) during 2014 compared to 2013.

Recent Developments

We reported net income of \$130.5 million for the three months ended December 31, 2014 compared to a net income of \$137.9 million for the three months ended December 31, 2013, a decrease of \$7.4 million.

The decrease in net income was due to the following:

For the three months ended December 31, 2014, we incurred \$22.0 million of pre-tax catastrophe-related losses primarily from a hailstorm in Brisbane, Australia and Typhoon Rammasun compared to \$13.5 million of pre-tax catastrophe-related losses from Typhoon Fitow during the three months ended December 31, 2013.

A reduction in net realized investment gains or losses of \$82.9 million. For the three months ended December 31, 2014 we recognized \$15.3 million of realized investment losses compared to realized investment gains of \$67.6 million for the three months ended December 31, 2013.

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Partially offsetting the above decreases were the following:

Higher net favorable prior year reserve development of \$45.4 million. We recorded net favorable prior year development of \$71.7 million during the three months ended December 31, 2014 compared to net favorable prior year reserve development of \$26.4 million during the three months ended December 31, 2013.

Higher net premiums earned in our North American Insurance segment and Global Markets Insurance segment partially offset by slightly lower net premiums earned in our Reinsurance segment.

On May 1, 2014, the shareholders approved a 3-for-1 stock split of our common shares. All historical share and per share amounts reflect the effect of the stock split.

In August 2014, we reached definitive agreements to acquire the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of RSA for approximately \$201.8 million, at current exchange rates, subject to adjustments at closing. In addition to the purchase price, we expect to contribute an additional \$90.0 million to capitalize the businesses on an ongoing basis. Subject to regulatory approvals in both Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as court approval in Singapore, the acquisition is expected to be completed in the early part of the second quarter of 2015. We believe the acquisition of the Hong Kong and Singapore branches of RSA complements our global specialist insurance strategy by providing meaningful additional scale in the region.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, our Chief Executive Officer reorganized how we manage our business, and as a result we realigned our executive management team and changed our reportable segments to correspond to the reorganization. Our Bermuda direct insurance operations, except for the trade credit line of business, which had previously been included in the international insurance segment, were combined with the U.S. insurance segment, with the new segment renamed the "North American Insurance" segment. The remaining direct insurance operations of the international insurance segment were renamed the "Global Markets Insurance" segment. The Reinsurance segment remains unchanged. The newly created segments have been recast and our historical financial information has been updated to conform to the new presentation.

Financial Highlights

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions, except share, per share and percentage data)		
Gross premiums written	\$ 2,935.4	\$ 2,738.7	\$ 2,329.3
Net income	490.3	417.9	493.0
Operating income	415.1	364.0	202.7
Basic earnings per share:			
Net income	\$ 5.03	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.56
Operating income	\$ 4.26	\$ 3.56	\$ 1.88
Diluted earnings per share:			
Net income	\$ 4.92	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.43
Operating income	\$ 4.17	\$ 3.47	\$ 1.82
Weighted average common shares outstanding:			
Basic	97,538,319	102,464,715	108,171,435
Diluted	99,591,773	104,865,834	111,209,655
Basic book value per common share	\$ 39.28	\$ 35.11	\$ 31.86
Diluted book value per common share	\$ 38.27	\$ 34.20	\$ 30.86
Annualized return on average equity (ROAE), net income	13.4	% 12.2	% 15.3
Annualized ROAE, operating income	11.4	% 10.6	% 6.3

Non-GAAP Financial Measures

In presenting the company's results, management has included and discussed certain non-GAAP financial measures, as such term is defined in Item 10(e) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC. Management believes that these non-GAAP measures, which may be defined differently by other companies, better explain the Company's results of operations in a manner

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that allows for a more complete understanding of the underlying trends in the Company's business. However, these measures should not be viewed as a substitute for those determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

Operating income & operating income per share

Operating income is an internal performance measure used in the management of our operations and represents after-tax operational results excluding, as applicable, net realized investment gains or losses, net foreign exchange gain or loss and other non-recurring items. We exclude net realized investment gains or losses, net foreign exchange gain or loss and other non-recurring items from our calculation of operating income because these amounts are heavily influenced by and fluctuate in part according to the availability of market opportunities and other factors. In addition to presenting net income determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP, we believe that showing operating income enables investors, analysts, rating agencies and other users of our financial information to more easily analyze our results of operations and our underlying business performance. Operating income should not be viewed as a substitute for U.S. GAAP net income. The following is a reconciliation of operating income to its most closely related U.S. GAAP measure, net income.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions, except per share data)		
Net income	\$490.3	\$417.9	\$493.0
Add after tax effect of:			
Net realized investment gains	(76.2) (61.9) (291.1
Foreign exchange loss	1.0	8.0	0.8
Operating income	\$415.1	\$364.0	\$202.7
Basic per share data:			
Net income	\$5.03	\$4.08	\$4.56
Add after tax effect of:			
Net realized investment gains	(0.78) (0.60) (2.69
Foreign exchange loss	0.01	0.08	0.01
Operating income	\$4.26	\$3.56	\$1.88
Diluted per share data:			
Net income	\$4.92	\$3.98	\$4.43
Add after tax effect of:			
Net realized investment gains	(0.76) (0.59) (2.62
Foreign exchange loss	0.01	0.08	0.01
Operating income	\$4.17	\$3.47	\$1.82

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Diluted book value per share

We have included diluted book value per share because it takes into account the effect of dilutive securities; therefore, we believe it is an important measure of calculating shareholder returns.

	As of December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions, except share and per share data)		
Price per share at period end	\$37.92	\$37.60	\$26.27
Total shareholders' equity	\$3,778.3	\$3,519.8	\$3,326.3
Basic common shares outstanding	96,195,482	100,253,646	104,393,343
Add:			
Unvested restricted share units	502,506	143,697	405,369
Performance based equity awards	616,641	804,519	1,457,919
Employee share purchase plan	42,176	55,596	32,250
Dilutive options/warrants outstanding	2,426,674	2,928,312	3,673,821
Weighted average exercise price per share	\$16.41	\$16.07	\$15.67
Deduct:			
Options bought back via treasury method	(1,050,151)	(1,251,687)	(2,191,956)
Common shares and common share equivalents outstanding	98,733,328	102,934,083	107,770,746
Basic book value per common share	\$39.28	\$35.11	\$31.86
Diluted book value per common share	\$38.27	\$34.20	\$30.86

Annualized return on average equity

Annualized return on average shareholders' equity ("ROAE") is calculated using average shareholders' equity, excluding the average after tax unrealized gains or losses on investments. We present ROAE as a measure that is commonly recognized as a standard of performance by investors, analysts, rating agencies and other users of our financial information.

Annualized operating return on average shareholders' equity is calculated using operating income and average shareholders' equity, excluding the average after tax unrealized gains or losses on investments.

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
	(\$ in millions)			
Opening shareholders' equity	\$3,519.8	\$3,326.3	\$3,149.0	
Deduct: accumulated other comprehensive income	—	—	(14.5)	
Adjusted opening shareholders' equity	\$3,519.8	\$3,326.3	\$3,134.5	
Closing shareholders' equity	\$3,778.3	\$3,519.8	\$3,326.3	
Deduct: accumulated other comprehensive income	—	—	—	
Adjusted closing shareholders' equity	\$3,778.3	\$3,519.8	\$3,326.3	
Average shareholders' equity	\$3,649.1	\$3,423.1	\$3,230.4	
Net income available to shareholders	\$490.3	\$417.9	\$493.0	
Annualized return on average shareholders' equity — net income available to shareholders	13.4	% 12.2	% 15.3	%
Operating income available to shareholders	\$415.1	\$364.0	\$202.7	
Annualized return on average shareholders' equity — operating income available to shareholders	11.4	% 10.6	% 6.3	%

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Relevant Factors

Revenues

We derive our revenues primarily from premiums on our insurance policies and reinsurance contracts, net of any reinsurance or retrocessional coverage purchased. Insurance and reinsurance premiums are a function of the amounts and types of policies and contracts we write, as well as prevailing market prices. Our prices are determined before our ultimate costs, which may extend far into the future, are known. In addition, our revenues include income generated from our investment portfolio, consisting of net investment income and net realized investment gains or losses, and other income related to our non-insurance operations. Investment income is principally derived from interest and dividends earned on investments, partially offset by investment management and custodial expenses and fees paid to our custodian bank. Net realized investment gains or losses include gains or losses from the sale of investments, as well as the change in the fair value of investments that we mark-to-market through net income.

Expenses

Our expenses consist largely of net losses and loss expenses, acquisition costs and general and administrative expenses. Net losses and loss expenses incurred are comprised of three main components:

- losses paid, which are actual cash payments to insureds and reinsureds, net of recoveries from reinsurers;
- outstanding loss or case reserves, which represent management's best estimate of the likely settlement amount for known claims, less the portion that can be recovered from reinsurers; and
- reserves for losses incurred but not reported, or "IBNR", which are reserves (in addition to case reserves) established by us that we believe are needed for the future settlement of claims. The portion recoverable from reinsurers is deducted from the gross estimated loss.

Acquisition costs are comprised of commissions, brokerage fees, insurance taxes and other acquisition-related costs such as profit commissions and are reduced for ceding commission income received on our ceded reinsurance. Commissions and brokerage fees are usually calculated as a percentage of premiums and depend on the market and line of business. Acquisition costs are reported after (1) deducting commissions earned on ceded reinsurance, (2) deducting the part of deferred acquisition costs relating to the successful acquisition of new and renewal insurance and reinsurance contracts and (3) including the amortization of previously deferred acquisition costs.

General and administrative expenses include personnel expenses including stock-based compensation expense, rent expense, professional fees, information technology costs and other general operating expenses.

Ratios

The Company measures its segment results as underwriting income or loss plus other insurance-related revenue and expenses, which may include the net earnings from our claims administration services operations and other income or expense that is not directly related to our insurance operations. Management measures results for each segment's underwriting income or loss on the basis of the "loss and loss expense ratio," "acquisition cost ratio," "general and administrative expense ratio," "expense ratio" and the "combined ratio." Because we do not manage our assets by segment, investment income, interest expense and total assets are not allocated to individual reportable segments. General and administrative expenses are allocated to segments based on various factors, including staff count and each segment's proportional share of gross premiums written.

Critical Accounting Policies

It is important to understand our accounting policies in order to understand our financial position and results of operations. Our consolidated financial statements reflect determinations that are inherently subjective in nature and require management to make assumptions and best estimates to determine the reported values. If events or other factors cause actual results to differ materially from management's underlying assumptions or estimates, there could be a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. The following are the accounting estimates that, in management's judgment, are critical due to the judgments, assumptions and uncertainties underlying the application of those estimates and the potential for results to differ from management's assumptions.

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Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses

Reserves for losses and loss expenses by segment as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 were comprised of the following:

	North American Insurance		Global Markets Insurance		Reinsurance		Total	
	December 31, 2014	2013	December 31, 2014	2013	December 31, 2014	2013	December 31, 2014	2013
	(\$ in millions)							
Case reserves	\$937.7	\$943.1	\$117.8	\$107.7	\$458.6	\$470.1	\$1,514.1	\$1,520.9
IBNR	2,868.9	2,758.6	450.4	461.0	1,047.8	1,026.0	4,367.1	4,245.6
Reserve for losses and loss expenses	3,806.6	3,701.7	568.2	568.7	1,506.4	1,496.1	5,881.2	5,766.5
Reinsurance recoverables	(1,156.4)	(1,065.5)	(173.2)	(162.8)	(10.7)	(6.2)	(1,340.3)	(1,234.5)
Net reserve for losses and loss expenses	\$2,650.2	\$2,636.2	\$395.0	\$405.9	\$1,495.7	\$1,489.9	\$4,540.9	\$4,532.0

The reserve for losses and loss expenses is comprised of two main elements: outstanding loss reserves, also known as case reserves, and reserves for IBNR. Outstanding loss reserves relate to known claims and represent management's best estimate of the likely loss settlement. IBNR reserves relate primarily to unreported events that, based on industry information, management's experience and actuarial evaluation, can reasonably be expected to have occurred and are reasonably likely to result in a loss to our company. IBNR reserves also relate to estimated development of reported events that based on industry information, management's experience and actuarial evaluation, can reasonably be expected to reach our attachment point and are reasonably likely to result in a loss to our company. We also include in IBNR changes in the values of claims that have been reported to us but are not yet settled. Each claim is settled individually based upon its merits and it is not unusual for a claim to take years after being reported to settle, especially if legal action is involved. As a result, reserves for losses and loss expenses include significant estimates for IBNR reserves.

The reserve for IBNR is estimated by management for each line of business based on various factors, including underwriters' expectations about loss experience, actuarial analysis, comparisons with the results of industry benchmarks and loss experience to date. The reserve for IBNR is calculated as the ultimate amount of losses and loss expenses less cumulative paid losses and loss expenses and case reserves. Our actuaries employ generally accepted actuarial methodologies to determine estimated ultimate loss reserves.

While management believes that our case reserves and IBNR are sufficient to cover losses assumed by us, there can be no assurance that losses will not deviate from our reserves, possibly by material amounts. The methodology of estimating loss reserves is periodically reviewed to ensure that the assumptions made continue to be appropriate. To the extent actual reported losses exceed estimated losses, the carried estimate of the ultimate losses will be increased (i.e., unfavorable reserve development), and to the extent actual reported losses are less than estimated losses, the carried estimate of ultimate losses will be reduced (i.e., favorable reserve development). We record any changes in our loss reserve estimates and the related reinsurance recoverables in the periods in which they are determined. Determining whether our estimated losses are sufficient to cover all reported and non-reported claims involves a high degree of judgment. It is our practice to address unfavorable loss emergence early in our long-tail lines of business while we tend to recognize favorable loss emergence more slowly in our long-tail lines once actual loss emergence and data provides greater confidence around the adequacy of ultimate estimates.

In certain lines of business, claims are generally reported and paid within a relatively short period of time (“short-tail lines”) during and following the policy coverage period. This generally enables us to determine with greater certainty our estimate of ultimate losses and loss expenses. The estimate of reserves for our short-tail lines of business and products, including property, crop, aviation, marine, personal accident and workers compensation catastrophe relies primarily on traditional loss reserving methodologies, utilizing selected paid and reported loss development factors.

Our casualty insurance and casualty reinsurance lines of business include general liability risks, healthcare and professional liability risks. Claims may be reported or settled several years after the coverage period has terminated for these lines of business (“long-tail lines”), which increases uncertainties of our reserve estimates in such lines. In addition, our attachment points for these long-tail lines can be relatively high, making reserving for these lines of business more difficult than short-tail lines due to having to estimate whether the severity of the estimated losses will exceed our attachment point. We establish a case reserve when sufficient information is gathered to make a reasonable estimate of the liability, which often requires a significant amount of information and time. Due to the lengthy reporting pattern of these casualty lines, reliance is placed on industry benchmarks supplemented by our own experience. For expected loss ratio selections, we are giving increasing consideration to our existing experience supplemented with analysis of loss trends, rate changes and experience of peer companies.

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Our reinsurance treaties are reviewed individually, based upon individual characteristics and loss experience emergence. Loss reserves on assumed reinsurance often have unique features that make them more difficult to estimate than direct insurance. We establish loss reserves upon receipt of advice from a cedent that a reserve is merited. Our claims staff may establish additional loss reserves where, in their judgment, the amount reported by a cedent is potentially inadequate. The following are the most significant features that make estimating loss reserves on assumed reinsurance difficult:

Reinsurers have to rely upon the cedents and reinsurance intermediaries to report losses in a timely fashion.

Reinsurers must rely upon cedents to price the underlying business appropriately.

Reinsurers have less predictable loss emergence patterns than direct insurers, particularly when writing excess-of-loss reinsurance.

For excess-of-loss reinsurance, cedents generally are required to report losses that either exceed 50% of the retention, have a reasonable probability of exceeding the retention or meet serious injury reporting criteria. For quota share reinsurance treaties, cedents are required to give a periodic statement of account, generally monthly or quarterly. These periodic statements typically include information regarding written premiums, earned premiums, unearned premiums, ceding commissions, brokerage amounts, applicable taxes, paid losses and outstanding losses. They can be submitted 60 to 90 days after the close of the reporting period. Some quota share reinsurance treaties have specific language regarding earlier notice of serious claims.

Reinsurance generally has a greater time lag than direct insurance in the reporting of claims. The time lag is caused by the claim first being reported to the cedent, then the intermediary (such as a broker) and finally the reinsurer. This lag can be up to six months or longer in certain cases. There is also a time lag because the insurer may not be required to report claims to the reinsurer until certain reporting criteria are met. In some instances this could be several years while a claim is being litigated. We use reporting factors based on data from the Reinsurance Association of America to adjust for time lags. We also use historical treaty-specific reporting factors when applicable. Loss and premium information are entered into our reinsurance system by our claims department and our accounting department on a timely basis.

We record the individual case reserves sent to us by the cedents through the reinsurance intermediaries. Individual claims are reviewed by our reinsurance claims department and adjusted as deemed appropriate. The loss data received from the intermediaries is checked for reasonableness and for known events. Details of the loss listings are reviewed during routine claim audits.

The expected loss ratios that we assign to each treaty are based upon analysis and modeling performed by a team of pricing actuaries. The historical data reviewed by the team of pricing actuaries is considered in setting the reserves for each cedent. The historical data in the submissions is matched against our carried reserves for our historical treaty years.

Loss reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability. Rather, loss reserves are estimates of what we expect the ultimate resolution and administration of claims will cost. These estimates are based on actuarial and statistical projections and on our assessment of currently available data, as well as estimates of future trends in claims severity and frequency, judicial theories of liability and other factors. Loss reserve estimates are refined as experience develops and as claims are reported and resolved. In addition, the relatively long periods between when a loss occurs and when it may be reported to our claims department for our casualty insurance and casualty reinsurance lines of business increase the uncertainties of our reserve estimates in such lines.

We utilize a variety of standard actuarial methods in our analysis. The selections from these various methods are based on the loss development characteristics of the specific line of business. For lines of business with long reporting periods such as casualty reinsurance, we may rely more on an expected loss ratio method (as described below) until losses begin to develop. For lines of business with short reporting periods such as property insurance, we may rely more on a paid loss development method (as described below) as losses are reported relatively quickly. The actuarial methods we utilize include:

Paid Loss Development Method. We estimate ultimate losses by calculating past paid loss development factors and applying them to exposure periods with further expected paid loss development. The paid loss development method assumes that losses are paid at a consistent rate. The paid loss development method provides an objective test of reported loss projections because paid losses contain no reserve estimates. In some circumstances, paid losses for recent periods may be too varied for accurate predictions. For many coverages, especially casualty coverages, claim payments are made slowly and it may take years for claims to be fully reported and settled. These payments may be unreliable for determining future loss projections because of shifts in settlement patterns or because of large settlements in the early stages of development. Choosing an

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appropriate “tail factor” to determine the amount of payments from the latest development period to the ultimate development period may also require considerable judgment, especially for coverages that have long payment patterns. When necessary, we have had to supplement our paid loss development patterns with appropriate benchmarks.

Reported Loss Development Method. We estimate ultimate losses by calculating past reported loss development factors and applying them to exposure periods with further expected reported loss development. Since reported losses include payments and case reserves, changes in both of these amounts are incorporated in this method. This approach provides a larger volume of data to estimate ultimate losses than the paid loss development method. Thus, reported loss patterns may be less varied than paid loss patterns, especially for coverages that have historically been paid out over a long period of time but for which claims are reported relatively early and have case loss reserve estimates established. This method assumes that reserves have been established using consistent practices over the historical period that is reviewed. Changes in claims handling procedures, large claims or significant numbers of claims of an unusual nature may cause results to be too varied for accurate forecasting. Also, choosing an appropriate “tail factor” to determine the change in reported loss from the latest development period to the ultimate development period may require considerable judgment. When necessary, we have had to supplement our reported loss development patterns with appropriate benchmarks.

Expected Loss Ratio Method. To estimate ultimate losses under the expected loss ratio method, we multiply earned premiums by an expected loss ratio. The expected loss ratio is selected utilizing industry data, historical company data and professional judgment. This method is particularly useful for new lines of business where there are no historical losses or where past loss experience is not credible.

Bornhuetter-Ferguson Paid Loss Method. The Bornhuetter-Ferguson paid loss method is a combination of the paid loss development method and the expected loss ratio method. The amount of losses yet to be paid is based upon the expected loss ratios and the expected percentage of losses unpaid. These expected loss ratios are modified to the extent paid losses to date differ from what would have been expected to have been paid based upon the selected paid loss development pattern. This method avoids some of the distortions that could result from a large development factor being applied to a small base of paid losses to calculate ultimate losses. This method will react slowly if actual loss ratios develop differently because of major changes in rate levels, retentions or deductibles, the forms and conditions of reinsurance coverage, the types of risks covered or a variety of other changes.

Bornhuetter-Ferguson Reported Loss Method. The Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method is similar to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson paid loss method with the exception that it uses reported losses and reported loss development factors.

During 2014, 2013 and 2012, we adjusted our reliance on actuarial methods utilized for certain casualty lines of business and loss years within each of our operating segments shifting from the expected loss ratio method to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method to varying degrees depending on the class of business, for example excess casualty versus primary casualty, and how old the loss year is. Placing greater reliance on more responsive actuarial methods for certain casualty lines of business and loss years within each of our operating segments is a natural progression as we mature as a company and gain sufficient historical experience of our own that allows us to further refine our estimate of the reserve for losses and loss expenses. We believe utilizing only the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method for certain older loss years will more accurately reflect the reported loss activity we have had thus far in our ultimate loss ratio selections, and will better reflect how the ultimate losses will develop over time. We will continue to utilize the expected loss ratio method for the most recent loss years until we have sufficient experience to utilize other acceptable actuarial methodologies.

The key assumptions used to arrive at our best estimate of loss reserves are the expected loss ratios, rate of loss cost inflation, selection of benchmarks and reported and paid loss emergence patterns. Our reporting factors and expected loss ratios are based on a blend of our own experience and industry benchmarks for long-tailed business and primarily our own experience for short-tail business. The benchmarks selected were those that we believe are most similar to our underwriting business.

Our expected loss ratios for short-tail lines change from year to year. As our losses from short-tail lines of business are reported relatively quickly, we select our expected loss ratios for the most recent years based upon our actual loss ratios for our older years adjusted for rate changes, inflation, cost of reinsurance and average storm activity. For the short-tail lines, we initially used benchmarks for reported and paid loss emergence patterns. As we mature as a company, we have begun supplementing those benchmark patterns with our actual patterns as appropriate. For the long-tail lines, we continue to use benchmark patterns, although we update the benchmark patterns as additional information is published regarding the benchmark data.

For short-tail lines, the primary assumption that changed during both 2014 as compared to 2013 and 2013 as compared to 2012 as it relates to prior year losses was actual paid and reported loss emergence patterns were generally less severe than

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estimated for each year due to lower frequency and severity of reported losses. As a result of this change, we recognized net favorable prior year reserve development in both 2014 and 2013.

During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, we incurred \$65.0 million, \$13.5 million and \$179.6 million of catastrophe-related losses. In addition, during the year ended December 31, 2012 we recognized \$36.0 million related to drought losses on the U.S. crop reinsurance book. We classify catastrophe losses as those losses that result from a major singular event or series of similar events (such as tornadoes) which are assigned a catastrophe loss number by industry data services, where our consolidated losses are expected to be at least \$10 million per net loss event or series of similar events and where we believe it is important to our investors' understanding of our operations.

We will continue to evaluate and monitor the development of these losses and the impact it has on our current and future assumptions. We believe recognition of the reserve changes in the period they were recorded was appropriate since a pattern of reported losses had not emerged and the loss years were previously too immature to deviate from the expected loss ratio method in prior periods.

The selection of the expected loss ratios for the long-tail lines is our most significant assumption. Due to the lengthy reporting pattern of long-tail lines, we supplement our own experience with industry benchmarks of expected loss ratios and reporting patterns in addition to our own experience. For our older loss years that are long-tail lines, the primary assumption that changed during both 2014 as compared to 2013 and 2013 as compared to 2012 as it relates to prior year losses was using the Bornhuetter-Ferguson loss development method for certain casualty lines of business and loss years as discussed previously. This method calculated a lower projected loss ratio based on loss emergence patterns to date. As a result of the change in the expected loss ratio, we recognized net favorable prior year reserve development in 2014, 2013 and 2012. For the years ended December 31, 2014, and 2013, we recorded a decrease in losses and loss expenses of \$159.7 million and \$110.5 million, respectively, as a result of shifting from the expected loss ratio method to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson method for older loss years. Also during 2014, actual paid and reported loss emergence was more severe than estimated in our North American Insurance segment for the 2011 through 2013 loss years. The additions to the 2011 through 2013 loss years are consistent with our practice of addressing unfavorable loss emergence early in our long-tail lines of business. We believe that recognition of the reserve changes in the period they were recorded was appropriate since a pattern of reported losses had not emerged and the loss years were previously too immature to deviate from the expected loss ratio method in prior periods.

Our overall change in the loss reserve estimates related to prior years increased as a percentage of total carried reserves during 2014. During 2014 we had a net decrease of \$212.6 million, or 4.7%, on an opening carried reserve base of \$4,532.0 million, net of reinsurance recoverables. During 2013 we had a net decrease of \$180.3 million, or 4.0%, on an opening carried reserve base of \$4,504.4 million, net of reinsurance recoverables. We believe that these changes are reasonable given the long-tail nature of our business.

There is potential for significant variation in the development of loss reserves, particularly for the casualty lines of business due to their long-tail nature and high attachment points. The maturing of our casualty insurance and reinsurance loss reserves have caused us to reduce what we believe is the reasonably possible variance in the expected loss ratios for older loss years. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, we believe the reasonably possible variances in our expected loss ratio in percentage points for our loss years are as follows:

Loss Year	As of December 31,		
	2014	2013	
2006	—	% 2.0	%
2007	2.0	% 4.0	%
2008	4.0	% 6.0	%
2009	6.0	% 8.0	%

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2010	8.0	%	10.0	%
2011	10.0	%	10.0	%
2012	10.0	%	10.0	%
2013	10.0	%	10.0	%
2014	10.0	%	N/A	

The change in the reasonably possible variance for the 2006 through 2010 loss years in 2014 compared to 2013 is due to giving greater weight to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson loss development method for additional lines of business during 2014 and

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additional development of losses. As we gain more information and experience about our losses we are able to refine our estimate of the ultimate loss and as a result the reasonably possible variance in our losses is reduced. We believe the reasonably possible change in our loss reserves for the recent years is appropriate as we are relying on less information and experience about how the losses will ultimately develop compared to the older loss years. The total reasonably possible variance of our expected loss ratio for all loss years for our casualty insurance and casualty reinsurance lines of business was five percentage points as of December 31, 2014. Because we expect a small volume of large claims, it is more difficult to estimate the ultimate loss ratios, so we believe the variance of our loss ratio selection could be relatively wide.

If our final casualty insurance and reinsurance loss ratios vary by five percentage points from the expected loss ratios in aggregate, our required net reserves after reinsurance recoverable would increase or decrease by approximately \$687.9 million. Excluding the impact of income taxes, this would result in either an increase or decrease to net income and total shareholders' equity of approximately \$687.9 million. As of December 31, 2014, this represented approximately 18% of total shareholders' equity.

In terms of liquidity, our contractual obligations for reserves for losses and loss expenses would also increase or decrease by approximately \$687.9 million after reinsurance recoverable. If our obligations were to increase, we believe we currently have sufficient cash and investments to meet those obligations.

The following tables provide our ranges of loss and loss expense reserve estimates by business segment as of December 31, 2014:

	Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses Gross of Reinsurance Recoverable		
	Carried Reserves	Low Estimate	High Estimate
	(\$ in millions)		
North American Insurance	\$3,806.6	\$3,009.9	\$4,222.2
Global Markets Insurance	568.2	462.9	628.0
Reinsurance	1,506.4	1,213.5	1,698.4
Consolidated(1)	5,881.2	4,781.7	6,453.2
	Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses Net of Reinsurance Recoverable		
	Carried Reserves	Low Estimate	High Estimate
	(\$ in millions)		
North American Insurance	\$2,650.2	\$2,089.5	\$2,989.0
Global Markets Insurance	395.0	324.9	438.2
Reinsurance	1,495.7	1,206.1	1,687.5
Consolidated(1)	4,540.9	3,705.2	5,029.9

(1) For statistical reasons, it is not appropriate to add together the ranges of each business segment in an effort to determine the low and high range around the consolidated loss reserves.

Our range for each business segment was determined by utilizing multiple actuarial loss reserving methods along with various assumptions of reporting patterns and expected loss ratios by loss year. The various outcomes of these techniques were combined to determine a reasonable range of required loss and loss expense reserves. While we believe our approach to determine the range of loss and loss expense is reasonable, there are no assurances that actual loss experience will be within the ranges of loss and loss expense noted above.

Our selection of the actual carried reserves has typically been above the midpoint of the range. As of December 31, 2014, we were 4.0% above the midpoint of the consolidated net loss reserve range. We believe that we should be prudent in our reserving practices due to the lengthy reporting patterns and relatively large limits of net liability for any one risk of our direct excess casualty business and of our casualty reinsurance business. Thus, due to this uncertainty regarding estimates for reserve for losses and loss expenses, we have carried our consolidated reserve for losses and loss expenses, net of reinsurance recoverable, above the midpoint of the low and high estimates for the consolidated net losses and loss expenses. We believe that relying on the more prudent actuarial indications is appropriate for these lines of business.

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Ceded Reinsurance

We cede insurance to external reinsurers in order to limit our maximum loss, to protect against concentration of risk within our portfolio and to manage our exposure to catastrophic events. Because the ceding of insurance does not discharge us from our primary obligation to the insureds, we remain liable to the extent that our reinsurers do not meet their obligations under the reinsurance agreements. Therefore, we regularly evaluate the financial condition of our reinsurers and monitor concentration of credit risk. No material provision has been made for unrecoverable reinsurance as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 as we believe that all reinsurance balances will be recovered.

When we reinsure a portion of our exposures, we pay reinsurers a portion of premiums received on the reinsured policies. The following table illustrates our gross premiums written, ceded premiums written and net premiums written:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions)		
Gross premiums written	\$2,935.4	\$2,738.7	\$2,329.3
Premiums ceded	(613.3)	(618.2)	(491.5)
Net premiums written	\$2,322.1	\$2,120.5	\$1,837.8
Ceded as a percentage of gross	20.9 %	22.6 %	21.1 %

The following table illustrates the effect of our reinsurance ceded strategies on our results of operations:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions)		
Ceded premiums written	\$(613.3)	\$(618.2)	\$(491.5)
Ceded premiums earned	\$(593.6)	\$(554.6)	\$(440.8)
Losses and loss expenses ceded	296.8	243.5	252.6
Acquisition costs ceded	142.8	121.1	97.3

We had net cash outflows relating to ceded reinsurance activities (premiums paid less losses recovered and net ceding commissions received) of approximately \$261.8 million, \$294.5 million and \$247.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The net cash outflows in all years are reflective of less losses that were recoverable under our reinsurance coverages than we paid in premiums.

Our reinsurance treaties are generally purchased on an annual basis and are therefore subject to yearly renegotiation. The treaties typically specify ceding commissions, and may include provisions for minimum contractual premiums, required reporting to the reinsurers, responsibility for taxes, arbitration of disputes and the posting of security for the reinsurance recoverable under certain circumstances, such as a downgrade in the reinsurer's financial strength rating. The amount of risk ceded by us to reinsurers is subject to maximum limits which vary by line of business and by type of coverage. We also purchase a limited amount of facultative reinsurance, which provides cover for specified policies, rather than for whole classes of business.

The examples below illustrate the types of treaty reinsurance arrangements in force at December 31, 2014:

General Property: We have purchased both quota share reinsurance for our general property business written in our North American Insurance and Global Markets Insurance segments, as well as excess-of-loss cover providing protection for specified classes of catastrophe. We have also purchased a limited amount of facultative reinsurance, which provides cover for specified general property policies.

General Casualty: We have purchased quota share reinsurance for our general casualty business in our North American Insurance and Global Markets Insurance segments. At year-end 2014, the percentage ceded varied by location of writing office, with a larger cession being effective for policies written in our Global Markets Insurance segment.

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Professional Liability: For professional liability policies, our reinsurance varied by writing office and by policy type. Professional liability policies written in our Bermuda, Europe and Asia offices were quota-share reinsured with cession percentages dependent upon location. Additionally, the professional liability policies written in the United States were reinsured on an excess-of-loss basis.

Healthcare: We purchased quota share and excess-of-loss reinsurance protection for our healthcare line of business written by our Bermuda and U.S. offices, respectively.

The following table illustrates our reinsurance recoverable as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(\$ in millions)	
Ceded case reserves	\$232.6	\$225.8
Ceded IBNR reserves	1,107.7	1,008.7
Reinsurance recoverable	\$1,340.3	\$1,234.5

As noted above, we remain obligated for amounts ceded in the event our reinsurers do not meet their obligations. Accordingly, we have evaluated the reinsurers that are providing reinsurance protection to us and will continue to monitor their credit ratings and financial stability. We generally have the right to terminate our treaty reinsurance contracts at any time, upon prior written notice to the reinsurer, under specified circumstances, including the assignment to the reinsurer by A.M. Best of a financial strength rating of less than "A-."

As of December 31, 2014, approximately 99% of ceded case reserves and ceded IBNR were recoverable from reinsurers who had an A.M. Best rating of "A-" or higher. The following table shows a breakdown of our reinsurance recoverables by credit rating as of December 31, 2014:

A.M Best Rating:	As of December 31, 2014				
	Ceded Case Reserves	Ceded IBNR	Reinsurance Recoverable	Reinsurance Recoverable on Paid Losses	Collateral
	(\$ in millions)				
A++	\$25.6	\$47.3	\$72.9	\$0.5	\$1.1
A+	108.8	652.0	760.8	46.3	108.9
A	95.4	393.4	488.8	36.6	39.8
A-	—	3.2	3.2	0.2	—
B++	2.8	—	2.8	—	—
NR	—	11.8	11.8	2.5	11.3
Total	\$232.6	\$1,107.7	\$1,340.3	\$86.1	\$161.1

We determine what portion of the losses will be recoverable under our reinsurance policies by reference to the terms of the reinsurance protection purchased. This determination is necessarily based on the underlying loss estimates and, accordingly, is subject to the same uncertainties as the estimate of case reserves and IBNR reserves.

The following table shows our reinsurance recoverables by operating segment as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(\$ in millions)	
North American Insurance	\$1,156.4	\$1,065.5

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Global Markets Insurance	173.2	162.8
Reinsurance	10.7	6.2
Total	\$1,340.3	\$1,234.5

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Our reinsurance recoverables are subject to the same uncertainties as the estimate of case reserves and IBNR reserves. The reasonably possible variance of our expected ceded loss ratio for all loss years for our casualty insurance and casualty reinsurance lines of business was seven percentage points as of December 31, 2014.

If our final casualty insurance ceded loss ratios vary by seven percentage points from the expected loss ratios in aggregate, our required reinsurance recoverable would increase or decrease by approximately \$196.1 million. Excluding the impact of income taxes, this would result in either an increase or decrease to net income and shareholders' equity of approximately \$196.1 million. As of December 31, 2014, this amount represented approximately 5% of total shareholders' equity.

Assumed Reinsurance Premiums

Premiums are recognized as written on the inception date of a policy. For certain types of business written by us, notably reinsurance, premium income may not be known at the contract inception date. In the case of quota share reinsurance assumed by us, the underwriter makes an estimate of premium income at inception as the premium income is typically derived as a percentage of the underlying policies written by the cedents. The underwriter's estimate is based on statistical data provided by reinsureds and the underwriter's judgment and experience. Such estimations are refined over the reporting period of each treaty as actual written premium information is reported by ceding companies and intermediaries. Management reviews estimated premiums at least quarterly and any adjustments are recorded in the period in which they become known.

As of December 31, 2014, our changes in quota share premium estimates have been adjustments of 2%, 7% and 15% for the 2013, 2012 and 2011 treaty years, respectively. For the 2014 treaty year, if we assume the average change of premium estimates for the past three years was a 8% change then it is reasonably likely that our gross premiums written in our Reinsurance segment would increase or decrease by \$35.5 million over the next three years. There would also be a related increase or decrease in loss and loss expenses and acquisition costs due to the increase or decrease in gross premiums written.

Total premiums estimated on quota share reinsurance contracts for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 represented approximately 15%, 16% and 13%, respectively, of consolidated gross premiums written.

Other insurance and reinsurance policies can require that the premium be adjusted at the expiry of a policy to reflect the risk assumed by us. Premiums resulting from such adjustments are estimated and accrued based on available information.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, we are required to recognize certain assets at their fair value in our consolidated balance sheets. This includes our fixed maturity investments and "other invested assets". Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. There is a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon whether the inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability are observable or unobservable in the market at the measurement date, with quoted market prices being the highest level (Level 1) and unobservable inputs being the lowest level (Level 3). A fair value measurement will fall within the level of the hierarchy based on the input that is significant to determining such measurement. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Observable inputs to the valuation methodology that are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2: Observable inputs to the valuation methodology other than quoted market prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical assets in markets that are not active and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology which are unobservable for the asset or liability.

At each measurement date, we estimate the fair value of the financial instruments using various valuation techniques. We utilize, to the extent available, quoted market prices in active markets or observable market inputs in estimating the fair value of our financial instruments. When quoted market prices or observable market inputs are not available, we utilize valuation techniques that rely on unobservable inputs to estimate the fair value of financial instruments. The following describes the valuation techniques we used to determine the fair value of financial instruments held as of December 31, 2014 and what level within the U.S. GAAP fair value hierarchy the valuation technique resides.

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U.S. government and U.S. government agencies: Comprised primarily of bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and the Federal National Mortgage Association. The fair values of U.S. government securities are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and are included in the Level 1 fair value hierarchy. We believe the market for U.S. Treasury securities is an actively traded market given the high level of daily trading volume. The fair values of U.S. government agency securities are priced using the spread above the risk-free yield curve. As the yields for the risk-free yield curve and the spreads for these securities are observable market inputs, the fair values of U.S. government agency securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

Non-U.S. government and government agencies: Comprised of fixed income obligations of non-U.S. governmental entities. The fair values of these securities are based on prices obtained from international indices and are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

States, municipalities and political subdivisions: Comprised of fixed income obligations of U.S. domiciled state and municipality entities. The fair values of these securities are based on prices obtained from the new issue market, and are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

Corporate debt: Comprised of bonds issued by or loan obligations of corporations that are diversified across a wide range of issuers and industries. The fair values of corporate debt that pay a floating rate coupon are priced using the spread above the London Interbank Offered Rate yield curve and the fair values of corporate bonds that are long term are priced using the spread above the risk-free yield curve. The spreads are sourced from broker-dealers, trade prices and the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price corporate debt are observable market inputs, the fair values of corporate debt are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

Mortgage-backed: Principally comprised of residential and commercial mortgages originated by both U.S. government agencies (such as the Federal National Mortgage Association) and non-U.S. government agency originators. The fair values of mortgage-backed securities originated by U.S. government agencies and non-U.S. government agencies are based on a pricing model that incorporates prepayment speeds and spreads to determine the appropriate average life of mortgage-backed securities. The spreads are sourced from broker-dealers, trade prices and the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price the mortgage-backed securities are observable market inputs, the fair values of these securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy, unless the significant inputs used to price the mortgage-backed securities are broker-dealer quotes and we are not able to determine if those quotes are based on observable market inputs, in which case the fair value is included in the Level 3 fair value hierarchy.

Asset-backed: Principally comprised of bonds backed by pools of automobile loan receivables, home equity loans, credit card receivables and collateralized loan obligations originated by a variety of financial institutions. The fair values of asset-backed securities are priced using prepayment speed and spread inputs that are sourced from the new issue market or broker-dealer quotes. As the significant inputs used to price the asset-backed securities are observable market inputs, the fair values of these securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy, unless the significant inputs used to price the asset-backed securities are broker-dealer quotes and we are not able to determine if those quotes are based on observable market inputs, in which case the fair value is included in the Level 3 fair value hierarchy.

Equity securities: Comprised of U.S. and foreign common and preferred stocks and mutual funds. Equities are generally included in the Level 1 fair value hierarchy as prices are obtained from market exchanges in active markets. Foreign mutual funds where the net asset value ("NAV") is not provided on a daily basis are included in the Level 3 fair value hierarchy.

Other invested assets: Comprised of funds invested in a range of diversified strategies. In accordance with U.S. GAAP, the fair values of the funds are based on the NAV of the funds as reported by the fund manager. The fair values of these investments are included in the Level 3 fair value hierarchy as we believe the NAV is an unobservable input and these securities are not redeemable in the near term. The Company does not measure its investments that are accounted for using the equity method of accounting at fair value.

Derivative instruments: The fair value of foreign exchange contracts and interest rate futures and swaps are priced from quoted market prices for similar exchange-traded derivatives and pricing valuation models that utilize independent market data inputs. The fair value of derivatives are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

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The following table shows the pricing sources of our fixed maturity investments held as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	As of December 31, 2014			As of December 31, 2013		
	Fair Value	Percentage of Total	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	Fair Value	Percentage of Total	Fair Value Hierarchy Level
	(\$ in millions)			(\$ in millions)		
Barclays indices	\$3,848.9	63.4	% 1 and 2	\$3,447.4	56.5	% 1 and 2
Reuters pricing service	762.6	12.6	% 2	893.5	14.6	% 2
Interactive Data Pricing	571.4	9.4	% 2	418.0	6.9	% 2
Merrill Lynch indices	330.0	5.4	% 2	302.5	5.0	% 2
Broker-dealer quotes	237.2	3.9	% 3	240.8	3.9	% 3
International indices	170.2	2.8	% 2	245.8	4.0	% 2
Other sources	148.7	2.5	% 2	552.9	9.1	% 2
	\$6,069.0	100.0	%	\$6,100.9	100.0	%

The following summarizes the valuation techniques used by each each of our major pricing sources:

Barclays indices: We use Barclays indices to price our U.S. government, U.S. government agencies, corporate debt, agency and non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. There are several observable inputs that the Barclays indices use in determining its prices which include among others, treasury yields, new issuance and secondary trades, information provided by broker-dealers, security cash flows and structures, sector and issuer level spreads, credit rating, underlying collateral and prepayment speeds. For U.S. government securities, traders that act as market makers are the primary source of pricing; as such, for U.S. government securities we believe the Barclays indices reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical securities in active markets.

Reuters pricing service: We use the Reuters pricing service to price our U.S. government agencies, corporate debt, agency and non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. There are several observable inputs that the Reuters pricing service uses in determining its prices which include among others, option-adjusted spreads, treasury yields, new issuance and secondary trades, sector and issuer level spreads, underlying collateral and prepayment speeds.

Interactive Data Pricing: We use Interactive Data Pricing to price our U.S. government agencies, municipalities, non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. There are several observable inputs that Interactive Data Pricing uses in determining its prices which include among others, benchmark yields, reported trades and issuer spreads.

Merrill Lynch Index: We use the Merrill Lynch indices to price our non-U.S. government and government agencies securities, corporate debt, municipalities and asset-backed securities. There are several observable inputs that the Merrill Lynch indices use in determining its prices, which include reported trades and other sources.

Broker-dealer quotes: We also utilize broker-dealers to price our agency and non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. The pricing sources include JP Morgan Securities Inc., Morgan Stanley and Co., Wells Fargo, Inc. and other broker-dealers. When broker-dealer quotes are utilized it is primarily due to the fact that the particular broker-dealer was involved in the initial pricing of the security.

International indices: We use international indices, which include the FTSE, Deutsche Teleborse and the Scotia Index, to price our non-U.S. government and government agencies securities. The observable inputs used by international indices to determine its prices are based on new issuance and secondary trades and information provided

by broker-dealers.

Other sources: We utilize other indices and pricing services to price various securities. These sources use observable inputs consistent with indices and pricing services discussed above.

We utilize independent pricing sources to obtain market quotations for securities that have quoted prices in active markets. In general, the independent pricing sources use observable market inputs, including, but not limited to, investment yields, credit risks and spreads, benchmarking of like securities, non-binding broker-dealer quotes, reported trades and sector groupings to determine the fair value. For a majority of the portfolio, we obtained two or more prices per security as of December 31, 2014. When multiple prices are obtained, a price source hierarchy is utilized to determine which price source is the best estimate of the fair value of the security. The price source hierarchy emphasizes more weighting to significant observable inputs such as index pricing and less weighting towards non-binding broker quotes. In addition, to validate all prices

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obtained from these pricing sources including non-binding broker quotes, we also obtain prices from our investment portfolio managers and other sources (e.g., another pricing vendor), and compare the prices obtained from the independent pricing sources to those obtained from our investment portfolio managers and other sources. We investigate any material differences between the multiple sources and determine which price best reflects the fair value of the individual security. There were no material differences between the prices from the independent pricing sources and the prices obtained from our investment portfolio managers and other sources as of December 31, 2014.

There have been no material changes to any of our valuation techniques from those used as of December 31, 2013. Based on all reasonably available information received, we believe the prices that were obtained from inactive markets were orderly transactions and therefore, reflected the current price a market participant would pay for the asset. Since fair valuing a financial instrument is an estimate of what a willing buyer would pay for our asset if we sold it, we will not know the ultimate value of our financial instruments until they are sold. We believe the valuation techniques utilized provide us with the best estimate of the price that would be received to sell our assets in an orderly transaction between participants at the measurement date.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Asset Impairment Valuation

We classify intangible assets into three categories: (1) intangible assets with finite lives subject to amortization; (2) intangible assets with indefinite lives not subject to amortization and (3) goodwill. Intangible assets, other than goodwill, consist of renewal rights, internally generated software, non-compete covenants and insurance licenses held by subsidiaries domiciled in the United States. The following is a summary of our goodwill and other intangible assets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

Source of Goodwill or Intangible Asset	Year Acquired	Finite or Indefinite	Estimated Useful Life	Carrying Value As of December, 31,	
				2014	2013
				(\$ in millions)	
Goodwill(1)	2008	Indefinite	N/A	\$3.9	\$3.9
Goodwill(2)	2008	Indefinite	N/A	264.5	264.5
Goodwill(3)	2014	Indefinite	N/A	9.9	—
Total goodwill				\$278.3	\$268.4
Insurance licenses(4)	2002	Indefinite	N/A	\$3.9	\$3.9
Insurance licenses(1)	2008	Indefinite	N/A	12.0	12.0
Insurance licenses(2)	2008	Indefinite	N/A	8.0	8.0
Distribution network(2)	2008	Finite	15 years	22.4	24.9
Total intangible assets				\$46.3	\$48.8

(1) Related to the acquisition of Finial Insurance Company.

(2) Related to the acquisition of Allied World Underwriters, Inc. ("AW Underwriters") (f/k/a Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc.)

(3) Related to the acquisition of the remaining interest in a claims administration services company we did not own.

(4) Related to the acquisition of Allied World National Assurance Company and Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc.

For intangible assets with finite lives, the value is amortized over their useful lives. We also test intangible assets with finite lives for impairment if conditions exist that indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Such factors include, but are not limited to:

• Macroeconomic conditions such as a deterioration in general economic conditions, limitations on accessing capital, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, or other developments in equity and credit markets;

• Industry and market considerations such as a deterioration in the environment in which we operate, an increased competitive environment, a decline in market-dependent multiples or metrics, a change in the market for our products or services, or a regulatory or political development;

• Overall financial performance such as negative or declining cash flows or a decline in actual or planned revenue or earnings compared with actual and projected results of relevant prior periods;

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Other relevant events such as changes in management, key personnel, strategy, or costumers; contemplation of bankruptcy; or litigation;

Events affecting a reporting unit such as a change in the composition, or carrying amount of its net assets or a more-likely-than-not expectation of selling or disposing all, or a portion, of a reporting unit, the testing for recoverability of a significant asset group within a reporting unit, or recognition of a goodwill impairment loss in the financial statements of a subsidiary that is a component of a reporting unit; and

If applicable, a sustained decrease in share price (considered in both absolute terms and relative to peers).

As a result of our evaluation, we determined that there was no impairment to the carrying value of our intangible assets with finite lives for the year ended December 31, 2014.

For indefinite lived intangible assets we do not amortize the intangible asset but test these intangible assets for impairment by comparing the fair value of the assets to their carrying values on an annual basis or more frequently if circumstances warrant. The factors we consider to determine if an impairment exists are similar to factors noted above. As a result of our evaluation, we determined that there was no impairment to the carrying value of our indefinite lived intangible assets for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of acquisitions over the fair value of net assets acquired and is not amortized. Goodwill is assigned at acquisition to the applicable reporting unit(s) based on the expected benefit to be received by the reporting unit(s) from the business combination. We determine the expected benefit based on several factors including the purpose of the business combination, the strategy of the company subsequent to the business combination and structure of the acquired company subsequent to the business combination. A reporting unit is a component of our business that has discrete financial information which is reviewed by management. In determining the reporting unit, we analyze the inputs, processes, outputs and overall operating performance of the reporting unit.

We have determined that the goodwill arising from the acquisition of AW Underwriters and the claims administration services company should be allocated to the U.S. direct insurance operations reporting unit of the North American Insurance segment as the assets employed and the liabilities relate to the U.S. direct insurance operations. All the insurance operations of AW Underwriters and the claims administration services company are included into the North American Insurance segment.

For goodwill, we perform an impairment test annually, or more frequently if circumstances warrant. We may first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. The results of the qualitative assessment will determine if an entity needs to proceed with the two-step goodwill impairment test.

The first step of the goodwill impairment test is to compare the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying value, including goodwill. If the carrying amount of the reporting unit exceeds its fair value then the second step of the goodwill impairment test is performed. In determining the fair value of the reporting units discounted cash flow models and market multiple models are utilized. The discounted cash flow models apply a discount to projected cash flows including a terminal value calculation. The market multiple models apply earnings and book value multiples of similar publicly-traded companies to the reporting unit's projected earnings or book value. We select the weighting of the models utilized to determine the fair value of the reporting units based on judgment, considering such factors as the reliability of the cash flow projections and the entities included in the market multiples.

The second step of the goodwill impairment test compares the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill with the carrying amount of that goodwill in order to determine the amount of impairment to be recognized. The implied fair value of goodwill is determined by deducting the fair value of a reporting unit's identifiable assets and liabilities from the fair value of the reporting unit as a whole. The excess of the carrying value of goodwill above the implied

goodwill, if any, would be recognized as an impairment charge in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income.

During 2014, we elected to bypass the qualitative assessment and performed the first step of the goodwill impairment testing on the goodwill.

The process of determining whether or not an asset, such as goodwill, is impaired or recoverable relies on projections of future cash flows, operating results and market conditions. Such projections are inherently uncertain and, accordingly, actual future cash flows may differ materially from projected cash flows. In evaluating the recoverability of goodwill, we perform a discounted cash flow analysis. The discounted cash value may be different from the fair value that would result from an actual transaction between a willing buyer and a willing seller. Such analyses are particularly sensitive to changes in discount rates,

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growth rates, projected losses, mix of business and investment rates. Changes to these assumptions might result in material changes in the valuation and determination of the recoverability of goodwill. For example, an increase in the rate used to discount cash flows will decrease the discounted cash flow value.

Based on our analysis, the point estimate fair value of the U.S. direct insurance operations reporting unit, using both a discounted cash flow model and market multiple model, was in excess of its carrying value by approximately 19% as of the September 30, 2014 measurement date. As a result, we concluded there was no implied goodwill impairment, and therefore, no step two goodwill impairment testing was required.

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth our selected consolidated statement of operations data for each of the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions)		
Revenues			
Gross premiums written	\$2,935.4	\$2,738.7	\$2,329.3
Net premiums written	\$2,322.1	\$2,120.5	\$1,837.8
Net premiums earned	\$2,182.7	\$2,005.8	\$1,748.9
Net investment income	176.9	157.6	167.1
Net realized investment gains	89.0	59.5	306.4
Other income	2.1	—	—
	\$2,450.7	\$2,222.9	\$2,222.4
Expenses			
Net losses and loss expenses	\$1,199.2	\$1,123.2	\$1,139.3
Acquisition costs	295.1	252.7	205.7
General and administrative expenses	365.7	352.3	307.3
Other expense	8.6	—	—
Amortization of intangible assets	2.5	2.5	2.5
Interest expense	57.8	56.5	55.4