

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC
Form 10-K
February 26, 2015

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2014

Commission File No. 1-13653

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

Incorporated under the Laws of Ohio

IRS Employer I.D. No. 31-1544320

301 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 579-2121

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Stock

New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq Global
Select Market

6-3/8% Senior Notes due June 12, 2042

New York Stock Exchange

5-3/4% Senior Notes due August 25, 2042

New York Stock Exchange

7% Senior Notes due September 30, 2050

New York Stock Exchange

6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due September 30, 2054

New York Stock Exchange

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 ☒

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 ☒

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, 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 during the preceding 12 months. 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 Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☒

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 definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☒ 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 ☒

State the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of the last business day of the Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter: \$4.6 billion.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the Registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date: 87,255,891 shares (excluding 14.9 million shares owned by subsidiaries) as of February 1, 2015.

Documents Incorporated by Reference:

Proxy Statement for 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (portions of which are incorporated by reference into Part III hereof).

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.
INDEX TO ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

	Page
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	<u>1</u>
Part I	
Item 1 — Business	<u>2</u>
Item 1A — Risk Factors	<u>15</u>
Item 1B — Unresolved Staff Comments	none
Item 2 — Properties	<u>21</u>
Item 3 — Legal Proceedings	<u>21</u>
Item 4 — Mine Safety Disclosures	none
Part II	
Item 5 — Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	<u>22</u>
Item 6 — Selected Financial Data	<u>23</u>
Item 7 — Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	<u>24</u>
Item 7A — Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	<u>92</u>
Item 8 — Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	<u>94</u>
Item 9 — Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	none
Item 9A — Controls and Procedures	<u>94</u>
Item 9B — Other Information	<u>94</u>
Part III	
Item 10 — Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	<u>S-1</u>
Item 11 — Executive Compensation	<u>S-1</u>
Item 12 — Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	<u>S-1</u>
Item 13 — Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	<u>S-1</u>
Item 14 — Principal Accountant Fees and Services	<u>S-1</u>
Part IV	
Item 15 — Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules	<u>S-1</u>

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The disclosures in this Form 10-K contain certain forward-looking statements that are subject to numerous assumptions, risks or uncertainties. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a safe harbor for forward-looking statements. Some of the forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as “anticipates”, “believes”, “expects”, “projects”, “estimates”, “intends”, “plans”, “seeks”, “could”, “may”, “should”, “will” or the negative version of those words or other comparable terminology. Such forward-looking statements include statements relating to: expectations concerning market and other conditions and their effect on future premiums, revenues, earnings and investment activities; recoverability of asset values; expected losses and the adequacy of reserves for long-term care, asbestos, environmental pollution and mass tort claims; rate changes; and improved loss experience.

Actual results and/or financial condition could differ materially from those contained in or implied by such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons including but not limited to the following and those discussed in Item 1A — Risk Factors.

- changes in financial, political and economic conditions, including changes in interest and inflation rates, currency fluctuations and extended economic recessions or expansions in the U.S. and/or abroad;
- performance of securities markets;
- AFG’s ability to estimate accurately the likelihood, magnitude and timing of any losses in connection with investments in the non-agency residential mortgage market;
- new legislation or declines in credit quality or credit ratings that could have a material impact on the valuation of securities in AFG’s investment portfolio;
- the availability of capital;
- regulatory actions (including changes in statutory accounting rules);
- changes in the legal environment affecting AFG or its customers;
- tax law and accounting changes;
- levels of natural catastrophes and severe weather, terrorist activities (including any nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological events), incidents of war or losses resulting from civil unrest and other major losses;
- development of insurance loss reserves and establishment of other reserves, particularly with respect to amounts associated with asbestos and environmental claims and AFG’s run-off long-term care business;
- availability of reinsurance and ability of reinsurers to pay their obligations;
- trends in persistency, mortality and morbidity;
- competitive pressures, including those in the annuity distribution channels;
- the ability to obtain adequate rates and policy terms; and
- changes in AFG’s credit ratings or the financial strength ratings assigned by major ratings agencies to AFG’s operating subsidiaries.

The forward-looking statements herein are made only as of the date of this report. The Company assumes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

PART I

ITEM 1

Business

Introduction

American Financial Group, Inc. (“AFG” or the “Company”) is a holding company that, through the operations of Great American Insurance Group, is engaged primarily in property and casualty insurance, focusing on specialized commercial products for businesses, and in the sale of fixed and fixed-indexed annuities in the retail, financial institutions and education markets. Its address is 301 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202; its phone number is (513) 579-2121. SEC filings, news releases, AFG’s Code of Ethics applicable to directors, officers and employees and other information may be accessed free of charge through AFG’s Internet site at: www.AFGinc.com. (Information on AFG’s Internet site is not part of this Form 10-K.)

Property and Casualty Insurance Segment

General

AFG’s property and casualty operations provide a wide range of commercial coverages through the approximately 30 niche insurance businesses that make up the Great American Insurance Group. AFG’s property and casualty insurance operations ultimately report to a single senior executive and operate under a business model that allows local decision-making for underwriting, claims and policy servicing in each of the niche operations. Each business is managed by experienced professionals in particular lines or customer groups and operates autonomously but with certain central controls and accountability. The decentralized approach allows each unit the autonomy necessary to respond to local and specialty market conditions while capitalizing on the efficiencies of centralized investment and administrative support functions. AFG’s property and casualty insurance operations employed approximately 6,200 people as of December 31, 2014. These operations are conducted through the subsidiaries listed in the following table, which includes independent financial strength ratings and 2014 gross written premiums (in millions) for each major subsidiary. These ratings are generally based on concerns for policyholders and agents and are not directed toward the protection of investors. AFG believes that maintaining a rating in the “A” category by A.M. Best is important to compete successfully in most lines of business.

Company	Ratings		Gross Written Premiums
	AM Best	S&P	
Great American Insurance	A+	A+	\$3,491
National Interstate	A	not rated	689
Summit (Bridgefield Casualty and Bridgefield Employers)	A	A	414
Republic Indemnity	A	A+	267
Marketform Lloyd’s Syndicate	A	A+	220
Mid-Continent Casualty	A+	A+	167
American Empire Surplus Lines	A+	A+	150
Other			79
			\$5,477

The primary objectives of AFG’s property and casualty insurance operations are to achieve solid underwriting profitability and provide excellent service to its policyholders and agents. Underwriting profitability is measured by the combined ratio, which is a sum of the ratios of losses, loss adjustment expenses (“LAE”), underwriting expenses and policyholder dividends to premiums. A combined ratio under 100% indicates an underwriting profit. The combined

ratio does not reflect investment income, other income or federal income taxes.

While many costs included in underwriting are readily determined (commissions, administrative expenses and many of the losses on claims reported), the process of determining overall underwriting results is highly dependent upon the use of estimates in the case of losses incurred or expected but not yet reported or developed. Actuarial procedures and projections are used to obtain “point estimates” of ultimate losses. While the process is imprecise and develops amounts which are subject to change over time, management believes that the liabilities for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses are adequate.

Table of Contents

AFG's statutory combined ratio averaged 94.4% for the period 2012 to 2014 as compared to 98.7% for the property and casualty industry over the same period (Source: "A.M. Best's U.S. Property/Casualty Review & Preview" — February 2015 Edition). AFG believes that its specialty niche focus, product line diversification and underwriting discipline have contributed to the Company's ability to consistently outperform the industry's underwriting results. Management's philosophy is to refrain from writing business that is not expected to produce an underwriting profit even if it is necessary to limit premium growth to do so.

Financial data is reported in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for shareholder and other investment purposes and reported on a statutory basis for insurance regulatory purposes. Major differences for statutory accounting include charging policy acquisition costs to expense as incurred rather than spreading the costs over the periods covered by the policies; reporting investment grade bonds and redeemable preferred stocks at amortized cost rather than fair value; netting of reinsurance recoverables and prepaid reinsurance premiums against the corresponding liabilities rather than reporting such items separately; and charging to surplus certain GAAP assets, such as furniture and fixtures and agents' balances over 90 days old.

Unless indicated otherwise, the financial information presented for the property and casualty insurance operations herein is presented based on GAAP. Statutory information is provided for industry comparisons or where comparable GAAP information is not readily available.

Property and Casualty Results

Performance measures such as underwriting profit or loss and related combined ratios are often used by property and casualty insurers to help users of their financial statements better understand the company's performance. See Note C — "Segments of Operations" to the financial statements for the reconciliation of AFG's operating profit by significant business segment to the Statement of Earnings.

The following table shows the performance of AFG's property and casualty insurance operations (dollars in millions):

	2014	2013	2012	
Gross written premiums	\$5,477	\$4,805	\$4,321	
Ceded reinsurance	(1,457)	(1,464)	(1,372)	
Net written premiums	\$4,020	\$3,341	\$2,949	
Net earned premiums	\$3,878	\$3,204	\$2,847	
Loss and LAE	2,470	1,986	1,842	
Special asbestos and environmental ("A&E") charges	24	54	31	
Underwriting expenses	1,172	1,019	887	
Underwriting gain	\$212	\$145	\$87	
GAAP ratios:				
Loss and LAE ratio	64.3	% 63.7	% 65.8	%
Underwriting expense ratio	30.2	% 31.8	% 31.1	%
Combined ratio	94.5	% 95.5	% 96.9	%
Statutory ratios:				
Loss and LAE ratio	63.2	% 62.2	% 63.2	%
Underwriting expense ratio	30.4	% 31.9	% 32.4	%
Combined ratio	93.6	% 94.1	% 95.6	%

Industry statutory combined ratio (a)

All lines	97.2	%	96.4	%	102.5	%
Commercial lines	97.7	%	96.7	%	104.4	%

(a) The source of the industry ratios is “A.M. Best’s U.S. Property/Casualty — Review & Preview” (February 2015 Edition).

Table of Contents

As with other property and casualty insurers, AFG's operating results can be adversely affected by unpredictable catastrophe losses. Certain natural disasters (hurricanes, severe storms, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, etc.) and other incidents of major loss (explosions, civil disorder, terrorist events, fires, etc.) are classified as catastrophes by industry associations. Losses from these incidents are usually tracked separately from other business of insurers because of their sizable effects on overall operations. Total net losses to AFG's insurance operations from current accident year catastrophes were \$28 million in 2014, \$31 million in 2013 and \$46 million in 2012 and are included in the table above.

AFG generally seeks to reduce its exposure to catastrophes through individual risk selection, including minimizing coastal and known fault-line exposures, and the purchase of reinsurance. AFG's net exposure to a catastrophic earthquake or windstorm that industry models indicate could occur once in every 500 years (a "500-year event") is expected to be less than 3.5% of AFG's shareholders' equity.

Property and Casualty Insurance Products

AFG is focused on growth opportunities in what it believes to be more profitable specialty businesses where AFG personnel are experts in particular lines of business or customer groups. The following are examples of AFG's specialty businesses:

Property and Transportation

Inland and Ocean Marine

Provides coverage primarily for builders' risk, contractors' equipment, property, motor truck cargo, marine cargo, boat dealers, marina operators/dealers and excursion vessels.

Agricultural-related

Provides federally reinsured multi-peril crop (allied lines) insurance covering most perils as well as crop-hail, equine mortality and other coverages for full-time operating farms/ranches and agribusiness operations on a nationwide basis.

Commercial Automobile

Provides coverage for vehicles (such as buses and trucks) in a broad range of businesses including the moving and storage and transportation industries, and a specialized physical damage product for the trucking industry.

Specialty Casualty

Executive and Professional Liability

Markets coverage for directors and officers of businesses and non-profit organizations; errors and omissions; and provides medical malpractice insurance.

Umbrella and Excess Liability

Provides liability coverage in excess of primary layers.

Excess and Surplus

Provides liability, umbrella and excess coverage for unique, volatile or hard to place risks, using rates and forms that generally do not have to be approved by state insurance regulators.

General Liability

Provides coverage for contractor-related businesses, energy development and production risks, and environmental liability risks.

Targeted Programs

Includes coverage (primarily liability and property) for social service agencies, leisure, entertainment and non-profit organizations, customized solutions for other targeted markets and alternative risk programs using agency captives.

Workers' Compensation

Provides coverage for prescribed benefits payable to employees who are injured on the job.

Specialty Financial

Fidelity and Surety	Provides fidelity and crime coverage for government, mercantile and financial institutions and surety coverage for various types of contractors and public and private corporations.
Lease and Loan Services	Provides coverage for insurance risk management programs for lending and leasing institutions, including equipment leasing and collateral and lender-placed mortgage property insurance.

Management believes specialization is the key element to the underwriting success of these business units. These specialty businesses are opportunistic and their premium volume will vary based on prevailing market conditions. AFG continually evaluates expansion in existing markets and opportunities in new specialty markets that meet its profitability objectives. For example, in April 2014, AFG acquired Summit Holding Southeast, Inc. and its related companies. Summit is a leading provider of workers' compensation solutions in the southeastern United States, which generated \$539 million in net written premiums in

Table of Contents

2014, including \$410 million after the acquisition date. Likewise, AFG will withdraw from markets that do not meet its profit objectives or business strategy, such as the withdrawal from certain auto programs over the last few years.

Premium Distribution

The following table shows the net written premiums by sub-segment for AFG's property and casualty insurance operations for 2014, 2013 and 2012 (in millions):

	2014	2013	2012
Property and transportation	\$1,566	\$1,547	\$1,473
Specialty casualty	1,864	1,224	992
Specialty financial	488	486	411
Other	102	84	73
	\$4,020	\$3,341	\$2,949

The geographic distribution of statutory direct written premiums by AFG's U.S.-based insurers for 2014, 2013 and 2012 is shown below. Approximately 5% of AFG's direct written premiums in 2014 were derived from non U.S.-based insurers, primarily Marketform, a United Kingdom-based Lloyd's insurer.

	2014		2013		2012			2014		2013		2012	
California	13.9	%	13.8	%	12.6	%	Pennsylvania	2.6	%	2.3	%	2.6	%
Florida	8.7	%	4.3	%	4.4	%	Iowa	2.5	%	3.4	%	3.7	%
New York	6.6	%	6.6	%	5.9	%	Kansas	2.5	%	3.2	%	3.7	%
Texas	6.2	%	6.8	%	6.9	%	New Jersey	2.4	%	2.3	%	2.1	%
Illinois	5.8	%	6.8	%	7.1	%	Michigan	2.3	%	2.4	%	2.4	%
Georgia	2.8	%	2.3	%	2.4	%	South Dakota	2.1	%	2.7	%	2.5	%
North Carolina	2.8	%	2.4	%	2.3	%	Ohio	2.0	%	2.1	%	2.3	%
Missouri	2.7	%	3.1	%	2.9	%	Other	34.1	%	35.5	%	36.2	%
								100.0	%	100.0	%	100.0	%

Reinsurance

Consistent with standard practice of most insurance companies, AFG reinsures a portion of its property and casualty business with other insurance companies and assumes a relatively small amount of business from other insurers. AFG uses reinsurance for two primary purposes: (i) to provide higher limits of coverage than it would otherwise be willing to provide (i.e. large line capacity) and (ii) to protect its business by reducing the impact of catastrophes. The availability and cost of reinsurance are subject to prevailing market conditions, which may affect the volume and profitability of business that is written. AFG is subject to credit risk with respect to its reinsurers, as the ceding of risk to reinsurers does not relieve AFG of its liability to its insureds until claims are fully settled.

The commercial marketplace requires large policy limits (\$25 million or more) in several of AFG's lines of business, including certain executive and professional liability, umbrella and excess liability, and fidelity and surety coverages. Since these limits exceed management's desired exposure to an individual risk, AFG generally enters into reinsurance agreements to reduce its net exposure under such policies to an acceptable level. Reinsurance continues to be available for this large line capacity exposure with satisfactory pricing and terms.

AFG has taken steps to limit its exposure to wind and earthquake losses by purchasing catastrophe reinsurance. In addition, AFG purchases catastrophe reinsurance for its workers' compensation businesses. Although the cost of catastrophe reinsurance varies depending on exposure and the level of worldwide loss activity, AFG continues to obtain reinsurance coverage in adequate amounts at acceptable rates due to management's decision to limit overall exposure to catastrophe losses through individual risk selection (including minimizing coastal and known fault-line

exposures).

In addition to traditional reinsurance, AFG has catastrophe coverage through a catastrophe bond structure with Riverfront Re Ltd. that provides coverage up to \$95 million (fully collateralized) for catastrophe losses in excess of \$100 million per occurrence for the period from April 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016.

Table of Contents

In addition to the large line capacity and catastrophe reinsurance programs discussed above, AFG purchases reinsurance on a product-by-product basis. AFG regularly reviews the financial strength of its current and potential reinsurers. These reviews include consideration of credit ratings, available capital, claims paying history and expertise. This process periodically results in the transfer of risks to more financially secure reinsurers. Substantially all reinsurance is ceded to companies with investment grade S&P ratings or is secured by “funds withheld” or other collateral. Under “funds withheld” arrangements, AFG retains ceded premiums to fund ceded losses as they become due from the reinsurer. Recoverables from the following companies were individually between 5% and 11% of AFG’s total property and casualty reinsurance recoverable (including prepaid reinsurance premiums and net of payables to reinsurers) at December 31, 2014: Hannover Reinsurance Co. Ltd, Munich Reinsurance America, Inc. and Swiss Reinsurance America Corporation. In addition, AFG has a reinsurance recoverable from Ohio Casualty Insurance Company of \$174 million related to that company’s purchase of AFG’s commercial lines business in 1998. No other reinsurers exceeded 5% of AFG’s property and casualty reinsurance recoverable.

Reinsurance is provided on one of two bases, facultative or treaty. Facultative reinsurance is generally provided on a risk by risk basis. Individual risks are ceded and assumed based on an offer and acceptance of risk by each party to the transaction. AFG purchases facultative reinsurance, both pro rata and excess of loss, depending on the risk and available reinsurance markets. Treaty reinsurance provides for risks meeting prescribed criteria to be automatically ceded and assumed according to contract provisions.

The following table presents (by type of coverage) the amount of each loss above the specified retention maximum generally covered by treaty reinsurance programs (in millions) as of January 1, 2015:

Coverage	Retention Maximum	Reinsurance Coverage (a)	
California Workers’ Compensation	\$2	\$ 148	
Other Workers’ Compensation	3	37	
Commercial Umbrella	4	46	
Property — General	5	45	
Property — Catastrophe	24	176	(b)

(a) Reinsurance covers substantial portions of losses in excess of retention. However, in general, losses resulting from terrorism are not covered.

(b) Includes coverage for \$95 million of losses excess of \$100 million (per occurrence) provided through the Riverfront Re Ltd. catastrophe bond.

In addition to the coverage shown above, AFG reinsures a portion of its crop insurance business through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (“FCIC”). The FCIC offers both proportional (or “quota share”) and non-proportional coverages. The proportional coverage provides that a fixed percentage of risk is assumed by the FCIC. The non-proportional coverage allows AFG to select desired retention of risk on a state-by-state, county, crop or plan basis. AFG typically reinsures 15% to 25% of gross written premiums with the FCIC. AFG also purchases quota share reinsurance in the private market. This quota share provides for a ceding commission to AFG and a profit sharing provision. During both 2014 and 2013, AFG reinsured 52.5% of premiums not reinsured by the FCIC in the private market and purchased stop loss protection coverage for the remaining portion of the business. AFG expects to utilize similar levels of reinsurance in 2015.

The Balance Sheet caption “recoverables from reinsurers” included approximately \$65 million on paid losses and LAE and \$2.23 billion on unpaid losses and LAE at December 31, 2014. These amounts are net of allowances of approximately \$25 million for doubtful collection of reinsurance recoverables. The collectibility of a reinsurance

balance is based upon the financial condition of a reinsurer as well as individual claim considerations.

Reinsurance premiums ceded and assumed are presented in the following table (in millions):

	2014	2013	2012
Reinsurance ceded	\$1,457	\$1,464	\$1,372
Reinsurance ceded, excluding crop	891	802	743
Reinsurance assumed — including involuntary pools and associations	90	61	38

Table of Contents

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves

The consolidated financial statements include the estimated liability for unpaid losses and LAE of AFG's insurance subsidiaries. This liability represents estimates of the ultimate net cost of all unpaid losses and LAE and is determined by using case-basis evaluations, actuarial projections and management's judgment. These estimates are subject to the effects of changes in claim amounts and frequency and are periodically reviewed and adjusted as additional information becomes known. In accordance with industry practices, such adjustments are reflected in current year operations. Generally, reserves for reinsurance assumed and involuntary pools and associations are reflected in AFG's results at the amounts reported by those entities.

The following table presents the development of AFG's liability for losses and LAE, net of reinsurance, on a GAAP basis for the last ten years. The top line of the table shows the estimated liability (in millions) for unpaid losses and LAE recorded at the balance sheet date for the indicated years. The second line shows the re-estimated liability as of December 31, 2014. The remainder of the table presents intervening development as percentages of the initially estimated liability. The development results from additional information and experience in subsequent years, particularly with regard to A&E, as detailed below. The middle line shows a cumulative deficiency (redundancy), which represents the aggregate percentage increase (decrease) in the liability initially estimated. The lower portion of the table indicates the cumulative amounts paid as of successive periods as a percentage of the original loss reserve liability. For purposes of this table, reserves of businesses sold are considered paid at the date of sale. See Note O — "Insurance — Property and Casualty Insurance Reserves" to the financial statements for an analysis of changes in AFG's estimated liability for losses and LAE, net and gross of reinsurance, over the past three years on a GAAP basis.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Liability for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses:										
As originally estimated	\$3,155	\$3,619	\$3,791	\$3,868	\$4,154	\$3,899	\$4,164	\$4,282	\$4,129	\$4,288
As re-estimated at December 31, 2014	\$3,399	\$3,405	\$3,333	\$3,293	\$3,778	\$3,650	\$4,041	\$4,259	\$4,129	\$4,294
Liability re-estimated:										
One year later	106.3 %	98.4 %	97.4 %	93.6 %	95.2 %	96.0 %	98.3 %	99.3 %	99.6 %	100.1 %
Two years later	106.1 %	98.8 %	92.3 %	89.7 %	91.6 %	94.2 %	97.2 %	99.3 %	100.0 %	
Three years later	107.7 %	95.2 %	89.5 %	85.8 %	90.4 %	93.9 %	97.0 %	99.5 %		
Four years later	106.0 %	93.6 %	87.0 %	84.5 %	90.8 %	94.0 %	97.0 %			
Five years later	105.5 %	92.1 %	86.5 %	84.7 %	91.1 %	93.6 %				
Six years later	104.4 %	92.1 %	87.0 %	85.2 %	90.9 %					
Seven years later	104.9 %	92.8 %	87.5 %	85.1 %						
Eight years later	105.8 %	93.7 %	87.9 %							
Nine years later	107.2 %	94.1 %								
Ten years later	107.7 %									

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Cumulative deficiency (redundancy) (a)	7.7	%	(5.9	%)	(12.1	%)	(14.9	%)	(9.1	%)	(6.4	%)	(3.0	%)	(0.5	%)	—	%	0.1	%
Cumulative paid as of:																				
One year later	25.4	%	23.5	%	22.3	%	21.0	%	24.0	%	21.3	%	23.3	%	27.7	%	27.4	%	27.3	%
Two years later	40.8	%	37.5	%	34.8	%	32.9	%	37.2	%	35.9	%	38.6	%	45.7	%	43.7	%		
Three years later	52.4	%	46.9	%	43.6	%	41.6	%	47.0	%	47.1	%	52.7	%	57.0	%				
Four years later	60.1	%	53.6	%	49.9	%	47.5	%	54.5	%	57.7	%	60.9	%						
Five years later	65.6	%	58.7	%	54.2	%	52.6	%	62.4	%	63.5	%								
Six years later	70.5	%	62.1	%	58.0	%	58.5	%	66.4	%										
Seven years later	73.8	%	65.3	%	63.2	%	61.4	%												
Eight years later	77.1	%	70.3	%	65.8	%														
Nine years later	82.5	%	72.5	%																
Ten years later	84.9	%																		
(a) Cumulative deficiency (redundancy):																				
Special A&E charges	12.5	%	5.9	%	5.6	%	4.4	%	3.8	%	4.0	%	3.7	%	2.6	%	1.9	%	0.5	%
Other	(4.8	%)	(11.8	%)	(17.7	%)	(19.3	%)	(12.9	%)	(10.4	%)	(6.7	%)	(3.1	%)	(1.9	%)	(0.4	%)
Total	7.7	%	(5.9	%)	(12.1	%)	(14.9	%)	(9.1	%)	(6.4	%)	(3.0	%)	(0.5	%)	—	%	0.1	%

Table of Contents

The following is a reconciliation of the net liability to the gross liability for unpaid losses and LAE.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
As originally estimated:											
Net liability shown above	\$3,155	\$3,619	\$3,791	\$3,868	\$4,154	\$3,899	\$4,164	\$4,282	\$4,129	\$4,288	\$4,294
Add reinsurance recoverables	2,234	2,243	2,309	2,300	2,610	2,513	2,249	2,238	2,716	2,122	2,116
Gross liability	\$5,389	\$5,862	\$6,100	\$6,168	\$6,764	\$6,412	\$6,413	\$6,520	\$6,845	\$6,410	\$6,410
As re-estimated at December 31, 2014:											
Net liability shown above	\$3,399	\$3,405	\$3,333	\$3,293	\$3,778	\$3,650	\$4,041	\$4,259	\$4,129	\$4,294	\$4,294
Add reinsurance recoverables	2,605	2,367	2,154	1,906	2,252	1,926	1,913	1,996	2,911	2,116	2,116
Gross liability	\$6,004	\$5,772	\$5,487	\$5,199	\$6,030	\$5,576	\$5,954	\$6,255	\$7,040	\$6,410	\$6,410
Gross cumulative deficiency (redundancy)	11.4 %	(1.5 %)	(10.0 %)	(15.7 %)	(10.9 %)	(13.0 %)	(7.2 %)	(4.1 %)	2.8 %	— %	— %

(a) Gross cumulative deficiency (redundancy):

Special A&E charges	9.1 %	5.0 %	4.8 %	3.7 %	3.1 %	3.4 %	3.2 %	2.4 %	1.8 %	0.5 %	— %
Other	2.3 %	(6.5 %)	(14.8 %)	(19.4 %)	(14.0 %)	(16.4 %)	(10.4 %)	(6.5 %)	1.0 %	(0.5 %)	(0.5 %)
Total	11.4 %	(1.5 %)	(10.0 %)	(15.7 %)	(10.9 %)	(13.0 %)	(7.2 %)	(4.1 %)	2.8 %	— %	— %

In evaluating the re-estimated liability and cumulative deficiency (redundancy), it should be noted that each percentage includes the effects of changes in amounts for prior periods. For example, AFG's \$24 million special A&E charge related to losses recorded in 2014, but incurred before 2004, is included in the re-estimated liability and cumulative deficiency (redundancy) percentage for each of the previous years shown. Conditions and trends that have affected development of the liability in the past may not necessarily exist in the future. Accordingly, it may not be appropriate to extrapolate future redundancies or deficiencies based on this table.

A significant portion of the adverse development in the tables is due to A&E exposures for which AFG has been held liable under general liability policies written prior to 1987, even though such coverage was not intended. Other factors affecting adverse development included changes in the legal environment, including more liberal coverage decisions and higher jury awards, higher legal fees, the general state of the economy and medical cost inflation.

The differences between the liability for losses and LAE reported in the annual statements filed with the state insurance departments in accordance with statutory accounting principles ("SAP") and that reported in the accompanying consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP at December 31, 2014 are as follows (in millions):

Liability reported on a SAP basis, net of \$122 million of retroactive reinsurance	\$5,049
Reinsurance recoverables, net of allowance	2,227
Other, including reserves of foreign insurers	596
Liability reported on a GAAP basis	\$7,872

Asbestos and Environmental (“A&E”) Reserves AFG’s property and casualty group, like many others in the industry, has A&E claims arising in most cases from general liability policies written more than twenty-five years ago. The establishment of reserves for such A&E claims presents unique and difficult challenges and is subject to uncertainties significantly greater than those presented by other types of claims. For a discussion of these uncertainties, see Item 7 — Management’s Discussion and Analysis — “Uncertainties — Asbestos and Environmental-related (“A&E”) Insurance Reserves” and Note M — “Contingencies” to the financial statements.

Management has periodically conducted comprehensive studies of its asbestos and environmental reserves with the aid of outside actuarial and engineering firms and specialty outside counsel, generally every two years, with an in-depth internal review during the intervening years. Charges resulting from these studies and reviews are included in “Incurred losses and LAE” in the table below. As a result of the in-depth internal review in 2014, AFG recorded a \$24 million pretax special charge in the third quarter of 2014 to increase the property and casualty group’s asbestos reserves by \$4 million (net of reinsurance) and its environmental reserves by \$20 million (net of reinsurance). As the overall industry exposure to asbestos has matured, the focus of litigation has shifted to smaller companies and companies with ancillary exposures. AFG’s insureds with these exposures have been the driver of the property and casualty segment’s asbestos reserve increases in recent years. The increase in environmental reserves was attributed primarily to AFG’s increased defense costs and a number of claims where the estimated costs of remediation have increased. There were no newly identified or emerging broad industry trends that

Table of Contents

management believes would significantly impact the overall adequacy of AFG's reserves. As a result of the 2013 external study, AFG recorded a \$54 million pretax special charge in the third quarter of 2013 to increase the property and casualty group's asbestos reserves by \$16 million (net of reinsurance) and its environmental reserves by \$38 million (net of reinsurance). The increase in asbestos reserves was driven primarily by slightly higher than expected loss experience, higher defense costs and some increased claim severity. The increase in environmental reserves was attributed primarily to a small number of claims where the estimated costs of remediation have increased. In addition to the third quarter special charge, AFG increased A&E reserves for one claim by \$5 million in early 2013 due to fact specific developments. As a result of the in-depth internal review in 2012, AFG recorded a \$31 million pretax special charge (net of reinsurance) to increase the property and casualty group's A&E reserves. The charge relates primarily to an increase in environmental investigative costs and related loss adjustment expenses. In addition to the third quarter special charge, AFG increased A&E reserves for two individual claims by an aggregate of \$12 million in 2012 due to fact specific developments and refined estimates of exposure.

The following table (in millions) is a progression of the property and casualty group's A&E reserves.

	2014	2013	2012
Reserves at beginning of year	\$301	\$373	\$362
Incurred losses and LAE	24	59	43
Paid losses and LAE — two large claims (*)	—	(106)	) —
Paid losses and LAE — other	(36	) (25	) (32
Reserves at end of year, net of reinsurance recoverable	289	301	373
Reinsurance recoverable, net of allowance	77	83	98
Gross reserves at end of year	\$366	\$384	\$471

(*) Payments (net of reinsurance recoveries) associated with the settlement of the A.P. Green Industries claim and another large claim.

Marketing

The property and casualty insurance group directs its sales efforts primarily through independent insurance agents and brokers, although small portions are written through employee agents. Independent agents and brokers generally receive a commission on the sale of each policy. Some agents and brokers are eligible for a bonus commission based on the overall profitability of policies placed with AFG by the broker or agent in a particular year. The property and casualty insurance group writes insurance through several thousand agents and brokers.

Competition

AFG's property and casualty insurance businesses compete with other individual insurers, state funds and insurance groups of varying sizes, some of which are mutual insurance companies possessing competitive advantages in that all their profits inure to their policyholders. See Item 1A — Risk Factors. They also compete with self-insurance plans, captive programs and risk retention groups. Due to the specialty nature of these coverages, competition is based primarily on service to policyholders and agents, specific characteristics of products offered and reputation for claims handling. Financial strength ratings, price, commissions and profit sharing terms are also important factors. Management believes that sophisticated data analysis for refinement of risk profiles, extensive specialized knowledge and loss prevention service have helped AFG compete successfully.

Table of Contents

Annuity Segment

General

AFG sells traditional fixed and fixed-indexed annuities in the retail, financial institutions and education markets through independent producers and through direct relationships with certain financial institutions. The annuity operations employed approximately 500 people at December 31, 2014. These operations are conducted primarily through the subsidiaries listed in the following table, which includes 2014 statutory annuity premiums (in millions), annuity policies in force and independent ratings.

Company	Annuity Premiums	Annuity Policies In Force	Ratings AM Best	S&P
Great American Life Insurance Company	\$3,463	348,500	A	A+
Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company	229	126,000	A	A+

AFG believes that the ratings assigned by independent insurance rating agencies are an important competitive factor because agents, potential policyholders, banks, and school districts often use a company's rating as an initial screening device in considering annuity products. AFG believes that a rating in the "A" category by A.M. Best is necessary to successfully market tax-deferred annuities to public education employees and other non-profit groups and a rating in the "A" category by at least one rating agency is necessary to successfully compete in its other annuity markets. AFG believes that these entities can successfully compete in these markets with their respective ratings.

Statutory premiums of AFG's annuity operations the last three years were as follows (in millions):

	Premiums		
	2014	2013	2012
Financial institutions single premium annuities — indexed	\$1,489	\$1,102	\$291
Financial institutions single premium annuities — fixed	332	628	587
Retail single premium annuities — indexed	1,533	1,879	1,662
Retail single premium annuities — fixed	101	165	153
Education market — fixed and indexed annuities	194	207	237
Total fixed annuity premiums	3,649	3,981	2,930
Variable annuities	47	52	61
Total annuity premiums	\$3,696	\$4,033	\$2,991

Annuities are long-term retirement saving instruments that benefit from income accruing on a tax-deferred basis. The issuer of the annuity collects premiums, credits interest or earnings on the policy and pays out a benefit upon death, surrender or annuitization. Single premium annuities are generally issued in exchange for a one-time lump-sum premium payment. Certain annuities, primarily in the education market, have premium payments that are flexible in both amount and timing as determined by the policyholder and are generally made through payroll deductions.

Annuity contracts are generally classified as either fixed rate (including fixed-indexed) or variable. With a traditional fixed rate annuity, AFG seeks to maintain a desired spread between the yield on its investment portfolio and the rate it credits. AFG accomplishes this by: (i) offering crediting rates that it has the option to change after any initial guarantee period (subject to minimum interest rate and other contractual guarantees); (ii) designing annuity products that encourage persistency; and (iii) maintaining an appropriate matching of assets and liabilities.

A fixed-indexed annuity provides policyholders with the opportunity to receive a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing market index (generally the S&P 500) while protecting against the related downside risk through a guarantee of principal (excluding surrender charges, market value adjustments, and certain benefit charges).

AFG purchases call options designed to substantially offset the effect of the index participation in the liabilities associated with fixed-indexed annuities.

As an ancillary product in its education market, AFG offers a limited amount of variable annuities. With a variable annuity, the earnings credited to the policy vary based on the investment results of the underlying investment options chosen by the policyholder, generally without any guarantee of principal except in the case of death of the insured. Premiums directed to the underlying investment options maintained in separate accounts are invested in funds managed by various independent investment managers. AFG earns a fee on amounts deposited into separate accounts. Subject to contractual provisions,

Table of Contents

policyholders may also choose to direct all or a portion of their premiums to various fixed rate options, in which case AFG earns a spread on amounts deposited.

The profitability of a fixed annuity business is largely dependent on the ability of a company to earn income on the assets supporting the business in excess of the amounts credited to policyholder accounts plus expenses incurred (earning a “spread”). Performance measures such as net spread earned are often presented by annuity businesses to help users of their financial statements better understand the company’s performance. The table shows the earnings before income taxes, as well as the net spread earned on fixed annuities, for the annuity segment both before and after the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (“FIAs”) (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,					
	2014		2013		2012	
Annuity earnings before income taxes — before change in fair value of derivatives related to FIAs and special charge for guaranty fund assessments	\$362		\$313		\$271	
Impact of the change in fair value of derivatives related to FIAs (a)	(34	)	15		(15	)
Special charge for guaranty fund assessments	—		(5		—	
Annuity segment earnings before income taxes	\$328		\$323		\$256	
Net spread earned on fixed annuities — before impact of derivatives related to FIAs	1.56	%	1.52	%	1.57	%
Impact of derivatives related to FIAs	(0.15	%)	0.08	%	(0.09	%)
Impact of special charge for guaranty fund assessments	—		(0.03		—	
Net spread earned on fixed annuities	1.41	%	1.57	%	1.48	%

Fixed-indexed annuities, which represented approximately one-half of annuity benefits accumulated at December 31, 2014, provide policyholders with a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing stock market index. AFG attempts to mitigate the risk in the index-based component of these products through the purchase of call options on the appropriate index. AFG’s strategy is designed so that an increase in the liabilities, (a) due to an increase in the market index, will generally be offset by unrealized and realized gains on the call options purchased by AFG. Both the index-based component of the annuities and the related call options are considered derivatives that must be marked-to-market through earnings each period. Fluctuations in interest rates and the stock market, among other factors, can cause volatility in the periodic measurement of fair value of the embedded derivative that management believes can be inconsistent with the long-term economics of these products.

Marketing

AFG sells its single premium annuities, excluding bank production (discussed below), primarily through a retail network of approximately 60 national marketing organizations (“NMOs”) and managing general agents (“MGAs”) who, in turn, direct over 1,200 actively producing agents.

AFG also sells single premium annuities in financial institutions through direct relationships with certain banks and through independent agents and brokers. The table below shows the financial institutions that accounted for AFG’s largest sources of annuity premiums in 2014:

	% of Total Annuity Premiums
Wells Fargo & Company	10.5%
BB&T Corporation	8.9%
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	5.1%
Citizens Financial Group, Inc.	4.3%

Regions Financial Corporation

4.1%

In the education market, schools may allow employees to save for retirement through contributions made on a before-tax basis. Federal income taxes are not payable on pretax contributions or earnings until amounts are withdrawn. AFG sells its education market annuities directly through writing agents rather than through NMOs and MGAs.

Table of Contents

AFG is licensed to sell its fixed annuity products in all states except New York; it is licensed to sell its variable products in all states except New York and Vermont. At December 31, 2014, AFG had approximately 492,000 annuity policies in force. The states that accounted for 5% or more of AFG's annuity premiums in 2014 and the comparable preceding years are shown below:

	2014		2013		2012	
Florida	9.2	%	8.9	%	9.8	%
California	8.5	%	7.3	%	8.7	%
North Carolina	6.2	%	5.1	%	4.9	%
Pennsylvania	6.0	%	6.9	%	5.6	%
Ohio	5.7	%	6.6	%	6.1	%

Competition

AFG's annuity businesses operate in highly competitive markets. They compete with other insurers and financial institutions based on many factors, including: (i) ratings; (ii) financial strength; (iii) reputation; (iv) service to policyholders and agents; (v) product design (including interest rates credited, bonus features and index participation); (vi) commissions; and (vii) number of school districts in which a company has approval to sell. Since most policies are marketed and distributed through independent agents, the insurance companies must also compete for agents.

No single insurer dominates the markets in which AFG's annuity businesses compete. See Item 1A — Risk Factors. Competitors include (i) individual insurers and insurance groups, (ii) mutual funds and (iii) other financial institutions. In a broader sense, AFG's annuity businesses compete for retirement savings with a variety of financial institutions offering a full range of financial services. In the bank annuity market, AFG's annuities compete directly against competitors' bank annuities, certificates of deposit and other investment alternatives at the point of sale. In addition, over the last few years, several offshore and/or hedge fund companies have made significant acquisitions of annuity businesses, resulting in annuity groups that are larger in size than AFG's annuity business and that are likely to become more aggressive in marketing their products.

Sales of annuities, including renewal premiums, are affected by many factors, including: (i) competitive annuity products and rates; (ii) the general level and volatility of interest rates, including the slope of the yield curve; (iii) the favorable tax treatment of annuities; (iv) commissions paid to agents; (v) services offered; (vi) ratings from independent insurance rating agencies; (vii) other alternative investments; (viii) performance and volatility of the equity markets; (ix) media coverage of annuities; (x) regulatory developments regarding suitability and the sales process; and (xi) general economic conditions.

Run-off Long-term Care and Life Segment

AFG ceased new sales of long-term care insurance in January 2010. Renewal premiums on approximately 55,000 policies covering approximately 58,000 lives will be accepted unless those policies lapse. Renewal premiums, net of reinsurance, were \$74 million in 2014, \$76 million in 2013 and \$79 million in 2012. At December 31, 2014, AFG's long-term care insurance reserves were \$807 million, net of reinsurance recoverables and excluding the impact of unrealized gains on securities.

Although AFG no longer actively markets new life insurance products, it continues to service and receive renewal premiums on its in-force block of approximately 167,000 policies and \$16.71 billion gross (\$4.01 billion net of reinsurance) of life insurance in force at December 31, 2014. Renewal premiums, net of reinsurance, were \$30 million in 2014, \$33 million in 2013 and \$34 million in 2012. At December 31, 2014, AFG's life insurance reserves were \$419 million, net of reinsurance recoverables.

The vast majority of AFG's investment in its run-off long-term care and life operations (including 100% of its long-term care business) is in the following subsidiaries:

Company	Products
United Teacher Associates Insurance Company	Long-term care, life, annuities
Continental General Insurance Company	Long-term care, life, annuities
Manhattan National Life Insurance Company	Life

The combined GAAP equity (excluding net unrealized gains on marketable securities) of these three companies was \$232 million at December 31, 2014. Approximately 80% of this equity was associated with the run-off long-term care business and about 10% was associated with run-off life business. The remainder of this equity was associated with AFG's ongoing annuity operations.

Table of Contents

Medicare Supplement and Critical Illness Segment

In 2012, AFG sold its Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses, which included Loyal American Life Insurance Company and four other insurance companies, to Cigna Corporation for \$326 million in cash. This business generated premiums of \$199 million in 2012 (through the August sale date).

Other Operations

Through subsidiaries, AFG is engaged in a variety of other operations, including commercial real estate operations in Cincinnati (office buildings and The Cincinnati Hotel), New Orleans (Le Pavillon Hotel), Whitefield, New Hampshire (Mountain View Grand Resort), Chesapeake Bay (Skipjack Cove Yachting Resort and Bay Bridge Marina), Charleston (Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina), Palm Beach (Sailfish Marina and Resort), Florida City, Florida (retail commercial development) and apartments in Louisville and Pittsburgh. These operations employed approximately 500 full-time employees at December 31, 2014.

Investment Portfolio

General

A summary of AFG's fixed maturities and equity securities is shown in Note E to the financial statements. For additional information on AFG's investments, see Item 7 — Management's Discussion and Analysis — "Investments." Portfolio yields are shown below.

	2014	2013	2012	
Yield on Fixed Maturities (a):				
Excluding realized gains and losses	4.9	% 5.2	% 5.6	%
Including realized gains and losses	5.0	% 5.3	% 5.8	%
Yield on Equity Securities (a):				
Excluding realized gains and losses	5.4	% 5.5	% 4.5	%
Including realized gains and losses	7.7	% 26.4	% 25.2	%

(a) Based on amortized cost; excludes effects of changes in unrealized gains and losses. Realized losses include impairment charges.

The table below compares total returns, which include changes in fair value, on AFG's fixed maturities and equity securities to comparable public indices. While there are no directly comparable indices to AFG's portfolio, the two shown below are widely used benchmarks in the financial services industry.

	2014	2013	2012	
Total return on AFG's fixed maturities	6.9	% 1.3	% 9.1	%
Barclays Capital U.S. Universal Bond Index	5.6	% (1.3)	%) 5.5	%
Total return on AFG's equity securities	8.7	% 27.1	% 18.7	%
Standard & Poor's 500 Index	13.7	% 32.4	% 16.0	%

Table of Contents

Fixed Maturity Investments

AFG's bond portfolio is invested primarily in taxable bonds. The following table shows AFG's available for sale fixed maturities by Standard & Poor's Corporation or comparable rating as of December 31, 2014 (dollars in millions).

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value Amount	%	
S&P or comparable rating				
AAA, AA, A	\$20,032	\$21,017	68	%
BBB	5,257	5,571	18	%
Total investment grade	25,289	26,588	86	%
BB	804	831	3	%
B	428	440	1	%
CCC, CC, C	1,029	1,180	4	%
D, not rated	1,524	1,695	6	%
Total non-investment grade	3,785	4,146	14	%
Total	\$29,074	\$30,734	100	%

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC") has retained third-party investment management firms to assist in the determination of appropriate NAIC designations for mortgage-backed securities ("MBS") based not only on the probability of loss (which is the primary basis of ratings by the major ratings firms), but also on the severity of loss and statutory carrying value. Approximately 22% of AFG's fixed maturity investments are MBS. At December 31, 2014, 97% (based on statutory carrying value of \$29.08 billion) of AFG's fixed maturity investments held by its insurance companies had an NAIC designation of 1 or 2 (the highest of the six designations).

Equity Investments

At December 31, 2014, AFG held common and perpetual preferred stocks classified as available for sale with a fair value of \$1.50 billion.

Regulation

AFG's insurance company subsidiaries are subject to regulation in the jurisdictions where they do business. In general, the insurance laws of the various states establish regulatory agencies with broad administrative powers governing, among other things, premium rates, solvency standards, licensing of insurers, agents and brokers, trade practices, forms of policies, maintenance of specified reserves and capital for the protection of policyholders, deposits of securities for the benefit of policyholders, investment activities and relationships between insurance subsidiaries and their parents and affiliates. Material transactions between insurance subsidiaries and their parents and affiliates generally must receive prior approval of the applicable insurance regulatory authorities and be disclosed. In addition, while differing from state to state, these regulations typically restrict the maximum amount of dividends that may be paid by an insurer to its shareholders in any twelve-month period without advance regulatory approval. Such limitations are generally based on net earnings or statutory surplus. Under applicable restrictions, the maximum amount of dividends available to AFG in 2015 from its insurance subsidiaries without seeking regulatory clearance is approximately \$673 million.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 ("Dodd-Frank Act"), among other things, established a Federal Insurance Office ("FIO") within the U.S. Treasury. Under this law, regulations will need to be created for the FIO to carry out its mandate to focus on systemic risk oversight. The FIO has gathered information regarding the insurance industry and submitted a report to Congress in December 2013. The report concluded that a hybrid approach to regulation, involving a combination of state and federal government action, could improve the

U.S. insurance system by attaining uniformity, efficiency and consistency, particularly with respect to solvency and market conduct regulation. It is too early to predict the extent to which the report's recommendations might result in changes to the current state-based system of insurance industry regulation or ultimately impact AFG's operations.

Marketform, AFG's UK-based Lloyd's insurer, is subject to regulation by the European Union's executive body, the European Commission. In 2016, Marketform will be required to adopt new capital adequacy and risk management regulations known as Solvency II. Because Lloyd's insurers are already operating under the proposed Solvency II guidelines, implementation is not expected to be material to AFG.

Table of Contents

Most states have created insurance guaranty associations that assess solvent insurers to pay claims of insurance companies that become insolvent. In the second quarter of 2013, AFG's annuity segment recorded a pretax charge of \$5 million to cover expected assessments from state guaranty funds related to the insolvency and liquidation of Executive Life Insurance Company of New York, an unaffiliated life insurance company. Annual guaranty assessments for AFG's insurance companies have not been material.

ITEM 1A

Risk Factors

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, the following factors could materially affect AFG's business, financial condition, cash flows or future results. Any one of these factors could cause AFG's actual results to vary materially from recent results or from anticipated future results. The risks described below are not the only risks facing AFG. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect AFG's business, financial condition and/or operating results.

Adverse developments in the financial markets and deterioration in global economic conditions could have a material adverse effect on AFG's results of operations and financial condition.

The highly volatile debt and equity markets, lack of liquidity, widening credit spreads and the collapse of several financial institutions during 2008 and early 2009 resulted in significant realized and unrealized losses in AFG's investment portfolio. Although global economic conditions and financial markets have improved, there is continued uncertainty regarding the duration and strength of the economic recovery, particularly slowing growth in China and the ongoing turmoil in parts of Europe. Economic growth in the U.S. and internationally may not continue or may be slow for an extended period of time. In addition, other developments (such as low oil prices) may put additional strain on the economy. See Item 7A — Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk — "European Debt Exposure." At December 31, 2014, AFG's net unrealized gain on fixed maturity investments was \$1.66 billion consisting of gross gains of \$1.74 billion and gross losses of \$79 million. Although AFG intends to hold its investments with unrealized losses until they recover in value, its intent may change for a variety of reasons as discussed in Item 7 — Management's Discussion and Analysis — "Investments." A change in AFG's ability or intent with regard to a security in an unrealized loss position would result in the recognition of a realized loss.

AFG's investment performance could also be adversely impacted by the types of investments, industry groups and/or individual securities in which it invests. As of December 31, 2014, 86% of AFG's investment portfolio was invested in fixed maturity securities. Certain risks are inherent in connection with fixed maturity securities including loss upon default and price volatility in reaction to changes in interest rates and general market factors. AFG's equity securities, which represent 4% of its investment portfolio, are subject to market price volatility.

MBS represented about 22% of AFG's fixed maturity securities at December 31, 2014. AFG's MBS portfolio will continue to be impacted by general economic conditions, including unemployment levels, real estate values and other factors that could negatively affect the creditworthiness of borrowers. MBS in which the underlying collateral is subprime mortgages or Alt-A mortgages (risk profile between prime and subprime) each represented 3% of AFG's total fixed maturity portfolio at December 31, 2014. See Item 7A — Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk — "Fixed Maturity Portfolio."

AFG cannot predict whether, and the extent to which, industry sectors in which it maintains investments may suffer losses as a result of potential declines in commercial and economic activity, or how any such decline might impact the ability of companies within the affected industry sectors to pay interest or principal on their securities, or how the value of any underlying collateral might be affected.

Investment returns are an important part of AFG's overall profitability. Accordingly, adverse fluctuations in the fixed income or equity markets could adversely impact AFG's profitability, financial condition or cash flows.

In addition, should economic conditions deteriorate, it could have a material adverse effect on AFG's insureds and reinsurers. However, the impact that this would have on AFG's business cannot be predicted.

Intense competition could adversely affect AFG's profitability.

The property and casualty insurance segment operates in a highly competitive industry that is affected by many factors that can cause significant fluctuations in its results of operations. The trend of AFG's underwriting results typically follows that of the

Table of Contents

industry and a prolonged downcycle could adversely affect AFG's results of operations. The businesses in this segment compete with other individual insurers, state funds and insurance groups of varying sizes, some of which are mutual insurance companies possessing competitive advantages in that all their profits inure to their policyholders. In addition, certain foreign insurers can write business in the U.S. on a tax-advantaged basis and therefore hold a competitive advantage over AFG. AFG also competes with self-insurance plans, captive programs and risk retention groups. Peer companies and major competitors in some or all of AFG's specialty lines include the following companies and/or their subsidiaries: ACE Ltd., Alleghany Corp., American International Group Inc., American National Insurance Company, Arch Capital Group Ltd., Baldwin & Lyons, Inc., The Chubb Corp., Cincinnati Financial Corp., CNA Financial Corp., Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited (Zenith National), The Hartford Financial Services Group, HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., Ironshore Insurance Ltd., Liberty Mutual, Markel Corp., Munich Re Group (American Modern Insurance), RLI Corp., The Travelers Companies Inc., Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc. (Philadelphia Consolidated), W.R. Berkley Corp., Wells Fargo Corp. (Rural Community Insurance), XL Group Plc and Zurich Financial Services Group.

AFG's annuity segment competes with individual insurers and insurance groups, mutual funds and other financial institutions. Competitors include the following companies and/or their subsidiaries: Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, American Equity Investment Life Holding Company, American International Group Inc., Apollo Global Management (Aviva Life and Annuity Company and Athene), Forethought Life Insurance Company, Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company, ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company, Jackson National Life Insurance Company, Life Insurance Company of the Southwest, Lincoln National Corp., MetLife, Inc., Midland National Life Insurance Company, Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, Pacific Life Insurance Company, Symetra Financial Corp. and Western National Life Insurance Company. Financial institutions annuity premiums represented almost half of AFG's annuity premiums in 2014 and have been a key driver in the growth of AFG's annuity business since 2009. In 2014, two large financial institutions accounted for nearly 40% of AFG's total sales through financial institutions. Although AFG has been able to add several new banks in the last few years, the failure to replace these banks if they significantly reduce sales of AFG annuities could reduce AFG's future growth and profitability. In the financial institutions annuity market, AFG competes directly against competitors' bank annuities, certificates of deposit and other investment alternatives at the point of sale.

Competition is based on many factors, including service to policyholders and agents, product design, reputation for claims handling, ratings and financial strength. Price, commissions, fees, profit sharing terms, interest crediting rates, technology and distribution channels are also important factors. Some of AFG's competitors have more capital and greater resources than AFG, and may offer a broader range of products and lower prices than AFG offers. If competition limits AFG's ability to write new or renewal business at adequate rates, its results of operations will be adversely affected.

AFG's revenues could be negatively affected if it is not able to attract and retain independent agents.

AFG's reliance on the independent agency market makes it vulnerable to a reduction in the amount of business written by agents. Many of AFG's competitors also rely significantly on the independent agency market. Accordingly, AFG must compete with other insurance carriers for independent agents' business. Some of its competitors offer a wider variety of products, lower price for insurance coverage or higher commissions. Loss of a substantial portion of the business that AFG writes through independent agents could adversely affect AFG's revenues and profitability.

The inability to obtain reinsurance or to collect on ceded reinsurance could adversely impact AFG's results.

AFG relies on the use of reinsurance to limit the amount of risk it retains. The following amounts of gross property and casualty premiums have been ceded to other insurers: 2014 — \$1.46 billion (27%), 2013 — \$1.46 billion (31%) and 2012 — \$1.37 billion (32%). The availability and cost of reinsurance are subject to prevailing market conditions, which

are beyond AFG's control and which may affect AFG's level of business and profitability. Outside of its property and casualty operations, AFG also has reinsurance recoverables totaling \$946 million, including \$378 million related to the run-off life business, \$280 million related to the run-off long-term care business, \$237 million related to the August 2012 sale of the Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses and \$51 million in the annuity segment. These recoverables include \$587 million from Hannover Life Reassurance Company of America (rated A+ by A.M. Best) and \$203 million from Loyal American Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Cigna (rated A- by A.M. Best). AFG is also subject to credit risk with respect to its reinsurers, as AFG will remain liable to its insureds if any reinsurer is unable to meet its obligations under agreements covering the reinsurance ceded.

AFG is subject to comprehensive regulation, and its ability to earn profits may be restricted by these regulations.

As previously discussed under Item 1 — Business — “Regulation,” AFG is subject to comprehensive regulation by government agencies in the states and countries where its insurance company subsidiaries are domiciled and where these subsidiaries issue

Table of Contents

policies and handle claims. AFG must obtain prior approval for certain corporate actions. The regulations may limit AFG's ability to obtain rate increases or take other actions designed to increase AFG's profitability. Such regulation is primarily intended for the protection of policyholders rather than securityholders.

In July 2010, the Dodd-Frank Act was signed into law. Among other things, this law established the Federal Insurance Office within the U.S. Treasury and authorizes it to gather information regarding the insurance industry and submit to Congress a plan to modernize and improve insurance regulation in the U.S.

Existing insurance-related laws and regulations may become more restrictive in the future or new restrictive laws may be enacted; it is not possible to predict the potential effects of these laws and regulations. The costs of compliance or the failure to comply with existing or future regulations could harm AFG's financial results and its reputation with customers.

The failure of AFG's insurance subsidiaries to maintain a commercially acceptable financial strength rating would have a significant negative effect on their ability to compete successfully.

As discussed under Item 1 — Business — “Property and Casualty Insurance Segment” and “Annuity Segment — General,” financial strength ratings are an important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies and may be expected to have an effect on an insurance company's sales. A downgrade out of the “A” category in AFG's insurers' claims-paying and financial strength ratings could significantly reduce AFG's business volumes in certain lines of business, adversely impact AFG's ability to access the capital markets and increase AFG's borrowing costs.

The continued threat of terrorism and ongoing military and other actions, as well as civil unrest, may adversely affect AFG's financial results.

The continued threat of terrorism, both within the United States and abroad, and the ongoing military and other actions and heightened security measures in response to these types of threats, as well as civil unrest, may cause significant volatility and declines in the equity markets in the United States, Europe and elsewhere, loss of life, property damage, additional disruptions to commerce and reduced economic activity. Actual terrorist attacks could cause losses from insurance claims related to AFG's property and casualty and life insurance operations with adverse financial consequences. In addition, some of the assets in AFG's investment portfolios may be adversely affected by declines in the capital markets and economic activity caused by the continued threat of terrorism, ongoing military and other action, heightened security measures and civil unrest.

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015 extends the Federal Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, which provides for a system of shared public and private responsibility for certain insured losses resulting from defined acts of terrorism. AFG did not incur any losses due to “acts of terrorism” in 2014, 2013 or 2012. In 2015, AFG would have to sustain terrorism losses of nearly \$600 million to be eligible for reinsurance under the program, which also has a total industry cap of \$100 billion. The program will expire at the end of 2020. If Congress eliminates or modifies the program, such action could adversely affect AFG's property and casualty business through increased exposure to a catastrophic level of terrorism losses.

AFG may experience difficulties with technology or data security, which could have an adverse effect on its business or reputation.

AFG uses computer systems to store, retrieve, evaluate and utilize company and customer data and information. Systems failures or outages could compromise AFG's ability to perform business functions in a timely manner, which could harm its ability to conduct business and hurt its relationships with business partners and customers. In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, an industrial accident, a blackout, a computer virus, a terrorist attack or war,

AFG's systems may be inaccessible to employees, customers or business partners for an extended period of time. Even if AFG's employees are able to report to work, they may be unable to perform their duties for an extended period of time if the Company's data or systems are disabled or destroyed.

AFG's computer systems are vulnerable to security breaches due to the sophistication of cyber-attacks, viruses, malware, hackers and other external hazards, as well as inadvertent errors, equipment and system failures, and employee misconduct. In addition, over time, and particularly recently, the sophistication of these threats continues to increase. AFG's administrative and technical controls as well as other preventative actions it takes to reduce the risk of cyber incidents and protect AFG's information may be insufficient to detect or prevent unauthorized access, other physical and electronic break-ins, cyber-attacks or other security breaches to AFG's computer systems or those of third parties with whom AFG does business.

The increased risks identified above could expose AFG to data loss, disruption of service, monetary and reputational damages and significant increases in compliance costs and costs to improve the security and resiliency of its computer systems. The

Table of Contents

compromise of personal, confidential or proprietary information could also subject AFG to legal liability or regulatory action under evolving cyber-security, data protection and privacy laws and regulations enacted by the U.S. federal and state governments or other jurisdictions or by various regulatory organizations or exchanges. As a result, AFG's ability to conduct its business and our results of operations might be materially and adversely affected.

AFG's property and casualty reserves may be inadequate, which could significantly affect AFG's financial results.

AFG's property and casualty insurance subsidiaries record reserve liabilities for the estimated payment of losses and loss adjustment expenses for both reported and unreported claims. Due to the inherent uncertainty of estimating reserves, it has been necessary in the past, and will continue to be necessary in the future, to revise estimated liabilities as reflected in AFG's reserves for claims and related expenses. The historic development of reserves for losses and loss adjustment expense may not necessarily reflect future trends in the development of these amounts. Accordingly, it is not appropriate to extrapolate future redundancies or deficiencies based on historical information. To the extent that reserves are inadequate and are strengthened, the amount of such increase is treated as a charge to earnings in the period in which the deficiency is recognized.

AFG's results could be negatively impacted by severe weather conditions or other catastrophes.

AFG recorded current accident year catastrophe losses of \$28 million in 2014 (primarily from winter storms in the month of January and multiple storms in the midwestern and central United States in the second quarter), \$31 million in 2013 (primarily from spring storms in the southeastern United States) and \$46 million in 2012 (primarily from Superstorm Sandy). Catastrophes (some of which are seasonal) can be caused by natural events such as hurricanes, windstorms, severe storms, tornadoes, floods, hailstorms, severe winter weather, earthquakes, explosions and fire, and by man-made events, such as terrorist attacks and riots. While not considered a catastrophe by industry standards, droughts can have a significant adverse impact on AFG's crop insurance results and did negatively impact 2012 results. The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of the amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. In addition, certain catastrophes could result in both property and non-property claims from the same event. A severe catastrophe or a series of catastrophes could result in losses exceeding AFG's reinsurance protection and may have a material adverse impact on its results of operations or financial condition.

Climate change and related regulation could adversely affect AFG's property and casualty insurance operations.

While AFG does not believe that its operations are likely to be significantly impacted by existing laws and regulations regarding climate change, it is possible that future regulation in this area could result in additional compliance costs and demands on management time.

To the extent that global climate change meaningfully alters weather and tidal patterns, or sea levels, it is possible that AFG's property and casualty insurance operations could experience an increase in claims, primarily in coastal areas and in the crop and agricultural businesses.

Volatility in crop prices could negatively impact AFG's financial results.

Weather conditions and the level of crop prices in the commodities market heavily impact AFG's crop insurance business. These factors are inherently unpredictable and could result in significant volatility in the results of the crop insurance business from one year to the next. AFG's crop results could also be negatively impacted by pests and disease.

Exposure to asbestos or environmental claims could materially adversely affect AFG's results of operations and financial condition.

AFG has asbestos and environmental (“A&E”) exposures arising from its insurance operations and former railroad and manufacturing operations. A&E liabilities are especially difficult to estimate for many reasons, including the long delays between exposure and manifestation of any bodily injury or property damage, difficulty in identifying the source of the asbestos or environmental contamination, long reporting delays and difficulty in properly allocating liability for the asbestos or environmental damage. Claimants continue to assert new theories of recovery, and from time to time, there is proposed state and federal legislation regarding A&E liability, which would also affect AFG’s exposure. If AFG has not established adequate reserves to cover future claims, AFG’s results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

Table of Contents

Changes in interest rates could adversely impact the spread AFG earns on its annuity products.

The profitability of AFG's annuity business is largely dependent on spread (the difference between what it earns on its investments and the crediting rate it pays on its annuity contracts). Most of AFG's annuity products have guaranteed minimum crediting rates (ranging from 4% down to currently 1% on new business). During periods of falling interest rates, AFG may not be able to fully offset the decline in investment earnings with lower crediting rates. During periods of rising rates, there may be competitive pressure to increase crediting rates to avoid a decline in sales or increased surrenders, thus resulting in lower spreads. In addition, an increase in surrenders could require the sale of investments at a time when the prices of those assets are lower due to the increase in market rates, which may result in realized investment losses.

Variations from the actuarial assumptions used to establish certain assets and liabilities in AFG's annuity business could negatively impact AFG's reported financial results.

The earnings on AFG's annuity products depend significantly upon the extent to which actual experience is consistent with the assumptions used in setting reserves and establishing and amortizing deferred policy acquisition costs ("DPAC"). These assumptions relate to investment yields (and spreads over fixed annuity crediting rates), benefit utilization rates, equity market performance, mortality, surrenders, annuitizations and other withdrawals. Developing such assumptions is complex and involves information obtained from company-specific and industry-wide data, as well as general economic information. These assumptions, and therefore AFG's results of operations, could be negatively impacted by changes in any of the factors listed above. For example, AFG recorded a \$1 million expense reduction in 2014 in its annuity business from the net impact of changes in assumptions related to future investment yields, future expected call option costs related to the fixed-indexed annuity business, crediting rates and lapses.

The ability to get price increases and appropriate investment yields and variations from the actuarial assumptions used in loss recognition testing in AFG's closed block of long-term care policies may adversely affect AFG's profitability.

AFG ceased writing new long-term care insurance policies in January 2010. Previous policies written are guaranteed renewable, but can be re-priced, subject to regulatory approval, to reflect adverse experience. Inability to get needed regulatory approval may adversely impact AFG's results of operations. In addition, given the duration of the long-term care product, AFG may be unable to purchase appropriate assets with cash flows and durations necessary to match those of future claims in that business.

For long-duration contracts (such as long-term care policies), loss recognition occurs when, based on current expectations as of the measurement date, the existing contract liabilities plus the present value of future premiums (including reasonably expected rate increases), are not expected to cover the present value of future claims payments, related settlement and maintenance costs, and unamortized acquisition costs. Based on loss recognition testing at December 31, 2012, AFG recorded a \$153 million pretax charge in 2012 to write off deferred policy acquisition costs and strengthen reserves on its closed block of long-term care insurance, due primarily to the impact of changes in assumptions related to future investment yields resulting from the continued low interest rate environment, as well as changes in claims, expense and persistency assumptions. Although no additional loss recognition charges were recorded in 2013 or 2014, adverse changes in any of the reserve assumptions in future periods could result in additional loss recognition for this business.

As a holding company, AFG is dependent on the operations of its insurance company subsidiaries to meet its obligations and pay future dividends.

AFG is a holding company and a legal entity separate and distinct from its insurance company subsidiaries. As a holding company without significant operations of its own, AFG's principal sources of funds are dividends and other

distributions from its insurance company subsidiaries. As discussed under Item 1 — Business — “Regulation,” state insurance laws limit the ability of insurance companies to pay dividends or other distributions and require insurance companies to maintain specified levels of statutory capital and surplus. AFG’s rights to participate in any distribution of assets of its insurance company subsidiaries are subject to prior claims of policyholders and creditors (except to the extent that its rights, if any, as a creditor are recognized). Consequently, AFG’s ability to pay debts, expenses and cash dividends to its shareholders may be limited.

Adverse developments in the financial markets may limit AFG’s access to capital.

Financial markets in the U.S. and elsewhere can experience extreme volatility, which exerts downward pressure on stock prices and limits access to the equity and debt markets for certain issuers, including AFG.

Table of Contents

AFG can borrow up to \$500 million under its revolving credit facility which expires in December 2016. There is no assurance that this facility will be renewed. In addition, AFG's access to funds through this facility is dependent on the ability of its banks to meet their funding commitments. There were no borrowings outstanding under AFG's bank credit line or any other parent company short-term borrowing arrangements during 2014.

If AFG cannot obtain adequate capital or sources of credit on favorable terms, or at all, its business, operating results and financial condition would be adversely affected.

AFG may be adversely impacted by a downgrade in the ratings of its debt securities.

AFG's debt securities are rated by Standard & Poor's and Moody's independent corporate credit rating agencies. AFG's senior indebtedness is currently rated BBB+ by Standard & Poor's and Baa1 by Moody's and AFG's subordinated debentures are currently rated BBB- by Standard & Poor's and Baa2 by Moody's. Securities ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. A security rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities. An unfavorable change in either of these ratings could make it more expensive to access the capital markets and may increase the interest rate charged under AFG's current bank credit line.

AFG is a party to litigation which, if decided adversely, could impact its financial results.

AFG and its subsidiaries are named as defendants in a number of lawsuits. See Item 1 — Business — “Property and Casualty Insurance Segment — Asbestos and Environmental (“A&E”) Reserves,” Item 3 — Legal Proceedings, and Item 7 — Management's Discussion and Analysis — “Uncertainties.” Litigation, by its very nature, is unpredictable and the outcome of these cases is uncertain and could result in liabilities that may vary from amounts AFG has currently recorded and a material variance could have a material effect on AFG's business, operations, profitability or financial condition.

Certain shareholders exercise substantial control over AFG's affairs, which may impede a change of control transaction.

Carl H. Lindner III and S. Craig Lindner are each Co-Chief Executive Officers and Directors of AFG. Together, Carl H. Lindner III and S. Craig Lindner beneficially own 14.1% of AFG's outstanding Common Stock as of February 1, 2015. As a result, certain members of the Lindner family have the ability to exercise significant influence over AFG's management, including over matters requiring shareholder approval.

The price of AFG Common Stock may fluctuate significantly, which may make it difficult for holders to resell common stock when they want or at a price they find attractive.

The price of AFG's Common Stock, listed on the NYSE and Nasdaq Global Select Market, constantly changes. During 2014, AFG's Common Stock traded at prices ranging between \$52.89 and \$62.55. AFG's Common Stock price can fluctuate as a result of a variety of factors, many of which are beyond its control. These factors include but are not limited to:

- actual or anticipated variations in quarterly operating results;
- actual or anticipated changes in the dividends paid on AFG Common Stock;
- rating agency actions;
- recommendations by securities analysts;
- significant acquisitions or business combinations, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments by or involving AFG or its competitors;
- operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors deem comparable to AFG;
- news reports relating to trends, concerns and other issues in AFG's lines of business;
- general economic conditions, including volatility in the financial markets; and

- geopolitical conditions such as acts or threats of terrorism or military conflicts.

Table of Contents

ITEM 2

Properties

Subsidiaries of AFG own several buildings in downtown Cincinnati. AFG and its affiliates occupy approximately 40% of the aggregate 675,000 square feet of commercial and office space in these buildings.

AFG and its insurance subsidiaries lease the majority of their office and storage facilities in numerous cities throughout the United States, including the Company's home offices in Cincinnati. National Interstate occupies approximately 83% of the 164,000 square feet of rentable office space on 17.5 acres of land that it owns in Richfield, Ohio. See Item 1 — Business — "Other Operations" for a discussion of AFG's other commercial real estate operations.

ITEM 3

Legal Proceedings

AFG and its subsidiaries are involved in litigation from time to time, generally arising in the ordinary course of business. This litigation may include, but is not limited to, general commercial disputes, lawsuits brought by policyholders, employment matters, reinsurance collection matters and actions challenging certain business practices of insurance subsidiaries. Except for the following, management believes that none of the litigation meets the threshold for disclosure under this Item.

AFG's insurance company subsidiaries and its 100%-owned subsidiary, American Premier Underwriters (including its subsidiaries, "American Premier"), are parties to litigation and receive claims alleging injuries and damages from asbestos, environmental and other substances and workplace hazards and have established loss accruals for such potential liabilities. None of such litigation or claims is individually material to AFG; however, the ultimate loss for these claims may vary materially from amounts currently recorded as the conditions surrounding resolution of these claims continue to change.

American Premier is a party or named as a potentially responsible party in a number of proceedings and claims by regulatory agencies and private parties under various environmental protection laws, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), seeking to impose responsibility on American Premier for hazardous waste or discharge remediation costs at certain railroad sites formerly owned by its predecessor, Penn Central Transportation Company ("PCTC"), and at certain other sites where hazardous waste or discharge allegedly generated by PCTC's railroad operations and American Premier's former manufacturing operations is present. It is difficult to estimate American Premier's liability for remediation costs at these sites for a number of reasons, including the number and financial resources of other potentially responsible parties involved at a given site, the varying availability of evidence by which to allocate responsibility among such parties, the wide range of costs for possible remediation alternatives, changing technology and the period of time over which these matters develop. Nevertheless, American Premier believes that its accruals for potential environmental liabilities are adequate to cover the probable amount of such liabilities, based on American Premier's estimates of remediation costs and related expenses and its estimates of the portions of such costs that will be borne by other parties. Such estimates are based on information currently available to American Premier and are subject to future change as additional information becomes available.

Table of Contents

PART II

ITEM 5

Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities
 AFG Common Stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol AFG. The information presented in the table below represents the high and low sales prices per share reported on the NYSE Composite Tape.

	2014		2013	
	High	Low	High	Low
First Quarter	\$58.26	\$52.89	\$47.50	\$39.76
Second Quarter	60.00	55.49	49.88	46.45
Third Quarter	60.64	55.57	54.48	49.01
Fourth Quarter	62.55	54.63	58.44	52.44

There were approximately 5,900 shareholders of record of AFG Common Stock at February 1, 2015. AFG declared and paid regular quarterly dividends of \$0.22 per share in January, April and July 2014. In August 2014, AFG increased its quarterly dividend to \$0.25 per share and declared and paid its first dividend at that rate in October 2014. In 2013, AFG declared and paid regular quarterly dividends of \$0.195 per share in January, April and July and \$0.22 per share in October. In December 2014 and 2013, AFG declared and paid additional special cash dividends of \$1.00 per share of AFG Common Stock. The ability of AFG to pay dividends will be dependent upon, among other things, the availability of dividends and payments under intercompany tax allocation agreements from its insurance company subsidiaries.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities AFG repurchased shares of its Common Stock during 2014 as follows:

	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (a)
First Nine Months	2,209,007	\$57.33	2,209,007	2,790,993
Fourth Quarter:				
October	696,859	57.40	696,859	2,094,134
November	—	—	—	2,094,134
December	397,773	60.53	397,773	5,000,000
Total	3,303,639	\$57.73	3,303,639	

(a) Represents the remaining shares that may be repurchased under the Plans authorized by AFG's Board of Directors in February 2013 and December 2014.

In addition, AFG acquired 23,790 shares of its Common Stock (at an average of \$56.15 per share) in the first nine months of 2014 and 9,384 shares (at an average of \$61.96 per share) in December 2014 in connection with its stock incentive plans.

Table of Contents

ITEM 6

Selected Financial Data

The following table sets forth certain data for the periods indicated (dollars in millions, except per share data).

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Earnings Statement Data:					
Total revenues	\$5,713	\$5,092	\$4,957	\$4,643	\$4,400
Earnings before income taxes	626	689	537	558	694
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	406	453	402	319	426
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(46)	(18)	(86)	(23)	(56)
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	452	471	488	342	482
Earnings attributable to shareholders per Common Share:					
Basic	\$5.07	\$5.27	\$5.18	\$3.37	\$4.41
Diluted	4.97	5.16	5.09	3.32	4.36
Cash dividends paid per share of Common Stock (a)	\$1.91	\$1.805	\$0.97	\$0.6625	\$0.575
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges including annuity benefits (b)	1.90	2.15	1.98	1.95	2.42
Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and investments	\$36,210	\$31,313	\$28,449	\$25,577	\$22,670
Total assets	47,535	42,087	39,171	35,838	32,241
Property and casualty insurance reserves:					
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	7,872	6,410	6,845	6,520	6,413
Unearned premiums	1,956	1,757	1,651	1,484	1,534
Annuity benefits accumulated	23,764	20,944	17,609	15,420	12,905
Life, accident and health reserves	2,175	2,008	2,059	1,727	1,650
Long-term debt	1,061	913	953	934	952
Shareholders' equity	4,879	4,599	4,578	4,411	4,331
Less:					
Net unrealized gain on fixed maturities (c)	604	441	719	459	341
Appropriated retained earnings	(2)	49	75	173	197
Adjusted shareholders' equity (d)	4,277	4,109	3,784	3,779	3,793
Book value per share	\$55.62	\$51.38	\$51.45	\$45.08	\$41.18
Adjusted book value per share (d)	48.76	45.90	42.52	38.63	36.06

(a) Includes special cash dividends of \$1.00 per share paid in December 2014 and 2013 and \$0.25 per share paid in December 2012.

(b) Fixed charges are computed on a "total enterprise" basis. For purposes of calculating the ratios, "earnings" have been computed by adding to pretax earnings the fixed charges and the noncontrolling interests in earnings of subsidiaries having fixed charges and the undistributed equity in earnings or losses of investees. Fixed charges include interest (including annuity benefits as indicated), amortization of debt premium/discount and expense, preferred dividend and distribution requirements of subsidiaries and a portion of rental expense deemed to be representative of the interest factor. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding annuity benefits was 7.95, 8.86, 7.16, 6.59 and 9.14 for 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Although the ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding

annuity benefits is not required or encouraged to be disclosed under Securities and Exchange Commission rules, some investors and lenders may not consider interest credited to annuity policyholders' accounts a borrowing cost for an insurance company, and accordingly, believe this ratio is meaningful.

The net unrealized gain on fixed maturities is a component of accumulated other comprehensive income and is (c) shown net of related adjustments to deferred policy acquisition costs and certain liabilities in the annuity, long-term care and life businesses.

Adjusted shareholders' equity and adjusted book value per share exclude appropriated retained earnings and net unrealized gains related to fixed maturity securities. Management believes that investors find a measurement of (d) shareholders' equity excluding these items to be meaningful as (i) the unrealized gain on fixed maturities fluctuates with changes in interest rates in a way that is primarily only meaningful to AFG if it sells those investments and (ii) appropriated retained earnings represents amounts that will ultimately inure to the debt holders of the collateralized loan obligations managed by AFG.

Table of Contents

ITEM 7

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

INDEX TO MD&A

	Page		Page
<u>General</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Results of Operations — Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Overview</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Segmented Statement of Earnings</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Critical Accounting Policies</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Property and Casualty Insurance</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Annuity</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Ratios</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Run-off Long-Term Care and Life</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>Condensed Consolidated Cash Flows</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Holding Company, Other and Unallocated</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>Parent and Subsidiary Liquidity</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>Results of Operations — Full Year</u>	<u>69</u>
<u>Condensed Parent Only Cash Flows</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>Segmented Statement of Earnings</u>	<u>69</u>
<u>Contractual Obligations</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Property and Casualty Insurance</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Annuity</u>	<u>81</u>
<u>Investments</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Run-off Long-Term Care and Life</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>Uncertainties</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>Medicare Supplement and Critical Illness</u>	<u>89</u>
<u>Managed Investment Entities</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>Holding Company, Other and Unallocated</u>	<u>89</u>
<u>Results of Operations</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>Recent Accounting Standards</u>	<u>91</u>
<u>General</u>	<u>49</u>		

GENERAL

Following is a discussion and analysis of the financial statements and other statistical data that management believes will enhance the understanding of AFG's financial condition and results of operations. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements beginning on page F-1.

OVERVIEW

Financial Condition

AFG is organized as a holding company with almost all of its operations being conducted by subsidiaries. AFG, however, has continuing cash needs for administrative expenses, the payment of principal and interest on borrowings, shareholder dividends, and taxes. Therefore, certain analyses are most meaningfully presented on a parent only basis while others are best done on a total enterprise basis. In addition, because most of its businesses are financial in nature, AFG does not prepare its consolidated financial statements using a current-noncurrent format. Consequently, certain traditional ratios and financial analysis tests are not meaningful.

At December 31, 2014, AFG (parent) held approximately \$350 million in cash and securities and had \$500 million available under a bank line of credit expiring in December 2016.

Results of Operations

Through the operations of its subsidiaries, AFG is engaged primarily in property and casualty insurance, focusing on specialized commercial products for businesses and in the sale of fixed and fixed-indexed annuities in the retail, financial institutions and education markets.

Fourth quarter 2014 net earnings attributable to AFG's shareholders were \$127 million (\$1.41 per share, diluted) compared to \$158 million (\$1.73 per share) in the fourth quarter of 2013, reflecting:

- higher underwriting profit and net investment income in the property and casualty insurance segment,
- lower earnings in the annuity segment resulting from the impact of changes in interest rates and the stock market on the fair value accounting for fixed-indexed annuities, and
- lower realized gains on securities.

Table of Contents

Full year 2014 net earnings attributable to AFG's shareholders were \$452 million (\$4.97 per share, diluted) compared to \$471 million (\$5.16 per share) in 2013, reflecting:

- higher underwriting profit, including lower special A&E charges, and higher net investment income in the property and casualty insurance segment,
- lower holding company expenses, and
- lower realized gains on securities.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Significant accounting policies are summarized in Note A — “Accounting Policies” to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that can have a significant effect on amounts reported in the financial statements. As more information becomes known, these estimates and assumptions change and, thus, impact amounts reported in the future. The areas where management believes the degree of judgment required to determine amounts recorded in the financial statements make accounting policies critical are as follows:

- the establishment of insurance reserves, especially asbestos and environmental-related reserves and reserves for AFG's closed block of long-term care insurance,
- the recoverability of reinsurance,
- the recoverability of deferred acquisition costs,
- the establishment of asbestos and environmental reserves of former railroad and manufacturing operations, and
- the valuation of investments, including the determination of “other-than-temporary” impairments.

See “Liquidity and Capital Resources — Uncertainties” for a discussion of insurance reserves, recoverables from reinsurers, and contingencies related to American Premier's former operations and “Liquidity and Capital Resources — Investments” for a discussion of impairments on investments. DPAC and certain liabilities related to annuities and universal life insurance products are amortized in relation to the present value of expected gross profits on the policies. Assumptions considered in determining expected gross profits involve significant judgment and include management's estimates of interest rates and investment spreads, surrenders, annuitizations, renewal premiums and mortality. Should actual experience require management to change its assumptions (commonly referred to as “unlocking”), a charge or credit would be recorded to adjust DPAC or annuity liabilities to the levels they would have been if the new assumptions had been used from the inception date of each policy.

Reserves for future policy benefits related to AFG's closed block of long-term care insurance are established (and related acquisition costs are amortized) over the life of the policies based on policy benefit assumptions as of the date of issuance, including investment yields, mortality, morbidity, persistency, and expenses. Once these assumptions are established for a given policy or group of policies, they are not changed over the life of the policy unless a loss recognition event (premium deficiency) occurs. Loss recognition occurs when, based on current expectations as of the measurement date, existing contract liabilities plus the present value of future premiums, including reasonably expected rate increases, are not expected to cover the present value of future claims payments and related settlement and maintenance costs as well as unamortized acquisition costs. AFG recorded a loss recognition charge in its long-term care business in the fourth quarter of 2012. As a result of this charge, all remaining unamortized acquisition costs in the long-term care business were written off and policy benefit assumptions were reset to 2012 assumptions, resulting in an increase to the reserve for future policy benefits. These assumptions will not be changed again unless a future loss recognition event occurs. Although no additional loss recognition occurred in 2014 or 2013, adverse changes in any of the current policy benefit assumptions could result in a future loss recognition event and additional charges to earnings.

Table of Contents

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Ratios AFG's debt to total capital ratio on a consolidated basis is shown below (dollars in millions). Management intends to maintain the ratio of debt to capital at or below 25% and intends to maintain the capital of its significant insurance subsidiaries at or above levels currently indicated by rating agencies as appropriate for the current ratings.

	December 31,			
	2014		2013	
Long-term debt	\$1,061		\$913	
Total capital	5,513		5,192	
Ratio of debt to total capital:				
Including subordinated debt and debt secured by real estate	19.2	%	17.6	%
Excluding subordinated debt and debt secured by real estate	15.6	%	16.6	%

The ratio of debt to total capital is a non-GAAP measure that management believes is useful for investors, analysts and independent ratings agencies to evaluate AFG's financial strength and liquidity and to provide insight into how AFG finances its operations. The ratio is calculated by dividing AFG's long-term debt by its total capital, which includes long-term debt, noncontrolling interests and shareholders' equity (excluding unrealized gains (losses) related to fixed maturity investments and appropriated retained earnings related to managed investment entities).

AFG's ratio of earnings to fixed charges, including annuity benefits as a fixed charge, was 1.90 for the year ended December 31, 2014. Excluding annuity benefits, this ratio was 7.95. Although the ratio excluding annuity benefits is not required or encouraged to be disclosed under Securities and Exchange Commission rules, it is presented because interest credited to annuity policyholder accounts is not always considered a borrowing cost for an insurance company.

The NAIC's model law for risk based capital ("RBC") applies to both life and property and casualty companies. RBC formulas determine the amount of capital that an insurance company needs so that it has an acceptable expectation of not becoming financially impaired. At December 31, 2014, the capital ratios of all AFG insurance companies substantially exceeded the RBC requirements.

Condensed Consolidated Cash Flows AFG's principal sources of cash include insurance premiums, income from its investment portfolio and proceeds from the maturities, redemptions and sales of investments. Insurance premiums in excess of acquisition expenses and operating costs are invested until they are needed to meet policyholder obligations or made available to the parent company through dividends to cover debt obligations and corporate expenses, and to provide returns to shareholders through share repurchases and dividends. AFG's cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities as detailed in its Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows are shown below (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$1,222	\$760	\$817
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,619)	(2,915)	(1,425)
Net cash provided by financing activities	2,101	2,089	989
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	\$(296)	\$(66)	\$381

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities AFG's property and casualty insurance operations typically produce positive net operating cash flows as premiums collected and investment income exceed policy acquisition costs, claims payments and operating expenses. AFG's net cash provided by operating activities is impacted by the level and timing of property and casualty premiums, claim and expense payments and recoveries from reinsurers. AFG's annuity operations typically produce positive net operating cash flows as investment income exceeds acquisition costs and operating expenses. Interest credited on annuity policyholder funds is a non-cash increase in AFG's annuity benefits

accumulated liability and annuity premiums, benefits and withdrawals are considered financing activities due to the deposit-type nature of annuities. Net cash provided by operating activities was \$1.22 billion, \$760 million and \$817 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The \$462 million increase in net cash provided by operating activities in 2014 compared to 2013 and the \$57 million decrease in net cash provided by operating activities in 2013 compared to 2012 is due primarily to the timing of claims payments and reinsurance recoveries in the property and casualty insurance operations.

Table of Contents

Net Cash Used in Investing Activities AFG's investing activities consist primarily of the investment of funds provided by its property and casualty and annuity products. Net cash used in investing activities was \$3.62 billion in 2014 compared to \$2.92 billion in 2013, an increase of \$704 million. In addition to the investment of funds provided by the insurance operations, investing activities also include the purchase and disposal of managed investment entity investments (collateralized loan obligations) which are presented separately in AFG's Balance Sheet. Net investment activity in the managed investment entities was a \$275 million use of cash in 2014 compared to a \$478 million source of cash in 2013, accounting for a \$753 million increase in net cash used in investing activities in 2014 compared to 2013. See Note A — "Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities" and Note H — "Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$2.92 billion in 2013 compared to \$1.43 billion in 2012, an increase of \$1.49 billion. The \$1.15 billion increase in net cash flows from annuity policyholders in 2013 as compared to 2012 (discussed below under net cash provided by financing activities) increased the amount of cash available for investment in 2013 compared to 2012. In addition, the increase in net cash used in investing activities reflects the use of cash and cash equivalents held in the property and casualty operations to purchase fixed maturity and equity securities during 2013. Net investment activity in the managed investment entities was a \$478 million source of cash in 2013 compared to an \$8 million source of cash in 2012.

Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities AFG's financing activities consist primarily of transactions with annuity policyholders, issuances and retirements of long-term debt, repurchases of common stock and dividend payments. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$2.10 billion in 2014 compared to \$2.09 billion in 2013, an increase of \$12 million. Annuity receipts exceeded annuity surrenders, benefits, withdrawals and transfers by \$1.97 billion in 2014 compared to \$2.68 billion in 2013, resulting in a \$711 million decrease in net cash provided by financing activities. During 2014, AFG repurchased 3.3 million shares of its Common Stock for \$191 million compared to 1.4 million shares repurchased in 2013 for \$70 million, which accounted for a \$121 million decrease in net cash provided by financing activities in 2014 compared to 2013. In September 2014, AFG issued \$150 million of 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due 2054, the net proceeds of which contributed \$145 million to net cash provided by financing activities in 2014. Financing activities also include the issuance and retirement of managed investment entity liabilities, which are nonrecourse to AFG and presented separately in AFG's Balance Sheet. The issuance of managed investment entity liabilities exceeded retirements by \$306 million in 2014 while the retirement of managed investment entity liabilities exceeded issuances by \$368 million in 2013, accounting for a \$674 million increase in net cash provided by financing activities in 2014 compared to 2013. See Managed Investment Entities in Note A — "Accounting Policies" and Note H — "Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$2.09 billion in 2013 compared to \$989 million in 2012, an increase of \$1.10 billion. Annuity receipts exceeded annuity surrenders, benefits, withdrawals and transfers by \$2.68 billion in 2013 compared to \$1.53 billion in 2012, resulting in a \$1.15 billion increase in net cash provided by financing activities. During 2013, AFG repurchased 1.4 million shares of its Common Stock for \$70 million compared to 10.9 million shares repurchased in 2012 for \$415 million, which accounted for \$345 million of the increase in net cash provided by financing activities in 2013 compared to 2012. The retirement of managed investment entity liabilities exceeded issuances by \$368 million in 2013 compared to \$49 million in 2012, accounting for a \$319 million reduction in net cash provided by financing activities in 2013 compared to 2012.

Parent and Subsidiary Liquidity

Parent Holding Company Liquidity Management believes AFG has sufficient resources to meet its liquidity requirements. If funds generated from operations, including dividends, tax payments and borrowings from subsidiaries, are insufficient to meet fixed charges in any period, AFG would be required to utilize parent company cash and marketable securities or to generate cash through borrowings, sales of other assets, or similar transactions.

AFG can borrow up to \$500 million under its revolving credit facility which expires in December 2016. Amounts borrowed under this agreement bear interest at rates ranging from 1.00% to 1.875% (currently 1.375%) over LIBOR based on AFG's credit rating. There were no borrowings under this agreement, or under any other parent company short-term borrowing arrangements, during 2014. In September 2014, AFG issued \$150 million of 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due 2054. AFG intends to use the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, which may include repurchases of outstanding common stock and/or the redemption of all or a portion of the outstanding 7% Senior Notes due 2050, which become redeemable, at par, at AFG's option beginning in September 2015.

In April 2014, AFG completed the purchase of Summit Holding Southeast, Inc. and its related companies ("Summit") from Liberty Mutual Insurance for \$259 million using cash on hand at the parent company. In addition, AFG made a capital

Table of Contents

contribution of approximately \$140 million, bringing its capital investment in the Summit business to \$399 million. Summit's results of operations are included in AFG's consolidated results beginning in April of 2014.

During 2014, AFG repurchased 3.3 million shares of its Common Stock for \$191 million. In December 2014, AFG paid a special cash dividend of \$1.00 per share of AFG Common Stock totaling approximately \$88 million. In January 2015, AFG repurchased 506,276 additional shares of its Common Stock for \$30 million.

During 2013, AFG repurchased 1.4 million shares of its Common Stock for \$70 million. In December 2013, AFG paid a special cash dividend of \$1.00 per share of AFG Common Stock totaling approximately \$89 million.

In 2012, AFG issued \$125 million of 5-3/4% Senior Notes due 2042 and \$230 million of 6-3/8% Senior Notes due 2042 and used the proceeds to redeem outstanding higher rate debt. During 2012, AFG repurchased 10.9 million shares of its Common Stock for \$415 million. In December 2012, AFG paid a special cash dividend of \$0.25 per share of AFG Common Stock totaling approximately \$23 million.

All debentures and notes issued by AFG are rated investment grade by two nationally recognized rating agencies. Under a currently effective shelf registration statement, AFG can offer additional equity or debt securities. The shelf registration provides AFG with flexibility to access the capital markets from time to time as market and other conditions permit.

Under tax allocation agreements with AFG, its 80%-owned U.S. subsidiaries generally pay taxes to (or recover taxes from) AFG based on each subsidiary's contribution to amounts due under AFG's consolidated tax return.

Subsidiary Liquidity Great American Life Insurance Company ("GALIC"), a wholly-owned annuity subsidiary, is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati ("FHLB"). The FHLB makes advances and provides other banking services to member institutions, which provides the annuity operations with a substantial additional source of liquidity. These advances further the FHLB's mission of improving access to housing by increasing liquidity in the residential mortgage-backed securities market. At December 31, 2014, GALIC had \$440 million in outstanding advances from the FHLB (included in annuity benefits accumulated), bearing interest at rates ranging from 0.02% to 0.23% over LIBOR (average rate of 0.32% at December 31, 2014). While these advances must be repaid between 2016 and 2018, GALIC has the option to prepay all or a portion of the advances. GALIC has invested the proceeds from the advances in fixed maturity securities for the purpose of earning a spread over the interest payments due to the FHLB.

National Interstate Corporation ("NATL"), a 51%-owned property and casualty insurance subsidiary, can borrow up to \$100 million under its unsecured credit agreement, which expires in November 2017. There was \$12 million borrowed under this agreement at December 31, 2014, bearing interest at 1.20% (six-month LIBOR plus 0.875%). The maximum outstanding balance in 2014 was \$12 million.

The liquidity requirements of AFG's insurance subsidiaries relate primarily to the liabilities associated with their products as well as operating costs and expenses, payments of dividends and taxes to AFG and contributions of capital to their subsidiaries. Historically, cash flows from premiums and investment income have generally provided more than sufficient funds to meet these requirements. Funds received in excess of cash requirements are generally invested in additional marketable securities. In addition, the insurance subsidiaries generally hold a significant amount of highly liquid, short-term investments.

The excess cash flow of AFG's property and casualty group allows it to extend the duration of its investment portfolio somewhat beyond that of its claim reserves.

In the annuity business, where profitability is largely dependent on earning a spread between invested assets and annuity liabilities, the duration of investments is generally maintained close to that of liabilities. In a rising interest rate environment, significant protection from withdrawals exists in the form of temporary and permanent surrender charges on AFG's annuity products. With declining rates, AFG receives some protection (from spread compression) due to the ability to lower crediting rates, subject to contractually guaranteed minimum interest rates ("GMIRs"). AFG began selling policies with GMIRs below 2% in 2003; almost all new business since late 2010 has been issued with a 1% GMIR. At December 31, 2014, AFG could reduce the average crediting rate on approximately \$18 billion of traditional fixed and fixed-indexed deferred annuities without guaranteed withdrawal benefits by approximately 58 basis points (on a weighted average basis).

For statutory accounting purposes, equity securities of non-affiliates are generally carried at fair value. At December 31, 2014, AFG's insurance companies owned publicly traded equity securities with a fair value of \$1.65 billion. In addition, GAI's investment in NATL common stock had a fair value of \$304 million and a statutory carrying value of \$241 million at

Table of Contents

December 31, 2014. Decreases in market prices could adversely affect the insurance group's capital, potentially impacting the amount of dividends available or necessitating a capital contribution. Conversely, increases in market prices could have a favorable impact on the group's dividend-paying capability.

AFG believes its insurance subsidiaries maintain sufficient liquidity to pay claims and benefits and operating expenses. In addition, these subsidiaries have sufficient capital to meet commitments in the event of unforeseen events such as reserve deficiencies, inadequate premium rates or reinsurer insolvencies. Nonetheless, changes in statutory accounting rules, significant declines in the fair value of the insurance subsidiaries' investment portfolios or significant ratings downgrades on these investments, could create a need for additional capital.

Condensed Parent Only Cash Flows AFG's parent holding company only condensed cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities are shown below (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$372	\$428	\$380
Net cash used in investing activities	(432)	(4)	(284)
Net cash used in financing activities	(171)	(180)	(232)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	\$(231)	\$244	\$(136)

Parent Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities Parent holding company cash flows from operating activities consist primarily of dividends and tax payments received from AFG's insurance subsidiaries, reduced by tax payments to the IRS and holding company interest and other expenses. Parent holding company net cash provided by operating activities was \$372 million in 2014 compared to \$428 million in 2013 and \$380 million in 2012. Higher dividends from subsidiaries received in 2013 as compared to 2014 and 2012 were the primary driver of the \$56 million decrease in net cash provided by operating activities in 2014 compared to 2013 and the \$48 million increase in net cash provided by operating activities in 2013 compared to 2012.

Parent Net Cash Used in Investing Activities Parent holding company investing activities consist of capital contributions to and returns of capital from subsidiaries and, to a much lesser extent, parent company investment activity. Parent holding company net cash used in investing activities was \$432 million in 2014 compared to \$4 million in 2013 and \$284 million in 2012. The \$432 million in net cash used in investing activities in 2014 and the \$284 million in 2012 are significantly higher than the \$4 million in net cash used in investing activities in 2013 due primarily to capital contributions made to subsidiaries to fund the \$399 million investment in Summit in 2014 and the redemption of \$199 million of AAG Holding senior debentures in 2012.

Parent Net Cash Used in Financing Activities Parent company financing activities consist primarily of repurchases of AFG Common Stock, dividends to shareholders, the issuance and retirement of long-term debt and, to a lesser extent, proceeds from employee stock option exercises. Significant long-term debt and common stock transactions are discussed above. Parent holding company net cash used in financing activities was \$171 million in 2014 compared to \$180 million in 2013 and \$232 million in 2012. The \$9 million decrease in net cash used in financing activities in 2014 as compared to 2013 reflects net proceeds of \$145 million received in 2014 from the issuance of 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due in 2054, partially offset by a \$121 million increase in common stock repurchases. The \$52 million decrease in net cash used in financing activities in 2013 as compared to 2012 reflects a \$345 million decrease in common stock repurchases partially offset by the impact of \$229 million in cash provided in 2012 from debt issuances in excess of debt retirements and a \$70 million increase in cash dividends paid.

Table of Contents

Contractual Obligations The following table shows an estimate (based on historical patterns and expected trends) of payments to be made for insurance reserve liabilities, as well as scheduled payments for major contractual obligations (in millions).

	Total	Within One Year	2-3 Years	4-5 Years	More than 5 Years
Annuities (a)	\$23,764	\$2,047	\$4,579	\$5,016	\$12,122
Life, accident and health liabilities (a)	2,175	197	262	219	1,497
Property and casualty unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses (b)	7,872	1,900	1,900	900	3,172
Long-term debt, including interest	2,527	93	209	483	1,742
Operating leases	425	62	109	80	174
Total	\$36,763	\$4,299	\$7,059	\$6,698	\$18,707

Reserve projections include anticipated cash benefit payments only. Projections do not include any impact for future earnings or additional premiums. Based on the same assumptions, AFG projects reinsurance recoveries (a) related to life, accident and health reserves totaling \$895 million as follows: Within 1 year — \$119 million; 2-3 years — \$139 million; 4-5 years — \$119 million; and thereafter — \$518 million. Actual payments and their timing could differ significantly from these estimates.

Dollar amounts and time periods are estimates based on historical net payment patterns applied to the gross reserves and do not represent actual contractual obligations. Based on the same assumptions, AFG projects (b) reinsurance recoveries related to these reserves totaling \$2.23 billion as follows: Within 1 year — \$500 million; 2-3 years — \$500 million; 4-5 years — \$200 million; and thereafter — \$1.03 billion. Actual payments and their timing could differ significantly from these estimates.

AFG has no material contractual purchase obligations or other long-term liabilities at December 31, 2014.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements See Note P — “Additional Information — Financial Instruments — Unfunded Commitments” to the financial statements.

Investments AFG attempts to optimize investment income while building the value of its portfolio, placing emphasis upon total long-term performance.

AFG’s investment portfolio at December 31, 2014, contained \$30.73 billion in “Fixed maturities” and \$1.50 billion in “Equity securities” classified as available for sale and carried at fair value with unrealized gains and losses included in a separate component of shareholders’ equity on an after-tax basis. In addition, \$266 million in fixed maturities and \$195 million in equity securities were classified as trading with changes in unrealized holding gains or losses included in investment income.

As detailed in Note E — “Investments — Net Unrealized Gain on Marketable Securities” to the financial statements, unrealized gains and losses on AFG’s fixed maturity and equity securities are included in shareholders’ equity after adjustments for related changes in DPAC and certain liabilities related to annuity, long-term care and life businesses, noncontrolling interests and deferred income taxes. DPAC and certain other balance sheet amounts applicable to annuity, long-term care and life businesses are adjusted for the impact of unrealized gains or losses on investments as if these gains or losses had been realized, with corresponding increases or decreases (net of tax) included in accumulated other comprehensive income in AFG’s Balance Sheet.

Fixed income investment funds are generally invested in securities with intermediate-term maturities with an objective of optimizing total return while allowing flexibility to react to changes in market conditions. At December 31, 2014, the average life of AFG’s fixed maturities was about 6-1/2 years.

Fair values for AFG's portfolio are determined by AFG's internal investment professionals using data from nationally recognized pricing services as well as non-binding broker quotes. Fair values of equity securities are generally based on published closing prices. For mortgage-backed securities ("MBS"), which comprise approximately 22% of AFG's fixed maturities, prices for each security are generally obtained from both pricing services and broker quotes. For the remainder of AFG's fixed maturity portfolio, approximately 82% are priced using pricing services and the balance is priced primarily by using non-binding broker quotes. When prices obtained for the same security vary, AFG's internal investment professionals select the price they believe is most indicative of an exit price.

Table of Contents

The pricing services use a variety of observable inputs to estimate fair value of fixed maturities that do not trade on a daily basis. Based upon information provided by the pricing services, these inputs include, but are not limited to, recent reported trades, benchmark yields, issuer spreads, bids or offers, reference data, and measures of volatility. Included in the pricing of MBS are estimates of the rate of future prepayments and defaults of principal over the remaining life of the underlying collateral. Due to the lack of transparency in the process that brokers use to develop prices, valuations that are based on brokers' prices are classified as Level 3 in the GAAP hierarchy unless the price can be corroborated, for example, by comparison to similar securities priced using observable inputs.

Valuation techniques utilized by pricing services and prices obtained from external sources are reviewed by AFG's internal investment professionals who are familiar with the securities being priced and the markets in which they trade to ensure the fair value determination is representative of an exit price. To validate the appropriateness of the prices obtained, these investment managers consider widely published indices (as benchmarks), recent trades, changes in interest rates, general economic conditions and the credit quality of the specific issuers. In addition, AFG communicates directly with pricing services regarding the methods and assumptions used in pricing, including verifying, on a test basis, the inputs used by the services to value specific securities.

In general, the fair value of AFG's fixed maturity investments is inversely correlated to changes in interest rates. The following table demonstrates the sensitivity of such fair values to reasonably likely changes in interest rates by illustrating the estimated effect on AFG's fixed maturity portfolio that an immediate increase of 100 basis points in the interest rate yield curve would have at December 31, 2014 (dollars in millions). Effects of increases or decreases from the 100 basis points illustrated would be approximately proportional.

Fair value of fixed maturity portfolio	\$31,000	
Pretax impact on fair value of 100 bps increase in interest rates	\$(1,550)	)
Pretax impact as % of total fixed maturity portfolio	(5.0	%)

Approximately 87% of the fixed maturities held by AFG at December 31, 2014, were rated "investment grade" (credit rating of AAA to BBB) by nationally recognized rating agencies. Investment grade securities generally bear lower yields and lower degrees of risk than those that are unrated and non-investment grade. Management believes that the high quality investment portfolio should generate a stable and predictable investment return.

MBS are subject to significant prepayment risk due to the fact that, in periods of declining interest rates, mortgages may be repaid more rapidly than scheduled as borrowers refinance higher rate mortgages to take advantage of lower rates. Although interest rates have been low in recent years, tighter lending standards have resulted in fewer buyers being able to refinance the mortgages underlying much of AFG's non-agency residential MBS portfolio.

Summarized information for AFG's MBS (including those classified as trading) at December 31, 2014, is shown (dollars in millions) in the table below. Agency-backed securities are those issued by a U.S. government-backed agency; Alt-A mortgages are those with risk profiles between prime and subprime. The majority of the Alt-A securities and substantially all of the subprime securities are backed by fixed-rate mortgages. The average life of the residential and commercial MBS is approximately 5 years and 4 years, respectively.

Collateral type	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Fair Value as % of Cost	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	% Rated Investment Grade	
Residential:						
Agency-backed	\$315	\$327	104	% \$12	100	%
Non-agency prime	1,923	2,135	111	% 212	43	%
Alt-A	948	1,054	111	% 106	18	%

Subprime	867	933	108	% 66	17	%
Commercial	2,300	2,457	107	% 157	100	%
	\$6,353	\$6,906	109	% \$553	58	%

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (“NAIC”) assigns creditworthiness designations on a scale of 1 to 6 with 1 being the highest quality and 6 being the lowest quality. The NAIC retains third-party investment management firms to assist in the determination of appropriate NAIC designations for mortgage-backed securities based not only on the probability of loss (which is the primary basis of ratings by the major ratings firms), but also on the severity of loss and statutory carrying value.

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2014, 98% (based on statutory carrying value of \$6.27 billion) of AFG's MBS securities had a NAIC designation of 1 or 2.

Municipal bonds represented approximately 22% of AFG's fixed maturity portfolio at December 31, 2014. AFG's municipal bond portfolio is high quality, with 98% of the securities rated investment grade at that date. The portfolio is well diversified across the states of issuance and individual issuers. At December 31, 2014, approximately 72% of the municipal bond portfolio was held in revenue bonds, with the remaining 28% held in general obligation bonds. General obligation securities of California, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Puerto Rico collectively represented approximately 1% of this portfolio.

Summarized information for the unrealized gains and losses recorded in AFG's Balance Sheet at December 31, 2014, is shown in the following table (dollars in millions). Approximately \$450 million of available for sale fixed maturity securities and \$90 million of available for sale equity securities had no unrealized gains or losses at December 31, 2014.

	Securities With Unrealized Gains		Securities With Unrealized Losses	
Available for Sale Fixed Maturities				
Fair value of securities	\$26,012		\$4,272	
Amortized cost of securities	\$24,273		\$4,351	
Gross unrealized gain (loss)	\$1,739		\$(79)	)
Fair value as % of amortized cost	107	%	98	%
Number of security positions	4,487		653	
Number individually exceeding \$2 million gain or loss	114		5	
Concentration of gains (losses) by type or industry (exceeding 5% of unrealized):				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$569		\$(16)	)
States and municipalities	364		(10)	)
Banks, savings and credit institutions	143		(7)	)
Gas and electric services	121		(2)	)
Asset-backed securities	37		(22)	)
Oil and gas extraction	14		(6)	)
Percentage rated investment grade	87	%	85	%
Available for Sale Equity Securities				
Fair value of securities	\$1,051		\$360	
Cost of securities	\$803		\$390	
Gross unrealized gain (loss)	\$248		\$(30)	)
Fair value as % of cost	131	%	92	%
Number of security positions	183		53	
Number individually exceeding \$2 million gain or loss	38		4	

Table of Contents

The table below sets forth the scheduled maturities of AFG's available for sale fixed maturity securities at December 31, 2014, based on their fair values. Securities with sinking funds are reported at average maturity. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because certain securities may be called or prepaid by the issuers.

	Securities With Unrealized Gains		Securities With Unrealized Losses	
Maturity				
One year or less	3	%	—	%
After one year through five years	19	%	6	%
After five years through ten years	31	%	25	%
After ten years	17	%	9	%
	70	%	40	%
Asset-backed securities (average life of approximately 4-1/2 years)	6	%	47	%
Mortgage-backed securities (average life of approximately 4-1/2 years)	24	%	13	%
	100	%	100	%

The table below (dollars in millions) summarizes the unrealized gains and losses on fixed maturity securities by dollar amount:

	Aggregate Fair Value	Aggregate Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Fair Value as % of Cost Basis	
Fixed Maturities at December 31, 2014				
Securities with unrealized gains:				
Exceeding \$500,000 (1,099 securities)	\$13,031	\$1,243	111	%
\$500,000 or less (3,388 securities)	12,981	496	104	%
	\$26,012	\$1,739	107	%
Securities with unrealized losses:				
Exceeding \$500,000 (17 securities)	\$198	\$(19)	91	%
\$500,000 or less (636 securities)	4,074	(60)	99	%
	\$4,272	\$(79)	98	%

The following table summarizes (dollars in millions) the unrealized loss for all securities with unrealized losses by issuer quality and the length of time those securities have been in an unrealized loss position:

	Aggregate Fair Value	Aggregate Unrealized Loss	Fair Value as % of Cost Basis	
Securities with Unrealized Losses at December 31, 2014				
Investment grade fixed maturities with losses for:				
Less than one year (276 securities)	\$2,147	\$(22)	99	%
One year or longer (228 securities)	1,498	(34)	98	%
	\$3,645	\$(56)	98	%
Non-investment grade fixed maturities with losses for:				
Less than one year (67 securities)	\$427	\$(12)	97	%
One year or longer (82 securities)	200	(11)	95	%
	\$627	\$(23)	96	%
Common equity securities with losses for:				

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Less than one year (34 securities)	\$260	\$(25	) 91	%
One year or longer (none)	—	—	—	%
	\$260	\$(25	) 91	%
Perpetual preferred equity securities with losses for:				
Less than one year (11 securities)	\$45	\$(1	) 98	%
One year or longer (8 securities)	55	(4	) 93	%
	\$100	\$(5	) 95	%

Table of Contents

When a decline in the value of a specific investment is considered to be “other-than-temporary,” a provision for impairment is charged to earnings (accounted for as a realized loss) and the cost basis of that investment is reduced by the amount of the charge. The determination of whether unrealized losses are “other-than-temporary” requires judgment based on subjective as well as objective factors. Factors considered and resources used by management include:

- a) whether the unrealized loss is credit-driven or a result of changes in market interest rates,
- b) the extent to which fair value is less than cost basis,
- c) cash flow projections received from independent sources,
- d) historical operating, balance sheet and cash flow data contained in issuer SEC filings and news releases,
- e) near-term prospects for improvement in the issuer and/or its industry,
- f) third party research and communications with industry specialists,
- g) financial models and forecasts,
- h) the continuity of dividend payments, maintenance of investment grade ratings and hybrid nature of certain investments,
- i) discussions with issuer management, and
- j) ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for anticipated recovery in fair value.

Based on its analysis of the factors listed above, management believes AFG will recover its cost basis in the securities with unrealized losses and that AFG has the ability to hold the securities until they recover in value and had no intent to sell them at December 31, 2014. Although AFG has the ability to continue holding its investments with unrealized losses, its intent to hold them may change due to deterioration in the issuers’ creditworthiness, decisions to lessen exposure to a particular issuer or industry, asset/liability management decisions, market movements, changes in views about appropriate asset allocation or the desire to offset taxable realized gains. Should AFG’s ability or intent change with regard to a particular security, a charge for impairment would likely be required. While it is not possible to accurately predict if or when a specific security will become impaired, charges for other-than-temporary impairment could be material to results of operations in future periods. Significant declines in the fair value of AFG’s investment portfolio could have a significant adverse effect on AFG’s liquidity. For information on AFG’s realized gains (losses) on securities, including charges for “other-than-temporary” impairment, see “Results of Operations — Consolidated Realized Gains on Securities.”

Uncertainties As more fully explained in the following paragraphs, management believes that the areas posing the greatest risk of material loss are the adequacy of its insurance reserves and contingencies arising out of its former railroad and manufacturing operations.

Property and Casualty Insurance Reserves Estimating the liability for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses (“LAE”) is inherently judgmental and is influenced by factors that are subject to significant variation. Determining the liability is a complex process incorporating input from many areas of the Company including actuarial, underwriting, pricing, claims and operations management.

The estimates of liabilities for unpaid claims and for expenses of investigation and adjustment of unpaid claims are based upon: (i) the accumulation of case estimates for losses reported prior to the close of the accounting periods on direct business written (“case reserves”); (ii) estimates received from ceding reinsurers and insurance pools and associations; (iii) estimates of claims incurred but not reported or “IBNR” (including possible development on known claims); (iv) estimates (based on experience) of expense for investigating and adjusting claims; and (v) the current state of law and coverage litigation.

The process used to determine the total reserve for liabilities involves estimating the ultimate incurred losses and LAE, adjusted for amounts already paid on the claims. The IBNR reserve is derived by first estimating the ultimate

unpaid reserve liability and subtracting case reserves for loss and LAE.

In determining management's best estimate of the ultimate liability, management (including Company actuaries) considers items such as the effect of inflation on medical, hospitalization, material, repair and replacement costs, the nature and maturity of lines of insurance, general economic trends and the legal environment. In addition, historical trends adjusted for changes in underwriting standards, policy provisions, product mix and other factors are analyzed using actuarial reserve development techniques. Weighing all of the factors, the management team determines a single or "point" estimate that it records as its best estimate of the ultimate liability. Ranges of loss reserves are not developed by Company actuaries. This reserve analysis and review is completed each quarter and for almost every line of business.

Table of Contents

Each quarterly review includes in-depth analysis of over 400 subdivisions of the business, employing multiple actuarial techniques. For each subdivision, actuaries use informed, professional judgment to adjust these techniques as necessary to respond to specific conditions in the data or within the business.

Some of the standard actuarial methods employed for the quarterly reserve analysis may include (but may not be limited to):

- Case Incurred Development Method
- Paid Development Method
- Projected Claim Count Times Projected Claim Severity
- Bornhuetter-Ferguson Method
- Incremental Paid LAE to Paid Loss Methods

Management believes that each method has particular strengths and weaknesses and that no single estimation method is most accurate in all situations. When applied to a particular group of claims, the relative strengths and weaknesses of each method can change over time based on the facts and circumstances. Ultimately, the estimation methods chosen are those which management believes produce the most reliable indication for the particular liabilities under review.

The period of time from the occurrence of a loss through the settlement of the liability is referred to as the “tail”. Generally, the same actuarial methods are considered for both short-tail and long-tail lines of business because most of them work properly for both. The methods are designed to incorporate the effects of the differing length of time to settle particular claims. For short-tail lines, management tends to give more weight to the Case Incurred and Paid Development methods, although the various methods tend to produce similar results. For long-tail lines, more judgment is involved, and more weight may be given to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson method. Liability claims for long-tail lines are more susceptible to litigation and can be significantly affected by changing contract interpretation and the legal environment. Therefore, the estimation of loss reserves for these classes is more complex and subject to a higher degree of variability.

The level of detail in which data is analyzed varies among the different lines of business. Data is generally analyzed by major product or by coverage within product, using countrywide data; however, in some situations, data may be reviewed by state for a few large volume states. Appropriate segmentation of the data is determined based on data volume, data credibility, mix of business, and other actuarial considerations.

Supplementary statistical information is also reviewed to determine which methods are most appropriate to use or if adjustments are needed to particular methods. Such information includes:

- Open and closed claim counts
- Average case reserves and average incurred on open claims
- Closure rates and statistics related to closed and open claim percentages
- Average closed claim severity
- Ultimate claim severity
- Reported loss ratios
- Projected ultimate loss ratios
- Loss payment patterns

Within each line, results of individual methods are reviewed, supplementary statistical information is analyzed, and all data from underwriting, operating and claim management are considered in deriving management’s best estimate of the ultimate liability. This estimate may be the result of one method, a weighted average of several methods, or a judgmental selection as the management team determines is appropriate.

Table of Contents

The following table shows (in millions) the breakdown of AFG's property and casualty reserves between case reserves, IBNR reserves and LAE reserves (estimated amounts required to adjust, record and settle claims, other than the claim payments themselves).

	Gross Loss Reserves at December 31, 2014			
	Case	IBNR	LAE	Total Reserve
Statutory Line of Business				
Workers' compensation	\$1,060	\$1,154	\$310	\$2,524
Other liability — occurrence	461	1,296	278	2,035
Special property (fire, allied lines, inland marine, earthquake)	545	42	26	613
Other liability — claims made	189	207	122	518
Commercial auto/truck liability/medical	200	199	83	482
Products liability — occurrence	68	105	100	273
Commercial multi-peril	101	87	68	256
Other lines	131	297	86	514
Total Statutory Reserves	2,755	3,387	1,073	7,215
Adjustments for GAAP:				
Reserves of foreign operations	291	324	10	625
Deferred gains on retroactive reinsurance	—	48	—	48
Loss reserve discounting	(12)	) —	—	(12)
Other	(7)	) 3	—	(4)
Total Adjustments for GAAP	272	375	10	657
Total GAAP Reserves	\$3,027	\$3,762	\$1,083	\$7,872

While current factors and reasonably likely changes in variable factors are considered in estimating the liability for unpaid losses, there is no method or system that can eliminate the risk of actual ultimate results differing from such estimates. As shown in the reserve development table (loss triangle) on page 7, the original estimates of AFG's liability for losses and loss adjustment expenses, net of reinsurance and including the effect of special charges for asbestos and environmental exposures, over the past 10 years have developed through December 31, 2014, to be deficient (for two years) by as much as 7.7% and redundant (for seven years) by as much as 14.9%. This development illustrates the historical impact caused by variability in factors considered in estimating insurance reserves.

Following is a discussion of certain critical variables affecting the estimation of loss reserves of the more significant long-tail lines of business (asbestos and environmental liabilities are separately discussed below). Many other variables may also impact ultimate claim costs.

An important assumption underlying reserve estimates is that the cost trends implicitly built into development patterns will continue into the future. However, future results could vary due to an unexpected change in the underlying cost trends. This unexpected change could arise from a variety of sources including a general increase in economic inflation, inflation from social programs, new medical technologies, or other factors such as those listed below in connection with AFG's largest lines of business. It is not possible to isolate and measure the potential impact of just one of these variables, and future cost trends could be partially impacted by several such variables. However, it is reasonable to address the sensitivity of the reserves to potential impact from changes in these variables by measuring the effect of a possible overall 1% change in future cost trends that may be caused by one or more variables. Utilizing the effect of a 1% change in overall cost trends enables changes greater than 1% to be estimated by extrapolation. Each additional 1% change in the cost trend would increase the effect on net earnings by an amount slightly (about 5%) greater than the effect of the previous 1%. For example, if a 1% change in cost trends in a line of business would change net earnings by \$20 million, a 2% change would change net earnings by approximately \$41 million.

Table of Contents

The estimated cumulative impact that a 1% change in cost trends in AFG's more significant lines of property and casualty business (exceeding 5% of total reserves) would have on net earnings is shown below (in millions).

Line of business	Effect of 1% Change in Cost Trends
Workers' compensation	\$56
Other liability — occurrence	23
Other liability — claims made	9
Commercial auto/truck liability/medical	6

The judgments and uncertainties surrounding management's reserve estimation process and the potential for reasonably possible variability in management's most recent reserve estimates may also be viewed by looking at how recent historical estimates of reserves have developed. The following table shows (dollars in millions) what the impact on AFG's net earnings would be on the more significant lines of business if the December 31, 2014, reserves (net of reinsurance) developed at the same rate as the average development of the most recent five years.

	5-yr. Average Development (a)(b)	Net Reserves (b) December 31, 2014	Effect on Net Earnings (b)
Workers' compensation	(0.3	%) \$ 2,069	\$6
Other liability — occurrence	(3.8	%) 819	31
Other liability — claims made	(6.8	%) 392	27
Commercial auto/truck liability/ medical	1.2	% 385	(5)

(a) Adverse (favorable), net of tax effect.

(b) Excludes asbestos and environmental liabilities.

The following discussion describes key assumptions and important variables that affect the estimate of the reserve for loss and loss adjustment expenses of the more significant lines of business and explains what caused them to change from assumptions used in the preceding period.

Workers' Compensation

This long-tail line of business provides coverage to employees who may be injured in the course of employment. Some of the important variables affecting estimation of loss reserves for workers' compensation include:

- Legislative actions and regulatory and legal interpretations
- Future medical cost inflation
- Economic conditions
- Timing of claims reporting

In April 2014, AFG acquired Summit Holding Southeast, Inc. and related companies, a leading provider of workers' compensation solutions in the southeastern United States. The Summit acquisition significantly increased AFG's volume of workers' compensation business and improved its geographic diversity. Approximately 24% and 19% of AFG's workers' compensation reserves at December 31, 2014 relate to policies written in Florida and California, respectively. Over the past 12 years in both states, there have been numerous revisions to workers' compensation regulations and operating environments, adding difficulty and uncertainty to the estimation of related liabilities.

AFG recorded favorable prior year reserve development of \$7 million in both 2014 and 2013, as favorable reserve development in the business written in California was partially offset by adverse reserve development in other states. AFG recorded adverse prior year reserve development of \$11 million in 2012, due primarily to higher than expected claim severity, particularly in the 2011 accident year.

Table of Contents

Other Liability — Occurrence

This long-tail line of business consists of coverages protecting the insured against legal liability resulting from negligence, carelessness, or a failure to act causing property damage or personal injury to others. Some of the important variables affecting estimation of loss reserves for other liability — occurrence include:

- Litigious climate
- Unpredictability of judicial decisions regarding coverage issues
- Magnitude of jury awards
- Outside counsel costs
- Timing of claims reporting

AFG recorded favorable prior year reserve development of \$15 million in 2014, \$11 million in 2013 and \$43 million in 2012 related to its other liability — occurrence coverage where both the frequency and severity of claims in excess and umbrella liability coverages were lower than previously projected.

During 2012, AFG recorded \$28 million of favorable prior year reserve development on claims related to the use of Chinese drywall in residential construction in prior years. Much of the uncertainty in estimating the potential exposure and possible liabilities for such claims was clarified during 2012 by favorable judicial decisions and the announcements of settlements of class action lawsuits making the potential liabilities better defined and more effectively anticipated.

While management applies the actuarial methods mentioned above, more judgment is involved in arriving at the final reserve to be held. For recent accident years, more weight is given to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson method.

Other Liability — Claims Made

This long-tail line of business consists mostly of directors' and officers' liability ("D&O"). Some of the important variables affecting estimation of loss reserves for other liability — claims made include:

- Litigious climate
- Economic conditions
- Variability of stock prices
- Magnitude of jury awards

The general state of the economy and the variability of the stock price of the insured can affect the frequency and severity of shareholder class action suits and other situations that trigger coverage under D&O policies. For example, from 2008 to 2010, economic conditions led to higher frequency and severity of claims, particularly in the D&O policies for small account and not-for-profit organizations. Since then, claim frequency has continually decreased from its peak in 2010, offsetting increased claim severity.

AFG recorded favorable prior year reserve development of \$18 million in 2014, \$41 million in 2013 and \$16 million in 2012 on its D&O business as claim severity was less than expected across several prior accident years.

While management applies the actuarial methods mentioned above, more judgment may be needed to determine appropriate reserves due to the complexity of claims, litigation and the length of time necessary to determine exposure.

Commercial Auto/Truck Liability/Medical

This line of business is a mix of coverage protecting the insured against legal liability for property damage or personal injury to others arising from the operation of commercial motor vehicles. The property damage liability exposure is

usually short-tail with relatively quick reporting and settlement of claims. The bodily injury and medical payments exposures are longer-tailed; although the claim reporting is relatively quick, the final settlement can take longer to achieve. Some of the important variables affecting estimation of loss reserves for commercial auto/truck liability/medical are similar to other liability — occurrence and include:

- ♣ Magnitude of jury awards
- ♣ Unpredictability of judicial decisions regarding coverage issues
- ♣ Litigious climate and trends
- ♣ Change in frequency of severe accidents
- ♣ Health care costs and utilization of medical services by injured parties

Table of Contents

AFG recorded adverse prior year reserve development of \$28 million in 2014, \$37 million in 2013 and \$1 million in 2012 for this line of business as claim severity was significantly higher than expected, particularly from accident years 2010 to 2012.

Reserves of Foreign Operations

Reserves of foreign operations relate primarily to the operations of Marketform Group, Limited, AFG's wholly-owned United Kingdom-based Lloyd's insurer. Historically, the largest line of business written by Marketform has been non-U.S. medical malpractice, which provides coverage for injuries and damages caused by medical care providers, including but not limited to, hospitals and their physicians. Although Marketform offers this product in approximately 30 countries, the majority of the business has been written in the United Kingdom, Australia and Italy. Significant variables in estimating the loss reserves for the medical malpractice business include:

- Litigious environment

- Magnitude of court awards

- A slow moving judicial system including varying approaches to medical malpractice claims among courts in different regions of Italy

- Third party claims administration in Italy

- Trends in claim costs, including medical cost inflation and, in Italy, escalating tables used to establish damages for personal injury

Marketform recorded adverse prior year reserve development of \$14 million in 2014, \$1 million in 2013 and \$10 million in 2012. The adverse development in 2014 was attributable to reserve strengthening in several lines of business, primarily Dutch hospital medical malpractice, Australian and other general liability and cargo insurance. Development in 2012 related primarily to Italian public hospital medical malpractice business, which Marketform ceased writing in 2008. The reserve development resulted from significant issues related to third party administration of claims and a challenging legal environment in Italy. Management believes that current reserves, which represent its best estimate of future liabilities, are adequate. Nonetheless, it concluded that sufficient uncertainty exists with respect to Italian public hospital medical malpractice reserves to leave open the 2007 year of account, in accordance with Lloyd's provisions until a larger percentage of claims have been paid and the ultimate liabilities can be estimated with greater certainty.

Traditional actuarial techniques are not applicable to the Italian public hospital medical malpractice business due to the significant changes in this account over time. Accordingly, more detailed methods are used, including claim count development times average severity, and uplifting case reserves to historical severity levels.

Recoverables from Reinsurers and Availability of Reinsurance AFG is subject to credit risk with respect to its reinsurers, as reinsurance contracts do not relieve AFG of its liability to policyholders. To mitigate this risk, substantially all reinsurance is ceded to companies with investment grade S&P ratings or is secured by "funds withheld" or other collateral.

The availability and cost of reinsurance are subject to prevailing market conditions, which are beyond AFG's control and which may affect AFG's level of business and profitability. Although the cost of certain reinsurance programs may increase, management believes that AFG will be able to maintain adequate reinsurance coverage at acceptable rates without a material adverse effect on AFG's results of operations. AFG's gross and net combined ratios are shown in the table below.

See Item 1 — Business — "Property and Casualty Insurance Segment — Reinsurance" for more information on AFG's reinsurance programs. For additional information on the effect of reinsurance on AFG's historical results of operations see Note O — "Insurance — Reinsurance" to the financial statements and the gross loss development table under Item 1 —

Business — “Property and Casualty Insurance Segment — Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves.”

The following table illustrates the effect that purchasing property and casualty reinsurance has had on AFG’s combined ratio over the last three years.

	2014		2013		2012	
Before reinsurance (gross)	90.8	%	93.3	%	108.7	%
Effect of reinsurance	3.7	%	2.2	%	(11.8)	(%)
Actual (net of reinsurance)	94.5	%	95.5	%	96.9	%

Outside of its property and casualty operations, AFG also has reinsurance recoverables totaling \$946 million, including \$378 million related to the run-off life business, \$280 million related to the run-off long-term care business, \$237 million related to the August 2012 sale of the Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses and \$51 million in the annuity

Table of Contents

segment. These recoverables include \$587 million from Hannover Life Reassurance Company of America (rated A+ by A.M. Best) and \$203 million from Loyal American Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Cigna (rated A- by A.M. Best).

Asbestos and Environmental-related (“A&E”) Insurance Reserves Asbestos and environmental reserves of the property and casualty group consisted of the following (in millions):

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Asbestos	\$196	\$210
Environmental	93	91
A&E reserves, net of reinsurance recoverable	289	301
Reinsurance recoverable, net of allowance	77	83
Gross A&E reserves	\$366	\$384

Asbestos reserves include claims asserting alleged injuries and damages from exposure to asbestos. Environmental reserves include claims relating to polluted waste sites.

Asbestos claims against manufacturers, distributors or installers of asbestos products were presented under the products liability section of their policies which typically had aggregate limits that capped an insurer’s liability. In recent years, a number of asbestos claims are being presented as “non-products” claims, such as those by installers of asbestos products and by property owners or operators who allegedly had asbestos on their property, under the premises or operations section of their policies. Unlike products exposures, these non-products exposures typically had no aggregate limits, creating potentially greater exposure for insurers. Further, in an effort to seek additional insurance coverage, some insureds with installation activities who have substantially eroded their products coverage are presenting new asbestos claims as non-products operations claims or attempting to reclassify previously settled products claims as non-products claims to restore a portion of previously exhausted products aggregate limits. AFG, along with other insurers, is and will be subject to such non-products claims. It is difficult to predict whether insureds will be successful in asserting claims under non-products coverage or whether AFG and other insurers will be successful in asserting additional defenses. Therefore, the future impact of such efforts is uncertain.

Approximately 39% of AFG’s net asbestos reserves relate to policies written directly by AFG subsidiaries. Claims from these policies generally are product oriented claims with only a limited amount of non-products exposures, and are dominated by small to mid-sized commercial entities that are mostly regional policyholders with few national target defendants. The remainder is assumed reinsurance business that includes exposures for the periods 1954 to 1983. The asbestos and environmental assumed claims are ceded by various insurance companies under reinsurance treaties. A majority of the individual assumed claims have exposures of less than \$100,000 to AFG. Asbestos losses assumed include some of the industry known manufacturers, distributors and installers. Pollution losses include industry known insured names and sites.

Establishing reserves for A&E claims relating to policies and participations in reinsurance treaties and former operations is subject to uncertainties that are significantly greater than those presented by other types of claims. For this group of claims, traditional actuarial techniques that rely on historical loss development trends cannot be used and a range of reasonably possible losses cannot be estimated. Case reserves and expense reserves are established by the claims department as specific policies are identified. In addition to the case reserves established for known claims, management establishes additional reserves for claims not yet known or reported and for possible development on known claims. These additional reserves are management’s best estimate based on periodic comprehensive studies and internal reviews adjusted for payments and identifiable changes, supplemented by management’s review of industry information about such claims, with due consideration to individual claim situations.

Management believes that estimating the ultimate liability for asbestos claims presents a unique and difficult challenge to the insurance industry due to, among other things, inconsistent court decisions, an increase in bankruptcy filings as a result of asbestos-related liabilities, novel theories of coverage, and judicial interpretations that often expand theories of recovery and broaden the scope of coverage. The casualty insurance industry is engaged in extensive litigation over these coverage and liability issues as the volume and severity of claims against asbestos defendants continue to increase. Environmental claims likewise present challenges in prediction, due to uncertainty regarding the interpretation of insurance policies, complexities regarding multi-party involvements at sites, evolving cleanup standards and protracted time periods required to assess the level of cleanup required at contaminated sites.

Table of Contents

The following factors could impact AFG's reserves and payments:

There is a growing interest at the state level to attempt to legislatively address asbestos liabilities and the manner in which asbestos claims are resolved. These developments are fluid and could result in piecemeal state-by-state solutions.

The manner by which bankruptcy courts are addressing asbestos liabilities is in flux.

AFG's insureds may make claims alleging significant non-products exposures.

While management believes that AFG's reserves for A&E claims are a reasonable estimate of ultimate liability for such claims, actual results may vary materially from the amounts currently recorded due to the difficulty in predicting the number of future claims, the impact of recent bankruptcy filings, and unresolved issues such as whether coverage exists, whether policies are subject to aggregate limits on coverage, how claims are to be allocated among triggered policies and implicated years, and whether claimants who exhibit no signs of illness will be successful in pursuing their claims. A 1% variation in loss cost trends, caused by any of the factors previously described, would change net income by approximately \$13 million.

AFG tracks its A&E claims by policyholder. The following table shows, by type of claim, the number of policyholders that did not receive any payments in the calendar year separate from policyholders that did receive a payment. Policyholder counts represent policies written by AFG subsidiaries and do not include assumed reinsurance.

	2014	2013	2012
Number of policyholders with no indemnity payments:			
Asbestos	136	142	129
Environmental	99	116	97
	235	258	226
Number of policyholders with indemnity payments:			
Asbestos	45	48	54
Environmental	30	24	21
	75	72	75
Total	310	330	301

Amounts paid (net of reinsurance recoveries) for asbestos and environmental claims, including loss adjustment expenses, were as follows (in millions):

	2014	2013	2012
Asbestos — two large claims (*)	\$—	\$106	\$—
Asbestos — other	18	10	15
Environmental	18	15	17
Total	\$36	\$131	\$32

(*) Asbestos claims paid in 2013 include payments totaling \$106 million associated with the settlement of A.P. Green Industries and another large claim. Substantially all of the settlement amounts had been accrued for in prior years.

The survival ratio is a measure often used by industry analysts to compare A&E reserves strength among companies. This ratio is typically calculated by dividing reserves for A&E exposures by the three year average of paid losses, and therefore measures the number of years that it would take to pay off current reserves based on recent average payments. Because this ratio can be significantly impacted by a number of factors such as loss payout variability, caution should be exercised in attempting to determine reserve adequacy based simply on the survival ratio. At December 31, 2014, the property and casualty insurance segment's three year survival ratios, excluding amounts associated with the settlements of A.P. Green Industries and another large claim, were 14.2 times paid losses for the asbestos reserves, 5.8 times paid losses for environmental reserves and 9.6 times paid losses for total A&E reserves. Overall, these ratios compare favorably with data published by A.M. Best in December 2014, which indicate that

industry survival ratios were 10.1 for asbestos, 6.3 for environmental, and 9.1 for total A&E reserves at December 31, 2013.

AFG has periodically conducted comprehensive external studies of its asbestos and environmental exposures relating to the run-off operations of its property and casualty insurance segment and exposures related to its former railroad and manufacturing operations with the aid of specialty actuarial, engineering and consulting firms and outside counsel, generally every two years, with an in-depth internal review during the intervening years.

An in-depth internal review of AFG's A&E reserves was completed in the third quarter of 2014 by AFG's internal A&E claims specialists and actuaries in consultation with specialty outside counsel and an outside consultant. As a result of the review,

Table of Contents

AFG's property and casualty insurance segment recorded a \$24 million pretax special charge to increase its asbestos reserves by \$4 million (net of reinsurance) and its environmental reserves by \$20 million (net of reinsurance). As the overall industry exposure to asbestos has matured, the focus of litigation has shifted to smaller companies and companies with ancillary exposures. AFG's insureds with these exposures have been the driver of the property and casualty segment's asbestos reserve increases in recent years. The increase in property and casualty environmental reserves was attributed primarily to AFG's increased defense costs and a number of claims where the estimated costs of remediation have increased. There were no newly identified or emerging broad industry trends that management believes would significantly impact the overall adequacy of AFG's A&E reserves.

As a result of the comprehensive external study completed in the third quarter of 2013, AFG's property and casualty insurance segment recorded a \$54 million pretax special charge to increase its asbestos reserves by \$16 million (net of reinsurance) and its environmental reserves by \$38 million (net of reinsurance). The increase in the property and casualty segment's asbestos reserves was driven primarily by slightly higher than expected loss experience, higher defense costs and some increased claim severity. The increase in property and casualty environmental reserves was attributed primarily to a small number of claims where the estimated costs of remediation have increased.

As a result of the in-depth internal review completed in 2012, AFG recorded a \$31 million pretax special charge to increase the property and casualty segment's asbestos reserves by \$19 million (net of reinsurance) and its environmental reserves by \$12 million (net of reinsurance). The charge relates primarily to an increase in environmental investigative costs and related loss adjustment expenses.

Run-off Long-term Care Insurance AFG, as well as other companies that sell long-term care products, have accumulated relatively limited claims, lapse and mortality experience, making it difficult to predict future claims. Long-term care claims tend to be much higher in dollar amount and longer in duration than other health care products. In addition, long-term care claims are incurred much later in the life of a policy than most other health products. These factors made it difficult to appropriately price this product and were instrumental in AFG's decision to stop writing new policies in January 2010. AFG's outstanding long-term care policies have level premiums and are guaranteed renewable. Premium rates can potentially be increased in reaction to adverse experience; however, any rate increases would require regulatory approval.

Reserves for future policy benefits under long-term care policies are established (and related acquisition costs are amortized) over the life of the policies based on policy benefit assumptions as of the date of issuance, including investment yields, mortality, morbidity, persistency and expenses. Once these assumptions are established for a given policy or group of policies, they are not changed over the life of the policy unless a loss recognition event (premium deficiency) occurs. Loss recognition occurs when, based on current expectations as of the measurement date, the existing contract liabilities plus the present value of future premiums (including reasonably expected rate increases), are not expected to cover the present value of future claims payments, related settlement and maintenance costs, and unamortized acquisition costs. In performing loss recognition testing on the closed block of long-term care business, AFG estimates future claims, persistency, expenses, investment performance, and reinvestment rates, among other assumptions.

At December 31, 2012, loss recognition testing assumptions for claim costs, expenses and persistency were updated based on the results of AFG's periodic internal analysis of claim experience, including the impact of supplemental data from an external actuarial study that used a large, uniform database of industry experience. Ultimate voluntary lapse rates for most in-force business range from 0.5% to 2.5%, varying by policy form, marital status, and the presence of inflation protection. Projected reinvestment rates are based on assumptions about future treasury rates, investment spreads and the types and duration of future investments. In aggregate, net reinvestment rates (net of expense and default assumptions) in the 2012 loss recognition testing were estimated at 4.54% for 2013, and projected to increase gradually to 6.00% in 2023. After 2023, reinvestment rates were projected to be relatively flat. As a result of the

updated assumptions discussed above, AFG recorded a \$153 million pretax loss recognition charge in the fourth quarter of 2012 to write off all of the remaining deferred policy acquisition costs and strengthen reserves in this business. As part of the loss recognition charge, policy benefit assumptions were reset to the 2012 assumptions and will not be changed again unless a future loss recognition event occurs.

At December 31, 2013, the most significant loss recognition testing assumption update was to projected reinvestment rates. Due to higher than anticipated increases in interest rates, net reinvestment rates (net of expense and default assumptions) were estimated at 5.01% for 2014 and projected to increase gradually to 6.25% in 2022. After 2022, reinvestment rates were projected to be relatively flat. As a result of the updated assumptions, the existing contract liabilities plus the present value of future premiums (including reasonably expected rate increases) exceeded the present value of future claims payments and related settlement and maintenance costs by approximately \$64 million (a loss recognition margin). As a result, no additional loss recognition charges were recorded in 2013.

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2014, AFG's loss recognition testing included updated assumptions for claim costs, expenses, reinvestment rates and rate increases. With the assistance of an outside actuarial consulting firm, the historical claim cost assumptions developed in conjunction with the 2012 external actuarial study were refreshed based on AFG's updated historical experience. Due to the unanticipated decline in interest rates, net reinvestment rates (net of expense and default assumptions) were estimated at 4.52% for 2015 and projected to increase gradually to 6.25% in 2022. After 2022, reinvestment rates were projected to be relatively flat. Rate increase assumptions were updated to reflect higher than previously anticipated actual 2014 rate increases, including the impact of this experience on management's view of future rate increases. Based on recent experience, management believes that the lapse and mortality assumptions established in connection with the 2012 loss recognition charge continue to be reasonable. As a result of the updated assumptions, AFG has a loss recognition margin (as defined above) of \$11 million at December 31, 2014. As a result, no loss recognition charges were recorded in 2014 and the assumptions used to establish reserves for future policy benefits from the 2012 loss recognition charge continue to be used. The following table illustrates the approximate impact of each assumption change on AFG's run-off long-term care loss recognition margin from December 31, 2013 through December 31, 2014 (in millions):

Loss recognition margin at December 31, 2013	\$64	
Changes in margin attributed to each updated assumption:		
Claim costs	(50)	)
Rate increases	40	
Reinvestment rates	(34)	)
Expenses	(11)	)
Other	2	
Loss recognition margin at December 31, 2014	\$11	

Although management believes that its loss recognition assumptions at December 31, 2014, are reasonable, actual results will depend on how well future experience conforms to these assumptions, including the level and type of claim activity, persistency, expected rate increase approvals, and reinvestment rates. The relationship among these assumptions is complex, with deviations in one assumption often influencing the outcome of others. External factors, including, but not limited to changes in the regulatory and judicial environment, along with medical advancements and innovation in long-term care delivery systems, could have a material impact on the ultimate performance of this closed block of business. The loss recognition charge recorded in 2012 did not include any margin for adverse deviation in the reserve assumptions (in accordance with accounting guidance).

The following table (in millions) illustrates the impact of changes in key assumptions on AFG's loss recognition margin as of December 31, 2014. Assumption changes could have either a favorable or an unfavorable impact on the margin depending on the nature of the change. Once the loss recognition margin (approximately \$11 million at December 31, 2014) is reduced to zero, the impact of adverse changes in assumptions, unless offset by other favorable assumption changes, would be recorded as an increase in long-term care reserves through a charge to earnings. Each item reflects a change to a single assumption without changes to other assumptions. For example, assuming a change in claim payments did not change the assumption on future rate increases and persistency, nor did it change projected investment yields resulting from cash flow differences. These amounts are valid for a point in time, and will change in future periods as the in-force block ages, and as actual performance deviates from the assumptions used at December 31, 2014.

Assumptions Change	Impact on Loss Recognition Margin (pretax)
5% morbidity change in all future years	\$55 — \$65
5% lapse and mortality rate change in all future years	\$35 — \$40
0.25% reinvestment rate change in all future years	\$20 — \$25

0.25% initial reinvestment rate change; no change to ultimate reinvestment rate	\$8 — \$10
1% change in expected rate increase approvals	\$15 — \$20

Contingencies related to Subsidiaries' Former Operations The A&E studies and reviews discussed above encompassed reserves for various environmental and occupational injury and disease claims and other contingencies arising out of the railroad operations disposed of by American Premier's predecessor and certain manufacturing operations disposed of by American Premier and its subsidiaries and by Great American Financial Resources, Inc. Charges resulting from the A&E reviews and study were \$6 million in 2014, \$22 million in 2013 and \$2 million in 2012. For a discussion of the \$6 million and \$22 million charges recorded for those operations in 2014 and 2013, respectively, see "Holding Company, Other and

Table of Contents

Unallocated — Results of Operations.” In the third quarter of 2012, AFG recorded a pretax charge of \$15 million for an adverse judgment received in a long-standing labor dispute involving American Premier’s former railroad employees, the likelihood of which was previously considered to be remote. Liabilities for claims and contingencies arising from these former railroad and manufacturing operations totaled \$90 million at December 31, 2014. For a discussion of the uncertainties in determining the ultimate liability, see Note M — “Contingencies” to the financial statements.

MANAGED INVESTMENT ENTITIES

Accounting standards require AFG to consolidate its investments in collateralized loan obligation (“CLO”) entities that it manages and owns an interest in (in the form of debt). See Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities” and Note H — “Managed Investment Entities” to the financial statements. The effect of consolidating these entities is shown in the tables below (in millions). The “Before CLO Consolidation” columns include AFG’s investment and earnings in the CLOs on an unconsolidated basis.

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

	Before CLO Consolidation	Managed Investment Entities	Consol. Entries		Consolidated As Reported
December 31, 2014					
Assets:					
Cash and investments	\$36,499	\$—	\$(289)	(a)	\$ 36,210
Assets of managed investment entities	—	3,108	—		3,108
Other assets	8,219	—	(2)	(a)	8,217
Total assets	\$44,718	\$3,108	\$(291)		\$ 47,535
Liabilities:					
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses and unearned premiums	\$9,828	\$—	\$—		\$ 9,828
Annuity, life, accident and health benefits and reserves	25,939	—	—		25,939
Liabilities of managed investment entities	—	3,105	(286)	(a)	2,819
Long-term debt and other liabilities	3,895	—	—		3,895
Total liabilities	39,662	3,105	(286)		42,481
Shareholders' equity:					
Common Stock and Capital surplus	1,240	5	(5)		1,240
Retained earnings:					
Appropriated — managed investment entities	—	(2)	—		(2)
Unappropriated	2,914	—	—		2,914
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax	727	—	—		727
Total shareholders' equity	4,881	3	(5)		4,879
Noncontrolling interests	175	—	—		175
Total equity	5,056	3	(5)		5,054
Total liabilities and equity	\$44,718	\$3,108	\$(291)		\$ 47,535
December 31, 2013					
Assets:					
Cash and investments	\$31,584	\$—	\$(271)	(a)	\$ 31,313
Assets of managed investment entities	—	2,888	—		2,888
Other assets	7,887	—	(1)	(a)	7,886
Total assets	\$39,471	\$2,888	\$(272)		\$ 42,087
Liabilities:					
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses and unearned premiums	\$8,167	\$—	\$—		\$ 8,167
Annuity, life, accident and health benefits and reserves	22,952	—	—		22,952
Liabilities of managed investment entities	—	2,839	(272)	(a)	2,567
Long-term debt and other liabilities	3,632	—	—		3,632
Total liabilities	34,751	2,839	(272)		37,318
Shareholders' equity:					
Common Stock and Capital surplus	1,213	—	—		1,213
Retained earnings:					
Appropriated — managed investment entities	—	49	—		49
Unappropriated	2,777	—	—		2,777
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax	560	—	—		560
Total shareholders' equity	4,550	49	—		4,599

Noncontrolling interests	170	—	—	170
Total equity	4,720	49	—	4,769
Total liabilities and equity	\$39,471	\$2,888	\$(272)	\$ 42,087

(a) Elimination of the fair value of AFG's investment in CLOs and related accrued interest.

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

	Before CLO Consolidation (a)	Managed Investment Entities	Consol. Entries	Consolidated As Reported
Three months ended December 31, 2014				
Revenues:				
Insurance net earned premiums	\$ 1,087	\$—	\$—	\$ 1,087
Net investment income	382	—	2 (b)	384
Realized gains on securities	8	—	—	8
Income (loss) of managed investment entities:				
Investment income	—	32	—	32
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	(2)	(7) (b)	(9)
Other income	34	—	(7) (c)	27
Total revenues	1,511	30	(12)	1,529
Costs and Expenses:				
Insurance benefits and expenses	1,235	—	—	1,235
Expenses of managed investment entities	—	34	(12) (b)(c)	22
Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses	82	—	—	82
Total costs and expenses	1,317	34	(12)	1,339
Earnings before income taxes	194	(4)	—	190
Provision for income taxes	65	—	—	65
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	129	(4)	—	125
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	2	—	(4) (d)	(2)
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	\$ 127	\$(4)	\$4	\$ 127
Three months ended December 31, 2013				
Revenues:				
Insurance net earned premiums	\$ 886	\$—	\$—	\$ 886
Net investment income	358	—	(8) (b)	350
Realized gains on securities	67	—	—	67
Realized losses on subsidiaries	(4)	—	—	(4)
Income (loss) of managed investment entities:				
Investment income	—	30	—	30
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	6	1 (b)	7
Other income	30	—	(4) (c)	26
Total revenues	1,337	36	(11)	1,362
Costs and Expenses:				
Insurance benefits and expenses	1,000	—	—	1,000
Expenses of managed investment entities	—	31	(10) (b)(c)	21
Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses	95	—	—	95
Total costs and expenses	1,095	31	(10)	1,116
Earnings before income taxes	242	5	(1)	246
Provision for income taxes	81	—	—	81
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	161	5	(1)	165
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	3	—	4 (d)	7
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	\$ 158	\$5	\$(5)	\$ 158

- Includes net investment income of (\$2 million) in the fourth quarter of 2014 and \$8 million in the fourth quarter of (a) 2013 representing the change in fair value of AFG's CLO investments plus \$7 million and \$4 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 and 2013, respectively, in CLO management fees earned.
- (b) Elimination of the change in fair value of AFG's investments in the CLOs, including \$5 million and \$6 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 and 2013, respectively, in distributions recorded as interest expense by the CLOs.
- (c) Elimination of management fees earned by AFG.
- (d) Allocate earnings (losses) of CLOs attributable to other debt holders to noncontrolling interests.

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF EARNINGS - CONTINUED

	Before CLO Consolidation (a)	Managed Investment Entities	Consol. Entries	Consolidated As Reported
Year ended December 31, 2014				
Revenues:				
Insurance net earned premiums	\$ 3,986	\$—	\$—	\$ 3,986
Net investment income	1,517	—	(16) (b)	1,501
Realized gains on securities	52	—	—	52
Income (loss) of managed investment entities:				
Investment income	—	116	—	116
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	(35) (9) (b)	(44)	
Other income	127	—	(25) (c)	102
Total revenues	5,682	81	(50)	5,713
Costs and Expenses:				
Insurance benefits and expenses	4,651	—	—	4,651
Expenses of managed investment entities	—	130	(48) (b)(c)	82
Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses	354	—	—	354
Total costs and expenses	5,005	130	(48)	5,087
Earnings before income taxes	677	(49) (2)	626	
Provision for income taxes	220	—	—	220
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	457	(49) (2)	406	
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	5	—	(51) (d)	(46)
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	\$ 452	\$(49)	\$49	\$ 452
Year ended December 31, 2013				
Revenues:				
Insurance net earned premiums	\$ 3,318	\$—	\$—	\$ 3,318
Net investment income	1,381	—	(35) (b)	1,346
Realized gains on securities	221	—	—	221
Realized losses on subsidiaries	(4)	—	—	(4)
Income (loss) of managed investment entities:				
Investment income	—	128	—	128
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	(19) 5 (b)	(14)	
Other income	113	—	(16) (c)	97
Total revenues	5,029	109	(46)	5,092
Costs and Expenses:				
Insurance benefits and expenses	3,917	—	—	3,917
Expenses of managed investment entities	—	130	(41) (b)(c)	89
Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses	397	—	—	397
Total costs and expenses	4,314	130	(41)	4,403
Earnings before income taxes	715	(21) (5)	689	
Provision for income taxes	236	—	—	236
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	479	(21) (5)	453	
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	8	—	(26) (d)	(18)
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	\$ 471	\$(21)	\$21	\$ 471

- Includes \$16 million and \$35 million in 2014 and 2013, respectively, in net investment income representing the
- (a) change in fair value of AFG's CLO investments plus \$25 million and \$16 million in 2014 and 2013, respectively, in CLO management fees earned.
 - (b) Elimination of the change in fair value of AFG's investments in the CLOs, including \$23 million and \$25 million in 2014 and 2013, respectively, in distributions recorded as interest expense by the CLOs.
 - (c) Elimination of management fees earned by AFG.
 - (d) Allocate losses of CLOs attributable to other debt holders to noncontrolling interests.

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF EARNINGS - CONTINUED

	Before CLO Consolidation (a)	Managed Investment Entities	Consol. Entries	Consolidated As Reported
Year ended December 31, 2012				
Revenues:				
Insurance net earned premiums	\$ 3,165	\$—	\$—	\$ 3,165
Net investment income	1,332	—	(31) (b)	1,301
Realized gains on securities	210	—	—	210
Realized gains on subsidiaries	161	—	—	161
Income (loss) of managed investment entities:				
Investment income	—	125	—	125
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	(107)	13 (b)	(94)
Other income	107	—	(18) (c)	89
Total revenues	4,975	18	(36)	4,957
Costs and Expenses:				
Insurance benefits and expenses	3,939	—	—	3,939
Expenses of managed investment entities	—	116	(36) (b)(c)	80
Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses	401	—	—	401
Total costs and expenses	4,340	116	(36)	4,420
Earnings before income taxes	635	(98)	—	537
Provision for income taxes	135	—	—	135
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	500	(98)	—	402
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	12	—	(98) (d)	(86)
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	\$ 488	\$(98)	\$98	\$ 488

(a) Includes \$31 million in net investment income representing the change in fair value of AFG's CLO investments plus \$18 million in CLO management fees earned.

(b) Elimination of the change in fair value of AFG's investments in the CLOs, including \$18 million in distributions recorded as interest expense by the CLOs.

(c) Elimination of management fees earned by AFG.

(d) Allocate losses of CLOs attributable to other debt holders to noncontrolling interests.

Table of Contents

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

General AFG's net earnings attributable to shareholders, determined in accordance with GAAP, include certain items that may not be indicative of its ongoing core operations. The following table identifies such items and reconciles net earnings attributable to shareholders to core net operating earnings, a non-GAAP financial measure that AFG believes is a useful tool for investors and analysts in analyzing ongoing operating trends (in millions, except per share amounts):

	Three months ended December 31,		Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2012
Core net operating earnings	\$122	\$117	\$439	\$385	\$314
Gain on sale of Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses (*)	—	—	—	—	114
Other realized gains (*)	5	41	32	138	128
Long-term care reserve charge (*)	—	—	—	—	(99)
Special A&E charges (*)	—	—	(19)	(49)	(21)
Executive Life Insurance Company of New York ("ELNY") guaranty fund assessments (*)	—	—	—	(3)	—
AFG tax case and settlement of open tax years	—	—	—	—	67
Other (*)	—	—	—	—	(15)
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	\$127	\$158	\$452	\$471	\$488
Diluted per share amounts:					
Core net operating earnings	\$1.35	\$1.28	\$4.82	\$4.22	\$3.27
Gain on sale of Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses	—	—	—	—	1.19
Other realized gains	0.06	0.45	0.36	1.52	1.34
Long-term care reserve charge	—	—	—	—	(1.03)
Special A&E charges	—	—	(0.21)	(0.54)	(0.22)
ELNY guaranty fund assessments	—	—	—	(0.04)	—
AFG tax case and settlement of open tax years	—	—	—	—	0.70
Other	—	—	—	—	(0.16)
Net earnings attributable to shareholders	\$1.41	\$1.73	\$4.97	\$5.16	\$5.09

(*) The tax effects of reconciling items are shown below (in millions):

Gain on sale of Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$(56)
Other realized gains	(3)	(23)	(19)	(78)	(71)
Long-term care reserve charge	—	—	—	—	54
Special A&E charges	—	—	11	27	12
ELNY guaranty fund assessments	—	—	—	2	—
Other	—	—	—	—	8

In addition, other realized gains are shown net of noncontrolling interests as follows (in millions):

Noncontrolling interests	\$—	\$1	\$(1)	\$(1)	\$(2)
--------------------------	-----	-----	-------	-------	-------

Net earnings attributable to shareholders decreased \$31 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the same period of 2013 reflecting significantly lower realized gains on securities, partially offset by higher core net operating earnings. Core net operating earnings increased \$5 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 due to higher underwriting profits in the property and casualty insurance segment and higher property and

casualty net investment income due primarily to the investment of cash acquired in the Summit acquisition in April 2014, partially offset by lower earnings in the annuity segment.

Table of Contents

Net earnings attributable to shareholders decreased \$19 million for the full-year of 2014 compared to the same period of 2013 reflecting significantly lower realized gains on securities, partially offset by higher core net operating earnings and lower special A&E charges. Core net operating earnings increased \$54 million in 2014 compared to 2013 due primarily to higher underwriting profits and higher net investment income in the property and casualty insurance segment and lower holding company expenses.

For the full-year of 2013 compared to 2012, net earnings attributable to shareholders decreased as higher core net operating earnings were more than offset by the net impact of the following items recorded in 2012: (i) a \$114 million after tax gain on the sale of AFG's Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses, (ii) tax benefits of \$67 million related to the favorable resolution of certain tax litigation and settlement of open tax years, and (iii) an after tax charge of \$99 million to write off deferred acquisition costs and strengthen reserves in the closed block of long-term care insurance. Net earnings attributable to shareholders were also impacted by special A&E charges, which were higher in 2013 compared to 2012. Core net operating earnings increased \$71 million in 2013 compared to 2012 reflecting significantly higher profits in both the annuity segment and Specialty property and casualty insurance operations, partially offset by the absence of earnings from the Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses, which were sold in August 2012.

Table of Contents

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS — QUARTERS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

Segmented Statement of Earnings AFG reports its business as five segments: (i) Property and casualty insurance (“P&C”), (ii) Annuity, (iii) Run-off long-term care and life, (iv) Medicare supplement and critical illness (sold in August 2012) and (v) Other, which includes holding company costs and operations attributable to the noncontrolling interests of the managed investment entities (“MIEs”).

AFG’s net earnings attributable to shareholders, determined in accordance with GAAP, include certain items that may not be indicative of its ongoing core operations. The following tables for the quarters ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 identify such items by segment and reconcile net earnings attributable to shareholders to core net operating earnings, a non-GAAP financial measure that AFG believes is a useful tool for investors and analysts in analyzing ongoing operating trends (in millions):

	P&C	Annuity	Run-off long-term care and life	Consol MIEs	Other Holding Co., other and unallocated	Total	Non-core reclass	GAAP Total
Quarter ended December 31, 2014								
Revenues:								
Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums	\$1,061	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$1,061	\$—	\$1,061
Life, accident and health net earned premiums	—	—	26	—	—	26	—	26
Net investment income	75	285	20	2	2	384	—	384
Realized gains on securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
Income (loss) of MIEs:								
Investment income	—	—	—	32	—	32	—	32
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	—	—	(9)	—	(9)	—	(9)
Other income	1	21	1	(7)	11	27	—	27
Total revenues	1,137	306	47	18	13	1,521	8	1,529
Costs and Expenses:								
Property and casualty insurance:								
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	679	—	—	—	—	679	—	679
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	303	—	—	—	—	303	—	303
Annuity benefits	—	157	—	—	—	157	—	157
Life, accident and health benefits	—	—	45	—	—	45	—	45
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses	—	47	4	—	—	51	—	51
Interest charges on borrowed money	1	—	—	—	19	20	—	20
Expenses of MIEs	—	—	—	22	—	22	—	22
Other expenses	11	17	5	—	29	62	—	62
Total costs and expenses	994	221	54	22	48	1,339	—	1,339
Earnings before income taxes	143	85	(7)	(4)	(35)	182	8	190
Provision for income taxes	47	29	(2)	—	(12)	62	3	65
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	96	56	(5)	(4)	(23)	120	5	125
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	2	—	—	(4)	—	(2)	—	(2)
Core Net Operating Earnings	94	56	(5)	—	(23)	122		
Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a):								
Realized gains on securities, net of tax	—	—	—	—	5	5	(5)	—

Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders	\$94	\$56	\$(5)	\$—	\$(18)	\$127	\$—	\$127
---	------	------	--------	-----	---------	-------	-----	-------

51

Table of Contents

	P&C	Annuity	Run-off long-term care and life	Consol. MIEs	Other Holding Co., other and unallocated	Total	Non-core reclass	GAAP Total
Quarter ended December 31, 2013								
Revenues:								
Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums	\$859	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$859	\$—	\$859
Life, accident and health net earned premiums	—	—	27	—	—	27	—	27
Net investment income	67	270	19	(8)	2	350	—	350
Realized gains on securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	67	67
Realized losses on subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	(4)	(4)
Income (loss) of MIEs:								
Investment income	—	—	—	30	—	30	—	30
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	—	—	7	—	7	—	7
Other income	5	21	1	(4)	3	26	—	26
Total revenues	931	291	47	25	5	1,299	63	1,362
Costs and Expenses:								
Property and casualty insurance:								
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	537	—	—	—	—	537	—	537
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	247	—	—	—	—	247	—	247
Annuity benefits	—	137	—	—	—	137	—	137
Life, accident and health benefits	—	—	40	—	—	40	—	40
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses	—	35	4	—	—	39	—	39
Interest charges on borrowed money	—	—	—	—	17	17	—	17
Expenses of MIEs	—	—	—	21	—	21	—	21
Other expenses	11	27	6	—	34	78	—	78
Total costs and expenses	795	199	50	21	51	1,116	—	1,116
Earnings before income taxes	136	92	(3)	4	(46)	183	63	246
Provision for income taxes	41	32	(1)	—	(14)	58	23	81
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	95	60	(2)	4	(32)	125	40	165
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	5	—	—	4	(1)	8	(1)	7
Core Net Operating Earnings	90	60	(2)	—	(31)	117		
Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a):								
Realized gains, net of tax	—	—	—	—	41	41	(41)	—
Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders	\$90	\$60	\$(2)	\$—	\$10	\$158	\$—	\$158

(a) See the reconciliation of core earnings to GAAP net earnings under “Results of Operations — General” for details on the tax and noncontrolling interest impacts of these reconciling items.

Property and Casualty Insurance Segment — Results of Operations Performance measures such as underwriting profit or loss and related combined ratios are often used by property and casualty insurers to help users of their financial statements better understand the company’s performance. Underwriting profitability is measured by the combined ratio, which is a sum of the ratios of losses and loss adjustment expenses, and commissions and other underwriting

expenses to premiums. A combined ratio under 100% indicates an underwriting profit. The combined ratio does not reflect net investment income, other income, other expenses or federal income taxes. AFG's property and casualty insurance operations contributed \$143 million in pretax earnings in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$136 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$7 million (5%). The increase in pretax earnings reflects higher underwriting profit across each of AFG's property and casualty insurance sub-segments and higher net investment income (due primarily to the investment of cash acquired in the April 2014 Summit acquisition), partially offset by lower other income due to income from the sale of real estate in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Table of Contents

The following table details AFG's earnings before income taxes from its property and casualty insurance operations for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	% Change	
Gross written premiums	\$1,303	\$1,071	22	%
Reinsurance premiums ceded	(278)	(250)	11	%
Net written premiums	1,025	821	25	%
Change in unearned premiums	36	38	(5	%)
Net earned premiums	1,061	859	24	%
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	679	537	26	%
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	303	247	23	%
Underwriting gain	79	75	5	%
Net investment income	75	67	12	%
Other income and expenses, net	(11)	(6)	83	%
Earnings before income taxes	\$143	\$136	5	%
Combined Ratios:				
Specialty lines			Change	
Loss and LAE ratio	64.0	% 62.4	% 1.6	%
Underwriting expense ratio	28.6	% 28.9	% (0.3	%)
Combined ratio	92.6	% 91.3	% 1.3	%
Aggregate — including discontinued lines				
Loss and LAE ratio	64.0	% 62.5	% 1.5	%
Underwriting expense ratio	28.6	% 28.9	% (0.3	%)
Combined ratio	92.6	% 91.4	% 1.2	%

AFG's combined ratio has been better than the industry average for 27 of the last 29 years. Management believes that AFG's insurance operations have performed better than the industry as a result of its specialty niche focus, product line diversification, stringent underwriting discipline and alignment of compensation incentives.

While AFG desires and seeks to earn an underwriting profit on all of its business, it is not always possible to do so. As a result, AFG attempts to expand in the most profitable businesses and control growth or even reduce its involvement in the least profitable businesses.

AFG reports the underwriting performance of its Specialty property and casualty insurance business in the following sub-segments: (i) Property and transportation, (ii) Specialty casualty and (iii) Specialty financial.

To understand the overall profitability of particular lines, the timing of claims payments and the related impact of investment income must be considered. Certain "short-tail" lines of business (primarily property coverages) generally have quick loss payouts, which reduce the time funds are held, thereby limiting investment income earned thereon. In contrast, "long-tail" lines of business (primarily liability coverages and workers' compensation) generally have payouts that are either structured over many years or take many years to settle, thereby significantly increasing investment income earned on related premiums received.

Table of Contents**Gross Written Premiums**

Gross written premiums (“GWP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$1.30 billion for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$1.07 billion for the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$232 million (22%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty gross written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		2013			
	2014		2013			
	GWP	%	GWP	%	% Change	
Property and transportation	\$482	37	% \$447	42	% 8	%
Specialty casualty	660	51	% 459	43	% 44	%
Specialty financial	160	12	% 164	15	% (2	%)
Other specialty	1	—	% 1	—	%	
	\$1,303	100	% \$1,071	100	% 22	%

Reinsurance Premiums Ceded

Reinsurance premiums ceded (“Ceded”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were 21% of gross written premiums for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to 23% for the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of 2 percentage points. Detail of AFG’s property and casualty reinsurance premiums ceded is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		2013		Change in	
	2014		2013			
	Ceded	% of GWP	Ceded	% of GWP	% of GWP	
Property and transportation	\$(109	) 23	% \$(98	) 22	% 1	%
Specialty casualty	(162	) 25	% (138	) 30	% (5	%)
Specialty financial	(29	) 18	% (32	) 20	% (2	%)
Other specialty	22		18			
	\$(278	) 21	% \$(250	) 23	% (2	%)

Net Written Premiums

Net written premiums (“NWP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$1.03 billion for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$821 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$204 million (25%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		2013			
	2014		2013			
	NWP	%	NWP	%	% Change	
Property and transportation	\$373	36	% \$349	43	% 7	%
Specialty casualty	498	49	% 321	39	% 55	%
Specialty financial	131	13	% 132	16	% (1	%)
Other specialty	23	2	% 19	2	% 21	%
	\$1,025	100	% \$821	100	% 25	%

Table of Contents

Net Earned Premiums

Net earned premiums (“NEP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$1.06 billion for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$859 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$202 million (24%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net earned premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,					
	2014		2013			
	NEP	%	NEP	%	% Change	
Property and transportation	\$415	39	% \$410	48	% 1	%
Specialty casualty	499	47	% 310	36	% 61	%
Specialty financial	121	11	% 119	14	% 2	%
Other specialty	26	3	% 20	2	% 30	%
	\$1,061	100	% \$859	100	% 24	%

The \$232 million increase in gross written premiums for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflects \$144 million in premiums from Summit (acquired in April 2014) as well as significant growth in other businesses within the Specialty casualty group and Property and transportation group. Excluding premiums from Summit, gross written premiums increased by 8% compared to the fourth quarter of 2013. Overall average renewal rates increased approximately 2% in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Property and transportation Gross written premiums increased \$35 million (8%) in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflecting growth in most businesses in this group. Average renewal rates for this group were up approximately 4% in the fourth quarter of 2014. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums increased 1 percentage point in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflecting a change in the mix of business.

Specialty casualty Gross written premiums increased \$201 million (44%) for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflecting \$144 million in premiums generated by Summit, which was acquired in April 2014. Excluding premiums from Summit, gross written premiums increased 12% in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013. Broad-based growth across this group was primarily the result of growth in the workers’ compensation operations and excess and surplus lines businesses. New business opportunities and increased exposures from higher payroll on existing accounts have contributed to the increase in premiums in the workers’ compensation businesses. Organic growth opportunities have contributed to higher premiums in the excess and surplus lines businesses. Average renewal rates were up approximately 1% for this group in the fourth quarter of 2014. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 5 percentage points for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflecting the impact of the acquisition of Summit, which cedes only about 1% of its premiums.

Specialty financial Gross written premiums decreased \$4 million (2%) for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013, due primarily to the impact of the October 2013 sale of a service contract business, which ceded all of its premiums under reinsurance contracts. Average renewal rates for this group were flat in the fourth quarter of 2014. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 2 percentage points due to the sale of the service contract business, partially offset by higher cessions of certain business in the financial institutions business.

Other specialty The amounts shown as reinsurance premiums ceded represent business assumed by AFG’s internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG’s other Specialty sub-segments.

Table of Contents

Combined Ratio

Performance measures such as the combined ratio are often used by property and casualty insurers to help users of their financial statements better understand the company's performance. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") and underwriting expense ratios. These ratios are calculated by dividing each of the respective expenses by net earned premiums. The table below (dollars in millions) details the components of the combined ratio for AFG's property and casualty segment:

	Three months ended December 31,				Three months ended December 31,	
	2014	2013	Change		2014	2013
Property and transportation						
Loss and LAE ratio	72.2	% 74.9	%	(2.7	%)	
Underwriting expense ratio	22.4	% 20.9	%	1.5	%)	
Combined ratio	94.6	% 95.8	%	(1.2	%)	
Underwriting profit					\$22	\$17
Specialty casualty						
Loss and LAE ratio	65.1	% 59.0	%	6.1	%)	
Underwriting expense ratio	27.8	% 30.7	%	(2.9	%)	
Combined ratio	92.9	% 89.7	%	3.2	%)	
Underwriting profit					\$36	\$32
Specialty financial						
Loss and LAE ratio	34.5	% 34.2	%	0.3	%)	
Underwriting expense ratio	51.1	% 51.0	%	0.1	%)	
Combined ratio	85.6	% 85.2	%	0.4	%)	
Underwriting profit					\$18	\$17
Total Specialty						
Loss and LAE ratio	64.0	% 62.4	%	1.6	%)	
Underwriting expense ratio	28.6	% 28.9	%	(0.3	%)	
Combined ratio	92.6	% 91.3	%	1.3	%)	
Underwriting profit					\$79	\$75
Aggregate — including discontinued lines						
Loss and LAE ratio	64.0	% 62.5	%	1.5	%)	
Underwriting expense ratio	28.6	% 28.9	%	(0.3	%)	
Combined ratio	92.6	% 91.4	%	1.2	%)	
Underwriting profit					\$79	\$75

The Specialty property and casualty insurance operations generated an underwriting profit of \$79 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$75 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$4 million (5%). The higher underwriting profit in the fourth quarter of 2014 reflects higher underwriting profits across each of the property and casualty insurance sub-segments.

Property and transportation Underwriting profit for this group was \$22 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$17 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$5 million (29%). The increase is due primarily to higher underwriting profit in the property and inland marine operations, partially offset by lower underwriting profit in the transportation operations.

Specialty casualty Underwriting profit for this group was \$36 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$32 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$4 million (13%). This increase was due primarily to higher profitability in the workers' compensation businesses, including the impact of the Summit business acquired in April 2014, partially offset by \$14 million of adverse prior year reserve development, primarily attributable to the international operations.

Specialty financial Underwriting profit for this group was \$18 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$17 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$1 million (6%). Higher underwriting profits in the surety and fidelity and financial institutions businesses were partially offset by lower underwriting profitability in the trade credit business.

Table of Contents

Other specialty Underwriting profit for this group was \$3 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$9 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$6 million (67%). The decrease reflects lower profitability in the business assumed by AFG's internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG's other Specialty sub-segments.

Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

AFG's overall loss and LAE ratio was 64.0% for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to 62.5% for fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of 1.5 percentage points. The components of AFG's property and casualty losses and LAE amounts and ratio are detailed below (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,				Change in		
	Amount		Ratio				
	2014	2013	2014	2013			
Property and transportation							
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$294	\$304	71.3	% 74.1	%	(2.8	%)
Prior accident years development	3	3	0.6	% 0.8	%	(0.2	%)
Current year catastrophe losses	2	—	0.3	% —	%	0.3	%
Property and transportation losses and LAE and ratio	\$299	\$307	72.2	% 74.9	%	(2.7	%)
Specialty casualty							
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$310	\$181	62.1	% 58.5	%	3.6	%
Prior accident years development	14	2	2.9	% 0.5	%	2.4	%
Current year catastrophe losses	1	—	0.1	% —	%	0.1	%
Specialty casualty losses and LAE and ratio	\$325	\$183	65.1	% 59.0	%	6.1	%
Specialty financial							
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$46	\$45	37.7	% 36.7	%	1.0	%
Prior accident years development	(4	) (4	) (3.3	%) (3.2	%)	(0.1	%)
Current year catastrophe losses	—	1	0.1	% 0.7	%	(0.6	%)
Specialty financial losses and LAE and ratio	\$42	\$42	34.5	% 34.2	%	0.3	%
Total Specialty							
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$666	\$541	62.8	% 62.8	%	—	%
Prior accident years development	10	(5	) 1.0	% (0.5	%)	1.5	%
Current year catastrophe losses	3	1	0.2	% 0.1	%	0.1	%
Total Specialty losses and LAE and ratio	\$679	\$537	64.0	% 62.4	%	1.6	%
Aggregate — including discontinued lines							
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$666	\$541	62.8	% 62.8	%	—	%
Prior accident years development	10	(5	) 1.0	% (0.4	%)	1.4	%
Current year catastrophe losses	3	1	0.2	% 0.1	%	0.1	%
Aggregate losses and LAE and ratio	\$679	\$537	64.0	% 62.5	%	1.5	%

Current accident year losses and LAE, excluding catastrophe losses

The current accident year loss and LAE ratio for AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations was 62.8% for both the fourth quarter of 2014 and the fourth quarter of 2013.

Property and transportation The 2.8 percentage point decrease in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses is due primarily to higher profitability in the property and inland marine operations.

Specialty casualty The 3.6 percentage point increase in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses reflects the inclusion of Summit following its acquisition in April 2014, which has a higher loss and LAE ratio than AFG's overall Specialty casualty group and higher losses in the general liability and foreign operations, partially offset by higher profitability in the California workers' compensation business.

Table of Contents

Net prior year reserve development

AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations recorded net adverse reserve development related to prior accident years of \$10 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to net favorable reserve development related to prior accident years of \$5 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decline of \$15 million.

Property and transportation Net adverse reserve development of \$3 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 reflects higher than expected claim frequency in the ocean marine business and higher than anticipated claim severity in the trucking operations, partially offset by lower than expected claim severity in the property and inland marine business. Net adverse reserve development of \$3 million in the fourth quarter of 2013 reflects higher than expected claim severity in commercial auto liability business written in the transportation businesses, partially offset by lower than expected claim severity in the ocean marine business.

Specialty casualty Net adverse reserve development of \$14 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 reflects adverse reserve development at Marketform and higher than expected claim severity in contractor claims and in a run-off book of casualty business, partially offset by lower than anticipated claim severity in specialty workers' compensation business. Net adverse reserve development of \$2 million in the fourth quarter of 2013 reflects higher than expected claim severity in products liability claims and contractor claims as well as adverse reserve development at Marketform, substantially offset by lower frequency of severe claims in the directors and officers and workers' compensation businesses.

Specialty financial Net favorable reserve development of \$4 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 reflects lower than expected claim severity in the surety and fidelity businesses. Net favorable reserve development of \$4 million in the fourth quarter of 2013 reflects lower than expected frequency of significant claims in the foreign credit business where economic conditions did not affect this line as adversely as previously anticipated.

Other specialty In addition to the development discussed above, total Specialty prior year reserve development includes net favorable reserve development of \$3 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 and \$6 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, reflecting amortization of the deferred gain on the retroactive insurance transaction entered into in connection with the sale of a business in 1998 and reserve development associated with AFG's internal reinsurance program.

Catastrophe losses

AFG generally seeks to reduce its exposure to catastrophes through individual risk selection, including minimizing coastal and known fault-line exposures, and the purchase of reinsurance. Based on data available at December 31, 2014, AFG's exposure to a catastrophic earthquake or windstorm that industry models indicate could occur once in every 500 years (a "500-year event") is expected to be less than 3.5% of AFG's shareholders' equity. Catastrophe losses were nominal in both the fourth quarter of 2014 and 2013.

Commissions and Other Underwriting Expenses

AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses ("U/W Exp") were \$303 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$247 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$56 million (23%). AFG's underwriting expense ratio, calculated as commissions and other underwriting expenses divided by net premiums earned, was 28.6% for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to 28.9% for the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points. Detail of AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses and underwriting expense ratios is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,					
	2014		2013		Change in	
	U/W Exp	% of NEP	U/W Exp	% of NEP	% of NEP	
Property and transportation	\$94	22.4	% \$86	20.9	% 1.5	%

Specialty casualty	138	27.8	%	95	30.7	%	(2.9	%)
Specialty financial	61	51.1	%	60	51.0	%	0.1	%
Other specialty	10	37.3	%	6	32.1	%	5.2	%
	\$303	28.6	%	\$247	28.9	%	(0.3	%)

The \$56 million increase in commissions and other underwriting expenses for the fourth quarter of 2014 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflects the acquisition of Summit in April 2014. The overall decrease of 0.3% in AFG's expense ratio for the fourth quarter of 2014 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflects the inclusion of Summit following its acquisition in April 2014, which has a lower expense ratio than AFG's overall property and casualty operations and the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Table of Contents

Property and transportation Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 1.5 percentage points for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 reflecting higher profitability-based commissions paid to agents and brokers.

Specialty casualty Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums decreased 2.9 percentage points for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013, due primarily to the inclusion of Summit following its acquisition in April 2014, which has a lower expense ratio than AFG's overall Specialty casualty group and the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Specialty financial Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 0.1 percentage points for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013.

Property and Casualty Net Investment Income

Net investment income in AFG's property and casualty operations was \$75 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$67 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$8 million (12%). In recent years, yields available in the financial markets on fixed maturity securities have generally declined, placing downward pressure on AFG's investment portfolio yield. The average invested assets and overall yield earned on investments held by AFG's property and casualty operations are provided below (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	Change	% Change	
Net investment income	\$75	\$67	\$8	12	%
Average invested assets (at amortized cost)	\$8,485	\$6,805	\$1,680	25	%
Yield (net investment income as a % of average invested assets)	3.54	% 3.94	% (0.40	%)	
Tax equivalent yield (*)	4.08	% 4.58	% (0.50	%)	
(*) Adjusts the yield on equity securities and tax-exempt bonds to the fully taxable equivalent yield.					

The increase in average invested assets and net investment income in the property and casualty segment for the fourth quarter of 2014 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 is due primarily to the investment of cash acquired in the Summit acquisition in April 2014 and organic growth in the property and casualty segment. The property and casualty segment's overall yield on investments (net investment income as a percentage of average invested assets) was 3.54% for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to 3.94% for the fourth quarter of 2013, a decline of 0.40 percentage points, reflecting the impact of strong investment results in the 2013 quarter and lower yields available in the financial markets.

Property and Casualty Other Income and Expenses, Net

Other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations was a net expense of \$11 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$6 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$5 million (83%). The table below details the items included in other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations (in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Other income		

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Income from the sale of real estate	\$—	\$2
Other	1	3
Total other income	1	5
Other expenses		
Amortization of intangibles	5	4
Other	6	7
Total other expense	11	11
Interest expense	1	—
Other income and expenses, net	\$(11	) \$(6

Amortization of intangibles includes \$2 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 related to the Summit acquisition.

Interest expense for AFG's property and casualty operations includes interest charges on long-term debt within the property and casualty operations, primarily notes secured by real estate.

Table of Contents

Annuity Segment — Results of Operations

AFG's annuity operations contributed \$85 million in pretax earnings in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$92 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$7 million (8%). While AFG's average annuity investments (at amortized cost) were 14% higher for the fourth quarter of 2014 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2013, the benefit of this growth was more than offset by the run-off of higher yielding investments and the impact that fluctuations in interest rates in the fourth quarter of 2014 and 2013 had on the fair value accounting for fixed-indexed annuities ("FIAs"). AFG's periodic detailed review ("unlocking") of the major actuarial assumptions underlying its annuity operations resulted in a net annuity expense reduction of \$1 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to a \$2 million charge in the fourth quarter of 2013.

The following table details AFG's earnings before income taxes from its annuity operations for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		% Change	
	2014	2013		
Revenues:				
Net investment income	\$285	\$270	6	%
Other income:				
Guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees	9	7	29	%
Policy charges and other miscellaneous income	12	14	(14	%)
Total revenues	306	291	5	%
Costs and Expenses:				
Annuity benefits (*)	157	137	15	%
Acquisition expenses	47	35	34	%
Other expenses	17	27	(37	%)
Total costs and expenses	221	199	11	%
Earnings before income taxes	\$85	\$92	(8	%)

Detail of annuity earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		% Change	
	2014	2013		
Earnings before income taxes — before the impact of derivatives related to FIAs	\$93	\$86	8	%
Impact of derivatives related to FIAs	(8	) 6	(233	%)
Earnings before income taxes	\$85	\$92	(8	%)

(*) Annuity benefits consisted of the following (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		% Change	
	2014	2013		
Interest credited — fixed	\$127	\$118	8	%
Interest credited — fixed component of variable annuities	1	1	—	%
Change in expected death and annuitization reserve	4	5	(20	%)
Amortization of sales inducements	6	7	(14	%)
Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve	11	10	10	%
Change in other benefit reserves	1	1	—	%
Subtotal before impact of derivatives related to FIAs	150	142	6	%

Derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities:

Embedded derivative mark-to-market	87	74	18	%
Equity option mark-to-market	(69	) (85	) (19	%)
Impact of derivatives related to FIAs	18	(11	) (264	%)
Unlocking	(11	) 6	(283	%)
Total annuity benefits	\$ 157	\$ 137	15	%

See “Annuity Unlocking” below for a discussion of the impact that the periodic review of actuarial assumptions had on annuity benefit expense.

Table of Contents

The profitability of a fixed annuity business is largely dependent on the ability of a company to earn income on the assets supporting the business in excess of the amounts credited to policyholder accounts plus expenses incurred (earning a “spread”). Performance measures such as net interest spread and net spread earned are often presented by annuity businesses to help users of their financial statements better understand the company’s performance.

Net Spread on Fixed Annuities (excludes variable annuity earnings)

The table below (dollars in millions) details the components of these spreads for AFG’s fixed annuity operations (including fixed-indexed annuities):

	Three months ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	% Change	
Average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost)	\$23,334	\$20,524	14	%
Average fixed annuity benefits accumulated	23,104	20,092	15	%
As % of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (except as noted):				
Net investment income (as % of fixed annuity investments)	4.85	% 5.21	% (0.36)	
Interest credited — fixed	(2.21	%) (2.35	%) (0.14)	
Net interest spread	2.64	% 2.86	% (0.22)	
Policy charges and other miscellaneous income	0.14	% 0.22	% (0.08)	
Other annuity benefit expenses, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees	(0.20	%) (0.31	%) (0.11)	
Acquisition expenses	(0.61	%) (0.75	%) (0.14)	
Other expenses	(0.28	%) (0.53	%) (0.25)	
Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities	(0.31	%) 0.22	% (0.53)	
Unlocking	0.02	% (0.04	%) (0.06)	
Net spread earned on fixed annuities	1.40	% 1.67	% (0.27)	

The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment’s net spread earned on fixed annuities:

	Three months ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	% Change	
Net spread earned on fixed annuities — before impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities	1.54	% 1.55	% (0.01)	
Impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (*)	(0.14	%) 0.12	%) (0.26)	
Net spread earned on fixed annuities	1.40	% 1.67	% (0.27)	

(*) Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities offset by an estimate of the related acceleration/deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

Annuity Net Investment Income

Net investment income for the fourth quarter of 2014 was \$285 million compared to \$270 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$15 million (6%). This increase reflects primarily the growth in AFG’s annuity business, partially offset by the run-off of higher yielding investments. The overall yield earned on investments in AFG’s annuity operations, calculated as net investment income divided by average investment balances (at amortized cost), declined by 0.36 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013. This decline in net investment yield reflects (i) the investment of new premium dollars at lower yields as compared to the existing investment portfolio, (ii) the impact of the reinvestment of proceeds from maturity and redemption of higher

yielding investments at the lower yields available in the financial markets and (iii) the impact of higher non-recurring investment income in the fourth quarter of 2013 compared to the same period in 2014.

Annuity Interest Credited — Fixed

Interest credited — fixed for the fourth quarter of 2014 was \$127 million compared to \$118 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$9 million (8%). The impact of growth in the annuity business was partially offset by lower interest crediting rates on new premiums as compared to the crediting rates on policyholder funds surrendered or withdrawn. The average interest rate credited to policyholders, calculated as interest credited divided by average fixed annuity benefits

Table of Contents

accumulated, decreased 0.14 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013. During the fourth quarter of 2014, interest rates credited on new premiums generally ranged from 1.00% to 2.00%.

Excluding those annuities that have guaranteed withdrawal benefits, at December 31, 2014, AFG could reduce the average crediting rate on approximately \$18 billion of traditional fixed and fixed-indexed deferred annuities by an additional 0.58% (on a weighted average basis). Annuity policies are subject to Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rates ("GMIRs") at policy issuance. The table below shows the breakdown of annuity reserves by GMIR. The current interest crediting rates on substantially all of AFG's annuities with a GMIR of 3% or higher are at their minimum.

GMIR	% of Reserves
1 — 1.99%	59%
2 — 2.99%	9%
3 — 3.99%	18%
4.00% and above	14%

Annuity Net Interest Spread

AFG's net interest spread decreased 0.22 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013 due primarily to the run-off of higher yielding investments. In addition, features included in current annuity product offerings allow AFG to achieve its desired profitability at a lower net interest spread than historical product offerings. As a result of these two items, AFG expects its net interest spread to narrow in the future.

Annuity Policy Charges and Other Miscellaneous Income

Annuity policy charges and other miscellaneous income, which consist primarily of surrender charges, were \$12 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$14 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$2 million (14%). This decrease reflects the impact of \$4 million in income from the sale of real estate recorded in the fourth quarter of 2013, partially offset by growth in the annuity business.

Other Annuity Benefits

Other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees (excluding the impact of unlocking) for the fourth quarter of 2014 was \$13 million compared to \$16 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$3 million (19%). In addition to interest credited to policyholders' accounts and the change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities, annuity benefits expense also includes the following expenses (in millions, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees):

	Three months ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Change in expected death and annuitization reserve	\$4	\$5
Amortization of sales inducements	6	7
Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve	11	10
Change in other benefit reserves	1	1
Other annuity benefits	22	23
Offset guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees	(9	) (7
Other annuity benefits, net	\$13	\$16

Annuity Acquisition Expenses

Excluding the impact of unlocking charges, AFG's amortization of DPAC and commission expenses as a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated was 0.61% for the fourth quarter of 2014 and 0.75% for the fourth quarter of 2013 and has generally ranged between 0.70% and 0.80%. Variances from the general range relate primarily to the impact of (i) material changes in interest rates or the stock market on AFG's fixed-indexed annuity business, and

(ii) differences in actual experience from actuarially projected estimates and assumptions. For example, the negative impact of lower interest rates during the fourth quarter of 2014 on the fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (discussed below) resulted in a partially offsetting deceleration in the amortization of DPAC; conversely, higher interest rates during the fourth quarter of 2013 had a positive impact on the fair value of the derivatives, resulting in a partially offsetting acceleration in the amortization of DPAC.

Annuity Other Expenses

Annuity other expenses for the fourth quarter of 2014 were \$17 million compared to \$27 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$10 million (37%). The fourth quarter of 2014 includes the favorable impact of settling certain accrued expenses

Table of Contents

at a lower cost than previously estimated while annuity other expenses for the fourth quarter of 2013 includes a \$7 million charge to write off certain previously capitalized project costs. Annuity other expenses represent primarily general and administrative expenses, as well as selling and issuance expenses that are not deferred. As a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, these expenses decreased 0.25 percentage points for the fourth quarter of 2014 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2013. In general, this percentage is expected to decrease as AFG's annuity business grows and annuity other expenses remain relatively stable.

Change in Fair Value of Derivatives Related to Fixed-Indexed Annuities

AFG's fixed-indexed annuities, which represented approximately one-half of annuity benefits accumulated at December 31, 2014, provide policyholders with a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing stock market index. AFG attempts to mitigate the risk in the index-based component of these products through the purchase of call options on the appropriate index. AFG's strategy is designed so that an increase in the liabilities, due to an increase in the market index, will generally be offset by unrealized and realized gains on the call options purchased by AFG. Both the index-based component of the annuities and the related call options are considered derivatives that must be marked-to-market through earnings each period. The fair values of these derivatives are impacted by actual and expected stock market performance and interest rates as well as other factors. For a list of other factors impacting the fair value of the index-based component of AFG's annuity benefits accumulated, see Note D — "Fair Value Measurements" to the financial statements. Excluding the impact of unlocking charges, the net change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities increased annuity benefits by \$18 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 and reduced annuity benefits by \$11 million in the fourth quarter of 2013. The \$18 million increase in the fourth quarter of 2014 reflects the negative impact of lower interest rates on the derivatives, partially offset by the favorable impact of strong stock market performance. Conversely, the \$11 million decrease in the fourth quarter of 2013 reflects the positive impact of moderately higher interest rates and strong stock market performance on these derivatives.

Fluctuations in interest rates and the stock market, among other factors, can cause volatility in the periodic measurement of fair value of the embedded derivative that management believes can be inconsistent with the long-term economics of these products. The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment's earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	% Change	
Earnings before income taxes — before change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities	\$93	\$86	8	%
Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities	(18	) 11	(264	%)
Related impact on amortization of DPAC (*)	10	(5	) (300	%)
Earnings before income taxes	\$85	\$92	(8	%)

(*) An estimate of the related acceleration/deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

See "Annuity Unlocking" below for a discussion of the impact that the periodic review of actuarial assumptions had on annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses. Unanticipated spread compression, decreases in the stock market, adverse mortality experience, and higher than expected lapse rates could lead to future write-offs of DPAC or the present value of future profits on business in force of companies acquired ("PVFP").

Annuity Net Spread Earned on Fixed Annuities

AFG's net spread earned on fixed annuities decreased 0.27 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013 due primarily to the 0.22 percentage points decrease in AFG's net interest spread and the net impact of changes in the fair value of derivatives and related DPAC offset discussed above. These items were partially

offset by the impact of growth in AFG's annuity business on other expenses and other annuity benefits as a percent of fixed annuity benefits accumulated discussed above.

Table of Contents**Annuity Benefits Accumulated**

Annuity premiums received and benefit payments are recorded as increases or decreases in annuity benefits accumulated rather than as revenue and expense. Increases in this liability for interest credited and other benefits are charged to expense and decreases for surrender and other policy charges are credited to other income.

For certain products, annuity benefits accumulated also includes reserves for accrued persistency and premium bonuses, excess benefits expected to be paid on future deaths and annuitizations (“EDAR”) and guaranteed withdrawal benefits. Annuity benefits accumulated also includes amounts advanced from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. The following table is a progression of AFG’s annuity benefits accumulated liability for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Beginning fixed annuity reserves	\$22,745	\$19,505
Fixed annuity premiums (receipts)	960	1,368
Surrenders, benefits and other withdrawals	(464	) (408
Interest and other annuity benefit expenses:		
Interest credited	127	118
Embedded derivative mark-to-market	87	74
Change in other benefit reserves	18	18
Unlocking	(11	) 4
Ending fixed annuity reserves	\$23,462	\$20,679
Reconciliation to annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet:		
Ending fixed annuity reserves (from above)	\$23,462	\$20,679
Impact of unrealized investment gains	111	71
Fixed component of variable annuities	191	194
Annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet	\$23,764	\$20,944

Statutory Annuity Premiums

AFG’s annuity operations generated statutory premiums of \$971 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$1.38 billion in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$410 million (30%). The following table summarizes AFG’s annuity sales (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	% Change
Financial institutions single premium annuities — indexed	\$426	\$498	(14 %)
Financial institutions single premium annuities — fixed	61	201	(70 %)
Retail single premium annuities — indexed	405	565	(28 %)
Retail single premium annuities — fixed	19	53	(64 %)
Education market — fixed and indexed annuities	49	51	(4 %)
Total fixed annuity premiums	960	1,368	(30 %)
Variable annuities	11	13	(15 %)
Total annuity premiums	\$971	\$1,381	(30 %)

Management attributes the 30% decrease in annuity premiums in the fourth quarter of 2014 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 to AFG’s disciplined approach to product pricing in a declining interest rate environment and increased levels of competition.

Table of Contents

Annuity Unlocking

In the fourth quarters of 2014 and 2013, AFG conducted a detailed review (“unlocking”) of the major actuarial assumptions underlying its annuity operations. As a result of these reviews, AFG recorded charges (expense reductions) in annuity benefits expense and annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses related to its annuity business. AFG’s net annuity unlocking expense reduction of \$1 million in 2014 and net annuity unlocking charge of \$2 million in 2013 impacted AFG’s financial statements as follows (in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Annuity benefits:		
Fixed-indexed annuity embedded derivative	\$(58)	\$(2)
Sales inducements	—	2
Other reserves	47	6
Total annuity benefits	(11)	6
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses:		
Deferred policy acquisition costs	20	(4)
Unearned revenue	(10)	—
Net charge (expense reduction)	\$(1)	\$2

Although the table above includes the impact of assumption changes in both the fixed and variable annuity businesses, the vast majority of the net charge in each period relates to the fixed (including fixed-indexed) annuity business. The 2014 net expense reduction was due primarily to the impact of changes in assumptions to reflect a decrease in future expected call option costs related to the fixed-indexed annuity business and lower lapses, partially offset by lower future investment yield assumptions. Reinvestment rates used to project future investment yields are based primarily on 7-year and 10-year corporate bond yields. For the 2014 unlocking, AFG assumed a net reinvestment rate (net of default and expense assumptions) of 3.57% in 2015, grading up ratably to an ultimate net reinvestment rate of 5.54% in 2022 and beyond.

The 2013 net charge was due primarily to the impact of changes in assumptions to reflect increased future investment yields being more than offset by an increase in future expected call option costs related to the fixed-indexed annuity business, and higher crediting rates and lapse assumptions. For the 2013 unlocking, AFG assumed a net reinvestment rate (net of default and expense assumptions) of 4.05% in 2014, grading up to an ultimate net reinvestment rate of 5.52% in 2020 and beyond.

Annuity Earnings before Income Taxes Reconciliation

The following table reconciles the net spread earned on AFG’s fixed annuities to overall annuity pretax earnings for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Earnings on fixed annuity benefits accumulated	\$81	\$84
Earnings on investments in excess of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (*)	3	6
Variable annuity earnings	1	2
Earnings before income taxes	\$85	\$92

Net investment income (as a % of investments) of 4.85% and 5.21% for the three months ended December 31, (*)2014 and 2013, respectively, multiplied by the difference between average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost) and average fixed annuity benefits accumulated in each period.

Table of Contents

Run-off Long-Term Care and Life Segment — Results of Operations The following table details AFG's loss before income taxes from its run-off long-term care and life operations for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		% Change	
	2014	2013		
Revenues:				
Net earned premiums:				
Long-term care	\$18	\$18	—	%
Life operations	8	9	(11	%)
Net investment income	20	19	5	%
Other income	1	1	—	%
Total revenues	47	47	—	%
Costs and Expenses:				
Life, accident and health benefits:				
Long-term care	35	28	25	%
Life operations	10	12	(17	%)
Acquisition expenses	4	4	—	%
Other expenses	5	6	(17	%)
Total costs and expenses	54	50	8	%
Loss before income taxes	\$(7	) \$(3	) 133	%

The \$7 million increase in long-term care benefit expense in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 is due primarily to a \$5 million charge related to the commutation of a reinsurance agreement.

AFG expects revenues and expenses related to the long-term care business to generally increase over time as this closed block of business ages. Due to the age and relatively small size of its long-term care business, AFG expects claims volatility from period to period. See "Uncertainties — Run-off Long-term Care Insurance" for details on AFG's long-term care loss recognition margin, including the estimated impact of changes in key assumptions on the margin.

Holding Company, Other and Unallocated — Results of Operations AFG's pretax loss outside of its insurance operations totaled \$35 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$46 million for the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$11 million (24%).

The following table details AFG's loss before income taxes from operations outside of its insurance operations for three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,		% Change	
	2014	2013		
Revenues:				
Net investment income	\$2	\$2	—	%
Other income	11	3	267	%
Total revenues	13	5	160	%
Costs and Expenses:				
Interest charges on borrowed money	19	17	12	%
Other expenses	29	34	(15	%)
Total costs and expenses	48	51	(6	%)

Loss before income taxes, excluding realized gains	\$ (35	)	\$ (46	)	(24	%)
--	--------	---	--------	---	-----	----

Holding Company and Other — Net Investment Income

AFG recorded investment income on investments held outside of its insurance operations of \$2 million in both the fourth quarter of 2014 and 2013.

Table of Contents**Holding Company and Other — Other Income**

Other income in the table above includes \$7 million and \$4 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 and 2013, respectively, in management fees paid to AFG by the AFG-managed CLOs (AFG's consolidated managed investment entities). These fees are eliminated in consolidation — see the other income line in the Consolidate MIEs column under “Results of Operations — Segmented Statement of Earnings.” Results for the fourth quarter of 2014 include \$3 million in income related to the sale of real estate. Results for the fourth quarter of 2013 include a \$2 million loss related to the sale of fixed assets.

Holding Company and Other — Interest Charges on Borrowed Money

AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded interest expense of \$19 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$17 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, an increase of \$2 million (12%). AFG issued \$150 million of 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures in September 2014. The following table details AFG's long-term debt balances as of December 31, 2014 compared to December 31, 2013 (dollars in millions):

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013		
Direct obligations of AFG:				
9-7/8% Senior Notes due June 2019	\$350	\$350		
6-3/8% Senior Notes due June 2042	230	230		
5-3/4% Senior Notes due August 2042	125	125		
7% Senior Notes due September 2050	132	132		
6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due September 2054	150	—		
Other	3	3		
Total Holding Company Debt	\$990	\$840		
Weighted Average Interest Rate	7.6	% 7.8	%	

Holding Company and Other — Other Expenses

AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations, recorded other expenses of \$29 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$34 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$5 million (15%). The \$5 million decrease reflects lower holding company expenses associated with employee benefit plans that are tied to stock market performance and slightly lower other holding company expenses.

Consolidated Realized Gains on Securities AFG's consolidated realized gains on securities, which are not allocated to segments, were \$8 million in the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$67 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$59 million (88%). Realized gains (losses) on securities consisted of the following (in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,			
	2014	2013		
Realized gains (losses) before impairments:				
Disposals	\$34	\$75		
Change in the fair value of derivatives	(2	) (1	)	
Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items	(1	) (1	)	
	31	73		
Impairment charges:				
Securities	(25	) (9	)	
Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items	2	3		
	(23	) (6	)	
Realized gains on securities	\$8	\$67		

Table of Contents

Consolidated Income Taxes AFG's consolidated provision for income taxes was \$65 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to \$81 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, a decrease of \$16 million (20%). See Note L — "Income Taxes" to the financial statements. The following is a reconciliation of income taxes at the statutory rate of 35% to the provision for income taxes as shown in the Segmented Statement of Earnings (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended December 31,			
	2014		2013	
	Amount	% of EBT	Amount	% of EBT
Earnings before income taxes ("EBT")	\$ 190		\$ 246	
Income taxes at statutory rate	\$66	35 %	\$86	35 %
Effect of:				
Tax exempt interest	(7	) (4 %)	(5	) (2 %)
Losses of managed investment entities	2	1 %	(2	) (1 %)
Change in valuation allowance	5	3 %	—	— %
Other	(1	) (1 %)	2	1 %
Provision for income taxes	\$65	34 %	\$81	33 %

Consolidated Noncontrolling Interests AFG's consolidated net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests was a loss of \$2 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 compared to earnings of \$7 million for the fourth quarter of 2013. The following table details net earnings (loss) in consolidated subsidiaries attributable to holders other than AFG (dollars in millions):

	Three months ended		
	December 31,		% Change
	2014	2013	
National Interstate	\$2	\$4	(50 %)
Managed Investment Entities	(4	) 4	(200 %)
Other	—	(1	) (100 %)
Earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	\$(2	) \$7	(129 %)

As discussed in Note A — "Accounting Policies," and Note H — "Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements, the earnings (losses) of Managed Investment Entities represent CLO earnings (losses) that ultimately inure to holders of the CLO debt.

Table of Contents

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS — YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

Segmented Statement of Earnings AFG reports its business as five segments: (i) Property and casualty insurance (“P&C”), (ii) Annuity, (iii) Run-off long-term care and life, (iv) Medicare supplement and critical illness (sold in August 2012) and (v) Other, which includes holding company costs and operations attributable to the noncontrolling interests of the managed investment entities (“MIEs”).

AFG’s net earnings attributable to shareholders, determined in accordance with GAAP, include certain items that may not be indicative of its ongoing core operations. The following tables for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 identify such items by segment and reconcile net earnings attributable to shareholders to core net operating earnings, a non-GAAP financial measure that AFG believes is a useful tool for investors and analysts in analyzing ongoing operating trends (in millions):

	P&C	Annuity	Run-off long-term care and life	Consol. MIEs	Other Holding Co., other and unallocated	Total	Non-GAAP reclassified	GAAP Total
Year ended December 31, 2014								
Revenues:								
Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums	\$3,878	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$3,878	\$—	\$3,878
Life, accident and health net earned premiums	—	—	108	—	—	108	—	108
Net investment income	294	1,136	82	(16)	5	1,501	—	1,501
Realized gains on securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	52
Income (loss) of MIEs:								
Investment income	—	—	—	116	—	116	—	116
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	—	—	(44)	—	(44)	) —	(44)
Other income	9	78	4	(25)	36	102	—	102
Total revenues	4,181	1,214	194	31	41	5,661	52	5,713
Costs and Expenses:								
Property and casualty insurance:								
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	2,470	—	—	—	—	2,470	24	2,494
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	1,172	—	—	—	—	1,172	—	1,172
Annuity benefits	—	648	—	—	—	648	—	648
Life, accident and health benefits	—	—	164	—	—	164	—	164
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses	—	156	17	—	—	173	—	173
Interest charges on borrowed money	4	—	—	—	69	73	—	73
Expenses of MIEs	—	—	—	82	—	82	—	82
Other expenses	55	82	23	—	115	275	6	281
Total costs and expenses	3,701	886	204	82	184	5,057	30	5,087
Earnings before income taxes	480	328	(10)	(51)	(143)	604	22	626
Provision for income taxes	151	112	(3)	—	(48)	212	8	220
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	329	216	(7)	(51)	(95)	392	14	406
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	4	—	—	(51)	—	(47)	) 1	(46)
Core Net Operating Earnings	325	216	(7)	—	(95)	439		
Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a):								

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Realized gains on securities, net of tax	—	—	—	—	32	32	(32)	—
Special A&E charges, net of tax	(15	)	—	—	(4	)	(19	) 19 —
Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders	\$310	\$216	\$(7	)	\$—	\$(67	)	\$452 \$— \$452

Table of Contents

	P&C	Annuity	Run-off long-term care and life	Consol. MIEs	Other Holding Co., other and unallocated	Total	Non-core reclass	GAAP Total
Year ended December 31, 2013								
Revenues:								
Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums	\$3,204	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$3,204	\$—	\$3,204
Life, accident and health net earned premiums	—	—	114	—	—	114	—	114
Net investment income	263	1,034	76	(35)	8	1,346	—	1,346
Realized gains on securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	221	221
Realized losses on subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	(4)	(4)
Income (loss) of MIEs:								
Investment income	—	—	—	128	—	128	—	128
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	—	—	(14)	—	(14)	—	(14)
Other income	15	67	4	(16)	27	97	—	97
Total revenues	3,482	1,101	194	63	35	4,875	217	5,092
Costs and Expenses:								
Property and casualty insurance:								
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	1,986	—	—	—	—	1,986	54	2,040
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	1,019	—	—	—	—	1,019	—	1,019
Annuity benefits	—	531	—	—	—	531	—	531
Life, accident and health benefits	—	—	160	—	—	160	—	160
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses	—	149	18	—	—	167	—	167
Interest charges on borrowed money	3	—	—	—	68	71	—	71
Expenses of MIEs	—	—	—	89	—	89	—	89
Other expenses	45	93	26	—	135	299	27	326
Total costs and expenses	3,053	773	204	89	203	4,322	81	4,403
Earnings before income taxes	429	328	(10)	(26)	(168)	553	136	689
Provision for income taxes	132	113	(4)	—	(54)	187	49	236
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	297	215	(6)	(26)	(114)	366	87	453
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	7	—	—	(26)	—	(19)	1	(18)
Core Net Operating Earnings	290	215	(6)	—	(114)	385		
Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a):								
Realized gains, net of tax	—	—	—	—	138	138	(138)	—
Special A&E charges, net of tax	(35)	—	—	—	(14)	(49)	49	—
ELNY guaranty fund assessments, net of tax	—	(3)	—	—	—	(3)	3	—
Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders	\$255	\$212	\$(6)	\$—	\$10	\$471	\$—	\$471

Table of Contents

	P&C	Annuity	Run-off long-term care and life	Medicare supplement and critical illness	Other Holding Co. MIEs and unallocated	Total	Non-recurring	GAAP Total
Year ended December 31, 2012								
Revenues:								
Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums	\$2,847	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$2,847	\$—	\$2,847
Life, accident and health net earned premiums	—	—	119	199	—	318	—	318
Net investment income	275	976	69	7	(31)	1,301	—	1,301
Realized gains on securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	210	210
Realized gains on subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	161	161
Income (loss) of MIEs:								
Investment income	—	—	—	—	125	125	—	125
Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	—	—	—	—	(94)	(94)	(94)	(94)
Other income	24	52	3	6	(18)	89	—	89
Total revenues	3,146	1,028	191	212	(18)	4,586	371	4,957
Costs and Expenses:								
Property and casualty insurance:								
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	1,842	—	—	—	—	1,842	31	1,873
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	887	—	—	—	—	887	—	887
Annuity benefits	—	541	—	—	—	541	—	541
Life, accident and health benefits	—	—	151	131	—	282	74	356
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses	—	150	22	31	—	203	79	282
Interest charges on borrowed money	4	—	—	—	71	75	—	75
Expenses of MIEs	—	—	—	—	80	80	—	80
Other expenses	60	81	22	22	116	301	25	326
Total costs and expenses	2,793	772	195	184	187	4,211	209	4,420
Earnings before income taxes	353	256	(4)	28	(98)	375	162	537
Provision for income taxes	102	89	(1)	10	(51)	149	(14)	135
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	251	167	(3)	18	(98)	226	176	402
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	10	—	—	—	(98)	(88)	2	(86)
Core Net Operating Earnings	241	167	(3)	18	(109)	314	—	—
Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a):								
Gain on sale of Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses, net of tax	—	—	—	114	—	114	(11)	103
Other realized gains, net of tax	—	—	—	—	128	128	(128)	—
Long-term care reserve charge, net of tax	—	—	(99)	—	—	(99)	99	—
Special A&E charges, net of tax	(20)	—	—	—	(1)	(21)	21	—
AFG tax case and settlement of open tax years	—	—	—	—	67	67	(67)	—
Other, net of tax	—	—	—	—	(15)	(15)	15	—
Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders	\$221	\$167	\$(102)	\$132	\$—	\$488	\$—	\$488

(a) See the reconciliation of core earnings to GAAP net earnings under “Results of Operations — General” for details on the tax and noncontrolling interest impacts of these reconciling items.

Property and Casualty Insurance Segment — Results of Operations AFG's property and casualty insurance operations contributed \$456 million in GAAP pretax earnings in 2014 compared to \$375 million in 2013, an increase of \$81 million (22%). Property and casualty core pretax earnings were \$480 million in 2014 compared to \$429 million in 2013, an increase of \$51 million (12%). The increase in GAAP and core pretax earnings reflects higher underwriting profit in the Specialty casualty group and Property and transportation group, and higher net investment income (due primarily to the investment of cash

Table of Contents

acquired in the April 2014 Summit acquisition), partially offset by higher other net expenses. The increase in GAAP pretax earnings also reflects lower non-core special A&E charges in 2014 as compared to 2013.

AFG's property and casualty insurance operations contributed \$375 million in GAAP pretax earnings in 2013 compared to \$322 million in 2012, an increase of \$53 million (16%). Property and casualty core pretax earnings were \$429 million in 2013 compared to \$353 million in 2012, an increase of \$76 million (22%). Higher underwriting profit in the Specialty casualty group and Specialty financial group were partially offset by a decline in the underwriting profit in the Property and transportation group during the first half of the year.

The following table details AFG's GAAP and core earnings before income taxes from its property and casualty operations for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change			
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012		
Gross written premiums	\$5,477	\$4,805	\$4,321	14	%	11	%
Reinsurance premiums ceded	(1,457)	(1,464)	(1,372)	—	%	7	%
Net written premiums	4,020	3,341	2,949	20	%	13	%
Change in unearned premiums	(142)	(137)	(102)	4	%	34	%
Net earned premiums	3,878	3,204	2,847	21	%	13	%
Loss and loss adjustment expenses (*)	2,470	1,986	1,842	24	%	8	%
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	1,172	1,019	887	15	%	15	%
Core underwriting gain	236	199	118	19	%	69	%
Net investment income	294	263	275	12	%	(4)	%
Other income and expenses, net	(50)	(33)	(40)	52	%	(18)	%
Core earnings before income taxes	480	429	353	12	%	22	%
Pretax non-core special A&E charges	(24)	(54)	(31)	(56)	%	74	%
GAAP earnings before income taxes	\$456	\$375	\$322	22	%	16	%

(*) Excluding non-core special A&E charges

Combined Ratios:				Change			
				2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012		
Specialty lines							
Loss and LAE ratio	63.7	% 61.7	% 64.3	% 2.0	% (2.6)	%	%
Underwriting expense ratio	30.2	% 31.8	% 31.1	% (1.6)	% 0.7	%	%
Combined ratio	93.9	% 93.5	% 95.4	% 0.4	% (1.9)	%	%
Aggregate — including discontinued lines							
Loss and LAE ratio	64.3	% 63.7	% 65.8	% 0.6	% (2.1)	%	%
Underwriting expense ratio	30.2	% 31.8	% 31.1	% (1.6)	% 0.7	%	%
Combined ratio	94.5	% 95.5	% 96.9	% (1.0)	% (1.4)	%	%

AFG reports the underwriting performance of its Specialty insurance business in the following sub-segments: (i) Property and transportation, (ii) Specialty casualty and (iii) Specialty financial.

Table of Contents**Gross Written Premiums**

Gross written premiums (“GWP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$5.48 billion in 2014 compared to \$4.81 billion in 2013, an increase of \$672 million (14%). GWP increased \$484 million (11%) in 2013 compared to 2012. Detail of AFG’s property and casualty gross written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,								% Change				
	2014		2013		2012		2014 -		2013 -		2013 -		
	GWP	%	GWP	%	GWP	%	2013		2012				
Property and transportation	\$2,342	43	%	\$2,392	50	%	\$2,271	53	%	(2	%)	5	%
Specialty casualty	2,529	46	%	1,790	37	%	1,484	34	%	41	%	21	%
Specialty financial	605	11	%	622	13	%	566	13	%	(3	%)	10	%
Other specialty	1	—	%	1	—	%	—	—	%	—	%	—	%
	\$5,477	100	%	\$4,805	100	%	\$4,321	100	%	14	%	11	%

Reinsurance Premiums Ceded

Reinsurance premiums ceded (“Ceded”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were 27%, 30% and 32% of gross written premiums for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Detail of AFG’s property and casualty reinsurance premiums ceded is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,						Change in % of GWP			
	2014		2013		2012		2014 - 2013		2013 - 2012	
	Ceded	% of GWP	Ceded	% of GWP	Ceded	% of GWP				
Property and transportation	\$(776)	33 %	\$(845)	35 %	\$(798)	35 %	(2 %)	—		
Specialty casualty	(665)	26 %	(566)	32 %	(492)	33 %	(6 %)	(1 %)		
Specialty financial	(117)	19 %	(136)	22 %	(155)	27 %	(3 %)	(5 %)		
Other specialty	101		83		73					
	\$(1,457)	27 %	\$(1,464)	30 %	\$(1,372)	32 %	(3 %)	(2 %)		

Net Written Premiums

Net written premiums (“NWP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$4.02 billion in 2014 compared to \$3.34 billion in 2013, an increase of \$679 million (20%). NWP increased \$392 million (13%) in 2013 compared to 2012. Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,						% Change				
	2014		2013		2012		2014 -		2013 -		
	NWP	%	NWP	%	NWP	%	2013		2012		
Property and transportation	\$1,566	39	% \$1,547	45	% \$1,473	50	% 1	% 5	%		
Specialty casualty	1,864	46	% 1,224	37	% 992	34	% 52	% 23	%		
Specialty financial	488	12	% 486	15	% 411	14	% —	% 18	%		
Other specialty	102	3	% 84	3	% 73	2	% 21	% 15	%		
	\$4,020	100	% \$3,341	100	% \$2,949	100	% 20	% 13	%		

Net Earned Premiums

Net earned premiums (“NEP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$3.88 billion in 2014 compared to \$3.20 billion in 2013, an increase of \$674 million (21%). NEP increased \$357 million (13%) in 2013 compared to 2012. Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net earned premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change
	2014	2013	2012	

									2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012			
	NEP	%		NEP	%		NEP	%					
Property and transportation	\$1,544	40	%	\$1,521	48	%	\$1,423	50	%	2	%	7	%
Specialty casualty	1,765	45	%	1,135	35	%	948	34	%	56	%	20	%
Specialty financial	469	12	%	469	15	%	405	14	%	—	%	16	%
Other specialty	100	3	%	79	2	%	71	2	%	27	%	11	%
	\$3,878	100	%	\$3,204	100	%	\$2,847	100	%	21	%	13	%

The \$672 million (14%) increase in gross written premiums in 2014 compared to 2013 reflects \$414 million in premiums from Summit (acquired in April 2014) as well as significant growth in other businesses within the Specialty casualty group.

Table of Contents

Excluding premiums from Summit, gross written premiums increased by 5% compared to 2013. Overall average renewal rates increased approximately 3% in 2014.

The \$484 million increase in gross written premiums in 2013 compared to 2012 reflects growth across each of the property and casualty sub-segments. Overall average renewal rates increased approximately 4% in 2013.

Property and transportation Gross written premiums decreased \$50 million (2%) in 2014 compared to 2013 reflecting the impact of lower 2014 commodity prices on the crop operations, partially offset by growth in the transportation businesses resulting from rate increases. Excluding the crop insurance business, gross written premiums increased by 6% for this group in 2014 compared to 2013. Average renewal rates were up approximately 5% for this group in 2014, including a 7% increase in National Interstate's renewal rates. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 2 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 as lower cessions in the crop business were partially offset by higher cessions in the excess property business and certain captive programs in the transportation business and the impact of a change in the mix of business.

Gross written premiums increased \$121 million in 2013 compared to 2012 due primarily to higher crop premiums and growth in the transportation businesses. Average renewal rates were up approximately 5% in 2013. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums were 35% in both 2013 and 2012. Higher cessions of multi-peril crop business and higher cost of reinsurance on the property business were offset by higher retention of gross premiums in certain operations and lower reinsurance reinstatement premiums due to the impact of large reinsured losses in 2012 (related to Superstorm Sandy).

Specialty casualty Gross written premiums increased \$739 million (41%) in 2014 compared to 2013 reflecting \$414 million in premiums from Summit, which was acquired in April 2014. Excluding premiums from Summit, gross written premiums increased 18% in 2014 compared to 2013 as a result of increased premiums in nearly all businesses in this group, particularly in the workers' compensation, excess and surplus lines and targeted markets operations. New business opportunities and increased exposures from higher payroll on existing accounts have contributed to the increase in premiums in the workers' compensation businesses. Strong premium growth in the excess and surplus lines and targeted markets operations is the result of broadening opportunities to write business coupled with the benefit from rate increases over multiple quarters. Average renewal rates were up approximately 2% for this group in 2014. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 6 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 reflecting the impact of the acquisition of Summit, which cedes only about 1% of its premiums.

Gross written premiums increased \$306 million (21%) in 2013 compared to 2012 as a result of increased premiums in nearly all businesses in this group, particularly in the workers' compensation and excess and surplus lines. New business opportunities, increased exposures from higher payroll on existing accounts, strong retentions and higher renewal pricing have contributed to increased premiums in the workers' compensation businesses. In addition, new business opportunities and general market hardening have generated increased premiums in several of the excess and surplus lines businesses. Average renewal rates were up approximately 5% for this group in 2013. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 1 percentage point for 2013 compared to 2012 reflecting changes in the mix of business and higher retention of gross premiums in certain operations.

Specialty financial Gross written premiums decreased \$17 million (3%) in 2014 compared to 2013. The impact of the October 2013 sale of a service contract business, which ceded all of its premiums under reinsurance contracts, more than offset growth in gross written premiums across most businesses in this group. Average renewal rates for this group decreased about 1 percent in 2014. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 3 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 reflecting the sale of the service contract business, partially offset by higher cessions in the financial institutions business.

Gross written premiums increased \$56 million (10%) in 2013 compared to 2012. This increase was due primarily to premium growth related to real estate owned and collateral products for financial institutions and growth in the surety operations. Gross written premiums in 2013 include \$22 million in risk fees from AFG's warranty operations. Prior to 2013, fees in the warranty operations were included in other income. Average renewal rates for this group remained relatively unchanged in 2013. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 5 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012 reflecting the sale of the service contract business, which was 100% reinsured and lower reinsurance reinstatement premiums reflecting the impact of large reinsured losses in 2012 in the surety and foreign credit businesses.

Other specialty The amounts shown as reinsurance premiums ceded represent business assumed by AFG's internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG's other Specialty sub-segments.

Table of Contents

Combined Ratio

The table below details the components of the combined ratio for AFG's property and casualty segment for 2014, 2013 and 2012 (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			Change		2013 -		Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012	2014 -	2013 -	2012		2014	2013	2012
Property and transportation										
Loss and LAE ratio	74.9	% 75.1	% 74.7	% (0.2	%) 0.4	%				
Underwriting expense ratio	23.8	% 24.1	% 24.0	% (0.3	%) 0.1	%				
Combined ratio	98.7	% 99.2	% 98.7	% (0.5	%) 0.5	%				
Underwriting profit (loss)								\$21	\$12	\$19
Specialty casualty										
Loss and LAE ratio	62.7	% 57.5	% 61.3	% 5.2	% (3.8	%)				
Underwriting expense ratio	29.6	% 33.4	% 33.2	% (3.8	%) 0.2	%				
Combined ratio	92.3	% 90.9	% 94.5	% 1.4	% (3.6	%)				
Underwriting profit								\$136	\$102	\$53
Specialty financial										
Loss and LAE ratio	33.9	% 33.5	% 38.8	% 0.4	% (5.3	%)				
Underwriting expense ratio	52.6	% 52.1	% 50.4	% 0.5	% 1.7	%				
Combined ratio	86.5	% 85.6	% 89.2	% 0.9	% (3.6	%)				
Underwriting profit								\$64	\$67	\$44
Total Specialty										
Loss and LAE ratio	63.7	% 61.7	% 64.3	% 2.0	% (2.6	%)				
Underwriting expense ratio	30.2	% 31.8	% 31.1	% (1.6	%) 0.7	%				
Combined ratio	93.9	% 93.5	% 95.4	% 0.4	% (1.9	%)				
Underwriting profit								\$237	\$206	\$131
Aggregate — including discontinued lines										
Loss and LAE ratio	64.3	% 63.7	% 65.8	% 0.6	% (2.1	%)				
Underwriting expense ratio	30.2	% 31.8	% 31.1	% (1.6	%) 0.7	%				
Combined ratio	94.5	% 95.5	% 96.9	% (1.0	%) (1.4	%)				
Underwriting profit								\$212	\$145	\$87

The Specialty property and casualty insurance operations generated an underwriting profit of \$237 million in 2014 compared to \$206 million in 2013, an increase of \$31 million (15%). The higher underwriting profit in 2014 reflects significantly higher underwriting profits in the Specialty casualty and Property and transportation groups. Overall catastrophe losses were \$28 million (0.7 points on the combined ratio) in 2014 compared to \$31 million (1.0 points), in 2013.

The Specialty property and casualty insurance operations generated an underwriting profit of \$206 million in 2013 compared to \$131 million in 2012, an increase of \$75 million (57%). The higher profit in 2013 is primarily the result of higher underwriting profits in the Specialty casualty and Specialty financial groups, partially offset by lower underwriting profits in the Property and transportation businesses. Overall catastrophe losses were \$31 million (1.0 points) in 2013 compared to \$46 million, including \$9 million of reinstatement premiums (1.3 points) in 2012.

Property and transportation Underwriting profit for this group was \$21 million in 2014 compared to \$12 million in 2013, an increase of \$9 million (75%). Higher underwriting profit in the property and inland marine operations, including lower catastrophe losses, was partially offset by lower underwriting profit in the agricultural operations. Catastrophe losses were \$20 million (1.3 points) for this group in 2014 compared to \$27 million (1.8 points) in 2013.

Underwriting profit for this group was \$12 million in 2013 compared to \$19 million in 2012, a decrease of \$7 million (37%). This decline is due primarily to lower profitability in the transportation businesses, partially offset by improved profitability in the crop operations. Catastrophe losses were \$27 million (1.8 points) for this group in 2013 compared to \$35 million, including \$8 million of reinstatement premiums (1.9 points) in 2012.

Table of Contents

Specialty casualty Underwriting profit for this group was \$136 million in 2014 compared to \$102 million in 2013, an increase of \$34 million (33%). Higher underwriting profit in the workers' compensation businesses, including the impact of the Summit business acquired in April 2014, was partially offset by lower underwriting results in the general liability lines of business, adverse prior year reserve development in the international operations and lower favorable prior year reserve development in the executive liability business.

Underwriting profit was \$102 million in 2013 compared to \$53 million in 2012, an increase of \$49 million (92%), reflecting improved results in the workers' compensation business as well as increased favorable reserve development in other operations.

Specialty financial Underwriting profit for this group was \$64 million in 2014 compared to \$67 million in 2013, a decrease of \$3 million (4%). Lower profitability in the trade credit and financial institutions businesses was partially offset by higher profitability in the surety business.

Underwriting profit was \$67 million in 2013 compared to \$44 million in 2012, an increase of \$23 million (52%). The improved results were due primarily to higher underwriting profits in the financial institutions business, primarily from foreclosed and real estate owned property and collateral insurance and the absence of losses from a run-off book of automotive-related business that were included in the results for 2012.

Other specialty Underwriting profit for this group was \$16 million in 2014 compared to \$25 million in 2013, a decrease of \$9 million (36%). The decrease is due primarily to lower favorable prior year loss development in the business assumed by AFG's internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG's other Specialty sub-segments.

Underwriting profit for this group was \$25 million in 2013 compared to \$15 million in 2012, an increase of \$10 million (67%). The increase is due primarily to higher favorable prior year loss development in the business assumed by AFG's internal reinsurance program.

Table of Contents

Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

AFG's overall loss and LAE ratio was 64.3%, 63.7% and 65.8% in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The components of AFG's property and casualty losses and LAE amounts and ratio are detailed below (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			Ratio			Change in Ratio		
	Amount								
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012	
Property and transportation									
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$1,119	\$1,116	\$1,051	72.6 %	73.4 %	73.8 %	(0.8 %)	(0.4 %)	
Prior accident years development	16	(1)	(16)	1.0 %	(0.1 %)	(1.0 %)	1.1 %	0.9 %	
Current year catastrophe losses	20	27	27	1.3 %	1.8 %	1.9 %	(0.5 %)	(0.1 %)	
Property and transportation losses and LAE and ratio	\$1,155	\$1,142	\$1,062	74.9 %	75.1 %	74.7 %	(0.2 %)	0.4 %	
Specialty casualty									
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$1,110	\$692	\$596	62.9 %	61.0 %	62.8 %	1.9 %	(1.8 %)	
Prior accident years development	(7)	(40)	(18)	(0.4 %)	(3.6 %)	(1.8 %)	3.2 %	(1.8 %)	
Current year catastrophe losses	4	1	3	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.3 %	0.1 %	(0.2 %)	
Specialty casualty losses and LAE and ratio	\$1,107	\$653	\$581	62.7 %	57.5 %	61.3 %	5.2 %	(3.8 %)	
Specialty financial									
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$173	\$169	\$181	36.9 %	35.9 %	44.6 %	1.0 %	(8.7 %)	
Prior accident years development	(17)	(14)	(29)	(3.7 %)	(3.0 %)	(7.1 %)	(0.7 %)	4.1 %	
Current year catastrophe losses	3	3	5	0.7 %	0.6 %	1.3 %	0.1 %	(0.7 %)	
Specialty financial losses and LAE and ratio	\$159	\$158	\$157	33.9 %	33.5 %	38.8 %	0.4 %	(5.3 %)	
Total Specialty									
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$2,460	\$2,023	\$1,866	63.5 %	63.1 %	65.5 %	0.4 %	(2.4 %)	
Prior accident years development	(19)	(75)	(74)	(0.5 %)	(2.4 %)	(2.5 %)	1.9 %	0.1 %	
Current year catastrophe losses	28	31	37	0.7 %	1.0 %	1.3 %	(0.3 %)	(0.3 %)	
Total Specialty losses and LAE and ratio	\$2,469	\$1,979	\$1,829	63.7 %	61.7 %	64.3 %	2.0 %	(2.6 %)	
Aggregate — including discontinued lines									
Current year, excluding catastrophe losses	\$2,460	\$2,024	\$1,866	63.5 %	63.1 %	65.5 %	0.4 %	(2.4 %)	
Prior accident years development	6	(15)	(30)	0.1 %	(0.4 %)	(1.0 %)	0.5 %	0.6 %	
Current year catastrophe losses	28	31	37	0.7 %	1.0 %	1.3 %	(0.3 %)	(0.3 %)	
Aggregate losses and LAE and ratio	\$2,494	\$2,040	\$1,873	64.3 %	63.7 %	65.8 %	0.6 %	(2.1 %)	

Current accident year losses and LAE, excluding catastrophe losses

The current accident year loss and LAE ratio for AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations was 63.5% in 2014 compared to 63.1% in 2013, an increase of 0.4%.

Specialty casualty The 1.9 percentage point increase in the loss and LAE ratio in 2014 compared to 2013, excluding catastrophe losses reflects the inclusion of Summit following its acquisition in April 2014, which has a higher loss and LAE ratio than AFG's overall Specialty casualty group, partially offset by higher profitability in the California workers' compensation business.

Net prior year reserve development

AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations recorded net favorable reserve development related to prior accident years of \$19 million in 2014 compared to \$75 million in 2013 and \$74 million in 2012, a decrease of \$56 million (75%) and an increase of \$1 million (1%), respectively.

Property and transportation Net adverse reserve development of \$16 million in 2014 reflects higher than expected severity in commercial auto liability losses written in the transportation businesses, partially offset by lower than expected claim frequency

Table of Contents

and severity in the property and inland marine business and lower than expected claim frequency in the agricultural operations. Net favorable reserve development of \$1 million in 2013 reflects lower than expected claims handling expense in the crop business and lower claim severity in the property inland marine and ocean marine businesses, substantially offset by adverse development from higher than expected claim severity in commercial auto liability business written in the transportation businesses. Net favorable reserve development of \$16 million in 2012 reflects lower than expected loss frequency in crop products, partially offset by higher than expected claim severity in the property and inland marine and commercial auto liability in the transportation businesses.

Specialty casualty Net favorable reserve development of \$7 million in 2014 reflects lower than expected claim severity in directors and officers liability insurance, lower than expected claim severity and frequency in excess liability insurance and lower than anticipated claim severity in specialty workers' compensation business, partially offset by higher than expected claims severity in contractor claims and in a run-off book of casualty business and adverse reserve development at Marketform. Net favorable reserve development of \$40 million in 2013 reflects lower than expected claim severity in directors and officers liability insurance and lower than expected claim severity and frequency in excess liability business, partially offset by adverse development from higher than expected claim frequency and severity in products liability claims and higher than expected claim severity in contractor claims. Net favorable reserve development of \$18 million in 2012 is due primarily to the release of loss reserves on claims related to the use of Chinese drywall in residential construction as a result of judicial decisions and class action settlements in 2012 that clarified the liability of insured homebuilders. Favorable reserve development in 2012 also reflects lower claim severity in executive liability products partially offset by higher claim severity on losses in a run-off book of U.S.-based program (motel/hotel, restaurants, taverns and recreational) business and adverse reserve development on run-off Italian public hospital medical malpractice liability products written by Marketform.

Specialty financial Net favorable reserve development of \$17 million in 2014 reflects lower than expected claim severity in the surety and fidelity businesses and lower than expected claim frequency and severity in the foreign credit business and products for financial institutions. Net favorable reserve development of \$14 million in 2013 is due to lower than expected frequency and severity in the foreign credit and financial institution services businesses as economic conditions did not affect these lines as adversely as had been anticipated. Net favorable reserve development of \$29 million in 2012 reflects lower than expected frequency and severity in the surety, fidelity, crime, foreign credit and financial institution services businesses as economic conditions did not affect these lines as adversely as had been anticipated.

Other specialty In addition to the development discussed above, total Specialty prior year reserve development includes net favorable reserve development of \$11 million in 2014, \$20 million in 2013 and \$11 million in 2012, reflecting amortization of the deferred gain on the retroactive insurance transaction entered into in connection with the sale of a business in 1998 and reserve development associated with AFG's internal reinsurance program.

Asbestos and Environmental Reserve Charges As previously discussed under "Uncertainties" — "Asbestos and Environmental-related ("A&E") Insurance Reserves," AFG has established property and casualty reserves for claims related to environmental exposures and asbestos claims. AFG has also recorded liabilities for various environmental and occupational injury and disease claims arising out of former railroad and manufacturing operations. Total charges recorded to increase reserves (net of reinsurance recoverable) for A&E exposures of AFG's property and casualty group (included in loss and loss adjustment expenses) and its former railroad and manufacturing operations (included in other operating and general expenses) were as follows (in millions):

	2014	2013	2012
Property and casualty group	\$24	\$59	\$43
Former operations	13	29	12

Aggregate Aggregate net prior accident years reserve development for AFG's property and casualty segment includes the A&E charges mentioned above.

Catastrophe losses

AFG generally seeks to reduce its exposure to catastrophes through individual risk selection, including minimizing coastal and known fault-line exposures, and the purchase of reinsurance. The \$20 million of catastrophe losses in the Property and transportation group in 2014 were primarily from winter storms in the month of January and multiple storms in the midwestern and central United States in the second quarter of 2014. The \$27 million in catastrophe losses in the Property and transportation group in 2013 resulted primarily from spring storms in the southeastern United States. The \$27 million in catastrophe losses in the Property and transportation group in 2012 resulted primarily from Superstorm Sandy.

Table of Contents

Commissions and Other Underwriting Expenses

AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses ("U/W Exp") were \$1.17 billion in 2014 compared to \$1.02 billion in 2013, an increase of \$153 million (15%). AFG's underwriting expense ratio was 30.2% in 2014 compared to 31.8% in 2013, a decrease of 1.6 percentage points.

AFG's property and casualty U/W Exp were \$1.02 billion in 2013 compared to \$887 million in 2012, an increase of \$132 million (15%). AFG's underwriting expense ratio was 31.8% in 2013 compared to 31.1% in 2012, an increase of 0.7 percentage points.

Detail of AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses and underwriting expense ratios is shown below (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,						Change in % of NEP			
	2014		2013		2012		2014 - 2013		2013 - 2012	
	U/W Exp	% of NEP	U/W Exp	% of NEP	U/W Exp	% of NEP				
Property and transportation	\$368	23.8	% \$367	24.1	% \$342	24.0	% (0.3	%) 0.1	%	
Specialty casualty	522	29.6	% 380	33.4	% 314	33.2	% (3.8	%) 0.2	%	
Specialty financial	246	52.6	% 244	52.1	% 204	50.4	% 0.5	% 1.7	%	
Other specialty	36	35.5	% 28	35.9	% 27	37.2	% (0.4	%) (1.3	%)	
	\$1,172	30.2	% \$1,019	31.8	% \$887	31.1	% (1.6	%) 0.7	%	

The \$153 million increase in commissions and other underwriting expenses in 2014 compared to 2013 reflects the acquisition of Summit in April 2014. The overall decrease of 1.6% in commissions and other underwriting expenses in 2014 compared to 2013 reflects the acquisition of Summit, which has a lower expense ratio than AFG's overall property and casualty operations.

The overall increase of 0.7% in AFG's expense ratio in 2013 as compared to 2012, as well as the fluctuations in AFG's sub-segments, reflects higher profitability-based commissions paid to agents and brokers and lower profitability-based commissions received from reinsurers, partially offset by the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Property and transportation Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums decreased 0.3 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 reflecting lower profitability-based commissions paid to agents and brokers, an increase in ceding commissions received from reinsurers and a change in the mix of business.

Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 0.1 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012 reflecting higher profitability-based commissions paid to agents and brokers and lower profitability-based commissions received from reinsurers, partially offset by higher reimbursements for administrative and operating expenses under the Federal crop insurance program and the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Specialty casualty Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums decreased 3.8 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 due primarily to the inclusion of Summit following its acquisition in April 2014, which has a lower expense ratio than AFG's overall Specialty casualty group, and the impact of higher premiums across the Specialty casualty group on the ratio.

Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 0.2 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012 reflecting higher profitability-based commissions related to international business and increases in staffing costs related to business growth, partially offset by the impact of higher premiums on the

ratio.

Specialty financial Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 0.5 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 due primarily to the impact of \$5 million in reinsurance reinstatement premiums paid in 2014 on the ratio.

Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 1.7 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012 reflecting higher profitability-based commissions and lower ceding commissions from reinsurers, partially offset by the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Table of Contents

Property and Casualty Net Investment Income

Net investment income in AFG's property and casualty operations was \$294 million in 2014 compared to \$263 million in 2013, an increase of \$31 million (12%). Net investment income in AFG's property and casualty operations was \$263 million in 2013 compared to \$275 million in 2012, a decrease of \$12 million (4%). Net investment income in AFG's property and casualty operations includes \$8 million in 2014, from recording equity in the earnings of limited partnerships and similar investments. Equity in the earnings of these investments has not been material and was included in realized gains (losses) on securities prior to 2014. In recent years, yields available in the financial markets on fixed maturity securities have generally declined, placing downward pressure on AFG's investment portfolio yield. The average invested assets and overall yield earned on investments held by AFG's property and casualty operations are provided below (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			2014 - 2013		2013 - 2012	
	2014	2013	2012	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Net investment income	\$294	\$263	\$275	\$31	12 %	\$(12)	(4 %)
Average invested assets (at amortized cost)	\$7,849	\$6,863	\$6,675	\$986	14 %	\$188	3 %
Yield (net investment income as a % of average invested assets)	3.75 %	3.83 %	4.12 %	(0.08 %)		(0.29 %)	
Tax equivalent yield (*)	4.32 %	4.43 %	4.77 %	(0.11 %)		(0.34 %)	

(*) Adjusts the yield on equity securities and tax-exempt bonds to the fully taxable equivalent yield.

The increase in average invested assets and net investment income in the property and casualty segment in 2014 compared to 2013 is due primarily to the investment of cash acquired in the Summit acquisition in April 2014 and organic growth in the property and casualty segment. The property and casualty segment's overall yield on investments (net investment income as a percentage of average invested assets) was 3.75% in 2014 compared to 3.83% in 2013, a decline of 0.08 percentage points. The impact of equity in the earnings of limited partnerships and similar investments and strong investment results in the first nine months of 2014 was more than offset by the impact of lower yields available in the financial markets.

The property and casualty segment's overall yield on investments (net investment income as a percentage of average invested assets) was 3.83% in 2013 compared to 4.12% in 2012, a decline of 0.29 percentage points. In addition to the impact of lower yields available in the financial markets, the \$188 million increase in average invested assets reflects primarily higher average balances of cash and cash equivalents.

Property and Casualty Other Income and Expenses, Net

Other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations was a net expense of \$50 million in 2014, \$33 million in 2013 and \$40 million in 2012, representing an increase of \$17 million (52%) in 2014 compared to 2013 and a decrease of \$7 million (18%) in 2013 compared to 2012. The table below details the items included in other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Other income			
Warranty operations	\$—	\$—	\$17
Income from the sale of real estate	2	6	—
Other	7	9	7

Total other income	9	15	24
Other expenses			
Warranty operations	—	—	19
Amortization of intangibles	19	14	14
Tender offer expenses	3	—	—
Other	33	31	27
Total other expense	55	45	60
Interest expense	4	3	4
Other income and expenses, net	\$(50)	) \$(33)	) \$(40)

Amortization of intangibles includes \$5 million in 2014 related to the Summit acquisition.

Table of Contents

AFG and its consolidated subsidiaries incurred \$3 million in transaction expenses related to the February 2014 tender offer by Great American Insurance Company (“GAI”) to acquire all of the National Interstate Corporation common stock that GAI did not already own. These expenses consisted primarily of financial advisory and legal services. The tender offer was terminated in March 2014.

Beginning in 2013, AFG’s warranty operations are included in the Specialty financial underwriting results.

Interest expense for AFG’s property and casualty operations includes interest charges on long-term debt within the property and casualty operations, primarily notes secured by real estate.

Annuity Segment — Results of Operations

AFG’s annuity operations contributed \$328 million in GAAP pretax earnings in 2014 compared to \$323 million in 2013, an increase of \$5 million (2%). AFG’s annuity operations contributed \$328 million in core pretax earnings in both 2014 and 2013. While AFG’s average annuity investments (at amortized cost) were 17% higher in 2014 as compared to 2013, the benefit of this growth was offset by the run-off of higher yielding investments, and the impact that fluctuations in interest rates in 2014 and 2013 had on the fair value accounting for fixed-indexed annuities (“FIAs”). AFG’s periodic detailed review (“unlocking”) of the major actuarial assumptions underlying its annuity operations resulted in an expense reduction of \$1 million in 2014 compared to a \$2 million charge in 2013.

AFG’s annuity operations contributed \$323 million in GAAP pretax earnings in 2013 compared to \$256 million in 2012, an increase of \$67 million (26%). AFG’s annuity operations contributed \$328 million in core pretax earnings in 2013 compared to \$256 million in 2012, an increase of \$72 million (28%). The increase in both GAAP and core pretax earnings was a result of growth in the annuity business and the positive impact of higher interest rates and strong market performance in 2013 on the fair value accounting for FIAs. Conversely, results for 2012 reflect the negative impact of sharply lower interest rates on the fair value accounting for FIAs. Operating earnings also include a net unlocking charge of \$2 million in 2013 compared to \$14 million in 2012.

In the second quarter of 2013, AFG recorded a pretax charge of \$5 million in its annuity operations to cover expected assessments from state guaranty funds related to the insolvency and liquidation of Executive Life Insurance Company of New York (“ELNY”), an unaffiliated life insurance company. ELNY was placed into rehabilitation by the New York Insurance Department in 1991. In April 2012, ELNY was declared insolvent and ordered into liquidation. AFG’s life insurance subsidiaries are required under the solvency or guaranty laws of most states in which they do business to pay assessments up to certain prescribed limits to fund policyholder losses or liabilities of insolvent insurance companies such as ELNY and started receiving guaranty fund assessments related to ELNY from various states in the second quarter of 2013. AFG believes that all ELNY related guaranty fund assessments have been settled.

The following table details AFG’s GAAP and core earnings before income taxes from its annuity operations for 2014, 2013 and 2012 (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change			
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012		
Revenues:							
Net investment income	\$1,136	\$1,034	\$976	10	%	6	%
Other income:							
Guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees	34	25	14	36	%	79	%
Policy charges and other miscellaneous income	44	42	38	5	%	11	%
Total revenues	1,214	1,101	1,028	10	%	7	%

Costs and Expenses:

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Annuity benefits (a)	648	531	541	22	%	(2	%)
Acquisition expenses	156	149	150	5	%	(1	%)
Other expenses (b)	82	93	81	(12	%)	15	%
Total costs and expenses	886	773	772	15	%	—	%
Core earnings before income taxes	328	328	256	—	%	28	%
Pretax non-core ELNY guaranty fund assessments	—	(5	) —	(100	%)	—	%
GAAP earnings before income taxes	\$328	\$323	\$256	2	%	26	%

81

Table of Contents

Detail of annuity earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change			
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013		2013 - 2012	
Core earnings before income taxes — before the impact of derivatives related to FIAs	\$362	\$313	\$271	16	%	15	%
Impact of derivatives related to FIAs	(34	) 15	(15	) (327	%)	(200	%)
Core earnings before income taxes	328	328	256	—	%	28	%
Pretax non-core ELNY guaranty fund assessments	—	(5	) —	(100	%)	—	%
GAAP earnings before income taxes	\$328	\$323	\$256	2	%	26	%

(a) Annuity benefits consisted of the following (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change			
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013		2013 - 2012	
Interest credited — fixed	\$497	\$451	\$438	10	%	3	%
Interest credited — fixed component of variable annuities	6	6	7	—	%	(14	%)
Change in expected death and annuitization reserve	18	19	19	(5	%)	—	%
Amortization of sales inducements	26	30	32	(13	%)	(6	%)
Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve	41	38	14	8	%	171	%
Change in other benefit reserves	12	7	10	71	%	(30	%)
Subtotal before impact of derivatives related to FIAs	600	551	520	9	%	6	%
Derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities:							
Embedded derivative mark-to-market	240	184	93	30	%	98	%
Equity option mark-to-market	(181	) (210	) (66	) (14	%)	218	%
Impact of derivatives related to FIAs	59	(26	) 27	(327	%)	(196	%)
Unlocking	(11	) 6	(6	) (283	%)	(200	%)
Total annuity benefits	\$648	\$531	\$541	22	%	(2	%)

(b) Other expenses exclude the \$5 million pretax non-core charge for ELNY guaranty fund assessments in 2013.

See “Annuity Unlocking” below for a discussion of the impact that the periodic review of actuarial assumptions had on annuity benefit expense.

Table of Contents

Net Spread on Fixed Annuities (excludes variable annuity earnings)

The table below (dollars in millions) details the components of these spreads for AFG's fixed annuity operations (including fixed-indexed annuities):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change		
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012	
Average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost)	\$22,391	\$19,151	\$16,650	17	% 15	%
Average fixed annuity benefits accumulated	22,119	18,696	16,394	18	% 14	%
As % of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (except as noted):						
Net investment income (as % of fixed annuity investments)	5.03	% 5.35	% 5.80	%		
Interest credited — fixed	(2.25	%) (2.41	%) (2.68	%)		
Net interest spread	2.78	% 2.94	% 3.12	%		
Policy charges and other miscellaneous income	0.14	% 0.16	% 0.16	%		
Other annuity benefit expenses, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees	(0.28	%) (0.37	%) (0.36	%)		
Acquisition expenses	(0.63	%) (0.79	%) (0.75	%)		
Other expenses (*)	(0.34	%) (0.46	%) (0.46	%)		
Change in fair value of derivatives related to FIAs	(0.27	%) 0.13	% (0.16	%)		
Unlocking	0.01	% (0.01	%) (0.07	%)		
Net spread earned on fixed annuities	1.41	% 1.60	% 1.48	%		

(*) Excludes the \$5 million pretax non-core charge for ELNY guaranty fund assessments. Including this charge, the net spread earned on fixed annuities was 1.57% in 2013.

The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment's net spread earned on fixed annuities, excluding the impact of the non-core charge for ELNY guaranty fund assessments:

	Year ended December 31,					
	2014	2013	2012			
Net spread earned on fixed annuities — before impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities	1.56	% 1.52	% 1.57	%		
Impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (*)	(0.15	%) 0.08	% (0.09	%)		
Net spread earned on fixed annuities	1.41	% 1.60	% 1.48	%		

(*) Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities offset by an estimate of the related acceleration/deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

Annuity Net Investment Income

Net investment income in 2014 was \$1.14 billion compared to \$1.03 billion in 2013, an increase of \$102 million (10%). This increase primarily reflects the growth in AFG's annuity business, partially offset by the run-off of higher yielding investments. The overall yield earned on investments in AFG's annuity operations, calculated as net investment income divided by average investment balances (at amortized cost), declined by 0.32 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013. This decline in net investment yield reflects the investment of new premium dollars at lower yields as compared to the existing investment portfolio and the impact of the reinvestment of proceeds from maturity and redemption of higher yielding investments at the lower yields available in the financial markets.

Net investment income in 2013 was \$1.03 billion compared to \$976 million in 2012, an increase of \$58 million (6%). This increase reflects primarily the growth in AFG's annuity business. The overall yield earned on investments in AFG's annuity operations, calculated as net investment income divided by average investment balances (at amortized cost), declined by 0.45 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012. This decline in net investment yield reflects (i) the investment of new premium dollars in the low interest rate environment and (ii) the impact of the maturity and redemption of higher yielding investments.

Table of Contents**Annuity Interest Credited — Fixed**

Interest credited — fixed in 2014 was \$497 million compared to \$451 million in 2013, an increase of \$46 million (10%). The impact of growth in the annuity business was partially offset by lower interest crediting rates on new premiums as compared to the crediting rates on policyholder funds surrendered or withdrawn. The average interest rate credited to policyholders, calculated as interest credited divided by average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, decreased 0.16 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013. During 2014, interest rates credited on new premiums generally ranged from 1.00% to 2.00%.

Interest credited — fixed in 2013 was \$451 million compared to \$438 million in 2012, an increase of \$13 million (3%). The impact of growth in the annuity business was partially offset by lower interest crediting rates on new premiums as compared to the crediting rates on policyholder funds surrendered or withdrawn as well as the full-year impact of crediting rate reductions on existing policyholder funds that were implemented in the second half of 2012. The average interest rate credited to policyholders, calculated as interest credited divided by average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, decreased 0.27 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012. During 2013, interest rates credited on new premiums generally ranged from 1.00% to 2.00%.

Annuity Net Interest Spread

AFG's net interest spread decreased 0.16 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 due primarily to the run-off of higher yielding investments, partially offset by lower crediting rates.

AFG's net interest spread decreased 0.18 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012 due primarily to the run-off of higher yielding investments, partially offset by lower crediting rates.

Annuity Policy Charges and Other Miscellaneous Income

Annuity policy charges and other miscellaneous income, which consist primarily of surrender charges, were \$44 million in 2014 compared to \$42 million in 2013, an increase of \$2 million (5%) reflecting growth in the business, partially offset by the impact of \$4 million in income from the sale of real estate recorded in 2013.

Annuity policy charges and other miscellaneous income were \$42 million in 2013 compared to \$38 million in 2012, an increase of \$4 million (11%). The increase reflects \$4 million in income from the sale of real estate recorded in 2013.

Other Annuity Benefits

Other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees (excluding the impact of unlocking) were \$63 million in 2014, \$69 million in 2013 and \$61 million in 2012, representing a decrease of \$6 million (9%) in 2014 compared to 2013 and an increase of \$8 million (13%) in 2013 compared to 2012. In addition to interest credited to policyholders' accounts and the change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities, annuity benefits expense also includes the following expenses (in millions, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Change in expected death and annuitization reserve	\$18	\$19	\$19
Amortization of sales inducements	26	30	32
Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve	41	38	14
Change in other benefit reserves	12	7	10
Other annuity benefits	97	94	75
Offset guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees	(34)	(25)	(14)
Other annuity benefits, net	\$63	\$69	\$61

The \$6 million decrease in other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees in 2014 compared to 2013 reflects increased fees from products with guaranteed withdrawal benefit features.

The \$8 million increase in other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees in 2013 compared to 2012 reflects increased sales of products with guaranteed withdrawal benefit features.

See “Annuity Unlocking” below for a discussion of the impact that the periodic review of actuarial assumptions had on annuity benefits expense.

Table of Contents**Annuity Acquisition Expenses**

Excluding the impact of unlocking charges, AFG's amortization of DPAC and commission expenses as a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated was 0.63% in 2014 compared to 0.79% in 2013 and 0.75% in 2012 and has generally ranged between 0.70% and 0.80%. Variances from the general range relate primarily to the impact of (i) material changes in interest rates or the stock market on AFG's fixed-indexed annuity business, and (ii) differences in actual experience from actuarially projected estimates and assumptions. For example, the negative impact of lower interest rates in 2014 on the fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (discussed below) resulted in a partially offsetting deceleration in the amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs; conversely, higher interest rates in 2013 had a positive impact on the fair value of the derivatives, resulting in a partially offsetting acceleration in the amortization of DPAC.

See "Annuity Unlocking" below for a discussion of the impact that the periodic review of actuarial assumptions had on annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses. Unanticipated spread compression, decreases in the stock market, adverse mortality experience, and higher than expected lapse rates could lead to write-offs of DPAC or PVFP in the future.

Annuity Other Expenses

Excluding the non-core ELNY guaranty fund assessments charge, annuity other expenses were \$82 million in 2014, \$93 million in 2013 and \$81 million in 2012, representing a decrease of \$11 million (12%) in 2014 compared to 2013 and an increase of \$12 million (15%) in 2013 compared to 2012. Annuity other expenses for 2014 includes the favorable impact of settling certain accrued expenses at a lower cost than previously estimated, while annuity other expenses for 2013 includes a \$7 million charge to write off certain previously capitalized project costs. Annuity other expenses represent primarily general and administrative expenses, as well as selling and issuance expenses that are not deferred. As a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, these expenses declined 0.12 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 and were flat in 2013 compared to 2012. In general this percentage is expected to decrease as AFG's annuity business grows and annuity other expenses remain relatively stable.

Change in Fair Value of Derivatives Related to Fixed-Indexed Annuities

AFG's fixed-indexed annuities, which represented approximately one-half of annuity benefits accumulated at December 31, 2014, provide policyholders with a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing stock market index. AFG attempts to mitigate the risk in the index-based component of these products through the purchase of call options on the appropriate index. AFG's strategy is designed so that an increase in the liabilities, due to an increase in the market index, will generally be offset by unrealized and realized gains on the call options purchased by AFG. Both the index-based component of the annuities and the related call options are considered derivatives that must be marked-to-market through earnings each period. The fair values of these derivatives are impacted by actual and expected stock market performance and interest rates as well as other factors. For a list of other factors impacting the fair value of the index-based component of AFG's annuity benefits accumulated, see Note D — "Fair Value Measurements" to the financial statements. Excluding the impact of unlocking charges, the net change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities increased annuity benefits by \$59 million in 2014 and \$27 million in 2012, reflecting the negative impact of lower interest rates on these derivatives. Conversely, the net change in fair value of the derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities reduced annuity benefits by \$26 million in 2013 due to the positive impact of higher market interest rates and the net impact of strong market performance on these derivatives.

Fluctuations in interest rates and the stock market, among other factors, can cause volatility in the periodic measurement of fair value of the embedded derivative that management believes can be inconsistent with the long-term economics of these products. The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment's GAAP and core earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

Year ended December 31,	% Change
-------------------------	----------

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012
Core earnings before income taxes — before change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities	\$362	\$313	\$271	16 %	15 %
Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities	(59	) 26	(27	) (327 %)	(196 %)
Related impact on amortization of DPAC (*)	25	(11	) 12	(327 %)	(192 %)
Core earnings before income taxes	328	328	256	— %	28 %
Pretax non-core ELNY guaranty fund assessments	—	(5	) —	(100 %)	— %
GAAP earnings before income taxes	\$328	\$323	\$256	2 %	26 %

(*) An estimate of the related acceleration/deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

Table of Contents**Annuity Net Spread Earned on Fixed Annuities**

AFG's net spread earned on fixed annuities decreased 0.19 percentage points in 2014 compared to 2013 due primarily to the 0.16 percentage points decrease in AFG's net interest spread and the net impact of changes in the fair value of derivatives and related DPAC amortization offset discussed above. These items were partially offset by the impact of growth in AFG's annuity business on other expenses and other annuity benefits as a percent of fixed annuity benefits accumulated discussed above.

AFG's net spread earned on fixed annuities increased 0.12 percentage points in 2013 compared to 2012 as the 0.18 percentage points decrease in AFG's net interest spread was more than offset by the impact of changes in the fair value of derivatives discussed above.

Annuity Benefits Accumulated

Annuity premiums received and benefit payments are recorded as increases or decreases in annuity benefits accumulated rather than as revenue and expense. Increases in this liability for interest credited and other benefits are charged to expense and decreases for surrender and other policy charges are credited to other income.

For certain products, annuity benefits accumulated also includes reserves for accrued persistency and premium bonuses, excess benefits expected to be paid on future deaths and annuitizations ("EDAR") and guaranteed withdrawal benefits. Annuity benefits accumulated also includes amounts advanced from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. The following table is a progression of AFG's annuity benefits accumulated liability for 2014, 2013 and 2012 (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Beginning fixed annuity reserves	\$20,679	\$17,274	\$15,188
Fixed annuity premiums (receipts)	3,649	3,981	2,930
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	—	200	—
Surrenders, benefits and other withdrawals	(1,673)	(1,493)	(1,397)
Interest and other annuity benefit expenses:			
Interest credited	497	451	438
Embedded derivative mark-to-market	240	184	93
Change in other benefit reserves	81	78	32
Unlocking	(11)	4	(10)
Ending fixed annuity reserves	\$23,462	\$20,679	\$17,274
Reconciliation to annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet:			
Ending fixed annuity reserves (from above)	\$23,462	\$20,679	\$17,274
Impact of unrealized investment gains	111	71	136
Fixed component of variable annuities	191	194	199
Annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet	\$23,764	\$20,944	\$17,609

Statutory Annuity Premiums

AFG's annuity operations generated statutory premiums of \$3.70 billion in 2014, \$4.03 billion in 2013 and \$2.99 billion in 2012, a decrease of \$337 million (8%) in 2014 compared to 2013 and an increase of \$1.04 billion (35%) in 2013 compared to 2012. The following table summarizes AFG's annuity sales (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change	
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012
Financial institutions single premium annuities — indexed	\$1,489	\$1,102	\$291	35 %	279 %
Financial institutions single premium annuities — fixed	332	628	587	(47 %)	7 %

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Retail single premium annuities — indexed	1,533	1,879	1,662	(18	%)	13	%
Retail single premium annuities — fixed	101	165	153	(39	%)	8	%
Education market — fixed and indexed annuities	194	207	237	(6	%)	(13	%)
Total fixed annuity premiums	3,649	3,981	2,930	(8	%)	36	%
Variable annuities	47	52	61	(10	%)	(15	%)
Total annuity premiums	\$3,696	\$4,033	\$2,991	(8	%)	35	%

Table of Contents

The 8% decrease in annuity premiums in 2014 compared to 2013 was largely the result of a decline in premiums in the second half of 2014 as compared to recent quarters, which management attributes to AFG's disciplined approach to product pricing in a declining interest rate environment and increased competition. Partially offsetting this decline, AFG experienced growth in the sales of fixed-indexed annuities in the financial institutions market during the first six months of 2014 resulting from new products, expanded distribution and improved market penetration within existing distribution channels.

The 35% increase in annuity premiums in 2013 compared to 2012 reflects continued successful distribution channel expansion, primarily in the financial institutions market, as well as new product offerings. Management also believes that AFG has benefitted from its strong ratings, and that the entire annuity industry has benefitted from the rise in interest rates in 2013, particularly in the financial institutions market.

Annuity Unlocking

In 2014, 2013 and 2012, AFG conducted its detailed review ("unlocking") of the major actuarial assumptions underlying its annuity operations. As a result of these reviews, AFG recorded charges (expense reductions) in annuity benefits expense and annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses related to its annuity business. AFG's net annuity unlocking expense reduction of \$1 million in 2014 and net annuity unlocking charges of \$2 million in 2013 and \$14 million in 2012 impacted AFG's financial statements as follows (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Annuity benefits:			
Fixed-indexed annuities embedded derivative	\$(58	) \$(2	) \$(36
Sales inducements	—	2	4
Other reserves	47	6	26
Total annuity benefits	(11	) 6	(6
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses:			
Deferred policy acquisition costs	20	(4	) 33
Unearned revenue	(10	) —	(13
Net charge (expense reduction)	\$(1	) \$2	\$14

See "Results of Operations — Quarters ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 — Annuity Segment — Results of Operations — Annuity Unlocking" for a discussion of the overall net expense reduction and charge from the periodic review of actuarial assumptions in 2014 and 2013.

Annuity Earnings before Income Taxes Reconciliation

The following table reconciles the GAAP and core net spread earned on AFG's fixed annuities to overall annuity pretax earnings for 2014, 2013 and 2012 (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Earnings on fixed annuity benefits accumulated (a)	\$312	\$300	\$243
Earnings on investments in excess of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (b)	14	24	14
Variable annuity earnings (loss)	2	4	(1
Core earnings before income taxes	328	328	256
Pretax non-core ELNY guaranty fund assessments	—	(5	) —
GAAP earnings before income taxes	\$328	\$323	\$256

(a)Excludes the \$5 million pretax non-core charge for ELNY guarantee fund assessments in 2013.

(b)Net investment income (as a % of investments) of 5.03% and 5.35% and 5.80% in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, multiplied by the difference between average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost) and

average fixed annuity benefits accumulated in each period.

Table of Contents

Run-off Long-Term Care and Life Segment — Results of Operations As previously discussed under “Uncertainties — Run-off Long-term Care Insurance,” AFG recorded a \$153 million loss recognition charge in the fourth quarter of 2012 to write off deferred policy acquisition costs and strengthen reserves in its closed block of long-term care insurance. The charge was due primarily to lower projected future investment rates resulting from the continued low interest rate environment, as well as changes in claims, expenses and persistency assumptions. Excluding this charge, pretax core operating losses for the run-off long-term care and life segment were \$10 million in both 2014 and 2013, and \$4 million in 2012. The following table details AFG’s GAAP and core losses before income taxes from its run-off long-term care and life operations in 2014, 2013 and 2012 (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change		
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012	
Revenues:						
Net earned premiums:						
Long-term care	\$74	\$76	\$78	(3	%)	(3
Life operations	34	38	41	(11	%)	(7
Net investment income	82	76	69	8	%)	10
Other income	4	4	3	—	%)	33
Total revenues	194	194	191	—	%)	2
Costs and Expenses:						
Life, accident and health benefits:						
Long-term care (*)	119	113	99	5	%)	14
Life operations	45	47	52	(4	%)	(10
Acquisition expenses (*)	17	18	22	(6	%)	(18
Other expenses	23	26	22	(12	%)	18
Total costs and expenses	204	204	195	—	%)	5
Core loss before income taxes	(10	) (10	) (4	) —	%)	150
Pretax non-core loss recognition charge	—	—	(153	) —	%)	(100
GAAP loss before income taxes	\$(10	) \$(10	) \$(157	) —	%)	(94

(*) Excludes the pretax non-core loss recognition charge recorded in the fourth quarter of 2012 to increase life, accident and health benefits by \$74 million and acquisition expenses by \$79 million.

The \$6 million increase in long-term care benefit expense in 2014 as compared to 2013 is due primarily to a \$5 million loss on the commutation of a reinsurance agreement.

The increase in long-term care benefits expense in 2013 as compared to 2012 is due primarily to an increase in new claims. The decrease in life benefits expense in 2013 as compared to 2012 is due primarily to improved claims experience in the first half of 2013.

AFG expects revenues and expenses related to the long-term care business to generally increase over time as this closed block of business ages. Due to the age and relatively small size of its long-term care business, AFG expects claims volatility from period to period.

Table of Contents

Medicare Supplement and Critical Illness Segment — Results of Operations AFG's Medicare supplement and critical illness segment contributed \$198 million in GAAP pretax earnings in 2012, which includes a \$170 million pretax non-core realized gain on the August 2012 sale of these businesses. See Note B — "Acquisitions and Sales of Businesses" to the financial statements. The following table details AFG's GAAP and core earnings before income taxes from its Medicare supplement and critical illness business (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Revenues:			
Net earned premiums	\$—	\$—	\$199
Net investment income	—	—	7
Other income	—	—	6
Total revenues	—	—	212
Costs and Expenses:			
Life, accident and health benefits	—	—	131
Acquisition expenses	—	—	31
Other expenses	—	—	22
Total costs and expenses	—	—	184
Core earnings before income taxes	—	—	28
Pretax non-core realized gain on sale of Medicare supplement and critical illness businesses	—	—	170
GAAP earnings before income taxes	\$—	\$—	\$198

Holding Company, Other and Unallocated — Results of Operations AFG's net GAAP pretax loss outside of its insurance operations (excluding realized gains) totaled \$149 million in 2014 compared to \$190 million in 2013, a decrease of \$41 million (22%). AFG's net core pretax loss outside of its insurance operations (excluding realized gains) totaled \$143 million in 2014 compared to \$168 million in 2013, a decrease of \$25 million (15%).

AFG's net GAAP pretax loss outside of its insurance operations (excluding realized gains) totaled \$190 million in 2013 compared to \$185 million in 2012, an increase of \$5 million (3%). AFG's net core pretax loss outside of its insurance operations (excluding realized gains) totaled \$168 million in 2013 compared to \$160 million in 2012, an increase of \$8 million (5%).

The following table details AFG's GAAP and core loss before income taxes from operations outside of its insurance operations in 2014, 2013 and 2012 (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change			
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012		
Revenues:							
Net investment income	\$5	\$8	\$5	(38	%)	60	%
Other income	36	27	22	33	%	23	%
Total revenues	41	35	27	17	%	30	%
Costs and Expenses:							
Interest charges on borrowed money	69	68	71	1	%	(4	%)
Other expenses (*)	115	135	116	(15	%)	16	%
Total costs and expenses	184	203	187	(9	%)	9	%
Core loss before income taxes, excluding realized gains	(143	) (168	) (160	) (15	%)	5	%
Pretax non-core items, excluding realized gains:							
Special A&E charges	(6	) (22	) (2	) (73	%)	1,000	%

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Other	—	—	(23	)	—	%	(100	%)		
GAAP loss before income taxes, excluding realized gains	\$(149	)	\$(190	)	\$(185	)	(22	%)	3	%

(*) Excludes pretax non-core special A&E charges of \$6 million, \$22 million and \$2 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Other expenses in 2012 also exclude \$23 million in other non-core charges (discussed below).

Table of Contents

Holding Company and Other — Net Investment Income

AFG recorded investment income on investments held outside of its insurance operations of \$5 million, \$8 million and \$5 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Holding Company and Other — Other Income

Other income in the table above includes management fees paid to AFG by the AFG-managed CLOs (AFG's consolidated managed investment entities) of \$25 million, \$16 million and \$18 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. These fees are eliminated in consolidation — see the other income line in the Consolidated MIEs column under "Results of Operations — Segmented Statement of Earnings." Excluding amounts eliminated in consolidation, AFG recorded other income outside of its insurance operations of \$11 million in both 2014 and 2013, and \$4 million in 2012. Results for 2012 include a loss related to the sale of fixed assets of \$7 million.

Holding Company and Other — Interest Charges on Borrowed Money

AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded interest expense of \$69 million in 2014 compared to \$68 million in 2013, an increase of \$1 million (1%). AFG issued \$150 million of 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures in late September 2014.

AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded interest expense of \$68 million in 2013 compared to \$71 million in 2012, a decrease of \$3 million (4%). In 2012, AFG issued new Senior Notes and used the proceeds to redeem higher rate debt.

Holding Company and Other — Other Expenses

As a result of the in-depth internal reviews and comprehensive external study of A&E exposures discussed under "Uncertainties — Asbestos and Environmental-related ("A&E") Insurance Reserves," AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded non-core special charges of \$6 million, \$22 million and \$2 million in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, to increase liabilities related to the A&E exposures of AFG's former railroad and manufacturing operations. The 2014 and 2013 charges related to slightly higher estimated operation and maintenance costs at sites where remediation is underway, coupled with higher estimated cleanup costs at a limited number of sites. In 2012, these operations also recorded a \$15 million non-core charge resulting from an adverse judgment in a long-standing labor contract dispute related to AFG's former railroad operations and an \$8 million non-core loss on the retirement of debt.

Excluding the non-core charges, AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded other expenses of \$115 million in 2014, \$135 million in 2013 and \$116 million in 2012. The \$20 million (15%) decrease in 2014 compared to 2013 and the \$19 million (16%) increase in 2013 compared to 2012 reflect the impact of higher holding company expenses in 2013, primarily related to employee benefit plans that are tied to stock market performance and certain share-based incentive plans.

Consolidated Realized Gains on Securities AFG's consolidated realized gains on securities, which are not allocated to segments, were \$52 million in 2014 compared to \$221 million in 2013, a decrease of \$169 million (76%). AFG's consolidated realized gains on securities were \$221 million in 2013 compared to \$210 million in 2012, an increase of \$11 million (5%). Realized gains (losses) on securities consisted of the following (in millions):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Realized gains (losses) before impairments:			
Disposals	\$89	\$233	\$243
Change in the fair value of derivatives	1	1	1
Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items	(2)	(1)	(8)
	88	233	236

Impairment charges:

Securities	(41	)	(15	)	(33	)
Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items	5		3		7	
	(36	)	(12	)	(26	)
Realized gains on securities	\$52		\$221		\$210	

Realized gains on disposals include gains on sales of shares of Verisk Analytics, Inc. of \$49 million and \$93 million in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Table of Contents

Consolidated Income Taxes AFG's consolidated provision for income taxes was \$220 million in 2014 compared to \$236 million in 2013, a decrease of \$16 million (7%). AFG's consolidated provision for income taxes was \$236 million in 2013 compared to \$135 million in 2012, an increase of \$101 million (75%). The provision for income taxes recorded in 2012 includes a \$67 million non-core tax benefit related to the favorable resolution of certain tax litigation and settlement of open tax years. See Note L — "Income Taxes" to the financial statements for an analysis of items affecting AFG's effective tax rate.

Consolidated Noncontrolling Interests AFG's consolidated net loss attributable to noncontrolling interests was \$46 million in 2014 compared to \$18 million in 2013, an increase of \$28 million (156%). AFG's consolidated net loss attributable to noncontrolling interests was \$18 million in 2013 compared to \$86 million in 2012, a decrease of \$68 million (79%). The following table details net earnings (loss) in consolidated subsidiaries attributable to holders other than AFG (dollars in millions):

	Year ended December 31,			% Change	
	2014	2013	2012	2014 - 2013	2013 - 2012
National Interstate	\$5	\$8	\$16	(38 %)	(50 %)
Marketform	—	—	(4)	— %	(100 %)
Managed Investment Entities	(51)	(26)	(98)	96 %	(73 %)
Loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	\$(46)	\$(18)	\$(86)	156 %	(79 %)

During the third quarter of 2012, AFG acquired the remaining 28% of Marketform that it did not already own. As discussed in Note A — "Accounting Policies" and Note H — "Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements, the losses of Managed Investment Entities in 2014, 2013 and 2012 represent CLO losses that ultimately inure to holders of CLO debt other than AFG.

RECENT ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

See Note A — "Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements for a discussion of a recent accounting standard update that will impact AFG's accounting for its managed CLOs.

Table of Contents

ITEM 7A

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Market risk represents the potential economic loss arising from adverse changes in the fair value of financial instruments. AFG's exposures to market risk relate primarily to its investment portfolio and annuity contracts, which are exposed to interest rate risk and, to a lesser extent, equity price risk. To a much lesser extent, AFG's long-term debt is also exposed to interest rate risk.

Fixed Maturity Portfolio The fair value of AFG's fixed maturity portfolio is directly impacted by changes in market interest rates. AFG's fixed maturity portfolio is comprised of primarily fixed rate investments with intermediate-term maturities. This practice is designed to allow flexibility in reacting to fluctuations of interest rates. The portfolios of AFG's insurance operations are managed with an attempt to achieve an adequate risk-adjusted return while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet policyholder obligations. AFG's annuity and run-off long-term care and life operations attempt to align the duration of their invested assets to the projected cash flows of policyholder liabilities.

Consistent with the discussion in Item 7 — Management's Discussion and Analysis — "Investments," the following table demonstrates the sensitivity of the fair value of AFG's fixed maturity portfolio to reasonably likely changes in interest rates by illustrating the estimated effect on AFG's fixed maturity portfolio that an immediate increase of 100 basis points in the interest rate yield curve would have at December 31 (based on the duration of the portfolio, dollars in millions). Increases or decreases from the 100 basis points illustrated would be approximately proportional.

	2014		2013	
Fair value of fixed maturity portfolio	\$31,000		\$26,761	
Pretax impact on fair value of 100 bps increase in interest rates	\$(1,550	)	\$(1,204	)
Pretax impact as % of total fixed maturity portfolio	(5.0	%)	(4.5	%)

European Debt Exposure Certain European countries, including the so-called "peripheral countries" (Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Italy and Spain) have been experiencing varying degrees of financial stress over the past few years and there remains uncertainty as to future developments and the impact on global financial markets. At December 31, 2014, less than 5% of AFG's cash and investments consisted of European debt and AFG owned no sovereign debt issued by the peripheral countries.

Annuity Contracts Substantially all of AFG's fixed rate annuity contracts permit AFG to change crediting rates (subject to minimum interest rate guarantees as determined by applicable law) enabling management to react to changes in market interest rates. In late 2003, AFG began issuing products with guaranteed minimum interest rates ("GMIRs") of less than 2% in states where required approvals have been received. The GMIR on virtually all new product sales since 2010 is 1%. At December 31, 2014, AFG is able to reduce the average crediting rate of its \$18 billion of traditional and fixed-indexed annuities without guaranteed withdrawal benefits by approximately 58 basis points (on a weighted average basis).

As presented in Item 7 — Management's Discussion and Analysis — "Results of Operations — Years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012" — "Net Spread on Fixed Annuities," the weighted average interest credited rate on AFG's in-force block of fixed annuities was 2.25% for the year ended December 31, 2014. Management estimates that the interest credited rate on this in-force business will increase to approximately 2.35% over the next five years. This rate reflects actuarial assumptions as to (i) expected investment spreads, (ii) deaths, (iii) annuitizations, (iv) surrenders and other withdrawals and (v) renewal premiums. Actual experience and changes in actuarial assumptions may result in different effective crediting rates than those above. During 2014, interest rates credited on new premiums of AFG's fixed annuity products generally ranged from 1.00% to 2.00%.

Actuarial assumptions used to estimate DPAC and certain annuity liabilities, as well as AFG's ability to maintain spread, could be impacted if a low interest rate environment continues for an extended period, or if increases in interest rates cause policyholder behavior to differ significantly from current expectations.

Table of Contents

Projected payments (in millions) in each of the subsequent five years and for all years thereafter on AFG's fixed annuity liabilities at December 31 were as follows.

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Thereafter	Total	Fair Value (*)
2014	\$2,047	\$2,254	\$2,325	\$2,472	\$2,544	\$12,122	\$23,764	\$23,187
2013	1,808	2,071	2,248	2,303	2,356	10,158	20,944	19,959

(*) Fair value excludes life contingent annuities in the payout phase (carrying value of \$203 million at December 31, 2014 and 2013).

AFG's fixed-indexed annuities, which represented approximately one-half of annuity benefits accumulated at December 31, 2014, provide policyholders with a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing stock market index. AFG attempts to mitigate the risk in the index-based component of these products through the purchase of call options on the appropriate index. AFG's strategy is designed so that an increase in the liabilities, due to an increase in the market index, will generally be offset by unrealized and realized gains on the call options purchased by AFG. Both the index-based component of the annuities and the related call options are considered derivatives that must be marked-to-market through earnings each period. See Note D — "Fair Value Measurements" and Note F — "Derivatives" to the financial statements for a discussion of these derivatives.

Long-Term Debt The following table shows scheduled principal payments on fixed-rate long-term debt of AFG and its subsidiaries and related weighted average interest rates for each of the subsequent five years and for all years thereafter (dollars in millions):

December 31, 2014				December 31, 2013			
	Scheduled Principal Payments	Rate			Scheduled Principal Payments	Rate	
2015	\$14	5.7 %		2014	\$2	5.9 %	
2016	45	6.1 %		2015	14	5.7 %	
2017	—	— %		2016	45	6.1 %	
2018	—	— %		2017	—	— %	
2019	350	9.9 %		2018	—	— %	
Thereafter	640	6.4 %		Thereafter	840	7.9 %	
Total	\$1,049	7.5 %		Total	\$901	7.7 %	
Fair Value	\$1,168			Fair Value	\$973		

National Interstate had \$12 million in borrowings outstanding under a bank credit facility at December 31, 2014 and 2013. No amounts were outstanding under AFG's bank credit facility at December 31, 2014 or 2013.

Table of Contents

ITEM 8

Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	Page <u>F-1</u>
Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014 and 2013	<u>F-2</u>
Consolidated Statement of Earnings for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	<u>F-3</u>
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	<u>F-4</u>
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	<u>F-5</u>
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	<u>F-6</u>
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	<u>F-7</u>

Selected Quarterly Financial Data has been included in Note N to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 9A

Controls and Procedures

AFG's management, with participation of its Co-Chief Executive Officers and its Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated AFG's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, AFG's Co-CEOs and CFO concluded that the controls and procedures are effective. There have been no changes in AFG's internal control over financial reporting during the fourth fiscal quarter of 2014 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, AFG's internal control over financial reporting.

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

AFG's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including AFG's Co-Chief Executive Officers and Chief Financial Officer, AFG conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on the criteria set forth in "Internal Control — Integrated Framework" issued in 2013 by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

In conducting AFG's evaluation of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting, AFG has not included Summit Holding Southeast, Inc., which was acquired in 2014. This acquisition constituted less than 4% of total assets as of December 31, 2014 and less than 8% of total revenues and net earnings for the year then ended. Summit Holding Southeast, Inc.'s operations will be included in AFG's assessment as of December 31, 2015. Refer to Note B — "Acquisitions and Sales of Businesses" to the consolidated financial statements for further discussion of this acquisition.

There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any system of internal controls and procedures, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of the controls and procedures. Accordingly, even effective internal controls and procedures can only provide reasonable assurance of achieving their control objectives.

Based on AFG's evaluation, management concluded that internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2014. The attestation report of AFG's independent registered public accounting firm on AFG's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, is set forth on page F-1.

ITEM 9B

Other Information

As previously reported, in connection with the transition by James E. Evans effective January 1, 2014 from his role as an officer and employee of AFG to that of executive consultant, Mr. Evans agreed to a three-year consulting arrangement. On February 23, 2015, AFG and Mr. Evans extended the term of the consulting agreement by one year on the same terms.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM
ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Board of Directors and Shareholders
American Financial Group, Inc.

We have audited American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries' (the Company's) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) (the COSO criteria). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

As indicated in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, management's assessment of and conclusion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting did not include the internal controls of Summit Holding Southeast, Inc., which is included in the 2014 consolidated financial statements of American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries and constituted less than 4% of total assets as of December 31, 2014 and less than 8% of total revenues and net earnings for the year then ended. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting of American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries also did not include an evaluation of the internal control over financial reporting of Summit Holding Southeast, Inc.

In our opinion, American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014, and our report dated February 26, 2015, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Cincinnati, Ohio
February 26, 2015

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Shareholders

American Financial Group, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014. Our audits also included the financial statement schedules listed in the Index at Item 15(a). These financial statements and schedules are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedules based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries at December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), American Financial Group, Inc. and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) and our report dated February 26, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Cincinnati, Ohio
February 26, 2015

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
(Dollars in Millions)

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,343	\$1,639
Investments:		
Fixed maturities, available for sale at fair value (amortized cost — \$29,074 and \$25,366)	30,734	26,456
Fixed maturities, trading at fair value	266	305
Equity securities, available for sale at fair value (cost — \$1,283 and \$931)	1,501	1,123
Equity securities, trading at fair value	195	56
Mortgage loans	1,117	781
Policy loans	228	238
Real estate and other investments	826	715
Total cash and investments	36,210	31,313
Recoverables from reinsurers	3,238	3,157
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	469	408
Agents' balances and premiums receivable	889	739
Deferred policy acquisition costs	821	975
Assets of managed investment entities	3,108	2,888
Other receivables	910	854
Variable annuity assets (separate accounts)	662	665
Other assets	1,027	903
Goodwill	201	185
Total assets	\$47,535	\$42,087
Liabilities and Equity:		
Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$7,872	\$6,410
Unearned premiums	1,956	1,757
Annuity benefits accumulated	23,764	20,944
Life, accident and health reserves	2,175	2,008
Payable to reinsurers	645	508
Liabilities of managed investment entities	2,819	2,567
Long-term debt	1,061	913
Variable annuity liabilities (separate accounts)	662	665
Other liabilities	1,527	1,546
Total liabilities	42,481	37,318
Shareholders' equity:		
Common Stock, no par value		
— 200,000,000 shares authorized	88	90
— 87,708,793 and 89,513,386 shares outstanding		
Capital surplus	1,152	1,123
Retained earnings:		
Appropriated — managed investment entities	(2	) 49
Unappropriated	2,914	2,777
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax	727	560

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Total shareholders' equity	4,879	4,599
Noncontrolling interests	175	170
Total equity	5,054	4,769
Total liabilities and equity	\$47,535	\$42,087

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

F-2

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS
(In Millions, Except Per Share Data)

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Revenues:			
Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums	\$3,878	\$3,204	\$2,847
Life, accident and health net earned premiums	108	114	318
Net investment income	1,501	1,346	1,301
Realized gains (losses) on:			
Securities (*)	52	221	210
Subsidiaries	—	(4	) 161
Income (loss) of managed investment entities:			
Investment income	116	128	125
Loss on change in fair value of assets/liabilities	(44	) (14	) (94
Other income	102	97	89
Total revenues	5,713	5,092	4,957
Costs and Expenses:			
Property and casualty insurance:			
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	2,494	2,040	1,873
Commissions and other underwriting expenses	1,172	1,019	887
Annuity benefits	648	531	541
Life, accident and health benefits	164	160	356
Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses	173	167	282
Interest charges on borrowed money	73	71	75
Expenses of managed investment entities	82	89	80
Other expenses	281	326	326
Total costs and expenses	5,087	4,403	4,420
Earnings before income taxes	626	689	537
Provision for income taxes	220	236	135
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	406	453	402
Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(46	) (18	) (86
Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders	\$452	\$471	\$488
Earnings Attributable to Shareholders per Common Share:			
Basic	\$5.07	\$5.27	\$5.18
Diluted	\$4.97	\$5.16	\$5.09
Average number of Common Shares:			
Basic	89.0	89.3	94.2
Diluted	91.0	91.2	95.9
Cash dividends per Common Share	\$1.91	\$1.805	\$0.97
(*) Consists of the following:			
Realized gains before impairments	\$88	\$233	\$236
Losses on securities with impairment	(36	) (14	) (27

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Non-credit portion recognized in other comprehensive income (loss)	—	2	1	
Impairment charges recognized in earnings	(36	) (12	) (26	)
Total realized gains on securities	\$52	\$221	\$210	

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

F-3

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(In Millions)

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests	\$406	\$453	\$402
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Net unrealized gains (losses) on securities:			
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on securities arising during the period	216	(122)	) 408
Reclassification adjustment for realized gains included in net earnings	(33)	) (144)	) (138)
Reclassification adjustment for unrealized gains of subsidiaries sold	—	—	(18)
Total net unrealized gains (losses) on securities	183	(266)	) 252
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(9)	) (13)	) 6
Pension and other postretirement plans adjustments	(4)	) 2	2
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	170	(277)	) 260
Total comprehensive income, net of tax	576	176	662
Less: Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(43)	) (24)	) (78)
Comprehensive income attributable to shareholders	\$619	\$200	\$740

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
(Dollars in Millions)

	Common Shares	Shareholders' Equity Common Stock and Capital Surplus	Retained Earnings Approp.	Unapprop.	Accumulated Other Comp Inc. (Loss)	Total	Noncon- trolling Interests	Total Equity
Balance at December 31, 2011	97,846,402	\$1,219	\$173	\$2,439	\$580	\$4,411	\$146	\$4,557
Net earnings	—	—	—	488	—	488	(86)	402
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	252	252	8	260
Allocation of losses of managed investment entities	—	—	(98)	—	—	(98)	98	—
Dividends on Common Stock	—	—	—	(91)	—	(91)	—	(91)
Shares issued:								
Exercise of stock options	1,702,782	45	—	—	—	45	—	45
Other benefit plans	308,352	7	—	—	—	7	—	7
Dividend reinvestment plan	21,484	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Stock-based compensation expense	—	18	—	—	—	18	—	18
Shares acquired and retired	(10,864,184)	(137)	—	(278)	—	(415)	—	(415)
Shares exchanged — benefit plans	(35,533)	(1)	—	—	—	(1)	—	(1)
Other	—	—	—	(38)	(1)	(39)	4	(35)
Balance at December 31, 2012	88,979,303	\$1,152	\$75	\$2,520	\$831	\$4,578	\$170	\$4,748
Net earnings	—	—	—	471	—	471	(18)	453
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	(271)	(271)	(6)	(277)
Allocation of losses of managed investment entities	—	—	(26)	—	—	(26)	26	—
Dividends on Common Stock	—	—	—	(161)	—	(161)	—	(161)
Shares issued:								
Exercise of stock options	1,625,023	53	—	—	—	53	—	53
Other benefit plans	388,043	7	—	—	—	7	—	7
Dividend reinvestment plan	28,147	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Stock-based compensation expense	—	19	—	—	—	19	—	19
Shares acquired and retired	(1,448,156)	(19)	—	(51)	—	(70)	—	(70)

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Shares exchanged — benefit plans	(58,974)	(1)	—	(2)	—	(3)	—	(3)
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2)	(2)
Balance at December 31, 2013	89,513,386	\$1,213	\$49	\$ 2,777	\$ 560	\$4,599	\$170	\$4,769
Net earnings	—	—	—	452	—	452	(46)	406
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	167	167	3	170
Allocation of losses of managed investment entities	—	—	(51)	—	—	(51)	51	—
Dividends on Common Stock	—	—	—	(169)	—	(169)	—	(169)
Shares issued:								