

Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG  
Form 10-K  
February 17, 2015  
Table of Contents

---

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

---

Form 10-K

---

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 001-32938

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Switzerland

98-0681223

(State or Other Jurisdiction of

(I.R.S. Employer

Incorporation or Organization)

Identification No.)

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

(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)

41-41-768-1080

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Shares, par value CHF 4.10 per share

New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

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

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

Act. Yes  No

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

Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90

days. Yes  No

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

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

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - 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 the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

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

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

Yes  No

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

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

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

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

---

Table of Contents

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART I	
ITEM 1. <u>Business</u>	<u>1</u>
ITEM 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>17</u>
ITEM 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>34</u>
ITEM 2. <u>Properties</u>	<u>39</u>
ITEM 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>40</u>
ITEM 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>40</u>
PART II	
ITEM 5. <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	<u>41</u>
ITEM 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>44</u>
ITEM 7. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>46</u>
ITEM 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>98</u>
ITEM 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	<u>100</u>
ITEM 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>101</u>
ITEM 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>101</u>
ITEM 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	<u>103</u>
PART III	
ITEM 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	<u>103</u>
ITEM 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	<u>103</u>
ITEM 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	<u>103</u>
ITEM 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	<u>103</u>
ITEM 14. <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	<u>103</u>
PART IV	
ITEM 15. <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>103</u>
<u>SIGNATURES</u>	<u>104</u>
<u>EXHIBITS</u>	<u>E-1</u>
<u>CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	<u>F-1</u>

---

Table of Contents

PART I

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

Item 1. Business

Overview

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

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

Available Information

We maintain a website at [www.awac.com](http://www.awac.com). The information on our website is not incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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

the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

### Our Strategy

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

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

1

---

## Table of Contents

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

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

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

## Competition

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

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

## Our Operating Segments

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

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

## Distribution

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

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

2

---

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

## North American Insurance Segment

## General

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





Table of Contents

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

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

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

#### Products and Customer Base

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

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

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

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

#### Global Markets Insurance Segment

## General

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

#### Products and Customer Base

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

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

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

#### Reinsurance Segment

##### General

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

## Product Lines and Customer Base

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

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

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

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

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

## Enterprise Risk Management

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Financial Strength Ratings

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



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

7

---

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

## Gross Losses

	Year Ended December 31,										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008(1)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	(\$ in millions)										
As Originally Estimated:	\$2,084.3	\$3,543.8	\$3,900.5	\$4,307.6	\$4,576.8	\$4,761.8	\$4,879.2	\$5,225.1	\$5,645.5	\$5,766.5	\$5,881.1
Liability Re-estimated as of:											
One Year Later	1,961.2	3,403.3	3,622.7	3,484.9	4,290.3	4,329.3	4,557.8	4,991.2	5,375.6	5,491.1	5,606.7
Two Years Later	1,873.6	3,249.3	3,247.9	3,149.3	3,877.8	3,975.2	4,246.5	4,707.7	5,138.5	5,253.6	5,368.7
Three Years Later	1,733.7	2,894.5	2,911.3	2,791.1	3,576.8	3,670.3	3,953.8	4,449.1	4,880.0	4,995.1	5,110.2
Four Years Later	1,513.7	2,558.6	2,605.8	2,533.6	3,295.7	3,446.4	3,719.4	4,150.3	4,581.2	4,696.3	4,811.4
Five Years Later	1,306.2	2,315.9	2,432.6	2,300.1	3,101.7	3,285.2	3,558.1	3,989.0	4,420.0	4,535.1	4,650.2
Six Years Later	1,235.6	2,190.5	2,314.2	2,184.3	3,037.9	3,221.4	3,494.3	3,925.2	4,356.1	4,471.2	4,586.3
Seven Years Later	1,207.7	2,168.5	2,263.0	2,115.2	2,964.0	3,147.5	3,414.4	3,845.3	4,276.2	4,391.3	4,506.4
Eight Years Later	1,199.7	2,151.4	2,237.5	2,089.7	2,910.1	3,093.6	3,360.5	3,791.4	4,222.3	4,337.4	4,452.5
Nine Years Later	1,197.1	2,155.1	2,241.2	2,093.4	2,905.2	3,088.7	3,355.6	3,783.5	4,214.4	4,329.5	4,444.6
Ten Years Later	1,192.6	2,158.8	2,244.9	2,097.9	2,900.3	3,083.8	3,350.1	3,778.0	4,209.9	4,325.0	4,440.1
Cumulative (Redundancy)	(891.7 )	(1,388.7 )	(1,663.0 )	(2,192.4 )	(1,538.9 )	(1,476.6 )	(1,159.8 )	(776.0 )	(507.0 )	(275.4 )	(150.5 )
Cumulative Claims Paid as of:											
One Year Later	374.6	718.3	560.2	583.4	574.8	634.5	656.6	852.1	1,112.6	1,165.6	1,218.7
Two Years Later	574.4	1,154.9	1,002.5	943.9	1,089.5	1,036.2	1,242.1	1,577.0	1,961.8	2,014.9	2,068.0
Three Years Later	726.0	1,521.6	1,252.9	1,311.4	1,391.3	1,408.0	1,671.5	2,185.2	2,570.1	2,623.2	2,676.3
Four Years Later	842.9	1,662.8	1,531.9	1,469.3	1,680.7	1,737.2	2,097.7	2,582.1	2,967.0	3,020.1	3,073.2
Five Years Later	910.4	1,829.0	1,622.5	1,634.5	1,904.4	2,071.9	2,438.6	2,923.0	3,307.9	3,361.0	3,414.1
Six Years Later	972.0	1,864.9	1,705.9	1,789.1	2,136.2	2,303.7	2,670.9	3,156.1	3,541.0	3,594.1	3,647.2
Seven Years Later	994.8	1,916.9	1,810.5	1,910.2	2,283.3	2,450.8	2,818.0	3,313.2	3,698.1	3,751.2	3,804.3
Eight Years Later	1,031.9	1,995.1	1,920.2	1,989.3	2,360.4	2,527.9	2,895.1	3,390.3	3,775.2	3,828.3	3,881.4
	1,071.9	2,033.3	1,958.4	2,027.5	2,398.6	2,566.1	2,933.3	3,428.5	3,813.4	3,866.5	3,919.6

Nine Years

Later

Ten Years 1,112.2

Later

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

Table of Contents

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

## Gross Losses

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

Table of Contents

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

## Losses Net of Reinsurance

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

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

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



Table of ContentsDevelopment of Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses Cumulative Deficiency (Redundancy)  
Losses Net of Reinsurance

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

Table of Contents

## Losses Net of Reinsurance

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

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

## Investments

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

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

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

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

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

## Our Principal Operating Subsidiaries

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

## Regulatory Matters

### General

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

### Group Supervision

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

### Bermuda

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

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

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

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

## Security Arrangements

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

## Ireland

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

## Lloyd’s

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

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

### Switzerland

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

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

### United States

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

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

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



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

## Table of Contents

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

### Other

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

### Item 1A. Risk Factors.

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

#### Risks Related to Our Company

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



reinsure.

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

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

20

---

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

### Risks Related to Our Transaction with RSA

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

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

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

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

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Risks Related to the Insurance and Reinsurance Business

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



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

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

## Risks Related to Laws and Regulations Applicable to Us

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Risks Related to Ownership of Our Common Shares

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



against us based upon such judgments.

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

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

## Table of Contents

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

### Risks Related to Taxation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

The United Kingdom has no income tax treaty with Bermuda.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

None.

Table of Contents

GLOSSARY OF SELECTED INSURANCE AND OTHER TERMS

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



Table of Contents

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

Table of Contents

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





Table of Contents

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

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

Run-off

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

38

---

Table of Contents

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

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

Table of Contents

Item 2. Properties.

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

Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

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

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

## PART II

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

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

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

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

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

The following dividends were paid during 2014 and 2013:

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

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

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

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

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



Table of Contents

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

## Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

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

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

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

Table of Contents

PERFORMANCE GRAPH

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

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

TOTAL RETURN TO SHAREHOLDERS  
(INCLUDES REINVESTMENT OF DIVIDENDS)

Table of Contents

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Table of Contents

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

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

#### Overview

#### Our Business

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

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

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

#### Recent Developments

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

The decrease in net income was due to the following:

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

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

Table of Contents

Partially offsetting the above decreases were the following:

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

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

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

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

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

## Financial Highlights

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

Non-GAAP Financial Measures

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

47

---



Table of Contents

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

## Operating income &amp; operating income per share

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

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

Table of Contents

## Diluted book value per share

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

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

## Annualized return on average equity

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

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

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



## Table of Contents

### Relevant Factors

#### Revenues

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

#### Expenses

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

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

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

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

#### Ratios

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

#### Critical Accounting Policies

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

Table of Contents

## Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses

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

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

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

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

While management believes that our case reserves and IBNR are sufficient to cover losses assumed by us, there can be no assurance that losses will not deviate from our reserves, possibly by material amounts. The methodology of estimating loss reserves is periodically reviewed to ensure that the assumptions made continue to be appropriate. To the extent actual reported losses exceed estimated losses, the carried estimate of the ultimate losses will be increased (i.e., unfavorable reserve development), and to the extent actual reported losses are less than estimated losses, the carried estimate of ultimate losses will be reduced (i.e., favorable reserve development). We record any changes in our loss reserve estimates and the related reinsurance recoverables in the periods in which they are determined.

Determining whether our estimated losses are sufficient to cover all reported and non-reported claims involves a high degree of judgment. It is our practice to address unfavorable loss emergence early in our long-tail lines of business while we tend to recognize favorable loss emergence more slowly in our long-tail lines once actual loss emergence and data provides greater confidence around the adequacy of ultimate estimates.

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

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

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

54

---

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

## Ceded Reinsurance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

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

57

---

## Table of Contents

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

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

### Assumed Reinsurance Premiums

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

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

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

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

### Fair Value of Financial Instruments

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



by broker-dealers.

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

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

60

---

Table of Contents

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

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

## Goodwill and Other Intangible Asset Impairment Valuation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

## Results of Operations

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

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
	(\$ in millions)			
<b>Revenues</b>				
Gross premiums written	\$2,935.4	\$2,738.7	\$2,329.3	
Net premiums written	\$2,322.1	\$2,120.5	\$1,837.8	
Net premiums earned	\$2,182.7	\$2,005.8	\$1,748.9	
Net investment income	176.9	157.6	167.1	
Net realized investment gains	89.0	59.5	306.4	
Other income	2.1	—	—	
	\$2,450.7	\$2,222.9	\$2,222.4	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Net losses and loss expenses	\$1,199.2	\$1,123.2	\$1,139.3	
Acquisition costs	295.1	252.7	205.7	
General and administrative expenses	365.7	352.3	307.3	
Other expense	8.6	—	—	
Amortization of intangible assets	2.5	2.5	2.5	
Interest expense	57.8	56.5	55.4	
Foreign exchange loss	1.0	8.0	0.8	
	\$1,929.9	\$1,795.2	\$1,711.0	
Income before income taxes	520.8	427.7	511.4	
Income tax expense	30.5	9.8	18.4	
Net income	\$490.3	\$417.9	\$493.0	
<b>Ratios</b>				
Loss and loss expense ratio	54.9	% 56.0	% 65.1	%
Acquisition cost ratio	13.5	% 12.6	% 11.8	%
General and administrative expense ratio	16.8	% 17.6	% 17.6	%
Expense ratio	30.3	% 30.2	% 29.4	%
Combined ratio	85.2	% 86.2	% 94.5	%

## Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

## Premiums

Gross premiums written increased by \$196.7 million, or 7.2%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The overall increase in gross premiums written was primarily the result of the following:

North American Insurance: Gross premiums written in our North American Insurance segment increased by \$143.9 million, or 9.2%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013. The increase in gross premiums written was primarily due to new business, both from existing lines and new lines, combined with premium rate increases across all lines of business except for our property line of business. We experienced rate decreases in our

Table of Contents

general property line of business due to the low level of reported loss activity during the year and increased competition. This growth was partially offset by the non-renewal of business, particularly in our healthcare line of business, that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or terms and conditions) and continued competition;

Global Markets Insurance : Gross premiums written in our Global Markets Insurance segment increased by \$47.9 million, or 20.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013. The increase was primarily due to continued growth across all existing lines of business and new lines of business, such as marine cargo and onshore construction. This growth was partially offset by the non-renewal of business across several lines of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or terms and conditions) and continued competition; and

Reinsurance: Gross premiums written in our Reinsurance segment increased by \$4.8 million, or 0.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013. The increase in gross premiums written was driven primarily by new business and increased renewals across several major lines of business partially offset by non-renewals of certain treaties, particularly in our casualty reinsurance line of business, either due to poor terms and conditions or the cedents retaining more of their own business.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriting location for each of the years indicated.

	Year Ended		Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
	December 31, 2014	2013			
	(\$ in millions)				
United States	\$1,795.6	\$1,636.0	\$159.6	9.8	%
Bermuda	640.9	676.2	(35.3)	(5.2)	)%
Europe	318.6	264.9	53.7	20.3	%
Asia Pacific	167.3	161.6	5.7	3.5	%
Canada	13.0	—	13.0	n/a	
	\$2,935.4	\$2,738.7	\$196.7	7.2	%

Net premiums written increased by \$201.6 million, or 9.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in net premiums written was due to the increase in gross premiums written and a decrease in ceded premiums written related to various reinsurance protections. We ceded 20.9% of gross premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 22.6% in 2013. The decrease was primarily due to the lower ceded premiums written for our property catastrophe reinsurance protection, and retaining more of our gross premiums written in both of our North American Insurance and Global Markets Insurance segments in the current period than in the prior period.

Net premiums earned increased by \$176.9 million, or 8.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 consistent with the higher net premiums written in 2014. Each of our operating segments had higher net premiums earned during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013.

We evaluate our business by segment, distinguishing between North American Insurance, Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance. The following table illustrates the mix of our business on both a gross premiums written and net premiums earned basis.

	Gross Premiums Written		Net Premiums Earned		
	Year Ended December 31, 2014	2013	Year Ended December 31, 2014	2013	
North American Insurance	58.4	% 57.4	% 51.0	% 51.0	%
Global Markets Insurance	9.6	% 8.5	% 7.4	% 6.3	%



Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

Reinsurance	32.0	%	34.1	%	41.6	%	42.7	%
Total	100.0	%	100.0	%	100.0	%	100.0	%

Net Investment Income

Net investment income increased by \$19.3 million, or 12.2%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was primarily due to higher income from our fixed maturity investments. As of December 31, 2014, we held 11.2% of our total investments and cash equivalents in "other invested assets" compared to 10.9%

Table of Contents

as of December 31, 2013. The book yield of the investment portfolio for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 was 2.1% and 1.9%, respectively. Our average duration decreased from 2.4 years as of December 31, 2013 to 2.0 years as of December 31, 2014.

## Realized Investment Gains

Net realized investment gains were comprised of the following:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		2013
	(\$ in millions)		
Net realized gains on sale:			
Fixed maturity investments, trading	\$30.9		\$30.6
Equity securities, trading	46.2		48.9
Other invested assets: hedge funds and private equity, trading	70.1		27.8
Total net realized gains on sale	147.2		107.3
Net realized and unrealized (losses) gains on derivatives	(39.0	)	9.5
Mark-to-market (losses) gains:			
Fixed maturity investments, trading	(1.7	)	(117.6
Equity securities, trading	0.4		4.3
Other invested assets: hedge funds and private equity, trading	(17.9	)	56.0
Total mark-to-market (losses) gains	(19.2	)	(57.3
Net realized investment gains	\$89.0		\$59.5

The total return of our investment portfolio was 3.1% and 2.6% for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The increase in total return was primarily due to lower mark-to-market losses on our fixed maturity investments due to lower interest rates and tighter credit spreads during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. Equity securities and other invested assets continued to have a positive impact on the total return for both the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. The realized and unrealized losses on derivatives for the year ended December 31, 2014 were the result of selling interest rate future and swap contracts to reduce the duration of the investment portfolio. Given the decrease in interest rates during the year, we recorded a loss related to these interest rate future and swap contracts.

## Other Income

Other income represents the revenue of our third-party claims administration services that we acquired in the current year.

## Net Losses and Loss Expenses

Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$76.0 million, or 6.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		Year Ended December 31, 2013		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points
	Amount	% of NPE (1)	Amount	% of NPE (1)		
	(\$ in millions)					
Non-catastrophe	\$1,346.8	61.6	% \$1,290.0	64.3	% \$56.8	(2.7
Property catastrophe	65.0	3.0	13.5	0.7	51.5	2.3
						) Pts

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

Current year	1,411.8	64.6	1,303.5	65.0	108.3	(0.4	)
Prior year	(212.6	) (9.7	) (180.3	) (9.0	) (32.3	) (0.7	)
Net losses and loss expenses	\$1,199.2	54.9	% \$1,123.2	56.0	% \$76.0	(1.1	)Pts

(1) "NPE" means net premiums earned.

Table of Contents

## Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

The current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses increased by \$56.8 million primarily due to the growth of our operations across each of our operating segments. The decrease in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expense ratio was primarily due to lower reported large non-catastrophe property losses and a higher reduction in IBNR loss reserves for current year property losses during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 in our Reinsurance segment.

## Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we incurred \$65.0 million in catastrophe-related losses compared to \$13.5 million of catastrophe-related losses during the year ended December 31, 2013. The catastrophe related losses during 2014 were related to Hurricane Odile (\$18.0 million), hailstorm in Brisbane, Australia (\$12.5 million), Property Claims Services designated storm #45 in the Midwestern U.S. ("PCS storm #45") (\$12.5 million), Windstorm Ela (\$12.0 million) and Typhoon Rammason (\$10.0 million). Of the \$65.0 million of catastrophe-related losses incurred during the year ended December 31, 2014, \$4.0 million, \$11.0 million and \$50.0 million was incurred in our North American Insurance, Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance segments, respectively. The catastrophe-related losses during 2013 were related to Typhoon Fitow in China, which was incurred in our Reinsurance segment.

## Prior year losses and loss expenses

We recorded net favorable reserve development related to prior years of \$212.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$180.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, as shown in the tables below.

## (Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2004 and prior (\$ in millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
North American Insurance	\$0.9	\$4.4	\$(20.2)	\$(31.4)	\$4.5	\$(54.7)	\$(27.7)	\$10.4	\$13.2	\$32.2	\$(68.4)
Global Markets Insurance	(2.0)	(1.0)	(2.4)	(4.3)	(10.6)	(12.2)	(13.7)	(6.9)	3.2	(3.7)	(53.6)
Reinsurance	(1.7)	8.7	(2.6)	(3.3)	(4.0)	(2.5)	(2.8)	(10.1)	1.7	(74.0)	(90.6)
	\$(2.8)	\$12.1	\$(25.2)	\$(39.0)	\$(10.1)	\$(69.4)	\$(44.2)	\$(6.6)	\$18.1	\$(45.5)	\$(212.6)

The net unfavorable prior year reserve development in our North American Insurance segment for the 2011 through 2013 loss years was primarily related to our healthcare line of business and was due to higher than expected loss frequency and severity. The net favorable reserve development in our Reinsurance segment primarily related to our property line of business for the 2013 loss year due to benign global property catastrophe activity.

## (Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2003 and prior	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
--	----------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

(\$ in millions)

North											
American	\$13.0	\$(6.4 )	\$(6.5 )	\$(17.3 )	\$(40.8 )	\$(40.7 )	\$(17.8 )	\$(29.1 )	\$27.5	\$72.1	\$(46.0 )
Insurance											
Global											
Markets	(0.5 )	(1.1 )	(2.7 )	(8.3 )	(7.9 )	(4.8 )	(5.4 )	(3.3 )	(1.9 )	(2.4 )	(38.3 )
Insurance											
Reinsurance	(0.7 )	(4.3 )	(4.8 )	0.7	0.8	(6.7 )	(3.2 )	(5.2 )	(18.8 )	(53.8 )	(96.0 )
	\$11.8	\$(11.8 )	\$(14.0 )	\$(24.9 )	\$(47.9 )	\$(52.2 )	\$(26.4 )	\$(37.6 )	\$6.8	\$15.9	\$(180.3 )

Table of Contents

The unfavorable reserve development for the 2011 and 2012 loss years for our North American Insurance segment was due to higher than expected loss emergence, primarily in our private/not for profit directors and officers ("D&O"), healthcare and errors and omissions ("E&O") products. The healthcare emergence was largely driven by several claims, as well as higher than expected loss emergence on reported claims. The emergence in the E&O and private/not for profit D&O was due to higher than expected loss frequency.

The following table shows the components of net losses and loss expenses for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

	Year Ended		Dollar Change
	December 31, 2014	2013	
	(\$ in millions)		
Net losses paid	\$1,173.3	\$1,089.6	\$83.7
Net change in reported case reserves	3.4	(3.8)	) 7.2
Net change in IBNR	22.5	37.4	(14.9)
Net losses and loss expenses	\$1,199.2	\$1,123.2	\$76.0

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables:

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

## Acquisition Costs

Acquisition costs increased by \$42.4 million, or 16.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in acquisition costs was primarily due to higher acquisition costs in our North American Insurance and Reinsurance segments. Acquisition costs as a percentage of net premiums earned were 13.5% for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 12.6% for 2013. The increase in the acquisition cost ratio was primarily driven by the increased profit commissions we pay related to our collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance program in our Reinsurance segment, as well as higher commissions charged by brokers in our North American Insurance segment.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses increased by \$13.4 million, or 3.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily due to increased salary and related costs as average headcount increased to support our continued growth, particularly in our direct insurance operations, as well as higher building-related costs driven by the increased head count. Our general and

67

---

## Table of Contents

administrative expense ratio was 16.8% for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 17.6% for the year ended December 31, 2013.

### Other Expense

Other expense represents the expenses of our third-party claims administration services that we acquired in the current year and the transaction-related costs incurred for the expected acquisition of the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of RSA.

### Amortization of Intangible Assets

The amortization of intangible assets remained the same for 2014 and 2013. We have one intangible asset that we amortize over its useful life that will continue to amortize over the next nine years.

### Interest Expense

Interest expense increased by \$1.3 million, or 2.3%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013.

### Foreign Exchange Loss

The foreign exchange loss decreased by \$7.0 million, or 87.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The decrease was the result of the strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to other major currencies during the current period.

### Income Tax Expense

Corporate income tax expense or benefit is generated through our operations in Australia, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States. Our income tax expense or benefit may fluctuate significantly from period to period depending on the geographic distribution of pre-tax net income or loss in any given period between different jurisdictions with different tax rates. The geographic distribution of pre-tax net income or loss can vary significantly between periods principally due to the geographic location of the business written, the mix of business and the profitability of such business; the geographic location of investment income; the geographic location of net losses and loss expenses incurred; and the amount of inter-company reinsurance utilized for rating agency purposes.

Income tax expense increased by \$20.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was primarily due to higher taxable income in our U.S. operations.

### Net Income

Net income for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$490.3 million compared to \$417.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The \$72.4 million increase was primarily the result of higher underwriting income from our insurance and reinsurance operations and higher realized investment gains.

### Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

### Premiums



Gross premiums written increased by \$409.4 million, or 17.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The overall increase in gross premiums written was primarily the result of the following:

North American Insurance: Gross premiums written in our North American Insurance segment increased by \$196.4 million, or 14.3%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012. The increase in gross premiums written was primarily driven by higher production in our U.S. direct insurance operations. The higher gross premiums written in our U.S. direct insurance operations was due to new business across most lines that added \$414.7 million during the year, combined with premium rate increases in all lines of business. This was particularly evident in our property and casualty lines of business that had an overall increase in gross premiums written of \$183.1 million. This growth was partially offset by the non-renewal of business, particularly in our healthcare and

Table of Contents

private/not for profit D&O lines of business, that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or terms and conditions) and continued competition;

Global Markets Insurance: Gross premiums written in our Global Markets Insurance segment increased by \$39.6 million, or 20.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012. The increase was primarily due to new business from existing lines and from newer initiatives, such as small- to medium-sized enterprise ("SME") insurance products, and our expansion into aviation in 2013, which generated \$30.5 million in premiums. The professional liability and healthcare lines of business added \$10.7 million and \$5.7 million, respectively, with increased participations on renewing business, as well as new business. However, this growth was partially offset by non-recurring premiums in our trade credit line of business recorded in 2012 and lower rates across most lines of business; and

Reinsurance: Gross premiums written in our Reinsurance segment increased by \$173.5 million, or 22.8%. The increase in gross premiums written was primarily due to the growth in our property and specialty lines of business. The growth of the property reinsurance line of business related to new business across all geographic locations, as well as increased business through Aeolus Re. Our specialty reinsurance line of business increased primarily due to growth in our crop reinsurance and marine and aviation reinsurance lines of business.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriting location for each of the years indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,		Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
	2013	2012			
	(\$ in millions)				
United States	\$1,636.0	\$1,360.2	\$275.8	20.3	%
Bermuda	676.2	611.4	64.8	10.6	%
Europe	264.9	228.8	36.1	15.8	%
Asia Pacific	161.6	128.9	32.7	25.4	%
	\$2,738.7	\$2,329.3	\$409.4	17.6	%

Net premiums written increased by \$282.7 million, or 15.4%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in net premiums written was due to the increase in gross premiums written. The difference between gross and net premiums written is the cost to us of purchasing reinsurance coverage, including the cost of property catastrophe reinsurance coverage. We ceded 22.6% of gross premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 21.1% in 2012. The increase was primarily due to our purchase of a new collateralized retrocessional catastrophe cover in our Reinsurance segment and a new property catastrophe coverage for North American Insurance and Global Markets Insurance segments, as well as quota share reinsurance treaties on new product lines. Both of these reinsurance coverages increased the ceded percentage by 1.2% percentage points.

Net premiums earned increased by \$256.9 million, or 14.7%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012 consistent with the higher net premiums written in 2013.

We evaluate our business by segment, distinguishing between North American Insurance, Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance. The following table illustrates the mix of our business on both a gross premiums written and net premiums earned basis.

	Gross Premiums Written		Net Premiums Earned		
	Year Ended December 31, 2013	2012	Year Ended December 31, 2013	2012	
North American Insurance	57.4	% 59.1	% 51.0	% 51.1	%
Global Markets Insurance	8.5	% 8.3	% 6.3	% 6.6	%
Reinsurance	34.1	% 32.6	% 42.7	% 42.3	%
Total	100.0	% 100.0	% 100.0	% 100.0	%

Net Investment Income

Net investment income decreased by \$9.5 million, or 5.7%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The decrease was due to lower net investment income on our fixed maturity investments as we have increased the allocation of our investment portfolio to "other invested assets", which contribute to our total return but carry little

Table of Contents

or no current yield. This was partially offset by an increase of \$14.6 million of net investment income related to our equity method investments that we invested in at the end of 2012, as well as higher net investment income from our equity securities, hedge funds and private equity investments. As of December 31, 2013, we held 10.9% of our total investments and cash equivalents in "other invested assets" compared to 8.9% as of December 31, 2012.

The book yield of the investment portfolio for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 was 1.9% and 2.1%, respectively. The decrease in the book yield was due to the reinvestment of cash at lower rates and an increased allocation to asset classes that carry little or no current yield, combined with lower market yields. Our average duration increased from 2.0 years as of December 31, 2012 to 2.4 years as of December 31, 2013.

Investment management expenses of \$16.8 million and \$16.5 million were incurred during the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

## Realized Investment Gains

Net realized investment gains were comprised of the following:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions)	
Net realized gains (losses) on sale:		
Fixed maturity investments, trading	\$30.6	\$120.3
Equity securities, trading	48.9	13.9
Other invested assets: hedge funds and private equity, trading	27.8	(2.3)
Total net realized gains on sale	107.3	131.9
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives	9.5	(3.6)
Mark-to-market (losses) gains:		
Fixed maturity investments, trading	(117.6)	) 106.3
Equity securities, trading	4.3	33.0
Other invested assets: hedge funds and private equity, trading	56.0	38.8
Total mark-to-market (losses) gains	(57.3)	) 178.1
Net realized investment gains	\$59.5	\$306.4

The total return of our investment portfolio was 2.6% and 5.5% for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The decrease in total return was primarily due to mark-to-market losses on our fixed maturity investments and lower mark-to-market gains on our equity securities. The mark-to-market losses on our fixed maturity investments were caused by higher interest rates partially offset by tightening credit spreads on our fixed income portfolio. As yields rise, prices fall and that can result in mark-to-market losses, as well as lower realized gains on the sale of fixed maturity securities. During the year, the yield on the 10-year U.S. treasury increased by 118 basis points. The rising interest rate environment also negatively impacted our dividend focused equity portfolio, which underperformed the S&P 500 for the period. The investment portfolio return for the year ended December 31, 2012 benefited from the favorable financial, economic and business environment during the year and the absence of significant market events. Equity markets performed well, with the S&P 500 up over 13% during 2012. Fixed income securities also benefited from the U.S. Federal Reserve's continued quantitative easing, resulting in spreads tightening during the year.

## Net Losses and Loss Expenses

Net losses and loss expenses decreased by \$16.1 million, or 1.4%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012:

70

---

Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31, 2013		Year Ended December 31, 2012		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points	
	Amount (\$ in millions)	% of NPE (1)	Amount	% of NPE (1)			
Non-catastrophe	\$1,290.0	64.3	% \$1,130.0	64.5	% \$160.0	(0.2	) Pts
Property catastrophe	13.5	0.7	179.6	10.3	(166.1	) (9.6	)
Current year	1,303.5	65.0	1,309.6	74.8	(6.1	) (9.8	)
Prior year	(180.3	) (9.0	) (170.3	) (9.7	) (10.0	) 0.7	
Net losses and loss expenses	\$1,123.2	56.0	% \$1,139.3	65.1	% \$(16.1	) (9.1	) Pts

(1) "NPE" means net premiums earned.

## Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

The current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses increased by \$160.0 million primarily due to the growth of our operations across each of our operating segments. The decrease in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expense ratio was due to net favorable development on our short-tail lines as reported claims were lower than our initial expectation, partially offset by a number of large reported losses across several lines of business, which required us to increase our reserves in those lines.

## Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we incurred \$13.5 million of catastrophe-related losses related to Typhoon Fitow in China while during the year ended December 31, 2012, we incurred \$179.6 million of catastrophe-related losses, of which \$175.7 million related to Superstorm Sandy and \$3.9 million related to Hurricane Isaac.

## Prior year losses and loss expenses

We recorded net favorable reserve development related to prior years of \$180.3 million during the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$170.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, as shown in the tables below.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
North American Insurance	\$13.0	\$(6.4 )	\$(6.5 )	\$(17.3 )	\$(40.8 )	\$(40.7 )	\$(17.8 )	\$(29.1 )	\$27.5	\$72.1	\$(46.0 )
Global Markets Insurance	(0.5 )	(1.1 )	(2.7 )	(8.3 )	(7.9 )	(4.8 )	(5.4 )	(3.3 )	(1.9 )	(2.4 )	(38.3 )
Reinsurance	(0.7 )	(4.3 )	(4.8 )	0.7	0.8	(6.7 )	(3.2 )	(5.2 )	(18.8 )	(53.8 )	(96.0 )
	\$11.8	\$(11.8 )	\$(14.0 )	\$(24.9 )	\$(47.9 )	\$(52.2 )	\$(26.4 )	\$(37.6 )	\$6.8	\$15.9	\$(180.3 )

The unfavorable reserve development for the 2011 and 2012 loss years for our North American Insurance segment was due to higher than expected loss emergence, primarily in our private/not for profit D&O, healthcare and E&O products. The healthcare emergence was largely driven by several claims, as well as higher than expected loss

emergence on reported claims. The emergence in the E&O and private/not for profit D&O was due to higher than expected loss frequency. For long-tail lines, like healthcare, D&O and E&O, it may take several years for a claim to be reported or develop. This could be due to a number of factors, including among others, information becoming available in subsequent periods that allows the insured to report a claim or change in the severity of an already reported claim, or court decisions that define insurance coverages or exclusions differently than intended when the policy was originally bound. These factors contributed to us increasing our reserve for losses and loss expenses in the current period for the 2011 and 2012 loss years, while the absence of these factors and related trend of not experiencing these factors contributed to us decreasing the reserve for losses and loss expenses for the older loss years across each segment.

Table of Contents

The favorable reserve development for our Reinsurance segment was due to lower than expected reported losses in our property reinsurance line of business, including favorable loss reserve development related to catastrophic events that occurred in 2010 through 2012.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
North American Insurance	\$2.3	\$(5.7)	\$(2.5)	\$(60.4)	\$(55.4)	\$(18.9)	\$(5.7)	\$11.0	\$52.3	\$(83.0)
Global Markets Insurance	(1.2)	(2.8)	(6.7)	(13.3)	(15.5)	(8.8)	(2.2)	(5.4)	(1.0)	(56.9)
Reinsurance	(0.4)	(0.5)	(2.0)	(8.0)	(19.9)	(7.2)	—	5.5	2.1	(30.4)
	\$0.7	\$(9.0)	\$(11.2)	\$(81.7)	\$(90.8)	\$(34.9)	\$(7.9)	\$11.1	\$53.4	\$(170.3)

The net favorable reserve development was a result of actual loss emergence being lower than anticipated. The unfavorable reserve development in our North American Insurance segment for the 2010 and 2011 loss years was primarily due to adverse development of \$25.1 million on a program that commenced writing in 2008 and was terminated during 2011. We also experienced adverse development for the 2011 loss year for certain products and a loss on an individual claim, estimated to reach our full limit of \$20 million, net of reinsurance.

The following table shows the components of net losses and loss expenses for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012.

	Year Ended December 31, 2013	2012	Dollar Change
	(\$ in millions)		
Net losses paid	\$1,089.6	\$861.0	\$228.6
Net change in reported case reserves	(3.8)	131.0	(134.8)
Net change in IBNR	37.4	147.3	(109.9)
Net losses and loss expenses	\$1,123.2	\$1,139.3	\$(16.1)

The increase in net losses paid was due to higher net paid losses for catastrophe losses incurred in prior periods during 2013 compared to 2012. The remaining increase in net paid losses was consistent with the growth of our operating segments.



Table of Contents

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables:

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

## Acquisition Costs

Acquisition costs increased by \$47.0 million, or 22.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in acquisition costs was primarily due to higher acquisition costs in our North American Insurance and Reinsurance segments. Acquisition costs as a percentage of net premiums earned were 12.6% for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 11.8% for 2012. The increase in the acquisition cost ratio was driven by the increased profit commission and other acquisition cost accruals in our North American Insurance and Reinsurance segments, as well as the impact of the retrocessional reinsurance catastrophe cover in our Reinsurance segment put in place in the current year. The retrocessional reinsurance catastrophe cover reduced net premiums earned but did not have any offsetting ceding commission income, and therefore caused the acquisition costs ratio to increase.

## General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses increased by \$45.0 million, or 14.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily due to increased salary and related costs as average headcount increased by 14% to support our continued growth, combined with increased stock-based compensation expense related to awards that are settled in cash resulting from a 43% increase in our share price during the year and higher performance-based compensation expense as profitability exceeded target levels. We have granted cash equivalent restricted stock units and performance-based equity awards to certain key employees, and we measure the value of each award at the period ending share price.

Our general and administrative expense ratio was 17.6% for both the years ended December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012.

## Amortization of Intangible Assets

The amortization of intangible assets remained the same for 2013 and 2012. We have one intangible asset that we amortize over its useful life that will continue to amortize over the next 10 years.

#### Interest Expense

Interest expense increased by \$1.1 million, or 2.0%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012.

Table of Contents

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense decreased by \$8.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The decrease was primarily due to the lower income before income taxes from our U.S. operations and a net loss before income taxes from our Swiss operations.

Net Income

Net income for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$417.9 million compared to \$493.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. The \$75.1 million decrease was primarily the result of lower realized investment gains due to the rising interest rate environment partially offset by higher income from our operations driven by lower catastrophe losses in the current year compared to prior year.

Underwriting Results by Operating Segments

Our company is organized into three operating segments:

**North American Insurance Segment.** The North American Insurance segment includes our direct specialty insurance operations in the United States, Bermuda and Canada, as well as the company's claim administration services operation. This segment provides both direct property and specialty casualty insurance to North American domiciled accounts.

**Global Markets Insurance Segment.** The Global Markets Insurance segment includes our direct insurance operations in Europe and Asia Pacific, which includes offices in Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. This segment provides both direct property and casualty insurance primarily to non-North American domiciled accounts.

**Reinsurance Segment.** Our Reinsurance segment has operations in Bermuda, Europe, Singapore and the United States. This segment includes the reinsurance of property, general casualty, professional liability, specialty lines and property catastrophe coverages written by insurance companies. We presently write reinsurance on both a treaty and a facultative basis, targeting several niche reinsurance markets.

Table of Contents

## North American Insurance Segment

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and associated ratios for the North American Insurance segment for each of the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012		
	(\$ in millions)				
Revenues					
Gross premiums written	\$1,716.3	\$1,572.4	\$1,376.0		
Net premiums written	1,230.8	1,082.4	964.2		
Net premiums earned	1,111.2	1,023.0	892.7		
Expenses					
Net losses and loss expenses	\$683.8	\$651.3	\$608.8		
Acquisition costs	105.9	94.9	77.7		
General and administrative expenses	219.7	209.0	185.2		
Underwriting income	101.8	67.8	21.0		
Other insurance-related revenue	2.1	—	—		
Other insurance-related expenses	1.9	—	—		
Segment income	\$102.0	\$67.8	\$21.0		
Ratios					
Loss and loss expense ratio	61.5	% 63.7	% 68.2		%
Acquisition cost ratio	9.5	% 9.3	% 8.7		%
General and administrative expense ratio	19.8	% 20.4	% 20.7		%
Expense ratio	29.3	% 29.7	% 29.4		%
Combined ratio	90.8	% 93.4	% 97.6		%

## Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

Premiums. Gross premiums written increased by \$143.9 million, or 9.2%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013. The increase in gross premiums written was primarily due to new business, both from existing lines and new lines, combined with premium rate increases across all lines of business except for our property line of business. We experienced rate decreases in our general property line of business due to the low level of reported loss activity during the year and increased competition. This growth was partially offset by the non-renewal of business, particularly in our healthcare line of business, that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or terms and conditions) and continued competition.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriter location for our North American Insurance operations.

	Year Ended		Dollar	Percentage	
	December 31,	2013			
	2014	2013			
	(\$ in millions)				
U.S.	\$1,309.2	\$1,163.2	\$146.0	12.6	%
Bermuda	394.2	409.2	(15.0)	(3.7)	)%
Canada	12.9	—	12.9	n/a	
	\$1,716.3	\$1,572.4	\$143.9	9.2	%



Table of Contents

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for each of the periods indicated.

	Year Ended		Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
	December 31, 2014	2013			
	(\$ in millions)				
General casualty	\$549.4	\$471.3	\$78.1	16.6	%
Professional liability	412.6	387.3	25.3	6.5	%
General property	223.6	224.2	(0.6)	(0.3)	)%
Healthcare	203.7	249.1	(45.4)	(18.2)	)%
Programs	159.5	138.1	21.4	15.5	%
Inland marine	67.5	44.4	23.1	52.0	%
Environmental	57.6	35.4	22.2	62.7	%
Other(1)	42.4	22.6	19.8	87.6	%
	\$1,716.3	\$1,572.4	\$143.9	9.2	%

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

Net premiums written increased by \$148.4 million, or 13.7%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in net premiums written was primarily due to higher gross premiums written and lower premiums ceded. We ceded 28.3% of gross premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 31.2% for 2013. The decrease in the ceded written percentage was primarily due to retaining more of our gross premiums written in several lines of business in the current period than in the prior period.

Net premiums earned increased by \$88.2 million, or 8.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013. The increase was due to the continued growth of the U.S. direct insurance operations of the North American Insurance segment and lower ceded premiums earned due to the lower premiums ceded.

Net losses and loss expenses. Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$32.5 million, or 5.0%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. Overall, the increase in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to overall growth of the U.S. direct insurance operations of the North American Insurance segment. This was partially offset by higher net favorable prior year development during 2014 compared to 2013.

The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	Year Ended		Year Ended		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points	
	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013			
	Amount	% of NPE	Amount	% of NPE			
	(\$ in millions)						
Non-catastrophe	\$748.2	67.3	% \$697.3	68.2	% \$50.9	(0.9	) Pts
Property catastrophe	4.0	0.4	% —	—	% 4.0	0.4	
Current year	752.2	67.7	% 697.3	68.2	% 54.9	(0.5	)
Prior year	(68.4	) (6.2	)% (46.0	) (4.5	)% (22.4	) (1.7	)
Net losses and loss expenses	\$683.8	61.5	% \$651.3	63.7	% \$32.5	(2.2	) Pts

#### Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

The increase in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses was primarily due to the growth of the U.S. direct insurance operations. The decrease in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses ratio was primarily due to the change in mix of business with more premiums written in our casualty lines of business in the

current year compared to the prior period.

Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we incurred \$4.0 million catastrophe-related losses from Hurricane Odile. We did not incur any significant catastrophe losses during the year ended December 31, 2013.

Table of Contents

## Prior year losses and loss expenses

Overall, our North American Insurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$68.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$46.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, as shown in the tables below.

## (Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2004 and prior (\$ in millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
General casualty Programs	\$7.0	\$(2.2 )	\$(3.4 )	\$(4.9 )	\$9.6	\$(11.4 )	\$(2.1 )	\$(2.1 )	\$2.8	\$8.4	\$1.7
General property	—	—	(0.2 )	0.3	0.5	(4.5 )	(2.0 )	(4.5 )	(0.2 )	(1.5 )	(12.1 )
Healthcare	(0.2 )	1.2	(1.2 )	0.2	(0.7 )	(0.5 )	0.9	(3.3 )	(5.0 )	(3.7 )	(12.3 )
Professional liability	(5.4 )	(3.7 )	(2.7 )	(1.9 )	(2.0 )	2.6	(15.6 )	19.8	8.0	25.7	24.8
Inland marine	(0.5 )	9.1	(12.7 )	(25.1 )	(2.9 )	(40.9 )	(8.7 )	0.5	7.6	5.9	(67.7 )
Environmental	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.3 )	(1.4 )	(2.6 )	(4.3 )
	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.2 )	0.3	1.4	—	1.5
	\$0.9	\$4.4	\$(20.2 )	\$(31.4 )	\$4.5	\$(54.7 )	\$(27.7 )	\$10.4	\$13.2	\$32.2	\$(68.4 )

The net unfavorable prior year reserve development for the 2011 through 2013 loss years primarily related to our healthcare line of business primarily due to higher than expected loss frequency and severity. The net favorable development in our professional liability line of business was primarily related to our public D&O class of business due to favorable development on reported claims in the 2006 through 2009 loss years partially offset by adverse development on reported claims in the 2005 loss year.

## (Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
General casualty Programs	\$17.0	\$1.2	\$(9.0 )	\$(4.5 )	\$(19.2 )	\$(17.0 )	\$(2.5 )	\$(7.0 )	\$4.4	\$3.5	\$(33.1 )
General property	—	—	—	(1.4 )	(4.3 )	(2.2 )	(4.8 )	(5.6 )	0.6	3.1	(14.6 )
Healthcare	—	0.9	2.7	2.9	1.0	(2.1 )	(5.8 )	(4.1 )	(6.7 )	(12.1 )	(23.3 )
Professional liability	(3.9 )	(2.6 )	(2.8 )	(4.7 )	2.0	(16.1 )	1.4	(3.9 )	24.4	48.0	41.8
Other	(0.1 )	(5.9 )	2.6	(9.6 )	(20.3 )	(3.3 )	(6.1 )	(8.3 )	5.6	28.2	(17.2 )
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.2 )	(0.8 )	1.4	0.4
	\$13.0	\$(6.4 )	\$(6.5 )	\$(17.3 )	\$(40.8 )	\$(40.7 )	\$(17.8 )	\$(29.1 )	\$27.5	\$72.1	\$(46.0 )

The unfavorable reserve development for the 2011 and 2012 loss years was due to adverse development on reported claims, primarily in our healthcare, private/not for profit D&O and E&O products. The healthcare emergence was largely driven by several large claims, as well as adverse development on reported claims. The emergence in the E&O and private/not for profit D&O is due to higher than expected loss frequency. For long-tail lines, like healthcare, D&O



and E&O, it may take several years for a claim to be reported or develop. This could be due to a number of factors, including among others, information becoming available in subsequent periods that allows the insured to report a claim or change in the severity of the claim, or court decisions that define insurance coverages or exclusions differently than intended when the policy was originally bound. These factors contributed to us increasing our reserve for losses and loss expenses in the current period for the 2011 and 2012 loss years, while the absence of these factors and related trend of not experiencing these factors contributed to us decreasing the reserve for losses and loss expenses for the older loss years across each line of business. In response to the underwriting experience in the healthcare, private/not for profit D&O and E&O lines, we continue to take rate action, as well as make changes to policy terms and conditions, resulting in flat or reduced gross premiums written but reduced exposures.

Acquisition costs. Acquisition costs increased by \$11.0 million, or 11.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was primarily caused by increased net premiums earned, higher

Table of Contents

commission and brokerage rates charged by brokers and lower ceding commission income due the reduction in our ceded reinsurance purchases in the current year. The acquisition cost ratio increased to 9.5% for the year ended December 31, 2014 from 9.3% for 2013 due to the factors noted above.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses increased by \$10.7 million, or 5.1%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013, due to the continued growth of our U.S. direct insurance operations, which drove an increase in salary and related costs, as well as increased costs related to expanding and improving our office space to support this growth. The general and administrative expense ratio decreased to 19.8% for the year ended December 31, 2014 from 20.4% in 2013, due to the increase in net premiums earned outpacing the growth in expenses.

Other insurance-related income and expense. The other insurance-related income and expense represents the revenue and related expenses of our third-party claims administration services company that we acquired in the current year.

## Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

Premiums. Gross premiums written increased by \$196.4 million, or 14.3%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012. The increase in gross premiums written was primarily driven by higher production in our U.S. direct insurance operations. The higher gross premiums written in our U.S. direct insurance operations was due to new business across most lines that added \$414.7 million during the year, combined with premium rate increases in all lines of business. This was particularly evident in our property and casualty lines of business that had an overall increase in gross premiums written of \$183.1 million. This growth was partially offset by the non-renewal of business, particularly in our healthcare and private/not for profit D&O lines of business, that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or terms and conditions) and continued competition. The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriter location for our North American Insurance operations.

	Year Ended December 31, 2013	2012 (\$ in millions)	Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
U.S.	\$1,163.2	\$993.9	\$169.3	17.0	%
Bermuda	409.2	382.1	27.1	7.1	%
	\$1,572.4	\$1,376.0	\$196.4	14.3	%

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for each of the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31, 2013	2012	Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
	(\$ in millions)				
General casualty	\$471.3	\$370.0	\$101.3	27.4	%
Professional liability	387.3	369.5	17.8	4.8	%
Healthcare	249.1	269.2	(20.1)	(7.5)	%)
General property Programs	224.2	211.1	13.1	6.2	%
	138.1	105.3	32.8	31.1	%
Inland marine	44.4	23.0	21.4	93.0	%
Environmental	35.4	26.0	9.4	36.2	%
Other(1)	22.6	1.9	20.7	n/m	
	\$1,572.4	\$1,376.0	\$196.4	14.3	%

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

Net premiums written increased by \$118.2 million, or 12.3%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in net premiums written was primarily due to higher gross premiums written. We ceded 31.2% of gross premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 29.9% for 2012. The increase in

78

---

Table of Contents

the ceded written percentage is primarily due to higher quota share cessions on our 2013 renewals for general casualty and general property lines of business and the purchase of new reinsurance in our programs, surety and primary general liability lines of business. We also purchased a new property catastrophe coverage during 2013. These additional reinsurance purchases were partially offset by a reduction in the cost of reinsurance in our professional liability and healthcare lines of business.

Net premiums earned increased by \$130.3 million, or 14.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012. The increase was primarily due to the growth of our U.S. direct insurance operations during 2013 and 2012.

Net losses and loss expenses. Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$42.5 million, or 7.0%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. Overall, the increase in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to growth in net premiums earned and lower favorable prior year reserve development in 2013 compared to 2012, partially offset by lower property catastrophe losses.

The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012:

	Year Ended December 31, 2013		Year Ended December 31, 2012		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points	
	Amount (\$ in millions)	% of NPE	Amount	% of NPE			
Non-catastrophe	\$697.3	68.2	% \$594.9	66.6	% \$102.4	1.6	Pts
Property catastrophe	—	—	96.9	10.9	(96.9)	(10.9)	)
Current year	697.3	68.2	% 691.8	77.5	% 5.5	(9.3)	)
Prior year	(46.0)	(4.5)	) (83.0)	(9.3)	) 37.0	4.8	)
Net losses and loss expenses	\$651.3	63.7	% \$608.8	68.2	% \$42.5	(4.5)	) Pts

#### Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

The increase in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses and the related ratio was primarily due to a higher amount of reported losses in 2013 compared to 2012. During 2013, we had several losses from fires, large losses in our healthcare, E&O and private/not for profit D&O lines of business, and also increased our reserve for loss adjustment expenses across several lines of business. These losses combined for a total increase in net losses and loss expenses of \$33.3 million compared to \$23.4 million in 2012 and an increase in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expense ratio of 1.0 percentage point. The remaining increase in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses is due to the continued growth of the U.S. direct insurance operations.

#### Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we did not incur any losses related to catastrophes. During the year ended December 31, 2012, we incurred \$96.9 million of catastrophe-related losses, of which \$93.0 million related to Superstorm Sandy and \$3.9 million related to Hurricane Isaac.

#### Prior year losses and loss expenses

Overall, our North American Insurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$46.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$83.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, as shown in the tables below.



Table of Contents(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
General casualty Programs	\$17.0	\$1.2	\$(9.0)	\$(4.5)	\$(19.2)	\$(17.0)	\$(2.5)	\$(7.0)	\$4.4	\$3.5	\$(33.1)
General property	—	—	—	(1.4)	(4.3)	(2.2)	(4.8)	(5.6)	0.6	3.1	(14.6)
Healthcare	—	0.9	2.7	2.9	1.0	(2.1)	(5.8)	(4.1)	(6.7)	(12.1)	(23.3)
Professional liability	(3.9)	(2.6)	(2.8)	(4.7)	2.0	(16.1)	1.4	(3.9)	24.4	48.0	41.8
Other	(0.1)	(5.9)	2.6	(9.6)	(20.3)	(3.3)	(6.1)	(8.3)	5.6	28.2	(17.2)
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.2)	(0.8)	1.4	0.4
	\$13.0	\$(6.4)	\$(6.5)	\$(17.3)	\$(40.8)	\$(40.7)	\$(17.8)	\$(29.1)	\$27.5	\$72.1	\$(46.0)

The unfavorable reserve development for the 2011 and 2012 loss years was due to adverse development on reported claims, primarily in our healthcare, private/not for profit D&O and E&O products. The healthcare emergence was largely driven by several large claims, as well as adverse development on reported claims. The emergence in the E&O and private/not for profit D&O is due to higher than expected loss frequency. For long-tail lines, like healthcare, D&O and E&O, it may take several years for a claim to be reported or develop. This could be due to a number of factors, including among others, information becoming available in subsequent periods that allows the insured to report a claim or change in the severity of the claim, or court decisions that define insurance coverages or exclusions differently than intended when the policy was originally bound. These factors contributed to us increasing our reserve for losses and loss expenses in the current period for the 2011 and 2012 loss years, while the absence of these factors and related trend of not experiencing these factors contributed to us decreasing the reserve for losses and loss expenses for the older loss years across each line of business. In response to the underwriting experience in the healthcare, private/not for profit D&O and E&O lines, we continue to take rate action, as well as make changes to policy terms and conditions, resulting in flat or reduced gross premiums written but reduced exposures.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
General casualty Programs	\$3.1	\$(0.8)	\$10.0	\$(26.8)	\$(20.9)	\$(12.8)	\$(5.3)	\$1.7	\$20.0	\$(31.8)
General property	—	—	—	(0.8)	—	—	3.9	13.9	7.8	24.8
Healthcare	—	0.9	(1.8)	1.9	0.1	(1.3)	0.3	(2.1)	(1.9)	(3.9)
Professional liability	0.7	(1.9)	(5.6)	(7.2)	(14.0)	(10.4)	0.4	2.3	—	(35.7)
Other	(1.4)	(3.9)	(5.2)	(27.5)	(20.5)	5.6	(5.1)	(4.7)	24.7	(38.0)
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.6	1.6
	\$2.4	\$(5.7)	\$(2.6)	\$(60.4)	\$(55.3)	\$(18.9)	\$(5.8)	\$11.1	\$52.2	\$(83.0)

The unfavorable reserve development for the 2010 and 2011 loss years was primarily due to adverse development of \$25.1 million on a program that commenced writing in 2008 and was terminated during 2011. This was partially offset by favorable development on our active programs. The unfavorable reserve development in our general casualty line for the 2011 loss year was due to adverse development on an individual claim, estimated to reach our full limit of \$20.0 million, net of reinsurance. We also experienced adverse development for the 2011 loss year for certain professional liability products.

Acquisition costs. Acquisition costs increased by \$17.2 million, or 22.1%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in the acquisition costs and related ratio was primarily caused by increased net premiums earned and increased profit commission accruals in our program line of business, as well as increased accruals for other acquisition costs. The increase in the acquisition cost ratio from 8.7% for the year ended December 31, 2012 to 9.3% for the year ended December 31, 2013 was due to the increase in profit commission accruals and other acquisition cost accruals.

Table of Contents

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses increased by \$23.8 million, or 12.9%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012, due to the continued growth of our U.S. direct insurance operations. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily due to increased salary and related costs, as average headcount increased to support our continued growth, and higher stock-based compensation expense. The general and administrative expense ratio decreased to 20.4% for the year ended December 31, 2013 from 20.7% in 2012.

## Global Markets Insurance Segment

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and associated ratios for the Global Markets Insurance segment for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
	(\$ in millions)			
Revenues				
Gross premiums written	\$280.5	\$232.6	\$193.0	
Net premiums written	188.0	145.0	125.6	
Net premiums earned	162.6	126.0	115.7	
Expenses				
Net losses and loss expenses	\$61.1	\$50.4	\$19.5	
Acquisition costs	18.2	10.0	8.5	
General and administrative expenses	68.1	63.2	48.4	
Underwriting income	15.2	2.4	39.3	
Other insurance-related revenue	—	—	—	
Other insurance-related expenses	6.7	—	—	
Segment income	8.5	2.4	39.3	
Ratios				
Loss and loss expense ratio	37.6	% 40.0	% 16.9	%
Acquisition cost ratio	11.2	% 8.0	% 7.3	%
General and administrative expense ratio	41.9	% 50.1	% 41.8	%
Expense ratio	53.1	% 58.1	% 49.1	%
Combined ratio	90.7	% 98.1	% 66.0	%

## Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

Premiums. Gross premiums written increased by \$47.9 million, or 20.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013. The increase was primarily due to continued growth across all existing lines of business and new lines of business, such as marine cargo and onshore construction. This growth was partially offset by the non-renewal of business across several lines of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or terms and conditions) and continued competition.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriter location for our Global Markets Insurance operations.

	Year Ended		Dollar	Percentage	
	December 31,	2013	Change	Change	
	2014	2013			
	(\$ in millions)				
Europe	\$232.1	\$191.4	\$40.7	21.3	%
Asia Pacific	31.1	26.5	4.6	17.4	%
Bermuda	17.3	14.7	2.6	17.7	%



\$280.5	\$232.6	\$47.9	20.6	%
---------	---------	--------	------	---

Table of Contents

The Bermuda gross premiums written was related to the trade credit line of business which did not transfer to the North American Insurance segment. There will be no further trade credit business written out of our Bermuda office going forward.

82

---

Table of Contents

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for each of the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,		Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
	2014	2013			
	(\$ in millions)				
Professional liability	\$102.7	\$89.7	\$13.0	14.5	%
General property	39.4	37.0	2.4	6.5	%
General casualty	36.0	29.9	6.1	20.4	%
Aviation	35.8	30.5	5.3	17.4	%
Trade credit	32.0	28.5	3.5	12.3	%
Healthcare	22.1	17.0	5.1	30.0	%
Other(1)	12.5	—	12.5	n/a	
	\$280.5	\$232.6	\$47.9	20.6	%

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

Net premiums written increased by \$43.0 million, or 29.7%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in net premiums written was primarily due to higher gross premiums written, partially offset by higher ceded premiums. We ceded to reinsurers 33.0% of gross premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 37.7% for the year ended December 31, 2013. The decrease was due to retaining more of our gross premiums written in our professional liability, general casualty and healthcare lines of business in the current period than in the prior period.

Net premiums earned increased by \$36.6 million, or 29.0%, primarily due to the continued growth of the Global Markets Insurance operations.

Net losses and loss expenses. Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$10.7 million, or 21.2%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. Overall, the increase in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to overall growth of the Global Markets Insurance operations and higher property catastrophe related losses during 2014 compared to 2013. This was partially offset by higher net favorable prior year development during 2014 compared to 2013.

The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		Year Ended December 31, 2013		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points
	Amount	% of NPE	Amount	% of NPE		
	(\$ in millions)					
Non-catastrophe	\$103.7	63.8	% \$88.7	70.4	% \$15.0	(6.6 )Pts
Property catastrophe	11.0	6.8	% —	—	% 11.0	6.8
Current year	114.7	70.6	% 88.7	70.4	% 26.0	0.2
Prior year	(53.6 )	(33.0 )	)(38.3 )	(30.4 )	)(15.3 )	(2.6 )
Net losses and loss expenses	\$61.1	37.6	% \$50.4	40.0	% \$10.7	(2.4 )Pts

#### Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

The current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses increased primarily due to the growth of the Global Markets Insurance operations partially offset by lower large reported property losses in 2014 compared to 2013. The decrease in the non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses ratio was primarily due to lower reported large property losses as discussed above.

Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we incurred \$11.0 million of catastrophe-related losses from Hurricane Odile. We did not incur any significant catastrophe losses during the year ended December 31, 2013.

Table of Contents

## Prior year losses and loss expenses

Overall, our Global Markets Insurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$53.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$38.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, as shown in the tables below.

## (Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2004 and prior (\$ in millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
General casualty	\$(0.5 )	\$(0.3 )	\$(1.0 )	\$(1.8 )	\$(8.5 )	\$(7.8 )	\$(3.6 )	\$1.2	\$(0.4 )	\$0.1	\$(22.6 )
General property	—	—	(0.1 )	(1.2 )	(0.1 )	(0.3 )	(0.8 )	(3.6 )	(3.5 )	(7.5 )	(17.1 )
Professional liability	(1.5 )	(0.7 )	(1.3 )	(1.3 )	(2.0 )	(4.1 )	(9.0 )	(2.8 )	10.2	—	(12.5 )
Healthcare	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.2 )	(0.7 )	(1.0 )	0.5	(1.4 )
Trade credit	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.1 )	(1.0 )	(2.1 )	3.2	—
	\$(2.0 )	\$(1.0 )	\$(2.4 )	\$(4.3 )	\$(10.6 )	\$(12.2 )	\$(13.7 )	\$(6.9 )	\$3.2	\$(3.7 )	\$(53.6 )

The net favorable prior year reserve development for loss years 2005 to 2011 was a result of actual loss emergence being lower than anticipated. The unfavorable prior year reserve development in the professional liability line of business for the 2012 loss year was primarily due to higher than expected loss emergence.

## (Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
General casualty	\$(0.3 )	\$(0.6 )	\$(1.1 )	\$(6.8 )	\$(5.0 )	\$(1.8 )	\$(2.4 )	\$(0.3 )	\$5.8	\$0.9	\$(11.6 )
General property	—	—	(0.1 )	—	—	(0.8 )	0.5	(1.0 )	(6.2 )	(3.3 )	(10.9 )
Professional liability	(0.2 )	(0.5 )	(1.5 )	(1.5 )	(2.9 )	(2.2 )	(3.5 )	(0.7 )	(0.8 )	—	(13.8 )
Healthcare	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1.3 )	(0.7 )	—	(2.0 )
	\$(0.5 )	\$(1.1 )	\$(2.7 )	\$(8.3 )	\$(7.9 )	\$(4.8 )	\$(5.4 )	\$(3.3 )	\$(1.9 )	\$(2.4 )	\$(38.3 )

The net favorable prior year reserve development for loss years 2004 to 2012 is a result of actual loss emergence being lower than anticipated.

Acquisition costs. Acquisition costs increased by \$8.2 million, or 82.0%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in acquisition costs was due to mix of business as we wrote more business from managing general agents, which carry higher acquisition costs than broker-placed business, during the current year, higher other acquisition-related costs and lower ceding commission income due to the reduction in ceded premiums. The acquisition cost ratio was 11.2% for the year ended December 31, 2014 and 8.0% for the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in the acquisition cost ratio was due to factors noted above.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses increased by \$4.9 million, or 7.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily due to the continued growth of our Global Markets Insurance operations, which drove an increase in salary and related costs, as well as increased costs related to expanding and improving our office space to support this growth. The building-related costs included the costs to build-out our new office space in London and the expense incurred for exiting the lease for the previous office space. The general and administrative expense ratios for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 were 41.9% and 50.1%, respectively. The decrease in the general and administrative expense ratio was the result of the increase in net premiums earned outpacing the growth in expenses.

Table of Contents

Other insurance-related income and expense. The other insurance-related expenses incurred for the current period represent the transaction-related costs incurred for our expected acquisition of RSA's Hong Kong and Singapore operations.

## Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

Premiums. Gross premiums written increased by \$39.6 million, or 20.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012. The increase was primarily due to new business from existing lines and from newer initiatives, such as SME, and the aviation business we took over from Markel International Limited during 2013. Effective October 1, 2013, we acquired the renewal rights to a book of aviation business from Markel International that was written through its Lloyd's Syndicate 1400 and Markel Europe plc. In conjunction with the renewal rights agreement, in August 2013 we assumed the unexpired in-force aviation business from Markel International. The combined result of the renewal rights and the assumption of the unexpired in-force aviation business from Markel International resulted in gross premiums written of \$30.5 million. This business encompasses airlines, aerospace (primarily airports and aviation products) and general aviation classes. The professional liability and healthcare lines of business added \$10.7 million and \$5.7 million, respectively, with increased participations on renewing business, as well as new business. However, this growth was partially offset by non-recurring premiums in our trade credit line of business recorded in 2012 and lower rates across most lines of business.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriter location for our Global Markets Insurance operations.

	Year Ended December 31, 2013	2012 (\$ in millions)	Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
Europe	\$191.4	\$151.4	\$40.0	26.4	%
Asia Pacific	26.5	22.5	4.0	17.8	%
Bermuda	14.7	19.1	(4.4)	(23.0)	)%
	\$232.6	\$193.0	\$39.6	20.5	%

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for each of the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31, 2013 (\$ in millions)	2012	Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
Professional liability	\$89.7	\$79.0	\$10.7	13.5	%
General property	37.0	40.4	(3.4)	(8.4)	)%
Aviation	30.5	—	30.5	n/a	
General casualty	29.9	31.2	(1.3)	(4.2)	)%
Trade credit	28.5	31.1	(2.6)	(8.4)	)%
Healthcare	17.0	11.3	5.7	50.4	%
	\$232.6	\$193.0	\$39.6	20.5	%

Net premiums written increased by \$19.4 million, or 15.4%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in net premiums written was due to higher gross premiums written, partially offset by higher ceded premiums. We ceded to reinsurers 37.7% of gross premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 34.9% for the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was due to higher quota share cessions on our 2013 renewals for general casualty, general property and trade credit lines of business, as well as new quota share reinsurance for our aviation line of business.

Net premiums earned increased by \$10.3 million, or 8.9%, primarily due to higher net premiums written in 2013 and 2012.

Net losses and loss expenses. Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$30.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to higher attritional property losses and lower net favorable prior year reserve development in 2013 compared to 2012.



Table of Contents

The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012:

	Year Ended December 31, 2013		Year Ended December 31, 2012		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points		
	Amount (\$ in millions)	% of NPE	Amount	% of NPE				
Non-catastrophe	\$88.7	70.4	% \$74.8	64.7	% \$13.9	5.7		Pts
Property catastrophe	—	—	1.7	1.5	(1.7 )	(1.5 )		)
Current year	88.7	70.4	76.5	66.2	12.2	4.2		
Prior year	(38.3 )	(30.4 )	(57.0 )	(49.3 )	18.7	18.9		
Net losses and loss expenses	\$50.4	40.0	% \$19.5	16.9	% \$30.9	23.1		Pts

## Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

The increase in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expense and related ratio was due to higher attritional property losses in 2013 compared to 2012.

## Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we did not incur any losses related to catastrophes. During the year ended December 31, 2012, we incurred \$1.7 million of catastrophe-related losses related to Superstorm Sandy.

## Prior year losses and loss expenses

Overall, our Global Markets Insurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$38.3 million during the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$57.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, as shown in the tables below.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year For the Year Ended December 31, 2013											
	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
General casualty	\$(0.3 )	\$(0.6 )	\$(1.1 )	\$(6.8 )	\$(5.0 )	\$(1.8 )	\$(2.4 )	\$(0.3 )	\$5.8	\$0.9	\$(11.6 )
General property	—	—	(0.1 )	—	—	(0.8 )	0.5	(1.0 )	(6.2 )	(3.3 )	(10.9 )
Professional liability	(0.2 )	(0.5 )	(1.5 )	(1.5 )	(2.9 )	(2.2 )	(3.5 )	(0.7 )	(0.8 )	—	(13.8 )
Healthcare	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1.3 )	(0.7 )	—	(2.0 )
	\$(0.5 )	\$(1.1 )	\$(2.7 )	\$(8.3 )	\$(7.9 )	\$(4.8 )	\$(5.4 )	\$(3.3 )	\$(1.9 )	\$(2.4 )	\$(38.3 )

The net favorable prior year reserve development for loss years 2004 to 2012 was a result of actual loss emergence being lower than anticipated.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year For the Year Ended December 31, 2012										
	2003 and	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

	prior (\$ in millions)									
General casualty	\$(1.0 )	\$(2.5 )	\$(4.6 )	\$(4.0 )	\$(5.6 )	\$(1.2 )	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$(18.9 )
General property	—	0.8	(0.2 )	(1.2 )	0.4	(1.1 )	(2.1 )	(5.5 )	(1.0 )	\$(9.9 )
Professional liability	(0.3 )	(1.1 )	(1.8 )	(8.1 )	(10.4 )	(6.5 )	—	—	—	\$(28.2 )
	\$(1.3 )	\$(2.8 )	\$(6.6 )	\$(13.3 )	\$(15.6 )	\$(8.8 )	\$(2.1 )	\$(5.5 )	\$(1.0 )	\$(57.0 )

Table of Contents

The net favorable reserve development for loss years 2003 to 2011 was a result of actual loss emergence being lower than anticipated.

**Acquisition costs.** Acquisition costs increased by \$1.5 million, or 17.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The acquisition cost ratio was 8.0% for the year ended December 31, 2013 and 7.3% for the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was due to growth in lines of business with higher acquisition costs.

**General and administrative expenses.** General and administrative expenses increased by \$14.8 million, or 30.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily due to increased salary and related costs incurred as we continue to expand, combined with higher incentive compensation due to increased profitability and a higher stock price. The general and administrative expense ratios for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 were 50.1% and 41.8%, respectively.

**Reinsurance Segment**

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and associated ratios for the Reinsurance segment for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
	(\$ in millions)			
<b>Revenues</b>				
Gross premiums written	\$938.6	\$933.8	\$760.3	
Net premiums written	903.2	893.0	748.0	
Net premiums earned	909.0	856.8	740.5	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Net losses and loss expenses	\$454.3	\$421.6	\$511.0	
Acquisition costs	171.0	147.8	119.5	
General and administrative expenses	78.0	80.1	73.7	
Underwriting income	205.7	207.3	36.3	
<b>Ratios</b>				
Loss and loss expense ratio	50.0	% 49.2	% 69.0	%
Acquisition cost ratio	18.8	% 17.2	% 16.1	%
General and administrative expense ratio	8.6	% 9.3	% 10.0	%
Expense ratio	27.4	% 26.5	% 26.1	%
Combined ratio	77.4	% 75.7	% 95.1	%

**Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013**

**Premiums.** Gross premiums written increased by \$4.8 million, or 0.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 2013. The increase in gross premiums written was driven primarily by new business and increased renewals across several major lines of business partially offset by non-renewals of certain treaties, particularly in our casualty reinsurance line of business, either due to poor terms and conditions or the cedents retaining more of their own business.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriter geographic location for our reinsurance operations.



Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		2013		Dollar Change	Percentage Change
	(\$ in millions)					
United States	\$486.4	\$472.9	\$13.5	2.9	%	
Bermuda	229.4	252.2	(22.8)	(9.0)	)%	
Asia Pacific	136.3	135.2	1.1	0.8	%	
Europe	86.5	73.5	13.0	17.7	%	
	\$938.6	\$933.8	\$4.8	0.5	%	

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for each of the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		2013		Dollar Change	Percentage Change
	(\$ in millions)					
Property	\$470.8	\$460.0	\$10.8	2.3	%	
Casualty	261.1	274.4	(13.3)	(4.8)	)%	
Specialty	206.7	199.4	7.3	3.7	%	
	\$938.6	\$933.8	\$4.8	0.5	%	

Net premiums written increased by \$10.2 million, or 1.1%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the same period in 2013. The increase in net premiums written was primarily due to the increase in gross premiums written and not renewing the prior year's collateralized retrocessional catastrophe cover partially offset by ceded premiums written for the current year collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance protection.

Net premiums earned increased by \$52.2 million, or 6.1%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in net premiums earned was primarily a result of the growth in net premiums written since 2012, and the reduction in ceded earned premium related to the non-renewal of the prior year collateralized retrocessional catastrophe cover partially offset by the current year collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance protection.

Net losses and loss expenses. Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$32.7 million, or 7.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. Overall, the increase in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to the growth of the reinsurance business and higher property catastrophe losses in the current year compared to prior year.

The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		Year Ended December 31, 2013		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points
	Amount	% of NPE	Amount	% of NPE		
	(\$ in millions)					
Non-catastrophe	\$494.9	54.5	% \$504.2	58.8	% \$(9.3)	(4.3) Pts
Property catastrophe	50.0	5.5	% 13.5	1.6	% 36.5	3.9
Current year	544.9	60.0	% 517.7	60.4	% 27.2	(0.4)
Prior year	(90.6)	(10.0)	)% (96.1)	(11.2)	)% 5.5	1.2
Net losses and loss expenses	\$454.3	50.0	% \$421.6	49.2	% \$32.7	0.8 Pts

Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

The decrease in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses and related ratio was primarily due to lower reported large non-catastrophe property losses and a higher reduction in IBNR loss reserves for current year property losses during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. During the year ended December 31, 2014, we incurred \$18.3 million in large non-catastrophe property losses, mostly related to several storm events in the United States, compared to \$34.2 million of large non-catastrophe property losses during 2013. The net impact of lower

Table of Contents

reported non-catastrophe property losses and a greater reduction in IBNR loss reserves resulted in a 4.1 percentage point decrease in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expense ratio.

## Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2014, we incurred \$50.0 million of catastrophe-related losses while during the year ended December 31, 2013, we incurred \$13.5 million of catastrophe-related losses related to Typhoon Fitow in China. The \$50.0 million of catastrophe-related losses related to a hailstorm in Brisbane, Australia (\$12.5 million), PCS storm #45 (\$12.5 million), Windstorm Ela (\$12.0 million), Typhoon Rammasun (\$10.0 million) and Hurricane Odile (\$3.0 million).

## Prior year losses and loss expenses

Overall, our Reinsurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$90.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$96.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, as shown in the tables below.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2004 and prior (\$ in millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Property	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$(0.2)	\$0.1	\$(0.1)	\$0.6	\$1.5	\$(9.2)	\$(6.3)	\$(65.5)	\$(78.3)
Casualty	(1.6)	8.4	(2.3)	(3.2)	(3.7)	(3.3)	(4.0)	(0.8)	0.9	2.7	(6.9)
Specialty	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.2	(0.3)	(0.1)	7.1	(11.2)	(5.4)
	\$(1.7)	\$8.7	\$(2.6)	\$(3.3)	\$(4.0)	\$(2.5)	\$(2.8)	\$(10.1)	\$1.7	\$(74.0)	\$(90.6)

The net favorable reserve development in the property line of business for the 2013 loss year was due to benign global property catastrophe activity.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Property	\$0.9	\$0.1	\$(1.6)	\$—	\$—	\$(0.2)	\$(0.6)	\$(5.2)	\$(18.1)	\$(60.1)	\$(84.8)
Casualty	(1.6)	(3.9)	(2.6)	0.5	0.8	(3.5)	(3.4)	(0.2)	2.9	5.7	(5.3)
Specialty	—	(0.5)	(0.6)	0.2	—	(3.0)	0.8	0.2	(3.6)	0.6	(5.9)
	\$(0.7)	\$(4.3)	\$(4.8)	\$0.7	\$0.8	\$(6.7)	\$(3.2)	\$(5.2)	\$(18.8)	\$(53.8)	\$(96.0)

The favorable loss reserve development for the 2011 and 2012 loss years for our Reinsurance segment was largely due to lower than expected reported losses in our property reinsurance line of business. The unfavorable loss reserve development in our casualty reinsurance line of business for the 2011 and 2012 loss years was primarily due to the frequency of claims being greater than anticipated.

Acquisition costs. Acquisition costs increased by \$23.2 million, or 15.7%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in acquisition costs was due to the growth of the reinsurance operations, increased ceding commission paid to cedents in certain lines of business, as well as higher profit commission accruals. The increased profit commission accruals primarily related to the profit commissions we pay related to our assumed collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance program through Aeolus Re. The acquisition cost ratio was 18.8% for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to 17.2% for the year ended December 31, 2013.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses decreased by \$2.1 million, or 2.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The decrease was primarily due to lower compensation related costs. The general and administrative expense ratios for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013



Table of Contents

were 8.6% and 9.3%, respectively, reflecting higher net premiums earned and lower general and administrative expenses in 2014.

## Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

Premiums. Gross premiums written increased by \$173.5 million, or 22.8%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 2012. The increase in gross premiums written was primarily due to the growth in our property and specialty lines of business. The growth of the property reinsurance line of business primarily related to new business across all geographic locations, as well as increased business through our collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance program. Our specialty reinsurance line of business increased primarily due to our crop reinsurance gross premiums written increasing by \$39.3 million due to new business, increased participations and rate increases and from our marine and aviation reinsurance gross premiums written also increasing by \$5.5 million.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by underwriter geographic location for our reinsurance operations.

	Year Ended December 31,		Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
	2013	2012			
	(\$ in millions)				
United States	\$472.9	\$366.3	\$106.6	29.1	%
Bermuda	252.2	210.1	42.1	20.0	%
Asia Pacific	135.2	106.5	28.7	26.9	%
Europe	73.5	77.4	(3.9	) (5.0	)%
	\$933.8	\$760.3	\$173.5	22.8	%

The decline in Europe was due to the transfer of business from Europe to the United States as we established our Lloyd's coverholder in Miami, Florida.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for each of the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,		Dollar Change	Percentage Change	
	2013	2012			
	(\$ in millions)				
Property	\$460.0	\$354.6	\$105.4	29.7	%
Casualty	274.4	254.3	20.1	7.9	%
Specialty	199.4	151.4	48.0	31.7	%
	\$933.8	\$760.3	\$173.5	22.8	%

Net premiums written increased by \$145.0 million, or 19.4%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. The increase in net premiums written is lower than the increase in gross premiums due to purchasing a collateralized retrocessional catastrophe cover during 2013, which provided \$25 million limit per occurrence on a worldwide basis, with attachment points varying by risk and geography and a maximum indemnity of \$100 million. We did not purchase similar collateralized retrocessional catastrophe reinsurance during 2012.

Net premiums earned increased by \$116.3 million, or 15.7%, as a result of the increase in net premiums written during the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 partially offset by the ceded earnings impact of the retrocessional catastrophe cover.

Net losses and loss expenses. Net losses and loss expenses decreased by \$89.4 million, or 17.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. Overall, the decrease in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to lower property catastrophe losses and higher net favorable reserve development in the current year compared to prior year.

The following is a breakdown of the loss and loss expense ratio for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012:

90

---

Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31, 2013		Year Ended December 31, 2012		Dollar Change	Change in Percentage Points
	Amount (\$ in millions)	% of NPE	Amount	% of NPE		
Non-catastrophe	\$504.1	58.8	% \$460.4	62.2	% \$43.7	(3.4 ) Pts
Property catastrophe	13.5	1.6	% 81.0	10.9	% (67.5 )	(9.3 )
Current year	517.6	60.4	% 541.4	73.1	% (23.8 )	(12.7 )
Prior year	(96.1 )	(11.2 )	% (30.4 )	(4.1 )	% (65.7 )	(7.1 )
Net losses and loss expenses	\$421.5	49.2	% \$511.0	69.0	% \$(89.5 )	(19.8 ) Pts

## Current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses

Current year non-catastrophe losses increased as a result of the growth of the reinsurance operations in 2013 compared to 2012, partially offset by lower net increases in reported loss activity in 2013 compared to 2012. The same lower net increase in reported loss activity contributed to the decrease in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses ratio in 2013 compared to 2012. During 2013, we accrued \$34.2 million of additional IBNR for large reported property-related losses caused by global weather events, as well as a factory explosion in China. This compared to \$51.7 million in 2012, which included \$36.4 million of crop reinsurance-related losses and loss expenses related to drought conditions across much of the United States and \$15.3 million in other U.S. weather-related losses. Partially offsetting the reported large loss activity is the reduction of current year property losses for certain property reinsurance lines of business as reported loss activity was lower than expected. For the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, the reduction in the current year property losses and loss expenses was \$31.5 million and \$16.0 million, respectively. On a combined basis, the large reported property loss activity and the reduction in losses and loss expenses for certain property reinsurance lines of business was a net increase in losses and loss expenses of \$2.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to \$35.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. These combined factors contributed to a reduction in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expenses ratio of 3.9 percentage points. The offsetting 0.5 percentage point increase in the current year non-catastrophe losses and loss expense ratio was due to mix of business.

## Current year property catastrophe losses and loss expenses

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we incurred \$13.5 million of catastrophe-related losses related to Typhoon Fitow in China while during the year ended December 31, 2012, we incurred \$81.0 million of catastrophe-related losses related to Superstorm Sandy.

## Prior year losses and loss expenses

Overall, our Reinsurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$96.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$30.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, as shown in the tables below.

(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year For the Year Ended December 31, 2013											
	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Property	\$0.9	\$0.1	\$(1.6 )	\$—	\$—	\$(0.2 )	\$(0.6 )	\$(5.2 )	\$(18.1 )	\$(60.1 )	\$(84.8 )
Casualty	(1.6 )	(3.9 )	(2.6 )	0.5	0.8	(3.5 )	(3.4 )	(0.2 )	2.9	5.7	(5.3 )
Specialty	—	(0.5 )	(0.6 )	0.2	—	(3.0 )	0.8	0.2	(3.6 )	0.6	(5.9 )

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

\$(0.7 ) \$(4.3 ) \$(4.8 ) \$0.7 \$0.8 \$(6.7 ) \$(3.2 ) \$(5.2 ) \$(18.8 ) \$(53.8 ) \$(96.0 )

The favorable loss reserve development for the 2011 and 2012 loss years for our Reinsurance segment was largely due to lower than expected reported losses in our property reinsurance line of business. The unfavorable loss reserve development in our casualty reinsurance line of business for the 2011 and 2012 loss years was primarily due to the frequency of claims being greater than anticipated.

Table of Contents(Favorable) and Unfavorable Loss Reserve Development by Loss Year  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

	2003 and prior (\$ in millions)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Property	\$(0.1 )	\$(0.7 )	\$1.5	\$—	\$(2.5 )	\$(1.8 )	\$(0.4 )	\$(2.3 )	\$(3.8 )	\$(10.1 )
Casualty	0.3	3.6	2.0	(5.3 )	(12.6 )	(3.5 )	0.1	6.2	9.4	0.2
Specialty	(0.6 )	(3.4 )	(5.5 )	(2.7 )	(4.8 )	(1.9 )	0.3	1.6	(3.5 )	(20.5 )
	\$(0.4 )	\$(0.5 )	\$(2.0 )	\$(8.0 )	\$(19.9 )	\$(7.2 )	\$0.0	\$5.5	\$2.1	\$(30.4 )

Acquisition costs. Acquisition costs increased by \$28.3 million, or 23.7%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in acquisition costs was due to the increase in net premiums written, as well as higher profit commission accruals. The increased profit commission accruals primarily relates to the profit commissions we pay related to our collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance program. The acquisition cost ratio was 17.2% for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to 16.1% for the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase is due to the increase in profit commission accruals, as well as the impact of the retrocessional reinsurance catastrophe cover put in place in the current year. The retrocessional reinsurance catastrophe cover reduced net premiums earned but did not have any offsetting ceding commission income, and therefore resulted in the acquisition costs ratio to increase.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses increased by \$6.4 million, or 8.7%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was due to higher salary and related costs due to higher headcount to support our growing operations, combined with higher incentive compensation due to increased profitability and our higher stock price. The general and administrative expense ratios for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 were 9.3% and 10.0%, respectively, reflecting the higher growth in net premiums earned relative to expenses in 2013.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

## Liquidity

Liquidity is a measure of our ability to access sufficient cash flows to meet the short-term and long-term cash requirements of our business operations. The company believes that its cash flows from operations and investments will provide sufficient liquidity for the foreseeable future.

Holdings is a holding company and transacts no business of its own. Cash flows to Holdings may comprise dividends, advances and loans from its subsidiary companies. Holdings is therefore reliant on receiving dividends and other permitted distributions from its subsidiaries to make dividend payments on its common shares.

Our operating subsidiaries depend upon cash inflows from premium receipts, net of commissions, investment income and proceeds from sales and redemptions of investments. Cash outflows for our operating subsidiaries are in the form of claims payments, net of reinsurance recoveries, reinsurance premium payments, purchase of investments, operating expenses and income tax payments as well as dividend payments to the holding company.

Historically, our operating subsidiaries have generated sufficient cash flows to meet all of their obligations. Because of the inherent volatility of our business, the seasonality in the timing of payments by insureds and cedents, the irregular timing of loss payments, and the impact of a change in interest rates and credit spreads on the investment

income as well as seasonality in coupon payment dates for fixed income securities, cash flows from operating activities may vary between periods. In the unlikely event that paid losses exceed operating cash flows in any given period, we would use our cash balances available, liquidate a portion of our investment portfolio or borrow under our revolving loan facility (see "Credit Facility" below) in order to meet our short-term liquidity needs.

Our total investments and cash totaled \$8.5 billion as of December 31, 2014, the main components of which were investment grade fixed income securities and cash and cash equivalents. As of December 31, 2014, we held \$589.3 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$250.4 million of fixed income securities with a maturity of less than one year to meet short-term liquidity needs. Our remaining fixed income securities, equity securities and "other invested assets" are available to meet our long-term liquidity needs.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2014, we had \$150 million available under our revolving loan facility.

## Dividend Restrictions

Allied World Assurance Company, AG is subject to Swiss financial and regulatory restrictions limiting its ability to declare and pay dividends. In addition, the jurisdictions in which our operating subsidiaries are licensed to write business also impose regulations requiring companies to maintain or meet various defined statutory ratios, including solvency and liquidity requirements. Some jurisdictions also place restrictions on the declaration and payment of dividends and other distributions.

The payment of dividends from Holdings' Bermuda domiciled operating subsidiary is, under certain circumstances, limited under Bermuda law, which requires our Bermuda operating subsidiary to maintain certain measures of solvency and liquidity.

Holdings' U.S. domiciled operating subsidiaries are subject to significant regulatory restrictions limiting their ability to declare and pay dividends. In particular, payments of dividends by Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc., Allied World National Assurance Company, Allied World Insurance Company, Allied World Specialty Insurance Company (f/k/a Darwin National Assurance Company), Allied World Surplus Lines Insurance Company (f/k/a Darwin Select Insurance Company) and Vantapro Specialty Insurance Company are subject to restrictions on statutory surplus pursuant to the respective states in which these insurance companies are domiciled. Each state requires prior regulatory approval of any payment of extraordinary dividends. We have not paid a dividend to any affiliate or parent company outside of the U.S.

Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited is subject to regulatory restrictions limiting its ability to declare and pay any dividends without the consent of the CBI. We have not paid a dividend to any affiliate or parent company outside of Ireland.

We also have branch operations in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Labuan and Singapore, which have regulatory restrictions limiting the ability to declare and pay dividends.

We also have insurance subsidiaries that are the parent company for other insurance subsidiaries, which means that dividends and other distributions will be subject to multiple layers of regulations in order to dividend funds to Holdings. The inability of the subsidiaries of Holdings to pay dividends and other permitted distributions could have a material adverse effect on Holdings' cash requirements and our ability to make principal, interest and dividend payments on the senior notes and common shares.

## Cash Flows

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(\$ in millions)		
Cash flows provided by operating activities	\$416.8	\$114.4	629.4
Cash flows used in investing activities	(127.0	) (48.1	) (259.7
Cash flows used in financing activities	(223.4	) (207.9	) (321.2
Effect of exchange rate changes on foreign currency cash	(9.1	) (8.3	) (0.6
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	57.3	(149.9	) 47.9
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	532.0	681.9	634.0
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$589.3	\$532.0	\$681.9

The primary sources of cash inflows from operating activities are premiums received, loss payments from reinsurers, return of funds held balances related to our assumed collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance program through Aeolus Re and investment income. The primary sources of cash outflows from operating activities are ceded premiums paid to reinsurers, claims paid, contributions of funds held balances, commissions paid, operating expenses, interest expense and income taxes. The primary factor in our ability to generate positive operating cash flow is underwriting profitability. We have generated positive operating cash flow for more than 10 consecutive years.

The \$302.4 million increase in cash flows from operations was primarily due to a lower increase in our funds held balance during 2014 compared to 2013. During 2014, we contributed \$25.0 million and \$325.0 million to Aeolus for the current and upcoming underwriting years, respectively, and received \$212.3 million from Aeolus Re for prior underwriting



Table of Contents

years. Subsequent to December 31, 2014, we received \$285.4 million of our funds held balance from Aeolus Re for prior underwriting years.

In our casualty lines of business, claims may be reported and settled several years after the coverage period has terminated. As a result, we expect that we will generate significant operating cash flow as we accumulate casualty loss reserves on our balance sheet. In our property lines of business, claims are generally reported and paid within a relatively short period of time and we expect volatility in our operating cash flows as losses are incurred. Our net paid losses may increase in the short-term due to the recent natural catastrophe activity. We expect increases in the amount of expected loss payments in future periods with a resulting decrease in operating cash flow; however, we do not expect loss payments to exceed the premiums generated. Actual premiums written and collected and losses and loss expenses paid in any period could vary materially from our expectations and could have a significant and adverse effect on operating cash flow.

Cash flows used in investing activities consist primarily of payments for investments acquired, proceeds on the sale of investments and changes in restricted cash. Cash flows used in investing activities increased \$78.9 million from \$48.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 to \$127.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. The increase was primarily due to the construction of a company-used office building in Zug, Switzerland for \$44.5 million.

Cash flows used in financing activities consist primarily of capital raising activities, which include the issuance of common shares or debt, the repurchase of our shares, the payment of dividends and the repayment of debt. The \$15.5 million increase in cash flows used in financing activities was primarily due to higher dividends paid to shareholders partially offset by the proceeds received from a mortgage and credit facility used to finance the construction of a company-used office building in Zug, Switzerland.

Investments

Our funds are primarily invested in liquid, high-grade fixed income securities. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, 88.5% and 89.3%, respectively, of our fixed income portfolio consisted of investment grade securities. The maturity distribution of our fixed income portfolio (on a fair value basis) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 was as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(\$ in millions)	
Due in one year or less	\$250.4	\$838.8
Due after one year through five years	3,167.8	2,698.8
Due after five years through ten years	637.2	697.8
Due after ten years	79.3	67.0
Mortgage-backed	1,263.5	1,292.5
Asset-backed	670.8	505.9
Total	\$6,069.0	\$6,100.8

We have investments in "other invested assets", comprising interests in hedge funds and private equity funds, the carrying value of which was \$955.5 million as of December 31, 2014. Some of these funds have redemption notice requirements. For each of our funds, liquidity is allowed after certain defined periods based on the terms of each fund. See Note 3(b) "Investments — Other Invested Assets" to our consolidated financial statements for additional details on our "other invested assets".

We do not believe that inflation has had a material effect on our consolidated results of operations. The potential exists, after a catastrophe loss, for the development of inflationary pressures in a local economy. The effects of inflation are considered implicitly in pricing. Loss reserves are established to recognize likely loss settlements at the

date payment is made. Those reserves inherently recognize the effects of inflation. The actual effects of inflation on our results cannot be accurately known, however, until claims are ultimately resolved.

#### Pledged Assets

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd uses trust accounts primarily to meet security requirements for inter-company and certain reinsurance transactions. We also have cash and cash equivalents and investments on deposit with various state or government insurance departments or pledged in favor of ceding companies in order to comply with reinsurance contract provisions and relevant insurance regulations. In addition, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd currently has access to up to

Table of Contents

\$1.15 billion in letters of credit under two letter of credit facilities, a \$1.0 billion uncommitted facility with Citibank Europe plc and a \$150.0 million committed Amended Secured Credit Facility. These facilities are used to provide security to reinsureds and are collateralized by us, at least to the extent of letters of credit outstanding at any given time.

Security arrangements with ceding insurers may subject our assets to security interests or require that a portion of our assets be pledged to, or otherwise held by, third parties. Both of our letter of credit facilities are fully collateralized by assets held in custodial accounts at the Bank of New York Mellon held for the benefit of the banks. Although the investment income derived from our assets while held in trust accrues to our benefit, the investment of these assets is governed by the terms of the letter of credit facilities or the investment regulations of the state or territory of domicile of the ceding insurer, which may be more restrictive than the investment regulations otherwise applicable to us. The restrictions may result in lower investment yields on these assets, which may adversely affect our profitability.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, \$3,585.8 million and \$2,894.4 million, respectively, of cash and cash equivalents and investments were deposited, pledged or held in escrow accounts in favor of ceding companies and other counterparties or government authorities to comply with reinsurance contract provisions and insurance laws.

In addition, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, a further \$571.8 million and \$1,053.6 million, respectively, of cash and cash equivalents and investments were pledged as collateral for our credit facilities. The decrease in the assets pledged as collateral for our credit facilities was primarily due to a reduction in funding to various cedents where we were overfunded and our establishment of a direct collateral arrangement for our Lloyd's operations and, as such, the pledged assets are included in the \$3,585.8 million noted above, whereas previously they were included in the pledged assets for our credit facilities.

We do not currently anticipate that the restrictions on liquidity resulting from restrictions on the payment of dividends by our subsidiary companies or from assets committed in trust accounts or to collateralize the letter of credit facilities will have a material impact on our ability to carry out our normal business activities, including interest and dividend payments, respectively, on our senior notes (described below) and common shares.

## Financial Strength Ratings

Financial strength ratings represent the opinions of rating agencies on our capacity to meet our obligations. In the event of a significant downgrade in ratings, our ability to write business and to access the capital markets could be impacted. For additional information on our financial strength ratings refer to Item 1 “Business — Financial Strength Ratings”.

## Capital Resources

The table below sets forth the capital structure of the company as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	As of December 31,		
	2014	2013	
	(\$ in millions)		
Senior notes	\$798.8	\$798.5	
Other long-term debt	19.2	—	
Shareholders' equity	3,778.3	3,519.8	
Total capitalization	\$4,596.3	\$4,318.3	
Debt to total capitalization	17.8	% 18.5	%

On September 10, 2012, we filed a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC in which we may offer from time to time common shares of Allied World Switzerland, senior or subordinated debt securities of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, a Bermuda company, (“Allied World Bermuda”), guarantees of debt securities of Allied World Bermuda, warrants to purchase common shares of Allied World Switzerland, warrants to purchase debt securities of Allied World Bermuda units which may consist of any combination of the securities listed above. The registration statement is intended to provide us with additional flexibility to access capital markets for general corporate purposes, subject to market conditions and our capital needs.

#### Share Repurchases

On May 1, 2014, our shareholders approved a new share repurchase program in order for us to repurchase up to \$500.0 million of our common shares. This new share repurchase program supersedes the 2012 share repurchase program and no

Table of Contents

further repurchases will be made under the 2012 share repurchase program. Under the terms of this new share repurchase program, the first three million of common shares repurchased will remain in treasury and will be used by us to satisfy share delivery obligations under our equity-based compensation plans. Any additional common shares will be designated for cancellation at acquisition and will be canceled upon shareholder approval. As of December 31, 2014 approximately \$418.4 million remained under this share repurchase authorization. During the third quarter of 2014, we temporarily suspended our share repurchase program so as to preserve capital for future obligations such as the expected purchase of the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of RSA and any catastrophic events that may have occurred during the year. We restarted our share repurchase program late in the fourth quarter of 2014.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, our share repurchases were as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014 (\$ in millions, except per share amount)
Common shares repurchased	4,906,785
Total cost of shares repurchased	\$175.4
Average price per share	\$35.74

Shares repurchased by the company and not designated for cancellation are classified as “Treasury shares, at cost” on the consolidated balance sheets. The company will issue shares out of treasury principally related to the Company’s employee benefit plans. Shares repurchased and designated for cancellation are constructively retired and recorded as a share cancellation.

#### Long-Term Debt

In July 2006, Allied World Bermuda issued \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 7.50% senior notes due August 1, 2016, with interest payable August 1 and February 1 each year. Allied World Bermuda can redeem the senior notes prior to maturity, subject to payment of a “make-whole” premium; however, Allied World Bermuda currently has no intention of redeeming the notes.

In November 2010, Allied World Bermuda issued \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 5.50% senior notes due November 1, 2020, with interest payable May 15 and November 15 each year, commencing May 15, 2011. Allied World Bermuda can redeem the senior notes prior to maturity, subject to payment of a “make-whole” premium; however, Allied World Bermuda currently has no intention of redeeming the notes.

The senior notes issued in 2006 and 2010 have been unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed for the payment of the principal and interest by Holdings.

Allied World Assurance Company, AG entered into a 20-year mortgage commitment with a Swiss bank for the construction of a company-used office building in Zug, Switzerland. The total proceeds received in 2014 under the mortgage are \$14.1 million (CHF 14.0 million) with a fixed annual interest rate of 3.2% payable quarterly. An additional \$4.0 million (CHF 4.0 million) of proceeds from the mortgage will be drawn during the first quarter of 2015. The mortgage payments will be \$0.3 million (CHF 0.3 million) per year, plus accrued interest, for the first 19 years with the remaining balance payable at the end of the mortgage.

## Credit Facility

In the normal course of our operations, we enter into agreements with financial institutions to obtain secured and unsecured credit facilities.

On June 7, 2012, Allied World Bermuda amended its existing secured credit facility. The amended \$450 million four-year secured credit facility (the “Amended Secured Credit Facility”) is with a syndication of lenders and is primarily for the issuance of standby letters of credit to support obligations in connection with the insurance and reinsurance business of Allied World

Table of Contents

Bermuda and its subsidiaries. The facility may also be used for revolving loans for general corporate and working capital purposes, up to a maximum of \$150 million. Allied World Bermuda may request that existing lenders under the Amended Secured Credit Facility make additional commitments from time to time, up to \$150 million, subject to approval by the lenders.

On November 12, 2014, Allied World Bermuda gave irrevocable notice to the administrative agent under the Amended Secured Credit Facility to reduce the aggregate commitment from \$450 million to \$150 million. All other material items of the Amended Secured Credit Facility remain unchanged. The Amended Secured Credit Facility contains representations, warranties and covenants customary for similar bank loan facilities, including certain covenants that, among other things, require us to maintain a certain leverage ratio and financial strength rating. We are in compliance with all covenants under the Amended Secured Credit Facility as of December 31, 2014.

As of December 31, 2014, we also have access to a \$1 billion uncommitted letter of credit facility with Citibank Europe plc. The letters of credit issued under the credit facility with Citibank Europe plc are deemed to be automatically extended without amendment for twelve months from the expiry date, or any future expiration date unless at least 30 days prior to any expiration date Citibank Europe plc notifies us that they elect not to consider the letters of credit renewed for any such additional period.

As of December 31, 2014, we had a combined unused letters of credit capacity of \$652.7 million from the Amended Secured Credit Facility and Citibank Europe plc. We believe that this remaining capacity is sufficient to meet our future letter of credit needs.

In conjunction with the above referenced mortgage commitment, Allied World Assurance Company, AG entered into a three year credit facility with a Swiss bank that provided us \$5.1 million (CHF 5.0 million) for general corporate purposes, however we used the proceeds from the credit facility to fund the purchase of the office building in Zug, Switzerland. The interest rate for the credit facility is 2.5%.

## Aggregate Contractual Obligations

The following table shows our aggregate contractual obligations by time period remaining until due date as of December 31, 2014:

	Payment Due by Period				
	Total	Less Than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More Than 5 Years
	(\$ in millions)				
Contractual Obligations					
Gross reserve for losses and loss expenses(1)	\$5,881.2	\$1,167.4	\$1,615.3	\$933.7	\$2,164.8
Senior notes (including interest)	974.0	54.0	570.5	33.0	316.5
Investment commitments outstanding	483.3	—	1.5	215.8	266.0
Operating lease obligations	227.8	12.6	37.5	39.1	138.6
Mortgage and credit facility (including interest)	33.2	0.9	7.0	1.7	23.6
Reinsurance collateral	25.0	25.0	—	—	—
Total	\$7,624.5	\$1,259.9	\$2,231.8	\$1,223.3	\$2,909.5

(1) Our unpaid losses and loss expenses represent our best estimate of the cost to settle the ultimate liabilities based on information available as of December 31, 2014, and are not fixed amounts payable pursuant to contractual commitments. The timing and amounts of actual loss payments related to these reserves might vary significantly from our current estimate of the expected timing and amounts of loss payments based on many factors, including

large individual losses as well as general market conditions.

The investment commitments outstanding represent unfunded commitments related to our "other invested assets".

The reinsurance collateral represents the funding commitment for our collateralized property catastrophe reinsurance program for the upcoming underwriting years. We have no commitment beyond the 2015 underwriting year.

The amounts included for reserve for losses and loss expenses reflect the estimated timing of expected loss payments on known claims and anticipated future claims as of December 31, 2014 and do not take reinsurance recoverables into account. Both the amount and timing of cash flows are uncertain and do not have contractual payout terms. For a discussion of these



Table of Contents

uncertainties, refer to “— Critical Accounting Policies — Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses.” Due to the inherent uncertainty in the process of estimating the timing of these payments, there is a risk that the amounts paid in any period will differ significantly from those disclosed. Total estimated obligations will be funded by existing cash and investments.

We also have a commitment to acquire the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of RSA. See note 1 to the consolidated financial statements for additional information.

## Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2014, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

## Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

We believe that we are principally exposed to three types of market risk: interest rate risk, credit risk and currency risk.

The fixed income securities in our investment portfolio are subject to interest rate risk and credit risk. Any changes in interest rates and credit spreads have a direct effect on the market values of fixed income securities. As interest rates rise, the market values fall, and vice versa. As credit spreads widen, the market values fall, and vice versa.

In the table below changes in fair values as a result of changes in interest rates is determined by calculating hypothetical December 31, 2014 ending prices based on yields adjusted to reflect the hypothetical changes in interest rates, comparing such hypothetical ending prices to actual ending prices, and multiplying the difference by the principal amount of the security. The sensitivity analysis is based on estimates. The estimated changes of our fixed maturity investments and cash and cash equivalents are presented below and actual changes for interest rate shifts could differ significantly.

	Interest Rate Shift in Basis Points						
	-200	-100	-50	0	50	100	200
	(\$ in millions)						
Total fair value	\$6,988.4	\$6,872.4	\$6,806.9	\$6,739.3	\$6,671.1	\$6,602.7	\$6,466.1
Fair value change from base	249.1	133.1	67.6	—	(68.2 )	(136.6 )	(273.2 )
Change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation)	3.7	% 2.0	% 1.0	% —	% (1.0 )	% (2.0 )	% (4.1 )

In the table below changes in fair values as a result of changes in credit spreads are determined by calculating hypothetical December 31, 2014 ending prices adjusted to reflect the hypothetical changes in credit spreads, comparing such hypothetical ending prices to actual ending prices, and multiplying the difference by the principal amount of the security. The sensitivity analysis is based on estimates. The estimated changes of our non-cash, non-U.S. Treasury fixed maturity investments are presented below and actual changes in credit spreads could differ significantly.

	Credit Spread Shift in Basis Points						
	-200	-100	-50	0	50	100	200
	(\$ in millions)						
Total fair value	\$4,771.1	\$4,670.4	\$4,620.0	\$4,569.7	\$4,519.3	\$4,468.9	\$4,368.2
Fair value change from base	201.4	100.7	50.3	—	(50.4 )	(100.8 )	(201.5 )
Change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation)	4.4	% 2.2	% 1.1	% —	% (1.1 )	% (2.2 )	% (4.4 )

In addition to credit spread risk, our portfolio is also exposed to the risk of securities being downgraded or of issuers defaulting. In an effort to minimize this risk, our investment guidelines have been defined to ensure that the assets held are well diversified and are primarily high-quality securities.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the types of securities in our portfolio, their fair market values, average rating and portfolio percentage as of December 31, 2014.

	Carrying Value December 31, 2014 (\$ in millions)	Average Rating (S&P)	Portfolio Percentage	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$670.3	AAA	7.8	%
U.S. government securities	1,499.3	AA+	17.6	%
U.S. government agencies	111.2	AA+	1.3	%
Non-U.S. government and government agencies	188.2	AA+	2.2	%
State, municipalities and political subdivisions	170.6	A+	2.0	%
Mortgage-backed securities ("MBS"):				
Agency MBS	624.4	AA+	7.2	%
Non-agency Residential MBS	93.4	BB-	1.1	%
Commercial MBS	545.7	BBB	6.4	%
Total mortgage-backed securities	1,263.5		14.7	%
Corporate securities:				
Financials	1,024.7	A	12.0	%
Industrials	1,029.7	BBB	12.1	%
Utilities	111.0	BBB+	1.3	%
Total corporate securities	2,165.4		25.4	%
Asset-backed securities:				
Credit cards	64.7	AAA	0.8	%
Auto receivables	32.4	AAA	0.4	%
Student Loans	156.1	AA+	1.8	%
Collateralized loan obligations	354.9	AA	4.2	%
Other	62.7	AAA	0.7	%
Total asset-backed securities	670.8		7.9	%
Other invested assets:				
Private equity	357.3	N/A	4.1	%
Hedge funds	425.0	N/A	5.0	%
Other private securities	143.0	N/A	1.7	%
High yield loan fund	30.2	N/A	0.4	%
Total other invested assets	955.5		11.2	%
Equities	844.2	N/A	9.9	%
Total investment portfolio	\$8,539.0		100.0	%

As of December 31, 2014, we held \$6.1 billion of fixed income securities. Of those assets, approximately 88.5% were rated investment grade (Baa3/BBB- or higher) with the remaining 11.5% rated in the below investment grade category. The average credit quality of the fixed maturity portfolios was AA- by Standard & Poor's.

Our agency pass-through mortgage-backed securities are exposed to prepayment risk, which occurs when holders of individual mortgages increase the frequency with which they prepay the outstanding principal before the maturity date to refinance at a lower interest rate cost. Given the proportion that these securities comprise of the overall portfolio, and the current interest rate environment and condition of the credit market, prepayment risk is not considered significant at this time.

Our non-agency commercial mortgage-backed securities are subject to the risk of non-payment due to increased levels of delinquencies, defaults and losses on commercial loans that cumulatively create shortfalls beyond the level of subordination in our specific securities.

As of December 31, 2014, we held investments in "other invested assets" with a carrying value of \$955.5 million. Included in "other invested assets" are private equity funds, hedge funds, "other private securities" and a high yield loan fund.

Table of Contents

Investments in these funds involve certain risks related to, among other things, the illiquid nature of the fund shares, the limited operating history of the fund, as well as risks associated with the strategies employed by the managers of the funds. The funds' objectives are generally to seek attractive long-term returns with lower volatility by investing in a range of diversified investment strategies. As our reserves and capital continue to build, we may consider additional investments in these or other alternative investments. In addition, we invest in various strategic business opportunities that diversify our earnings stream, including asset management and claims servicing.

As of December 31, 2014, our direct exposure to European credit across all of Europe was \$536.5 million and is included within "fixed maturity investments trading, at fair value" and "equity securities trading, at fair value" in the consolidated balance sheets. As of December 31, 2014, we had no direct sovereign exposure to Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal or Spain.

	December 31, 2014			
	Sovereign and Sovereign Guaranteed (\$ in millions)	Structured Products	Corporate Bonds and Equities	Total Exposure
Austria	\$—	\$—	\$0.1	\$0.1
Belgium	—	—	15.0	15.0
Denmark	—	—	2.8	2.8
Finland	—	—	1.7	1.7
France	12.6	—	99.1	111.7
Germany	28.6	—	15.0	43.6
Greece	—	—	1.1	1.1
Hungary	—	—	0.4	0.4
Ireland	—	—	2.5	2.5
Italy	—	—	4.9	4.9
Luxembourg	—	3.6	13.9	17.5
Netherlands	—	—	66.7	66.7
Norway	5.8	—	20.2	26.0
Portugal	—	—	0.3	0.3
Russia	—	—	0.1	0.1
Spain	—	—	14.9	14.9
Sweden	—	—	26.1	26.1
Switzerland	2.1	—	48.2	50.3
United Kingdom	25.2	3.8	121.8	150.8
Total exposure	\$74.3	\$7.4	\$454.8	\$536.5

The U.S. dollar is our reporting currency and the functional currency of all of our operating subsidiaries. However, we enter into insurance and reinsurance contracts where the premiums receivable and losses payable are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. In addition, we maintain a portion of our investments and liabilities in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, primarily Euro, British Sterling, Swiss Franc and the Canadian dollar. Receivables in non-U.S. currencies are generally converted into U.S. dollars at the time of receipt. When we incur a liability in a non-U.S. currency, we carry such liability on our books in the original currency. These liabilities are converted from the non-U.S. currency to U.S. dollars at the time of payment. As a result, we have an exposure to foreign currency risk resulting from fluctuations in exchange rates. We utilize a hedging strategy to minimize the potential loss of value caused by currency fluctuations by using foreign currency forward contract derivatives that expire within 90 days from purchase. In addition, during 2014 we purchased a forward contract to economically hedge a portion of our foreign currency exposure related to the consideration to be paid for the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of RSA.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, less than 3.7% and 2.3%, respectively, of our total investments and cash and cash equivalents were denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Of our business written during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, approximately 14.0% and 12.0%, respectively, was written in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. We wrote an insignificant amount of business in Venezuela during the current year.

Table of Contents

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

See our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and required financial statement schedules commencing on pages F-1 through F-53 and S-1 through S-2 below.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures.

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

In connection with the preparation of this report, our management has performed an evaluation, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of December 31, 2014. Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by SEC rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosures. Based on their evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of December 31, 2014, our company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by SEC rules and forms and accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on the framework in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO"). Based on an evaluation under the framework in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by COSO, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2014.

Our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide an absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within our company have been detected.

The effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 has been audited by Deloitte Ltd., an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included below.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

No changes were made in our internal controls over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f), during the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2014 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.





Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of  
Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG  
Zug, Switzerland

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Annual 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 by, or under the supervision of, the company’s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company’s board of directors, management, and other personnel 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 the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets and related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income, shareholders’ equity, and cash flows and financial statement schedules as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014 of the Company and our report dated February 17, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements and financial statement schedules.

/s/ Deloitte Ltd.

Hamilton, Bermuda

February 17, 2015

Table of Contents

Item 9B. Other Information.

None.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance.

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from a definitive proxy statement that will be filed with the SEC not later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 pursuant to Regulation 14A.

We have adopted a Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers that applies specifically to such persons. The Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers is available free of charge on our website at [www.awac.com](http://www.awac.com) and is available in print to any shareholder who requests it. We intend to disclose any amendments to this code by posting such information on our website, as well as disclosing any waivers of this code applicable to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller and other executive officers who perform similar functions through such means or by filing a Form 8-K.

Item 11. Executive Compensation.

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from a definitive proxy statement that will be filed with the SEC not later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 pursuant to Regulation 14A.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from a definitive proxy statement that will be filed with the SEC not later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 pursuant to Regulation 14A.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence.

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from a definitive proxy statement that will be filed with the SEC not later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 pursuant to Regulation 14A.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from a definitive proxy statement that will be filed with the SEC not later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 pursuant to Regulation 14A.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.

Financial statement schedules listed in the accompanying index to our consolidated financial statements starting on page F-1 are filed as part of this Form 10-K, and are included in Item 8.

The exhibits listed in the accompanying exhibit index starting on page E-1 are filed as part of this Form 10-K.

103

---

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Zug, Switzerland on February 17, 2015.

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

By: /s/ Scott A. Carmilani  
 Name: Scott A. Carmilani  
 Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Scott A. Carmilani Scott A. Carmilani	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board (Principal Executive Officer)	February 17, 2015
/s/ Thomas A. Bradley Thomas A. Bradley	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	February 17, 2015
/s/ Kent W. Ziegler Kent W. Ziegler	Senior Vice President, Finance (Principal Accounting Officer)	February 17, 2015
/s/ Barbara T. Alexander Barbara T. Alexander	Director	February 17, 2015
/s/ James F. Duffy James F. Duffy	Director	February 17, 2015
/s/ Bart Friedman Bart Friedman	Vice Chairman of the Board	February 17, 2015
/s/ Scott Hunter Scott Hunter	Director	February 17, 2015
/s/ Patrick de Saint-Aignan Patrick de Saint-Aignan	Director	February 17, 2015
/s/ Eric S. Schwartz Eric S. Schwartz	Director	February 17, 2015

/s/ Samuel J. Weinhoff  
Samuel J. Weinhoff

Director

February 17, 2015

104

---

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
2.1(1)	Sale of Business Agreement by and between Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd related to Hong Kong operations, dated as of August 22, 2014.
2.1(2)	Sale of Business Agreement by and between Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd related to Singapore operations, dated as of August 22, 2014.
3.1(3)	Articles of Association of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, as amended and restated
3.2(4)	Organizational Regulations of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, as amended and restated
4.1(5)	Specimen Common Share Certificate
4.2(6)	Indenture, dated as of July 26, 2006, by and between Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, as issuer, and The Bank of New York, as trustee, with regard to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's outstanding 7.50% Senior Notes due 2016
4.3(6)	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of July 26, 2006, by and between Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, as issuer, and The Bank of New York, as trustee, with regard to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's outstanding 7.50% Senior Notes due 2016
4.4(7)	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 30, 2010, by and among Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, with regard to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's outstanding 7.50% Senior Notes due 2016
4.5(6)	Form of 7.50% Senior Note (Included as part of Exhibit 4.3)
4.6(8)	Senior Indenture, dated November 15, 2010, by and between Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, with regard to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's outstanding 5.50% Senior Notes due 2020
4.7(8)	First Supplemental Indenture, dated November 15, 2010, by and between Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, with regard to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's outstanding 5.50% Senior Notes due 2020
4.8(7)	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 30, 2010, by and among Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee, with regard to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd's outstanding 5.50% Senior Notes due 2020

- 4.9(8) Form of 5.50% Senior Note (Included as part of Exhibit 4.7)
- 10.1(9) Insurance Letters of Credit-Master Agreement, dated February 28, 2007, by and among Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, Citibank N.A. and Citibank Europe plc
- 10.2(9) Pledge Agreement, dated as of February 28, 2007, by and between Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd and Citibank Europe plc
- 10.3(9) Account Control Agreement, dated March 5, 2007, by and among Citibank Europe plc, as secured party; Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, as pledgor; and Mellon Bank, N.A
- 10.4(10) Letter Agreement, dated December 30, 2008, by and among Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, Citibank Europe plc and The Bank of New York Mellon, with respect to the types of securities that may be pledged under the letter of credit facility with Citibank Europe plc
- 10.5(11) Letter and Summary of Terms, dated December 7, 2012, from Citibank Europe plc to Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, with respect to the letter of credit facility with Citibank Europe plc
- 10.6(12) Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of June 7, 2012, by and among Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG; Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd; Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd; the lenders a party thereto; Citibank, N.A., as syndication agent; and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, fronting bank and letter of credit agent.

E-1

---

Table of Contents

- 10.7(12) Amended and Restated Pledge and Security Agreement, dated as of June 7, 2012, by and between Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, as pledgor; and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent
- 10.8(12) Pledge and Security Agreement, dated as of June 7, 2012, by and between Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, as pledgor; and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent
- 10.9(12) Amended and Restated Account Control Agreement, dated June 7, 2012, by and among Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, as pledgor; The Bank of New York Mellon, as custodian; and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent
- 10.10(12) Account Control Agreement, dated June 7, 2012, by and among Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, as pledgor; The Bank of New York Mellon, as custodian; and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent
- 10.11(13) Benefit Plan Assumption and General Amendment Agreement, dated as of December 1, 2010, by and among Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, Newmarket Administrative Services, Inc. n/k/a AWAC Services Company and Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG
- 10.12(14) Form of Indemnification Agreement for directors and executive officers of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG
- 10.12(15)† Amended and Restated Employment Agreement-Form for Certain Executive Officers
- 10.13(16)† Employment / Consulting Agreement, dated as of January 16, 2014, by and between Allied World National Assurance Company and W. Gordon Knight
- 10.14(17)† Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of October 1, 2008, by and between Allied World Reinsurance Agreement n/k/a Allied World Insurance Company and John R. Bender
- 10.15(17)† Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of October 1, 2008, by and between Allied World National Assurance Company and John J. McElroy
- 10.16(18)† Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of March 1, 2009, by and between Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and Scott A. Carmilani
- 10.17(19)† Employment Agreement, dated as of August 1, 2013, by and between AWAC Services Company and John J. Gauthier
- 10.18(20)† Employment Agreement, dated as of December 9, 2013, by and between Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG and Thomas A. Bradley
- 10.19(21)† Employment Agreement, dated as of March 4, 2013, by and between Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited and Julian James.
- 10.20(19)† Employment Agreement, dated as of May 1, 2014, by and between Allied World National Assurance Company and Louis P. Iglesias.



- 10.21(13)† Form of Employment Agreement Amendment with regard to Swiss requirements for certain officers of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG
- 10.22(22)† Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan
- 10.23(23)† Form of Option Grant Notice and Option Agreement under Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan
- 10.24(24)† Form of Option Grant Notice and Option Agreement under Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan, as amended in August 2011
- 10.25(22)† Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan
- 10.26(24)† Form of RSU Award Agreement for employees under the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended in August 2011
- 10.27(24)† Form of Performance-Based RSU Award Agreement under the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended in August 2011
- 10.28(25)† Form of Performance-Based Equity Award Agreement
- 10.29(17)† Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG 2012 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan

Table of Contents

10.30(17)†	Form of RSU Award Agreement under the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG 2012 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan
10.31(17)†	Form of Performance-Based Compensation Award Agreement under the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG 2012 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan
10.32(26)†	Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Amended and Restated 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan
10.33(27)†	Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. Second Amended and Restated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan
10.34(28)†	Form of RSU Award Agreement for non-employee directors under the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG 2012 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan
21.1	Subsidiaries of the Registrant
23.1	Consent of Deloitte Ltd., an independent registered public accounting firm
31.1	Certification by Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification by Chief Financial Officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1*	Certification by Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2*	Certification by Chief Financial Officer, as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
101.1	Interactive data files pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T: (i) the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, (v) the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and (vi) Schedules III and IV
(1)	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on August 25, 2014.
(2)	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on August 25, 2014.
(3)	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on July 29, 2014.
(4)	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on February 24, 2014.
(5)	Incorporated herein by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on March 1, 2011.
(6)	Incorporated herein by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on August 1, 2006.
(7)	Incorporated herein by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on January 5, 2011.
(8)	

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

- Incorporated herein by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on November 15, 2010.
- (9) Incorporated herein by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on March 6, 2007.
- (10) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on January 5, 2009.
- (11) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on February 26, 2013.
- (12) Incorporated herein by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on June 13, 2012.
- (13) Incorporated herein by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on December 1, 2010.
- (14) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on December 1, 2010.
- (15) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on February 27, 2009. Other than with respect to title, base salary and housing

Table of Contents

allowance, the amended and restated employment agreements, dated as of October 1, 2008, for Frank D’Orazio, Wesley Dupont and Marshall Grossack are identical to the form filed as Exhibit 10.41 thereto.

(16) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on January 16, 2014.

(17) Incorporated herein by reference to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on May 9, 2012

(18) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on March 5, 2009.

(19) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on October 23, 2013. Other than with respect to commencement date, title, base salary and employer, the employment agreement for Mr. Louis P. Iglesias is materially identical to the employment agreement for Mr. John Gauthier filed thereto.

(20) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on December 13, 2013.

(21) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on April 23, 2014.

(22) Incorporated herein by reference to the Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-136420) of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on December 1, 2010.

(23) Incorporated herein by reference to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on May 9, 2008.

(24) Incorporated herein by reference to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on August 9, 2011.

(25) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on September 18, 2009.

(26) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-151298) of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed with the SEC on December 1, 2010.

(27) Incorporated herein by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG filed on March 1, 2010.

(28) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, filed with the SEC on May 3, 2013.

Management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.

\* These certifications are being furnished solely pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (subsections (a) and (b) of Section 1350, chapter 63 of title 18 United States Code) and are not being filed as part of this report.

Table of Contents

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

	Page No.
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>F-2</u>
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-3</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u>	<u>F-4</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u>	<u>F-5</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u>	<u>F-6</u>
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>F-7</u>
<u>Schedule III — Supplementary Insurance Information</u>	<u>S-1</u>
<u>Schedule IV — Supplementary Reinsurance Information</u>	<u>S-2</u>

F-1

---

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of  
Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG  
Zug, Switzerland

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income, shareholders’ 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. These financial statements and financial statement schedules are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements and financial statement 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, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, such financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 17, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte Ltd.

Hamilton, Bermuda

February 17, 2015

Table of ContentsALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

as of December 31, 2014 and 2013

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share and per share amounts)

	As of December 31, 2014	As of December 31, 2013
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Fixed maturity investments trading, at fair value (amortized cost: 2014: \$6,035,240; 2013: \$6,065,350)	\$6,069,010	\$6,100,798
Equity securities trading, at fair value (cost: 2014: \$791,206; 2013: \$647,301)	844,163	699,846
Other invested assets	955,509	911,392
Total investments	7,868,682	7,712,036
Cash and cash equivalents	589,339	531,936
Restricted cash	80,971	149,393
Insurance balances receivable	664,815	588,632
Funds held	724,021	632,430
Prepaid reinsurance	360,732	340,992
Reinsurance recoverable	1,340,256	1,234,504
Reinsurance recoverable on paid losses	86,075	76,099
Accrued investment income	28,456	32,236
Net deferred acquisition costs	151,546	126,661
Goodwill	278,258	268,376
Intangible assets	46,298	48,831
Balances receivable on sale of investments	47,149	76,544
Net deferred tax assets	33,615	37,469
Other assets	121,350	89,691
Total assets	\$12,421,563	\$11,945,830
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Reserve for losses and loss expenses	\$5,881,165	\$5,766,529
Unearned premiums	1,555,313	1,396,256
Reinsurance balances payable	180,060	173,023
Balances due on purchases of investments	5,428	104,740
Senior notes	798,802	798,499
Other long-term debt	19,213	—
Dividends payable	21,669	16,732
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	181,622	170,225
Total liabilities	\$8,643,272	\$8,426,004
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:</b>		
Common shares: 2014 and 2013: par value CHF 4.10 per share (2014: 100,775,256; 2013: 103,477,452 shares issued and 2014: 96,195,482; 2013: 100,253,646 shares outstanding)	408,020	418,988
Treasury shares, at cost (2014: 4,579,774; 2013: 3,223,806)	(143,075	) (79,992
Retained earnings	3,513,346	3,180,830
Total shareholders' equity	3,778,291	3,519,826
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$12,421,563	\$11,945,830

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.





Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share and per share amounts)

	2014	2013	2012
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
Gross premiums written	\$2,935,425	\$2,738,664	\$2,329,271
Premiums ceded	(613,350)	(618,183)	(491,448)
Net premiums written	2,322,075	2,120,481	1,837,823
Change in unearned premiums	(139,317)	(114,648)	(88,925)
Net premiums earned	2,182,758	2,005,833	1,748,898
Net investment income	176,874	157,564	167,141
Net realized investment gains	88,957	59,525	306,436
Other income	2,064	—	—
Total revenue	2,450,653	2,222,922	2,222,475
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Net losses and loss expenses	1,199,190	1,123,242	1,139,264
Acquisition costs	295,122	252,673	205,722
General and administrative expenses	365,736	352,285	307,321
Other expense	8,578	—	—
Amortization of intangible assets	2,533	2,533	2,533
Interest expense	57,755	56,510	55,405
Foreign exchange loss	957	8,019	783
Total expenses	1,929,871	1,795,262	1,711,028
Income before income taxes	520,782	427,660	511,447
Income tax expense	30,523	9,780	18,440
NET INCOME	490,259	417,880	493,007
Other comprehensive loss:			
Unrealized losses on investments arising during the year net of applicable deferred income tax benefit 2014: \$0; 2013: \$0; 2012: \$(265)	—	—	(493)
Reclassification adjustment for net realized investment gains included in net income, net of applicable income tax	—	—	(13,991)
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	(14,484)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$490,259	\$417,880	\$478,523
<b>PER SHARE DATA</b>			
Basic earnings per share	\$5.03	\$4.08	\$4.56
Diluted earnings per share	\$4.92	\$3.98	\$4.43
Weighted average common shares outstanding	97,538,319	102,464,715	108,171,435
Weighted average common shares and common share equivalents outstanding	99,591,773	104,865,834	111,209,655
Dividends paid per share	\$0.784	\$0.458	\$0.625

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

F-4

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY  
for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars)

	Share Capital	Additional Paid-in Capital	Treasury Shares	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Retained Earnings	Total
December 31, 2011	\$557,153	\$78,225	\$(136,590 )	\$ 14,484	\$2,635,750	\$3,149,022
Net income	—	—	—	—	493,007	493,007
Dividends — par value reduction	(53,523 )	—	—	—	—	(53,523 )
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	(14,484 )	—	(14,484 )
Stock compensation(1)	—	(27,099 )	43,354	—	—	16,255
Share repurchases	—	—	(263,942 )	—	—	(263,942 )
Shares cancelled	(48,650 )	(51,126 )	243,360	—	(143,584 )	—
December 31, 2012	\$454,980	\$—	\$(113,818 )	\$ —	\$2,985,173	\$3,326,335
January 1, 2012	\$454,980	\$—	\$(113,818 )	\$ —	\$2,985,173	\$3,326,335
Net income	—	—	—	—	417,880	417,880
Dividends — par value reduction	(12,982 )	—	—	—	—	(12,982 )
Dividends	—	—	—	—	(50,791 )	(50,791 )
Stock compensation(1)	—	—	31,946	—	(17,876 )	14,070
Share repurchases	—	—	(174,686 )	—	—	(174,686 )
Shares cancelled	(23,010 )	—	176,566	—	(153,556 )	—
December 31, 2013	\$418,988	\$—	\$(79,992 )	\$ —	\$3,180,830	\$3,519,826
January 1, 2013	\$418,988	\$—	\$(79,992 )	\$ —	\$3,180,830	\$3,519,826
Net income	—	—	—	—	490,259	490,259
Dividends	—	—	—	—	(81,686 )	(81,686 )
Stock compensation(1)	—	—	19,638	—	5,627	25,265
Share repurchases	—	—	(175,373 )	—	—	(175,373 )
Shares cancelled	(10,968 )	—	92,652	—	(81,684 )	—
December 31, 2014	\$408,020	\$—	\$(143,075 )	\$ —	\$3,513,346	\$3,778,291

(1) Includes stock compensation expense for the period and shares issued out of treasury for awards exercised or vested. See note 2(o) to the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars)

	2014	2013	2012
<b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net income	\$490,259	\$417,880	\$493,007
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities:			
Net realized (gains) losses on sales of investments	(144,972)	) (109,084	) 55,865
Mark-to-market adjustments	21,984	48,147	(180,380)
Stock compensation expense	14,245	13,969	17,642
Undistributed income of equity method investments	13,851	(11,923)	) —
Changes in:			
Reserve for losses and loss expenses, net of reinsurance recoverables	8,884	27,586	282,215
Unearned premiums, net of prepaid reinsurance	139,317	114,649	88,924
Insurance balances receivable	(76,825)	) (108,412	) (81,600)
Reinsurance recoverable on paid losses	(8,509)	) (45,787	) (1,594)
Funds held	(91,591)	) (296,062	) (111,548)
Reinsurance balances payable	7,037	36,759	11,725
Net deferred acquisition costs	(24,885)	) (18,651	) (7,676)
Net deferred tax assets	4,186	(11,889)	) 200
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	8,039	22,917	27,815
Other items, net	55,829	34,332	34,843
Net cash provided by operating activities	416,849	114,431	629,438
<b>CASH FLOWS USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchases of trading securities	(7,630,034)	) (7,527,670	) (8,006,237)
Purchases of other invested assets	(307,955)	) (276,926	) (333,031)
Sales of available for sale securities	—	—	236,978
Sales of trading securities	7,536,936	7,540,194	7,892,907
Sales of other invested assets	267,885	187,477	53,741
Purchases of fixed assets	(59,656)	) (5,310	) (3,214)
Net cash paid for acquisitions	(2,565)	) —	—
Change in restricted cash	68,422	34,092	(100,877)
Net cash used in investing activities	(126,967)	) (48,143	) (259,733)
<b>CASH FLOWS USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Dividends paid — par value reduction	—	(12,981)	) (67,825)
Dividends paid	(76,750)	) (34,059	) —
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options	10,027	12,137	10,527
Proceeds from other long-term debt	19,213	—	—
Share repurchases	(175,910)	) (173,006	) (263,942)
Net cash used in financing activities	(223,420)	) (207,909	) (321,240)
Effect of exchange rate changes on foreign currency cash	(9,059)	) (8,322	) (582)
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>57,403</b>	<b>(149,943)</b>	<b>) 47,883</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>531,936</b>	<b>681,879</b>	<b>633,996</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$589,339</b>	<b>\$531,936</b>	<b>\$681,879</b>
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:			
— Cash paid for income taxes	\$18,363	\$22,604	\$23,957

— Cash paid for interest expense	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000
----------------------------------	----------	----------	----------

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

F-6

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

1. GENERAL

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG, a Swiss holding company (“Allied World Switzerland”), through its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively, the “Company”), provides property and casualty insurance and reinsurance on a worldwide basis through operations in Australia, Bermuda, the United States, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong, Labuan and Singapore. References to \$ are to the lawful currency of the United States and to CHF are to the lawful currency of Switzerland.

The Company has reached definitive agreements to acquire the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc (“RSA”) for approximately \$201,761, at current exchange rates, subject to adjustments at closing. In addition to the purchase price, the Company expects to contribute an additional \$90,000 to capitalize the businesses on an ongoing basis. Subject to regulatory approvals in both Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as court approval in Singapore, the acquisition is expected to be completed in the early part of the second quarter of 2015.

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

During the fourth quarter of 2014, the Company reorganized how it manages its business, and as a result it realigned its executive management team and changed its reportable segments to correspond to the reorganization. The Company’s Bermuda direct insurance operations, except for the trade credit line of business, which had previously been included in the international insurance segment, was combined with the U.S. insurance segment, with the new segment renamed the “North American Insurance” segment. The remaining direct insurance operations of the international insurance segment was renamed the “Global Markets Insurance” segment. The Reinsurance segment remained unchanged. The newly created segments are included in note 17 and prior periods have been recast to conform to the new presentation.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“U.S. GAAP”). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The significant estimates reflected in the Company’s financial statements include, but are not limited to:

- The premium estimates for certain reinsurance agreements,
- Recoverability of deferred acquisition costs,
- The reserve for outstanding losses and loss expenses,
- Valuation of ceded reinsurance recoverables,
- Determination of impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets, and
- Valuation of financial instruments.

Intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated on consolidation and entities meeting consolidation requirements have been included in the consolidated financial statements. To facilitate comparison of information

across periods, certain reclassifications have been made to prior year amounts to conform to the current year's presentation.

The significant accounting policies are as follows:

a) Premiums and Acquisition Costs

Premiums are recorded as written on the inception date of the policy. For certain types of business written by the Company, notably assumed reinsurance, premium income may not be known at the policy inception date. In the case of quota share reinsurance treaties assumed by the Company, the underwriter makes an estimate of premium income at inception. The underwriter's estimate is based on statistical data provided by reinsureds and the underwriter's judgment and experience. Such estimations are refined over the reporting period of each treaty as actual written premium information is reported by ceding companies and intermediaries. Premiums resulting from changes in the estimate of the premium income are recorded in the

F-7

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

period the estimate is changed. Certain insurance and reinsurance contracts may require that the premium be adjusted at the expiry of the contract to reflect the change in exposure or loss experience of the insured or reinsured.

Premiums are recognized as earned over the period of policy coverage in proportion to the risks to which they relate. Reinsurance premiums under a losses-occurring reinsurance contract are earned over the coverage period. Reinsurance premiums under a risks-attaching reinsurance contract are earned over the same period as the underlying policies, or risks, covered by the contract. As a result, the earning pattern of a risks-attaching reinsurance contract may extend up to 24 months, reflecting the inception dates of the underlying policies. Premiums relating to the unexpired periods of coverage are recorded on the consolidated balance sheets as “unearned premiums”.

Acquisition costs, comprised of commissions, brokerage fees and insurance taxes, are costs that are directly related to the successful acquisition of new and renewal business. While permitted under U.S. GAAP to defer certain internal costs that are directly related to the successful acquisition of new and renewal business, the Company does not defer such costs. Acquisition costs that are deferred are expensed as the premiums to which they relate are earned.

Acquisition costs relating to the reserve for unearned premiums are deferred and carried on the balance sheets as an asset and are amortized over the period of coverage. Expected losses and loss expenses, other costs and anticipated investment income related to these unearned premiums are considered in determining the recoverability or deficiency of deferred acquisition costs. If it is determined that deferred acquisition costs are not recoverable, they are expensed. Further analysis is performed to determine if a liability is required to provide for losses which may exceed the related unearned premiums.

b) Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses

The reserve for losses and loss expenses is comprised of two main elements: outstanding loss reserves (“OSLR,” also known as case reserves) and reserves for losses incurred but not reported (“IBNR”). OSLR relate to known claims and represent management’s best estimate of the likely loss payment. IBNR relates to reserves established by the Company for claims that have occurred but have not yet been reported to us as well as for changes in the values of claims that have been reported to us but are not yet settled.

The reserve for IBNR is estimated by management for each line of business based on various factors including underwriters’ expectations about loss experience, actuarial analysis, comparisons with the results of industry benchmarks and loss experience to date. The Company’s actuaries employ generally accepted actuarial methodologies to determine estimated ultimate loss reserves. The adequacy of the reserves is re-evaluated quarterly by the Company’s actuaries. At the completion of each quarterly review of the reserves, a reserve analysis is prepared and reviewed with the Company’s loss reserve committee. This committee determines management’s best estimate for loss and loss expense reserves based upon the reserve analysis.

While management believes that the reserves for OSLR and IBNR are sufficient to cover losses assumed by the Company, there can be no assurance that losses will not deviate from the Company’s reserves, possibly by material amounts. The methodology of estimating loss reserves is periodically reviewed to ensure that the assumptions made continue to be appropriate. The Company recognizes any changes in its loss reserve estimates and the related reinsurance recoverables in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (“consolidated income statements”) in the periods in which they are determined. These are recorded in “net losses and loss expenses”.

c) Ceded Reinsurance

In the ordinary course of business, the Company uses both treaty and facultative reinsurance to minimize its net loss exposure to any one catastrophic loss event or to an accumulation of losses from a number of smaller events. Reinsurance premiums ceded are expensed and any commissions recorded thereon are earned over the period the reinsurance coverage is provided in proportion to the risks to which they relate. For reinsurance treaties that have contractual minimum premium provisions, premiums ceded are recorded at the inception of the treaty based on the minimum premiums. Any unearned ceding commission is included in “net deferred acquisitions costs” on the consolidated balance sheets and is recorded as a reduction to the overall net deferred acquisition cost balance. Prepaid reinsurance represents unearned premiums ceded to reinsurance companies. Reinsurance recoverable includes the balances due from those reinsurance companies under the terms of the Company’s reinsurance agreements for unpaid losses and loss reserves, including IBNR. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the estimated claim liability associated with the reinsured policy.

F-8

---



Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

The Company determines the portion of the IBNR liability that will be recoverable under its reinsurance contracts by reference to the terms of the reinsurance protection purchased. This determination is necessarily based on the estimate of IBNR and accordingly, is subject to the same uncertainties as the estimate of IBNR.

The Company remains liable to the extent that its reinsurers do not meet their obligations under the reinsurance contracts; therefore, the Company regularly evaluates the financial condition of its reinsurers and monitors concentration of credit risk.

d) Investments

All of our fixed maturity investments and equity securities are classified as trading securities as the Company has elected the fair value option permitted under U.S. GAAP for these investments. Trading securities are carried at fair value with any change in unrealized gains or losses recognized in the consolidated income statements and included in “net realized investment gains”. As a result of our investment classification, we do not record any change in unrealized gains or losses in our investments as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income on the consolidated balance sheets.

Other invested assets consist primarily of investments in hedge funds and private equity funds, which have been accounted for as trading securities as the Company has elected the fair value option as permitted under U.S. GAAP. In addition, included in the Company’s other invested assets are various investments which are accounted for using the equity method of accounting. Generally, the Company uses the equity method where it does not have a controlling interest and is not the primary beneficiary. Equity method investments are recorded at cost and adjusted for the Company’s proportionate share of earnings or losses on a quarterly lag basis. An other-than-temporary impairment charge related to the equity method investments is assessed when facts and circumstances exist that indicate an impairment may exist. An other-than-temporary impairment charge is recorded when it is determined that the carrying value of the equity method investment is below its fair value and the Company does not have the intent and ability to hold to recovery. No equity method investment was deemed significant to disclose summarized financial data. Other investments are recorded based on valuation techniques depending on the nature of the individual assets.

At each measurement date, the Company estimates the fair value of the financial instruments using various valuation techniques. The Company utilizes, to the extent available, quoted market prices in active markets or observable market inputs in estimating the fair value of financial instruments. When quoted market prices or observable market inputs are not available, the Company may utilize valuation techniques that rely on unobservable inputs to estimate the fair value of financial instruments. The Company bases its determination of whether a market is active or inactive on the spread between what a seller is asking for a security and what a buyer is bidding for that security. Spreads that are significantly above historical spreads are considered inactive markets. The Company also considers the volume of trading activity in the determination of whether a market is active or inactive. See note 5 for additional information regarding the fair value of financial instruments.

The Company utilizes independent pricing sources to obtain market quotations for securities that have quoted prices in active markets. In general, the independent pricing sources use observable market inputs including, but not limited to, investment yields, credit risks and spreads, benchmarking of like securities, reported trades and sector groupings to determine the fair value. For a majority of the portfolio, the Company obtained two or more prices per security as of December 31, 2014. When multiple prices are obtained, a price source hierarchy is utilized to determine which price source is the best estimate of the fair value of the security. The price source hierarchy emphasizes more weighting to

significant observable inputs such as index pricing and less weighting towards non-binding broker-dealer quotes. In addition, to validate all prices obtained from these pricing sources including non-binding broker-dealer quotes, the Company also obtains prices from its investment portfolio managers and other sources (e.g., another pricing vendor), and compares the prices obtained from the independent pricing sources to those obtained from the Company's investment portfolio managers and other sources. The Company investigates any material differences between the multiple sources and determines which price best reflects the fair value of the individual security. There were no material differences between the prices obtained from the independent pricing sources and the prices obtained from the Company's investment portfolio managers and other sources as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Investment securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Investment income is recognized when earned and includes the accrual of discount or amortization of premium on fixed maturity investments using the effective yield method and is net of related expenses. Interest income for fixed maturity investments is accrued and recognized based on the contractual terms of the fixed maturity investments and is included in "net investment income" in the consolidated income statements. The Company's share of distributed and undistributed net income from equity method investments is included in "net investment income". The return on investments is managed on a total financial statement portfolio return basis, which includes the distributed and undistributed net income from equity method investments, and as such have classified these amounts in net investment income.

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

Realized gains and losses on the disposition of investments, which are based upon the first-in first-out method of identification, are included in “net realized investment gains” in the consolidated income statements. For mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities and any other holdings for which there is a prepayment risk, prepayment assumptions are evaluated and revised on a regular basis. Revised prepayment assumptions are applied to securities on a retrospective basis to the date of acquisition. The cumulative adjustments to amortized cost required due to these changes in effective yields and maturities are recognized in net investment income in the same period as the revision of the assumptions.

e) Variable Interest Entities

The Company is involved in the normal course of business with variable interest entities (“VIEs”) as a passive investor in certain asset-backed securities issued by third-party VIEs and affiliated VIEs. The Company performs a qualitative assessment at the date when it becomes initially involved in the VIE, followed by ongoing reassessments related to its involvement in VIEs. The Company’s maximum exposure to loss with respect to these investments is limited to the investment carrying amounts reported in the Company’s consolidated balance sheets and any unfunded commitments.

f) Translation of Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates in effect on the balance sheet date. Foreign currency revenues and expenses are translated at the average exchange rates prevailing during the period. Exchange gains and losses, including those arising from forward exchange contracts, are included in the consolidated income statements. The Company’s functional currency, and that of each its operating subsidiaries, is the U.S. dollar as it is the single largest currency in which the Company and its each of its subsidiaries transact business and hold invested assets.

g) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include amounts held in banks, time deposits, commercial paper, discount notes and U.S. Treasury Bills with maturities of less than three months from the date of purchase.

h) Income Taxes

Allied World Switzerland and certain of its subsidiaries operate in jurisdictions where they are subject to income taxation. Current and deferred income taxes are charged or credited to operations, or to accumulated other comprehensive income in certain cases, based upon enacted tax laws and rates applicable in the relevant jurisdiction in the period in which the tax becomes payable. Deferred income taxes are provided for all temporary differences between the bases of assets and liabilities used in the financial statements and those used in the various jurisdictional tax returns.

It is the Company’s policy to recognize interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in “interest expense” and penalties in “general and administrative expenses” in the consolidated income statements. The Company has not recorded any interest or penalties during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 and the Company has not accrued any payment of interest and penalties as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

i) Employee Stock Option Compensation Plan

The Company has an employee stock option plan, which is in run-off, in which the amount of Allied World Switzerland's common shares received as compensation through the issuance of stock options is determined by reference to the value of the shares. Compensation expense for stock options granted to employees is recorded on a straight-line basis over the option vesting period and is based on the fair value of the stock options on the grant date. The fair value of each stock option on the grant date is determined by using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model.

j) Restricted Stock Units

The Company has granted restricted stock units ("RSUs") to certain employees. The compensation expense for the RSUs is based on the market value of Allied World Switzerland's common shares on the grant date, and is recognized on a straight-line basis over the applicable vesting period.

F-10

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

The Company has also granted cash-equivalent RSUs to certain employees that vest on a straight-line basis over the applicable vesting period. The amount payable per unit awarded will be equal to the price per share of Allied World Switzerland's common shares and as such the Company measures the value of the award each reporting period based on the period ending share price. The effects of changes in the share price at each period end during the service period are recognized as increases or decreases in compensation expense over the service period.

k) Performance-Based Equity Awards

The Company has granted performance-based equity awards to key employees in order to promote the long-term growth and profitability of the Company. Each award represents the right to receive a number of common shares in the future, based upon the achievement of established performance criteria during the applicable performance period. The compensation expense for these awards is based on the market value of Allied World Switzerland's common shares on the grant date, and is recognized on a straight-line basis over the applicable performance and vesting period. The Company will also adjust the compensation expense, as a cumulative adjustment, to the extent the Company's performance is above or below the targeted performance criteria.

The Company has also granted cash-equivalent, performance-based awards to certain employees that vest based upon the achievement of established performance criteria during the applicable performance period. These cash-equivalent, performance-based awards vest after a three-year performance period. The amount payable per unit awarded will be equal to the price per share of Allied World Switzerland's common shares, and as such the Company measures the value of the award each reporting period based on the period-ending share price. The effects of changes in the share price at each period end during the service period are recognized as changes in compensation expense over the service period. The Company will also adjust the compensation expense, as a cumulative adjustment, to the extent the Company's performance is above or below the targeted performance criteria.

l) Goodwill and Intangible Assets

The Company classifies its intangible assets into three categories: (1) intangible assets with finite lives subject to amortization, (2) intangible assets with indefinite lives not subject to amortization, and (3) goodwill. Intangible assets, other than goodwill, generally consist of trademarks, renewal rights, internally generated software, non-compete covenants and insurance licenses.

For intangible assets with finite lives, the value of the assets is amortized over their expected useful lives and the expense is included in "amortization of intangible assets" in the consolidated income statements. The Company tests assets for impairment if conditions exist that indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. If, as a result of the evaluation, the Company determines that the value of the intangible assets is impaired, then the value of the assets will be written-down in the period in which the determination of the impairment is made.

For indefinite lived intangible assets the Company does not amortize the intangible asset but evaluates and compares the fair value of the assets to their carrying values on an annual basis or more frequently if circumstances warrant. If, as a result of the evaluation, the Company determines that the value of the intangible assets is impaired, then the value of the assets will be written-down in the period in which the determination of the impairment is made.

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of acquisitions over the fair value of net assets acquired and is not amortized. Goodwill is assigned at acquisition to the applicable reporting unit(s) based on the expected benefit to be

received by the reporting units from the business combination. The Company determines the expected benefit based on several factors including the purpose of the business combination, the strategy of the Company subsequent to the business combination and structure of the acquired company subsequent to the business combination. A reporting unit is a component of the Company's business that has discrete financial information that is reviewed by management. In determining the reporting unit, the Company analyzes the inputs, processes, outputs and overall operating performance of the reporting unit. The Company has determined that for purposes of the acquisition of Allied World Underwriters, Inc. ("AW Underwriters") (f/k/a Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc.) the U.S. direct insurance operations of the North American Insurance segment is the reporting unit that is expected to receive the benefit of the business combination and as such all of the goodwill has been allocated to this reporting unit.

F-11

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

For goodwill, the Company performs an annual impairment test, or more frequently if circumstances are warranted. The Company may first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. The results of the qualitative assessment will determine if an entity needs to proceed with the two-step goodwill impairment test. For the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company elected to bypass the qualitative assessment and performed the first step of the goodwill impairment test.

The first step of the goodwill impairment test is to compare the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying value, including goodwill. If the carrying amount of the reporting unit exceeds its fair value then the second step of the goodwill impairment test is performed.

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

We recorded no impairments during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

m) Derivative Instruments

The Company utilizes derivative financial instruments as part of its overall risk management strategy. The Company recognizes all derivative financial instruments at fair value as either assets or liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets. The accounting for gains and losses associated with changes in the fair value of a derivative and the effect on the consolidated financial statements depends on its hedge designation and whether the hedge is highly effective in achieving offsetting changes in the fair value of the asset or liability hedged.

The Company uses currency forward contracts and foreign currency swaps to manage currency exposure. The Company also utilizes various derivative instruments such as interest rate futures, interest rate swaps and index options, for the purpose of managing market exposures, interest rate volatility, portfolio duration, hedging certain investments, or enhancing investment performance. These derivatives are not designated as hedges and accordingly are carried at fair value on the consolidated balance sheets with realized and unrealized gains and losses included in the consolidated income statements. Refer to Note 4 for the Company's related disclosure.

n) Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is defined as net income available to common shareholders divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period, giving no effect to dilutive securities. Diluted earnings per share is defined as net income available to common shareholders divided by the weighted average number of common and common share equivalents outstanding calculated using the treasury stock method for all potentially dilutive securities, including share warrants, employee stock options, employee share repurchase plan, RSUs and performance-based awards. When the effect of dilutive securities would be anti-dilutive, these securities are excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share.

o) Treasury Shares

Common shares repurchased by the Company and not subsequently cancelled are classified as "treasury shares" on the consolidated balance sheets and are recorded at cost. When shares are reissued from treasury the historical cost, based on the first-in, first-out method, is used to determine the cost of the reissued shares. The difference between the cost of the treasury shares and the par value of the common stock shall be first reflected as additional paid-in capital, but to the extent additional paid-in capital is exhausted the remainder shall reduce retained earnings. The issuance of shares out of treasury have been related to vesting equity-based compensation of the Company's employees and directors.

p) New Accounting Pronouncements

In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update 2014-08, "Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity" ("ASU 2014-08"). ASU 2014-08 changes the requirements for reporting discontinued operations, such that a disposal of a component of the Company's

F-12

---



Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

operations is required to be reported as discontinued operations if the disposal represents a strategic shift that has, or will have, a major effect on the Company's operations and financial results. Examples of strategic shifts that could have a major effect on the Company's operations could include a disposal of a major geographical area, a major line of business, a major equity method investment, or other major parts of the Company. ASU 2014-08 is effective for all disposals that occur after January 1, 2015. The Company does not believe the adoption of ASU 2014-08 will have a material impact on future financial statements and related disclosures.

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" ("ASU 2014-09"). ASU 2014-09 provides a framework, through a five-step process, for recognizing revenue from customers, improves comparability and consistency of recognizing revenue across entities, industries, jurisdictions and capital markets, and requires enhanced disclosures. Certain contracts with customers are specifically excluded from the scope of ASU 2014-09, including; amongst others, insurance contracts accounted for under Accounting Standard Codification 944, Financial Services - Insurance. ASU 2014-09 is effective on January 1, 2017 with retrospective adoption required for the comparative periods. The Company is currently assessing the impact the adoption of ASU 2014-09 will have on future financial statements and related disclosures.

In August 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2014-15, "Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern" ("ASU 2014-15"). Currently, there is no guidance under U.S. GAAP regarding management's responsibility to assess whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Under ASU 2014-15, the Company will be required to assess its ability to continue as a going concern each interim and annual reporting period and provide certain disclosures if there is substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including management's plan to alleviate the substantial doubt. ASU 2014-15 is effective for the year ended December 31, 2016 and early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently assessing the impact the adoption of ASU 2014-15 will have on future financial statements and related disclosures.

In November 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2014-17, "Pushdown Accounting" ("ASU 2014-17"). ASU 2014-17 provides an acquired entity with an option to apply pushdown accounting in its separate financial statements upon an acquirer obtaining control of the acquired entity. The acquired entity may also elect to apply pushdown accounting in a subsequent reporting period, if pushdown accounting was not applied when the acquirer obtained control, but that will be treated as a change in accounting principle. Once pushdown accounting is applied, the election is irrevocable. The Company adopted ASU 2014-17 when it became effective in November 2014.

**3. INVESTMENTS****a) Trading Securities**

Securities accounted for at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in the consolidated income statements by category are as follows:

	December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost
U.S. government and government agencies	\$ 1,610,502	\$ 1,610,880	\$ 1,676,788	\$ 1,684,832
Non-U.S. government and government agencies	188,199	196,332	191,776	197,082
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	170,567	165,615	231,555	234,406
Corporate debt:				
Financial institutions	1,024,667	1,018,777	958,794	943,518
Industrials	1,029,729	1,037,820	1,174,047	1,165,448
Utilities	110,997	111,599	69,426	69,658
Mortgage-backed	1,263,517	1,219,712	1,292,502	1,267,863

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

Asset-backed	670,832	674,505	505,910	502,543
Total fixed maturity investments, trading	\$6,069,010	\$6,035,240	\$6,100,798	\$6,065,350

F-13

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

	December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value	Cost
Equity securities	\$844,163	\$791,206	\$699,846	\$647,301
Other invested assets	812,543	725,069	764,081	658,683
	\$1,656,706	\$1,516,275	\$1,463,927	\$1,305,984

Other invested assets, included in the table above, include investments in private equity funds, hedge funds and a high yield loan fund that are accounted for at fair value, but excludes other private securities described below in Note 3(b) that are accounted for using the equity method of accounting.

## b) Other Invested Assets

Details regarding the carrying value, redemption characteristics and unfunded investment commitments of the other invested assets portfolio as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

Fund Type	Carrying Value as of December 31, 2014	Investments with Redemption Restrictions	Estimated Remaining Restriction Period	Investments without Redemption Restrictions	Redemption Frequency(1)	Redemption Notice Period(1)	Unfunded Commitments
Private equity (primary and secondary)	\$184,576	\$184,576	2 - 8 Years	\$—			\$ 223,802
Mezzanine debt	166,905	166,905	5 - 9 Years	—			204,232
Distressed	5,869	5,869	3 Years	—			5,180
Real estate	—	—	9 Years	—			50,000
Total private equity	357,350	357,350		—			483,214
Distressed	170,169	170,169		—	Based on net asset value	60 Days	—
Equity long/short	84,198	—		84,198	Quarterly	30 -60 Days	—
Multi-strategy	51,507	—		51,507	Quarterly	45 -90 Days	—
Relative value credit	119,156	—		119,156	Quarterly	60 Days	—
Total hedge funds	425,030	170,169		254,861			—
High yield loan fund	30,163	—		30,163	Monthly	30 days	—
Total other invested assets at fair value	812,543	527,519		285,024			483,214
Other private securities	142,966	—		142,966			—
Total other invested assets	\$955,509	\$527,519		\$427,990			\$ 483,214



Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

Fund Type	Carrying Value as of December 31, 2013	Investments with Redemption Restrictions	Estimated Remaining Restriction Period	Investments without Redemption Restrictions	Redemption Frequency(1)	Redemption Notice Period(1)	Unfunded Commitments
Private equity (primary and secondary)	\$ 144,422	\$ 144,422	2 - 9 Years	\$—			\$ 263,519
Mezzanine debt	64,627	64,627	8 - 9 Years	—			198,756
Distressed	7,776	7,776	4 Years	—			5,249
Total private equity	216,825	216,825		—			467,524
Distressed	151,227	151,227	1 - 2 Years	—			—
Equity long/short	99,365	—		99,365	Quarterly	30 -60 Days	—
Multi-strategy	136,958	—		136,958	Quarterly	45 -90 Days	—
Event driven	14,018	—		14,018	Annual	60 Days	—
Relative value credit	113,730	—		113,730	Quarterly	60 Days	—
Total hedge funds	515,298	151,227		364,071			—
High yield loan fund	31,958	—		31,958	Monthly	30 days	—
Total other invested assets at fair value	764,081	368,052		396,029			467,524
Other private securities	147,311	—		147,311			—
Total other invested assets	\$ 911,392	\$ 368,052		\$ 543,340			\$ 467,524

(1) The redemption frequency and notice periods only apply to the investments without redemption restrictions.

In general, the Company has invested in hedge funds that require at least 30 days' notice of redemption, and may be redeemed on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual or longer basis, depending on the fund. Certain hedge funds have lock-up periods ranging from one to three years from initial investment. A lock-up period refers to the initial amount of time an investor is contractually required to invest before having the ability to redeem. Funds that provide for periodic redemptions may, depending on the funds' governing documents, have the ability to deny or delay a redemption request, called a "gate." The fund may implement this restriction because the aggregate amount of redemption requests as of a particular date exceeds a specified level, generally ranging from 15% to 25% of the fund's net assets. The gate is a method for executing an orderly redemption process to reduce the possibility of adversely affecting investors in the fund. Typically, the imposition of a gate delays a portion of the requested redemption, with the remaining portion settled in cash sometime after the redemption date. Certain funds may impose a redemption fee on early redemptions. Interests in private equity funds cannot be redeemed because the investments include restrictions that do not allow for redemption until termination of the fund.

The following is a summary of each investment type:

-

Private equity funds: Primary equity funds may invest in companies and general partnership interests. Secondary equity funds buy limited partnership interests from existing limited partners of primary private equity funds. As owners of private equity funds seek liquidity, they can sell their existing investments, plus any remaining commitment, to secondary market participants. These funds cannot be redeemed because the investments include restrictions that do not allow for redemption until termination of the fund.

Mezzanine debt funds: Mezzanine debt funds primarily focus on providing capital to upper middle market and middle market companies and private equity sponsors, in connection with leveraged buyouts, mergers and acquisitions, recapitalizations, growth financings and other corporate transactions. The most common position in the capital structure will be between the senior secured debt holder and the equity; however, the funds will utilize a flexible approach when structuring investments, which may include secured debt, subordinated debt, preferred stock and/or private equity. These funds cannot be redeemed because the investments include restrictions that do not allow for redemption until termination of the fund.

F-15

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

**Distressed funds:** In distressed debt investing, managers take positions in the debt of companies experiencing significant financial difficulties, including bankruptcy, or in certain positions of the capital structure of structured securities. The manager relies on the fundamental analysis of these securities, including the claims on the assets and the likely return to bondholders. Certain funds cannot be redeemed because the investments include restrictions that do not allow for redemption until termination of the fund.

**Real estate funds:** Private real estate funds invest directly in commercial real estate (multifamily units, industrial buildings, office spaces, and retail stores) and some residential property. Real estate managers have diversified portfolios that generally follow core, core-plus, value-added, or opportunistic strategies. These funds cannot be redeemed because the investments include restrictions that do not allow for redemption until termination of the fund.

**Equity long/short funds:** In equity long/short funds, managers take long positions in companies they deem to be undervalued and short positions in companies they deem to be overvalued. Long/short managers may invest in countries, regions or sectors and vary by their use of leverage and by their targeted net long position.

**Multi-strategy funds:** These funds may utilize many strategies employed by specialized funds including distressed investing, equity long/short, merger arbitrage, convertible arbitrage, fixed income arbitrage and macro trading.

**Event driven funds:** Event driven strategies seek to deploy capital into specific securities whose returns are affected by a specific event that affects the value of one or more securities of a company. Returns for such securities are linked primarily to the specific outcome of the events and not by the overall direction of the bond or stock markets.

Examples could include mergers and acquisitions (arbitrage), corporate restructurings and spin-offs and capital structure arbitrage.

**Relative value credit funds:** These funds seek to take exposure to credit-sensitive securities, long and/or short, based upon credit analysis of issuers and securities and credit market views.

**Other private securities:** These securities include strategic non-controlling minority investments in private asset management companies, claims handling companies and other service companies related to the insurance industry.

## c) Net Investment Income

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Fixed maturity investments	\$149,449	\$130,380	\$157,437
Equity securities	17,581	19,076	17,080
Other invested assets: hedge funds and private equity	12,564	8,226	6,772
Other invested assets: other private securities	13,305	14,711	—
Cash and cash equivalents	2,134	2,010	2,319
Expenses	(18,159)	(16,839)	(16,467)
Net investment income	\$176,874	\$157,564	\$167,141

Net investment income from other invested assets: other private securities included the distributed and undistributed net income from investments accounted for using the equity method of accounting. The income reported for other invested assets: other private securities for the year ended December 31, 2014 included a loss of \$9,348 recorded for an equity method investment due to impairment charges that it recorded.

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## d) Components of Realized Gains and Losses

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Gross realized gains on sale of invested assets	\$195,390	\$213,618	\$183,592
Gross realized losses on sale of invested assets	(48,239)	) (106,321	) (51,702
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives	(39,007	) 9,485	(3,608
Mark-to-market gains (losses):			
Debt securities, trading	(1,675	) (117,577	) 106,328
Equity securities, trading	413	4,288	33,018
Other invested assets, trading	(17,925	) 56,032	38,808
Net realized investment gains	\$88,957	\$59,525	\$306,436
Proceeds from sale of available for sale securities	\$—	\$—	\$236,336

## e) Pledged Assets

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, \$3,585,792 and \$2,894,401, respectively, of cash and cash equivalents and investments were deposited, pledged or held in trust accounts in favor of ceding companies and other counterparties or government authorities to comply with reinsurance contract provisions and insurance laws.

In addition, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, a further \$571,750 and \$1,053,632, respectively, of cash and cash equivalents and investments were pledged as collateral for the Company's letter of credit facilities. See Note 10(f) for details on the Company's credit facilities.

## 4. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, none of the Company's derivatives were designated as hedges for accounting purposes. The following table summarizes information on the location and amounts of derivative fair values on the consolidated balance sheets:

	December 31, 2014				December 31, 2013			
	Asset Derivative Notional Amount	Asset Derivative Fair Value	Liability Derivative Notional Amount	Liability Derivative Fair Value	Asset Derivative Notional Amount	Asset Derivative Fair Value	Liability Derivative Notional Amount	Liability Derivative Fair Value
Foreign exchange contracts	\$33,875	\$1,274	\$167,376	\$991	\$294,788	\$6,254	\$122,439	\$1,176
Interest rate swaps	—	—	571,500	683	491,400	6,829	40,000	4,214
Total derivatives	\$33,875	\$1,274	\$738,876	\$1,674	\$786,188	\$13,083	\$162,439	\$5,390

Derivative assets and derivative liabilities are classified within "other assets" or "accounts payable and accrued liabilities" on the consolidated balance sheets.



Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

The following table provides the net realized and unrealized (losses) gains on derivatives not designated as hedges recorded on the consolidated income statements:

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	
Foreign exchange contracts	\$897	\$1,274	\$(749)	)
Total included in foreign exchange loss	897	1,274	(749)	)
Put options	494	(3,822)	(2,222)	)
Foreign exchange contracts	3,538	3,054	(1,024)	)
Interest rate swaps	(45,427)	) 5,591	—	)
Interest rate futures	2,388	4,662	(362)	)
Total included in net realized investment gains	(39,007)	) 9,485	(3,608)	)
Total realized and unrealized (losses) gains on derivatives	\$(38,110)	) \$10,759	\$(4,357)	)

The loss related to interest rate swap contracts for the year ended December 31, 2014 was the result of selling interest rate swap contracts to reduce the duration of the investment portfolio. Given the decrease in interest rates during the year, the Company recorded a loss related to these interest rate swap contracts.

## Derivative Instruments Not Designated as Hedging Instruments

The Company is exposed to foreign currency risk in its investment portfolio. Accordingly, the fair values of the Company's investment portfolio are partially influenced by the change in foreign exchange rates. These foreign currency hedging activities have not been designated as specific hedges for financial reporting purposes.

The Company's insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries and branches operate in various foreign countries and consequently the Company's underwriting portfolio is exposed to foreign currency risk. The Company manages foreign currency risk by seeking to match liabilities under the insurance policies and reinsurance contracts that it writes and that are payable in foreign currencies with cash and investments that are denominated in such currencies. When necessary, the Company may also use derivatives to economically hedge unmatched foreign currency exposures, specifically forward contracts and currency options. For example, during 2014 the Company purchased a forward contract to economically hedge a portion of its foreign currency exposure related to the consideration to be paid for the Hong Kong and Singapore operations of RSA.

The Company also purchases and sells interest rate future and interest rate swap contracts to actively manage the duration and yield curve positioning of its fixed income portfolio. Interest rate futures and interest rate swaps can efficiently increase or decrease the overall duration of the portfolio. Additionally, interest rate future and interest rate swap contracts can be utilized to obtain the desired position along the yield curve in order to protect against certain future yield curve shapes.

The Company also purchases options to actively manage the Company's equity portfolio.

## 5. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. There is a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon whether the

inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability are observable or unobservable in the market at the measurement date, with quoted market prices being the highest level (Level 1) and unobservable inputs being the lowest level (Level 3). A fair value measurement will fall within the level of the hierarchy based on the input that is significant to determining such measurement. The three levels are defined as follows:

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

• Level 2: Observable inputs to the valuation methodology other than quoted market prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

markets, quoted prices for identical assets in markets that are not active and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

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

The following table shows the fair value of the Company's financial instruments and where in the fair value hierarchy the fair value measurements are included as of the dates indicated below:

December 31, 2014	Carrying amount	Total fair value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Fixed maturity investments:					
U.S. government and government agencies	\$1,610,502	\$1,610,502	\$1,499,347	\$111,155	\$—
Non-U.S. government and government agencies	188,199	188,199	—	188,199	—
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	170,567	170,567	—	170,567	—
Corporate debt	2,165,393	2,165,393	—	2,165,393	—
Mortgage-backed	1,263,517	1,263,517	—	1,081,734	181,783
Asset-backed	670,832	670,832	—	615,419	55,413
Total fixed maturity investments	6,069,010	6,069,010	1,499,347	4,332,467	237,196
Equity securities	844,163	844,163	800,833	—	43,330
Other invested assets	812,543	812,543	—	—	812,543
Total investments	\$7,725,716	\$7,725,716	\$2,300,180	\$4,332,467	\$1,093,069
Derivative assets:					
Foreign exchange contracts	\$1,274	\$1,274	\$—	\$1,274	\$—
Derivative liabilities:					
Foreign exchange contracts	\$991	\$991	\$—	\$991	\$—
Interest rate swaps	683	683	—	683	—
Senior notes	\$798,802	\$879,317	\$—	\$879,317	\$—
Other long-term debt	\$19,213	\$22,583	\$—	\$22,583	\$—

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

December 31, 2013	Carrying amount	Total fair value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Fixed maturity investments:					
U.S. government and government agencies	\$1,676,788	\$1,676,788	\$1,370,088	\$306,700	\$—
Non-U.S. government and government agencies	191,776	191,776	—	191,776	—
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	231,555	231,555	—	231,555	—
Corporate debt	2,202,267	2,202,267	—	2,202,267	—
Mortgage-backed	1,292,502	1,292,502	—	1,145,164	147,338
Asset-backed	505,910	505,910	—	412,497	93,413
Total fixed maturity investments	6,100,798	6,100,798	1,370,088	4,489,959	240,751
Equity securities	699,846	699,846	625,942	—	73,904
Other invested assets	764,081	764,081	—	—	764,081
Total investments	\$7,564,725	\$7,564,725	\$1,996,030	\$4,489,959	\$1,078,736
Derivative assets:					
Foreign exchange contracts	\$6,254	\$6,254	\$—	\$6,254	\$—
Interest rate swaps	6,829	6,829	—	6,829	—
Derivative liabilities:					
Foreign exchange contracts	\$1,176	\$1,176	\$—	\$1,176	\$—
Interest rate swaps	4,214	4,214	\$—	4,214	\$—
Senior notes	\$798,499	\$897,601	\$—	\$897,601	\$—

“Other invested assets” in the table above excludes other private securities that the Company did not measure at fair value, but are accounted for using the equity method of accounting. Derivative assets and derivative liabilities relating to foreign exchange contracts and interest rate swaps are classified within “other assets” or “accounts payable and accrued liabilities” on the consolidated balance sheets.

The following describes the valuation techniques used by the Company to determine the fair value of financial instruments held as of the balance sheet date.

**Recurring Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

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

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

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

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

F-20

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

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

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

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

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

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

**Senior notes:** The fair value of the senior notes is based on reported trades. The fair value of the senior notes is included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Other long-term debt:** Comprised of the mortgage and credit facility associated with the purchase of office space in Switzerland. The fair value of the other long-term debt is based on the value of the debt using current interest rates. The fair value of the long-term debt is included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Non-recurring Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The Company measures the fair value of certain assets on a non-recurring basis, generally quarterly, annually, or when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. These

assets include investments accounted for using the equity method, goodwill and intangible assets. The Company uses a variety of techniques to measure the fair value of these assets when appropriate, as described below:

Investments accounted for using the equity method: When the Company determines that the carrying value of these assets may not be recoverable, the Company records the assets at fair value with the loss recognized in income. In such cases, the Company measures the fair value of these assets using the techniques discussed above.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets: The Company tests goodwill and intangible assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable, but at least annually for goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles. When the Company determines that goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets may be impaired, the Company uses techniques, including discounted expected future cash flows and market multiple models, to measure fair value.

F-21

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## Rollforward of Level 3 Financial Instruments

The following is a rollforward of the beginning and ending balance of financial instruments using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3):

	Fair value measurement using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3):			
	Other invested assets	Mortgage-backed	Asset-backed	Equities
Year Ended December 31, 2014				
Opening balance	\$764,081	\$147,338	\$93,413	\$73,904
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) included in net income	64,566	5,505	(2,068)	(1,277)
Purchases	331,099	100,019	4,628	—
Sales	(347,203)	(71,141)	(24,463)	(29,297)
Transfers into Level 3 from Level 2	—	1,505	28,813	—
Transfers out of Level 3 into Level 2 (1)	—	(1,443)	(44,910)	—
Ending balance	\$812,543	\$181,783	\$55,413	\$43,330
Realized and unrealized losses (gains) included in net income for investments still held as of December 31, 2014	\$(17,925)	\$4,341	\$(116)	\$(1,277)
Year Ended December 31, 2013				
Opening balance	\$655,888	\$167,825	\$62,246	\$54,680
Realized and unrealized gains included in net income	83,621	(7,658)	(1,176)	9,224
Purchases	287,977	83,455	50,669	10,000
Sales	(263,405)	(92,985)	(28,393)	—
Transfers into Level 3 from Level 2	—	5,393	10,067	—
Transfers out of Level 3 into Level 2 (1)	—	(8,692)	—	—
Ending balance	\$764,081	\$147,338	\$93,413	\$73,904
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) included in net income for investments still held as of December 31, 2013	\$62,104	\$(4,914)	\$(360)	\$9,225

(1) Transfers out of Level 3 are primarily attributable to the availability of market observable information.

The Company attempts to verify the significant inputs used by broker-dealers in determining the fair value of the securities priced by them. If the Company could not obtain sufficient information to determine if the broker-dealers were using significant observable inputs, such securities have been transferred to the Level 3 fair value hierarchy. The Company believes the prices obtained from the broker-dealers are the best estimate of fair value of the securities being priced as the broker-dealers are typically involved in the initial pricing of the security, and the Company has compared the price per the broker-dealer to other pricing sources and noted no material differences. The Company recognizes transfers between levels at the end of the reporting period. There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the period.

The Company's external investment accounting service provider receives prices from internationally recognized independent pricing services to measure the fair values of its fixed maturity investments. Pricing sources are evaluated



and selected in a manner to ensure that the most reliable sources are used. The independent pricing sources obtain market quotations and actual transaction prices for securities that have quoted prices in active markets. Each pricing service has its own proprietary method for determining the fair value of securities that are not actively traded. In general, these methods involve the use of “matrix pricing” in which the independent pricing service uses observable market inputs, including, but not limited to, reported trades, benchmark yields, broker-dealer quotes, interest rates, prepayment speeds, default rates and such other inputs as are available from market sources to determine a reasonable fair value.

All of the Company’s securities classified as Level 3, other than investments in other invested assets, are valued based on unadjusted broker-dealer quotes. This includes less liquid securities such as lower quality asset-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities and residential mortgage-backed securities. The primary valuation inputs include monthly payment information, the probability of default, loss severity rates and estimated prepayment rates. Significant changes in these inputs in

F-22

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

isolation would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement. In general, a change in the assumption of the probability of default is accompanied by a directionally similar change in the assumption used for the loss severity in an event of default and prepayment rates.

The Company records the unadjusted price provided and validates this price through a process that includes, but is not limited to monthly and/or quarterly: (i) comparison of prices between two independent sources, with significant differences requiring additional price sources; (ii) quantitative analysis (e.g., comparing the quarterly return for each managed portfolio to their target benchmark, with significant differences identified and investigated); (iii) evaluation of methodologies used by external parties to calculate fair value, including a review of the inputs used for pricing; (iv) comparing the price to the Company's knowledge of the current investment market; and (v) back-testing, which includes randomly selecting purchased or sold securities and comparing the executed prices to the fair value estimates from the pricing service. In addition to internal controls, management relies on the effectiveness of the valuation controls in place at the Company's external investment accounting service provider (supported by a Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 16 report) in conjunction with regular discussion and analysis of the investment portfolio's structure and performance.

**6. RESERVE FOR LOSSES AND LOSS EXPENSES**

The reserve for losses and loss expenses consists of the following:

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Outstanding loss reserves	\$1,514,051	\$1,520,867
Reserves for losses incurred but not reported	4,367,114	4,245,662
Reserve for losses and loss expenses	\$5,881,165	\$5,766,529

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending liability for unpaid losses and loss expenses. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Gross liability at beginning of year	\$5,766,529	\$5,645,549	\$5,225,143
Reinsurance recoverable at beginning of year	(1,234,504 )	(1,141,110 )	(1,002,919 )
Net liability at beginning of year	4,532,025	4,504,439	4,222,224
Net losses incurred related to:			
Current year	1,411,797	1,303,573	1,309,613
Prior years	(212,607 )	(180,331 )	(170,349 )
Total incurred	1,199,190	1,123,242	1,139,264
Net paid losses related to:			
Current year	171,824	115,669	117,123
Prior years	1,001,537	973,987	743,844
Total paid	1,173,361	1,089,656	860,967
Foreign exchange revaluation	(16,945 )	(6,000 )	3,918
Net liability at end of year	4,540,909	4,532,025	4,504,439
Reinsurance recoverable at end of year	1,340,256	1,234,504	1,141,110
Gross liability at end of year	\$5,881,165	\$5,766,529	\$5,645,549

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company recognized net favorable reserve development in each of its operating segments due to actual loss emergence being lower than initially expected. The net favorable prior year reserve development in the North American Insurance segment primarily related to the 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010 loss years partially offset by unfavorable reserve development from the 2011 to 2013 loss years. The net favorable prior year reserve development in the Global Markets Insurance segment was primarily due to favorable reserve development for the 2008 to 2010 loss years.

F-23

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

The net favorable reserve development in the Reinsurance segment was primarily due to benign global property catastrophe activity for the 2013 loss year.

For the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company recognized net favorable reserve development in each of its operating segments due to actual loss emergence being lower than initially expected. The net favorable prior year reserve development in the North American Insurance segment primarily related to the 2006 through 2008 loss years partially offset by unfavorable reserve development from the 2010 and 2011 loss years. The net favorable prior year reserve development in the Global Markets Insurance segment was primarily due to favorable reserve development for the 2006 to 2008 loss years. The net favorable prior year reserve development in the Reinsurance segment was primarily due to favorable reserve development for the 2005 to 2008 loss years.

For the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company had net favorable reserve development in each of its operating segments due to actual loss emergence being lower than initially expected. The net favorable prior year reserve development in the North American Insurance segment primarily related to the 2006 through 2010 loss years partially offset by unfavorable reserve development from the 2011 and 2012 loss years. The net favorable prior year reserve development in the Global Markets Insurance segment was primarily due to favorable reserve development for the 2006 to 2010 loss years. The net favorable reserve development in the Reinsurance segment was primarily due to lower than expected loss activity for the 2012 loss year.

While the Company has experienced favorable development in its insurance and reinsurance lines, there is no assurance that conditions and trends that have affected the development of liabilities in the past will continue. It is not appropriate to extrapolate future redundancies based on prior years' development. The methodology of estimating loss reserves is periodically reviewed to ensure that the key assumptions used in the actuarial models continue to be appropriate.

## 7. CEDED REINSURANCE

The Company purchases reinsurance from third-party reinsurance companies to reduce its net exposure to losses. Reinsurance provides for recovery of a portion of gross losses and loss expenses from these reinsurers. The Company remains liable to the extent that its reinsurers do not meet their obligations under the related reinsurance contracts. The Company therefore regularly evaluates the financial condition of its reinsurers and monitors concentration of credit risk. The Company believes that as of December 31, 2014, its reinsurers are able to meet, and will meet, all of their obligations under the agreements. No material provision has been made for unrecoverable reinsurance as of December 31, 2014 and 2013. The amount of reinsurance recoverable is as follows:

	2014	2013
OSLR recoverable	\$232,545	\$225,796
IBNR recoverable	1,107,711	1,008,708
Reinsurance recoverable	\$1,340,256	\$1,234,504
Reinsurance recoverable on paid losses	\$86,075	\$76,099

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

Direct, assumed and ceded premiums written and earned and losses and loss expenses incurred are as follows:

	Premiums Written	Premiums Earned	Losses and Loss Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2014			
Direct	\$1,996,831	\$1,835,186	\$1,031,284
Assumed	938,594	941,182	464,728
Ceded	(613,350 )	(593,610 )	(296,822 )
	\$2,322,075	\$2,182,758	\$1,199,190
Year Ended December 31, 2013			
Direct	\$1,804,910	\$1,664,343	\$936,084
Assumed	933,754	896,088	430,627
Ceded	(618,183 )	(554,598 )	(243,469 )
	\$2,120,481	\$2,005,833	\$1,123,242
Year Ended December 31, 2012			
Direct	\$1,569,021	\$1,446,086	\$877,961
Assumed	760,250	743,575	513,871
Ceded	(491,448 )	(440,763 )	(252,568 )
	\$1,837,823	\$1,748,898	\$1,139,264

Of the premiums ceded during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, approximately 42%, 45% and 48% were ceded to four reinsurers, respectively.

The Company actively manages its reinsurance exposures by generally selecting reinsurers having a credit rating of A- or higher and monitoring the overall credit quality of its reinsurers to ensure the recoverables will be collected.

	December 31, 2014			December 31, 2013			
	A.M. Best Rating	Reinsurance Recoverable	Percentage of Total	A.M. Best Rating	Reinsurance Recoverable	Percentage of Total	
Munich Re	A+	\$285,918	21.3	% A+	\$214,070	17.3	%
Axis Capital	A+	148,371	11.1	% A+	143,063	11.6	%
Arch Re	A+	128,421	9.6	% A+	143,037	11.6	%
Markel	A	86,595	6.5	% A	86,462	7.0	%
XL Group	A	78,377	5.8	% A	68,857	5.6	%
Top five reinsurers		727,682	54.3	%	655,489	53.1	%
Other reinsurers' balances		612,574	45.7	%	579,015	46.9	%
Total reinsurance recoverable		\$1,340,256	100.0	%	\$1,234,504	100.0	%

Approximately 99% of ceded reserves were recoverable from reinsurers who had an A.M. Best rating of "A-" or higher as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

## 8. FUNDS HELD

The Company has a minority interest in Aeolus Capital Management Ltd. ("ACM"), an affiliate of Aeolus Re, Ltd., a Bermuda-based property catastrophe reinsurer ("Aeolus Re"), which it accounts for under the equity method. ACM manages capital on behalf of investors seeking to invest in the property catastrophe reinsurance market.

The Company has also entered into a collateralized property catastrophe quota share reinsurance contract with Aeolus Re, whereby the Company assumes property catastrophe business underwritten by Aeolus Re. As part of the agreement to purchase the minority interest in ACM, the Company provided a multi-year capital commitment to support the business being underwritten by Aeolus Re. To the extent that capital is not utilized to support the business being underwritten by Aeolus Re, as

F-25

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

all obligations have been settled, the capital is returned to the Company. To the extent the losses are in excess of the premiums written, the capital is utilized to pay the claims. The capital commitment is recorded in "funds held" on the consolidated balance sheets. The funds held balance as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$708,047 and \$621,567, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, the premiums written assumed by the Company through the collateralized property catastrophe quota share reinsurance contract with Aeolus Re were \$87,275, \$83,300 and \$34,597, respectively.

## 9. GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The following table shows the Company's goodwill and intangible assets at December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	Goodwill	Indefinite-Lived		Finite-Lived Intangible Assets	
		Intangible Assets	Assets	Assets	Assets
	Net Carrying Value	Net Carrying Value	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Value
Balance at December 31, 2012	\$268,376	\$ 23,920	\$41,334	\$(13,890)	\$27,444
Amortization of intangible assets	—	—	—	(2,533)	(2,533)
Balance at December 31, 2013	268,376	23,920	41,334	(16,423)	24,911
Additions	9,882	—	—	—	—
Amortization of intangible assets	—	—	—	(2,533)	(2,533)
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$278,258	\$ 23,920	\$41,334	\$(18,956)	\$22,378

The Company acquired the remaining interest in a claims administration services company it did not own in 2014 and recorded goodwill of \$9,882 related to the transaction. The goodwill related to this acquisition has been allocated to the U.S. direct insurance operations of the North American Insurance segment.

Goodwill of \$274,341 is allocated to the U.S. direct insurance operations of the North American Insurance segment while the remainder of the goodwill of \$3,917 is allocated to the Reinsurance segment. The impairment reviews for goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles did not result in the recognition of impairment losses for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. The net carrying value of the goodwill is net of accumulated impairment charges of \$156 that occurred prior to December 31, 2012.

The net carrying value of the finite-lived intangible assets is net of accumulated impairment charges of \$6,866 that occurred prior to December 31, 2012. The remaining finite-lived intangible assets as of December 31, 2013 will be amortized over an expected remaining useful life of 8.8 years. The estimated amortization expense for each of the five succeeding fiscal years and thereafter related to the Company's finite-lived intangible assets is as follows:

	Amount
2015	\$2,533
2016	2,533
2017	2,533
2018	2,533
2019	2,533
2020 and thereafter	9,713
Total	\$22,378





Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## 10. DEBT AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

## a) Financing Structure

The following table shows the Company's financing structure:

	Outstanding(1)	Balance(2)
December 31, 2014		
2006 Senior notes due 2016	\$500,000	\$499,690
2010 Senior notes due 2020	300,000	299,112
Swiss office building mortgage	14,157	14,157
Swiss office building credit facility	5,056	5,056
\$1,000,000 Secured letter of credit facility — uncommitted	497,332	—
\$150,000 Secured letter of credit facility — committed (3)	—	—
	\$1,316,545	\$818,015
December 31, 2013		
2006 Senior notes due 2016	\$500,000	\$499,512
2010 Senior notes due 2020	300,000	298,987
\$1,000,000 Secured letter of credit facility — uncommitted	707,915	—
\$450,000 Secured letter of credit facility — committed	86,102	—
	\$1,594,017	\$798,499

(1)Indicates utilization of commitment amount, not drawn borrowings.

(2)Represents the principal amount borrowed, net of unamortized discount.

(3)The commitment was reduced from \$450,000 to \$150,000 during 2014.

## b) 2006 Senior Notes Due 2016

In 2006, Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, a Bermuda company ("Allied World Bermuda") issued \$500,000 aggregate principal amount of 7.50% Senior Notes due August 1, 2016 (the "2006 Senior Notes"), with interest payable semi-annually commencing on February 1, 2007. The 2006 Senior Notes are Allied World Bermuda's unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and rank equally in right of payment with all existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The 2006 Senior Notes can be redeemed by Allied World Bermuda prior to maturity subject to payment of a "make-whole" premium. Allied World Bermuda has no current expectations of redeeming the notes prior to maturity. The 2006 Senior Notes include covenants and events of default that are usual and customary, but do not contain any financial covenants.

## c) 2010 Senior Notes Due 2020

In November 2010, Allied World Bermuda issued \$300,000 aggregate principal amount of 5.50% Senior Notes due November 15, 2020 (the "2010 Senior Notes"), with interest on the notes payable semi-annually commencing on May 15, 2011. The 2010 Senior Notes are Allied World Bermuda's unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and rank equally in right of payment with all existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. Allied World Bermuda may redeem the 2010 Senior Notes at any time or from time to time in whole or in part at a redemption price equal to the greater of the principal amount of the 2010 Senior Notes to be redeemed or a make-whole price, plus accrued and unpaid interest. Allied World Bermuda has no current expectations of redeeming the notes prior to

maturity. The 2010 Senior Notes include covenants and events of default that are usual and customary, but do not contain any financial covenants.

d) Swiss Office Building Mortgage

In 2014, the Company entered into a 20-year mortgage commitment with a Swiss bank for the construction of a company-used office building in Zug, Switzerland. The total proceeds received in 2014 under the mortgage are \$14,157 (CHF 14,000) with a fixed annual interest rate of 3.2% payable quarterly. An additional \$4,044 (CHF 4,000) of proceeds from the mortgage

F-27

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

will be drawn during the first quarter of 2015. The mortgage payments will be \$303 (CHF 300) per year, plus accrued interest, for the first 19 years with the remaining balance payable at the end of the mortgage. The outstanding balance of the mortgage is included in "other long-term debt" on the consolidated balance sheets.

e) Swiss Office Building Credit Facility

In conjunction with the above mortgage commitment, the Company entered into a three year credit facility with a Swiss bank that provides up to \$5,056 (CHF 5,000) for general corporate purposes, however the Company will use the proceeds from the credit facility to fund the purchase of the office building in Zug, Switzerland. The Company utilized the full commitment of the credit facility to finance the purchase of the Swiss office space. The interest rate for the credit facility is 2.5%. The outstanding balance of the credit facility is included in "other long-term debt" on the consolidated balance sheets.

f) Credit Facilities

In the normal course of its operations, the Company enters into agreements with financial institutions to obtain secured and unsecured credit facilities.

Allied World Bermuda has a collateralized amended letter of credit facility with Citibank Europe plc. that has been and will continue to be used to issue standby letters of credit. The maximum aggregate amount available under this credit facility as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 is \$1,000,000 on an uncommitted basis.

On November 27, 2007, Allied World Bermuda entered into an \$800,000 five-year senior credit facility (the "Credit Facility") with a syndication of lenders. The Credit Facility consisted of a \$400,000 secured letter of credit facility for the issuance of standby letters of credit (the "Secured Facility") and a \$400,000 unsecured facility for the making of revolving loans and for the issuance of standby letters of credit.

On June 7, 2012, Allied World Bermuda amended the Secured Facility. The amended \$450,000 four-year secured credit facility (the "Amended Secured Credit Facility") is primarily used for the issuance of standby letters of credit to support obligations in connection with the insurance and reinsurance business of Allied World Bermuda and its subsidiaries. A portion of the facility may also be used for revolving loans for general corporate and working capital purposes, up to a maximum of \$150,000. Allied World Bermuda may request that existing lenders under the Amended Secured Credit Facility make additional commitments from time to time, up to \$150,000, subject to approval by the lenders. The Amended Secured Credit Facility contains representations, warranties and covenants customary for similar bank loan facilities, including certain covenants that, among other things, require the Company to maintain a certain leverage ratio and financial strength rating.

On November 12, 2014, Allied World Bermuda gave irrevocable notice to the administrative agent under the Amended Secured Credit Facility to reduce the aggregate commitment from \$450,000 to \$150,000. All other material items of the Amended Secured Credit Facility remain unchanged.

g) Debt Maturities

The following table reflects the Company's debt maturities, which includes its senior notes and other long-term debt:  
Amount

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

2015	\$228
2016	500,303
2017	5,359
2018	303
2019	303
2020 and thereafter	312,717
Total	\$819,213

F-28

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## 11. INCOME TAXES

Under Swiss law, a resident company is subject to income tax at the federal, cantonal and communal levels that is levied on net income. Income attributable to permanent establishments or real estate located abroad is excluded from the Swiss tax base. Allied World Switzerland is a holding company and, therefore, is exempt from cantonal and communal income tax. As a result, Allied World Switzerland is subject to Swiss income tax only at the federal level. Allied World Switzerland is resident of the Canton of Zug and, as such, is subject to an annual cantonal and communal capital tax on the taxable equity of Allied World Switzerland in Switzerland. Allied World Switzerland has a Swiss operating company resident in the Canton of Zug. The operating company is subject to federal, cantonal and communal income tax and to annual cantonal and communal capital tax.

Under current Bermuda law, Allied World Bermuda and its Bermuda subsidiaries are not required to pay taxes in Bermuda on either income or capital gains. Allied World Bermuda and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd have received an assurance from the Bermuda Minister of Finance under the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966 of Bermuda, that in the event of any such taxes being imposed, Allied World Bermuda and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd will be exempted until March 2035.

Certain subsidiaries of Allied World Switzerland file U.S. federal income tax returns and various U.S. state income tax returns, as well as income tax returns in Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Singapore, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Company has open tax years that are potentially subject to examinations by local tax authorities, in the following major tax jurisdictions: the U.S., 2011 to 2014; the United Kingdom, 2013 and 2014; Ireland, 2010 to 2014; Switzerland, 2013 to 2014; Hong Kong, 2009 to 2014; and Singapore, 2010 to 2014. In December 2014, the Company received notice that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will conduct an audit of the 2012 tax return of the Company's U.S. subsidiaries. To the best of the Company's knowledge, there are no other examinations pending by any other tax authority.

Management has deemed all material tax positions to have a greater than 50% likelihood of being sustained based on technical merits if challenged. The Company does not expect any material unrecognized tax benefits within 12 months of December 31, 2014.

The components of income tax expense are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Current income tax expense	\$26,768	\$21,669	\$18,239
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	3,755	(11,889)	) 201
Income tax expense	\$30,523	\$9,780	\$18,440

Our income is primarily sourced from our Bermuda, U.S., European and Asia Pacific operations. The income before income taxes for these operations are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Non-U.S.	\$447,875	\$401,778	\$474,412
United States	72,907	25,882	37,035
Income before income taxes	\$520,782	\$427,660	\$511,447

Deferred income taxes reflect the tax impact of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting and income tax purposes. The significant components of the net deferred tax assets are as follows:

F-29

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Deferred tax assets:		
Reserve for losses and loss expenses	\$21,644	\$22,567
Equity compensation	15,316	15,828
Unearned premium	16,921	14,299
Deferred acquisition costs	11,184	10,604
Other-than-temporary impairments	—	407
Net loss carryforward	7,958	7,642
Total deferred tax assets	73,023	71,347
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Intangible assets	(13,856	) (14,743
Realized gains	(12,819	) (6,980
Depreciation	(2,513	) (2,942
Unrealized appreciation and timing differences on investments	(94	) (56
Market discount on bonds	(740	) (271
Other	(2,965	) (1,244
Total deferred tax liabilities	(32,987	) (26,236
Net deferred taxes before valuation allowance	40,036	45,111
Valuation allowance	(6,421	) (7,642
Net deferred tax assets	\$33,615	\$37,469

The valuation allowance reported in the current period relates to net loss carryforwards for the European and Asia Pacific operations as it is unlikely those operations will have sufficient income to utilize the net loss carryforwards in the near term. The change in valuation allowance of \$1,221 was included in income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2014. The capital loss carryforwards from the United Kingdom and Asia Pacific operations do not expire as long as minimum capital requirements are maintained. The net loss carryforwards from the Switzerland operation expire between 2020 and 2021.

Current tax receivable and payable has been included in “other assets” and “accounts payable and accrued liabilities” on the consolidated balance sheets, respectively. Current taxes receivable or payable was as follows:

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Current tax receivable	\$8,640	\$11,684
Current tax payable	\$829	\$1,452

The expected tax provision has been calculated using the pre-tax accounting income in each jurisdiction multiplied by that jurisdiction’s applicable statutory tax rate. The reconciliation between the Company’s effective tax rate on pre-tax accounting income and the expected tax rate is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		2013		2012	
Expected tax rate	7.8	%	7.8	%	7.8	%
Income not subject to income tax	(7.1	)%	(8.2	)%	(7.3	)%
Foreign taxes at local expected tax rates	4.4	%	1.4	%	2.1	%
Disallowed expenses and capital allowances	0.2	%	1.0	%	0.7	%

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

Prior year refunds and adjustments	1.2	%	0.8	%	0.4	%
Other	(0.6)	)%	(0.5)	)%	(0.1)	)%
Effective tax rate	5.9	%	2.3	%	3.6	%

F-30

---



Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## 12. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

## a) Authorized shares

The issued share capital consists of the following:

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Common shares issued and fully paid, 2014 and 2013: CHF 4.10 per share	100,775,256	103,477,452
Share capital at end of year	\$408,020	\$418,988
	2014	2013
Shares issued at beginning of year	103,477,452	109,109,604
Shares cancelled	(2,702,196 )	(5,632,152 )
Total shares issued at end of year	100,775,256	103,477,452
Treasury shares issued at beginning of year	3,223,806	4,716,261
Shares repurchased	4,906,785	5,544,432
Shares issued out of treasury	(848,621 )	(1,404,735 )
Shares cancelled	(2,702,196 )	(5,632,152 )
Total treasury shares at end of year	4,579,774	3,223,806
Total shares outstanding at end of year	96,195,482	100,253,646

During the years ended December 31, 2014, and 2013, 2,702,196 and 5,544,432 voting shares repurchased and designated for cancellation, respectively, were constructively retired and cancelled.

Effective July 9, 2013, the Company cancelled 87,720 non-voting shares held in treasury and 4,616,058 shares previously repurchased and constructively retired, following a required filing with the Swiss Commercial Register in Zug.

As required under Swiss law, the Company cannot hold more than 10% of its registered capital in treasury shares, unless it receives shareholder approval to do so.

## b) Dividends

As a holding company, Allied World Switzerland's principal source of income is dividends or other sources of permitted payments from its subsidiaries. These funds provide the cash flow required for dividend payments to the Company's shareholders. The ability of our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries to make dividend payments is limited by the applicable laws and regulations of the various states and countries in which they operate.

The Company's primary restrictions on net assets of subsidiaries consist of regulatory requirements placed upon the regulated insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries to hold minimum amounts of total statutory capital and surplus and there were no other material restrictions on net assets in place as of December 31, 2014.

Under Swiss law, distributions to shareholders may be paid only if the Company has sufficient distributable profits from previous fiscal years, or if the Company has freely distributable reserves, each as presented on the audited stand-alone statutory balance sheet. Distributions to shareholders out of the share and participation capital may be

made by way of a capital reduction in the form of a reduction to par value to achieve a similar result as the payment of a dividend. Under Swiss law, if the Company's general capital reserves amount to less than 20% of the share and participation capital recorded in the Swiss Commercial Register, then at least 5% of the Company's annual profit must be retained as general reserves.

On May 2, 2013, the shareholders approved the Company's proposal to pay cash dividends in the form of a distribution out of general legal reserve from capital contributions. The distribution amounts were paid to shareholders in quarterly dividends of \$0.167 per share in July 2013, October 2013, January 2014 and April 2014.

F-31

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

On May 1, 2014, the shareholders approved the Company's proposal to pay cash dividends in the form of a distribution out of general legal reserve from capital contributions. The distribution amount will be paid to shareholders in quarterly dividends of \$0.225 per share. The first dividend was on July 2, 2014, the second dividend was on October 2, 2014 and the third dividend was on January 2, 2015. The Company expects to distribute the remaining dividend in April 2015.

The Company paid the following dividends during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

Dividend Paid	Partial Par Value Reduction Per Share	Dividend Per Share	Total Amount Paid
October 2, 2014	N/A	\$0.225	\$21,686
July 2, 2014	N/A	\$0.225	\$21,870
April 3, 2014	N/A	\$0.167	\$16,495
January 2, 2014	N/A	\$0.167	\$16,732
October 3, 2013	N/A	\$0.167	\$16,952
July 3, 2013	N/A	\$0.167	\$17,117
March 12, 2013	CHF 0.11	\$0.125	\$12,981
December 18, 2012	CHF 0.11	\$0.125	\$13,010
September 25, 2012	CHF 0.12	\$0.125	\$13,324
August 6, 2012	CHF 0.12	\$0.125	\$13,394
April 6, 2012	CHF 0.11	\$0.125	\$13,795
January 6, 2012	CHF 0.12	\$0.125	\$14,302

## c) Share Repurchases

On May 1, 2014, the shareholders approved a new share repurchase program in order for the Company to repurchase up to \$500,000 of Allied World Switzerland's common shares. This new share repurchase program supersedes the 2012 share repurchase program and no further repurchases will be made under the 2012 share repurchase program. Repurchases may be effected from time to time through open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, tender offers or otherwise. The timing, form and amount of the share repurchases under the program will depend on a variety of factors, including market conditions, the Company's capital position, legal requirements and other factors. Under the terms of this share repurchase program, the first three million of common shares repurchased will remain in treasury and will be used by Allied World Switzerland to satisfy share delivery obligations under its equity-based compensation plans. Any additional common shares repurchased will be designated for cancellation at acquisition and will be canceled upon shareholder approval. Shares repurchased and designated for cancellation are constructively retired and recorded as a share cancellation.

Shares repurchased by the Company and not designated for cancellation are classified as "Treasury shares, at cost" on the consolidated balance sheets. The Company will issue shares out of treasury principally related to the Company's employee benefit plans. Shares repurchased and designated for cancellation are constructively retired and recorded as a share cancellation.

The Company's share repurchases were as follows:

Year Ended December 31,

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

	2014	2013	2012
Common shares repurchased	4,906,785	5,544,432	10,967,877
Total cost of shares repurchased	\$175,373	\$174,686	\$263,942
Average price per share	\$35.74	\$31.51	\$24.07

F-32

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## 13. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

The Company implemented the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG 2012 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan (the “2012 Omnibus Plan”). Under the 2012 Omnibus Plan, up to 4,500,000 common shares may be issued, subject to adjustment. The 2012 Omnibus Plan provides for the grant of options intended to qualify as incentive stock options under the Internal Revenue Code, non-qualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted shares, RSUs, deferred share units, cash incentive awards, performance-based compensation awards and other equity-based and equity-related awards. These awards generally vest pro rata over four years from the date of grant, except for the performance-based awards that will generally vest over a three-year period based on the achievement of certain performance conditions.

The Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan (the “Plan”), the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan and the and the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Third Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan (the “LTIP”) were automatically terminated, replaced and superseded by the 2012 Omnibus Plan on May 3, 2012, except that any outstanding awards granted under such plans remain in effect pursuant to their terms.

## a) Employee option plan

Options under the Plan are exercisable in certain limited conditions, expire after 10 years, and generally vest pro-rata over four years from the date of grant. The exercise price of options issued were approved by the Compensation Committee but were not less than the fair market value of the common shares of Allied World Switzerland on the date the option award is granted. The Company has not granted stock options since 2011.

The following table summarizes the activity related to options granted and exercised:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Options granted	—	—	—
Weighted average grant date fair value	\$—	\$—	\$—
Options exercised	(479,831 )	(674,187 )	(801,810 )
Total intrinsic value of options exercised	\$10,313	\$12,212	\$9,650
Proceeds from option exercises	\$10,027	\$12,137	\$10,527

The activity related to the Company’s stock options is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014			
	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Contractual Term	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at beginning of year	2,928,312	\$16.07		
Granted	—	\$—		
Exercised	(479,831 )	\$(14.25 )		
Forfeited	(15,096 )	\$(20.50 )		
Expired	(6,711 )	\$(16.35 )		

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

Outstanding at end of year	2,426,674	\$ 16.40	4.7 years	\$52,212
Exercisable at end of year	2,151,790	\$ 15.88	4.5 years	\$47,424

As of December 31, 2014, there was remaining \$299 of total unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested options granted under the Plan. This expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 0.1 years.

F-33

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## b) Restricted stock units and performance-based equity awards

The RSUs vest pro-rata over four years from the date of grant. The compensation expense for the RSUs is based on the fair market value of Allied World Switzerland's common shares at the date of grant. The Company estimates the expected forfeitures of RSUs at the date of grant and recognizes compensation expense only for those awards that the Company expects to vest. The forfeiture assumption is ultimately adjusted to the actual forfeiture rate.

Each award for the performance-based RSUs represents the right to receive a number of shares in the future, based upon the achievement of established performance criteria during the applicable performance period. The compensation expense for the performance-based RSUs is based on the fair market value of Allied World Switzerland's common shares at the time of grant. For the performance-based RSUs granted in 2014, 2013 and 2012, the Company anticipates that the performance goals are likely to be achieved. Based on the performance goals, the performance-based RSUs granted in 2014, 2013 and 2012 are expensed at 100%, 110% and 135%, respectively, of the fair market value of Allied World Switzerland's common shares on the date of grant. The expense is recognized over the performance period.

The activity related to the Company's RSUs awards is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	Number of Awards	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at beginning of year	143,697	\$21.69	
RSUs granted	454,176	33.56	
RSUs forfeited	(16,386)	) (31.22	)
RSUs fully vested	(78,981)	) (21.76	)
Outstanding at end of year	502,506	\$32.10	\$19,055

As of December 31, 2014, there was remaining \$12,057 of total unrecognized compensation expense related to 502,506 unvested RSUs awarded. This expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.9 years.

The activity related to the Company's performance-based equity awards is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	Number of Awards	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at beginning of year	804,519	\$23.21	
Performance-based equity awards granted	166,302	33.56	
Additional awards granted due to achievement of performance criteria	104,895	20.50	
Performance-based equity awards forfeited	(4,635)	) (25.20	)
Performance-based equity awards fully vested	(454,440)	) (20.50	)
Outstanding at end of year	616,641	\$27.52	\$23,383

As of December 31, 2014, there was remaining \$5,814 of total unrecognized compensation expense related to 616,641 unvested performance-based equity awarded. This expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.6 years.

The RSUs and performance-based equity awards vested in 2014, 2013 and 2012 had aggregate intrinsic values of \$14,366, \$28,836 and \$13,947 at the time of vesting, respectively.

F-34

---



Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## c) Cash-equivalent stock awards

As part of the Company's annual year-end compensation awards, the Company granted both stock-based awards and cash-equivalent stock awards. The cash-equivalent awards were granted to employees who received RSU and performance-based awards and were granted in lieu of granting the full award as a stock-based award. The cash-equivalent RSU awards vest pro-rata over four years from the date of grant. The cash-equivalent performance-based awards vest after a three-year performance period. As the cash-equivalent awards are settled in cash, the Company establishes a liability equal to the product of the fair market value of Allied World Switzerland's common shares as of the end of the reporting period and the total awards outstanding. At December 31, 2014, the liability was \$51,343, and payments for awards vesting in the period are typically settled within the first three months of the year. The liability is included in "accounts payable and accrued expenses" in the consolidated balance sheets and changes in the liability are recorded in "general and administrative expenses" in the consolidated income statements.

The activity related to the Company's cash-equivalent RSUs and performance-based equity awards is as follows:

Year Ended December 31, 2014	RSU's		Performance-based Awards	
	Number of Awards	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Awards	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at beginning of year	2,049,084	\$24.69	1,031,961	23.67
Granted	438,162	33.56	249,438	33.56
Additional awards granted due to achievement of performance criteria	—	—	104,895	20.50
Forfeited	(77,322 )	(27.12 )	(6,948 )	(25.20 )
Fully vested	(755,860 )	(22.51 )	(454,440 )	(20.50 )
Outstanding at end of year	1,654,064	\$27.99	924,906	\$27.52

## d) Total Stock-Related Compensation Expense

The following table shows the total stock-related compensation expense relating to the stock options, RSUs, LTIP and cash equivalent awards.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Stock options	\$1,949	\$3,269	\$4,256
RSUs and performance-based equity awards	12,295	10,700	13,010
LTIP	—	—	376
Cash-equivalent stock awards	37,790	50,878	32,760
Total	\$52,034	\$64,847	\$50,402

## e) Pension Plans

The Company provides defined contribution retirement plans for its employees and officers. Contributions are made by the Company, and in some locations, these contributions are supplemented by the local plan participants. Contributions are based on a percentage of the participant's base salary depending upon competitive local market

practice and vesting provisions meeting legal compliance standards. The amount that an individual employee or officer can contribute may also be subject to regulatory requirements relating to the country of which the individual is a citizen. The Company incurred expenses for these defined contribution arrangements of \$10,648, \$9,287 and \$6,602 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

f) Employee Share Purchase Plan

Under the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG Amended and Restated 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan (“ESPP”), eligible employees of the Company may purchase common shares of the Company at a 15% discount from the fair

F-35

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

market value of one common share on the last trading day of each offering period. Employees purchase a variable number of common shares through payroll deductions elected as of the beginning of the offering period. The Company may sell up to 3,000,000 common shares to eligible employees under the ESPP.

## 14. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following table sets forth the comparison of basic and diluted earnings per share:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Basic earnings per share:			
Net income	\$490,259	\$417,880	\$493,007
Weighted average common shares outstanding	97,538,319	102,464,715	108,171,435
Basic earnings per share	\$5.03	\$4.08	\$4.56
	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Diluted earnings per share:			
Net income	\$490,259	\$417,880	\$493,007
Weighted average common shares outstanding	97,538,319	102,464,715	108,171,435
Share equivalents:			
Warrants and options	1,432,960	1,536,939	1,306,002
RSU and LTIP awards	605,808	864,180	1,727,265
Employee share purchase plan	14,686	—	4,953
Weighted average common shares and common share equivalents outstanding — diluted	99,591,773	104,865,834	111,209,655
Diluted earnings per share	\$4.92	\$3.98	\$4.43

For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, a weighted average of nil, nil and 678,312 employee stock options and RSUs were considered anti-dilutive and were therefore excluded from the calculation of the diluted earnings per share, respectively.

## 15. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

## a) Concentrations of Credit Risk

Credit risk arises out of the failure of a counterparty to perform according to the terms of the contract.

The Company's investment portfolio is managed pursuant to guidelines that follow prudent standards of diversification. The guidelines limit the allowable holdings of a single issue and issuers. The Company believes that there are no significant concentrations of credit risk associated with its investment portfolio. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, substantially all of the Company's cash and investments were held with one custodian.

Insurance balances receivable primarily consist of net premiums due from insureds and reinsureds. The Company believes that the counterparties to these receivables are able to meet, and will meet, all of their obligations. The Company's credit risk is further reduced by the contractual right to offset loss obligations or unearned premiums against premiums receivable. Consequently, the Company has not included any material allowance for doubtful

accounts against the receivable balance.

F-36

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

## b) Operating Leases

The Company leases office space under operating leases expiring in various years through 2030. The following are future minimum rental payments as of December 31, 2014:

	Amount
2015	\$12,568
2016	16,903
2017	20,596
2018	20,096
2019	19,013
2020 and thereafter	138,602
	\$227,778

Total rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$18,950, \$11,392 and \$11,929, respectively. The rent expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 included \$963 of accelerated rent expense due to the Company vacating one of its leased properties before the lease expired.

## c) Producers

The three largest individual producers as a percentage of gross premiums written are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012		
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.	25	% 26	% 25	%	
Aon Corporation	17	% 18	% 19	%	
Willis Group Holdings	10	% 12	% 11	%	

## d) Legal Proceedings

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

## 16. STATUTORY CAPITAL AND SURPLUS

Allied World Switzerland's ability to pay dividends is subject to certain regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends by its subsidiaries. The payment of such dividends is limited by applicable laws and statutory requirements of the jurisdictions in which Allied World Switzerland and its subsidiaries operate. The total amount of restricted net assets for the Company's consolidated subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 was \$2,953,535.

The minimum required statutory capital and surplus is the amount of statutory capital and surplus necessary to satisfy regulatory requirements based on the Company's current operations. The statutory capital and surplus and minimum

required statutory capital and surplus for the Company's most significant regulatory jurisdictions at December 31, 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

F-37

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

	December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Statutory Capital and Surplus	Minimum Required Statutory Capital and Surplus	Statutory Capital and Surplus	Minimum Required Statutory Capital and Surplus
Bermuda	\$3,273,730	\$876,235	\$3,208,776	\$806,012
United States	1,220,299	226,876	1,187,023	205,699
Ireland	410,841	29,204	407,600	27,098
Switzerland	172,306	19,943	167,840	22,905
United Kingdom	231,659	203,742	229,745	229,689

There were no state-prescribed or permitted regulatory accounting practices for any of our insurance entities that resulted in reported statutory surplus that differed from that which would have been reported under the prescribed practices of the respective regulatory authorities, including the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Statutory accounting under the prescribed practices of the respective regulatory authorities differs from U.S. GAAP accounting in the treatment of various items, including reporting of investments, acquisition costs and deferred income taxes.

The statutory net income (loss) for the Company's most significant regulatory jurisdictions for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Bermuda	\$487,051	\$467,283	\$528,712
United States	45,445	36,744	25,390
Ireland	3,241	(4,880)	) 9,325
Switzerland	7,408	(6,418)	) 10,657
United Kingdom	(7,819)	) 9,362	1,800

At December 31, 2014, the maximum amount of ordinary dividends or distributions that can be paid, without prior regulatory approval, for the Company's most significant regulatory jurisdictions, were as follows:

	December 31, 2014
Bermuda	\$818,433
United States	102,283
Ireland	21,637
Switzerland	6,323
United Kingdom	1,601

## a) Bermuda

The Company's Bermuda subsidiary, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, is registered under the Bermuda Insurance Act 1978 and Related Regulations as amended. As a Class 4 insurer, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is required to maintain minimum solvency standards and to hold available statutory capital and surplus equal to or exceeding the enhanced capital requirements as determined by the Bermuda Monetary Authority under the Bermuda

Solvency Capital Requirement model (“BSCR model”). The BSCR model is a risk-based capital model that provides a method for determining an insurer’s minimum required capital taking into account the risk characteristics of different aspects of the company’s business. In addition, this subsidiary is required to maintain a minimum liquidity ratio. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, this subsidiary met the requirements.

b) United States

The Company’s U.S. insurance subsidiaries are subject to the insurance laws and regulations of the states in which they are domiciled, and also states in which they are licensed or authorized to transact business. These laws also restrict the amount

F-38

---



Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

of ordinary shareholder dividends the subsidiaries can pay. The restrictions are generally based on statutory surplus and/or statutory net income as determined in accordance with the relevant statutory accounting requirements of the individual domiciliary states. The U.S. subsidiaries are required to file annual statements with insurance regulatory authorities prepared on an accounting basis prescribed or permitted by such authorities. The U.S. subsidiaries are also required to maintain minimum levels of solvency and liquidity as determined by law, and comply with capital requirements and licensing rules. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the actual levels of solvency, liquidity and capital of each U.S. subsidiary were in excess of the minimum levels required.

c) Ireland

The Company's Irish insurance subsidiary is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland pursuant to the Insurance Acts 1909 to 2000, the Central Bank Acts 1942 to 2014 and all statutory instruments relating to insurance made or adopted under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2014. This subsidiary is required to maintain a minimum level of capital. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, these requirements were met. The amount of dividends that this subsidiary is permitted to distribute is restricted to accumulated realized profits that have not been capitalized or distributed, less accumulated realized losses that have not been written off. The solvency and capital requirements must still be met following any distribution.

d) Switzerland

The Company's Swiss insurance subsidiary, Allied World Assurance Company, AG, is regulated by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority ("FINMA") pursuant to the Insurance Supervisory Law 2004 to 2014. This subsidiary's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Swiss Code of Obligation 1911 to 2013 and the Insurance Supervisory Law 2004 to 2014. This subsidiary is obligated to maintain a minimum level of capital based on the Swiss Code of Obligation, a minimum of tied assets based on the Insurance Supervisory Law and a minimum solvency margin based on the Solvency I and Swiss Solvency Test regulations as stipulated by the Insurance Supervisory Law. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, this subsidiary met the requirements. The amount of dividends that this subsidiary is permitted to distribute is restricted to freely distributable reserves which consist of retained earnings, the current year profit and legal reserves to a certain extent. Any dividend requires approval of the shareholders and in case of the dividend exceeding the current year profit, approval is also required from FINMA. The solvency and capital requirements must still be met following any distribution.

e) United Kingdom

Allied World Capital (Europe) Limited is the sole corporate member of Syndicate 2232. Syndicate 2232 is managed by Allied World Managing Agency Limited, which is authorized and regulated by the Prudential Regulatory Authority ("PRA") and the Financial Conduct Authority. As a member of Lloyd's, Allied World Capital (Europe) Limited is obliged to comply with Lloyd's byelaws and regulations (made pursuant to the Lloyd's Acts 1871 to 1982) and applicable provisions of the Financial and Services and Markets Act 2000. The Council of Lloyd's has wide discretionary powers to regulate members' underwriting at Lloyd's and its exercise of these powers might affect the return on an investment of the corporate member in a given underwriting year. The capital required to support a Syndicate's underwriting capacity, referred to as "funds at Lloyd's", is assessed annually and is determined by Lloyd's in accordance with the capital adequacy rules established by the PRA. If a member of Lloyd's is unable to pay its debts to policyholders, such debts may be payable from the Lloyd's Central Fund, which in many respects acts as an equivalent to a state guaranty fund in the United States. The Company has provided capital to support the underwriting of

Syndicate 2232 in the form of pledged assets provided by Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd. The amount which the Company provides as funds at Lloyd's is not available for distribution to the Company for the payment of dividends. Lloyd's is supervised by the PRA and required to implement certain rules prescribed by the PRA under the Lloyd's Act of 1982 regarding the operation of the Lloyd's market. With respect to managing agents and corporate members, Lloyd's prescribes certain minimum standards relating to management and control, solvency and other requirements and monitors managing agents' compliance with such standards.

f) Branch Offices

The Company's insurance subsidiaries maintain branch offices in Australia, Bermuda, England, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore and Labuan. As branch offices are not considered separate legal entities, the required and actual statutory capital and surplus amounts for each jurisdiction in the table above include amounts related to the branch offices. These branch offices are subject to additional minimum capital or asset requirements in their countries of domicile. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the actual capital and surplus for each of these branches exceeded the relevant local regulatory requirements.

F-39

---

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

17. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The determination of reportable segments is based on how the Company's chief operating decision maker, the Chief Executive Officer, monitors the Company's underwriting operations. Management monitors the performance of its direct underwriting operations based on the geographic location of the Company's offices, the markets and customers served and the type of accounts written. The Company is currently organized into three operating segments: North American Insurance, Global Markets Insurance and Reinsurance. All product lines fall within these classifications.

The North American Insurance segment includes the Company's direct specialty insurance operations in the United States, Bermuda and Canada, as well as the Company's claim administration services operation. This segment provides both direct property and specialty casualty insurance to North American domiciled accounts. The Global Markets Insurance segment includes the Company's direct insurance operations in Europe and Asia Pacific, which includes offices in Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. This segment provides both direct property and casualty insurance primarily to non-North American domiciled accounts. The Reinsurance segment includes the Company's reinsurance operations in the United States, Bermuda, Europe and Singapore. This segment provides reinsurance of property, general casualty, professional liability, specialty lines and property catastrophe coverages written by insurance companies. The Company presently writes reinsurance on both a treaty and a facultative basis, targeting several niche reinsurance markets.

Responsibility and accountability for the results of underwriting operations are assigned by major line of business within each segment. Because the Company does not manage its assets by segment, investment income, interest expense and total assets are not allocated to individual reportable segments. General and administrative expenses are allocated to segments based on various factors, including staff count and each segment's proportional share of gross premiums written.

The Company measures its segment profit or loss as underwriting income or loss plus other insurance-related income and expenses, which may include the net earnings from our claims administration services operations and other income or expense that is not directly related to our underwriting operations. Management measures results of each segment's underwriting income or loss on the basis of the "loss and loss expense ratio," "acquisition cost ratio," "general and administrative expense ratio," "expense ratio" and the "combined ratio." The "loss and loss expense ratio" is derived by dividing net losses and loss expenses by net premiums earned. The "acquisition cost ratio" is derived by dividing acquisition costs by net premiums earned. The "general and administrative expense ratio" is derived by dividing general and administrative expenses by net premiums earned. The expense ratio is the sum of the "acquisition cost ratio" and the "general and administrative expense ratio". The "combined ratio" is the sum of the "loss and loss expense ratio," the "acquisition cost ratio" and the "general and administrative expense ratio."

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

The following tables provide a summary of the segment results:

Year Ended December 31, 2014	North American Insurance	Global Markets Insurance	Reinsurance	Total	
Gross premiums written	\$1,716,288	\$280,543	\$938,594	\$2,935,425	
Net premiums written	1,230,839	187,997	903,239	2,322,075	
Net premiums earned	1,111,164	162,566	909,028	2,182,758	
Net losses and loss expenses	(683,836 )	(61,057 )	(454,297 )	(1,199,190 )	
Acquisition costs	(105,914 )	(18,222 )	(170,986 )	(295,122 )	
General and administrative expenses	(219,665 )	(68,106 )	(77,965 )	(365,736 )	
Underwriting income	101,749	15,181	205,780	322,710	
Other insurance-related revenue	2,064	—	—	2,064	
Other insurance-related expenses	(1,854 )	(6,724 )	—	(8,578 )	
Segment income	101,959	8,457	205,780	316,196	
Net investment income				176,874	
Net realized investment gains				88,957	
Amortization of intangible assets				(2,533 )	
Interest expense				(57,755 )	
Foreign exchange loss				(957 )	
Income before income taxes				\$520,782	
Loss and loss expense ratio	61.5	% 37.6	% 50.0	% 54.9	%
Acquisition cost ratio	9.5	% 11.2	% 18.8	% 13.5	%
General and administrative expense ratio	19.8	% 41.9	% 8.6	% 16.8	%
Expense ratio	29.3	% 53.1	% 27.4	% 30.3	%
Combined ratio	90.8	% 90.7	% 77.4	% 85.2	%
Year Ended December 31, 2013	North American Insurance	Global Markets Insurance	Reinsurance	Total	
Gross premiums written	\$1,572,355	\$232,555	\$933,754	\$2,738,664	
Net premiums written	1,082,441	145,002	893,038	2,120,481	
Net premiums earned	1,022,979	126,008	856,846	2,005,833	
Net losses and loss expenses	(651,267 )	(50,395 )	(421,580 )	(1,123,242 )	
Acquisition costs	(94,869 )	(10,051 )	(147,753 )	(252,673 )	
General and administrative expenses	(209,042 )	(63,164 )	(80,079 )	(352,285 )	
Underwriting income	67,801	2,398	207,434	277,633	
Other insurance-related revenue	—	—	—	—	
Other insurance-related expenses	—	—	—	—	
Segment income	67,801	2,398	207,434	277,633	
Net investment income				157,564	
Net realized investment gains				59,525	
Amortization of intangible assets				(2,533 )	
Interest expense				(56,510 )	
Foreign exchange loss				(8,019 )	
Income before income taxes				\$427,660	
Loss and loss expense ratio	63.7	% 40.0	% 49.2	% 56.0	%
Acquisition cost ratio	9.3	% 8.0	% 17.2	% 12.6	%
General and administrative expense ratio	20.4	% 50.1	% 9.3	% 17.6	%

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form 10-K

Expense ratio	29.7	% 58.1	% 26.5	% 30.2	%
Combined ratio	93.4	% 98.1	% 75.7	% 86.2	%

F-41

---

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

Year Ended December 31, 2012	North American Insurance	Global Markets Insurance	Reinsurance	Total	
Gross premiums written	\$1,376,040	\$192,981	\$760,250	\$2,329,271	
Net premiums written	964,199	125,577	748,047	1,837,823	
Net premiums earned	892,721	115,660	740,517	1,748,898	
Net losses and loss expenses	(608,762)	(19,536)	(510,966)	(1,139,264)	)
Acquisition costs	(77,701)	(8,483)	(119,538)	(205,722)	)
General and administrative expenses	(185,231)	(48,365)	(73,725)	(307,321)	)
Underwriting income	21,027	39,276	36,288	96,591	
Other insurance-related revenue	—	—	—	—	
Other insurance-related expenses	—	—	—	—	
Segment income	21,027	39,276	36,288	96,591	
Net investment income				167,141	
Net realized investment gains				306,436	
Amortization of intangible assets				(2,533)	)
Interest expense				(55,405)	)
Foreign exchange loss				(783)	)
Income before income taxes				\$511,447	
Loss and loss expense ratio	68.2	% 16.9	% 69.0	% 65.1	%
Acquisition cost ratio	8.7	% 7.3	% 16.1	% 11.8	%
General and administrative expense ratio	20.7	% 41.8	% 10.0	% 17.6	%
Expense ratio	29.4	% 49.1	% 26.1	% 29.4	%
Combined ratio	97.6	% 66.0	% 95.1	% 94.5	%

The following table shows an analysis of the Company's gross premiums written by geographic location of the Company's subsidiaries. All intercompany premiums have been eliminated.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
United States	\$1,795,564	\$1,636,010	\$1,360,190
Bermuda	640,948	676,174	611,382
Europe	318,626	264,867	228,791
Asia Pacific	167,334	161,613	128,908
Canada	12,953	—	—
Total gross premiums written	\$2,935,425	\$2,738,664	\$2,329,271

Gross premiums written attributable to Switzerland were \$67,564, \$61,042 and \$43,664 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Table of Contents

## ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

The following table shows the Company's net premiums earned by line of business for each segment for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
North American Insurance:			
General casualty	\$334,603	\$269,114	\$211,238
Professional liability	276,105	259,215	245,583
Healthcare	168,476	194,344	187,053
General property	126,646	141,896	137,002
Programs	119,756	107,870	88,180
Inland marine	43,666	25,939	10,612
Environmental	19,507	17,017	12,627
Other	22,405	7,584	426
Total	1,111,164	1,022,979	892,721
Global Markets Insurance:			
Professional liability	57,176	45,967	43,621
General property	33,957	31,364	36,751
Aviation	22,342	9,521	—
Trade credit	17,623	14,099	9,471
General casualty	15,266	13,903	16,762
Healthcare	11,963	11,154	9,055
Other	4,239	—	—
Total	162,566	126,008	115,660
Reinsurance:			
Property	411,968	336,009	273,167
Specialty	321,538	349,044	283,415
Casualty	175,522	171,793	183,935
Total	909,028	856,846	740,517
Total net premiums earned	\$2,182,758	\$2,005,833	\$1,748,898

## 18. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED PARENT COMPANY AND GUARANTOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following tables present condensed consolidating financial information as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 for Allied World Switzerland (the "Parent Guarantor") and Allied World Bermuda (the "Subsidiary Issuer"). The Subsidiary Issuer is a direct 100%-owned subsidiary of the Parent Guarantor. Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for by the Parent Guarantor under the equity method for purposes of the supplemental consolidating presentation. Earnings of subsidiaries are reflected in the Parent Guarantor's investment accounts and earnings. The Parent Guarantor fully and unconditionally guarantees the senior notes issued by the Subsidiary Issuer.

Table of Contents

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share, per share, percentage and ratio information)

Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet:

	Allied World	Allied World
	Switzerland	Bermuda
As of December 31, 2014	(Parent	(Subsidiary
	Guarantor)	Issuer)