

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): September 4, 2019

Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Bermuda
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-15259
(Commission
File Number)

98-0214719
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

110 Pitts Bay Road
Pembroke HM 08
Bermuda
(Address, including Zip Code,
of Principal Executive Offices)

P.O. Box HM 1282
Hamilton HM FX
Bermuda
(Mailing Address)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (441) 296-5858

Not Applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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

Title of Each Class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value of \$1.00 per share	ARGO	New York Stock Exchange
Guarantee of Argo Group U.S., Inc. 6.500% Senior Notes due 2042	ARGD	New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

ITEM 7.01. REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE.

Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. (“Argo Group”) may make presentations to members of the investment community using, or otherwise refer to, the presentation materials attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K, including in respect of Argo Group’s financial results for the first six months of 2019.

Note: The information in this report and Exhibit 99.1 attached hereto are furnished pursuant to Item 7.01 and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section. This report will not be deemed an admission as to the materiality of any information in the report that is required to be disclosed solely by Regulation FD.

ITEM 9.01. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(d) Exhibits:

99.1 [Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Presentation](#)

104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.

By: /s/ Jay S. Bullock

Name: Jay S. Bullock

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: September 4, 2019

Argo Group Investor Presentation

September 2019



Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation may include forward-looking statements, both with respect to Argo Group and its industry, that reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. These statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include all statements that do not relate solely to historical or current facts, and can be identified by the use of words such as "expect," "intend," "plan," "believe," "do not believe," "aim," "project," "anticipate," "seek," "will," "likely," "assume," "estimate," "may," "continue," "guidance," "objective," "outlook," "trends," "future," "could," "would," "should," "target," "on track," and similar expressions of a future or forward-looking nature. All forward-looking statements address matters that involve risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond Argo Group's control. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in such statements and, therefore, you should not place undue reliance on any such statements. We believe that these factors include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) unpredictability and severity of catastrophic events; 2) rating agency actions; 3) adequacy of our risk management and loss limitation methods; 4) cyclicity of demand and pricing in the insurance and reinsurance markets; 5) statutory or regulatory developments including tax policy, reinsurance and other regulatory matters; 6) our ability to implement our business strategy; 7) adequacy of our loss reserves; 8) continued availability of capital and financial resources; 9) retention of key personnel; 10) competition; 11) potential loss of business from one or more major insurance or reinsurance brokers; 12) our ability to implement, successfully and on a timely basis, complex infrastructure, distribution capabilities, systems, procedures, and internal controls, and to develop accurate actuarial data to support the business and regulatory and reporting requirements; 13) general economic and market conditions (including inflation, volatility in the credit and capital markets, interest rates, and foreign currency exchange rates); 14) the integration of businesses we may acquire or new business ventures we may start; 15) the effect on our investment portfolios of changing financial market conditions including inflation, interest rates, liquidity and other factors; 16) acts of

terrorism or outbreak of war; 17) shareholder activism and 18) availability of reinsurance and retrocessional coverage, as well as management's response to any of the aforementioned factors.

In addition, any estimates relating to loss events involve the exercise of considerable judgments and reflect a combination of ground-up evaluations, information available to date from brokers, market intelligence, initial tentative loss reports, and other sources. The actuarial range of reserves and management's best estimate is based on our then-current state of knowledge including explicit and implicit assumptions relating to the pattern of claim development, the expected ultimate settlement amount, inflation and dependencies between lines of business. Our internal models are used to consider the distribution for reserving risk around this best estimate and predict the potential range of outcomes. However, due to the complexity of factors contributing to the losses and preliminary nature of the information used to prepare these estimates, there can be no assurance that Argo Group's ultimate losses will remain within the stated amount.

The foregoing review of important factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included herein and elsewhere, including the risk factors included in our most recent reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q and other documents of Argo Group on file with or furnished to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commissions ("SEC"). Any forward-looking statements made in this presentation are qualified by these cautionary statements, and there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments anticipated by Argo Group will be realized, or even if substantially realized, that they will have the expected consequences to or effects on, Argo Group or its business or operations. Except as required by law, Argo Group undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

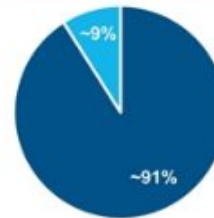
Distinctive Specialty Insurance Platform

- **Global underwriter of specialty insurance and reinsurance**
 - Trailing Twelve Months ("TTM") Gross Written Premiums ("GWP"): \$3BN
- **Established presence in desirable markets**
 - Differentiated U.S. specialty franchise
 - Lloyd's Syndicate operations grant solid strategic position
 - Strong Bermuda insurance and reinsurance platforms
- **Diversified by product, geography and profit streams**
- **Strategically located in major insurance centers**
 - Across the U.S. | Bermuda | London
 - Select international insurance centers
- **Broad and strong producer relationships**
 - Agents, brokers, wholesalers and coverholders
- **"A" (Excellent) A.M. Best rating, stable outlook**
- **"A-" (Strong) S&P rating, positive outlook**

Q2 2019 TTM NWP: \$1,771MM

Business Type

Geography



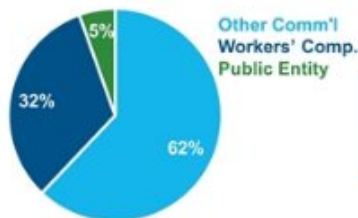
Primary Insurance
Reinsurance



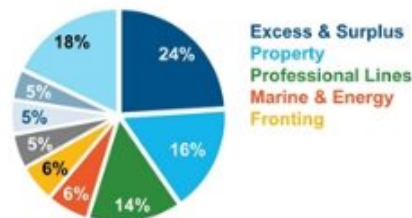
United States
Bermuda
Brazil, Asia and Europe
London

Business Mix Evolution Through M&A and Organic Growth

FY 2002 GWP Mix



FY 2018 GWP Mix



Surety
Public Entity
Specialty Programs
Other⁽¹⁾

(1) Other includes mining, personal accident, environmental, transportation and other specialty and casualty, each of which makes up less than 5% of total GWP.

Argo's Fundamental Operating Strategy

- **Diversified Specialty P&C Insurance Platform**

- Broad product, geography and distribution to meet client's needs and maintain a balanced portfolio of risks
- Focused on niche market segments with attractive expected returns on capital
- Established leader and important market to our customers and distribution partners

- **Underwriting Profitability**

- Focused on prudent risk selection and expense ratio improvement
- Superior loss ratios and improving expense ratio leading to solid underwriting profitability

- **Total Return Investing**

- Balanced investment strategy focused on total return and current income
- Material contributor to overall return on equity

- **Invest in Technology**

- Support our colleagues and partners with strong technology offerings
- Implement digital tools and process optimization to drive improved risk selection, efficiency and scale

- **Leverage Capital Resources**

- Deploy capital to opportunities where we believe we can achieve attractive returns (underwriting and investing)
- Use third-party capital and reinsurance to leverage our expertise as underwriters / originators of risk
- Return excess capital to shareholders when attractive growth opportunities are not present

Strategy Aligned Toward Shareholder Value Creation

Argo's strategy, which is predicated on underwriting excellence, prudent investment management, and thoughtful capital allocation has generated a 9% CAGR in book value per share (BVPS) since 2002, the first full year following the formation of Argo Group



Source: SNL Financial.

(1) 5 year growth based on 2013 – 2018.

(2) Represents the median of operating peers, which include Alleghany, American Financial, Arch, Axis, Global Indemnity, Hallmark, Hanover, James River, Markel, Protective, RLI, Selective, and W.R. Berkley.

(3) Includes dividends.

(4) Adjusted operating income excludes net realized investment gains / (losses) and foreign currency exchange losses / (gains) and assumes tax rate of 15%.

(5) When regular dividends and share repurchases were reinstated.

BVPS Growth Driving Long-Term Value

We consider growth in book value per share (which is a product of ROAE and capital management actions), inclusive of cash dividends paid to our shareholders, to be the key financial measure of building shareholder value

Book Value Per Share

Reported Book Value¹

Cumulative Dividends



(1) Book value per common share:

- Adjusted for June 2013, March 2015, June 2016 and March 2018 stock dividends.
- 2008-2011 restated to reflect adoption of ASU 2010-26 (related to accounting for costs associated with acquiring or renewing insurance contracts); 2007 and prior not restated.
- 2006 and prior years adjusted for PXRE merger.
- 2003-2006 includes impact of Series A Mandatory Convertible Preferred on an as-if-converted basis. Preferred stock fully converted into common shares as of Dec. 31, 2007.

Evolution of Argo's Specialty Insurance Platform

Argo has delivered sustainable and increasingly profitable premium growth through both organic channels and a disciplined M&A strategy



\$ in millions.

(1) Commercial Line Direct Premium Written CAGR per SNL Financial.

Operating Growth Momentum

Argo has achieved scale in highly desirable markets that will support continued margin improvement and growth in book value per share

Scale	2002	2006	2019 Q2	'02-Q2'19 Factor
Gross Written Premiums	\$622	\$1,156	\$3,076	4.9x
Net Written Premiums	484	847	1,771	3.7x
Net Earned Premiums	378	813	1,752	4.6x

Financial Strength	2002	2006	2019 Q2	'02-Q2'19 Factor
Total Assets	\$2,209	\$3,722	\$10,167	4.6x
Total Investments	1,181	2,514	4,878	4.1x
Shareholder's Equity	328	848	1,929	5.9x

\$ in millions.
Note: 2019 Q2 premium metrics are TTM.

Innovative and Diverse Operating Platform

Geographic and product line diversification prevents dependency on any single market and provides broad spread of risk and earnings streams

U.S. Operations

Leading Performance With 5-Year Average Combined Ratio of 89.7%⁽¹⁾

- **Leader in selected U.S. specialty commercial lines**
 - 20+ year underwriting history
 - Strong relationships with national and local wholesale brokers
 - Target non-standard risks with focus on small/medium accounts
 - 2013 – 2018 gross written premium growth from \$1.0 billion to \$1.7 billion, combined ratio over the period averaged under 90%
- **Sizable amount of business distributed through retail brokers / agents**
 - Argo Pro – Customer service focused D&O and E&O specialty platform
 - Surety – Top 15 commercial underwriter
 - Trident – Small and medium sized public-sector U.S. entities
 - Rockwood – Designs custom workers comp and other programs for businesses in the mining sector

International Operations

Growing Platform With Robust 5-Year Premium CAGR of 8%⁽¹⁾

- **Well-established multi-class Lloyd's Syndicate platform**
 - A top Lloyd's Syndicate platform by stamp capacity with multi-class expertise
 - Regional offices in Bermuda, Dubai, Singapore and Shanghai
- **Strong Bermuda trading platform**
 - Includes property insurance and reinsurance business
 - Seasoned book of mid / large account professional lines and excess casualty business
- **Strategic growth opportunities**
 - Leveraging Argo's underwriting expertise through local presence in Europe and Brazil
 - A growing portion of the Brazil business being distributed via digital channels through the in-house Protector platform

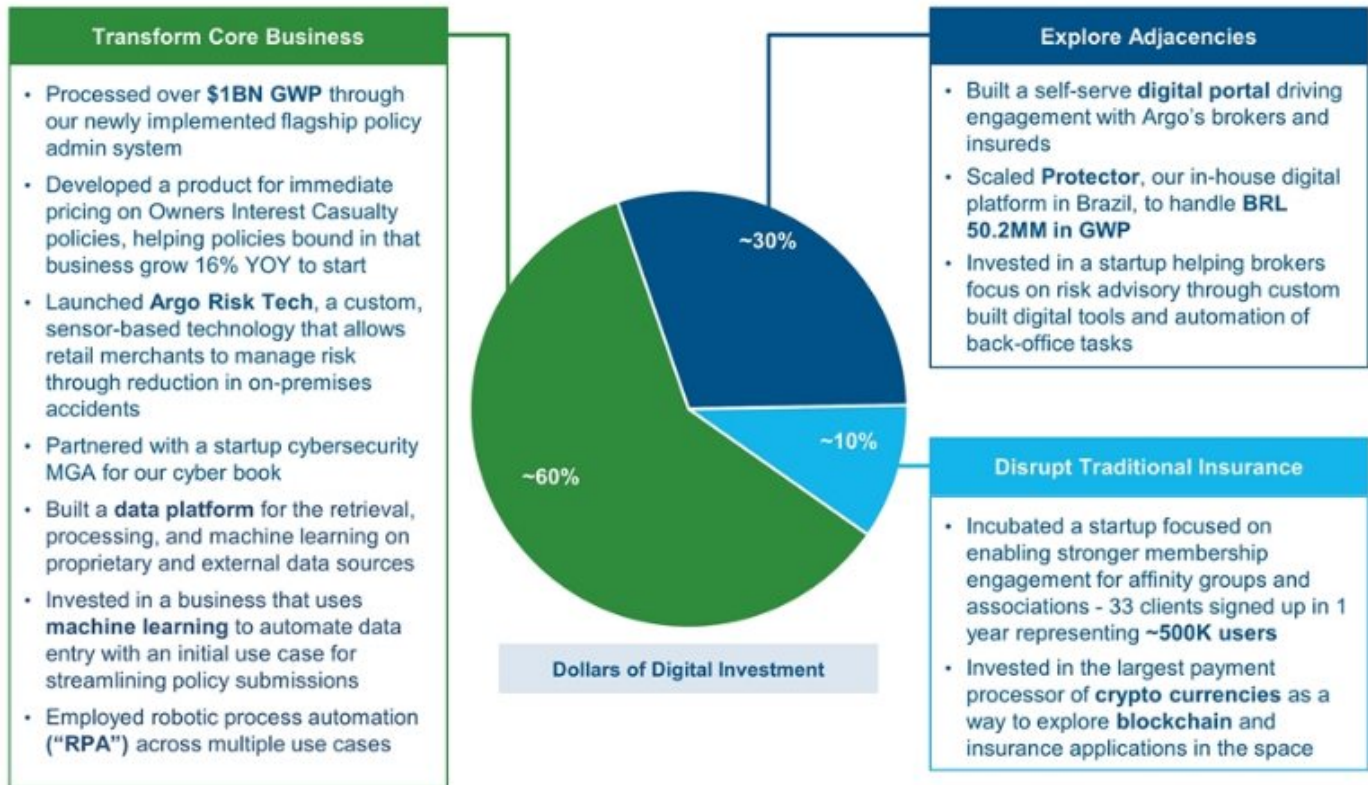


Transforming Argo into a digital-first carrier using a unique thesis-driven and iterative approach

(1) 5 year results based on 2014 – 2018.

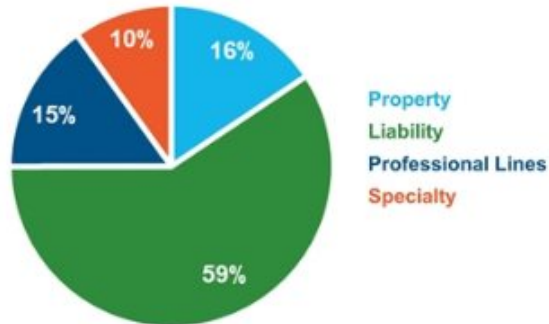
Argo Continues to Drive Its Digital Transformation

Over the last 5 years Argo has achieved a 43% improvement in GWP per employee



U.S. Operations (58% of GWP)

GWP by Business Mix (TTM 6/30/2019)



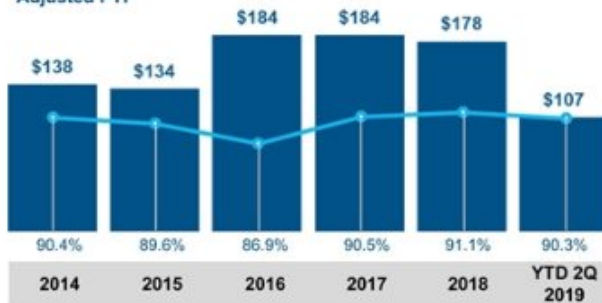
Segment Overview

- **Excess & Surplus Lines** – Non-standard (hard-to-place) risks, with focus on small/medium accounts
- **Argo Pro** – Customer service focused D&O and E&O specialty platform
- **Argo Surety** – Top 15 commercial surety writer
- **Trident** – One of the largest specialty commercial insurance providers for small to middle market public-sector entities in the U.S.
- **Rockwood** – Leading provider of workers compensation and other programs for the mining industry
- **Programs** – Underwrites select specialty programs and provides fronting for state-sponsored funds
- **Argo Insurance** – Designs customized commercial insurance programs for retail grocery stores

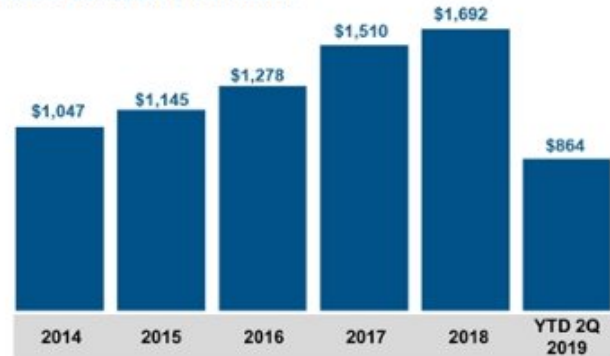
Adjusted PTI⁽¹⁾ & Combined Ratio

Combined Ratio

Adjusted PTI



Gross Written Premium



All data in millions except for ratio calculations. *TTM = trailing twelve months.

(1) Adjusted PTI = Adjusted Pre-Tax Income, which is equal to "Income Before Income Taxes" excluding "Interest Expense" as shown in Argo's 10-Qs and 10-Ks.

International Operations (42% of GWP)

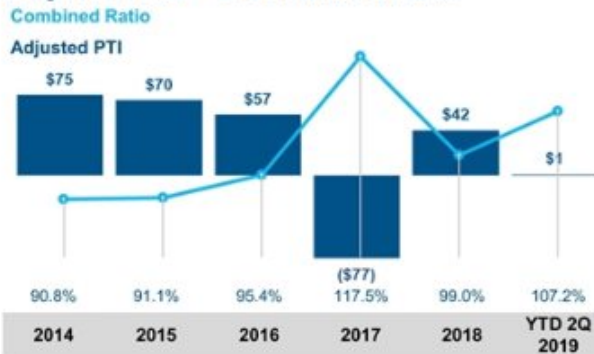
GWP by Business Mix (TTM 6/30/2019)



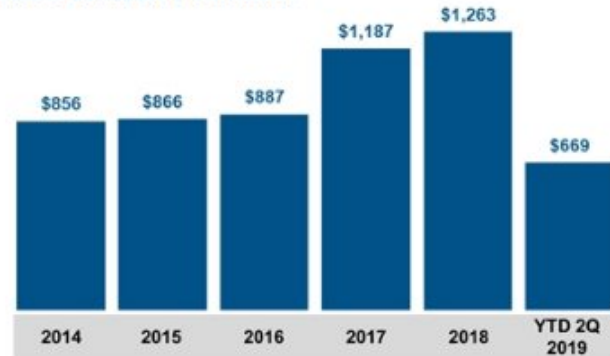
Segment Overview

- Bermuda platform underwrites excess casualty, property and professional lines insurance as well as property reinsurance
 - Property cat, short tail per risk and proportional treaty reinsurance worldwide
 - Excess casualty, professional liability, and property insurance for Fortune 1000 accounts
- Well-established multi-class platform at Lloyd's of London
 - Underwritten through Syndicates 1200 and 1910 (Ariel Re)
 - Top Lloyd's Syndicate by stamp capacity
- Building diversity through international expansion in Brazil and throughout Europe

Adjusted PTI⁽¹⁾ & Combined Ratio



Gross Written Premium

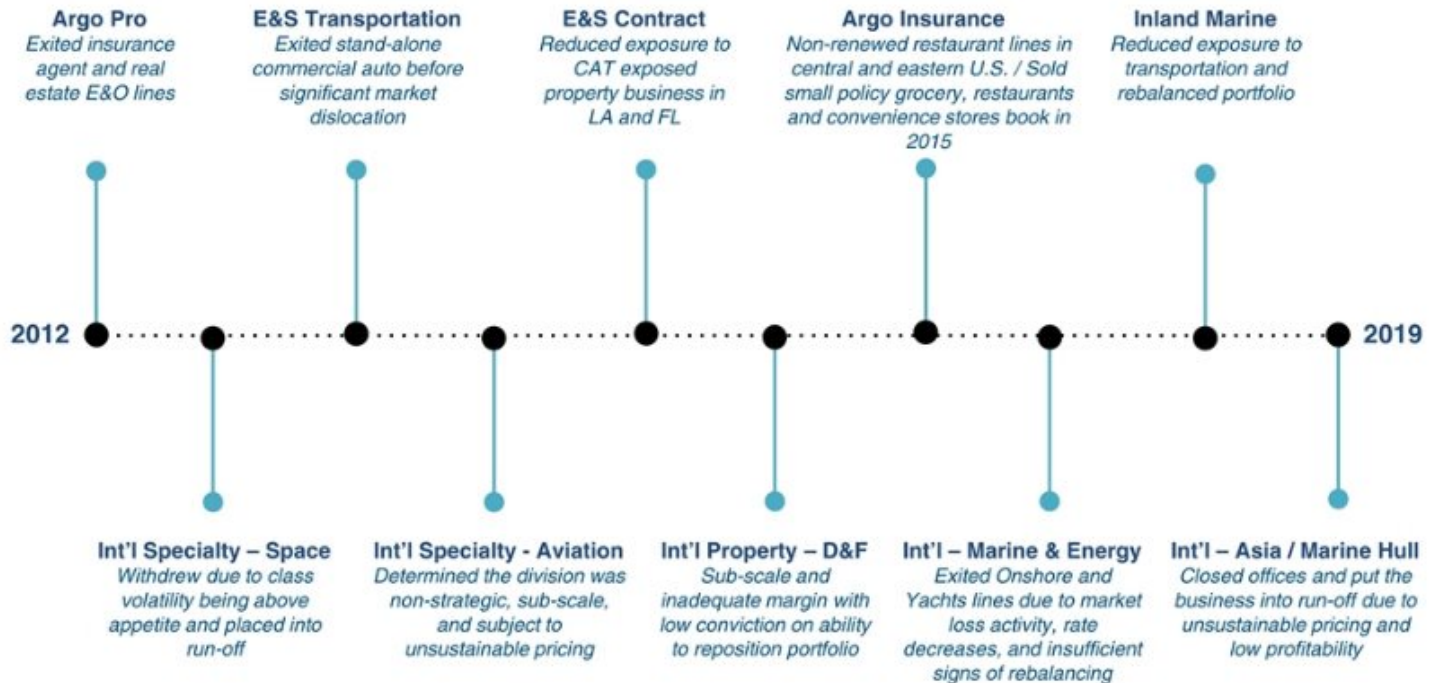


All data in millions except for ratio calculations. *TTM = trailing twelve months.

(1) Adjusted PTI = Adjusted Pre-Tax Income, which is equal to "Income Before Income Taxes" excluding "Interest Expense" as shown in Argo's 10-Qs and 10-Ks.

Historical Portfolio Rationalization

Argo takes thoughtful and strategic action to improve underwriting performance, by reducing exposure or exiting certain product lines when returns are not expected meet our targets



Recent Operating Results

	2017	2018	1H 2018	1H 2019
Gross Written Premiums	\$2,697.2	\$2,955.2	\$1,413.3	\$1,533.7
Earned Premiums	1,572.3	1,731.7	832.4	852.2
Underwriting Income	(113.3)	36.2	32.7	7.9
Adjusted Operating Income ⁽¹⁾	\$5.5	\$111.7	\$86.7	\$68.6
Adjusted Operating Income per Common Share (Diluted)	\$0.16	\$3.22	\$2.00	\$1.68
Net Income	\$50.3	\$63.6	\$66.6	\$120.0
Net Income per Common Share (Diluted)	\$1.42	\$1.83	\$1.92	\$3.45
Loss Ratio	66.8%	60.1%	58.0%	61.3%
Expense Ratio	40.4%	37.8%	38.1%	37.7%
Combined Ratio	107.2%	97.9%	96.1%	99.0%
ROAE	2.8%	3.6%	7.4%	13.1%
Adjusted Operating ROAE	0.3%	6.3%	7.7%	6.3%
Book Value Per Share	\$53.46	\$51.43	\$52.83	\$56.28
BVPS + Dividends Growth	4.7%	-1.8%	-0.2%	10.6%
Shareholders' Equity	\$1,819.7	\$1,746.7	\$1,797.1	\$1,929.0

Note: 2018 net income was negatively impacted by the adoption of the recent accounting rule change.

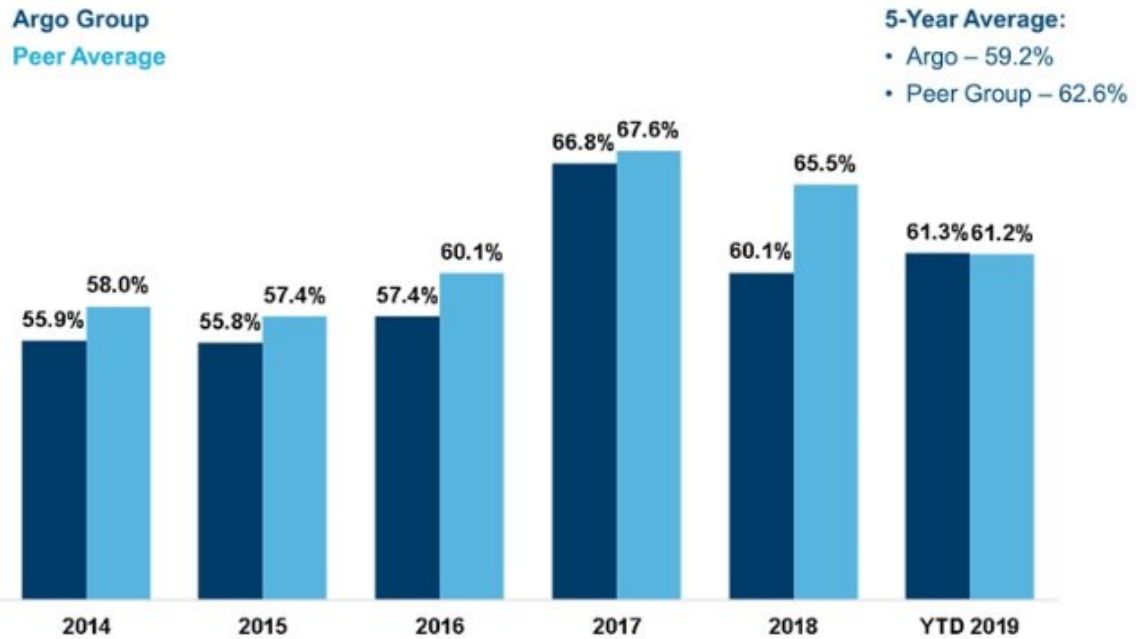
Note: Book value per share adjusted for March 2018 stock dividend.

\$ in millions except for per share data and ratio calculations.

(1) Adjusted operating income calculated using an assumed 20% and 15% tax rate for 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Loss Ratio Performance

Argo's consistent loss ratio outperformance reflects our specialty product focus and disciplined risk selection



Source: SNL Financial

Note: YTD 2019 reflects YTD results through Q2 2019

Peer Group consists of: Allegheny, American Financial, Arch, Axis, Global Indemnity, Hallmark, Hanover, James River, Markel, Protective, RLI, Selective and W.R. Berkley

Argo 2.0 Process and Technology Program – Enables Cost Effective Scale

Argo began a process called Argo 2.0 approximately 5 years ago; investments in technology, process optimization and outsourcing have enabled profitable growth and the financial benefits will accelerate as additional scale is achieved

Gross Written Premiums Non-acquisition Expenses



Key Argo 2.0 Achievements:

- IT infrastructure modernization (2017 - Present)
- IT Infrastructure support outsourced (2017)
- IT application support outsourced (2017)
- Business Process Outsourcing (Started in 2010, Accelerated in 2016)
- Business Process Optimization (2015 - Present)
- Robotics Process Automation (2016 - Present)
- UW System Enhancements (2014 - Present)

\$ in millions.
Note, 1H 2019 non-acquisition expenses exclude \$8.0 million of expenses associated with proxy solicitation and related activities.

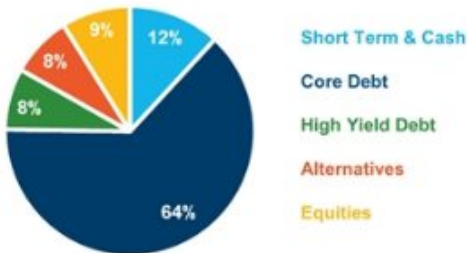
Conservative Total Return Focused Investment Portfolio

Portfolio Characteristics

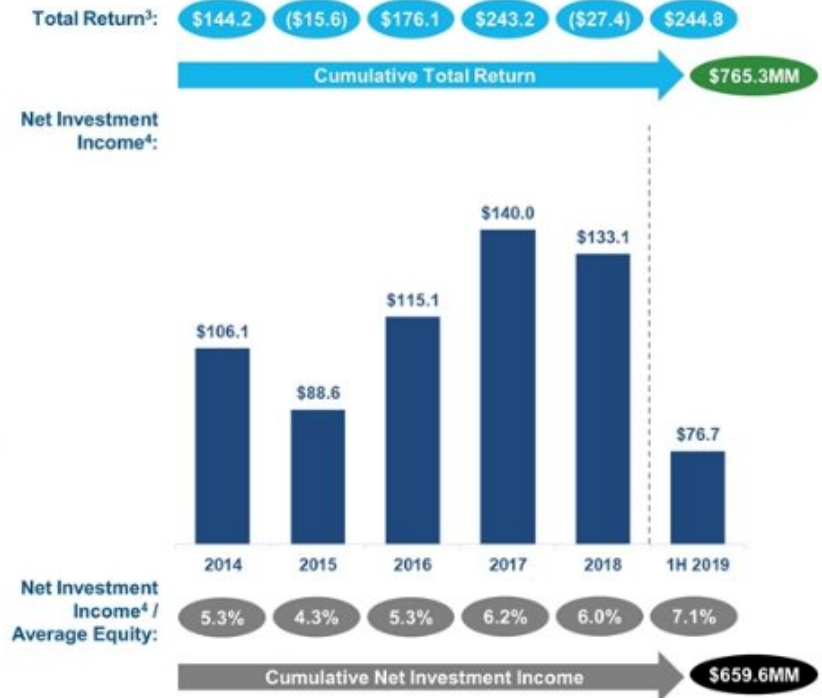
- Duration of 2.6 years¹ – focused on asset-liability management
- Average rating of 'A1/A+'²
- Fixed income book yield of 3.4%²
- Liability-driven investment portfolio
 - Liability-hedging portfolio: ~75% of total assets focused on meeting capital needs of day-to-day insurance business
 - Performance-seeking portfolio: ~25% of total assets focused on diversification and total return

Asset Allocation (2Q 2019)

Total: \$5.1BN



Investment Returns (\$MM)



(1) Duration includes cash & equivalents.

(2) Book yield is pre-tax & includes all fixed maturities.

(3) Total return defined as the sum of net investment income, realized and unrealized gains / (losses) and change in fair value of equities (2018 and 1H 2019 only).

(4) Assumes 20% and 15% tax rate through 2018 and 1H 2019 respectively. 1H 2019 ratio is annualized.

Active Steward of Shareholder Capital

From 12/31/10 to 6/30/19, GAAP book value grew from \$1.6BN to \$1.9BN and \$669 million of capital was returned to shareholders

- While our #1 priority remains deploying capital into the businesses where we see attractive returns, we have a strong track record of returning excess capital to shareholders
- 16% dividend per share CAGR from 2010 to Q2 2019 (approximately 300% increase)

Cumulative Capital Returned to Shareholders

Cash Dividends

Share Repurchases



\$ in millions unless otherwise noted.

Well Positioned to Create Value in 2019 and Beyond

- ✓ Diversified specialty P&C insurance operations focused on niche products
- ✓ Global platform positioned for attractive growth in select markets
- ✓ Improving underwriting profitability, driven by a lower expense ratio
- ✓ Investing in technology to improve operating efficiency and risk selection
- ✓ Conservative total return investment portfolio contributing to book value growth
- ✓ Leveraging third-party capital and reinsurance to manage underwriting volatility
- ✓ Track record of returning excess capital to shareholders