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, 2015

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: 1-15259

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Bermuda	**98-0214719**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	**(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)**
110 Pitts Bay Road **Pembroke HM08** **Bermuda**	**P.O. Box HM 1282** **Hamilton HM FX** **Bermuda**
(Address of principal executive offices)	**(Mailing address)**

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

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

Title of Security	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, par value of $1.00 per share	**NASDAQ Global Select Market**
Guarantee of Argo Group US, Inc. 6.500% Senior Notes due 2042	**NASDAQ Stock Market LLC**

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (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 Website, 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 (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☒

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

Large accelerated filer ☒ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

As of June 30, 2015, the aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates was approximately $1,532.6 million.

As of February 22 , 2016, the Registrant had 27,611,357 shares of common stock outstanding (less treasury shares).

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part III: Excerpts from Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.'s Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 3 , 2016

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
Annual Report on Form 10-K
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

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Forward Looking Statements

Certain statements in this document are "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of that act. Some of the forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as "believes", "expects", "potential", "continued", "may", "will", "should", "seeks", "approximately", "predicts", "intends", "plans", "estimates", "anticipates" or the negative version of those words or other comparable words. The forward-looking statements are based on the current expectations of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. ("Argo Group," "we" or the "Company") and our beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effects on Argo Group. There can be no assurance that actual developments will be those anticipated by Argo Group. Actual results may differ materially as a result of significant risks and uncertainties including but not limited to:

- changes in the pricing environment including those due to the cyclical nature of the insurance and reinsurance industry;
- increased competition;
- the adequacy of our projected loss reserves including:
  - development of claims that varies from that which was expected when loss reserves were established;
  - adverse legal rulings which may impact the liability under insurance and reinsurance contracts beyond that which was anticipated when the reserves were established;
  - development of new theories related to coverage which may increase liabilities under insurance and reinsurance contracts beyond that which were anticipated when the loss reserves were established;
  - reinsurance coverage being other than what was anticipated when the loss reserves were established;
- changes to regulatory and tax conditions and legislation;
- natural and/or man-made disasters, including terrorist acts;
- the inability to secure reinsurance;
- the inability to collect reinsurance recoverables;
- a downgrade in our financial strength ratings;
- changes in interest rates;
- changes in the financial markets that impact investment income and the fair market values of our investments;
- changes in asset valuations;
- failure to execute information technology strategies;
- failure to execute expense reductions;
- inability to successfully execute mergers or acquisitions; and
- other risks detailed in this Form 10-K or that may be detailed in other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

These risks and uncertainties are discussed in greater detail in Item 1A, "Risk Factors." We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements.

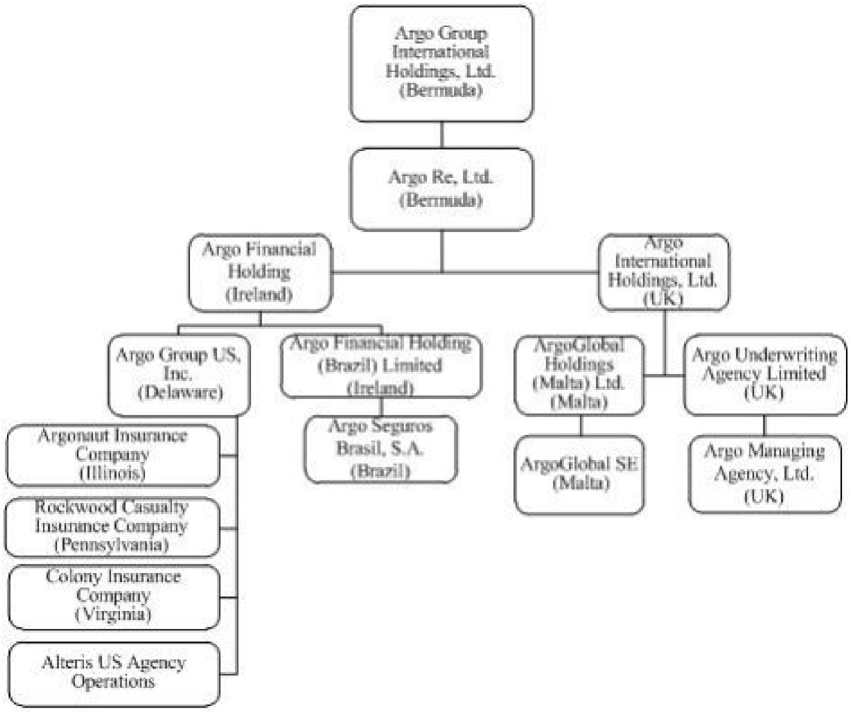
PART I

Item 1. Business

Business Overview

Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. is an international underwriter of specialty insurance and reinsurance products in the property and casualty market. We target niches where we can develop a leadership position and where we believe we will generate superior underwriting profits. Our growth has been achieved both organically through an operating strategy focused on disciplined underwriting and as a result of strategic acquisitions.

Following is a summary organizational chart for Argo Group:



Business Segments and Products

For the year ended December 31, 2015, our operations included four ongoing business segments: Excess and Surplus Lines, Commercial Specialty, International Specialty and Syndicate 1200. In addition to the four main business segments, we have a Run-off Lines segment for certain products we no longer underwrite. For discussion of the operating results of each business segment, please refer to Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and Note 18, "Segment Information," in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Excess and Surplus Lines

The Excess and Surplus Lines segment focuses on U.S. based risks that the standard (admitted) market is unwilling or unable to underwrite. The standard market's limited appetite for such coverage is often driven by the insured's unique risk characteristics, the perils involved, the nature of the business, and/or the insured's loss experience. This business is able to underwrite these risks with more flexible policy terms on an admitted and non-admitted basis. Non-admitted carriers, while approved, are not licensed in the states in which they underwrite and, therefore, are subject to less regulation. By contrast, admitted carriers are licensed by states and are subject to all of the regulations and requirements of those states.

Our Excess and Surplus Lines segment consists of two operating platforms: Colony Specialty and Argo Pro. While focused primarily on non-admitted business, each of these operations may also underwrite certain classes of business on an admitted basis for risks that otherwise meet our underwriting standards.

Colony Specialty underwrites primary and e xcess casualty, property and professional liability coverage for hard-to-place risks and/or distressed businesses that typically fall outside of the standard insurance market's risk appetite. This business is underwritten through six business units: Casual ty, Transportation, Specialty Property, Contract, Environmental and Allied Medical. Through these units, Colony Specialty provides coverage to a broad group of commercial enterprises including contractors, manufacturers, distributors, property owners, reta ilers, restaurants, environmental consultants and contractors and smaller medical facilities within the social services, miscellaneous healthcare and long-term care segments.

Argo Pro is our mid-market professional lines platform and provides a broad portfolio of errors and omissions and management liability products for our wholesale and retail distribution partners. Argo Pro offers customized coverage on a primary and excess basis for risks on both an admitted and non-admitted basis, targeting commercial and select financial institution risks in the middle market and upper middle market segments. Our underwriting focus provides risk management solutions for accountants, architects and engineers, commercial crime, directors and officers, employment practices, fiduciary, lawyers, miscellaneous professionals, technology, privacy and security.

Commercial Specialty

This segment provides property, casualty and surety coverages designed to meet the specialized insurance needs of U.S based businesses within certain well-defined markets. It targets business classes and industries with distinct risk profiles that can benefit from specially designed insurance programs, tailored loss control and expert claims handling. This segment serves its targeted niche markets with a narrowly focused underwriting profile and specialized knowledge of the businesses it serves. Our Commercial Specialty segment consists of the following risk-bearing business units: Argo Insurance, Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company ("Rockwood"), Commercial Programs, Argo Surety, Trident Public Risk Solutions ("Trident") and ARIS Title Insurance Corporation ("ARIS"). In addition, we operate a variety of non-risk-bearing agency and brokerage operations that generate fee income under the Alteris brand. Most of the Alteris businesses operate as managing general agents ("MGA"). MGAs usually have the authority to bind insurance contracts of companies with whom they have appointments. Alteris units have underwriting authority for third-party carriers, as well as for certain Argo Group companies.

Argo Insurance offers insurance and risk management services to Grocery, Restaurants and other Specialty Retail industries. Argo Insurance provides property, liability, workers compensation, automobile and umbrella coverage throughout the United States.

Rockwood is a specialty underwriter of workers compensation for the mining industry. It also underwrites coverage for small commercial businesses including retail operations, light manufacturing, services and restaurants. Approximately 52% of its premiums are written in Pennsylvania. Rockwood underwrites policies on both a large-deductible basis and on a guaranteed-cost basis for smaller commercial accounts. In addition, Rockwood provides general liability and commercial automobile packages, as well as coverage for pollution liability, umbrella liability and surety to support its core clients' other mining and mining-related exposures.

Argo Surety offers surety products to a diverse range of U.S. businesses operating in numerous industries. Argo Surety provides surety solutions to businesses that must satisfy various eligibility conditions in order to conduct commerce, such as licensure requirements required by government statute or regulation, counterparty conditions found in private or public construction projects or satisfactory performance of contracted services. Surety products are commonly grouped into two broad categories referred to as commercial bonds and contract bonds. Commercial bonds are generally required of businesses that guarantee their compliance with regulations and statutes, the payment and performance assurance for various forms of contractual obligations, or the completion of services. Contract bonds are typically third-party performance, payment or maintenance guarantees associated with construction projects. Argo Surety targets multiple industries including construction (general, trade and service contractors), manufacturing, transportation, energy (coal, oil and gas), waste management, industrial equipment, technology, retail, public utilities and healthcare.

Trident provides primary insurance products and risk management solutions for public sector entities such as counties, municipalities, public schools and other local government units and special districts. Its product lines include general liability, automobile liability, automobile physical damage, property, inland marine, crime, public officials' liability, educators' legal liability, employment practices liability, law enforcement liability and workers compensation coverage.

Alteris is a full-service Managing General Agency that provides a broad spectrum of products and services to brokers and clients throughout the United States. Its capabilities include program modeling, underwriting administration, policy-system solutions, claim services, risk consultation, and reinsurance placement. Each of Alteris' specialty practices are supported by an integrated team of underwriting, claims, risk control, actuarial, and administrative support professionals. Targeted industry segments include breweries, wineries, emergency service organizations, forest products, landscape & arborist contractors and water-related entities.

International Specialty

This segment includes business units that underwrite insurance and reinsurance risks worldwide through the broker market, specializing in specialty property catastrophe reinsurance and excess casualty and professional insurance. These businesses operate as Argo Re, the Casualty and Professional Lines unit of Argo Insurance in Bermuda, ArgoGlobal SE in Continental Europe and Argo Seguros Brazil, S.A. (“Argo Seguros”) in Brazil.

Argo Re underwrites short-tail reinsurance lines exposed to property catastrophe risks. Argo Re focuses on writing property catastrophe excess of loss reinsurance for a relatively small number of cedents whose accounts are well known to our underwriters. Argo Re also underwrites property per risk and pro rata reinsurance on a select basis. Reinsurance written by Argo Re covers underlying exposures that are located throughout the world, including the United States. Property catastrophe reinsurance generally covers claims arising from large catastrophic events such as hurricanes, windstorms, hailstorms, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, industrial explosions, freezes, riots, floods and other man-made or natural disasters. In addition to its primary location in Bermuda, Argo Re originates business through other Argo Group affiliates worldwide.

The Casualty and Professional Lines unit of our Argo Insurance division is managed from Bermuda. This unit serves the needs of global clients for coverage in the following lines: general and products liability, directors and officer’s liability, errors and omissions liability and employment practices liability.

ArgoGlobal SE is based in Malta and underwrites professional liability business in Continental Europe.

Argo Seguros is our property and casualty insurance company based in Sao Paolo, Brazil, which is focused on serving the domestic commercial insurance market. Argo Seguros provides a broad range of commercial property, casualty and specialty coverages. Its primary lines of business are cargo and marine, property and engineering and financial lines. It also participates in Brazil’s federal Motor Third-Party Liability insurance pool.

Syndicate 1200

The Syndicate 1200 segment is focused on underwriting worldwide property, specialty and non-U.S. liability insurance through Argo Underwriting Managing Agency, Ltd. on behalf of Lloyd’s Syndicate 1200 within the Lloyd’s of London global franchise. The segment’s business platform is based in London, with offices in Shanghai, Singapore and Dubai. Syndicate 1200 obtains its underwriting capital from a variety of sources and seeks to maintain a balance between capital managed on our behalf and capital managed on behalf of third parties. The sources of the underwriting capital for Syndicate 1200 include our interest, third-party capital participants referred to as trade capital providers and third-party capital attributable to individual members referred to as Names. Trade capital providers participate on a quota share basis or directly through the syndicate. The flexibility in the sources of capital allows us to manage underwriting exposure over the insurance cycle. Our economic participation in the syndicate varies by year of account based on our risk appetite and the level of third-party participation. This segment earns a return on the underwriting capital that is provided by us and fee income earned from the management of third-party capital.

The property division of the Syndicate 1200 segment concentrates mainly on North American commercial properties but is also active in the residential sector, including collateral protection insurance programs for lending institutions. A large portion of business is underwritten through the use of binding authorities. The segment’s liability division underwrites professional indemnity, general liability, medical malpractice, casualty and motor treaty and directors and officers insurance, with emphasis on Canada, Australia and the U.K. The marine and energy division underwrites cargo, upstream and downstream energy, yachts, hull and marine liability insurance. The aerospace division underwrites airline, general aviation, products and operators’ liability and satellite insurance. The specialty division underwrites personal accident, credit & political risks, terrorism and contingency insurance.

Lloyd’s currently operates in over 200 countries and territories, and we currently transact business in approximately 150 of these countries. Lloyd’s business is often written on a syndicated basis across the insurance market. Syndicate 1200 is the lead underwriter on approximately 36% of the business it underwrites.

Run-off Lines

Run-off Lines segment includes outstanding liabilities associated with discontinued lines previously underwritten by our insurance subsidiaries, such as those arising from liability policies dating back to the 1960s, 1970s and into the 1980s; risk management policies written by a business unit that has since been sold to a third party; and other legacy accounts previously written by our reinsurance subsidiaries.

Marketing and Distribution

We provide products and services to well-defined niche markets. We use our capital strength and the Argo Group brands to cross-market the products offered by each of our segments among our operating platforms and divisions. We offer our distribution partners tailored, innovative solutions for managing risk using the full range of products and services we have available.

Excess and Surplus Lines

Colony Specialty distributes its products through a network of appointed wholesale agents and brokers specializing in excess and surplus lines and certain targeted admitted lines. Approximately two-thirds of Colony Specialty's premium volume in 2015 was produced by wholesale brokers who submit business and rely on Colony Specialty to produce quotes and handle policy issuance on such accounts. The remaining one-third of Colony Specialty's premium was produced through a select group of wholesale agents to whom Colony Specialty has delegated limited authority to act on its behalf. These agents are granted authority to underwrite, quote, bind and issue policies in accordance with predetermined guidelines and procedures prescribed by Colony Specialty. Argo Pro distributes its products through both wholesale brokers and retail agents.

Commercial Specialty

Commercial Specialty uses a broad distribution platform to deliver specialty insurance products and services to our policyholders and agents. Argo Insurance products and services are distributed through selected independent agents, brokers, wholesalers and program managers with demonstrated expertise in one or more of its targeted niche markets. Rockwood distributes its product lines through a network of independent retail and wholesale agents. Trident provides its insurance products and related services through licensed retail agents, selected brokers and state program managers. Argo Surety distributes its products through selected surety specialty agents and brokers across the United States. ARIS employs both a direct and partner-distribution strategy, which includes brokers, insurers, market advisors, art lenders, investment funds and auction houses. Alteris generally distributes products underwritten on behalf of third-party carriers and Argo Group through retail agents and selected brokers.

International Specialty

Argo Re obtains substantially all of its reinsurance business through brokers and third-party intermediaries who represent clients in negotiations for the purchase of reinsurance. None of the intermediaries through which Argo Re obtains this business are authorized to bind business on our behalf. Argo Insurance distributes its products through selected brokers. ArgoGlobal SE distributes products through brokers in selected European markets. Argo Seguros distributes products through selected brokers and agents within the Brazilian markets.

Syndicate 1200

Syndicate 1200 obtains insurance and reinsurance business from two main sources: the Lloyd's open market and underwriting agencies with delegated authority. In the Lloyd's open market, brokers approach Syndicate 1200 directly with individual insurance risk opportunities for consideration by our underwriters. Brokers also approach Syndicate 1200 through selected underwriting agencies that are granted limited authority delegated by Syndicate 1200 to make underwriting decisions on individual risks. In general, risks written in the open market are larger than risks written on our behalf by authorized agencies in terms of both exposure and premium.

Competition

We compete in a wide variety of markets against numerous and varied competitors, depending on the nature of the risk and coverage being written. The competition for any one account may range from large international firms to smaller regional companies in the domiciles in which we operate.

To remain competitive, our strategy includes, among other elements: (1) focusing on rate adequacy and underwriting discipline while providing a competitively priced product, (2) leveraging our distribution network by providing product solutions, (3) controlling expenses, (4) maintaining financial strength and issuer credit ratings, (5) providing quality services to agents and policyholders, including rate, quote, bind and issue (RQBI) technologies such as EDGE, Colony Rater and others to make it easy to write business, and (6) exploiting opportunities to acquire suitable books of business.

Excess and Surplus Lines

Competition within the excess and surplus lines marketplace comes from a wide range of carriers. In addition to mature companies that operate nationwide, there is competition from carriers formed in recent years. The Excess and Surplus Lines segment may also compete with national and regional carriers from the standard market willing to underwrite policies on selected accounts on an admitted basis.

Commercial Specialty

Due to the diverse nature of the products offered by the Commercial Specialty segment, competition comes from various sources, but largely from regional companies or regional subsidiaries of national carriers. National carriers tend to compete for larger accounts along all product lines. Competition for our public entity products is primarily from small to medium size commercial insurers as well as from state and regional governmental risk pools.

International Specialty

Argo Re competes with numerous reinsurance and insurance companies. These competitors include independent insurance and reinsurance companies, subsidiaries or affiliates of established worldwide insurance companies, departments of certain commercial insurance companies and underwriting syndicates. Argo Insurance and Argo Seguros compete with international, national and regional insurance companies that offer similar specialty lines of business.

Syndicate 1200

The principal lines of business in this segment are written by numerous other insurance companies and syndicates at Lloyd’s. Competition for any one account may come from other Lloyd’s syndicates, international firms or smaller regional companies.

Ratings

Ratings are an important factor in assessing our competitive position and our ability to meet our ongoing obligations. Ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any security, and they may be revised or withdrawn at any time by the rating agency. Moreover, the ratings of each rating agency should be evaluated independently as the rating methodology and evaluation process may differ. The ratings issued on us or our subsidiaries by any of these agencies are announced publicly and are available on our website and the respective rating agency’s websites. We have two types of ratings: (i) Financial Strength Ratings (“FSR”) and (ii) Debt Ratings or Issuer Credit Ratings (“ICR”).

Financial Strength Ratings reflect the rating agency’s assessment of an insurer’s ability to meet its financial obligations to policyholders. With the exception of Argo Seguros (which is not rated), all of our insurance and reinsurance companies have an FSR of “A” (Excellent) from A.M. Best Company (“A.M. Best”), and our U.S. insurance subsidiaries have an FSR of “A-” (Strong) from Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”), with stable outlook.

Debt Ratings and Issuer Credit Ratings reflect the rating agency’s assessment of a company’s prospects for repaying its debts and can be considered by lenders in connection with the setting of interest rates and terms for a company’s short-term or long-term borrowings. Argo Group US, Inc. has an ICR and senior unsecured debt rating of “BBB-” from S&P. Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. has an ICR and senior unsecured Debt Rating of “bbb” from A.M. Best. Except for ARIS Title and Argo Seguros, all of our insurance and reinsurance companies have an ICR of “a” from A.M. Best.

A.M. Best Financial Strength Ratings range from “A++” (Superior) to “S” (Suspended) and include 16 separate ratings categories. S&P Financial Strength Ratings range from “AAA” (Extremely Strong) to “R” (under regulatory supervision) and include 21 separate ratings categories.

Syndicate 1200, our Lloyd’s syndicate, receives the Lloyd’s market FSR rating of “A” (Excellent) with a positive outlook by A.M. Best and “A+” (Strong) with a stable outlook by S&P.

Regulation

General

The business of insurance and reinsurance and related services is regulated in most countries, although the degree and type of regulation varies from one jurisdiction to another. The principal jurisdictions in which our insurance and reinsurance segments operate are Bermuda, the United States, the European Union ("EU"), the United Kingdom, Brazil and Dubai. We are also regulated by other countries where we do business.

Bermuda

Insurance Company and Insurance Group Supervision and Regulation Scheme

Many of Bermuda's insurance groups subject to supervision are internationally active. Therefore, Bermuda's group supervision framework reflects international developments in this area and principles for insurance group supervision adopted by the International Association of Insurance Supervisors ("IAIS").

Based on the Insurance Act 1978 ("the Act"), as amended from time to time, Bermuda maintains a progressive, risk-based supervisory system for registered (Re)Insurance Companies and for selected (Re)Insurance Groups.

A number of Bermuda registered (re)insurers operate within a group structure, meaning that a local insurer's financial position and risk profile, and its overall prudential position, may be impacted by being part of a group, both positively and negatively. Therefore, the Bermuda Monetary Authority ("BMA") has established a group supervision framework for insurance groups. The BMA conducts its responsibilities and powers as Group Supervisor under the Act, and the supporting legislation, the Insurance (Group Supervision) Rules 2011 and the Insurance (Prudential Standards) (Insurance Groups Solvency Requirement) Rules 2011.

The main objectives of group supervision include (a) policyholder protection, (b) ensuring at least one supervisor has an overall view of the group and its associated risks and (c) addressing any supervisory gaps, the risk of contagion and the impact of any unregulated entities within a group. Therefore, key areas of focus within the group supervision framework are (1) ensuring solvency at group level, (2) monitoring inter-group transactions and (3) assessing corporate governance, risk management and internal control processes of insurance groups. In conducting its function as Group Supervisor, the BMA, among other things, convenes and conducts supervisory colleges with other supervisory authorities that have regulatory oversight of entities within a group and coordinates the gathering and dissemination of relevant or essential information from groups for going concern or emergency situations.

In May 2011, the BMA gave notice that it had determined itself to be the proper group supervisor for us for purposes of its Group Supervision regime, and nominated Argo Re to serve as the designated insurer. Accordingly, we and our subsidiaries are deemed to be an affiliated group supervised by the BMA under applicable rules and regulations in Bermuda.

In 2015, we were notified that the BMA met with the Insurance Departments of the States of Illinois and Virginia in a single supervisory college session related to us. The outcomes of the meeting were shared with us. We were notified that starting in 2016, Argo management will be invited to attend future supervisory college meetings.

The BMA is also responsible for the supervision, regulation and inspection of Bermuda domiciled insurance companies and for the licensing of all insurance companies, brokers, agents and managers doing business in Bermuda. The Act and its supporting legislation, the Insurance (Prudential Standards) (Class 4 and 3B Solvency Requirement), the Insurance (Eligible Capital) Rules, as well as various other policies and guidance notes, including the Insurance Code of Conduct, provide the BMA with substantive licensing and intervention powers.

These rules provide for significant reporting requirements related to us and our consolidated financial condition.

Solvency Regulation Scheme

Bermuda continues to enhance its risk-based regulatory regime, to meet or exceed international standards, including Solvency II ("S II") as enacted by the EU in November 2009. In late November of 2015 a delegated act was adopted by the European Commission recommending full equivalence for Bermuda. That recommendation is now waiting for objection/adoption by the full European Parliament and Council. In that delegated act the European Commission announced its approval of Bermuda's commercial (re)insurance regime as being fully equivalent to the regulatory standards applied under Solvency II. The BMA expects official confirmation of full Solvency II equivalence to be granted in the coming months with retroactive application to January 1 st 2016.

Many of the areas covered under this initiative have been phased in over recent years. The BMA has enhanced its existing regime consisting of three core comp onents: (1) Capital Adequacy, (2) Governance and Risk Management and (3) Disclosure and Reporting. Most of these elements are interconnected and potentially influenced by developments in other international regimes. (Re)insurance companies as well as (re)i nsurance groups are also subject to the Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement ("BSCR"), a risk-based capital system mandated by the above mentioned rules.

Regulation of Argo Re

Classification of Insurers

The Insurance Act distinguishes between special purpose insurers, insurers carrying on long-term business and insurers carrying on general business. There are various classifications of insurers carrying on general business, with Class 4 insurers subject to the highest level of regulation. Argo Re, which is incorporated to carry on general insurance and reinsurance business, is registered as a Class 4 insurer in Bermuda and is regulated as such under the Act. Under the Insurance Act, no distinction is made between insurance and reinsurance business.

Principal Representative and Principal Office

As an insurer, Argo Re is required to maintain a principal office and to appoint and maintain a principal representative in Bermuda. The principal representative is required to give notice to the BMA regarding certain events relating to solvency, significant losses, proposed changes in ownership and other material changes defined in the Insurance Act. In some instances, prior approval may be required for a proposed action that is the subject of a notice.

Controlling Shareholders of an Insurer; Effect on Ownership of Shares in the Company

The definition of a "shareholder controller" is set out in the Insurance Act, but generally refers to a person who holds 10% or more of the shares carrying rights to vote at a shareholders' meeting of the registered insurer or its parent company. More stringent requirements apply at certain thresholds to those holding, directly or indirectly, 10% or more. The BMA also has the power under the Insurance Act, at any time, by written notice, to object to any "controller" (including a shareholder controller) if it appears to the BMA that such person is not a fit and proper person to be such a controller. The BMA may require a shareholder controller to reduce its holding of our common shares and direct, among other things, that voting rights attaching to the common shares shall not be exercisable.

Dividends

Any dividend payments paid to Argo Re become part of the capital and surplus of Argo Re, at which point further upward distribution to Argo Group is subject to Bermuda insurance and solvency regulations as discussed above.

In December of 2015, 2014 and 2013, Argo Re paid a cash dividend to Argo Group of $41.0 million, $40.9 million and $84.5 million, respectively. The proceeds of the dividends were used to repay intercompany balances related primarily to dividend and interest payments and other corporate expenses.

United States

State Insurance Regulation

Argo Group US, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries are subject to the supervision and regulation of the states in which they are domiciled. We currently have twelve insurance companies domiciled in five states (the "U.S. Subsidiaries"). Argo Group US, Inc., as the indirect parent of the U.S. Subsidiaries, is subject to the insurance holding company laws of Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. These laws generally require each of the U.S. Subsidiaries to submit annual holding company registration statements to its respective domestic state insurance department and to furnish annually financial and other information about the operations of the companies within the holding company group, including the filing of an Own Risk and Solvency Assessment Summary Report with the Illinois Director of Insurance, as the lead state regulator. In order to assess the business strategy, financial position, legal and regulatory position, risk exposure, risk management, and governance processes, the Illinois Director of Insurance may participate in a supervisory college with other regulators charged with supervision of an Illinois domestic insurer or its affiliates, including other state, federal, and international regulatory agencie s . Generally, all material transactions among companies in the holding company group to which any of the U.S. Subsidiaries is a party, including sales, loans, reinsurance agreements and service agreements, must be fair and, if material or of a specified category, require prior notice and approval or non-disapproval by the insurance department where the subsidiary is domiciled. Transfers of assets among such affiliated companies, certain dividend payments from insurance subsidiaries and certain material transactions between companies within the holding company group may be subject to prior notice to, or prior appr oval by, state regulatory authorities. Such supervision and regulation is intended to protect our policyholders rather than our shareholders. Matters relating to authorized lines of business, underwriting standards, financial condition standards, licensing of insurers, investment standards, premium levels, policy provisions, the filing of annual and other financial reports prepared on the basis of Statutory Accounting Principles, the filing and form of actuarial reports, dividends and a variety of other fin ancial and non-financial matters are also areas that are regulated and supervised by the state in which each of our U.S. Subsidiaries are domiciled.

Guaranty Associations

Our U.S. Subsidiaries are participants in the statutorily created insolvency guaranty associations in all states where they are licensed carriers. These associations were formed for the purpose of paying unearned premium and loss claims of licensed insolvent insurance companies. The U.S. Subsidiaries are assessed their pro rata share of such claims based upon their written premiums, subject to a maximum annual assessment per line of insurance. Such costs can generally be recovered through surcharges on future premiums. Non-admitted business is neither supported by nor subject to guaranty assessments.

Dividends

All of the U.S. Subsidiaries are subsidiaries of Argo Group US, Inc., meaning that any dividends from the U.S. Subsidiaries are payable in the first instance to Argo Group US, Inc. prior to being passed upward as dividends to Argo Group. The ability of our U.S. Subsidiaries to pay dividends is subject to certain restrictions imposed by the jurisdictions of domicile that regulate our U.S. Subsidiaries and each such jurisdiction's limitations upon the amount of dividends that an insurance company may pay without the approval of its insurance regulator.

In December 2015, Argo Group US paid a $50.0 million dividend to its immediate parent, Argo Financial Holding.

Argo Group US, Inc. may receive dividends from its direct subsidiaries: Argonaut Insurance Company, Colony Insurance Company ("Colony") and Rockwood. For the year ended December 31, 2015, no dividends were declared by Argo Group US, Inc. direct subsidiaries. During 2016, Argonaut Insurance Company may be permitted to pay dividends up to $41.6 million without approval from the Illinois Division of Insurance, based on the application of the Illinois ordinary dividend calculation. Colony may be permitted, during 2016, to pay dividends up to $35.0 million without prior approval from the Virginia Bureau of Insurance, based on the application of Virginia's ordinary dividend calculation. Rockwood may be permitted, during 2016, to pay dividends up to $18.2 million without approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance, based on the application of Pennsylvania's ordinary dividend calculation. Business and regulatory considerations may impact the amount of dividends actually paid, and prior approval of extraordinary dividend payments is required.

State laws require prior notice or regulatory approval of direct or indirect changes in control of an insurer, reinsurer or its holding company, and certain significant inter-corporate transfers of assets within the holding company structure. An investor who acquires or attempts to acquire shares representing or convertible into more than 10% of the voting power of the securities of Argo Group would become subject to at least some of such regulations, would require approval by the five domiciliary regulators of the U.S. subsidiaries prior to acquiring such shares and would be required to file certain notices and reports with the five domiciliary regulators prior to such acquisition.

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act

On November 26, 2002, the President of the United States signed into law the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 ("TRIA"). On January 12, 2015, the President of the United States signed into law the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 ("TRIPRA"), which extends TRIA through December 31, 2020. Under TRIA commercial insurers are required to offer insurance coverage against terrorist incidents and are reimbursed by the federal government for paid claims subject to deductible and retention amounts. TRIA, and its related rules, contain certain definitions, requirements and procedures for insurers filing claims with the Treasury for payment of the Federal share of compensation for insured losses under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program ("TRIP"). TRIP is a temporary federal program that has been extended by TRIA to provide for a transparent system of shared public and private compensation for insured losses resulting from acts of terrorism. The Treasury implements the program. On June 29, 2004, the Treasury issued a final Claims Procedures Rule, effective July 31, 2004, as part of its implementation of Title I of TRIA. TRIA also contains specific provisions designed to manage litigation arising out of, or resulting from, a certified act of terrorism, and on July 28, 2004, the Treasury issued a final Litigation Management Rule for TRIA. The Claims Procedures Rule specifically addresses requirements for Federal payment, submission of an initial notice of insured loss, loss certifications, timing and process for payment, associated recordkeeping requirements, as well as the Treasury's audit and investigation authority. These procedures will apply to all insurers that wish to receive their payment of the Federal share of compensation for insured losses under TRIA.

Additional materials addressing TRIA and TRIP, including Treasury issued interpretive letters, are contained on the Treasury's website.

European Union (EU)

The S II regulatory regime in the EU, imposes new solvency and governance requirements across all 27 EU Member States. The application date of the S II regime is January 1, 2016.

S II, which manifests a significant enhancement of the existing Solvency I framework, is the expanded regulatory regime that will impose economic risk-based solvency requirements across all 27 European Member States and consists of three pillars: (1) Pillar I – quantitative capital requirements, based on a valuation of the entire balance sheet; (2) Pillar II – qualitative regulatory review, which includes governance, internal controls, enterprise risk management and supervisory review process; and (3) Pillar III – market discipline, which is accomplished through reporting of the insurer's financial condition to regulators.

Our Lloyd’s Managing Agency, Argo Managing Agency Limited, which manages Syndicate 1200 at Lloyd’s, and ArgoGlobal SE (Malta) will be required to comply with S II.

United Kingdom

The Financial Services Act

The Financial Services Bill, which received Royal Assent on December 19, 2012, has now become an Act of Parliament and is known as the Financial Services Act (2012). The Act, which came into force from April 1, 2013, provides regulators with comprehensive powers to counter future risks to financial stability and to ensure that consumers are treated fairly.

The legislation reformed the regulatory system, which previously divided responsibility for financial stability between the Treasury, Bank of England and Financial Services Authority (“FSA”). The new system gives the Bank of England macro-prudential responsibility for oversight of the financial system and, through the Prudential Regulation Authority (“PRA”), for day-to-day prudential supervision of financial services firms managing significant balance-sheet risk. The Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”) has been created to protect consumers, promote competition and ensure integrity in markets.

PRA and FCA Regulations

During 2015, the operations of Syndicate 1200 were regulated by the PRA and the FCA, as well as being supervised by Lloyd’s. The PRA, FCA and Lloyd’s have common objectives in ensuring that the Lloyd’s market is appropriately regulated. To minimize duplication, there are arrangements with Lloyd’s for co-operation on supervision and enforcement. Both the PRA and FCA have substantial powers of intervention in relation to the Lloyd’s Managing Agents (such as Argo Managing Agency Limited) that they regulate, including the power to remove their authorization to manage Lloyd’s Syndicates. In addition, each year the PRA requires Lloyd’s to satisfy an annual solvency test that measures whether Lloyd’s has sufficient assets in the aggregate to meet all outstanding liabilities of its members, both current and run-off. If Lloyd’s fails this test, the PRA may require Lloyd’s to cease trading and/or its members to cease or reduce underwriting.

Lloyd’s Regulations and Requirements

The operations of Syndicate 1200 are supervised by Lloyd’s. The Council of Lloyd’s has wide discretionary powers to regulate members’ underwriting at Lloyd’s. The Lloyd’s Franchise Board is responsible for setting risk management and profitability targets for the Lloyd’s market and operates a business planning and monitoring process for all Syndicates, including reviewing and approving the Syndicates’ annual business plans. The Lloyd’s Franchise Board requires annual approval of Syndicate 1200’s business plan, including maximum underwriting capacity, and may require changes to any business plan presented to it or that additional capital be provided to support underwriting. Lloyd’s also imposes various charges and assessments on its members.

The Argo Group predominantly participates in the Lloyd’s Market as a Lloyd’s corporate member on Syndicate 1200 through Argo (No 604) Ltd, a Lloyd’s corporate member. By entering into a membership agreement with Lloyd’s, Argo (No 604) Ltd undertakes to comply with all Lloyd’s by-laws and regulations as well as the provisions of the Lloyd’s Acts and Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 that are applicable to it. The underwriting capacity of a member of Lloyd’s must be supported by providing a deposit (referred to as “Funds at Lloyd’s”) in the form of cash, securities or letters of credit in an amount determined by Lloyd’s. The amount of such deposit is calculated for each member through the completion of an annual capital adequacy exercise. These requirements allow Lloyd’s to evaluate that each member has sufficient assets to meet its underwriting liabilities plus a required solvency margin.

If a member of Lloyd’s is unable to pay its claims to policyholders, such claims may be payable by the Lloyd’s Central Fund. If Lloyd’s determines that the Central Fund needs to be increased, it has the power to assess premium levies on current Lloyd’s members. The Council of 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.

Argo Managing Agency Limited owns three service companies, which produce business to Syndicate 1200 under delegated underwr iting authority arrangements. They are:

- ArgoGlobal (Dubai) Limited

ArgoGlobal (Dubai) Ltd. is authorized as an "Authorized Firm" licensed to operate through Dubai International Financial Centre ("DIFC") as an insurance manager and insurance intermediary by the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). Although not subject to solvency requirements and other regulations that apply to insurance carriers and reinsurers generally in Dubai, ArgoGlobal (Dubai) Ltd. is subject to DFSA's laws and regulations relating to its business activities as an Authorized Firm (Category 4) operating in Dubai. The Company operates from the Lloyd's Dubai platform, which gives Lloyd's an underwriting base in the MENA region. ArgoGlobal (Dubai) Limited therefore receives regulatory oversight from both Lloyd's and the DFSA.

- ArgoGlobal Underwriting Asia Pacific Pte Limited

ArgoGlobal Underwriting Asia Pacific Pte Limited is authorized by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) as a Lloyd's Asia Scheme Service Company. The Company operates from the Lloyd's Singapore platform, which provides Lloyd's with an insurance and reinsurance hub in Singapore writing business from across the region. The Company therefore receives regulatory oversight from both Lloyd's and the MAS.

- Argo Direct Limited

Argo Direct Limited (ADL) is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. ADL has been given permission to provide regulated products and services to commercial and retail customers. The Company therefore receives regulatory oversight from both Lloyd's and the FCA.

Dividends

Dividend payments from Argo Managing Agency Limited to its immediate parent are not restricted by regulatory authority. Dividend payments from Argo Managing Agency Limited will be at the discretion of Argo Managing Agency Limited's Board of Directors and will be subject to the earnings, operations, financial condition, capital and general business requirements of Syndicate 1200. Dividends from a Lloyd's managing agent and a Lloyd's corporate member can be declared and paid provided it has sufficient capital available.

Malta

ArgoGlobal SE operates as a licensed insurer domiciled in Malta under the Malta Business Act (Cap. 403) by the Malta Financial Services Authority ("MFSA"). ArgoGlobal SE is regulated as a domestic insurer by the MFSA and subject generally to Malta's laws and regulations relating to insurance and solvency requirements. ArgoGlobal SE entertains risks throughout the European Member States and European Economic Area, on an "Exercise of Passport Rights-Services/Establishment" basis. The authorized branch office in Zurich can only entertain Swiss domiciled risks. When payable, dividends from ArgoGlobal SE will be subject to applicable laws and regulations in Malta.

Brazil

Argo Seguros is authorized to operate as a licensed insurer domiciled in Brazil by the Superintend ê ncia de Seguros Privados, ("SUSEP") per Ordinance nº 4.316 issued in 2011. Argo Seguros is regulated as a domestic insurer by SUSEP and subject to Brazil's laws and regulations relating to insurance and solvency requirements. When payable, dividends from Argo Seguros will be subject to applicable laws and regulations in Brazil.

In April 2014, Argo Re Ltd. was registered by the SUSEP as an admitted reinsurer in Brazil, and established its representative office, Argo Re Escritório de Representação no Brasil Ltda. ("Argo Re Escritório") in São Paulo, Brazil, per Ordinance nº 5.795. Argo Re Escritorio is focused on serving the domestic commercial reinsurance market. Argo Re Ltd. and Argo Re Escritório are subject to Brazil's laws and regulations relating to business activities as an admitted reinsurer.

Reinsurance

As is common practice within the insurance industry, Argo Group's insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries transfer a portion of the risks insured under their policies by entering into a reinsurance treaty with another insurance or reinsurance company. Purchasing reinsurance protects primary carriers against the frequency and/or severity of losses incurred on the policies they issue, such as in the case of an unusually large individual claim or serious occurrences in which a number of claims on one policy aggregate to produce an extraordinary loss or where a catastrophe generates a large number of serious claims on multiple policies at the same time. Reinsurance does not discharge the issuing primary carrier from its obligation to pay a policyholder for losses insured under its policy.

Rather, the reinsured portion of each loss covered under a reinsurance treaty is ceded to the assu ming reinsurer for reimbursement to the primary carrier. Because this creates a receivable owed by the reinsurer to the primary carrier, there is credit exposure with respect to losses ceded to the extent that any reinsurer is unable or unwilling to meet t he obligations assumed under its reinsurance treaty. The ability to collect on reinsurance is subject to the solvency of the reinsurers, interpretation of contract language and other factors. We are selective in regard to our reinsurers, seeking out those with strong financial strength ratings from A.M. Best or S&P. However, the financial condition of a reinsurer may change over time based on market conditions. We perform credit reviews on our reinsurers, focusing on, among other things, financial condition , stability, trends and commitment to the reinsurance business. In certain instances, we also require deposit of assets in trust, letters of credit or other acceptable collateral to support balances due from certain reinsurers whose financial strength rati ngs fall below a certain level, or who transact business on a non-admitted basis in the case of the U.S. subsidiaries in the state where the reinsured subsidiary is domiciled, or who provide reinsurance only on a collateralized basis.

At December 31, 2015, Argo Group's reinsurance recoverable balance totaled $1,121.1 million, net of an allowance for doubtful accounts of $3.2 million. The following table reflects the credit ratings for our reinsurance recoverable balance at December 31, 2015:

(in millions)	2015	
Ratings per A.M. Best	**Reinsurance Recoverables**	**% of Total**
Reinsurers rated A+ or better	$ 575.3	51.3%
Reinsurers rated A	369.3	32.9%
Reinsurers rated A-	55.0	4.9%
Reinsurers rated below A- or not rated	121.6	10.8%
	$ 1,121.2	100.0%

Nine of the top ten reinsurers, rated A or higher, accounted for $668.3 million, or approximately 60% of the reinsurance recoverable balance as of December 31, 2015. Management has concluded that all balances (net of any allowances for doubtful accounts) are considered recoverable as of December 31, 2015.

Additional information relating to our reinsurance activities is included under Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and Note 3, "Reinsurance" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

Argo Group records reserves for specific claims incurred and reported, as well as reserves for claims incurred but not reported ("IBNR"). The estimates of losses for reported claims are established judgmentally on an individual case basis. Such estimates are based on our particular experience with the type of risk involved and our knowledge of the circumstances surrounding each individual claim. Reserves for reported claims consider our estimate of the ultimate cost to settle the claims, including investigation and defense of the claim, and may be adjusted for differences between costs originally estimated and costs re-estimated or incurred.

Reserves for IBNR claims are based on the estimated ultimate cost of settling claims, including the effects of inflation and other social and economic factors, using past experience adjusted for current trends and any other factors that would modify past experience. We use a variety of statistical and actuarial techniques to analyze current claims costs, including frequency and severity data and prevailing economic, social and legal factors. Reserves established in prior years are adjusted as loss experience develops and new information becomes available. Adjustments to previously estimated reserves are reflected in results in the year in which they are made.

The estimate of reinsurance recoverables related to reported and unreported losses and loss adjustment expenses represent the portion of the gross liabilities that are anticipated to be recovered from reinsurers. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are recognized as assets at the same time as, and in a manner consistent with, the gross losses associated with the reinsurance treaty.

We are subject to claims arising out of catastrophes that may have a significant effect on our business, results of operations and/or financial condition. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including hurricanes, windstorms, earthquakes, hailstorms, explosions, power outages, severe winter weather, fires and man-made events, such as terrorist attacks. The incidence and severity of catastrophes are inherently unpredictable and cannot be reserved for in advance. The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event.

We have discontinued underwriting certain lines of business; however, we are still obligated to pay losses incurred on these lines. Certain lines currently in run-off are characterized by long elapsed periods between the occurrence of a claim and any ultimate payment to resolve the claim. Included in Run-off Lines segment are claims related to asbestos and environmental liabilities arising out of liability policies primarily written in the 1960s, 1970s and into the mid-1980s with a limited number of claims occurring on policies written in the early 1990s. Business formerly written in our Risk Management segment is also classified in the Run-off Lines segme nt. Additional discussion on the Run-off Lines segment can be found under Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations”.

The tables below present a development of loss and loss adjustment expense (“LAE”) reserve liabilities and payments for the years 2005 through 2015. The information presented in Table I is net of the effects of reinsurance. The information presented in Table II includes only amounts related to direct and assumed insurance. Amounts for the predecessor Bermuda reinsurance companies are not included for the years prior to 2007, the year of acquisition. Additionally, amounts for the Syndicate 1200 segment are not included for the years prior to 2008, the year of acquisition.

Table I

Analysis of Losses and Loss Adjustment Expense Development
(Net of Reinsurance)

(in millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reserves for Losses and LAE (1) (2)	$ 1,394.8	$ 1,530.5	$ 1,863.3	$ 2,115.6	$ 2,213.2	$ 2,253.0	$ 2,336.7	$ 2,110.9	$ 2,107.6	$ 2,137.1	$ 2,133.3
Cumulative Amount Paid as of (3)											
1 year later	235.6	286.6	410.9	567.8	577.9	577.9	578.8	554.2	546.4	564.5	
2 years later	435.2	517.8	721.5	965.5	960.2	968.6	974.2	941.2	940.7		
3 years later	600.3	712.7	930.0	1,213.5	1,213.7	1,243.6	1,227.6	1,212.5			
4 years later	734.0	840.9	1,072.0	1,372.3	1,393.7	1,402.2	1,412.5				
5 years later	822.2	926.7	1,169.0	1,487.8	1,491.8	1,530.7					
6 years later	886.8	994.3	1,253.2	1,559.2	1,569.8						
7 years later	943.0	1,055.0	1,309.5	1,618.2							
8 years later	1,022.0	1,102.2	1,359.7								
9 years later	1,063.6	1,149.1									
10 years later	1,107.3										
Reserves Re-estimated as of (4)											
1 year later	1,349.9	1,499.4	1,798.6	2,109.3	2,170.1	2,249.6	2,303.8	2,077.3	2,069.9	2,104.7	
2 years later	1,331.4	1,472.5	1,757.9	2,018.4	2,112.0	2,193.4	2,265.0	2,019.7	2,025.4		
3 years later	1,306.5	1,446.1	1,696.9	1,974.4	2,055.5	2,160.9	2,190.5	1,974.9			
4 years later	1,316.3	1,413.5	1,659.1	1,946.8	2,025.6	2,119.5	2,165.6				
5 years later	1,296.8	1,389.1	1,640.6	1,919.3	2,013.9	2,112.6					
6 years later	1,284.0	1,376.2	1,621.1	1,921.5	2,017.1						
7 years later	1,276.0	1,369.2	1,634.5	1,928.8							
8 years later	1,303.5	1,387.7	1,645.3								
9 years later	1,323.7	1,403.4									
10 years later	1,341.3										
Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy (5)	53.5	127.1	218.0	186.8	196.1	140.4	171.1	136.0	82.2	32.4	
Prior Year Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy	71.1	142.8	228.8	194.1	199.3	133.5	146.2	91.2	37.7	—	
Change in Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy	$ (17.6)	$ (15.7)	$ (10.8)	$ (7.3)	$ (3.2)	$ 6.9	$ 24.9	$ 44.8	$ 44.5	$ 32.4	

(1) Original estimated reserves for losses and LAE, net of reinsurance, as of the balance sheet date for each of the years indicated.

(2) Reserves for losses and LAE for 2012 are net of $192.2 million of reserves ceded under a whole account quota share reinsurance transaction covering the Syndicate 1200 segment for 2009 and prior years of account. The table does not include the impact of this transaction on years prior to 2012.

(3) Cumulative amounts paid, net of reinsurance payments as of the end of successive years related to those reserves.

(4) Re-estimated reserves are calculated by adding cumulative amounts paid subsequent to year-end to the re-estimated unpaid losses and LAE for each year.

(5) Cumulative (deficiency) redundancy, compares the adjusted reserves (3) to the reserves as originally established (1) and shows that the reserves as originally recorded were either inadequate or excessive to cover the estimated cost of claims as of the respective year end.

Table II

Analysis of Losses and Loss Adjustment Expense Development
(Gross Reserves)

(in millions)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reserves for Losses and LAE (1)	$ 1,875.4	$ 2,029.2	$ 2,425.5	$ 2,996.6	$ 3,203.3	$ 3,152.2	$ 3,291.1	$ 3,223.5	$ 3,230.3	$ 3,042.4	$ 3,123.6
Cumulative Amount Paid as of (2)											
1 year later	335.6	358.9	499.5	789.5	834.9	764.7	774.3	739.2	702.5	742.1	
2 years later	578.5	650.4	894.6	1,383.8	1,342.7	1,295.2	1,292.7	1,233.9	1,262.2		
3 years later	784.1	903.7	1,198.9	1,716.4	1,691.6	1,657.6	1,620.3	1,612.6			
4 years later	957.1	1,086.7	1,364.9	1,938.8	1,927.3	1,867.8	1,861.3				
5 years later	1,085.4	1,195.2	1,500.3	2,102.3	2,063.4	2,024.9					
6 years later	1,164.8	1,294.2	1,605.8	2,197.2	2,162.8						
7 years later	1,248.5	1,369.4	1,680.7	2,274.1							
8 years later	1,309.2	1,432.9	1,747.1								
9 years later	1,364.8	1,494.3									
10 years later	1,421.7										
Reserves Re-estimated as of (3)											
1 year later	1,792.0	1,960.1	2,369.6	3,044.0	3,135.0	3,132.1	3,245.6	3,195.8	3,197.7	3,005.0	
2 years later	1,741.6	1,939.8	2,333.4	2,899.6	3,067.4	3,073.1	3,204.1	3,151.6	3,145.8		
3 years later	1,727.4	1,932.3	2,254.1	2,871.9	2,994.4	3,039.7	3,134.4	3,087.9			
4 years later	1,764.7	1,869.9	2,182.7	2,834.6	2,970.5	3,003.5	3,096.3				
5 years later	1,725.1	1,836.5	2,154.2	2,809.0	2,965.1	3,008.3					
6 years later	1,708.4	1,815.7	2,147.7	2,819.9	2,987.2						
7 years later	1,695.8	1,824.4	2,172.0	2,849.8							
8 years later	1,714.4	1,856.6	2,206.8								
9 years later	1,749.1	1,894.0									
10 years later	1,788.8										
Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy (4)	86.6	135.2	218.7	146.8	216.1	143.9	194.8	135.6	84.5	37.4	
Prior Year Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy	126.3	172.6	253.5	176.7	238.2	148.7	156.7	71.9	32.6	—	
Change in Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy	$ (39.7)	$ (37.4)	$ (34.8)	$ (29.9)	$ (22.1)	$ (4.8)	$ 38.1	$ 63.7	$ 51.9	$ 37.4	

(1) Original estimated reserves for losses and LAE, prior to the effects of reinsurance, as of the balance sheet date for each of the years indicated.
(2) Cumulative amounts paid, prior to the effects of reinsurance as of the end of successive years related to those reserves.
(3) Re-estimated reserves are calculated by adding cumulative amounts paid subsequent to year-end to the re-estimated unpaid losses and LAE for each year.
(4) Represents changes of the original estimate of the year indicated (1) and the reserves re-estimated (3) as of the current year-end.

Excluded from the preceding tables are loss reserves of $135.7 million, which were classified as "Liabilities held for sale" as of December 31, 2007.

On December 31, 2012, the Syndicate 1200 segment entered into a whole account quota share contract covering the 2009 and prior years of account. The counterparty was another syndicate within Lloyd's. As a result of this transaction, net reserves for losses and LAE at the end of 2012 were reduced by $192.2 million ceded under this quota share agreement. On December 17, 2013, the Prudential Regulatory Authority approved a Split Reinsurance to Close arrangement whereby the liabilities assumed by the whole account quota share provider could be legally transferred to that quota share provider. On January 18, 2014, this transaction was effected with an inception date of January 1, 2014.

In evaluating the information shown in the above tables certain matters should be taken into account. It should be noted that each amount includes the effects of all changes in amounts for prior periods. In addition, the tables present calendar year data, not accident or policy year development data. The social, economic and legal conditions and other trends which have had an impact on the changes in the estimated liability in the past are not necessarily indicative of the future. Accordingly, readers shoul d consider these factors when extrapolating any conclusions about future results from the information presented in these tables.

Additional information relating to our loss reserve development is included under Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and Note 5, “Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses” in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Investments

Investment Strategy and Guidelines

Our investment portfolio is designed to ensure adequate liquidity for the prompt payment of our obligations, including any potential claims payments. To ensure adequate liquidity for payment of claims, we broadly seek to match the profile of our invested assets with those of our liabilities. We consider liquidity, anticipated duration, and the currency of our liabilities when making investment decisions. To meet our liquidity needs, our core bond portfolio consists primarily of investment grade, fixed-maturity securities. As of December 31, 2015, fixed maturities, along with cash and short-term investments, represented 76.9% of our total investments and cash equivalents.

In an effort to meet business needs and mitigate risks, our investment guidelines provide restrictions on our portfolio’s composition, including issuer limits, sector limits, credit quality limits, portfolio duration, limits on the amount of investments in approved countries and permissible security types. Our investment managers may invest some of the investment portfolio in currencies other than the U.S. dollar based on where our business is underwritten, the currency in which our loss reserves are denominated, regulatory requirements, or our managers’ point of view on a given currency.

The performance of our investment portfolio is subject to a variety of risks, including risks related to general economic conditions, market volatility, interest rate fluctuations, currency fluctuations, liquidity risk and credit and default risk. Investment guideline restrictions have been established in an effort to minimize the effect of these risks but may not always be effective due to factors beyond our control. A significant change in interest rates could result in losses, realized or unrealized, in the value of our investment portfolio. Additionally, with respect to some of our investments, we are subject to prepayment and possibly reinvestment risk. Certain investments in our Capital Appreciation Portfolio, which includes high yield fixed maturity securities, emerging market debt securities, domestic and global equities and other alternative investments are subject to restrictions on sale, transfer and redemption, which may limit our ability to withdraw funds or realize gains on such investments for some period of time after our initial investment. The values of, and returns on, such investments may also be more volatile.

Investment Committee and Investment Managers

The Investment Committee of our Board of Directors has approved an investment policy statement that contains investment guidelines and supervises our investment activity. The Investment Committee regularly monitors our overall investment results, compliance with investment objectives and guidelines and ultimately reports our overall investment results to the Board of Directors.

We currently use multiple professional investment managers to manage our portfolio. A small portion of the investment portfolio is managed internally.

Additional information relating to our investment portfolio is included under Item 7A, “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk”, and Note 2, “Investments”, in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Employees

As of December 31, 2015, we had 1,313 employees. We provide a comprehensive benefits program for substantially all employees, including a 401(k) savings plan and other retirement plans, health, life and disability benefits and a tuition reimbursement program. Management believes our relationships with our employees are good.

Available Information

Our executive offices are located at 110 Pitts Bay Road, Pembroke HM08, Bermuda. The mailing address is P.O. Box HM 1282, Hamilton HM FX, Bermuda. The telephone number is (441) 296-5858. The website address is www.argolimited.com. None of the information contained on our website is part of this report or is incorporated in this report by reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information and documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), which are made available to read and copy at the SEC’s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by contacting the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Reports filed with the

SEC are also made available at www.sec.gov. We make available free of charge on our website our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, interactive data files, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed with or furnished to the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as soon as reasonably practical after we electronically file them with or furnish them to the SEC. Also available on our website, under the Investor Relati ons and Governance links, are copies of our Audit Committee Charter; Human Resources Committee Charter; Investment Committee Charter; Nominating Committee Charter; Risk & Capital Committee Charter; Corporate Governance Guidelines and Terms of Reference; an d Code of Conduct and Business Ethics. Our Code of Conduct and Business Ethics applies to all of our board members, officers, third-party providers and employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounti ng officer. All of these documents will be provided without charge upon written request to the Senior Vice President, Investor Relations at our above address.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

An investment in our common shares involves various risks, including those mentioned below and those that are discussed from time to time in our other periodic filings with the SEC. Investors should carefully consider these risks, along with the other information filed in this report, before making an investment decision regarding our common shares. There may be additional risks of which we are currently unaware or consider immaterial. All of these risks could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and/or value of our common shares.

Enterprise Risk Management and Governance Frameworks

Purpose

The objective of our Enterprise Risk Management and Governance Frameworks are to ensure that:

1. All reasonably foreseeable material risks, including financial and non-financial, on and off-balance sheet and current and contingent exposures are identified;
2. The potential impact of such material risks, including material risks affecting capital requirements and capital management, short-term and long-term liquidity requirements, policyholder obligations and operational strategies and objectives are assessed; and
3. Policies and strategies are developed and maintained to manage, mitigate and report material risks effectively.

Our frameworks for managing enterprise risks are intended to meet standards that are not only consistent with the applicable laws and regulations, but which are commercially reasonable, aligned to international best practices and prudent taking into consideration the interests of our shareholders, policyholders and other counterparties.

Conducting our insurance and reinsurance business operations and related services in a prudent manner requires us to establish sound governance mechanisms, including a sound risk management and internal controls framework. This framework takes into consideration international best practice on enterprise risk management and internal controls and is overseen by our Board of Directors (the “Board”).

The focus of our risk management framework is on “reasonably foreseeable material risks,” meaning those exposures (financial and non-financial, on and off-balance sheet, current and contingent exposures, etc.) that we can identify in advance as having the potential, should they occur, to change the way relevant stakeholders would assess our solvency and/or liquidity position or risk profile in general. Relevant stakeholders include the Board, senior management, policyholders, investors and the various governmental and non-governmental authorities that monitor and regulate our business activities and securities.

Risk Strategy

Our “Risk Strategy” encompasses our Risk Appetite Framework and strategy for addressing and managing material business risks. The Risk Strategy is outlined and implemented through the respective policies, targets, guidelines, requirements and budgets approved by our Board on a periodic basis.

The Risk Appetite Framework brings together the overall approach for articulating and managing risk appetite, risk preferences, risk tolerances and risk limits. It describes how this is organized and what processes and procedures underpin its implementation in practice. The aim to provide clarity over the amount of risk that can be taken ensures accountability for decision-making.

Because we are subject to an increasingly complex environment for regulatory and financial oversight, we consider Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and Compliance as key functions from an operational standpoint. However, maintaining a suitable and effective Risk Strategy is also viewed as a strategic imperative since it allows us to remain competitive through a better understanding of our own risks and overall solvency needs, on both a per risk and an aggregated, enterprise wide basis.

Framework

Our risk management and internal controls framework is designed to enable us to achieve an accurate and timely understanding of (1) the nature, caliber and sensitivity of the material foreseeable risks to which we are exposed, (2) our ability to mitigate or avoid such risks and (3) to the extent that an identified risk falls outside of our Risk Appetite, what course of action is necessary to address such risk consistent with our business plans and risk tolerances.

Key elements of our risk management framework are summarized below:

1. Our risk management framework consists of three lines of defense and begins at the departmental level. Each business department is charged with the task of identifying, assessing, measuring, monitoring, reporting and mitigating risks associated with the department's respective functions and responsibilities. The Chief Risk Officer, who reports on issues of risk management to the Risk & Capital Committee of the Board and leads the second line of defense, plays a key role in risk management by coordinating, facilitating and overseeing the effectiveness and integrity of our risk management activities. This risk management function is also charged with establishing, maintaining and enhancing the methodology and tools used to identify and evaluate risks and, where risks are outside our risk appetite, ensuring that there is an appropriate response applied by the respective risk owner. The Internal Audit department provides a third line of defense by assessing the effectiveness of our risk management processes, practices and internal controls and providing timely feedback and assurance to the Board on the adherence to our risk management framework. The Head of Internal Audit reports on issues related to the internal control framework to the Audit Committee of the Board.

2. We have established policies to identify and address known existing as well as evolving and emerging risks that have the potential to materially impact the adequacy of our financial resources, volatility of our results, expected shareholder returns or our ability to meet our commercial, legal and regulatory obligations.

3. Our risk management framework is:

   - embedded in both the organizational structure and strategic oversight process, supported by appropriate internal control policies and procedures.

     Our Board has Corporate Governance Guidelines and Terms of Reference that reflect local and international developments with regard to Risk and Capital Management. The Risk & Capital Committee of the Board is regularly briefed on emerging issues relevant to our international expansion as well as evolving regulatory developments, especially in Bermuda, the United States and the European Union. The risk management function has responsibility across all of Argo Group for the implementation of the risk management framework.

     Throughout the year, risk related aspects to our business are reviewed and evaluated at all levels. Based on these assessments, appropriate risk management actions have been taken to address and mitigate risks where necessary and to ensure that underwriting and investment activities remain consistent with management's strategic and business plans, as approved by the Board.

     These risk management activities are subsequently monitored, reviewed and, if required, adjusted during the course of regularly scheduled operational meetings, reserve review meetings and other management meetings during the year to assure proper alignment with approved risk appetite and tolerance levels.

   - supported by information systems that capture underwriting, investment and operational data in order to provide relevant, accurate and timely information to the applicable business functions.

     We employ various data sources and risk models and continue to evaluate and fortify our processes and protocols to assure the integrity of such tools.

   - designed to incorporate techniques necessary to identify, measure, respond to, monitor and report, on a continuous basis and on an individual and aggregate level, material foreseeable risks.

     The risk management techniques, especially with regard to our internal economic capital model, are subject to ongoing review and challenge through independent model validation reviews led by the risk management function. This enables us to quantify and qualify risks to improve over time.

   - designed to specify objectives, risk appetite and tolerance levels, as well as appropriate delegation of oversight, reporting and operating responsibilities across all functions.

     Our Risk Appetite Framework defines our ability to take risk through a series of qualitative risk appetite statements that are communicated across the organization, supported by risk tolerances and limits at the Argo Group level as well as on operational segment level. The risk appetite is based on the available capital and liquidity and is reflected in the Board approved business plans. Risk tolerances define boundaries in terms of volatility and provide a term of reference for our operational segments.

Our risk appetite is reflected in our strategic and business planning. In the event of capacity shortages or conflicts with the stipulated limits profile and internal guidelines, fixed escalation and decision-making processes are designed to ensure that business interests and risk management aspects are being surfaced, vetted and r econciled. If necessary, risks are ceded or hedged by means of reinsurance, derivatives or other forms of risk relief.

Risk tolerances and limits encompassed in our Risk Appetite Framework include:

- Primary company-wide portfolio limits, which are based on our overall portfolio and designed to protect our capital and liquidity position and limit the likelihood of an economic loss for the year;
- Secondary, supplementary limits, which serve to limit losses that can arise out of individual risk types or accumulations, such as natural catastrophes and terrorism, and to limit market and credit risks that could materially impact our solvency were they to materialize;
- Other limits, which are designed to protect and preserve our reputation and strategic agility and thus protect our future business potential. These limits include parameters for individual risks that could cause permanent damage to how our customers, clients, shareholders and staff perceive us.

- documented insofar as all significant policies and procedures associated with our risk management framework are in writing and available to the Board, Senior Management and employees.

  Our Corporate Governance, Compliance, Risk Management and Internal Controls Policies are reviewed on at least an annual basis. Recommendations are made to the Board, its Committees and Senior Management for updates and upgrades as required on a timely basis.

We believe that the foregoing risk management framework and oversight activities are structured in a way that enables us to take an active approach to risk management in an ever changing legal, regulatory and business environment. Through the efforts of management, our internal risk management function and the Board, we seek to manage our risk exposures within agreed tolerances, while recognizing that taking appropriate risks enables us to exploit opportunities beneficial to the organization and to our shareholders.

Significant Risks

Our risk management framework covers the following categories of material foreseeable risks consistent with the guidance provided for each:

Insurance Underwriting Risks

Insurance Underwriting risks are defined as the risk of loss, or adverse change in the value of insurance liabilities, due to inadequate pricing and/or reserving practices. These risks may be caused by the fluctuations in timing, frequency and severity of insured events and claim settlements in comparison to the expectations at the time of underwriting.

The insurance and reinsurance business is historically cyclical, and we may experience periods with excess underwriting capacity and unfavorable premium rates; conversely, we may have a shortage of underwriting capacity when premium rates are strong both of which could adversely impact our results.

Historically, insurers and reinsurers have experienced significant fluctuations in operating results due to competition, frequency and severity of catastrophic events, levels of capacity, adverse trends in litigation, regulatory constraints, 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 capital available to the industry that, in turn, may fluctuate in response to changes in rates of return on investments being earned in the insurance and reinsurance industry. As a result, the insurance and reinsurance business historically has been a cyclical industry characterized by periods of intense price competition due to excessive underwriting capacity as well as periods when shortages of capacity increased premium levels. Demand for reinsurance depends on numerous factors, including the frequency and severity of catastrophic events, levels of capacity, introduction of new capital providers, general economic conditions and underwriting results of primary insurers. The supply of reinsurance is related to prevailing prices, recent loss experience and capital levels. All of these factors fluctuate and may contribute to price declines generally in the reinsurance industry.

We cannot predict with certainty whether market conditions will improve, remain constant or deteriorate. Negative market conditions may impair our ability to underwrite insurance and reinsurance at rates that we consider appropriate and commensurate relative to the risk assumed. If we cannot underwrite insurance or reinsurance at appropriate rates, our ability to transact business would be materially and adversely affected. Any of these factors could lead to an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

We operate in a highly competitive environment and no assurance can be given that we will continue to be able to compete effectively in this environment.

We compete with numerous companies that provide property, casualty and specialty lines of insurance and reinsurance and related services. Some of those companies have a larger capital base and are more highly rated than we are. No assurance can be given that we will be able to continue to compete successfully in the insurance and/or reinsurance market. Increased competition in these markets could result in a change in the supply and/or demand for insurance or reinsurance, affect our ability to price our products at risk-adequate rates and retain existing business or underwrite new business on favorable terms. If this increased competition limits our ability to transact business, our operating results could be adversely affected.

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries have exposure to unpredictable and unexpected changes in the claims environment or catastrophes and terrorist acts that can materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

Emerging Claims

Changes in industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other environmental conditions may have an unforeseeable adverse impact on claims and coverage issues. These issues may adversely affect our business, such as by extending coverage beyond the intended scope at the time of underwriting business or increasing the number or size of expected claims. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until sometime after insurance or reinsurance contracts that are affected were issued and hence cannot be appropriately factored into the underwriting decision. As a result, the full extent of liability under such insurance or reinsurance contracts may not be known for many years after these contracts have been issued, and our financial position and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected in such future periods. The effects of these and other unforeseen evolving or emerging claims and coverage issues are inherently difficult to predict.

Catastrophic Losses

We are subject to claims arising out of catastrophes that may have a significant effect on our business, results of operations and/or financial condition. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including tornadoes, hurricanes, windstorms, tsunamis, earthquakes, hailstorms, explosions, power outages, severe winter weather, wildfires and man-made events. The incidence and severity of such randomly occurring catastrophic events are inherently unpredictable. The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured values in the area affected by the event and severity of the event. Insurance companies are generally not permitted to reserve for probable catastrophic events until they occur. Therefore, although we will actively manage our risk exposure to catastrophes through underwriting limits and processes and further mitigate it through the purchase of reinsurance protection and other hedging instruments, an especially severe catastrophe or series of catastrophes could exceed our reinsurance or hedging protection and may have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations and/or financial condition. Also, it is possible that a series of catastrophic events could occur with unusual frequency in a given period which, although individually not severe enough to trigger the reinsurance protection or other hedging instrument, in the aggregate could have a material adverse impact on us.

Further, as a provider of property catastrophe reinsurance coverage in the worldwide marketplace, Argo Re's operating results in any given period will depend to some extent on the number and magnitude of such natural and man-made catastrophes. While Argo Re may, depending on market conditions, purchase catastrophe retrocessional coverage for its own protection, the occurrence of one or more major catastrophes in any given period could nevertheless have a material adverse impact on Argo Re's operating results and/or financial condition. This could, in turn, result in a material adverse impact on Argo Group's business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

Terrorism

We also carry the risk of losses resulting from acts of terrorism. Even if reinsurers are able to exclude coverage for terrorist acts or price that coverage at rates that we consider attractive, direct insurers, like our primary insurance company subsidiaries, might not be able to likewise exclude coverage of terrorist acts because of regulatory constraints. If this occurs, we, in our capacity as a primary insurer, would have a significant gap in our own reinsurance protection and would be exposed to potential losses as a result of any terrorist act. It is impossible to predict the occurrence of such events with statistical certainty and difficult to estimate the amount of loss per occurrence they will generate. If there is a future terrorist attack, the possibility exists that losses resulting from such event could prove to be material to our financial condition and results of operations. Terrorist acts may also cause multiple claims, and there is no assurance that our attempts to limit our liability through contractual policy provisions will be effective.

We deem terrorism peril to include the damage resulting from various terrorist attacks through either conventional weapons or weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear or radioactive explosive devices as well as chemical and biological contaminants. We continue to review our underwriting data in assessing aggregate exposure to this peril. We underwrite against the risk of terrorism with a philosophy of avoidance wherever possible to the extent permitted by applicable law. For both property and casualty exposures, this is accomplished through the use of portfolio tracking tools that identify high risk areas, as well as areas of potential concentration. We estimate the probable maximum loss from each risk as well as for the portfolio in total and factor this analysis into the underwriting and reinsurance buying process. The probable maximum loss is model generated, and s ubject to assumptions that may not be reflective of ultimate losses incurred for a terrorist act.

Additionally, we have identified certain high risk locations and hazardous operations where there is a potential for an explosion or a rapid spread of fire due to a terrorist act. Through modeling, we continue to refine our estimates of the probable maximum loss from such an event and factor this analysis into the underwriting evaluation process and also seek to mitigate this exposure through various policy terms and conditions (where allowed by statute) and through the use of reinsurance, to the extent possible. Our current reinsurance arrangements either exclude terrorism coverage or significantly limit the level of coverage that is provided.

Terrorism exclusions are not permitted in the United States for workers compensation policies under United States federal law or under the laws of any state or jurisdiction in which we operate. When underwriting existing and new workers compensation business, we consider the added potential risk of loss due to terrorist activity, including foreign and domestic, and this may lead us to decline to underwrite or to renew certain business. However, even in lines where terrorism exclusions are permitted, our clients may object to a terrorism exclusion in connection with business that we may still desire to underwrite without an exclusion, some or many of our insurance policies may not include terrorism exclusion. Given the retention limits imposed under the U.S. federal act and that some or many of our policies may not include a terrorism exclusion, future foreign or domestic terrorist attacks may result in losses that have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

On November 26, 2002, the President of the United States signed into law the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (“TRIA”). On January 12, 2015, the President of the United States signed into law the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 (“TRIPRA”), which extends TRIA through December 31, 2020. Under TRIA commercial insurers are required to offer insurance coverage against terrorist incidents and are reimbursed by the federal government for paid claims subject to deductible and retention amounts. TRIA, and its related rules, contain certain definitions, requirements and procedures for insurers filing claims with the Treasury for payment of the Federal share of compensation for insured losses under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program (“TRIP”). TRIP is a temporary federal program that has been extended by TRIA to provide for a transparent system of shared public and private compensation for insured losses resulting from acts of terrorism. The Treasury implements the program. On June 29, 2004, the Treasury issued a final Claims Procedures Rule, effective July 31, 2004, as part of its implementation of Title I of TRIA. TRIA also contains specific provisions designed to manage litigation arising out of, or resulting from, a certified act of terrorism, and on July 28, 2004, the Treasury issued a final Litigation Management Rule for TRIA. The Claims Procedures Rule specifically addresses requirements for Federal payment, submission of an initial notice of insured loss, loss certifications, timing and process for payment, associated recordkeeping requirements, as well as the Treasury’s audit and investigation authority. These procedures will apply to all insurers that wish to receive their payment of the Federal share of compensation for insured losses under TRIA.

Additional materials addressing TRIA and TRIP, including Treasury issued interpretive letters, are contained on the Treasury’s website.

Global climate change may have an adverse effect on our financial results.

Although uncertainty remains as to the nature and effect of future efforts to curb greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions and thereby the mitigation of long-term GHG effects on climate, a broad spectrum of scientific evidence could suggest that man-made production of GHG has had an adverse effect on the global climate. Many sectors, to which we provide insurance coverage, might be affected by climate change. Some examples are coastal management, infrastructure, buildings, water, food and energy supply, land-planning, health and rescue preparedness. Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, remains a challenge and might adversely impact our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.   We also recognize the increasing focus of investors and other stakeholders into the efforts made by the insurance industry to contribute to global resilience against the impact of storm and flood damage impacting population centers. We continue to contribute to industry-wide initiatives in this regard.

Because our business is dependent upon insurance and r einsurance agents and brokers, we are exposed to certain risks arising out of distribution channels that could cause our results to be adversely affected.

We market and distribute some of our insurance products and services through a select group of wholesale agents who have limited quoting and binding authority and who, in turn, sell our insurance products to insureds through retail insurance brokers. These agencies can bind certain risks that meet our pre-established guidelines. If these agents failed to comply with our underwriting guidelines and the terms of their appointment, we could be bound on a particular risk or number of risks that were not anticipated when we developed the insurance products. Such actions could adversely affect our results of operations. Additionally, in any given period, we may derive a significant portion of our business from a limited number of agents and brokers and the loss of any of these relationships could have a significant impact on our ability to market our products and services.

In accordance with industry practice, we may pay amounts owed on claims under our insurance and reinsurance contracts to brokers and/or third-party administrators who in turn remit these amounts to our insureds or reinsureds. Although the law is unsettled and depends upon the facts and circumstances of each particular case, in some jurisdictions in which we conduct business, if an agent or broker fails to remit funds delivered for the payment of claims, we may remain liable to our insured or reinsured ceding insurer for the deficiency. Likewise, in certain jurisdictions, when the insured or reinsured pays the remitting funds to our agent or broker in full, our premiums are considered to have been paid in full, notwithstanding that we may or may not have actually received the premiums from the agent or broker. Consequently, we assume a degree of credit risk associated with certain agents and brokers with whom we transact business.

We may incur income statement charges (or benefits) if the reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses are insufficient (or redundant). Such income statement charges (or benefits) could be material, individually or in the aggregate, to our financial condition and operating results in future periods.

General Loss Reserves

We maintain reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses to cover estimated ultimate unpaid liabilities with respect to reported and unreported claims incurred as of the end of each balance sheet date. Reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability, but instead represent management's best estimates, which take into account various statistical and actuarial projection techniques as well as other influencing factors. These reserve estimates represent management's expectations of what the ultimate settlement and administration of claims will cost based on an assessment of known facts and circumstances, review of historical settlement patterns, estimates of trends in claims severity and frequency, changing legal theories of liability and other factors. Variables in the reserve estimation process can be affected by both internal and external events, such as changes in claims handling procedures, economic inflation, legal precedent and legislative changes. Many of these items are not directly quantifiable, particularly on a prospective basis. Additionally, there may be significant reporting lags between the occurrence of an insured event and the time it is actually reported to the insurer. Reserve estimates are continually reevaluated in a regular ongoing process as historical loss experience develops and additional claims are reported and settled, and consequently, management's estimates may change from time to time. Because the calculation and setting of the reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses is an inherently uncertain process dependent on estimates, our existing reserves may be insufficient or redundant and estimates of ultimate losses and loss adjustment expenses may increase or decrease over time.

Asbestos and Environmental Liability Loss Reserves

We have received asbestos and environmental liability claims arising out of liability coverage primarily written in the 1960s, 1970s and into the mid-1980s. Beginning in 1986, nearly all standard liability policies contained an express exclusion for asbestos and environmental related claims. All standard policies currently being issued by our insurance subsidiaries contain this exclusion. Certain of our specialty units offer coverage for environmental damages on a restrictive, contained basis with fixed limit caps within. In addition to the previously described general uncertainties encountered in estimating reserves, there are significant additional uncertainties in estimating the amount of our potential losses from asbestos and environmental claims. Reserves for asbestos and environmental claims cannot be estimated with traditional loss reserving techniques that rely on historical accident year development factors due to the uncertainties surrounding these types of claims.

Among the uncertainties impacting the estimation of such losses are:

- potentially long waiting periods between exposure and emergence of any bodily injury or property damage;
- difficulty in identifying sources of environmental or asbestos contamination;
- difficulty in properly allocating responsibility and/or liability for environmental or asbestos damage;
- changes in underlying laws and judicial interpretation of those laws;
- potential for an environmental or asbestos claim to involve many insurance providers over many policy periods;

- long reporting delays from insureds to insurance companies;
- historical data concerning asbestos and environmental losses, which is more limited than historical information on other types of claims;
- questions concerning interpretation and application of insurance coverage; and
- uncertainty regarding the number and identity of insureds with potential asbestos or environmental exposure.

Management believes these factors continue to render traditional actuarial methods less effective at estimating reserves for asbestos and environmental losses than reserves on other types of losses. We establish reserves to the extent that, in the judgment of our management, the facts and prevailing law reflect an exposure for us not dissimilar to those results the industry has experienced with regard to asbestos and environmental related claims. We have annually reviewed our loss and loss adjustment expense reserves for our run-off lines of business, including asbestos and environmental claims. The review entails a detailed analysis of our direct and assumed exposure. We will continue to monitor industry trends and our own experience in order to determine the adequacy of our environmental and asbestos reserves. There is no assurance that future adverse development will not occur, and such development may have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Black Lung Disease Loss Reserves

Through workers compensation coverage provided to coal mining operations by our subsidiary Rockwood, we have exposure to claims for black lung disease. Those diagnosed with black lung disease are eligible to receive workers compensation benefits from various U.S. federal and state programs. These programs are continually being reviewed by the governing bodies and may be revised without notice in such a way as to increase our level of exposure.

Because of all of the above, estimates of ultimate losses and loss adjustment expenses may increase in the future. Income statement charges that would result from such increases, if any, cannot now be reasonably estimated. Such charges could be material, individually or in the aggregate, to our future operating results and financial condition. We can provide no assurances such capital will be available. Adjustments to reserves are reflected in the results in the periods in which management’s best estimates are changed.

Additional information relating to our reserves for losses and loss adjustment expense is included under Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and Note 5, “Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses” in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Operational Risk

Operational risk refers to the risk of loss arising from inadequate or failed internal processes, people, systems or the operational impact of external events. This risk encompasses all exposures faced by functions and services rendered in the course of conducting business including, but not limited to, accounting and financial reporting, business continuity, claims management, information technology and data processing, legal and regulatory compliance, outsourcing and reinsurance purchasing.

We may be unable to attract and retain qualified employees and key executives.

We depend on our ability to attract and retain experienced underwriting talent and other skilled employees and seasoned key executives who are knowledgeable about our business. The pool of highly skilled employees available to fill our key positions may fluctuate based on market dynamics specific to our industry and independent of overall economic conditions. As such, higher demand for employees having desired talents within a particular geographic region or business segment in which we operate could lead to increased compensation expectations for existing and prospective personnel, making it difficult for us to recruit and retain key employees and/or maintain labor costs at desired levels. If we are unable to attract and retain such talented management, we may be unable to maintain our current competitive position in the specialized markets in which we operate and be unable to expand our operations into new markets, which could adversely affect our results.

Argo Group and its subsidiary, Argo Re have operations that require highly skilled personnel to work in Bermuda. Given that the pool of Bermudian citizens available to fill certain key positions is limited, we are often required to recruit and retain qualified non-Bermudians to work in Bermuda. Our ability to do so is constrained by Bermuda law, which provides that non-Bermudians are not permitted to engage in any occupation in Bermuda without an approved work permit from the Bermuda Department of Immigration. The Bermuda Department of Immigration will issue a work permit after proper public advertisements and no Bermudian, spouse of a Bermudian or holder of a permanent resident certificate is available who meets the required education, skills and experience for the advertised position. In January 2013, the Bermuda Department of Immigration amended the term of these Standard Work Permits and this potentially impacts Argo’s ability to renew such permits for key staff members. A significant number of our Bermuda based employees are employed pursuant to these work permits granted by The Bermuda Department of Immigration. These individuals are considered key employees. If the Bermuda Department of Immigration changes its policies with regard to work permits, and these key employees had to leave the island as a re sult, our operations could be disrupted and our financial performance could be adversely affected.

Offices in foreign jurisdictions, such as Dubai, Malta, Singapore and Brazil, may have residence and other mandatory requirements that affect the composition of its local boards of directors, executive teams and choice of third-party service providers. Due to the competition for available talent in such jurisdictions, we may not be able to attract and retain personnel as required by our business plans, which could disrupt operations and adversely affect our financial performance.

Our internal controls may fail and have an adverse effect on our business.

We use a number of strategies and processes to mitigate our insurance risk exposure including:

- engaging in vigorous underwriting within certain defined risk parameters and subject to various levels of oversight by experienced underwriting professionals;
- carefully evaluating terms and conditions of our policies;
- focusing on our risk aggregations by geographic zones, industry type, credit exposure and other bases; and
- ceding insurance risk to reinsurance companies.

However, there are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of these strategies and processes. No assurance can be given that a failure to maintain or follow such processes or controls, an unanticipated event or series of such events will not result in loss levels that could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

We continually enhance our operating procedures and internal controls to effectively support our business and comply with our regulatory and financial reporting requirements. As a result of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no system of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control objectives have been or will be met, and that instances of fraud, if any, within the Company have been detected. 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. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of a simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons or by collusion of two or more persons. The design of any system of controls is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may deteriorate. 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. As a result of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatement due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Accordingly, our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the disclosure controls and procedures are met. Our management does not expect that our disclosure controls or our internal controls will prevent all errors or fraud.

We have a risk of dependency upon the stability and security of our information technology systems.

Our business is highly dependent upon the successful and uninterrupted functioning of our computer and data processing systems. The failure of these systems could interrupt our operations, which could result in a material adverse effect on our business results. We rely on these systems to perform accounting, policy administration, actuarial and other modeling functions necessary for underwriting business, as well as to process and make claims and other payments. We retain highly trained staff committed to the development and maintenance of these systems. We maintain and regularly test recovery plans to enable us to restore critical systems with minimal disruption.

In addition, a security breach of our computer systems could disrupt business operations, result in a loss of confidential information, damage our reputation or result in financial liability. Cyber-security threats extend from individual attempts to gain unauthorized access to our information technology systems to coordinated, elaborate and targeted activity. While we employ security measures to prevent, detect and mitigate such threats (including independent and in-house vulnerability assessments, access controls, data encryption, continuous monitoring of our information technology networks and systems, maintenance of backup and protective systems and cyber insurance coverage to minimize post-event financial impact) the infrastructure may be vulnerable to security incidents which could result in the disruption of business operations and the corruption, unavailability ,misappropriation or destruction of critical data and confidential information (both our own and that of third parties). The potential consequences of a material cyber-security incident include reputational damage, litigation with third parties, and remediation costs, which in turn could have a material impact on our results of operation or financial condition.

We may experience issues with outsourcing relationships which might impact our ability to conduct business in a prudent manner and could negatively impact our operations, results and financial condition.

We outsource certain technology and business process functions to third-party providers and may do so increasingly in the future. If we do not effectively develop, implement and monitor our outsourcing relationships, or if third-party providers do not perform as anticipated or if we experience technological or other problems with transition, we may not realize productivity improvements or cost efficiencies and may experience operational difficulties, increased costs and a loss of business that may have an adverse effect upon on our operations or financial condition.

Our outsourcing of certain technology and business process functions to third parties may expose us to enhanced risk related to data security, which could result in adverse monetary, reputational and/or regulatory consequences, which in turn could have an adverse effect on our operations or financial condition.

In addition, our ability to receive services from third-party providers based in different countries might be impacted by political instability, unanticipated regulatory requirements or policies inside or outside of the United States. As a result, our ability to conduct our business might be adversely affected.

Market, Credit, Investment and Liquidity Risk

Market Risk is the risk of loss or adverse change in the financial position due to fluctuations in the level and volatility of market prices of assets, liabilities and financial instruments. This risk may be caused by fluctuations in interest rates, foreign exchange rates or equity, property and securities values.

Credit Risk is the risk of loss or adverse change in the financial position due to fluctuations in the credit standing of issuers of securities, counterparties or any other debtors, including risk of loss arising from an insurer’s inability to collect funds from debtors.

Investment Risk is the uncertainty associated with making an investment that may not yield the expected returns or performance, including the risk that an investment will decline in value, result in a loss or result in liability or other adverse consequences for the investor.

Liquidity Risk is the risk of loss or our inability to realize investments and other assets in order to meet our financial obligations when they fall due or the inability to meet such obligations except at excessive cost.

In an effort to meet business needs and mitigate risks, our investment guidelines provide restrictions on our portfolio’s composition, including issuer limits, sector limits, credit quality limits, portfolio duration, limits on the amount of investments in approved countries and permissible security types. Our investment managers may invest some of the investment portfolio in currencies other than the U.S. dollar based on where our business is underwritten, the currency in which our loss reserves are denominated, regulatory requirements, or our managers’ point of view on a given currency.

The performance of our investment portfolio is subject to a variety of risks, including risks related to general economic conditions, market volatility, interest rate fluctuations, liquidity risk and credit and default risk. Investment guideline restrictions have been established in an effort to minimize the effect of these risks but may not always be effective due to factors beyond our control. A significant change in interest rates could result in losses, realized or unrealized, in the value of our investment portfolio. Additionally, with respect to some of our investments, we are subject to prepayment and possibly reinvestment risk. Certain investments outside our highly rated fixed income portfolio, which includes high yield fixed maturity securities, equities and other alternative investments are subject to restrictions on sale, transfer and redemption, which may limit our ability to withdraw funds or realize gains on such investments for some period of time after our initial investment. The values of, and returns on, such investments may also be more volatile.

A prolonged recession or a period of significant turmoil in the U.S. and international financial markets, could adversely affect our business, liquidity and financial condition and our share price.

U.S. and international financial market disruptions such as the ones experienced in the recent global financial crisis, along with the possibility of a prolonged recession, may potentially affect various aspects of our business, including 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 ability to access and efficiently use internal and external capital resources and our investment performance. Volatility in the U.S. and other securities markets may also adversely affect our share price. Depending on future market conditions, we could incur substantial realized and unrealized losses in future periods, which may have an adverse impact on our results of operations, financial condition, debt and financial strength ratings, insurance subsidiaries’ capital levels and our ability to access capital markets.

Our investment portfolio is subject to significant market and credit risks which could result in an adverse impact on our financial position or results.

We hold a diversified portfolio of investments. These investments are managed in accordance with our investment policy by professional investment management firms and internally, under the direction of our Investment Committee, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer. Although our investment policies stress diversification of risks, conservation of principal and liquidity, our investments are subject to general economic conditions and market risks as well as risks inherent to particular securities.

During an economic downturn, our investment portfolio could be subject to higher risk. The value of our investment portfolio is subject to the risk that certain investments may default or become impaired due to deterioration in the financial condition of one or more issuers of the securities held or due to deterioration in the financial condition of an insurer that guarantees an issuer's payments of such investments. Such defaults and impairments could reduce our net investment income and result in realized investment losses.

As of December 31, 2015, we hold $290.0 million of investments in the energy and mining sector, or 6.9% of our total investment portfolio. Falling oil prices have disrupted the market values for this sector, particularly for oil exploration, production and servicing companies. Additionally, environmental concerns have had an adverse impact on the mining sector. A continued downturn in these sectors could have an adverse impact on our results of operations and financial position.

Our investment portfolio is also subject to increased valuation uncertainties when investment markets are illiquid. The valuation of investments is more subjective when markets are illiquid, thereby increasing the risk that the portion of the investment portfolio that is carried at fair value as reflected in our consolidated financial statements is not reflective of prices at which actual transactions would occur for certain investments.

Additionally, our portfolio of investments in fixed maturity and short-term securities may be adversely affected by changes in inflation and/or interest rates which, in turn, may adversely affect operating results. The fair value and investment income of these assets fluctuate with general economic and market conditions. Generally the fair value of fixed maturity securities decreases as interest rates increase. Some fixed maturity securities have call or prepayment options, which represent possible reinvestment risk in declining rate environments. Other fixed maturity securities such as mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities carry prepayment risk.

We also invest in marketable equity securities. These securities are carried on our balance sheet at fair value and are subject to potential losses and declines in market value. Our invested assets also include investments in limited partnerships, privately held securities and other alternative investments. Such investments entail substantial risks.

Risks for all types of securities are managed through application of the investment policy, which establishes investment parameters that include, but are not limited to, maximum percentages of investment in certain types of securities, minimum levels of credit quality and option-adjusted duration guidelines. There is, however, no guarantee of policy effectiveness.

There can be no assurance that our investment objectives will be achieved, and results may vary substantially over time. In addition, although we seek to employ investment strategies that are not correlated with our insurance and reinsurance exposures, losses in our investment portfolio may occur at the same time as underwriting losses and, therefore, exacerbate such losses' adverse effect on us.

We may be adversely affected by foreign currency fluctuations.

Although our foreign subsidiaries ' functional currency is the U.S. Dollar, with the exception of our Brazilian subsidiary whose functional currency is the Brazilian Real and our Malta subsidiary whose functional currency is the Euro, certain premium receivables and loss reserves include business denominated in currencies other than U.S. Dollars. We are exposed to the possibility of significant claims in currencies other than U.S. Dollars. We may, from time to time, experience losses in the form of increased claims costs or devaluation of assets available for paying claims resulting from fluctuations in these non-U.S. currencies, which could materially and adversely affect our operating results.

We may be adversely affected by changes in economic and political conditions, including inflation and changes in interest rates.

The effects of inflation could cause the cost of claims to rise in the future. Our reserve for losses and LAE includes assumptions about future payments for settlement of claims and claims handling expenses, such as medical treatments and litigation costs. To the extent inflation causes these costs to increase above reserves established for these claims, we will be required to increase our loss reserves with a corresponding reduction in our net income in the period in which the deficiency is identified. Furthermore, if we experience deflation or a lack of inflation going forward and interest rates remain very low or continue to decline, we could experience low portfolio returns because we hold fixed income investments of fairly short duration.

Additionally, our operating results are affected, in part, by the performance of our investment portfolio. Our investment portfolio may be adversely affected by inflation or changes in interest rates. Such adverse effects include the potential for realized and unrealized losses in a rising interest rate environment or the loss of income in an environment of prolonged low interest rates. Suc h effects may be further impacted by decisions made regarding such things as portfolio composition and duration given the prevailing market environment. Interest rates are affected by many factors, including the fiscal and monetary policies of the U.S. and other major economies, inflation, economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. Although we attempt to take measures to manage the risks of investing in changing interest rate environments, we may not be able to mitigate interest rate sensitivity effectively. Despite our mitigation efforts, which include duration targets for asset portfolios, compliance monitoring of these targets and means to reasonably and effectively match asset duration to the duration of our liabilities, fluc tuation in interest rates could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

We face a risk of non-availability/non-collectability of reinsurance, which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

As is common practice within the insurance industry, we transfer a portion of the risks insured under our policies to other companies through the purchase of reinsurance or other, similar risk mitigating hedging instruments. This reinsurance is maintained to protect the insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries against the severity of losses on individual claims, unusually serious occurrences in which a number of claims produce an aggregate extraordinary loss and catastrophic events. Although reinsurance does not discharge our subsidiaries from their primary obligation to pay for losses insured under the policies they issue, reinsurance does make the assuming reinsurer liable to the insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries for the reinsured portion of the risk. A credit exposure exists with respect to ceded losses to the extent that any reinsurer is unable or unwilling to meet the obligations assumed under the reinsurance contracts. The collectability of reinsurance is subject to the solvency of the reinsurers, interpretation and application of contract language and other factors. We are selective in regard to our reinsurers, placing reinsurance with those reinsurers with strong financial strength ratings from A.M. Best, S&P or a combination thereof. Despite strong ratings, the financial condition of a reinsurer may change based on market conditions. In certain instances we also require assets in trust, letters of credit or other acceptable collateral to support balances due, however, there is no certainty that we can collect on these collateral agreements in the event of a reinsurers default. It is not always standard business practice to require security for balances due; therefore, certain balances are not collateralized. A reinsurer’s insolvency or inability to make payments under the terms of a reinsurance contract could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and/or financial condition.

Concentration Risk

Concentration Risk is the risk of exposure to losses associated with inadequate diversification of portfolios of assets or obligations. Concentration risk can arise in both the asset and liability side of the balance sheet as well as in off-balance sheet items and can originate from a series of sources such as natural or man-made catastrophes or unprecedented economic events, individual risk exposure, or a combination of risk exposures such as credit, investment, underwriting and liquidity.

We offer a variety of insurance products across different operational segments and geographic regions. As such, diversification is a key component to our business model. Risk diversification helps us manage our capital allocation by limiting the impact of any single event to our economic, financial and regulatory condition. The degree to which the diversification effect can be realized depends not only on the correlation between risks but also on the level of relative concentration of those risks. Based on these assumptions, our goal is to maintain an appropriately balanced risk profile by avoiding any disproportionately large risks. At the Argo Group level, we identify, measure, manage and monitor pre-defined concentration risk scenarios across the operational segments, including our own outward reinsurance placements. With respect to investments, top-down indicators such as strategic asset allocation thresholds are defined and closely monitored to ensure balanced investment portfolios. Disproportionately large risks that might accumulate and have the potential to produce substantial losses, such as, major natural catastrophic or credit events, are modeled, budgeted and monitored on a standalone basis.

Despite the introduction of identification, modeling and monitoring protocols and in light of the inherent limitations to the tools and applications used, it is possible that an unknown, undetected or underestimated accumulation event could occur and result in a material financial loss.

For more details, see also above Insurance and Market/Credit Risk sections.

Strategic Risk

Strategic Risk means the risk of our inability to implement appropriate business plans and strategies, make decisions, allocate resources or adapt to changes in the business environment. Strategic Risk includes the risk of the current or prospective adverse impact on earnings or capital arising from business decisions, improper execution of decisions or lack of responsiveness to industry changes.

Deterioration of the macroeconomic environment in the U.S., Eurozone and world wide

Economic imbalances and financial market turmoil could result in a widening of credit spreads and volatility in share prices. Certain financial and economic data may deteriorate. These circumstances could lead to a decline in asset value and potentially reduce the demand for insurance due to limited economic growth prospects. The ultimate impact of such conditions on the insurance industry in general, and on our operations in particular, cannot be fully or accurately quantified at this time.

Adverse developments in the broader economy could create significant challenges to the insurance industry. If policy responses in Europe, the U.S. and internationally are not effective in mitigating these conditions, the insurance sector could be adversely affected by the resulting financial and economic environment. The sovereign debt crisis in certain Eurozone countries could also negatively impact insurers' balance sheets, resulting in associated solvency issues. Further, insurance regulators worldwide have responded to the sovereign credit risk, equity risk and current economic cycle by imposing or contemplating new or stricter regulatory measures and increased solvency requirements, all of which could have an adverse effect on us.

The financial crisis has created substantial financial performance challenges associated with the prolonged low interest rate environment. In response, we have adjusted the duration and composition of our asset portfolio. Should these challenges continue for an extended period of time, the risk of achieving adequate returns will be greater and could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and competiveness of our products in the market.

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to risk-based capital and solvency requirements in their respective regulatory domiciles.

A risk-based capital system is designed to measure whether the amount of available capital is adequate to support the inherent specific risks of each insurer. Risk-based regulatory capital is calculated at least annually. Authorities use the risk-based capital formula to identify insurance companies that may be undercapitalized and thus may require further regulatory attention. The formulas prescribe a series of risk measurements to determine a minimum capital amount for an insurance company, based on the profile of the individual company. The ratio of a company's actual policyholder surplus to its minimum capital requirements will determine whether any regulatory action is required based on the respective local thresholds.

Whereas the majority of our operations operate on the basis of 'standard formula' risk-based capital systems, Syndicate 1200 within Lloyd's has secured approval for the use of an Economic Capital Model, known as an Internal Model. This model is used to calculate regulatory capital requirements based on our unique risk profile. The Internal Model has been subject to extensive internal and external scrutiny including independent validation activities. The use of any complex mathematical model however exposures the organization to the risk that these models are not built correctly, contain coding or formulaic errors or rely on unreliable or inadequate data. A clear understanding of the limitations of any such model is required by management to ensure it is used for intended purposes.

As a result of these and other requirements, we may require additional capital in the future that might not be available to us on commercially favorable terms. Our future capital requirements depend on many factors, including our ability to underwrite new business, risk propensity and ability to establish premium rates and accurately set reserves at levels adequate to cover expected losses. To the extent that the funds generated by insurance premiums received and sale proceeds and income from our investment portfolio are insufficient to fund future operating requirements and cover incurred losses and loss expenses, we may need to raise additional funds through financings or curtail our growth and reduce in size. The prolonged effects of the financial market crisis have created uncertainty in the equity and fixed maturity securities markets and have affected our ability, and the ability of others within our industry, to raise additional capital in the public or private markets. Any future financing, if available at all, may be on terms that are not favorable to us and our shareholders. In the case of equity financing, dilution to current shareholdings could result, and the securities issued may have rights, preferences and privileges that are senior or otherwise superior to those of our common shares.

United States

Argo Group's U.S. subsidiaries are subject to the risk-based capital system outlined in the Risk-Based Capital for Insurers Model Act. This Act provides four levels of regulatory activity if the risk-based capital ratio yielded by the calculation falls below specified minimums. At each of four successively lower risk-based capital ratios specified by statute, broader regulatory remedies become available. The four levels are: (i) Company Action Level Event, (ii) Regulatory Action Level Event, (iii) Authorized Control Level Event and (iv) Mandatory Control Level Event. If we fall below the minimum acceptable risk-based capital level, we would be subject to additional regulatory actions.

European Union

S II the enhanced EU regulatory regime providing for a risk-based system for the supervision of European insurance and reinsurance undertakings, was enacted in November 2009. S II imposes new solvency and governance requirements across all 27 European Union

Member States to be implemented through the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Agency ("EIOPA"). The application date of the S II regime is January 1, 2016. Due to ongoing development and implementation efforts relating to S II, the specific future impact of S II on our business, results of operations or financial condition cannot be determined at this time.

United Kingdom

Syndicate 1200 is subject to the risk-based capital requirements administered by the Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA"), and will be subject to S II risk-based capital requirements when implemented as discussed above. Lloyd's has introduced its own implementation plan and requirements for S II with which Syndicate 1200 has to date complied and in the future will be expected to comply. The specific future impact of S II based Lloyd's standards and requirements on Syndicate 1200's business, results of operations or financial condition cannot be determined at this time.

Bermuda

Argo Group and Argo Re

As discussed in the summary of regulatory provisions above relating to Argo Group and Argo Re in Bermuda, Argo Re is subject to the Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement ("BSCR"), a risk-based capital system mandated by the Bermuda Insurance (Prudential Standards) (Class 4 and Class 3B Solvency Requirement) Rules, as amended from time to time. Similarly, Argo Group is subject to the Insurance (Prudential Standards) (Insurance Group Solvency Requirement) Rules 2011 as amended from time to time. The application and methods of calculating the BSCR required by the Bermuda Monetary Authority ("BMA") are subject to change, and the ultimate impact on our solvency position from any future material changes cannot be determined at this time.

Minimum Solvency Margin

Argo Re must ensure that the value of its general business assets exceeds the amount of its general business liabilities by an amount greater than the prescribed minimum solvency margin ("MSM") pertaining to its general business. As a Class 4 insurer, Argo Re is required, with respect to its general business, to maintain a minimum solvency margin equal to the greatest of (A) $100 million, (B) 50% of net premiums written (being gross premiums written less any premiums ceded by Argo Re, but Argo Re may not deduct more than 25% of gross premiums when computing net premiums written) and (C) 15% of net discounted aggregate losses and loss expense provisions and other insurance reserves. Argo Group is supervised by the BMA as an Insurance Group, and must ensure that the value of the Insurance Group's assets exceeds the Insurance Group's liabilities by the aggregate MSM of each qualifying member of the Insurance Group.

Enhanced Capital Requirement

Argo Group, as a BMA supervised Insurance Group, and Argo Re, as a Class 4 insurer, are required to maintain available statutory capital and surplus pertaining to its general business at a level equal to or in excess of its enhanced capital requirement ("ECR"). The ECR is established by reference to either the BSCR model or an approved internal capital model, but must be equal to or exceed the MSM for the insurer. The BSCR is a risk-based capital model which provides a method for determining an insurer's capital requirements (statutory capital and surplus) by taking into account the risk characteristics of different aspects of the insurer's business. The BMA may, subject to compliance with the relevant provisions of the Act, make such adjustments to an insurer's ECR and available statutory capital and surplus requirements as it considers appropriate.

Target Capital Level

Although not a metric specifically defined in the Insurance Act, the BMA has the authority to establish a target capital level ("TCL") for each Class 4 insurer. The TCL is equal to 120% of an insurer's ECR. The purpose of the TCL is to serve as an early warning tool for the BMA. Failure to maintain statutory capital at or above the TCL will likely result in increased regulatory oversight.

Eligible Capital

Effective December 31, 2011, Argo Re was required to disclose the makeup of its capital in accordance with the recently introduced "3-tiered capital system". Corresponding requirements did not exist for Argo Group for the fiscal year ended 2012, but become effective on January 1, 2013.

Under the respective systems applied to Argo Re as a re(insurer) and Argo Group as an Insurance Group supervised by the BMA, all capital instruments at Argo Group and Argo Re will be classified as either basic or ancillary capital, which in turn will be classified into one of three tiers based on their "loss absorbency" characteristics. Highest quality capital will be classified Tier 1 Capital, lesser quality capital will be classified as either Tier 2 Capital or Tier 3 Capital. Under this regime, not less than 80% of Tier 1 Capital and up to 20% of Tier 2 Capital may be used to support the company’s minimum solvency margin for the filing entity’s general business. Thereafter, a minimum of 60% of Tier 1 Capital and a maximum of 15% of Tier 3 Capital may be used to satisfy the filing entity’s EC R. Any combination of Tier 1, 2 or 3 Capital may be used to meet the TCL. As respect to Argo Group, the Insurance (Prudential Standards) (Insurance Group Solvency Requirement) Amendment Rules 2012 provide for a phase-in over a period of six years, starting at 50% of the amount determined and increasing in 10% increments. Where the BMA has previously approved the use of certain instruments for capital purposes, the BMA’s consent must be obtained if such instruments are to remain eligible for use in satisfyin g the minimum margin of solvency pertaining to the filing entity general business and it’s ECR.

Minimum Liquidity Ratio

Argo Re is required to maintain a minimum liquidity ratio for general business equal to the value of its relevant assets at not less than 75% of the amount of its relevant liabilities. Relevant assets include cash and time deposits, quoted investments, unquoted bonds and debentures, first liens on real estate, investment income due and accrued, accounts and premiums receivable and reinsurance balances receivable. The relevant liabilities are total general business insurance reserves and total other liabilities less deferred income tax and sundry liabilities (by interpretation, those not specifically defined).

Restrictions on Dividends and Distributions

Argo Re is prohibited from declaring or paying any dividends during any financial year if it is in breach of its ECR, general business solvency margin or minimum liquidity ratio or if the declaration or payment of such dividends would cause such a breach. If it has failed to meet its minimum margin of solvency or minimum liquidity ratio on the last day of any financial year, Argo Re will be prohibited, without the approval of the BMA, from declaring or paying any dividends during the next financial year. In addition, Argo Re is prohibited from declaring or paying in any financial year dividends of more than 25% of its total statutory capital and surplus (as shown on its previous financial year’s statutory balance sheet) unless it files (at least 7 days before payment of such dividends) with the BMA an affidavit stating that it will continue to meet the required margins.

Argo Group

As discussed in the regulatory section above, Argo Group and its various subsidiaries are considered to be an affiliated group for purposes of the BMA’s Group Supervision regime. This Group Supervision regime stipulates solvency margins, capital requirements and eligible capital requirements at the consolidated Argo Group level that may affect the calculation of similar solvency and capital requirements at the Argo Re level. The methodology for applying these solvency and capital requirements, particularly in regard to the eligibility, and classification of certain capital instruments within an affiliated group, is subject to ongoing refinement and interpretation by the BMA. The applicable rules and regulations for this regime, and the manner in which they will be applied to Argo Group, are subject to change, and it is not possible to predict the ultimate impact of future changes on Argo Group’s operations and financial condition.

We may incur significant additional indebtedness.

We may seek to incur additional indebtedness either through the issuance of public or private debt or through bank or other financing. The funds raised by the incurrence of such additional indebtedness may be used to repay existing indebtedness, including amounts borrowed under our credit facility, outstanding subordinated debt and floating rate loan stock or for our general corporate purposes, including additions to working capital, capital expenditures, investments in subsidiaries or acquisitions.

This additional indebtedness, particularly if not used to repay existing indebtedness, could limit our financial and operating flexibility, including as a result of the need to dedicate a greater portion of our cash flows from operations to interest and principal payments. It may also be more difficult for us to obtain additional financing on favorable terms, if at all, limiting our ability to capitalize on significant business opportunities and making us more vulnerable to economic downturns.

Argo Group is a holding company and if its subsidiaries do not make dividend payments to Argo Group, Argo Group may not be able to pay dividends or other obligations.

Argo Group is a holding company with no significant operations or significant assets other than the share capital of its subsidiaries. Argo group relies primarily on cash dividends from its subsidiaries to pay operating expenses and obligations. It is expected that future distributions from these subsidiaries will be the principal source of funds to meet financial obligations and pay shareholder dividends. The payment of dividends by the insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries is limited under the laws and regulations of the respective domicile. These regulations stipulate the maximum amount of annual dividends or other distributions available to shareholders without prior approval of the relevant regulatory authorities. Thus, cash resources located in subsidiaries may not be readily available to Argo Group in whole or in part to address its liquidity needs.

There c an be no assurance that we and our subsidiaries will not experience a ratings downgrade, which may result in an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results.

Ratings with respect to claims paying ability and financial strength are important factors in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies and will also impact the cost and availability of capital to an insurance company. Ratings by A.M. Best and S&P represent an important consideration in maintaining customer confidence in us and in our ability to market insurance products. Rating organizations regularly analyze the financial performance and condition of insurers.

All of our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries, except for Argo Seguros, have a Financial Strength Rating of "A" (Excellent) (3rd highest rating out of 16 rating classifications) with a stable outlook from A.M Best. In 2015, S&P affirmed our Financial Strength Rating of "A-" (Strong) of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries (other than ARIS Title Insurance Corporation) and our outlook of stable. Argo Group US, Inc. has an Issuer Credit Rating of "BBB-" (Good) with a stable outlook from S&P. Syndicate 1200, our Lloyd's syndicate, receives the Lloyd's market FSR rating of "A" (Excellent) with a positive outlook by A.M. Best and "A+" (Strong) with a stable outlook by S&P.

Our ratings are subject to periodic review by these agencies and the maintenance of those ratings cannot be assured. A significant downgrade in these ratings could adversely affect our competitive position in the insurance industry, make it more difficult for us to market our products, result in a material loss of business as policyholders move to other companies with higher claims-paying and financial strength ratings and may require us to raise additional capital.

Our merger and acquisition strategy may not succeed.

Our strategy for growth may include mergers and acquisitions. This strategy presents risks that could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial performance, including: (i) the diversion of management's attention, (ii) our ability to execute a transaction effectively, including the integration of operations and the retention of employees and (iii) the contingent and latent risks associated with the past operations of and other unanticipated problems arising from a transaction partner. We cannot predict whether we will be able to identify and complete a future transaction on terms favorable to us. We cannot know if we will realize the anticipated benefits of a completed transaction or if there will be substantial unanticipated costs associated with such a transaction.

A future merger or acquisition may result in tax consequences at either or both the shareholder and Argo Group level, potentially dilutive issuances of our equity securities, the incurrence of additional debt and the recognition of potential impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets. Each of these factors could adversely affect our financial position.

Argo Re's inability to provide the necessary collateral could affect Argo Re's ability to offer reinsurance in certain markets.

Argo Re, the Bermuda Class 4 risk bearing entity, is not licensed or admitted as an insurer in any jurisdiction other than Bermuda. Because many jurisdictions do not permit insurance companies to take credit for reinsurance obtained from unlicensed or non-admitted insurers in statutory financial statements unless appropriate security is in place, Argo Re anticipates that its reinsurance clients will typically require it to post a letter of credit or other collateral for incurred losses. If Argo Re is unable to arrange for security on commercially reasonable terms, Argo Re could be limited in its ability to underwrite business for certain of its clients.

Reputational Risk

Reputational Risk is the risk of potential loss through a deterioration of our reputation or standing due to a negative perception of our image among customers, counterparties, shareholders or supervisory authorities, and includes risk of adverse publicity regarding our business practices and associations.

We may be adversely affected by misconduct of our personnel or failure to identify transactions that are in violation of local and international trade sanctions.

We maintain strong oversight and control over our internal Group-wide Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Conduct and Business Ethics, and we maintain a continuous education and training program and monitor compliance on an ongoing basis. However, there can be no ultimate assurance that these measures will be sufficient in all instances to prevent an undetected violation of internal or external rules of conduct, which might lead to a financial loss and/or reputational damage.

Legal, Regulatory and Litigation Risks

Legal and Regulatory Risk means the risk arising from our (a) failure to comply with statutory or regulatory obligations; (b) failure to comply with our bye-laws; or (c) failure to comply with any contractual agreement.

Litigation Risk means the risk that acts or omissions or other business activity of Argo Group and our key functionaries and employees could result in legal proceedings to which we are a party, the uncertainty surrounding the outcome of such legal proceedi ngs and the risk of an adverse impact on us resulting from such legal proceedings.

Litigation and legal proceedings against us could have an adverse effect on our financial condition.

Our subsidiaries are parties to legal actions incidental to their business. Adverse outcomes could materially affect our financial condition or results of operations.

Regulatory constraints may restrict our ability to operate our business.

General Regulatory Constraints

Restrictions on Ownership

Argo Group's ownership of U.S. subsidiaries can, under applicable state insurance company laws and regulations, delay or impede a change of control of Argo Group. Under applicable insurance regulations, any proposed purchase of 10% or more of Argo Group's voting securities would require the prior approval of the relevant insurance regulatory authorities.

Except as provided below, shareholders have one vote for each common share held by them and are entitled to vote at all meetings of shareholders. However, for so long as the shares of a shareholder are treated as "controlled shares" (as determined under section 958 of the Internal Revenue Code) of any U.S. Person (that owns shares directly or indirectly through non-U.S. entities) and such controlled shares constitute 9.5% or more of the votes conferred by our issued shares, the voting rights with respect to the controlled shares of such U.S. Person, which we refer to as a 9.5% U.S. Shareholder, will be limited, in the aggregate, to a voting power of less than 9.5% under a formula specified in our bye-laws. The formula is applied repeatedly until the voting power of all 9.5% U.S. Shareholders has been reduced to less than 9.5%. In addition, our Board may limit a shareholder's voting rights where it deems it appropriate to do so to (i) avoid the existence of any 9.5% U.S. Shareholder and (ii) avoid certain material adverse tax, legal or regulatory consequences to Argo Group, any of its subsidiaries or any direct or indirect shareholder or its affiliates. "Controlled shares" include, among other things, all shares of Argo Group that such U.S. Person is deemed to own directly, indirectly or constructively (within the meaning of section 958 of the Internal Revenue Code).

Under these provisions, certain shareholders may have their voting rights limited, while other shareholders may have voting rights in excess of one vote per share. Moreover, these provisions could have the effect of reducing the votes of certain shareholders who would not otherwise be subject to the 9.5% limitation by virtue of their direct share ownership.

Regulation of Subsidiaries

General

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries and insurance-related services subsidiaries may not be able to obtain or maintain necessary licenses, permits or authorizations, or may be able to do so only at significant cost. In addition, we may not be able to comply with, or obtain appropriate exemptions from the wide variety of laws and regulations applicable to insurance or reinsurance companies or insurance-related services companies or holding companies. Failure to comply with or to obtain appropriate authorizations and/or exemptions under any applicable laws could result in restrictions on our ability to do business or certain activities that are regulated in one or more of the jurisdictions and could subject us to fines and other sanctions, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd

Argo Group is supervised by the BMA as an Insurance Group, and as such, is subject to specific laws, rules and regulations promulgated by the Bermudian authorities according to the Insurance Act. Changes in Bermuda's statutes, regulations and policies could result in restrictions on our ability to pursue our business plans, strategic objectives, execute our investment strategy and fulfill other shareholders' obligations.

Argo Group's U.S. Subsidiaries

Our U.S. insurance subsidiaries are subject to extensive regulation, which may reduce our profitability or inhibit our growth. If we fail to comply with these regulations, we may be subject to penalties, including fines and suspensions, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. Finally, changes in the level of regulation of the insurance industry or changes in laws or regulations themselves or interpretations by regulatory authorities could adversely affect our ability to pursue our business plan and operate our U.S. insurance subsidiaries.

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to the supervision and regulation of ea ch of the states in which they are domiciled and do business. Such supervision and regulation is designed to protect our policyholders rather than our shareholders. These regulations are generally administered by a department of insurance in each state and relate to various aspects of our business. State insurance departments also conduct periodic examinations of the affairs of insurance and reinsurance companies and require the filing of annual and other reports relating to financial condition, holding com pany issues and other matters. These regulatory requirements may adversely affect or inhibit our ability to achieve some or all of our business objectives.

In addition, regulatory authorities have relatively broad discretion to deny, suspend or revoke licenses for various reasons, including the violation of regulations. If we do not have the requisite licenses and approvals or do not comply with applicable regulatory requirements, insurance regulatory authorities could preclude or temporarily suspend us from carrying on some or all of our activities or otherwise penalize us. This could adversely affect our ability to operate our business.

From time to time, various laws and regulations are proposed for application to the U.S. insurance industry, some of which could adversely affect the results of reinsurers and insurers. Among the proposals that have been considered are those that would establish a federal system of regulation in addition to or in lieu of a state-based system of regulation and repeal the McCarran-Ferguson Act and/or measures under the Dodd-Frank Act that have established the Federal Insurance Office. Additionally, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC") has undertaken the Solvency Modernization Initiative ("SMI"), the primary focus of which is the review of insurer solvency regulations throughout the U.S. and the development of long-term solvency modernization objectives. Included within NAIC's scope of review for SMI purposes, is the U.S. insurer solvency framework, group solvency issues, capital requirements, international accounting and regulatory standards, reinsurance and corporate governance. We are unable to predict the potential effect, if any, such legislative or regulatory developments may have on our future operations or financial condition.

Argo Group's Bermuda Subsidiary

Argo Re is registered as a Class 4 Bermuda insurance company and is subject to regulation and supervision in Bermuda by the BMA. Changes in Bermuda insurance statutes, regulations and policies could result in restrictions on Argo Re's ability to pursue its business plans, issue reinsurance policies, distribute funds and execute its investment strategy.

U.K. Financial Services Authority, Prudential Regulation Authority and Financial Conduct Authority Regulations

Since 2014 regulatory supervision over Syndicate 1200 has been conducted by the PRA and FCA. The operations of Syndicate 1200 continued to be supervised by Lloyd's. The PRA, FCA and Lloyd's have common objectives in ensuring that the Lloyd's market is appropriately regulated. To minimize duplication, there are arrangements with Lloyd's for co-operation on supervision and enforcement. Both the PRA and FCA have substantial powers of intervention in relation to the Lloyd's Managing Agents (such as Argo Managing Agency Limited) that they regulate, including the power to remove their authorization to manage Lloyd's Syndicates. In addition, each year the PRA requires Lloyd's to satisfy an annual solvency test that measures whether Lloyd's has sufficient assets in the aggregate to meet all outstanding liabilities of its members, both current and run-off. If Lloyd's fails this test, the PRA may require Lloyd's to cease trading and/or its members to cease or reduce underwriting. Future regulatory changes or rulings by the PRA and/or FCA could interfere with the business strategy or financial assumptions of Syndicate 1200, possibly resulting in an adverse effect on the financial condition and operating results of Syndicate 1200.

Lloyd's Regulations and Requirements

The operations of Syndicate 1200 are supervised by Lloyd's. The Lloyd's Franchise Board requires annual approval of the Syndicate 1200 business plan, including maximum underwriting capacity, and may require changes to any business plan presented to it or additional capital to be provided to support underwriting. Lloyd's also imposes various charges and assessments on its member companies. If Lloyd's were to require material changes in the Syndicate 1200 business plans, or if charges and assessments payable by Syndicate 1200 to Lloyd's were to increase significantly, these events could have an adverse effect on the operations and financial results of Syndicate 1200. In addition, no assurances can be given as to how much business Lloyd's will permit Syndicate 1200 to underwrite in 2016 and subsequent years nor the viability and cost of the capital structure we may use as a substitute for the external capital and reinsurance used by Syndicate 1200 in 2015 and prior underwriting years.

The financial security of the Lloyd's market is regularly assessed by three independent rating agencies (A.M. Best, S&P and Fitch Ratings). A satisfactory credit rating issued by an accredited rating agency is necessary for Lloyd's Syndicates to be able to trade in certain classes of business or certain jurisdictions at current levels. Syndicate 1200 would be adversely affected if Lloyd's current ratings were downgraded.

Other Applicable Laws

Lloyd’s worldwide insurance and reinsurance business is subject to various regulations, laws, treaties and other applicable policies of the EU, as well as each nation, state and locality in which it operates. Material changes in governmental requirements and laws could have an adverse effect on Lloyd’s and its member companies, including Syndicate 1200.

Malta Financial Services Authority (“MFSA”)

ArgoGlobal SE is authorized by the MFSA to carry on the business of insurance under the Business Act (Cap. 403). In addition, ArgoGlobal SE is subject to regulation by the EU and its branch office in Switzerland is subject to regulation by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA. Changes in the applicable laws, regulations and supplementing rules could interfere with ArgoGlobal SE’s business strategy or financial assumptions, possibly resulting in an adverse effect on ArgoGlobal SE’s financial condition and operating results.

Brazil’s Superintend ê ncia de Seguros Privados, Superintendence of Private Insurance, (“SUSEP”)

Argo Seguros is authorized to operate as a licensed insurer domiciled in Brazil by the Superintend ệ ncia de Seguros Privados, (“SUSEP”) per Ordinance nº 4.316 issued in 2011. Brazil’s insurance regulatory regime contains provisions which restrict the amount of reinsurance a domestic insurer may place with reinsurers outside of Brazil and places limits on the amount of reinsurance that may be placed with affiliates. Such restrictions constrain the size and category of risks that Argo Seguros can entertain and require that Argo Seguros be capitalized at a level that is comparatively higher than in other jurisdictions in which Argo Group has subsidiaries. Failure to manage the impact of such restrictions within its business plan, as well as changes in the applicable laws, rules and supplementing resolutions, could result in restrictions on Argo Seguros’s ability to pursue its mandate.

Argo Re Ltd. Is registered by the SUSEP as an admitted reinsurer under the applicable laws and regulations of Brazil and is authorized to carry on such business through its representative office, Argo Re Escritório de Representação no Brasil Ltda. (“Argo Re Escritório”) in São Paulo, Brazil, per Ordinance nº 5.795. Changes in the applicable laws and regulations could result in restrictions on Argo Re to conduct business as an admitted reinsurer in Brazil.

Dubai Financial Services Authority (“DFSA”)

Argo Re (DIFC) Ltd. is licensed to operate as an Authorized Firm (Category 4) to carry on financial services in the area of “insurance management” and “insurance intermediation.” Changes in the applicable laws and regulations could result in restrictions on Argo Re (DIFC), Ltd.’s ability to pursue its business strategy.

Special Selected Risk Factors

An impairment in the carrying value of goodwill and intangible assets could negatively impact our consolidated results of operations and shareholders’ equity.

Goodwill and intangible assets are originally recorded at fair value. Goodwill is not amortized while certain intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives or have indefinite useful lives. Goodwill and intangible assets are reviewed for impairment at least annually or more frequently if indicators are present. Management, in evaluating the recoverability of such assets, relies on estimates and assumptions related to margin, growth rates, discount rates and other data. There are inherent uncertainties related to these factors and management’s judgment in applying these factors. Goodwill and intangible asset impairment charges can result from declines in operating results, divestitures or sustained market capitalization declines and other factors. Impairment charges could materially affect our financial results in the period in which they are recognized. As of December 31, 2015, goodwill and intangible assets represented approximately 13.6% of shareholders’ equity. We continue to monitor relevant internal and external factors and their potential impact on the fair value of our reporting segments, and if required, we will update our impairment analysis.

Some aspects of our corporate structure and applicable insurance regulations may discourage or impede the sale of the Company, tender offers or other mechanisms of control.

Restrictions in Bye-Laws on Stock Transfers

Our bye-laws generally permit transfers of our common shares unless the Board determines a transfer may result in a non-de minimus adverse tax, legal or regulatory consequence to us, any of our subsidiaries or any direct or indirect shareholder of Argo Group or its affiliates. We may refuse to register on our share transfer records, any transfer that does not comply with these share transfer restrictions. A transferee will be permitted to promptly dispose of any of our shares purchased that violate the restrictions and as to the transfer of which registration is refused.

Restrictions on Voting Rights

In the event that we become aware of a U.S. Person (that owns our shares directly or indirectly through non-U.S. entities) owning more than the permitted 9.5% level of voting power of our outstanding shares after a transfer of shares has been registered, our bye-laws provide that, subject to certain exceptions and waiver procedures, the voting rights with respect to our shares owned by any such shareholder will be limited to the permitted level of voting power, subject only to the further limitation that no other shareholder allocated any such voting rights may exceed the permitted level of voting power as a result of such limitation.

We also have the authority under our bye-laws to request information from any shareholder for the purpose of determining whether a shareholder's voting rights are to be reallocated under the bye-laws. If a shareholder fails to respond to such a request for information or submits incomplete or inaccurate information in response to such a request, we may, in our sole discretion, eliminate such shareholder's voting rights.

Election of Board of Directors

Our bye-laws provide for a classified board of directors. The directors of the class elected at each annual general meeting hold office for a term of three years, with the term of each class expiring at successive annual general meetings of shareholders. Under our bye-laws, the vote of two-thirds of the outstanding shares entitled to vote and approval of a majority of the Board are required to amend bye-laws regarding appointment and removal of directors, indemnification of directors and officers, directors' interests and procedures for amending bye-laws.

Insurance laws and other applicable regulations regarding change of control

Because a person who acquires control of Argo Group would thereby acquire indirect control of the same percentage of the stock in its insurance company subsidiaries, change of control provisions in the laws and other rules applicable to our insurance subsidiaries in various jurisdictions would apply to such a transaction. Such change of control provisions generally apply to transactions involving the acquisition of direct or indirect control over 10% or more of our outstanding shares. No assurance can be given that an applicable regulatory body would approve of any future change of control. These changes of control provisions may discourage potential acquisition proposals and may delay, deter or prevent a change of control of Argo Group, including transactions that some or all of our shareholders might consider to be desirable.

Restrictions on Third-Party Takeovers

The provisions described above may have the effect of making it more difficult or discouraging unsolicited takeover bids from third parties. To the extent that these effects occur, shareholders could be deprived of opportunities to realize takeover premiums for their shares and the market price of their shares could be depressed. In addition, these provisions could also result in the entrenchment of incumbent management and Board members.

We are a Bermuda company and it may be difficult for you to enforce judgments against us and/or our directors and executive officers.

We are organized under the laws of Bermuda and headquartered in Bermuda. The Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda, and its subsequent amendments, which applies to us, differs in certain material respects from laws generally applicable to U.S. corporations and their shareholders. These differences include the manner in which directors must disclose transactions in which they have an interest, rights of shareholders to bring class action and derivative lawsuits, our right to enter into business transactions with shareholders without prior approval from shareholders, committee organization and scope of indemnification available to directors and officers.

In addition, certain of our directors and officers reside outside the U.S. As such, it may be difficult for investors to effect service of process within the U.S. on our directors and officers who reside outside the U.S. or to enforce against us or our directors and officers judgments of U.S. courts predicated upon civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws.

We have been advised that there is doubt as to whether:

- a holder of our common shares would be able to enforce, in the courts of Bermuda, judgments of U.S. courts against persons who reside in Bermuda based upon the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws;

- a holder of our common shares would be able to enforce, in the courts of Bermuda, judgments of U.S. courts based upon the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws; and
- a holder of our common shares would be able to bring an original action in the Bermuda courts to enforce liabilities against us or our directors or officers, as well as our independent accountants, who reside outside the U.S. based solely upon U.S. federal securities laws.

Further, we have been advised that there is no treaty in effect between the U.S. and Bermuda providing for the enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts, and there are grounds upon which Bermuda courts may not enforce judgments of U.S. courts. Because judgments of U.S. courts are not automatically enforceable in Bermuda, it may be difficult for our shareholders to recover against us based on such judgments.

Tax Risks Associated with Argo Group

U.S. Tax Risks

Argo Group and Argo Group's non-U.S. subsidiaries may be subject to U.S. tax, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results.

Argo Group and Argo Group's non-U.S. subsidiaries have operated and intend to continue to operate in a manner that should not cause them to be treated as engaged in a trade or business in the U.S. (and, in the case of those non-U.S. companies qualifying for treaty protection, in a manner that should not cause any of such non-U.S. subsidiaries to be doing business through a permanent establishment in the U.S.) and, thus, we believe that we and our non-U.S. subsidiaries should not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes or branch profits tax (other than withholding taxes on certain U.S. source investment income and excise taxes on insurance or reinsurance premiums). However, because there is uncertainty as to the activities that constitute being engaged in a trade or business within the U.S., and as to what constitutes a permanent establishment under the applicable tax treaties, there can be no assurances that the United States Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") will not contend successfully that one or more of the non-U.S. subsidiaries is engaged in a trade or business, or carrying on business through a permanent establishment, in the U.S.

The reinsurance agreements between us and our U.S. subsidiaries may be subject to re-characterization or other adjustment for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results.

Under Section 845 of the Internal Revenue Code, the IRS may allocate income, deductions, assets, reserves, credits and any other items related to a reinsurance agreement among certain related parties to the reinsurance agreement, re-characterize such items or make any other adjustment in order to reflect the proper source, character or amount of the items for each party. No regulations have been issued under Section 845 of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, the application of such provisions is uncertain and we cannot predict what impact, if any, such provisions may have on us and our subsidiaries.

Changes in U.S. federal income tax law could be retroactive and may subject us or our non-U.S. subsidiaries to U.S. federal income taxation.

Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress attempting to eliminate certain perceived tax advantages of companies (including insurance companies) that have legal domiciles outside the U.S. but have certain U.S. affiliates. There are currently pending legislative proposals that, if enacted, could have a material adverse effect on us or our shareholders. For example, legislation has been introduced in Congress to limit the deductibility of reinsurance premiums paid by U.S. companies to foreign affiliates that, if enacted, could adversely impact our results. It is possible that broader-based or new legislative proposals could emerge in the future that could have an adverse effect on us or our shareholders.

The tax laws and interpretations thereof are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. We are not able to predict if, when or in what form such changes will be provided and whether such guidance will be applied on a retroactive basis.

Bermuda Tax Risks

Argo Group and Argo Group's Bermuda subsidiaries may become subject to Bermuda taxes after 2035.

Bermuda currently imposes no income tax on corporations. In addition, we have obtained an assurance from the Bermuda Minister of Finance, under The Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966 of Bermuda, 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 us or our Bermuda subsidiaries, until March 31, 2035. During 2011, legislation was passed to extend the period of the assurance mentioned above from 2016 to March 31, 2035. We filed for, and received, an extension of the assurance in January of 2012.

U.K. Tax Risks

Our non-U.K. companies may be subject to U.K. tax.

We intend to operate in such a manner so that none of our companies other than those companies incorporated in the United Kingdom should be resident in the U.K. for tax purposes or have a permanent establishment in the U.K. Accordingly, we expect that none of our companies other than Argo Global Syndicate 1200 should be subject to U.K. taxation. However, since applicable law and regulations do not conclusively define the activities that constitute conducting business in the U.K. through a permanent establishment, the U.K. Inland Revenue might contend successfully that one or more of our other companies is conducting business in the U.K. through a permanent establishment in the U.K.

Any arrangements between U.K.-resident entities of Argo Group and other members of Argo Group are subject to the U.K. transfer pricing regime. Consequently, if any agreement between a U.K. resident entity of Argo Group and any other Argo Group entity (whether that entity is resident in or outside the U.K.) is found not to be on arm's length terms and as a result a U.K. tax advantage is being obtained, an adjustment will be required to compute U.K. taxable profits as if such an agreement were on arm's length terms. Any transfer pricing adjustment could adversely impact the tax charge incurred by the relevant U.K. resident entities of Argo Group.

Irish Tax Risks

Dividends paid by our U.S. subsidiaries to Argo Ireland may not be eligible for benefits under the U.S.-Ireland income tax treaty.

Under U.S. federal income tax law, dividends paid by a U.S. corporation to a non-U.S. shareholder are generally subject to a 30% withholding tax, unless reduced by treaty. The income tax treaty between the Republic of Ireland and the United States ("the Irish Treaty") reduces the rate of withholding tax on certain dividends to 5%. Were the IRS to contend successfully that Argo Financial Holdings, Ltd ("Argo Ireland") is not eligible for benefits under the Irish Treaty, any dividends paid by Argo Group's U.S. subsidiaries to Argo Ireland would be subject to the 30% withholding tax. Such a result could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results.

Tax Risks Associated with Our Shareholders

If you are a U.S. non-corporate shareholder, dividends you receive from us will not be eligible for reduced rates of tax upon enactment of certain legislative proposals.

Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress that would, if enacted, deny the applicability of reduced rates to dividends paid by any corporation organized under the laws of a foreign country that does not have a comprehensive income tax system, such as Bermuda. Therefore, depending on whether, when and in what form this legislative proposal is enacted, we cannot assure you that any dividends paid by us in the future would qualify for reduced rates of tax.

If we are classified as a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC"), your taxes would increase.

In order to avoid significant potential adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences for any U.S. person who owns our common shares, we must not constitute a PFIC in any year in which such U.S. person is a shareholder. Those consequences could include increasing the tax liability of the investor, accelerating the imposition of the tax and causing a loss of the basis step-up on the death of the investor. In general, a non-U.S. corporation is a passive foreign investment company for a taxable year if 75% or more of its income constitutes passive income or 50% or more of its assets produce passive income. Passive income generally includes interest, dividends and other investment income. However, passive income does not include income derived in the active conduct of an insurance business by a company that is predominantly engaged in an insurance business. This exception is intended to ensure that income derived by a bona fide insurance company is not treated as passive income, except to the extent such income is attributable to financial reserves in excess of the reasonable needs of the insurance business. We believe that we should not be, and currently do not expect to become, a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes; however, we cannot assure you that we will not be deemed a PFIC by the IRS. There are currently no regulations regarding the application of the PFIC provisions to an insurance company. New regulations or pronouncements interpreting or clarifying these rules may be forthcoming. We cannot predict what impact, if any, such guidance would have on persons subject to U.S. federal income tax that directly or indirectly own our shares.

If you acquire 10% or more of our shares and we or one or more of our non-U.S. subsidiaries is classified as a controlled foreign corporation ("CFC") your taxes could increase.

Each U.S. person who, directly, indirectly or through attribution rules, owns 10% or more of our common shares should consider the possible application of the controlled foreign corporation rules.

Each U.S. 10% shareholder of a controlled foreign corporation on the last day of the controlled foreign corporation's taxable year generally must include in its gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes its pro-rata share of the controlled foreign corporation's subpart F income, even if the subpart F income has not been distributed. In general, a non-U.S. insurance company is treated as a controlled foreign corporation only if such U.S. 10% s hareholders collectively own more than 25% of the total combined voting power or total value of the company's capital stock for an uninterrupted period of 30 days or more during any year. We believe that, because of the anticipated dispersion of share owne rship among holders and because of the restrictions in our bye-laws on transfer, issuance or repurchase of our common shares, shareholders will not be subject to treatment as U.S. 10% shareholders of a controlled foreign corporation. In addition, because u nder our bye-laws no single shareholder is permitted to exercise 9.5% or more of the total combined voting power, unless such provision is waived by the unanimous consent of the Board, we believe that our shareholders should not be viewed as U.S. 10% share holders of a controlled foreign corporation for purposes of the controlled foreign corporation rules. Notwithstanding the above, it is possible that the CFC rules could be construed by the IRS in the future, or amended, in such a way as to apply to our sha reholders.

We cannot assure you that we or our non-U.S. subsidiaries will not be classified as CFCs. We believe that because of the anticipated dispersion of our common share ownership, provisions in our organizational documents that limit voting power and other factors, no United States person who (i) owns our shares directly or indirectly through one or more non-U.S. entities and (ii) has not received a waiver from our Board of provisions in our organizational documents that limit voting power, should be treated as owning (directly, indirectly through non-U.S. entities or constructively) 10% or more of the total voting power of all classes of the shares of Argo Group or any of our non-U.S. subsidiaries.

Due to the attribution provisions of the Internal Revenue Code regarding determination of beneficial ownership, there is a risk that the IRS could assert that Argo Group or one or more of our non-U.S. subsidiaries are CFCs and that U.S. holders of our shares who own 10% or more of the value of our shares should be treated as owning 10% or more of the total voting power of Argo Group and/or our non-U.S. subsidiaries notwithstanding the reduction of voting power discussed above.

If one or more of our non-U.S. subsidiaries is determined to have related person insurance income ("RPII"), you may be subject to U.S. taxation on your pro rata share of such income.

If the RPII of any of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries were to equal or exceed 20% of such company's gross insurance income in any taxable year and direct or indirect insureds (and persons related to such insureds) own, directly or indirectly through entities, 20% or more of our voting power or value, then a U.S. person who owns our shares (directly or indirectly through non-U.S. entities) on the last day of the taxable year would be required to include in its income for U.S. federal income tax purposes such person's pro rata share of such non-U.S. insurance subsidiary's RPII for the entire taxable year, determined as if such RPII were distributed proportionately only to U.S. persons at that date regardless of whether such income is distributed. In addition, any RPII that is includible in the income of a U.S. tax-exempt organization may be treated as unrelated business taxable income. The amount of RPII earned by the non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries (generally, premium and related investment income from the direct or indirect insurance or reinsurance of any direct or indirect U.S. holder of common shares or any person related to such holder) will depend on a number of factors, including the identity of persons directly or indirectly insured or reinsured by the non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries. We believe that the gross RPII of each non-U.S. insurance subsidiary did not in prior years of operation and is not expected in the foreseeable future to equal or exceed 20% of such subsidiary's gross insurance income. Additionally, we do not expect the direct or indirect insureds of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries (and persons related to such insureds) to directly or indirectly own 20% or more of either the voting power or value of our shares. No assurance can be given that this will be the case because some of the factors that determine the existence or extent of RPII may be beyond our knowledge and/or control.

The RPII rules provide that if a U.S. person disposes of shares in a non-U.S. insurance corporation in which U.S. persons own 25% or more of the shares (even if the amount of RPII is less than 20% of the corporation's gross insurance income and the ownership of its shares by direct or indirect insureds and related persons is less than the 20% threshold), any gain from the disposition will generally be treated as ordinary income to the extent of the U.S. person's share of the corporation's undistributed earnings and profits that were accumulated during the period that the U.S. person owned the shares (whether or not such earnings and profits are attributable to RPII). In addition, such U.S. person will be required to comply with certain reporting requirements, regardless of the amount of shares owned by the U.S. person. These RPII rules should not apply to dispositions of our shares because we will not ourselves be directly engaged in the insurance business. The RPII provisions, however, have never been interpreted by the courts or the U.S. Treasury Department in final regulations, and regulations interpreting the RPII provisions of the Internal Revenue Code exist only in proposed form. It is not certain whether these regulations will be adopted in their proposed form or what changes or clarifications might ultimately be made thereto or whether any such changes, as well as any interpretation or application of RPII by the IRS, the courts or otherwise, might have retroactive effect. The U.S. Treasury Department has authority to impose, among other things, additional reporting requirements with respect to RPII. Accordingly, the meaning of the RPII provisions and application of those provisions to us and our non-U.S. subsidiaries are uncertain.

U.S. tax-exempt organiz ations that own our shares may recognize unrelated business taxable income.

A U.S. tax-exempt organization may recognize unrelated business taxable income if a portion of our insurance income is allocated to the organization. In general, insurance income will be allocated to a U.S. tax-exempt organization if either we are a CFC and the tax-exempt shareholder is a 10% U.S. Shareholder or there is RPII and certain exceptions do not apply. Although we do not believe that any U.S. persons should be allocated such insurance income, we cannot be certain that this will be the case. U.S. tax-exempt investors should consult their tax advisors as to the U.S. tax consequences of any allocation of our insurance income.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

We lease office space in Bermuda, where our principal executive offices are located. Argo Group US, Inc. leases office space in San Antonio, Texas, for its U.S. headquarters, Commercial Specialty segment and for certain support functions. We also lease space in the following locations:

- New York City, New York (Argo Group US, Inc. and Colony Specialty)
- Jersey City, New Jersey (Argo Group US, Inc.)
- Brussels, Belgium (Argo Solutions)
- Chicago, Illinois (Argo Group US, Inc. and Commercial Specialty)
- Richmond, Virginia (Colony Specialty)
- Portland, Oregon (Grocers Insurance and Argo Insurance)
- San Francisco, California (Argonaut Insurance Company)
- Houston, Texas (Argo Surety)
- Boston and Springfield, Massachusetts (Trident Insurance Service, LLC)
- Seattle, Washington (Argo Group US, Inc. and Alteris)
- London, England (Argo International)
- Denver, Colorado (Colony Specialty)
- Scottsdale, Arizona (Colony Specialty)
- Mesa, Arizona (Argo Group US, Inc.)
- Alpharetta, Georgia (Colony Specialty)
- Sao Paulo, Brazil (Argo Brasil Participações Ltda.)
- Dubai, UAE (Argo Re (DIFC) Ltd.)
- Paris, France (Argo Assurances)
- Zurich, Switzerland (ArgoGlobal SE and Argonaut Services GmbH)
- Sliema, Malta (ArgoGlobal SE)
- Singapore (ArgoGlobal Asia)

In addition, we have entered into other leases in conjunction with our operations at various geographic locations throughout the world. The properties are leased on terms and for durations that are reflective of commercial standards in the communities where these properties are located. We believe the facilities we occupy are adequate for the purposes in which they are currently used and are well maintained.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

Our subsidiaries are parties to legal actions incidental to their business. Based on the opinion of counsel, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially affect our financial condition or results of operations.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosure

Not applicable.

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

Market Information

Our common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "AGII." The following table sets forth the range of daily high and low sales prices for our common shares and dividends declared per share for the periods indicated:

Years Ended December 31,	High	Low	Dividends
2015			
First Quarter	$ 51.36	$ 46.83	$ 0.20
Second Quarter	56.56	48.73	0.20
Third Quarter	59.41	53.94	0.20
Fourth Quarter	66.40	55.51	0.20
2014 (1)			
First Quarter	$ 43.26	$ 39.04	$ 0.14
Second Quarter	46.77	39.75	0.16
Third Quarter	49.09	44.85	0.16
Fourth Quarter	55.07	44.88	0.16

(1) On February 17, 2015, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend which was paid on March 16, 2015 to shareholders of record on March 2, 2015. The sales prices and dividends declared per share have been adjusted to reflect the effect of the stock dividend.

On February 22, 2016, the closing price of our common stock was $55.10.

Holders of Common Stock

The number of holders of record of our common stock as of February 22, 2016 was 1,546.

Dividends

Our dividend policy is determined by the Board of Directors and depends, among other factors, upon our earnings, operations, financial condition, capital requirements and general business outlook at the time the policy is considered.

The declaration and payment of future dividends to our shareholders will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon the factors noted above.

On February 17, 2015, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend which was payable on March 16, 2015, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 2, 2015. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, we paid cash dividends to our shareholders totaling $22.7 million and $18.2 million, respectively. On February 16, 2016, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend in the amount of $0.22 on each share of common stock outstanding, payable on March 15, 2016 to shareholders of record on March 1, 2016.

Sale of Unregistered Securities

During the year ended December 31, 2015, we did not sell or issue any unregistered securities.

Use of Proceeds from Sale of Registered Securities

During the year ended December 31, 2015, we did not sell or issue any registered securities.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

On November 5, 2013, our Board authorized the repurchase of up to $150.0 million of our common shares ("2013 Repurchase Authorization"). The 2013 Repurchase Authorization supersedes all the previous Repurchase Authorizations.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, we repurchased a total of 575,155 shares of our common stock for a total cost of $29.7 million. Since the inception of the repurchase authorizations through December 31, 2015, we have repurchased 9,181,644 shares of our common stock at an average price of $36.06 for a total cost of $331.1 million. These shar es are being held as treasury shares in accordance with the provisions of the Bermuda Companies Act 1981. As of December 31, 2015, availability under the 2013 Repurchase Authorization for future repurchases of our common shares was $63.1 million.

The following table provides information with respect to shares of our common stock that were repurchased or surrendered during the three months ended December 31, 2015:

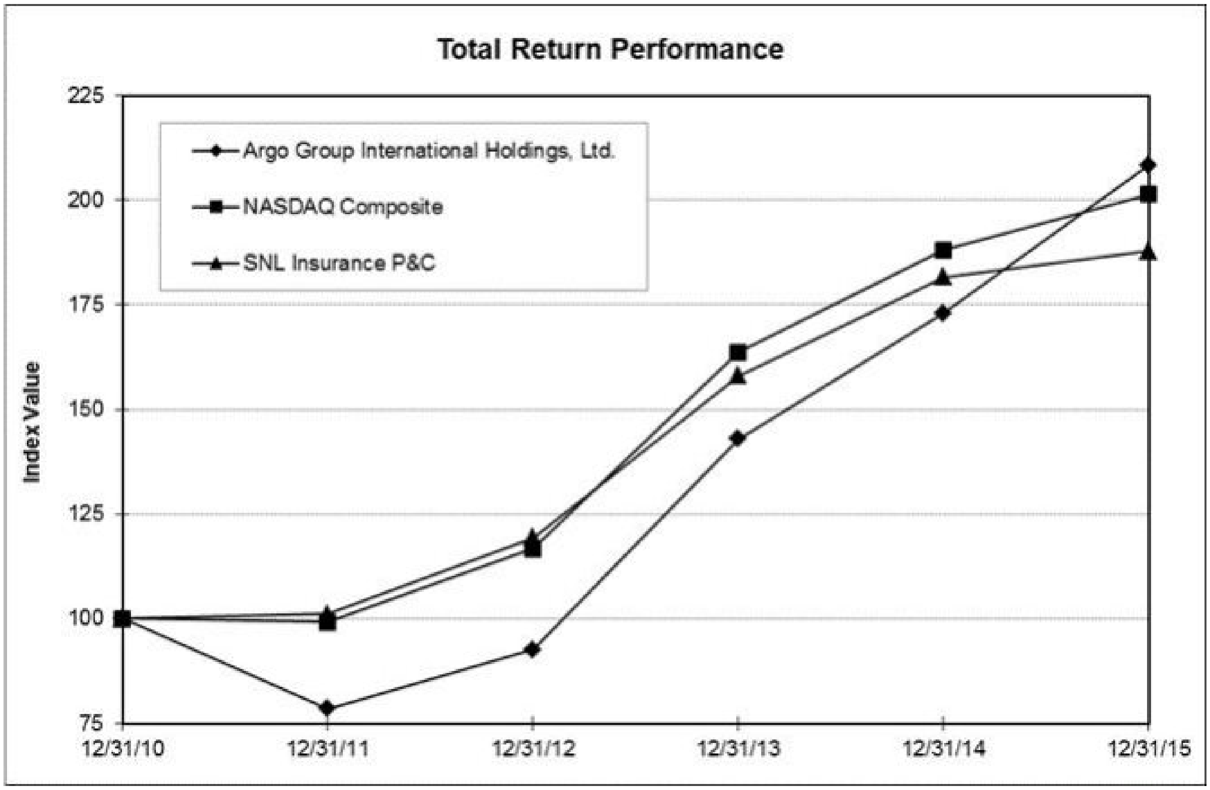
Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased (a)	Average Price Paid per Share (b)	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publically Announced Plan or Program (c)	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plan or Program (d)
October 1 through October 31, 2015	43,485	$ 56.07	—	$ 63,139,540
November 1 through November 30, 2015	910	$ 62.17	—	$ 63,139,540
December 1 through December 31, 2015	231	$ 61.79	100	$ 63,133,637
Total	44,626		100	

Employees are allowed to surrender shares to settle the tax liability incurred upon the vesting or exercise of shares under the various employee equity compensation plans. For the three months ended December 31, 2015, we received 44,526 shares of our common stock, with an average price paid per share of $56.22, that were surrendered by employees in payment for the minimum required withholding taxes. In the above table, these shares are included in columns (a) and (b), but excluded from columns (c) and (d). These shares do not reduce the number of shares that may yet be purchased under the repurchase plan.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, we received 79,199 shares of our common stock, with an average price paid per share of $54.53, that were surrendered by employees in payment for the minimum required withholding taxes due to the vesting/exercise of equity compensation awards. Additionally, for the year ended December 31, 2015, we received 13,997 shares of our common stock that were surrendered by employees to net settle option exercises.

Performance Graph

The following performance graph compares the performance of our common stock during the five-year period from December 31, 2010 through December 31, 2015 with the performance of the NASDAQ Composite Index and the SNL Property & Casualty Insurance Index. The graph plots the changes in value of an initial $100 investment over the indicated time periods, assuming all dividends are reinvested. The stock price performance shown on the following graph is not intended to predict or be indicative of future price performance.



	For the Years Ended December 31,					
Index	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.	$ 100.00	$ 78.56	$ 92.59	$ 143.03	$ 173.00	$ 208.33
NASDAQ Composite	100.00	99.21	116.82	163.75	188.03	201.40
SNL Property & Casualty Insurance Index	100.00	101.10	119.34	158.11	181.59	187.84

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The following selected financial data is derived from our consolidated financial statements. The information set forth below should be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," included under Item 7 and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto, included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

	For the Years Ended December 31,				
(in millions, except per share amounts)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Statement of Operations Data					
Gross written premiums	$ 2,012.1	$ 1,905.4	$ 1,888.4	$ 1,745.7	$ 1,544.8
Earned premiums	1,371.9	1,338.1	1,303.8	1,186.5	1,082.0
Net investment income	85.6	86.6	100.0	118.8	125.8
Total revenue	1,484.6	1,518.7	1,475.1	1,331.0	1,258.4
Net income (loss)	163.2	183.2	143.2	52.3	(81.9)
Net income (loss) per diluted common share (a)	5.72	6.27	4.67	1.66	(2.49)
Cash dividends declared per common share (a)	0.80	0.63	0.54	0.40	0.40
Balance Sheet Data					
Invested assets	$ 4,115.7	$ 4,097.9	$ 4,079.2	$ 4,200.7	$ 4,145.7
Total assets	6,630.1	6,356.3	6,591.0	6,688.9	6,378.3
Other indebtedness	55.2	62.0	66.3	63.8	65.5
Junior subordinated debentures	172.7	172.7	193.3	193.3	311.5
Senior unsecured fixed rate notes	143.8	143.8	143.8	143.8	—
Shareholders' equity	1,668.1	1,646.7	1,563.0	1,514.1	1,463.0
Other Select data					
Cash provided (used) by operating activities	$ 282.6	$ 130.5	$ (0.2)	$ 30.5	$ (17.7)
Book value per share (a)	59.74	58.22	53.60	50.20	45.95
Combined ratio (b)	95.2%	96.2%	97.5%	104.6%	119.8%

(a) Per share amounts adjusted for the effects of the 10% stock dividend declared in May 2013 and February 2015. Book value per share is calculated by taking total shareholders' equity divided by total issued shares less treasury shares.

(b) In determining the combined ratio, "Earned premiums" is reduced by the "Other reinsurance-related expense" as management views this transaction as ceded premium.

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

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes beginning on page F-1. This discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in the forward looking statements as a result of various factors described in this report.

Consolidated Results of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2015, we reported net income of $163.2 million, or $5.72 per fully diluted share. For the year ended December 31, 2014, we reported net income of $183.2 million, or $6.27 per fully diluted share. For the year ended December 31, 2013, we reported net income of $143.2 million, or $4.67 per fully diluted share.

The following is a comparison of select data from our results of operations:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Gross written premiums	$ 2,012.1	$ 1,905.4	$ 1,888.4
Earned premiums	$ 1,371.9	$ 1,338.1	$ 1,303.8
Net investment income	85.6	86.6	100.0
Net realized investment and other gains	27.1	94.0	71.3
Total revenue	$ 1,484.6	$ 1,518.7	$ 1,475.1
Income before income taxes	177.5	$ 216.0	$ 179.7
Provision for income taxes	14.3	32.8	36.5
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 183.2	$ 143.2
Loss ratio	55.8%	55.9%	57.8%
Expense ratio	39.4%	40.3%	39.7%
Combined ratio	95.2%	96.2%	97.5%

The increase in consolidated gross written premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period ended in 2014 was primarily the result of increased premiums in all segments with the exception of International Specialty as our property reinsurance book was adversely impacted by increased competition and declining rates. The increase in consolidated gross written premiums for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period ended in 2013 was primarily the result of increased premiums in our Excess and Surplus Lines and Commercial Specialty segments, partially offset by a decline in our Syndicate 1200 segment as we continued to experience competition in this segment. All segments were impacted to some degree by increasing competition and, in some cases, declining rates. The increase in consolidated earned premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to 2014 and 2013 was due to the increase in gross written premiums.

The slight decline in consolidated investment income for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period ended 2014 was primarily attributable to the reduction of rental income due to sale of an investment property in 2014. Consolidated net investment income decreased for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period ended 2013 due primarily to the continued reinvestment at market yields below the portfolio's book yield and an increased focus on total portfolio returns relative to investment income. Additionally, the decline in consolidated net investment income was impacted by the transfer of invested assets used to settle a quota share reinsurance agreement within our Syndicate 1200 segment. Total invested assets at December 31, 2015 were $4,020.4 million, net of $95.3 million of invested assets attributable to Syndicate 1200's trade capital providers. Total invested assets at December 31, 2014 were $4,022.7 million, net of $75.2 million of invested assets attributable to Syndicate 1200's trade capital providers. Total invested assets at December 31, 2013 were $3,991.9 million, net of $87.3 million of invested assets attributable to Syndicate 1200's trade capital providers.

Included in consolidated net realized investment and other gains for the year ended December 31, 2015 was $33.9 million of realized gains from our equity portfolio and $16.6 million in realized gains from our other investments which are accounted for under the equity method. Partially offsetting these realized gains was $11.2 million of realized losses on our fixed maturity portfolio, primarily driven by foreign exchange losses and $11.9 million of other-than-temporary impairment losses on certain securities. Included in consolidated realized gains for the year ended December 31, 2014 was a $43.3 million pre-tax gain resulting from the sale of an investment property, $28.6 million in realized gains from our equity portfolio and $23.0 million in realized gains due to increased value of our other investments, which are accounted for under the equity method of accounting. Partially offsetting these realized gains was a $2.3 million realized loss from the recognition of other-than-temporary impairments on certain investment securities. Included in consolidated net realized investment and other gains for the year ended December 31, 2013 was $57.7 million of realized gains from our equity portfolio, $13.9 million in realized gains from our fixed maturity portfolio and $16.6 million in realized gains from our other investments which are accounted for under the equity method. Partially offsetting these realized gains was a $7.8 million realized loss from the recognition of other-than-temporary impairments on certain investment securities.

Consolidated losses and loss adjustment expenses were $766.1 million, $747.4 million and $742.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The consolidated loss ratios were comparable for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 primarily due to improved current accident year losses in 2015, partially offset by increased catastrophe losses and reduced net favorable development reserve development on prior accident years. The decline in the consolidated loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily attributable to improved current accident year losses in 2014, coupled with reduced catastrophe losses.

Included in losses and loss adjustment e xpenses for 2015 were $24.9 million in catastrophe losses resulting from United States and other storm activity, and the Tianjin explosion. Partially offsetting these current accident year losses was $32.4 million of net favorable development on prior year accident loss reserves, which is presented in the table below.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expenses for 2014 was $18.7 million in catastrophe losses resulting from storm activity in the United States, various hailstorms, Typhoon Rammasum and Hurricane Odile. Partially offsetting these 2014 accident year losses was $37.7 million of net favorable development on prior year accident loss reserves, primarily attributable to favorable development in our general liability line and our Syndicate 1200 liability and property lines, partially offset by unfavorable development in the commercial multi-peril and commercial automobile lines.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expenses for 2013 was $24.6 million in catastrophe losses primarily attributable to storm activity in the U.S. and Germany and flooding in Europe and Canada. Offsetting these 2013 accident year losses was $33.6 million in net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years, primarily within our general liability lines of business.

The following table summarizes the above referenced loss reserve development as respects to prior year loss reserves by line of business for the year ended December 31, 2015:

(in millions)	2014 Net Reserves	Net Reserve Development (Favorable)/ Unfavorable	Percent of 2014 Net Reserves
General liability	$ 913.0	$ (37.4)	-4.1%
Workers compensation	327.9	15.7	4.8%
Syndicate 1200 liability	202.4	(7.2)	-3.6%
Commercial multi-peril	164.6	12.3	7.5%
Commercial auto liability	158.3	(6.0)	-3.8%
Syndicate 1200 property	99.2	(2.0)	-2.0%
Reinsurance - nonproportional assumed property	79.7	(4.0)	-5.0%
Syndicate 1200 specialty	18.7	(2.4)	-12.8%
All other lines	173.3	(1.4)	-0.8%
Total	$ 2,137.1	$ (32.4)	-1.5%

In determining appropriate reserve levels for the year ended December 31, 2015, we maintained the same general processes and disciplines that were used to set reserves at prior reporting dates. No significant changes in methodologies were made to estimate the reserves since the last reporting date; however, at each reporting date we reassess the actuarial estimate of the reserve for loss and loss adjustment expenses and record our best estimate. Consistent with prior reserve valuations, as claims data becomes more mature for prior accident years, actuarial estimates were refined to weigh certain actuarial methods more heavily in order to respond to any emerging trends in the paid and reported loss data. While prior accident years' net reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses for some lines of business have developed favorably in recent years, this does not imply that more recent accident years' reserves also will develop favorably; pricing, reinsurance costs, legal environment, general economic conditions including changes in inflation and many other factors impact our ultimate loss estimates.

Consolidated gross reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses were $3,123.6 million (including $102.3 million of reserves attributable to Syndicate 1200's trade capital providers), $3,042.4 million (including $80.3 million of reserves attributable to the trade capital providers) and $3,230.3 million (including $128.6 million of reserves attributable to the trade capital providers) as of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Management has recorded its best estimate of loss reserves at each date based on current known facts and circumstances. Due to the significant uncertainties inherent in the estimation of loss reserves, there can be no assurance that future loss development, favorable or unfavorable, will not occur.

In 2011, we entered into a reinsurance transaction with a special purpose reinsurance company which provided coverage through the issuance of a catastrophe bond transaction. The reinsurance transaction provided coverage for selected events. The catastrophe bond cover expired on December 31, 2013. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States ("GAAP"), we accounted for this cover as a derivative, and as such, presented the financial statement impact in "Other reinsurance-related expenses" in our Consolidated Statements of Income. Other reinsurance-related expenses totaled $19.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. As management viewed these coverages as reinsurance protection, we treated the financial statement effects of these covers as ceded premium for the purposes of calculating our loss, expense and combined ratios.

Consolidated underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses were $539.6 million, $539.2 million and $510.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The decline in the consolidated expense ratio for 2015 as compared to 2014 was due to lower acquisition co sts primarily attributable to lower premium taxes, fees and assessments coupled with increased ceding commissions received. Non-acquisition cost increased due to higher compensation and information technology costs, partially offset by lower outside servi ces expense. The increase in the consolidated expense ratio for 2014 as compared to 2013 was primarily attributable to increased compensation related costs, coupled with increased consulting and information technology expenses.

Consolidated interest expense was $19.0 million, $19.9 million and $20.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The decline in consolidated interest expense in 2015 as compared to 2014 was the result of slightly reduced interest rates on our variable rate debt instruments. The decline in consolidated interest expense in 2014 as compared to 2013 was the result of the July 2014 extinguishment of a junior subordinated debenture.

Consolidated foreign currency exchange gains were $18.3 million and $7.8 million and 1.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The changes in the foreign currency exchange gains/losses were due to fluctuations of the U.S Dollar, on a weighted average basis, against the currencies in which we transact our business.

The consolidated provisions for income taxes were $14.3 million, $32.8 million and $36.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The consolidated income tax provision represents the income tax expense associated with our operations based on the tax laws of the jurisdictions in which we operate. Therefore, the consolidated provision for income taxes represents taxes on net income for our United States, Ireland, Belgium, Brazil, Switzerland and United Kingdom operations. The consolidated effective taxes rates were 8.1%, 15.2% and 20.3% for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The decline in the consolidated effective tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to 2014 was primarily attributable to reduced taxable pretax income in the United States while permanent tax differences remained consistent. Pretax income was higher in 2014, due to the recognition in 2014 of a $43.3 million realized gain from the sale of property. Additionally, our United Kingdom operations reported a tax benefit for 2015, primarily due to the effects of foreign currency exchange rates. The decline in the consolidated effective tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to 2013 was primarily attributable to increased income from our Bermuda operations, which is not subject to income taxes.

Segment Results

We are primarily engaged in writing property and casualty insurance and reinsurance. We have four ongoing reporting segments: Excess and Surplus Lines, Commercial Specialty, International Specialty and Syndicate 1200. Additionally, we have a Run-off Lines segment for products that we no longer underwrite.

We consider many factors, including the nature of each segment's insurance and reinsurance products, production sources, distribution strategies and regulatory environment, in determining how to aggregate reporting segments.

In evaluating the operating performance of our segments, we focus on core underwriting and investing results before consideration of realized gains or losses from the sales of investments. Intersegment transactions are allocated to the segment that initiated the transaction. Realized investment gains and losses are reported as a component of the Corporate and Other segment, as decisions regarding the acquisition and disposal of securities reside with the corporate investment function and are not under the control of the individual business segments. Although this measure of profit (loss) does not replace net income (loss) computed in accordance with GAAP as a measure of profitability, management uses this measure of profit (loss) to focus our reporting segments on generating operating income.

Since we generally manage and monitor the investment portfolio on an aggregate basis, the overall performance of the investment portfolio, and related net investment income, is discussed above on a combined basis under consolidated net investment income rather than within or by segment.

Exce ss and Surplus Lines.

The following table summarizes the results of operations for the Excess and Surplus Lines segment:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Gross written premiums	$ 679.5	$ 607.2	$ 594.2
Earned premiums	$ 525.3	$ 485.2	$ 460.2
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	291.8	248.0	244.0
Other reinsurance-related expenses	—	—	4.9
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	166.7	161.6	157.2
Underwriting income	66.8	75.6	54.1
Net investment income	35.2	36.7	42.2
Interest expense	(6.0)	(6.3)	(6.9)
Income before income taxes	$ 96.0	$ 106.0	$ 89.4
Loss ratio	55.5%	51.1%	53.6%
Expense ratio	31.8%	33.3%	34.5%
Combined ratio	87.3%	84.4%	88.1%
Loss reserves at December 31	$ 1,204.9	$ 1,165.4	$ 1,171.8

The increase in gross written and earned premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same periods ended 2014 and 2013 was primarily attributable to growth in all units, with the exception of contract and transportation. Premiums for the contract unit continued to decline due to increased competition and low rates. Premiums for the transportation business continued to decline, as we began exiting the commercial auto lines in late 2013 due to reduced profitability. Offsetting these declines was growth primarily in the casualty, management liability and errors and omissions lines. The Excess and Surplus lines segment continues to be impacted by increased competition and declining rates.

The increase in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 was primarily attributable to reduced net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years coupled with increased catastrophe losses. The decline in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily attributable to improved current accident year losses in 2014 coupled with reduced catastrophe losses

Included in losses and loss adjustment expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 was $5.5 million in catastrophe losses from storm activity in the United States. Offsetting these current accident year losses was $32.1 million of net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily due to $30.1 million of favorable development in the general and products liability lines and $5.2 million in our commercial automobile lines. Partially offsetting this net favorable development was $3.6 million of unfavorable development in the property lines.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 was $2.3 million in catastrophe losses from storm activity in the United States. Offsetting the catastrophe losses was $47.4 million of net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily due to $63.2 million of favorable development in the general and products liability lines of business. Partially offsetting this net favorable development was $12.5 million of unfavorable development in commercial automobile lines and $3.3 million in the property lines.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expense for the year ended December 31, 2013 was $4.1 million in catastrophe losses from storm activity in the United States. Included in losses and loss adjustment expense for the year ended December 31, 2013 was $5.0 million related to current accident year large property losses. Offsetting these current accident year losses was $43.9 million of net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily due to $55.8 million of favorable development in the general and products liability lines of business. Partially offsetting this net favorable development was $11.9 million of unfavorable development in commercial automobile lines.

The decline in the expense ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 was primarily attributable to increased ceding commission coupled with reduced outside services costs. Partially offsetting these reductions was increased compensation and information technology costs. The decline in the expense ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily attributable to an increase in ceding commission received coupled with a decline in agent contingent commissions. Fixed expenses were comparable between the periods.

Commercial Specialty

The following table summarizes the results of operations for the Commercial Specialty segment:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Gross written premiums	$ 465.7	$ 440.2	$ 419.1
Earned premiums	$ 290.1	$ 291.9	$ 299.0
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	179.3	189.1	194.0
Other reinsurance-related expenses	—	—	0.9
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	92.7	103.5	97.4
Underwriting (loss) income	18.1	(0.7)	6.7
Net investment income	18.5	18.7	22.8
Interest expense	(3.2)	(3.2)	(3.8)
Fee and other expense, net	(3.5)	(2.5)	(4.3)
Impairment of intangible assets	—	(3.4)	—
Income (loss) before income taxes	$ 29.9	$ 8.9	$ 21.4
Loss ratio	61.8%	64.8%	65.1%
Expense ratio	32.0%	35.4%	32.7%
Combined ratio	93.8%	100.2%	97.8%
Loss reserves at December 31	$ 683.7	$ 652.2	$ 653.4

The increase in gross written premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same periods ended 2014 and 2013 was primarily attributable to increased underwriting in our surety and commercial programs units, which includes our state funds fronting program. Partially offsetting these increases was reduced underwriting in our retail business unit due to planned reductions as we exited unprofitable accounts and implemented underwriting initiatives. The decline in earned premiums was due to an increase in ceded written premiums, primarily due to the state funds fronting business.

The decline in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 was primarily attributable to improved current accident year results. The decrease in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily attributable to improved current accident year results including a lower level of large losses largely offset by higher net unfavorable loss reserve development on prior accident years.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 was $5.2 million in catastrophe losses for storm activity in the United States. Included in losses and loss adjustment expenses was $9.1 million in net unfavorable loss reserve development on prior accident years, primarily attributable to $11.9 million of unfavorable development in general liability and $8.7 million in unfavorable development in the workers compensation lines due to increases in claim severity. Partially offsetting this unfavorable development was $8.8 million of favorable development in short-tail lines and $2.1 million of favorable development on an assumed directors and officers program.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 was $5.7 million in catastrophe losses for storm activity in the United States. Included in losses and loss adjustment expenses was $6.8 million in net unfavorable loss reserve development on prior accident years, primarily attributable to $19.5 million of unfavorable development in general liability due to increases in claim severity, partially offset by favorable development of $7.9 million in short-tail lines and $5.8 million in workers compensation.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expense for the year ended December 31, 2013 was $4.0 million in catastrophe losses for storm activity in the United States. Included in losses and loss adjustment expenses was $1.1 million in net unfavorable loss reserve development on prior accident years, primarily attributable to $16.2 million of unfavorable development in general liability due to increases in claim severity and $2.0 million of unfavorable development in automobile liability, offset by favorable development of $9.5 million in workers compensation and $6.8 million of favorable development in short-tail lines.

The decline in the expense ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period ended 2014 was primarily attributable to a $13.9 million favorable adjustment to the premium taxes and assessments accrual. The increase in the expense ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily due to increased corporate and information technology costs and decreased ceding commissions earned.

Fee and other expense, net, increased for the year ended D ecember 31, 2015 as compared to the same period ended 2014 due to the recognition of contingent consideration payable from a 2011 acquisition. The decline in fee and other expense, net for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to 2013 was primarily due to expenses outpacing revenues in 2013 as we began to focus on developing and expanding fee-based business.

As a result of our annual evaluation of goodwill and other intangible assets, we determined that the goodwill and intangible asset which resulted from a 2010 acquisition were impaired and therefore, they were written-off during the fourth quarter of 2014.

International Specialty

The following table summarizes the results of operations for the International Specialty segment:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Gross written premiums	$ 278.9	$ 290.2	$ 290.6
Earned premiums	$ 148.7	$ 148.3	$ 142.4
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	72.8	77.8	79.9
Other reinsurance-related expenses	—	—	6.2
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	53.4	54.5	50.1
Underwriting income	22.5	16.0	6.2
Net investment income	11.8	8.2	8.4
Interest expense	(3.0)	(3.1)	(3.3)
Income before income taxes	$ 31.3	$ 21.1	$ 11.3
Loss ratio	49.0%	52.5%	58.7%
Expense ratio	35.9%	36.7%	36.7%
Combined ratio	84.9%	89.2%	95.4%
Loss reserves at December 31	$ 324.7	$ 306.3	$ 295.6

The decline in gross written premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same periods in 2014 and 2013 was primarily attributable to declines in our property reinsurance unit due to increased competition and declining rates. Additionally, gross written premiums for our Brazil operations declined due to the deterioration of the Brazilian currency. Partially offsetting this decline was increased gross written premiums in our casualty and professional liability units. The increase in earned premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same periods in 2014 and 2013 was primarily due to a reduction in our ceding percentages, coupled with a change in business mix.

The decline in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 was primarily attributable to increased net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years partially offset by a slight increase in catastrophe losses. The decline in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily attributable to reduced catastrophe losses

Losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2015 included $9.2 million in catastrophe losses resulting from the Tianjin explosion and various storms. Partially offsetting the catastrophe losses was $7.7 million of net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily attributable to $5.7 million of favorable development on the casualty and professional lines and $2.4 million of favorable development on the property reinsurance lines.

Losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2014 included $8.2 million in catastrophe losses primarily attributable to hail and other storms. Loss reserve development on prior accident years was negligible.

Losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2013 included $16.5 million in catastrophe losses primarily attributable to Canadian and European floods and a German hailstorm. Loss reserve development on prior accident years was negligible.

The decline in the expense ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 was primarily due to increased ceding commission received on our professional lines and casualty business, coupled with reduced fixed costs for our Brazil unit. The expense ratios were comparable for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Syndicate 1200

The following table summarizes the results of operations for the Syndicate 1200 segment:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Gross written premiums	$ 587.5	$ 566.2	$ 583.9
Earned premiums	$ 407.4	$ 411.1	$ 401.7
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	213.6	208.1	208.6
Other reinsurance-related expenses	—	—	6.7
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	169.9	167.8	156.2
Underwriting income	23.9	35.2	30.2
Net investment income	9.2	10.2	11.0
Interest expense	(2.6)	(3.2)	(3.3)
Fee and other income (expense), net	3.3	1.9	(0.6)
Income before income taxes	$ 33.8	$ 44.1	$ 37.3
Loss ratio	52.4%	50.6%	52.8%
Expense ratio	41.7%	40.8%	39.6%
Combined ratio	94.1%	91.4%	92.4%
Loss reserves at December 31	$ 604.0	$ 600.0	$ 777.0

For 2015, we reduced our participation percentage on the Syndicate to 68%, down from 75% for 2014 and 86% for 2013. The balance of the capital supporting the Syndicate is made up primarily by trade and other capital providers. The increase in gross written premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 was primarily attributable to increases in all divisions, excluding marine and energy, as we continued to establish new products, entered the Asian market and expanded profitable lines. The decline in gross written premiums for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to 2013 was attributable to reductions in the property and general liability lines as we exited certain unprofitable accounts. Partially offsetting these declines were increased gross written premiums in the marine and energy and political risk lines. The Syndicate 1200 segment has been adversely impacted by increased competition beginning in 2014 and continuing into 2015. The decline in earned premiums for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period ended 2014 was primarily due to the reduction in our participation percentage. The increase in earned premiums for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period ended 2013 was due to increased gross written premiums in the fourth quarter of 2013 and continuing into the first half of 2014.

The increase in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 was primarily attributable to reduced net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years partially offset by current accident year results. The decline in the loss ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily attributable increased net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years partially offset by increased catastrophe losses

Losses and loss adjustment expenses are reported net of losses ceded to the trade capital providers. Included in losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2015 was $5.0 million of catastrophe losses resulting from the Tianjin explosion and various storms. Offsetting the catastrophe losses was $10.3 million in net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily attributable to $5.5 favorable development in various property classes, $6.2 million favorable development in the liability lines and $2.4 million favorable development in the energy lines, partially offset by $2.5 million of unfavorable development in the Specialty lines.

Included in losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2014 was $2.4 million of catastrophe losses resulting from Hurricane Odile. Offsetting the catastrophe losses was $21.1 million in net favorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily attributable to $14.7 favorable development in various property classes, $3.3 million favorable development in the liability lines and $3.9 million favorable development in the marine and energy, aerospace and specialty lines.

The Syndicate 1200 segment reported no catastrophe losses for the year ended December 31, 2013. The Syndicate 1200 segment had net favorable loss development of $6.2 million primarily attributable to $12.8 million of favorable development in various property classes, partially offset by $6.3 million of unfavorable development in liability lines primarily attributable to the general liability lines.

The increase in the expense ratio for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 was primarily attributable to increased acquisition costs resulting from higher broker expenses due to the current competitive market. The increase in the expense ratio for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily attributable to a decline in ceding commission received from a quota share reinsurance contract that was terminated in 2014, coupled with increased commission expenses due to the competitive market conditions.

Fee and other income (expense), net, represents fees and profit commission derived from the management of third party capital for our underwriting syndicate at Lloyd's, net of associated expenses. Fee and other income (expense), net, has increased due to the reduced syndicate participation maintained by Argo Group, which resulted in increased commissions for managing the business for the trade and other capital providers.

Run-off Lines

The following table summarizes the results of operations for the Run-off Lines segment:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Earned premiums	$ 0.4	$ 1.6	$ 0.5
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	8.6	24.4	15.5
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	5.9	8.2	4.6
Underwriting loss	(14.1)	(31.0)	(19.6)
Net investment income	8.3	9.7	10.8
Interest expense	(1.4)	(1.7)	(1.8)
Loss before income taxes	$ (7.2)	$ (23.0)	$ (10.6)

Earned premiums for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were primarily attributable to adjustments resulting from final audits, reinstatement premiums and other adjustments on policies previously underwritten.

Through our subsidiary Argonaut Insurance Company, we are exposed to asbestos liability at the primary level through claims filed against our direct insureds, as well as through its position as a reinsurer of other primary carriers. Argonaut Insurance Company has direct liability arising primarily from policies issued from the 1960s to the early 1980s, which pre-dated policy contract wording that excluded asbestos exposure. The majority of the direct policies were issued on behalf of small contractors or construction companies. We believe that the frequency and severity of asbestos claims for such insureds is typically less than that experienced for large, industrial manufacturing and distribution concerns.

Argonaut Insurance Company also assumed risk as a reinsurer, primarily for the period from 1970 to 1975, a portion of which was assumed from the London market. Argonaut Insurance Company also reinsured risks on policies written by domestic carriers. Such reinsurance typically provided coverage for limits attaching at a relatively high level, which are payable only after other layers of reinsurance are exhausted. Some of the claims now being filed on policies reinsured by Argonaut Insurance Company are on behalf of claimants who may have been exposed at some time to asbestos incorporated into buildings they occupied, but have no apparent medical problems resulting from such exposure. Additionally, lawsuits are being brought against businesses that were not directly involved in the manufacture or installation of materials containing asbestos. We believe that a significant portion of claims generated out of this population of claimants may result in incurred losses generally lower than the asbestos claims filed over the past decade and could be below the attachment level of Argonaut Insurance Company.

Losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2015 included $8.6 million of net unfavorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily driven by $5.9 million of unfavorable development in our run-off workers compensation lines due to increasing medical costs on older claims and the unwind of reserve discount, $4.2 million of unfavorable development in our asbestos and environmental exposures driven by increased defense costs in our primary asbestos exposure and $1.2 million of unfavorable development in our other assumed business. Partially offsetting this unfavorable development was $2.7 million of net favorable development in our run-off property catastrophe reinsurance lines.

Losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2014 included $24.4 million of net unfavorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily driven by $13.5 million from our asbestos and environmental exposure and $10.3 million in our run-off workers compensation lines. The unfavorable development from our asbestos and environmental exposures was driven by our primary exposures and our domestic assumed programs. The unfavorable development for our workers compensation lines was the result of increasing medical costs on older claims.

Losses and loss adjustment expenses for the year ended December 31, 2013 included $15.5 million of net unfavorable loss reserve development on prior accident years primarily driven by $10.5 million in general liability lines for our asbestos and environmental exposure and $4.4 million in our other run-off lines. The unfavorable development for our asbestos and environmental exposure was driven by increasing defense costs in the primary b ook of business, higher than expected loss activity in the assumed book of business and commutations and settlements in 2013. The unfavorable development for our Run-off L i nes included $2.0 million in unfavorable development in medical malpractice liability due to the loss of the New York Liquidation Bureau funding for structured annuity payments.

Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses for the Run-off Lines segment consists primarily of administrative expenses. Underwriting expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 was favorably impacted by a $2.3 million reduction in the premiums and insolvency assessment accruals. Underwriting expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 was favorably impacted by a $1.1 million recovery of a policyholder dividend in the run-off risk management lines, offset by $1.8 million in higher fee and bad debt expenses. Underwriting expense for the year ended December 31, 2013 was reduced by $2.3 million received due to the settlement of a disputed assessment.

The following table represents a reconciliation of total gross and net reserves for the Run-off Lines. Amounts in the net column are reduced by reinsurance recoverables.

	For the Years Ended December 31,					
	2015		2014		2013	
(in millions)	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Asbestos and environmental:						
Loss reserves, beginning of the year	$ 53.9	$ 50.4	$ 57.5	$ 53.3	$ 64.6	$ 58.9
Incurred losses	6.3	4.3	15.1	13.5	9.8	11.0
Losses paid	(13.8)	(11.2)	(18.7)	(16.4)	(16.9)	(16.6)
Loss reserves - asbestos and environmental, end of year	46.4	43.5	53.9	50.4	57.5	53.3
Risk management reserves	252.2	156.7	257.1	168.9	264.3	171.5
Run-off reinsurance reserves	3.0	3.0	4.1	4.1	5.8	5.8
Other run-off lines	4.7	4.3	3.4	3.1	4.9	4.6
Total loss reserves - Run-off Lines	$ 306.3	$ 207.5	$ 318.5	$ 226.5	$ 332.5	$ 235.2

The following table represents the components of gross loss reserves for the Run-off Lines:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Asbestos:			
Direct			
Case reserves	$ 2.0	$ 2.5	$ 1.7
Unallocated loss adjustment expense ("ULAE")	0.5	1.0	1.3
IBNR	8.2	7.6	6.4
Total direct written reserves	10.7	11.1	9.4
Assumed domestic			
Case reserves	12.2	13.2	15.7
ULAE	0.8	1.6	2.2
IBNR	13.7	15.8	15.8
Total assumed domestic reserves	26.7	30.6	33.7
Assumed London			
Case reserves	4.0	4.7	5.8
ULAE	—	0.2	0.4
IBNR	1.4	1.2	1.4
Total assumed London reserves	5.4	6.1	7.6
Total asbestos reserves	42.8	47.8	50.7
Environmental:			
Case reserves	1.8	2.8	3.3
ULAE	0.4	0.1	0.3
IBNR	1.4	3.2	3.2
Total environmental reserves	3.6	6.1	6.8
Risk management reserves	252.2	257.1	264.3
Run-off reinsurance reserves	3.0	4.1	5.8
Other run-off lines	4.7	3.4	4.9
Total loss reserves - Run-off Lines	$ 306.3	$ 318.5	$ 332.5

We perform an extensive actuarial analysis of the asbestos and environmental reserves on at least an annual basis. We continually monitor the status of the claims and may make adjustments outside the annual review period. The review entails a detailed analysis of our direct and assumed exposure. We consider the indications from the various actuarial methods from the review to determine our best estimate of the asbestos and environmental losses and loss adjustment expense reserves. We primarily relied on a method that projects future reported claims and severities, with some weight given to other methods. This method relies most heavily on our historical claims and severity information, whereas other methods rely more heavily on industry information. The method produces an estimate of IBNR losses based on projections of future claims and the average severity for those future claims. The severities were calculated based on our specific data and in our opinion best reflect our liabilities based upon the insurance policies issued.

The following table represents a reconciliation of the number of asbestos and environmental claims outstanding:

	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Open claims, beginning of the year	1,275	1,479	1,784
Claims closed during the year	278	415	477
Claims opened during the year	114	211	172
Open claims, end of the year	1,111	1,275	1,479

The following table represents gross payments on asbestos and environmental claims:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Gross payments on closed claims	$ 7.2	$ 7.7	$ 6.7
Gross payments on open claims	6.6	11.0	10.2
Total gross payments	$ 13.8	$ 18.7	$ 16.9

Because of the types of coverage within the Run-off Lines of business still being serviced by Argonaut Insurance Company, a significant amount of subjectivity and uncertainty exists in establishing the reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses. Factors that increase these uncertainties are: (1) lack of historical data, (2) inapplicability of standard actuarial projection techniques, (3) uncertainties regardin g ultimate claim costs, (4) coverage interpretations and (5) the judicial, statutory and regulatory environments under which these claims may ultimately be resolved. Significant uncertainty remains as to our ultimate liability due to the potentially long w aiting period between exposure and emergence of any bodily injury or property damage and the resulting potential for involvement of multiple policy periods for individual claims. Due to these uncertainties, the current trends may not be indicative of futur e results. Although we have determined and recorded our best estimate of the reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses for Run-off Lines, current judicial and legislative decisions continue to broaden liability, expand policy scopes and increase the severity of claims payments. As a result of these and other recent developments, the uncertainties inherent in estimating ultimate loss reserves are heightened, further complicating the already complex process of determining loss reserves. The industry as a whole is involved in extensive litigation over these coverages and liability issues continue to make it difficult to quantify these exposures.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The primary sources of our cash flows are premiums, reinsurance recoveries, proceeds from sales and redemptions of investments and investment income. The primary cash outflows are claim payments, loss adjustment expenses, reinsurance costs and operating expenses. Additional cash outflows occur through payments of underwriting and acquisition costs such as commissions, taxes, payroll and general overhead expenses. Management believes that cash receipts from premiums, proceeds from investment sales and redemptions and investment income are sufficient to cover cash outflows in the foreseeable future. Should the need for additional cash arise, we believe we have access to additional sources of liquidity.

Cash provided (used) by operating activities can fluctuate due to timing difference in the collection of premiums and reinsurance recoveries and the payment of losses and expenses. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, cash provided by operating activities was $282.6 million and $130.5 million, respectively, while cash used by operating activities was $0.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in cash flows provided by operating activities in 2015 compared to 2014 was driven by the timing of reinsurance payments primarily concentrated in the Syndicate 1200 segment, partially offset by the first quarter 2014 partial settlement of a whole account quota share contract covering the Syndicate 1200 segment loss reserves for the 2009 and prior years of account. The increase in cash flows from operations in 2014 compared to 2013 was primarily due to increased collections on our reinsurance recoverables on paid losses offset by the settlement of our reinsurance payable due to the closing of the Syndicate 1200 segment's remaining whole account quota share contract covering segment loss reserves for 2009 and prior years of account, in addition to the closing of the 2011 year of account.

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, net cash used by investing activities was $193.6 million and $121.3 million, respectively, compared to net cash provided by investing activities of $120.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in cash flows used from investing activities from 2014 to 2015 was mainly the result of purchases of fixed maturities, partially offset by the inflow of cash from maturities and sales of fixed maturity investments. Included in purchases of fixed assets for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 was $42.0 million associated with the acquisition of real estate holdings, which were purchased on our behalf by a third-party intermediary using funds held in escrow from the fourth quarter 2014 sale of the Torrance, California real estate holdings, as previously disclosed in our December 31, 2014 Form 10-K. The decrease in cash flows from investing activities from 2013 to 2014 was mainly the result of the sale of fixed maturity assets used to settle the Syndicate 1200 segment's reinsurance payable in 2013 and fewer sales of investments in 2014. As of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, $210.8 million, $258.3 million, and $351.6 million, respectively, of the investment portfolio were invested in short-term investments.

For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, net cash used by financing activities was $50.0 million, $82.4 million, and $59.5 million, respectively. During 2015, 2014 and 2013, we repurchased approximately 0.6 million, 1.0 million and 1.1 million shares, respectively, of our common shares for a total cost of $29.7 million, $50.8 million and $46.5 million, respectively. We paid dividends to our shareholders totaling $22.7 million, $18.2 million and $15.8 million during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. During 2014, we paid $18.0 million for the extinguishment of one of our fixed rate trust preferred securities.

Argo Group and its other holding company subsidiaries are largely dependent on dividends and other permitted payments from their insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries to pay cash dividends to their shareholders, for debt service and for their operating expenses. The ability of our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries to pay dividends to us is subject to certain restrictions imposed by the jurisdictions of domicile that regulate our immediate insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries and each jurisdiction has calculations for the amount of dividends that an insurance and reinsurance company can pay without the approval of the insurance regulator.

In addition, our ability to receive dividends from our downstream subsidiaries is subject to the ability of each parent corporation within the corporate ownership structure to receive dividends from its respective subsidiary(ies), based upon the subsidiary's domiciliary regulations. Argo Re is the primary direct subsidiary of Argo Group and is subject to Bermuda insurance laws. Argo

Ireland is indirectly owned by Argo Re and is a mid-level holding company subject to Irish laws, and its primary subsidiary is Argo Group US, Inc. Argo Group US, Inc. is a mid-level holding comp any subject to Delaware laws. Argo Group US, Inc. is the parent of all of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, Argo Re paid a cash dividend of $41.0 million to Argo Group which was used to repay intercompany balances related primarily to dividend and interest payments and other corporate expenses. Argo Group US did not receive dividends from its US subsidiaries in 2015.

The payment of dividends by Argo Re is limited under Bermuda insurance laws which require Argo Re to maintain certain measures of solvency and liquidity. As of December 31, 2015, the unaudited statutory capital and surplus of Argo Re was estimated to be $1,260.1 million and the amount required to be maintained was estimated to be $345.9 million, thereby allowing Argo Re the potential to pay dividends or capital distributions within the parameters of the solvency and liquidity margins. We believe that the dividend and capital distribution capacity of Argo Re will provide us with sufficient liquidity to meet the operating and debt service commitments, as well as other obligations.

During 2016, Argo Group US, Inc. may be permitted to receive dividends from its subsidiaries as follows: Colony – $35.0 million, Argonaut Insurance Company – $41.6 million and Rockwood – $18.2 million. Business and regulatory considerations may impact the amount of dividends actually paid and prior approval of dividend payments may be required.

On March 7, 2014, each of Argo Group, Argo Group US, Inc., Argo International Holdings Limited, and Argo Underwriting Agency Limited (the “Borrowers”) entered into a $175 million credit agreement (“Credit Agreement”) with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent. The Credit Agreement provides for a $175.0 million revolving credit facility with a maturity date of March 7, 2018 unless extended in accordance with the terms of the Credit Agreement. Borrowings under the Credit Agreement may be used for general corporate purposes, including working capital and permitted acquisitions, and each of the Borrowers has agreed to be jointly and severally liable for the obligations of the other Borrowers under the Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement contains customary events of default. If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the Borrowers could be required to repay all amounts outstanding under the Credit Agreement. Lenders holding at least a majority of the loans and commitments under the Credit Agreement may elect to accelerate the maturity of the loans and/or terminate the commitments under the Credit Agreement upon the occurrence and during the continuation of an event of default. No defaults or events of defaults have occurred as of the date of this filing.

Included in the Credit Agreement is a provision that allows up to $17.5 million of the revolving credit facility to be used for letters of credit (“LOCs”), subject to availability. As of December 31, 2015, there were no borrowings outstanding and $0.2 million in LOCs against the Credit Facility.

LOCs have been filed with Lloyd’s by trade capital providers as part of the terms of whole account quota share reinsurance contracts entered into by the trade capital providers. In the event such LOCs are funded, the outstanding balance would be the responsibility of the trade capital providers.

Under certain insurance programs (i.e., large deductible programs and surety bonds) and various reinsurance agreements, collateral and LOCs are held for our benefit to secure performance of insureds and reinsurers in meeting their obligations. At December 31, 2015, the amount of such collateral and LOCs held under insurance and reinsurance agreements were $680.0 million and $550.3 million, respectively. Collateral can be provided in the form of trust accounts. As we are the beneficiary of these trust accounts only to secure future performance, these amounts are not reflected in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Collateral provided by an insured or reinsurer may exceed or fall below their total outstanding obligation.

Through a series of trusts, that are wholly-owned subsidiaries (non-consolidated), we issued trust preferred securities. The interest on the underlying debentures is variable with the rates being reset quarterly and subject to certain interest rate ceilings. Interest payments are payable quarterly. The debentures are all unsecured and are subordinated to other indebtedness. All are redeemable subject to certain terms and conditions at a price equal to 100% of the principal plus accrued and unpaid interest.

On July 16, 2014, Argo Group US, Inc. purchased the outstanding PXRE Capital Trust V $20,000,000 Junior Subordinated Debt Securities (“Capital Trust V”) at a discount equal to 90.0% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest through the date of purchase for a total price of $18.2 million, resulting in the recognition of a $2.0 million pre-tax realized gain.

A summary of our outstanding junior subordinated debentures at December 31, 201 5 is presented below:

(in millions)

Issue Date	Trust Preferred Pools	Maturity	Rate Structure	Interest Rate at December 31, 2015	Amount
Argo Group					
05/15/2003	PXRE Capital Statutory Trust II	05/15/2033	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.33%	$ 18.1
11/06/2003	PXRE Capital Trust VI	09/30/2033	3M LIBOR + 3.90%	4.16%	10.3
Argo Group US					
05/15/2003	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust I	05/15/2033	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.33%	15.5
12/16/2003	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust III	01/08/2034	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.33%	12.3
04/29/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IV	04/29/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.85%	4.08%	13.4
05/26/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust V	05/24/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.85%	4.08%	12.3
05/12/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VI	05/12/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.80%	4.04%	13.4
09/17/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VII	12/15/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.60%	3.84%	15.5
09/22/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VIII	09/22/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.55%	3.80%	15.5
10/22/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IX	12/15/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.60%	3.84%	15.5
09/15/2005	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust X	09/15/2035	3M LIBOR + 3.40%	3.64%	30.9
	Total Outstanding				$ 172.7

We assumed debt through the acquisition of Syndicate 1200. These notes are unsecured. All are redeemable subject to certain terms and conditions at a price up to 100% of the principal plus accrued and unpaid interest. Interest on the U.S. Dollar and Euro notes is due semiannually and quarterly, respectively. A summary of the notes outstanding at December 31, 2015 is presented below:

(in millions)

Issue Date	Currency	Maturity	Rate Structure	Interest Rate at December 31, 2015	Amount
12/08/2004	U.S. Dollar	11/15/2034	6 month LIBOR + 4.2%	4.53%	$ 6.5
09/06/2005	Euro	08/22/2035	3 month LIBOR + 4.0%	4.08%	12.7
10/31/206	U.S. Dollar	01/15/2036	6 month LIBOR + 4.0%	4.33%	10.0
10/31/2006	Euro	11/22/2036	3 month LIBOR + 4.0%	4.08%	11.1
06/08/2007	Euro	09/15/2037	3 month LIBOR + 3.9%	3.98%	14.3
					$ 54.6

Throughout 2015, 2014 and 2013, we had no preferred shares outstanding.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, our Board declared quarterly dividends in the aggregate amount of $0.80 per share. Cash dividends paid for the year ended December 31, 2015 totaled $22.7 million. On February 16, 2016, our Board declared a quarterly cash dividend in the amount of $0.22 on each share of common stock outstanding. The dividend will be paid on March 15, 2016 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 1, 2016.

On February 17, 2015, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend, payable on March 16, 2015, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 2, 2015. Shareholders received cash in lieu of fractional shares.

On November 5, 2013, our Board authorized the repurchase of up to $150.0 million of our common shares ("2013 Repurchase Authorization"). The 2013 Repurchase Authorization supersedes all the previous repurchase authorizations. As of December 31, 2015, availability under the 2013 Repurchase Authorization for future repurchases of our common shares was $63.1 million.

We invest excess cash in a variety of investment securities. As of December 31, 2015, our investment portfolio consisted of 71.1% fixed maturities, 11.3% equity securities, 12.5% other investments and 5.1% short-term investments (based on fair value) compared to 69.3% fixed maturities, 11.9% equity securities, 12.1% other investments and 6.7% short-term investments as of December 31, 2014. We classify the majority of our investment portfolio as available-for-sale; resulting in these investments being reported at fair market value with unrealized gains and losses, net of tax, being reported as a component of shareholders' equity. At December 31, 2015, no investments were designated as trading. No issuer (excluding United States Government and United States Governmental agencies) of fixed maturity or equity securities represents more than 4.6 % of shareholders' equity at December 31, 2015.

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries require liquidity and adequate capital to meet ongoing obligations to policyholders and claimants and fund operating expenses. During the year ended December 31, 2015, cash flow provided by operations was $282.6 million. Based on current premium volumes and other measures of capital deployed in our business, we determined we had excess capital and, therefore, returned capital to our shareholders through the share buy-back program and through dividend payments to our sharehold ers. We believe our liquidity generated from operations and, if required, from our investment portfolio, will be sufficient to meet our obligations for the foreseeable future. We believe we have access to various sources of liquidity including cash, invest ments and the ability to borrow under our revolving credit facility. Additionally, we continue to have access to the debt and equity markets, though we currently do not foresee needing access to these sources of capital.

We believe we maintain sufficient liquidity to pay claims and expenses, as well as satisfy our commitments in the event of unforeseen events such as reinsurer insolvencies, inadequate premium rates or reserve deficiencies.

We maintain a comprehensive reinsurance program at levels management considers adequate to diversify risk and safeguard our financial position. Increases in the costs of this program, or the failure of our reinsurers to meet their obligations in a timely fashion, may have a negative impact on liquidity.

Transactions with Related Parties

The discussion of transactions with related parties is included in Note 22, "Transactions with Related Parties" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" beginning on page F-1.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have committed to invest up to a total of $413.5 million in a series of hedge funds, private equity and long only funds, of which $323.3 million was funded and included in Other invested assets in our consolidated balance sheet. As of December 31, 2015, we have a remaining obligation to the private equity partnerships to invest up to an additional $90.2 million, which can be called at any time. We have not recorded this commitment in our consolidated financial statements. The investment will be recorded at such time as the capital partnership requires the additional investment. Additionally, we have not recorded the liabilities for our operating leases in our consolidated financial statements.

Other than as described in the immediately preceding paragraph, we have not entered into any off-balance sheet arrangements, as defined by Item 303(a)(4) of Regulation S-K at December 31, 2015.

Contractual Obligations

Our estimated contractual obligations and commitments as of December 31, 2015 were as follows:

		Payments Due by Period			
(in millions)	Total	Less Than 1 Year	1 - 3 Years	3 - 5 Years	Thereafter
Long-term debt:					
Junior subordinated debentures (1)	$ 309.7	$ 7.4	$ 14.8	$ 14.8	$ 272.7
Senior unsecured fixed rate notes (2)	393.7	9.3	18.7	18.7	347.0
Floating rate loan stock (3)	97.8	2.2	4.5	2.2	88.9
Note payable	0.6	—	—	—	0.6
Operating leases	40.3	10.3	16.3	9.3	4.4
Purchase obligations (4)	16.6	9.6	4.0	3.0	—
Contingent consideration for asset purchase (5)	6.5	6.5	—	—	—
Other long-term liabilities:					
Claim payments (6)	3,123.6	920.8	1,053.1	474.5	675.2
Catastrophe bond program	47.4	23.8	23.6	—	—
Partnership commitments (8)	90.2	90.2	—	—	—
Total contractual obligations	$ 4,126.4	$ 1,080.1	$ 1,135.0	$ 522.5	$ 1,388.8

(1) Interest only on Junior Subordinated Debentures through 2033. Interest calculated based on the rate in effect at December 31, 2015. Principal due beginning May 2033.
(2) Interest only on Senior Unsecured Fixed Rate Notes through 2042. Interest calculated based on the rate in effect at December 31, 2015. Principal due September 2042.
(3) Interest only on Floating Rate Loan Stock through 2034. Interest calculated based on the rate in effect at December 31, 2015. Principal due beginning November 2034.
(4) Purchase obligations consist primarily of software, hardware and equipment servicing and software licensing fees.
(5) Contingent consideration for asset purchases is estimated at the maximum payout if profit targets are met.

(6) Claim payments do not have a contractual maturity; exact timing of claim payments cannot be predicted with certa inty. The above table estimates timing of claim payments based on historical payment patterns and excludes the benefits of reinsurance recoveries.

(7) Argo Group has invested in multiple limited partnership agreements and can be called to fulfill the obligations at any time.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

The discussion of the adoption and pending adoption of recently issued accounting policies is included in Note 1, "Business and Significant Accounting Policies" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" beginning on page F-1.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

We establish reserves for the estimated total unpaid costs of losses including loss adjustment expenses ("LAE"), for losses that occurred in 2015 and prior. Unless otherwise specified below, the term "loss reserves" encompasses reserves for both losses and LAE. Loss reserves reflect management's best estimate of the total cost of (i) claims that have been incurred, but not yet paid and (ii) IBNR claims. Loss reserves established are not an exact calculation of our liability. Rather, loss reserves represent management's best estimate of our liability based on application of actuarial techniques and other projection methodologies and taking into consideration other facts and circumstances known at the balance sheet date. The process of establishing loss reserves is complex and necessarily imprecise, as it involves using judgment that is impacted by many internal and external variables such as past loss experience, current claim trends and the prevailing social, economic and legal environments. In determining loss reserves, we give careful consideration to all available data and actuarial analyses and this process involves significant judgment.

The relevant factors and methodologies used to estimate loss reserves vary significantly by product line due to differences in loss exposure and claim complexity. Much of our business is underwritten on an occurrence basis, meaning that there may be a significant time lag between the event that gives rise to a claim and the date on which the claim is reported to us, which can also result in additional time being required to resolve the claim. During these time lags, which can span several years for complex claims, new facts and information specific to the claim become known to us, and general econometric and societal trends including inflation continue to change, requiring us to refine our loss reserve estimates on a regular basis. We apply a strict regimen to assure that review of these facts and trends occurs on a timely basis so that this information can be factored into our estimate of future liabilities. However, due to the number and potential magnitude of these variables, actual paid losses in future periods may differ materially from our estimates as reflected in current reserves. These differences can be favorable or unfavorable. More precise estimation of loss reserves is also hindered by the effects of growth in a line of business and uncertainty as to how new business performs over time. In addition to reserving for known claim events, we also establish loss reserves for IBNR. Loss reserves for IBNR are set using our actuarial estimates for events that have occurred as of the balance sheet date but have yet been reported to us. Estimation of IBNR loss reserves is subject to significant uncertainty.

Following is a summary of gross and net loss reserves we recorded by line of business:

	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(in millions)	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
General liability	$ 1,423.3	$ 948.3	$ 1,355.8	$ 913.0
Workers compensation	575.9	322.2	536.8	327.9
Syndicate 1200 liability	293.4	194.0	295.5	202.4
Syndicate 1200 property	129.1	95.0	130.1	99.2
Commercial multi-peril	193.6	163.3	198.3	164.6
Commercial auto liability	135.6	128.7	165.2	158.3
Reinsurance - nonproportional assumed property	97.3	67.3	105.9	79.7
Syndicate 1200 specialty	30.1	17.9	30.4	18.7
All other lines	245.3	196.6	224.4	173.3
Total reserves	$ 3,123.6	$ 2,133.3	$ 3,042.4	$ 2,137.1

Loss Reserve Estimation Methods

The process for estimating our loss reserves begins with the collection and analysis of claim data. The data collected for actuarial analyses includes reported claims, paid losses and case reserve estimates sorted by the year the loss occurred. The data sets are sorted into homogeneous groupings, exhibiting similar loss and exposure characteristics. We primarily use internal data in the analysis but also consider industry data in developing factors and estimates. We analyze loss reserves on a quarterly basis.

We use a variety of actuarial techniques and methods to determine loss reserves for all lines of business. Each such method has its own set of assumptions and outputs, and each has strengths and weaknesses in different areas. Since no single estimation method is superior to another method in all situations, the methods and assumptions used to project loss reserves will vary by line of business. We use what we believe to be the most appropriate set of actuarial methods and assumptions for each product line grouping. While the loss projection methods may vary by product line, the general approach for calculating IBNR remains the same: ultimate losses are forecasted first, and that amount is reduced by the amount of cumulative paid claims and case reserves.

When we initially establish IBNR reserves at the beginning of an accident year for each line of business, we use the expected loss ratio method. This method is based upon our analyses of historical loss ratios incorporating adjustments for pricing changes, anticipated loss ratio trends, changes in reinsurance structure and any other factors that may impact loss ratio expectations. At the end of each quarter, we review the loss ratio selections and the emerged loss experience to determine if deviating from the loss ratio method is appropriate. In general, we continue to use the loss ratio method until the end of the accident year, at which time we begin to assign weight to the paid and incurred BF methods depending on the line of business being evaluated. The BF methods compute IBNR through a blend of the expected loss ratio method and traditional loss development methods. The BF methods estimate IBNR for an accident year as the product of expected losses (earned premium multiplied by an expected loss ratio) plus an expected percentage of unreported losses. The expected percentage of unreported losses is derived from age-to-ultimate loss development factors that result from our analyses of loss development triangles. As accident years mature to the point at which the reported loss experience is more credible, we assign increasing weight to the paid and incurred loss development methods.

For short-tail lines of business such as property, the expected loss ratio method is initially selected and applied to earned premium at the beginning of an accident year. As property losses occur and are reported, and when claims adjusters have sufficient time and information to make specific claims estimates, the BF methods are used to supplement the expected loss ratio method. Property losses are generally reported within a short time from the date of loss, and in most instances, property claims are settled and paid within a relatively short period of time. Therefore, paid and incurred development methods are given greater weight in our analyses at the end of the accident year. In the event there are large claims incurred, we will analyze large loss information separately to ensure that the loss reserving methods appropriately recognize the magnitude of these losses in the evaluation of ultimate losses.

For long-tail lines such as general liability and automobile liability, the starting point for determining ultimate losses is initially the expected loss ratio method. The time lag for reporting claims is greater in liability lines of business than it is in short-tail lines. Facts and information are frequently not complete at the time case reserves are established, and because protracted litigation is sometimes involved potentially creating additional uncertainty in final settlement amounts, case reserves alone are an insufficient measure of the ultimate loss costs. Due to the variability in the timing of receipt and completeness of case reserve data, loss experience is not deemed fully credible for several years. At the end of the accident year, we rely primarily on the BF methods and continue to rely on those methods for several years. We assign greater weight to the paid and incurred development methods as the data matures.

Workers compensation is also a long-tail line of business. An expected loss ratio method is used for the initial evaluations of an accident year, followed by paid and incurred BF loss development methodologies as well as paid and incurred development methods as the data matures. Loss development for workers compensation spans many years. However, a significant portion of the outstanding reserves correspond to scheduled annuity payments and are not subject to extreme volatility. The portion of reserves that is not scheduled or annuitized is subject to potentially large variations in ultimate loss cost due to the uncertainty of medical cost inflation. Sources of medical cost inflation include increased utilization, new and more expensive medical testing procedures and increased utilization and cost of prescription drugs.

We have a Run-off Lines segment that includes reserves for asbestos, environmental and other latent exposures. These latent exposures are typically characterized by extended periods of time between the dates we first became exposed to a loss, a claim was reported and the claim is resolved. For our Run-off Lines segment long-tail loss reserves, there is significant uncertainty involved in estimating reserves for asbestos, environmental and other latent injury claims. We use several methods to estimate reserves for these claims including an approach that projects future calendar period claims and severities, a report year method which estimates loss reserves based on the pattern and magnitude of reported claims and ground-up analysis that relies on an evaluation of individual policy terms and conditions. We also consider survival ratio and market share methods which compare our level of loss reserves and loss payments to that of the industry for similar exposures. We apply greatest weight to the method that projects future calendar period claims and severities because we believe it best captures the unique claim reporting and severity characteristics of the underlying exposures and loss development potential. We perform a full review of our Run-off Lines asbestos, environmental and other latent exposures loss reserves at least once a year and review loss activity quarterly for significant changes that might impact management's best estimate.

Each business segment is analyzed individually, with development characteristics for each short-tail and long-tail line of business identified and a pplied accordingly. In comparing loss reserve methods and assumptions used at December 31, 2015 as compared with methods and assumptions used at December 31, 2014, management has not changed or adjusted methodologies or assumptions in any significant mann er.

In conducting our actuarial analyses, we generally assume that past patterns demonstrated in the data will repeat themselves and that the data provides a basis for estimating future loss reserves. In the event that we become aware of a material change that may render past experience inappropriate for the purpose of estimating current loss reserves, we will attempt to quantify the effect of the change and use informed management judgment to adjust loss reserve forecasts appropriately.

Uncertainties in Loss Reserve Estimation

The major causes of uncertainty will vary for each product line reviewed. For short-tail property lines of business, we are exposed to catastrophe losses, both natural and manmade. Due to the nature of certain catastrophic loss events, such as hurricanes, earthquakes or terrorist attacks, our normal claims resolution processes may be impaired due to factors such as difficulty in accessing impacted areas and other physical, legal and regulatory impediments. These factors can make establishment of accurate loss reserve estimates difficult and render such estimates subject to greater uncertainty. Additionally, if the catastrophe occurs near the end of a financial reporting period, there are additional uncertainties in loss reserve estimates due to the lack of sufficient time to conduct a thorough analysis. Long-tail casualty lines of business also present challenges in establishing appropriate loss reserves, particularly in the event of changes in the legal environment over time which may broaden our liability or scope of policy coverage and increase the magnitude of claim payments.

In all lines, final claim payments may differ from the established loss reserve. Due to the uncertainties discussed above, the ultimate losses may vary materially from current loss reserves and could have a material adverse effect on our future financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Any adjustments to loss reserves are reflected in the results for the year during which the adjustments are made.

In addition to the previously described general uncertainties encountered in estimating loss reserves, there are significant additional uncertainties in estimating the amount of our potential losses from asbestos and environmental claims. Loss reserves for asbestos and environmental claims normally cannot be estimated with traditional loss reserving techniques that rely on historical accident year development factors due to the uncertainties surrounding these types of claims. Among the uncertainties impacting the estimation of such losses are:

- potentially long waiting periods between exposure and emergence of any bodily injury or property damage;
- difficulty in identifying sources of environmental or asbestos contamination and in properly allocating responsibility and/or liability for damage;
- changes in underlying laws and judicial interpretation of those laws;
- potential for an environmental or asbestos claim to involve many insurance providers over many policy periods;
- long reporting delays from insureds to insurance companies;
- historical data concerning asbestos and environmental losses which is more limited than historical information on other types of claims;
- questions concerning interpretation and application of insurance coverage; and
- uncertainty regarding the number and identity of insureds with potential asbestos or environmental exposure.

Case reserves and expense reserves for costs of related litigation have been established where sufficient information has been developed. Additionally, IBNR has been established to cover additional exposure on known and unknown claims.

We underwrite environmental and pollution coverage on a limited number of policies and underground storage tanks. We establish loss reserves to the extent that, in the judgment of management, the facts and prevailing law reflect an exposure for us.

Risk Factors by Line of Business in Loss Reserve Estimation

The following section details reserving considerations and loss and LAE risk factors for the lines representing most of our loss reserves. Each risk factor presented will have a different impact on required loss reserves. Also, risk factors can have offsetting or compounding effects on required loss reserves. For example, introduction and approval of a more expensive medical procedure may result in higher estimates for medical inflation costs. But in the workers compensation context, the availability of that same medical procedure may enable workers to return to work more quickly, thereby lowering estimates for indemnity costs for that line of business. As a result, it usually is not possible to identify and measure the impact that a change in one discrete risk factor may have or construct a meaningful sensitivity expectation around it. We do not make explicit estimates of the impact on loss reserve estimates for the assumptions related to the risk factors described below.

Loss adjustment expenses used in connection with our loss reserves are comprised of both allocated and unallocated expenses. Allocated loss adjustment expenses generally relate to specific claim files. We often combine allocated loss adjustment expenses with losses for purposes of projecting ultimate liabilities. For some types of claims, such as asbestos, environmental and professional liability, allocated loss adjustment expenses consisting primarily of legal defense costs may be significant, sometimes exceeding the liability to indemnify claimants for losses. Unallocated loss adjustment expenses generally relate to the administration and handling of claims in the ordinary course of business. We typically calculate unallocated loss adjustment expense reserves using a percentage of unpaid losses for each line of business.

<u>General Liability</u>

General liability is considered a long-tail line, as it takes a relatively long period of time to finalize and resolve all claims from a given accident year. The speed at which claims are received and then resolved is a function of the specific coverage provided, jurisdiction in which the claim is located and specific policy provisions. There are numerous components underlying the general liability product line. Some of these have relatively moderate payout patterns with most of the claims for a given accident year closed within five to seven years, while others are characterized by extreme time lags for both reporting and payment of claims. In addition, this line includes asbestos and environmental claims, which are reviewed separately because of the unique character of these exposures. Allocated loss adjustment expenses in this line consist primarily of legal costs and may exceed the total amount of the indemnity loss on some claims.

Major factors contributing to uncertainty in loss reserve estimates for general liability include reporting lags (i.e., the length of time between the event triggering coverage and the actual reporting of the claim), the number of parties involved in the underlying tort action, events triggering coverage that are spread over multiple time periods, the inability to know in advance what actual indemnity costs will be associated with an individual claim, the potential for disputes over whether claims were reasonably foreseeable and intended to be covered at the time the contracts were underwritten and the potential for mass tort claims and class actions. Generally, claims with a longer reporting lag time are characterized by greater inherent risk of uncertainty.

Examples of loss and LAE risk factors associated with general liability claims that can change over time and result in adjustments to loss reserves include, but are not limited to, the following:

Claims risk factors:

- Changes in claim handling procedures;
- Changes in policy provisions or court interpretation of such provisions;
- New theories of liability;
- Trends in jury awards;
- Changes in the propensity to sue, in general and with specificity to particular issues;
- Changes in statutes of limitations;
- Changes in the underlying court system;
- Changes in tort law;
- Shifts in law suit mix between U.S. federal and state courts; and
- Changes in inflation.

Book of Business risk factors:

- Changes in policy provisions (e.g., deductibles, policy limits, endorsements);
- Changes in underwriting standards; and
- Product mix (e.g., size of account, industries insured, jurisdiction mix).

Actuarial methods used to forecast ultimate liabilities for general liability are adjusted to take into consideration the uncertainties related to handling claims expected to remain open for an extended period of time as well as the Claims and Book of Business risk factors noted above.

Workers Compensation

Workers compensation is generally considered a long-tail coverage as it takes a relatively long period of time to finalize claims from a given accident year. Certain payments, such as initial medical treatment or temporary wage replacement for the injured worker, are generally disbursed quickly. Other payments are made over the course of several years, such as awards for permanent partial injuries. Some payments continue to take place throughout the injured worker's life, such as permanent disability benefits and on-going medical care. Although long-tail in nature, claims generally are not subject to long reporting lags, settlements are generally not complex and most of the liability exposure is characterized by high frequency and moderate severity. The largest reserve risks are generally associated with low frequency, high severity claims that require lifetime coverage for medical expense arising from a worker's injury.

Examples of loss and LAE risk factors that can change over time and cause workers compensation loss reserves to fluctuate include, but are not limited to, the following:

Indemnity claims risk factors:

- Time required to recover from the injury;
- Degree of available transitional jobs;
- Degree of legal involvement;
- Changes in the interpretations and processes of the workers compensation commissions' oversight of claim;
- Future wage inflation for U.S. states that index benefits;
- Changes in the administrative policies of second injury funds; and
- Changes in benefit levels.

Medical claims risk factors:

- Changes in the cost of medical treatments, including prescription drugs, and underlying fee schedules;
- Frequency of visits to health providers;
- Number of medical procedures given during visits to health providers;
- Types of health providers used;
- Type of medical treatments received;
- Use of preferred provider networks and other medical cost containment practices;
- Availability of new medical processes and equipment;
- Changes in life expectancy;
- Changes in the use of pharmaceutical drugs; and
- Degree of patient responsiveness to treatment.

Book of Business risk factors:

- Injury type mix;
- Changes in underwriting standards; and
- Changing product mix based on insured demand.

Syndicate 1200 Liability and Property

Our Syndicate 1200 segment loss reserves are analyzed quarterly by internal staff at Syndicate 1200 . Additionally, we employ an independent actuary to conduct a detailed review of loss reserves annually. Management's estimate of reserves is based on the internal study. The external study is completed to support the actuarial opinion for Lloyd's reporting.

We use several approaches and actuarial techniques to project gross and net loss reserves. For property lines of business, we review our loss reserves considering the underlying claims. We use paid and incurred loss development as our primary methods for determining ultimate losses. Additionally, we consider expected loss ratios, pricing trends and any other variations in the business underwritten, including changes in underlying terms and conditions. Catastrophic claim liabilities and other large losses are inherently more volatile than attritional losses; therefore, we use other loss forecasting methodologies. For known catastrophic claims, we initially rely on industry estimates and information from third-party modeling software to determine our exposure. As catastrophic events mature, specific claim information we receive is used to refine our initial loss estimate. After approximately four to six months from the date of the catastrophic event, our reported losses relative to the event are assigned significant credibility. However, it may be several years before ultimate loss amounts are fully known as disputes over policy coverage or the relevant law governing a claim cause uncertainty in the estimation of outcomes. The observed large loss patterns are subsequently adjusted by changes in underlying exposures and risk characteristics.

For the long-tail lines underwritten by Syndicate 1200 , such as professional indemnity and general liability, it may be several years before claims are fully advised and settled. The large time lag involved for reporting and settling claims introduces a large amount of uncertainty into the loss estimation process. Loss experience is not deemed fully credible for several years. Until the time that an underwriting year of account is closed, we use an expected loss ratio method to determine ultimate losses, supplemented by paid and incurred BF loss development methods, to the extent that the reported loss data matures and is considered credible.

We perform our loss reserve analysis on a syndicate basis, which represents 100% of the business underwritten by the syndicate. We use reinsurance to cede a proportion of its premium income and incurred losses to reinsurers. The percentage of the cession differs for each underwriting year of account. The reinsurers' share of provisions for claims is based on calculated amounts of outstanding claims and projections for IBNR, net of estimated unrecoverable amounts. Syndicate 1200 evaluates the reinsurance program in place for the class of business, claims experience for the year and security rating of the reinsurance companies involved.

Commercial Multiple Peril

Commercial multiple peril lines insure a combination of property and liability exposures, and therefore, include both short and long-tail coverage. Property coverage claims are generally resolved in a short period of time, while liability coverage claims generally require more time to resolve. The risk of fluctuation in loss reserves for this line is predominately associated with liability coverage with risk factors similar to other general liability lines described above.

Because commercial multiple peril lines involve both short-tail and long-tail coverage, we give weight to different methodologies in deriving estimated loss reserves based on the coverage being evaluated. In general, paid and incurred loss development methods are used to forecast property losses. For liability losses, due to the Claims and Book of Business risk factors described in the General Liability section above, we use several loss reserving methods to capture the development characteristics associated with these lines of business. Paid and incurred loss development, paid and incurred BF methods and a loss frequency/severity method are used in deriving estimated loss reserves.

Commercial Automobile Liability

The commercial automobile liability product line is a long-tail coverage, mainly due to exposures arising out of bodily injury claims. Losses in this line associated with bodily injury claims generally are more difficult to accurately estimate and take longer to resolve. Claim reporting lags also can be lengthy. Examples of loss and LAE risk factors that can change over time and result in adjustments to commercial automobile liability loss reserves include, but are not limited to, the following:

Claims risk factors:

- Trends in jury awards;
- Changes in the underlying court system;
- Changes in case law;
- Litigation trends;
- Subrogation opportunities;
- Changes in claim handling procedures;
- Frequency of visits to health providers;
- Number of medical procedures given during visits to health providers;
- Types of health providers used;
- Types of medical treatments received;
- Changes in cost of medical treatments; and
- Degree of patient responsiveness to treatment.

Book of Business risk factors:

- Changes in policy provisions (e.g., deductibles, policy limits, endorsements, etc.);
- Changes in mix of insured vehicles; and
- Changes in underwriting standards.

Reinsurance – Nonproportional Assumed Property

As a property catastrophe reinsurer, incurred losses are inherently more volatile than those of primary insurers and reinsurers of risks that have an established historical pattern of losses. The most significant uncertainty in reserves involves estimates of catastrophe losses. In reserving for catastrophe losses, estimates are influenced by underwriting information provided by clients, clients' market shares, industry catastrophe models, industry loss estimates and internal analyses of this information. This reserving approach can cause significant development from initial loss estimates in the immediate wake of a catastrophe event due to the limited information available to us as a reinsurer regarding the actual underlying losses. This process can cause the ultimate estimates to differ significantly from initial projections.

The loss estimation process often begins with the identification of events with characteristics similar to the recent catastrophe (geographic location, wind speed, damageability, etc.), which then results in a list of the expected losses by contract from our proprietary risk management system. Third-party modeling software is embedded in our proprietary risk management system.

Concurrently, underwriting teams employ a market share approach as well as perform a thorough contract by contract analysis to identify potential changes to the expected loss estimates including IBNR by contract. The results of this initial process are updated when additional information is available. This information comes in the form of publicly available announcements, informal contact with brokers and/or clients, submission data and formal claim notices. As catastrophic events mature and reporting loss methods become more credible, usually six to twelve months after the event, more credibility can be assigned to actuarial methods implementing historical patterns. In evaluating the loss estimates for catastrophic events, we use internal databases to establish projected reporting and payment patterns. Industry patterns from the Reinsurance Association of America ("RAA"), an insurance industry organization, are also employed.

Impact of changes in key assumptions on reserve volatility

We estimate reserves using a variety of methods, assumptions and data elements. The reserve estimation process includes explicit assumptions about a number of factors in the internal and external environment. Across most lines of business, the most important assumptions are future loss development factors applied to paid or reported losses to date. The trend in loss costs is also a key assumption, particularly in the most recent accident years, where loss development factors are less credible.

The following discussion includes disclosure of possible variations from current estimates of loss reserves due to a change in certain key assumptions. Each of the impacts described below is estimated individually, without consi deration for any correlation among other key assumptions or among lines of business. Therefore, it could be misleading to take each of the amounts described below and add them together in an attempt to estimate volatility for reserves in total. The estim ated variations in reserves due to changes in key assumptions discussed below are a reasonable estimate of possible variations that may occur in the future, likely over a period of several calendar years. It is important to note that the variations discus sed herein are not exhaustive and are not meant to be a worst or best case scenario, and therefore, it is possible that future variations may be more than amounts discussed below.

Recorded gross reserves for general liability were $1,423.3 million, with approximately 3% of that amount related to run-off asbestos and environmental exposures as of December 31, 2015. For general liability losses relating to ongoing operations, reported loss development patterns are a key assumption for this line of business. Historically, assumptions on reported loss development patterns have been impacted by, among other things, emergence of new types of claims (e.g., construction defect claims) or a shift in the mixture between smaller, more routine claims and larger, more complex claims. We have reviewed the historical variation in reported loss development patterns for general liability losses deriving from continuing operations. If the reported loss development patterns change by 10%, a change that we have experienced in the past and that management considers possible, the estimated net reserve could change by $60.0 million, in either direction.

Similar to general liability, commercial multiple peril reserves are affected by reported loss development pattern assumptions. Recorded gross reserves for commercial multiple peril business were $193.6 million as of December 31, 2015. If the development patterns underlying our net reserves for this line of business change by 10%, the estimated net reserve could change by $10.0 million, in either direction.

Recorded gross reserves for workers compensation were $575.9 million as of December 31, 2015. The two most important assumptions for workers compensation reserves are loss development factors and loss cost trends, particularly medical cost inflation. Loss development patterns are dependent on medical cost inflation. Approximately 60% of the workers compensation net reserves are related to future medical costs. A review of National Council on Compensation Insurance data suggests that the annual growth in industry medical claim costs has varied from -2% to +13% since 1991. Across the entire reserve base, a 1% change in calendar year medical inflation could change the estimated net reserve by $20.0 million, in either direction.

Recorded gross reserves for commercial auto liability were $135.6 million as of December 31, 2015. A key assumption for commercial lines auto liability is the annual loss cost trend, particularly the severity trend component of loss costs. A 3% change in assumed annual severity is within the range of our historical experience and which management considers possible. A 3% change in assumed annual severity could change the estimated net reserve by $20.0 million, in either direction.

Recorded gross reserves for the Syndicate 1200 segment were $604.0 million as of December 31, 2015. Estimation of our international liability reserves are subject to late emergence and mix shifts between smaller, more routine claims and larger, more complex claims. Our international property reserves are analyzed by the characteristics of the underlying exposures. Property loss reserves are characterized by relatively short periods between occurrence, reporting, determination of coverage and ultimate claims settlement. These property loss reserves tend to be the most predictable. Catastrophic loss reserves tend to exhibit more volatility due to the nature of the underlying loss event which may cause delays and complexity in estimating ultimate loss exposure.

With respect to asbestos and environmental general liability losses, we wrote several different categories of insurance contracts that may cover asbestos and environmental claims. First, we wrote primary policies providing the first layer of coverage in an insured's general liability insurance program. Second, we wrote excess policies providing higher layers of general liability insurance coverage for losses that exhaust the limits of underlying coverage. Third, we acted as a reinsurer assuming a portion of those risks from other insurers underwriting primary, excess and reinsurance coverage. Fourth, we participated in the London Market, underwriting both direct insurance and assumed reinsurance business. With regard to both environmental and asbestos claims, significant uncertainty limits the ability of insurers and reinsurers to estimate the ultimate reserves necessary for unpaid losses and related expenses. Traditional actuarial reserving techniques cannot reasonably estimate the ultimate cost of these claims, particularly during periods where theories of law are in a state of continued uncertainty. The degree of variability of reserve estimates for these types of exposures is significantly greater than for other more traditional general liability exposures, and as such, we believe there is a high degree of uncertainty inherent in the estimation of asbestos and environmental loss reserves.

In the case of the reserves for asbestos exposures, factors contributing to the high degree of uncertainty include inadequate loss development patterns, plaintiffs' expanding theories of liability, the risks inherent in major litigation and inconsistent emerging legal outcomes. Furthermore, over time, insurers, including Argo Group, have experienced significant changes in the rate at which asbestos claims are brought, claims experience of particular insureds and value of claims, making predictions of future exposure from past experience uncertain. For example, in the past, insurers in general, including Argo Group, have experienced an increase in the number of asbestos-related claims due to, among other things, plaintiffs' increased focus on new and previously peripheral defendants and an increase in the number of insureds seeking bankruptcy protection as a result o f asbestos-related liabilities. Plaintiffs and insureds have sought to use bankruptcy proceedings, including "pre-packaged" bankruptcies, to accelerate the funding and amount of loss payments by insurers. In addition, some policyholders continue to asser t new classes of claims for coverage to which an aggregate limit of liability may not apply. Further uncertainties include insolvencies of other insurers and reinsurers, delays in the reporting of new claims by insurers and reinsurers and unanticipated is sues influencing our ability to recover reinsurance for asbestos and environmental claims. Management believes these issues are not likely to be resolved in the near future.

In the case of the reserves for environmental exposures, factors contributing to the high degree of uncertainty include expanding theories of liability and damages, the risks inherent in major litigation, inconsistent decisions concerning the existence and scope of coverage for environmental claims and uncertainty as to the monetary amount being sought by the claimant from the insured.

The reporting pattern for assumed reinsurance claims, including those related to asbestos and environmental claims is much longer than for direct claims. In many instances, it takes months or years to determine that the policyholder's own obligations have been met and how the reinsurance in question may apply to such claims. The delay in reporting reinsurance claims and exposures adds to the uncertainty of estimating the related reserves.

The factors discussed above affect the variability of estimates for asbestos and environmental reserves including assumptions with respect to the frequency of claims, average severity of those claims settled with payment, dismissal rate of claims with no payment and expense to indemnity ratio. The uncertainty with respect to the underlying reserve assumptions for asbestos and environmental adds a greater degree of variability to these reserve estimates than reserve estimates for more traditional exposures. While this variability is reflected in part in the size of the range of reserves we have developed, that range may still not be indicative of the potential variance between the ultimate outcome and the recorded reserves. The process of estimating asbestos and environmental reserves, which is detailed in Note 21, "Run-off Lines," of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, remains subject to a wide variety of uncertainties. Due to these uncertainties, further developments could cause us to change our estimates and ranges of our asbestos and environmental reserves, and the effect of these changes could be material to our consolidated operating results, financial condition and liquidity.

Loss Reserve Estimation Variability

After reviewing the output from various loss reserving methodologies, we select our best estimate of reserves. We believe that the aggregate loss reserves at December 31, 2015 were adequate to cover claims for losses that have occurred, including both known claims and claims yet to be reported. As of December 31, 2015, we recorded gross loss reserves of $3,123.6 million and loss reserves net of reinsurance of $2,133.3 million . Although our financial reports reflect our best estimate of reserves, it is unlikely that the final amount paid will exactly equal our best estimate. In order to provide an indication of the variability in loss reserve estimates, we develop reserve ranges by evaluating the variability implied by the results of the various methods and impact of changing the assumptions and factors used in the loss reserving process.

We estimate our range of reserves, net of reinsurance, at approximately $1,950 million to $2,365 million as of December 31, 2015. In determining this range, we evaluated the variability of the loss reserves for each of our major operating segments, comprising both ongoing operations and run-off businesses. Our estimated range does not make a specific provision for sources of unknown or unanticipated correlated events such as potential sources of liability not anticipated at the time coverage was afforded, such as asbestos. These events in combination with other events which may not be contemplated by management in developing our range may cause reserves to develop either more or less favorably than indicated by assumptions that we consider reasonable. This means that the range of reserve values does not represent the range of all possible favorable or unfavorable reserve outcomes, and actual ultimate paid losses may fall outside this range. No one risk factor has been isolated for the purpose of performing a sensitivity or variability analysis on that particular risk factor.

In establishing our best estimate for reserves, we consider facts currently known and the present judicial and legislative environment. However, given the expansion of coverage and liability by the courts, legislatures in the recent past and possibility of similar interpretations in the future, particularly with regard to asbestos and environmental claims, additional loss reserves may develop in future periods. These potential increases cannot be reasonably estimated at the present time. Any increases could have an adverse impact on future operating results, liquidity, risk-based capital ratios and ratings assigned to our insurance subsidiaries by the nationally recognized insurance rating agencies.

Valuation of Investments

Our investments in fixed maturities and stocks are classified as available-for-sale and reported at fair value under GAAP. Changes in the fair value of investments classified as available-for-sale are not recognized in income during the period, but rather are recognized as a separate component of shareholders' equity until realized. Fair values of these investments are estimated using prices obtained from third-party pricing services, where available. For securities where we are unable to obtain fair values from a pricing service or broker, fair values are estimated using information obtained from investment advisors. Management performed several processes to ascertain the reasonableness of investment values included in our consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2015, including i) obtaining and reviewing internal control reports for our accounting service providers that obtain fair values from third-party pricing services, ii) discussing with our investment managers their process for reviewing and validating pricing obtained from outside services and obtained values for all securities from our investment managers and iii) comparing the security pricing received from the investment managers with the prices used in our consolidated financial statements and obtained additional information for variances that exceeded a certain threshold. As of December 31, 2015, investments classified as available-for-sale for which we did not receive a fair value from a pricing service or broker accounted for less than 1% of our investment portfolio. The actual value at which such securities could be sold or settled with a willing buyer or seller may differ from such estimated fair values depending on a number of factors including, but not limited to, current and future economic conditions, the quantity sold or settled, the presence of an active market and the availability of a willing buyer or seller. Our investments in hedge and private equity funds and other private equity direct investments are accounted for under the equity method of accounting, with changes in the value of investments recognized in realized gains or losses during the period. We also have two small private equity investments accounted for at cost.

We regularly monitor the difference between the estimated fair values of our investments and their cost or book values to identify underperforming investments and whether declines in value are temporary in nature or “other-than-temporary.” If a decline in the value of a particular investment is believed to be temporary, the decline is recorded as an unrealized loss, net of tax, in other comprehensive income as a separate component of shareholders’ equity. If the decline is believed to be “other-than-temporary,” the carrying value of the investment is written down and recorded as a realized loss in our Consolidated Statements of Income. We evaluate our investments for impairment. For fixed maturities securities, the evaluation for a credit loss is generally based on the present value of expected cash flows of the security as compared to the amortized book value. For mortgage-backed securities, frequency and severity inputs are used in projecting future cash flows of the securities. Loss frequency is measured as the credit default rate, which includes such factors as loan-to-value ratios and credit scores of borrowers. Loss severity includes such factors as trends in overall housing prices and house prices that are obtained at foreclosure. For equity securities, the length of time and the amount of decline in fair value are the principal factors in determining other-than-temporary impairment. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, we recorded \$11.9 million and \$2.3 million, respectively, of realized losses due to the recognition of other-than-temporary impairments.

Deferred Tax Assets and Liabilities

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial reporting and tax bases of Argo Group’s United States, Brazil, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, Malta and United Kingdom subsidiaries’ assets and liabilities. Deferred tax liabilities are recognized for temporary differences that will result in taxable amounts in future years. Deferred tax assets are recognized for deductible temporary differences and tax operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. The deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured by applying the enacted tax rates and laws in effect for the years in which such differences are expected to reverse. The components of our deferred tax asset are temporary differences primarily attributable to loss reserve discounting and unearned premium reserves. Our deferred tax liabilities resulted primarily from unrealized gains in the investment portfolio, deferred acquisition costs and underwriting profits arising from business conducted at Lloyd’s which do not become subject to corporation tax in the United Kingdom until the year in which such profits are distributed.

The evaluation of the recoverability of our net deferred tax asset and the need for a valuation allowance requires us to weigh all positive and negative evidence to reach a conclusion that it is more likely than not that all or some portion of the net deferred tax asset will not be realized. The weight given to the evidence is commensurate with the extent to which it can be objectively verified. The more negative evidence that exists, the more positive evidence is necessary and the more difficult it is to support a conclusion that a valuation allowance is not needed. At each balance sheet date, management assesses the need to establish a valuation allowance that reduces deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not that all, or some portion, of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The valuation allowance is based on all available information including projections of future taxable income from each tax-paying component in each tax jurisdiction, principally derived from business plans and available tax planning strategies. If our assumptions and estimates that resulted in our forecast of future taxable income for each tax-paying component prove to be incorrect, an additional valuation allowance could become necessary, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, and liquidity.

For additional information regarding our deferred tax assets and liabilities, please see Note 14 “Income Taxes” in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, included in Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” beginning on page F-1.

Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets, including Goodwill

We perform annual impairment tests of our indefinite-lived intangible assets, including goodwill, or more frequently when impairment indicators exist. We have elected to perform our goodwill impairment test on the first day of the fourth quarter of each year. The goodwill impairment test is determined using a two-step process. The first step is to identify if a potential impairment exists by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount, including goodwill (‘Step 1”). If the fair value of a reporting unit exceeds its carrying value amount, goodwill of the reporting unit is not considered to have a potential impairment and the second step is not necessary. However, if the carrying amount of the reporting unit exceeds its fair value, the second step (“Step 2”) is performed to determine if goodwill is impaired and to measure the amount of impairment loss to recognize, if any. Step 2 compares the implied fair value of goodwill with the carrying amount of goodwill. If the implied value of goodwill is less than the carrying amount of goodwill, then a charge is recorded to reduce goodwill to the implied goodwill. The implied goodwill is calculated based on a hypothetical purchase price allocation, similar to the requirements in the accounting guidance for business combinations, whereby the implied fair value of the reporting unit is allocated to the fair value of the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit.

At December 31, 2015, we had goodwill of $152.2 million assigned to the following reporting units: Excess and Surplus lines – $76.4 million, Commercial Specialty – $47.1 million and Syndicate 1200 – $28.7 million. Additionally, at December 31, 2015, we had intangible assets totaling $73.3 million, including indefinite-lived intangible assets of $60.5 million in the Syndicate 1200 segment. Due to the nature of the Syndicate 1200 segment’s business, for purposes of the annual impairment evaluation, we have aggregated the fair values between the indefinite-lived intangible asset and goodwill.

For purposes of evaluating goodwill for impairment, we determined that our reporting units are the same as our business segments because all components of each segment are similar and none of the components were determined to be separate reporting units. Additionally, each business segment has discrete financial information available that is regularly reviewed by the chief operating decision maker to make decisions about resources to be allocated and to assess performance. We allocated the assets, including goodwill, and liabilities of our reporting units consistent with our business segment reporting and prior periods. No material changes in the accounting methodology used to evaluate goodwill were made during 2015.

The fair value of reporting units was estimated using an average of three valuation methods: a comparable company analysis, precedent transaction analysis and discounted cash flow analysis. All three methods require us to make various judgments and assumptions including but not limited to: (i) market dynamics affecting each segment such as the competitive environment, pricing cycle and pricing outlook; the economy and interest rates, (ii) projections of earned premiums, losses, expenses and cash flows, and (iii) discount rates and valuation multiples. Assumptions about future cash flows are based on our budgets, business plans, economic projections, anticipated future cash flows and market data. Finally, the comparable company analysis and precedent transaction analysis required judgment in selecting comparable companies and comparable transactions for use in the calculations. These judgments and assumptions, and the outcomes in which they result, are potentially subject to material change based on factors, dynamics and influences outside our control. In all instances, future changes in these judgments and assumptions could cause impairment of goodwill.

For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, all of our reporting units passed Step 1 of the goodwill impairment analysis as the fair value of each reporting unit were in excess of their carrying values. Therefore, Step 2 of the goodwill impairment analysis was not required. Any decline in the fair value of these reporting units could result in the carrying value of the reporting unit being in excess of fair value, triggering Step 2 of the impairment testing model, which could result in an impairment of goodwill.

As noted above, we have elected to make the first day of the fourth quarter the annual impairment assessment date for goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. An impairment analysis subsequent to this date has not been performed as we believe that no additional indicators of impairment have arisen, such as significant additional pricing competition, unexpected significant declines in operating results, divestiture of a significant component of the business or further significant decline in market capitalization.

Our market capitalization has increased in 2015, as our stock has traded at or above book value in the fourth quarter of 2015. We considered the market capitalization as one of the data points in performing our annual impairment test. We consider the changes in our market capitalization to be primarily attributable to global financial market conditions, as well as current trends within the insurance industry. The valuation analysis discussed above supports our view that goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets are not impaired at October 1, 2015. Through December 31, 2015, there have been no indicators of impairment of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. During 2016, we will monitor relevant internal and external factors and their potential impact on the fair value of our reporting segments, and if required, we will update our impairment analysis.

While we believe the estimates and assumptions are reasonable in determining the fair value of reporting units, it is possible a material change could occur. If our actual results are not consistent with our estimates and assumptions used to calculate fair value, we may be required to perform Step 2 in future periods and impairment of goodwill and/or indefinite-lived assets could result. We cannot predict future events that might impact the fair value of reporting units and goodwill impairment. Such events include, but are not limited to, increased competition in insurance markets and global economic changes.

We evaluated our definite lived intangibles for indicators of impairment. If indicators of impairment had been identified, we would have been required to test definite lived intangible assets for impairment. As of October 1, 2015, the testing date, no indicators of impairment were identified. Therefore, we were not required to test for impairment. As with the indefinite-lived intangible assets, we will continue to monitor for indicators of impairment and test as required.

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 foreign currency risk.

Interest Rate Risk

Our fixed investment portfolio is exposed to interest rate risk. Fluctuations in interest rates have a direct impact on the fair valuation of these securities. As interest rates rise, the fair value of our fixed maturity portfolio generally falls, and the converse is generally also true. We manage interest rate risk through an asset liability strategy that involves the selection of investments with appropriate characteristics, such as duration, yield, currency and liquidity that are tailored to the anticipated cash outflow characteristics of our liabilities. A significant portion of the investment portfolio matures each quarter, allowing for reinvestment at current market rates. Based upon a pricing model, we determine the estimated change in fair value of the fixed maturity securities, assuming immediate parallel shifts in the treasury yield curve while keeping spreads between individual securities and treasuries static. The following interest rate sensitivity analysis measures the potential change in fair value for fixed maturity and short-term investments resulting from changes in market rates ranging from -200 basis points to +300 basis points as of December 31, 2015:

	-200	-100	Base Case	+100	+200	300
Market Yield	1.5%	1.7%	2.4%	3.1%	3.9%	4.7%
Average Life (years)	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0
Option Adjusted Duration (years)	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0
Fair Value (in millions)	$ 3,286.3	$ 3,240.1	$ 3,138.1	$ 3,093.4	$ 3,022.2	$ 2,975.4
Gain (Loss) (in millions)	$ 148.2	$ 102.0	$ —	$ (44.7)	$ (115.9)	$ (162.7)

Credit Risk

Credit risk is a major factor of our overall enterprise risk, and we have established policies and procedures to evaluate our exposure to credit risk, particularly with respect to our investment holdings and our receivable balances. In particular, we are exposed to credit risk on losses recoverable from reinsurers and receivables from insureds. Downturns in one sector or market can adversely impact other sectors and may result in higher credit exposure. We do not currently use credit default swaps to mitigate our credit exposure from either investments or counterparties.

We have exposure to credit risk primarily as a holder of fixed maturity investments, short-term investments and other investments, which arises from the uncertainty associated with a financial instrument obligor's ability to make timely principal and/or interest payments. Our risk management strategy and investment policy attempts to mitigate this risk by primarily investing in debt instruments of high credit quality issuers, limiting credit concentrations and diversifying issuers, and frequently monitoring the credit quality of issuers and counterparties.

As shown on the accompanying table, our fixed maturities portfolio is diversified among different types of investments. The securities are rated by one or more National Recognized Statistical Rating Organ izations, (i.e., Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and Fitch Ratings Ltd). If a security has two ratings, the lower rating is used, and if a security has three ratings, the middle rating is used in the preparation of this table. At Decembe r 31, 2015 , our fixed maturities portfolio had a weighted average rating of A + , with 70.5 % ($ 2,064.5 million fair value) rated A or better and 30.8 % ($ 900.2 million fair value) rated AAA. Our portfolio included 9.5 % ($ 277.9 million fair value) of less than investment grade (BB+ or lower) fixed maturities at December 31, 2015 .

	Fair Value				
(in millions)	AAA	AA	A	Other	Total
USD denominated:					
U.S. Governments	$ 207.4	$ —	$ —	$ 0.5	$ 207.9
Non-U.S. Governments	37.0	19.4	5.7	29.6	91.7
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	113.8	267.8	81.0	25.4	488.0
Credit-Financial	7.6	53.3	273.0	202.0	535.9
Credit-Industrial	3.1	14.1	91.7	409.0	517.9
Credit-Utility	—	19.3	35.9	101.0	156.2
Structured securities:					
CMO/MBS-agency	131.0	—	—	—	131.0
CMO/MBS-non agency	—	7.2	3.6	0.7	11.5
CMBS	110.6	34.9	33.9	1.8	181.2
ABS	104.4	0.3	2.9	3.3	110.9
CLO	66.3	17.9	31.8	19.6	135.6
Foreign denominated:					
Governments	95.4	29.5	1.0	25.3	151.2
Credit	2.4	26.7	59.8	21.2	110.1
ABS/CMBS	17.5	0.3	3.0	1.1	21.9
CLO	3.7	17.4	33.0	22.2	76.3
Total fixed maturities	$ 900.2	$ 508.1	$ 656.3	$ 862.7	$ 2,927.3

We also hold a diversified investment portfolio of common stocks in various industries and market segments, ranging from small market capitalization stocks to large capitalization companies. Marketable equity securities are carried on our Consolidated Balance Sheets at fair value, and are subject to the risk of potential loss in fair value resulting from adverse changes in prices. At December 31, 2015, the fair value of our equity securities portfolio was $463.9 million.

We also have credit exposure related to receivables from reinsurers and insureds, and control this risk by limiting our exposure to any one counterparty and evaluating the financial strength of our reinsurance counterparties, including generally requiring minimum credit ratings. In certain cases, we also receive collateral from our customers and reinsurance counterparties, which reduces our credit exposure in certain instances.

Foreign Currency Risk

We have exposure to foreign currency risk in both our insurance contracts and invested assets and to a lesser extent in a portion of our debt. Some of our insurance contracts provide that ultimate losses may be payable in various foreign currencies. Foreign currency exchange rate risk exists where we do not have cash or securities denominated in the currency for which we will ultimately pay the claims. Thus, we attempt to manage our foreign currency risk by seeking to match our liabilities under insurance and reinsurance polices that are payable in foreign currencies with cash and investments that are denominated in such currencies. In certain instances, we use foreign exchange forward contracts to mitigate this risk. Due to the extended time frame for settling the claims plus the fluctuation in currency exchange rates, the potential exists for us to realize gains and/or losses related to foreign exchange rates. In addition, we may experience foreign currency gains or losses related to exchange rate fluctuations in operating expenses as certain operating costs are payable in currencies other than the U.S. Dollar. For the year ended December 31, 2015, we recorded realized gains of $18.3 million from movements in foreign currency rates on our insurance operations. In addition, we recorded realized losses of $18.1 million from movements in foreign currency rates on our investment portfolio and realized gains of $15.2 million from our currency forward contracts for the year ended December 31, 2015. We had unrealized losses at December 31, 2015 of $43.8 million in movements on foreign currency rates in our investment portfolio, which are recorded in "Other comprehensive income, net of taxes" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. These losses are principally related to the weakening of non-U.S. Dollar denominated investment exchange rates to the U.S. Dollar.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

The report of the independent auditors, consolidated financial statements of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and supplementary financial statements called for by this Item 8 are included in this report beginning on page F-1 and are incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Argo Group, under the supervision and with the participation of its management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our “disclosure controls and procedures” (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Exchange Act”)) as of the end of the period covered by this report. In designing and evaluating these disclosure controls and procedures, Argo Group and its management recognize that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating and implementing possible controls and procedures. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level to ensure that information required to be disclosed by Argo Group in the reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act are recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms.

There were no changes in the internal control over financial reporting made during the quarter ended December 31, 2015 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. We review our disclosure controls and procedures, which may include internal controls over financial reporting, on an ongoing basis. From time to time, management makes changes to enhance the effectiveness of these controls and ensure that they continue to meet the needs of our business activities over time.

Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

The management of Argo Group is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

As of December 31, 2015, management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting established in “Internal Control — Integrated Framework,” issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (“COSO”) of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework). As a result of the assessment, management determined that we maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on those criteria.

Ernst & Young LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited our consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, has issued an attestation report on our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015. The report, which expresses unqualified opinions on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, is included in this Item under the heading “Attestation Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.”

Attestation Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Report of Ernst & Young LLP

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.

We have audited Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) (the COSO criteria). Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.'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 Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

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

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

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

In our opinion, Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015 of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and our report dated February 26, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Antonio, Texas
February 26, 2016

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

P ART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the captions "Election of Directors," "Named Executive Officers," "Audit Committee," "Audit Committee Financial Experts," "Code of Business Ethics and Conduct" and "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" in our Proxy Statement to be filed with the SEC relating to our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 3, 2016.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the captions "Compensation of Executive Officers," "Non-Employee Director Compensation" and "Human Resources Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation" in our Proxy Statement to be filed with the SEC relating to our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 3, 2016.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters

Equity Based Compensation Plans

In November 2007, our shareholders approved the 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan, which provided for an aggregate of 4.5 million shares to be available for the issuance of our common shares to executives, non-employee directors and other key employees. In May 2014, our shareholders approved the 2014 Long-Term Incentive Plan which provides an additional 2.8 million shares of our common shares to be available for issuance, bringing the total number of shares available for issuance to 4.3 million.

The following table sets forth information as of December 31, 2015 concerning our equity compensation plans:

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding, Warrants and Rights	Weighted-Average Per Share Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available For Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in the First Column)
Equity compensation plans approved by shareholders:			
Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Long-Term Incentive Plan	1,793,408	$ 32.50	3,754,323
Terminated historical plans	860	$ 31.24	—
Equity compensation plans not approved by shareholders	—	$ —	—
Total	1,794,268	$ 32.50	3,754,323

Under the terms of the Long-Term Incentive Plans, only awards that are to be settled in shares are included in the totals above. At December 31, 2015, 2,134,121 cash-settled stock appreciation rights and 3,643 cash-settled restricted stock units are issued and outstanding. Additional information relating to our equity compensation plans is included in Note 12, "Share-based Compensation" in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the caption "Security Ownership of Principal Stockholders and Management" in our Proxy Statement to be filed with the SEC relating to our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 3, 2016.

Item 13. Certa in Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the captions "Human Resources Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation," "Related Persons Transactions" and "Director Independence" in our Proxy Statement to be filed with the SEC relating to our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 3, 2016.

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services

Incorporated herein by reference is the information appearing under the caption "Relationship with Independent Auditors" in our Proxy Statement to be filed with the SEC relating to our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 3, 2016.

P ART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules

(a) 1. Financial Statements

Selected Financial Data

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Consolidated Balance Sheets—December 31, 2015 and 2014

Consolidated Statements of Income
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(a) 2. Financial Statement Schedules

Schedule II —Condensed Financial Information of Registrant
December 31, 2015 and 2014

Schedule III —Supplemental Insurance Information
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Schedule V —Valuation and Qualifying Accounts
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Schedule VI— Supplemental Information for Property-Casualty Insurance Companies
For the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

All other schedules and notes specified under Regulation S-X are omitted because they are either not applicable, not required or the information called for therein appears in response to the items of Form 10-K or in the Consolidated Financial Statements and the related Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and its subsidiaries listed on the above index.

(a) 3. Exhibits

The following exhibits are numbered in accordance with Item 601 of Regulation S-K and, except as noted, are filed herewith.

Exhibit Number	Description
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 14, 2007 and amended and restated as of June 8, 2007, by and among Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. (formerly named PXRE Group Ltd.), PXMS Inc. and Argonaut Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Current Report of Argo Group on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 8, 2007).
3.1	Amended and Restated Memorandum of Association of Argo Group (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Current Report of Argo Group on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 8, 2007).
3.2	Amended and Restated Bye-Laws of Argo Group (incorporated by reference to Appendix I to Argo Group's Proxy Statement for the 2010 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 15, 2010).
4.1	Form of Certificate of Common Shares of Argo Group (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Current Report of Argo Group on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 8, 2007).
4.2	Junior Subordinated Debentures [1]
4.3	Form of Senior Indenture among the Company, Argo Group US, Inc. and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of Argo Group's registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 18, 2012).
4.4	Form of First Supplemental Indenture among the Company, Argo Group US, Inc. and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of Argo Group's Form 8-A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 21, 2012).
4.5	Form of 6.500% Senior Notes due September 15, 2042 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of Argo Group's Form 8-A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 21, 2012).
10.1	Deed Poll Guarantee of Argo Group in respect of PXRE Reinsurance Ltd., dated as of September 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3a to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2002).
10.2	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2007 Employee Share Purchase Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to Argo Group's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 10, 2007).*
10.3	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2007 Annual Incentive Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Appendix II to Argo Group's Proxy Statement for the 2007 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 2, 2007).*
10.3A	Material Terms of the 2006 Annual Incentive Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to Argonaut Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 1, 2007).*
10.4	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to Argo Group's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 10, 2007).*
10.5	Argonaut Group, Inc. Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to Argo Group's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 29, 2007).*
10.6	Argonaut Group, Inc. Retirement Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Argonaut Group, Inc.'s Form 10 Registration Statement dated September 3, 1986, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 4, 1986).*

1. Argo Group and its subsidiary, Argo Group US, Inc., have several series of outstanding junior subordinated debentures as described in the footnotes to our consolidated financial statements filed with our Annual Report on Form 10-K. We will provide the SEC with copies of the instruments governing such junior subordinated debentures upon the SEC's request in accordance with Regulation S-K Item 601(b)(4)(iii)(A).

Exhibit Number	Description
10.7	401(k) Retirement Savings Plan (incorporated by reference to the Exhibit 10.4 to Argonaut Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 28, 1989).*
10.8	Argonaut Group, Inc. Amended and Restated Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to Argo Group's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 29, 2007).*
10.9	$175,000,000 Credit Agreement, dated as of March 7, 2014, among Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd., Argo Group US, Inc., Argo International Holdings Limited and Argo Underwriting Agency Limited, the Lenders party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as syndication agent, and the other parties thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Argo Group's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 10, 2014).
10.10	Executive Employment Agreement, effective as of November 5, 2013, between Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and Mark E. Watson III (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013).*
10.11	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, effective February 12, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Argo Group's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 15, 2008).*
10.12	First Amendment, effective November 2, 2009, to Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Argo Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 1, 2010).*
10.13	Executive Employment Agreement, effective February 19, 2015, between Argo Group and Jay S. Bullock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Argo Group's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 23, 2015).*
10.14	Employment Contract, dated May 12, 2014, between Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and Axel Schmidt (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Argo Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 27, 2015).*
10.15	Compensation Clawback Policy (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012).
10.16	Second Amendment, effective December 16, 2013, to Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to Argo Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 28, 2014.)*
10.17	Executive Employment Agreement, effective as of March 1, 2013, between Argo Group US, Inc. and Kevin J. Rehnberg (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to Argo Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 28, 2014.)*
10.18	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2014 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Appendix I to Argo Group's Proxy Statement for the 2014 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 7, 2014).*
10.19	Form of Cash-Settled Share Appreciation Rights Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014).*
10.20	Form of Stock-Settled Share Appreciation Right Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014).*
10.21	Form of Restricted Share Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014).*
10.22	Form of Restricted Share Unit Grant Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014).*
10.23	Form of Performance Award Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Argo Group's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015)*

Exhibit Number	Description
12	Statements of Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Share Dividends.
21	Subsidiaries of Registrant, as amended.
23	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
31.1	Rule 13a—14(a)/15d – 14(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer.
31.2	Rule 13a—14(a)/15d – 14(a) Certification of Chief Financial Officer.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
*	A management contract or compensatory plan required to be filed herewith.

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.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.

By /s/ Mark E. Watson III

Mark E. Watson III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 26, 2016

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/ Mark E. Watson III Mark E. Watson III	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (principal executive officer)	February 26, 2016
/s/ Jay S. Bullock Jay S. Bullock	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)	February 26, 2016
/s/ Gary V. Woods Gary V. Woods	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ F. Sedgwick Browne F. Sedgwick Browne	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ H. Berry Cash H. Berry Cash	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ Hector DeLeon Hector DeLeon	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ Mural R. Josephson Mural R. Josephson	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ Kathleen A. Nealon Kathleen A. Nealon	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ John R. Power, Jr. John R. Power, Jr.	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ John H. Tonelli John H. Tonelli	Director	February 26, 2016

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R eport of Independent Regist ered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015. Our audits also included the financial statement schedules listed in the Table of Contents at Item 15. These financial statements and schedules are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedules based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. at December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) and our report dated February 26, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Antonio, Texas
February 26, 2016

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in millions, except number of shares and per share amounts)

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Assets		
Investments:		
Fixed maturities, at fair value:		
Available-for-sale (cost: 2015 - $2,971.0; 2014 - $2,817.2)	$ 2,927.3	$ 2,840.7
Equity securities, at fair value (cost: 2015 - $349.7; 2014 - $324.8)	463.9	503.8
Other investments (cost: 2015 - $499.6; 2014 - $488.9)	513.7	495.1
Short-term investments, at fair value (cost: 2015 - $211.2; 2014 - $258.3)	210.8	258.3
Total investments	4,115.7	4,097.9
Cash	121.7	81.0
Accrued investment income	21.6	22.1
Premiums receivable	404.5	353.6
Reinsurance recoverables	1,121.1	997.2
Goodwill	152.2	152.2
Intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization	73.3	78.6
Current income taxes receivable, net	11.6	14.9
Deferred acquisition costs, net	132.4	124.6
Ceded unearned premiums	250.8	207.6
Other assets	225.2	226.6
Total assets	$ 6,630.1	$ 6,356.3
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses	$ 3,123.6	$ 3,042.4
Unearned premiums	886.7	817.2
Accrued underwriting expenses	133.9	143.1
Ceded reinsurance payable, net	312.4	178.8
Funds held	77.6	55.0
Senior unsecured fixed rate notes	143.8	143.8
Other indebtedness	55.2	62.0
Junior subordinated debentures	172.7	172.7
Deferred tax liabilities, net	23.6	53.0
Other liabilities	32.5	41.6
Total liabilities	4,962.0	4,709.6
Commitments and contingencies (Note 16)		
Shareholders' equity:		
Common shares - $1.00 par, 500,000,000 shares authorized; 37,105,922 and 36,889,386 shares issued at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively	37.1	34.3
Additional paid-in capital	964.9	836.3
Treasury shares (9,181,644 and 8,606,489 shares at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively)	(331.1)	(301.4)
Retained earnings	985.7	969.4
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of taxes	11.5	108.1
Total shareholders' equity	1,668.1	1,646.7
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	$ 6,630.1	$ 6,356.3

See accompany notes.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(in millions, except number of shares and per share amount)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Premiums and other revenue:			
Earned premiums	$ 1,371.9	$ 1,338.1	$ 1,303.8
Net investment income	85.6	86.6	100.0
Net realized investment and other gains	27.1	94.0	71.3
Total revenue	1,484.6	1,518.7	1,475.1
Expenses:			
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	766.1	747.4	742.0
Other reinsurance-related expenses	—	—	19.2
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	539.6	539.2	510.8
Interest expense	19.0	19.9	20.2
Fee and other expense, net	0.7	0.6	4.9
Foreign currency exchange gain	(18.3)	(7.8)	(1.7)
Impairment of intangible assets	—	3.4	—
Total expenses	1,307.1	1,302.7	1,295.4
Income before income taxes	177.5	216.0	179.7
Provision for income taxes	14.3	32.8	36.5
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 183.2	$ 143.2
Net income per common share:			
Basic	$ 5.84	$ 6.39	$ 4.85
Diluted	$ 5.72	$ 6.27	$ 4.67
Dividend declared per common share	$ 0.80	$ 0.63	$ 0.54
Weighted average common shares:			
Basic	27,972,962	28,690,306	29,536,472
Diluted	28,533,299	29,212,848	30,656,483

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net realized investment and other gains before other-than-temporary impairment losses	$ 39.0	$ 96.3	$ 79.1
Other-than-temporary impairment losses recognized in earnings:			
Other-than-temporary impairment losses on fixed maturities	(2.2)	(1.2)	(6.0)
Other-than-temporary impairment losses on equity securities	(9.7)	(1.1)	(1.8)
Impairment losses recognized in earnings	(11.9)	(2.3)	(7.8)
Net realized investment and other gains	$ 27.1	$ 94.0	$ 71.3

See accompanying notes.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(in millions)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 183.2	$ 143.2
Other comprehensive income:			
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(6.0)	(4.1)	(2.8)
Defined benefit pension plans:			
Net gain (loss) arising during the year	0.4	(3.7)	2.0
Unrealized (losses) gains on securities:			
(Losses) gains arising during the year	(121.1)	(5.7)	1.2
Reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	(7.2)	(30.6)	(59.8)
Other comprehensive loss before tax	(133.9)	(44.1)	(59.4)
Income tax provision (benefit) related to other comprehensive loss:			
Defined benefit pension plans:			
Net gain (loss) arising during the year	0.3	(1.3)	0.7
Unrealized (loss) gains on securities:			
(Loss) gains arising during the year	(31.3)	6.8	1.0
Reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	(6.3)	(9.9)	(19.4)
Income tax provision (benefit) related to other comprehensive loss	(37.3)	(4.4)	(17.7)
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(96.6)	(39.7)	(41.7)
Comprehensive income	$ 66.6	$ 143.5	$ 101.5

See accompanying notes.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(in millions, except number of shares and per share amounts)	Common Shares	Additional Paid-In Capital	Treasury Shares	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Shareholders' Equity
Balance, January 1, 2013	$ 31.4	$ 722.7	$ (205.5)	$ 776.0	$ 189.5	$ 1,514.1
Net income	—	—	—	143.2	—	143.2
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	—	—	—	—	(41.7)	(41.7)
Repurchase of common shares (1,098,732 at a weighted average price of $41.04)	—	—	(45.1)	—	—	(45.1)
Activity under stock incentive plans	0.2	8.5	—	—	—	8.7
Retirement of common shares (tax payments on equity compensation)	—	(1.9)	—	—	—	(1.9)
Deferred tax - share-based payments	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1
Employee stock purchase plan	0.1	1.3	—	—	—	1.4
10% stock dividend	2.4	96.6	—	(99.0)	—	—
Cash dividend declared - common shares ($0.54/share)	—	—	—	(15.8)	—	(15.8)
Balance, December 31, 2013	34.1	827.3	(250.6)	804.4	147.8	1,563.0
Net income	—	—	—	183.2	—	183.2
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	—	—	—	—	(39.7)	(39.7)
Repurchase of common shares (1,048,144 at a weighted average price of $48.48)	—	—	(50.8)	—	—	(50.8)
Activity under stock incentive plans	0.2	8.5	—	—	—	8.7
Retirement of common shares (tax payments on equity compensation)	—	(1.1)	—	—	—	(1.1)
Deferred tax - share-based payments	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1
Employee stock purchase plan	—	1.5	—	—	—	1.5
Cash dividend declared - common shares ($0.63/share)	—	—	—	(18.2)	—	(18.2)
Balance, December 31, 2014	34.3	836.3	(301.4)	969.4	108.1	1,646.7
Net income	—	—	—	163.2	—	163.2
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	—	(96.6)	(96.6)
Repurchase of common shares (575,155 at a weighted average price of $51.58)	—	—	(29.7)	—	—	(29.7)
Activity under stock incentive plans	0.3	8.9	—	—	—	9.2
Retirement of common shares (tax payments on equity compensation)	(0.1)	(4.0)	—	—	—	(4.1)
Deferred tax - share-based payments	—	0.6	—	—	—	0.6
Employee stock purchase plan	—	1.5	—	—	—	1.5
10% stock dividend	2.6	121.6	—	(124.2)	—	—
Cash dividend declared - common shares ($0.80/share)	—	—	—	(22.7)	—	(22.7)
Balance, December 31, 2015	$ 37.1	$ 964.9	$ (331.1)	$ 985.7	$ 11.5	$ 1,668.1

See accompanying notes.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in millions)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 183.2	$ 143.2
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:			
Amortization and depreciation	38.7	37.2	39.6
Share-based payments expense	29.1	19.6	23.3
Excess tax (benefit) expense from share-based payment arrangements	(0.6)	(0.1)	(0.2)
Deferred income tax provision, net	8.3	27.6	3.8
Net realized investment and other gains	(27.1)	(94.0)	(71.3)
Loss on disposals of fixed assets, net	0.2	—	0.2
Impairment of intangible assets	—	3.4	—
Change in:			
Accrued investment income	0.5	3.4	5.3
Receivables	(182.6)	256.7	86.7
Deferred acquisition costs	(8.5)	(7.3)	(14.1)
Ceded unearned premiums	(45.9)	(12.4)	(4.0)
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses	94.3	(182.0)	(8.9)
Unearned premiums	76.5	39.1	51.4
Ceded reinsurance payable and funds held	157.2	(163.9)	(246.4)
Income taxes	3.3	(19.7)	17.0
Accrued underwriting expenses	(24.6)	11.7	(4.0)
Other, net	0.6	28.0	(21.8)
Cash provided (used) by operating activities	282.6	130.5	(0.2)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Sales of fixed maturity investments	787.5	1,104.9	1,795.4
Maturities and mandatory calls of fixed maturity investments	843.9	323.0	281.8
Sales of equity securities	122.0	123.9	163.4
Sales of other investments	58.4	33.2	7.5
Purchases of fixed maturity investments	(1,842.8)	(1,531.5)	(1,822.9)
Purchases of equity securities	(114.1)	(55.8)	(80.0)
Purchases of other investments	(77.2)	(149.5)	(72.9)
Change in foreign regulatory deposits and voluntary pools	3.5	21.2	(7.7)
Change in short-term investments	46.1	75.3	(145.3)
Settlements of foreign currency exchange forward contracts	(10.1)	(1.1)	(3.9)
Purchases of fixed assets	(18.9)	(39.0)	(26.1)
Other, net	8.1	(25.9)	31.5
Cash (used) provided by investing activities	(193.6)	(121.3)	120.8
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Payment on note payable	—	(0.1)	—
Redemption of trust preferred securities, net	—	(18.0)	—
Activity under stock incentive plans	1.8	4.6	2.6
Repurchase of Company's common shares	(29.7)	(50.8)	(46.5)
Excess tax expense from share-based payment arrangements	0.6	0.1	0.2
Payment of cash dividends to common shareholders	(22.7)	(18.2)	(15.8)
Cash used by financing activities	(50.0)	(82.4)	(59.5)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	1.7	(3.2)	0.5
Change in cash	40.7	(76.4)	61.6
Cash, beginning of year	81.0	157.4	95.8
Cash, end of year	$ 121.7	$ 81.0	$ 157.4

See accompanying notes.

1. Business and Significant Accounting Policies

Business

Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. ("Argo Group," "we" or the "Company") is an international underwriter of specialty insurance and reinsurance products in the property and casualty market. Argo Group US, Inc. ("Argo Group US") is a subsidiary of Argo Financial Holding (Ireland), Ltd. ("Argo Ireland"). Argo Underwriting Agency Limited ("Syndicate 1200") is a subsidiary of Argo International Holdings, Ltd. Argo Re, Ltd. ("Argo Re"), a Bermuda based company, is the parent of both Argo Ireland and Argo International Holdings, Ltd. Argo Re is directly owned by Argo Group.

We conduct our ongoing business through four segments.

Excess and Surplus Lines products are underwritten by Colony Insurance Company ("Colony") under two operating platforms: Colony Specialty and Argo Pro.

Commercial Specialty consists of the following operations: Argo Insurance, Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company ("Rockwood"), Argo Surety, Trident Insurance Services, Alteris and ARIS Title Insurance Corporation ("ARIS").

International Specialty products are provided by our Bermuda operations, which include Argo Re and Argo Insurance – Casualty and Professional Lines and Argo Seguros Brasil S.A. based in Brazil.

Syndicate 1200 products are underwritten by Argo Underwriting Agency Limited based in London, on behalf of one underwriting syndicate under the Lloyd's of London ("Lloyd's") global franchise.

Our *Run-off Lines* segment includes liabilities associated with other liability policies that were issued in the 1960s, 1970s and into the 1980s, as well as the former risk management business and other business no longer underwritten.

Basis of Presentation and Use of Estimates

The consolidated financial statements of Argo Group and its subsidiaries have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with 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 reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The major estimates reflected in our consolidated financial statements include, but are not limited to, reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses; reinsurance recoverables, including the reinsurance recoverables allowance for doubtful accounts; estimates of written and earned premiums; reinsurance premium receivable; fair value of investments and assessment of potential impairment; valuation of goodwill and intangibles and our deferred tax asset valuation allowance. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Specifically, estimates for reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses are based upon past claim experience modified for current trends as well as prevailing economic, legal and social conditions. Although management believes that amounts included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements are reasonable, such estimates may be more or less than the amounts ultimately paid when the claims are settled. The estimates are continually reviewed and any changes are reflected in current operating results. Further, the nature of loss exposures involves significant variability due to the nature of the long-tailed payments on certain claims. As such, losses and loss adjustment expenses could vary significantly from the recorded amounts.

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts and operations of Argo Group and its subsidiaries. All material intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated. Certain amounts in prior years' financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation. Amounts related to trade capital providers, who are third-party capital participants that provide underwriting capital to the Syndicate 1200 segment, are included in the balance sheet. Trade capital providers participate on a quota share basis, assuming 100% of their contractual participation in the underwriting syndicate results and with such results settled on a year of account basis.

In 2009, the Financial Accounting S tandards Board ("FASB") issued revised accounting standards regarding consolidation of variable interest entities. We reevaluated our investment in our twelve statutory trusts (collectively, the "Trusts") and two charitable foundations (collectively, the " Foundations"). We determined that the Trusts and Foundations continue to be variable interest entities due to the fact that the Trusts and Foundations do not have sufficient equity to finance their activities without additional subordinate financial suppor t from other parties. We do not have any power to direct the activities that impact the Trusts or Foundations' economic performance. We are not entitled to receive a majority of the residual returns of the Trusts and U.S. charitable foundations. Additional ly, we are not responsible for absorbing the majority of the expected losses of the Trusts or U.S. charitable foundations; therefore, we are not the primary beneficiary and, accordingly, the Trusts and U.S. charitable foundations are not included in our co nsolidated financial statements. The expenses and donations of the charitable foundations in Bermuda are paid by Argo Group and have been included in the consolidated results.

We have used a series of special purpose reinsurance companies to provide reinsurance coverage through a series of transactions, including insurance linked securities. Under the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 810-10, "Consolidation," these reinsurance companies are variable interest entities. However, we do not have a variable interest in these entities, and therefore are not required to consolidate them in our consolidated financial statements.

Stock Dividends

On May 7, 2013, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend, payable on June 17, 2013, to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 3, 2013. As a result of the stock dividend, 2,447,839 additional shares were issued. Cash was paid in lieu of fractional shares of our common shares. All references to share and per share amounts in this document and related disclosures have been adjusted to reflect the stock dividend for all periods presented.

On February 17, 2015, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend, payable on March 16, 2015, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 2, 2015. As a result of the stock dividend, 2,554,506 additional shares were issued. Cash was paid in lieu of fractional shares of our common shares. All references to share and per share amounts in this document and related disclosures have been adjusted to reflect the stock dividend for all periods presented

Cash

Cash consists of cash deposited in banks, generally in concentration and operating accounts. Interest-bearing cash accounts are classified as short-term investments.

Investments

Investments in fixed maturities at December 31, 2015 and 2014 include bonds and structured securities. Equity securities include common stocks, preferred stocks and mutual funds. Other investments consist of foreign regulatory deposits, hedge funds, private equity funds, private equity direct investments, voluntary pools and foreign exchange currency forward contracts. Short-term investments consist of money market funds, certificates of deposit, bonds, sovereign debt and interest-bearing cash accounts. Investments maturing in less than one year are classified as short-term investments in our consolidated financial statements.

The amortized cost of fixed maturity securities is adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts. This amortization or accretion is included in "Net investment income" in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

For the structured securities portion of the fixed maturity securities portfolio, we recognize income using a constant effective yield based on anticipated prepayments and the estimated economic life of the securities. Premium or discount on high investment grade securities (rated AA or higher) is amortized into income using the retrospective method. Premium or discount on lower grade securities (rated less than AA) is amortized into income using the prospective method.

Our investments in fixed maturities and equity securities with readily determinable fair value are considered available-for-sale and are carried at fair value. Changes in the fair value of investments classified as available-for-sale are not recognized to income during the period, but rather are recognized as a separate component of shareholders' equity until realized. Fair value of these investments is estimated using prices obtained from third-party pricing services, where available. For securities where we were unable to obtain fair values from a pricing service or broker, fair values were estimated using information obtained from investment advisors. We performed several processes to ascertain the reasonableness of these investment values by i) obtaining and reviewing internal control reports for our service providers that obtain fair values from third-party pricing services, ii) discussing with our investment managers their process for reviewing and validating pricing obtained from outside services and obtaining values for all securities from our investment managers and iii) comparing the security pricing received from the investment managers with the prices used in the consolidated financial statements and obtaining additional information for variances that exceeded a certain threshold. As of

December 31, 2015, investments we hold for which we did not receive a fair value from a pricing service or broker accounted for less than 1 % of our investment portfolio. The actual value at which these securities could actually be sold or settled with a willing buyer or seller may differ from our estimated fair values depending on a number of factors including, but not limited to, current and future economic conditions, quantity sold or settled, presence of an active market and availability of a willing buyer or seller. The cost of securities sold is based on the specific identification method.

Changes in the value of other investments consisting of hedge funds, private equity funds, private equity direct investments and voluntary pools are principally recognized to income during the period using the equity method of accounting. Our foreign regulatory deposits are assets held in trust in jurisdictions where there is a legal and regulatory requirement to maintain funds locally in order to protect policyholders. Lloyd's is the appointed investment manager for the funds. The underlying assets are invested in government securities, agency securities and corporate bonds whose values are obtained from Lloyd's. Foreign currency future contracts held by us are valued by our counterparties using market driven foreign currency exchange rates.

We regularly evaluate our investments for other-than-temporary impairment. For fixed maturity securities, the evaluation for a credit loss is generally based on the present value of expected cash flows of the security as compared to the amortized book value. For structured securities, frequency and severity of loss inputs are used in projecting future cash flows of the securities. Loss frequency is measured as the credit default rate, which includes such factors as loan-to-value ratios and credit scores of borrowers. Loss severity includes such factors as trends in real estate values and proceeds at foreclosure. We also recognize other-than-temporary losses on our fixed maturity securities that we intend to sell.

All investment balances include amounts relating to trade capital providers. The results of operations and other comprehensive income exclude amounts relating to trade capital providers. Trade capital providers' participation in the syndicate results are included in reinsurance recoverable for ceded losses and reinsurance payable for ceded premiums.

Receivables

Premiums receivable, representing amounts due from insureds, are presented net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowances for doubtful accounts were $3.5 million and $5.2 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Premiums receivable include amounts relating to the trade capital providers' quota share.

Reinsurance recoverables represent amounts of paid losses and loss adjustment expenses, case reserves and incurred but not reported ("IBNR") amounts ceded to reinsurers under reinsurance treaties. Reinsurance recoverables also reflect amounts that are due from trade capital providers. Reinsurance recoverables are presented in our Consolidated Balance Sheets net of an allowance for doubtful accounts of $3.2 million and $3.4 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively (see Note 3, "Reinsurance" for related disclosures).

An estimate of amounts that are likely to be charged off is established as an allowance for doubtful accounts as of the balance sheet date. Our estimate includes specific insured and reinsurance balances that are considered probable to be charged off after all collection efforts have ceased and in accordance with historical write-off trends based on aging categories. Premiums receivable and reinsurance recoverables on paid losses written off, net of recoveries against the allowance for doubtful accounts or directly to the income statement are as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Premiums receivable	$ 1.0	$ 1.1	$ 0.2
Reinsurance recoverables	0.2	0.5	—
Net written off (recovered)	$ 1.2	$ 1.6	$ 0.2

Recoveries occur when subsequent collection or litigation results in the receipt of amounts previously written off. Amounts recovered are applied against the bad debt expense account.

Earned Premiums

Premium revenue is recognized ratably over the policy period. Premiums that have yet to be earned are reported as "Unearned premiums" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Unearned premium balances include cessions to reinsurers including trade capital providers, while the earned premium recognized in our Consolidated Statements of Income excludes amounts relating to trade capital providers. The trade capital providers' quota share amount is included in "Ceded reinsurance payable, net".

Assumed reinstatement premiums that reinstat e coverage are written and earned at the time the associated loss event occurs. The original premium is earned over the remaining exposure period of the contract. Reinstatement premiums are estimated based upon contract terms for reported losses and estima ted for incurred but not reported losses.

Retrospectively Rated Policies

We have written a number of workers compensation, property and other liability policies that are retrospectively rated. Under this type of policy, the policyholder or coverholder may be entitled, subsequent to coverage expiration, to a refund or may owe additional premiums based on the amount of losses incurred under the policy. The retrospective premium adjustments on certain policies are limited to a minimum or maximum premium adjustment, which is calculated as a percentage of the standard amount of premium charged during the life of the policy. Accrued retrospectively rated premiums have been determined based on estimated ultimate loss experience of the individual policyholder accounts. The estimated liability for return of premiums under retrospectively rated policies is included in "Unearned premiums" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets and was \$6.5 million and \$5.8 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The estimated amount included in premiums receivables for additional premiums due under retrospectively rated policies was \$0.1 million at December 31, 2015. No amount was included in premiums receivables for additional premium due under retrospectively rate policies at December 31, 2014.

Deferred Acquisition Costs

Policy acquisition costs, which include commissions, premium taxes, fees and certain other costs of underwriting policies, are deferred, when such policies are profitable, and amortized over the same period in which the related premiums are earned. To qualify for capitalization, the policy acquisition cost must be directly related to the successful acquisition of an insurance contract. Anticipated investment income is considered in determining whether the deferred acquisition costs are recoverable and whether a premium deficiency exists. We continually review the methods of making such estimates and establishing the deferred costs with any adjustments made in the accounting period in which the adjustment arose.

The 2015 and 2014 net amortization of policy acquisition costs will not equal the change in our Consolidated Balance Sheets as the trade capital providers' share is not reflected in our Consolidated Statements of Income and differences arise from foreign currency exchange rates applied to deferred acquisition costs which are treated as a nonmonetary asset.

Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

Liabilities for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses include the accumulation of individual case estimates for claims reported as well as estimates of IBNR claims and estimates of claim settlement expenses. Reinsurance recoverables on unpaid claims and claim expenses represent estimates of the portion of such liabilities that will be recoverable from reinsurers. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are recognized as assets at the same time and in a manner consistent with the unpaid claims liabilities associated with the reinsurance policy.

Reinsurance

In the normal course of business, our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries reinsure various risks above certain retention levels with other insurance enterprises. Reinsurance recoverables include claims we paid and estimates of unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses that are subject to reimbursement under reinsurance and retrocessional contracts. The method for determining reinsurance recoverables for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses involves reviewing actuarial estimates of gross unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses to determine our ability to cede unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses under our existing reinsurance contracts. This method is continually reviewed and updated and any resulting adjustments are reflected in earnings in the period identified. Reinsurance premiums, commissions and expense reimbursements are accounted for on a basis consistent with those used in accounting for the original policies issued and the term of the reinsurance contracts. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers for losses and loss adjustment expenses for which our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries have not been relieved of their legal obligations to the policyholder are reported as assets.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Goodwill and intangible assets are allocated to the segment in which the results of operations for the acquired company are reported (see Note 18, "Segment Information" for further discussion). Intangible assets with a finite life are amortized over the estimated useful life of the asset. Goodwill and intangible assets with an indefinite useful life are not amortized. Goodwill and intangible assets are tested for impairment on an annual basis or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. For goodwill, we may perform a qualitative test to determine whether it is more-likely-than-not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the quantitative goodwill impairment test. Based on prior goodwill impairment testing, we determined the performance of the quantitative impairment test was required for 2015. The first step of the quan titative test is to identify if a potential impairment exists by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount, including goodwill ("Step 1"). If the fair value of a reporting unit exceeds its carrying value amount, goodwill of the reporting unit is not considered to have a potential impairment and the second step is not necessary. However, if the carrying amount of the reporting unit exceeds its fair value, the second step ("Step 2") is performed to determine if goodwill is impaired and to measure the amount of impairment loss to recognize, if any. Step 2 compares the implied fair value of goodwill with the carrying amount of goodwill. If the implied value of goodwill is less than the carrying amount of goodwill, it is written down t o its fair value with a corresponding expense reflected in the Consolidated Statements of Income. The implied goodwill is calculated based on a hypothetical purchase price allocation, similar to the requirements in the accounting guidance for business comb inations, whereby the implied fair value of the reporting unit is allocated to the fair value of the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit.

We perform our goodwill impairment test on the first day of the fourth quarter of each year, or October 1 of each year. In performing Step 1 of the impairment test, we estimated the fair value of reporting units using an average of three valuation methods: a comparable company analysis, a precedent transaction analysis and a discounted cash flow analysis. All three methods require management to make various judgments and assumptions. The discounted cash flow analysis included projections of earned premiums, loss ratios, expense growth and discount rates for each reporting unit. Assumptions about such future cash flows are based on our budgets, business plans, economic projections, anticipated future cash flows and market data. Finally, the comparable company analysis and precedent transaction analysis required judgment in selecting comparable companies and comparable transactions for use in the calculations. In all instances, future changes in these judgments and assumptions could cause impairment of goodwill.

For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, all of our reporting units passed Step 1 of the goodwill impairment analysis as the fair value of each reporting unit were in excess of their carrying values. Therefore, Step 2 of the goodwill impairment analysis was not required. Any future decline in the fair value of these reporting units could result in the carrying value of the reporting unit being in excess of fair value, triggering Step 2 of the impairment testing model, which could result in an impairment of goodwill.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, we determined as a result of the slower than anticipated development of revenues for our art title insurance company, the likelihood of near term recovery of the intangible assets, including goodwill, was not probable. Therefore, we wrote-off $1.6 million of goodwill and $1.8 million of indefinite lived intangible assets related to this operating unit.

As noted above, we have elected to make the first day of the fourth quarter the annual impairment assessment date for goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. An impairment analysis subsequent to this date has not been performed as management believes that no additional indicators of impairment have arisen, such as significant additional pricing competition, unexpected significant declines in operating results, divestiture of a significant component of the business or a significant decline in our market capitalization.

The following table presents our intangible assets and accumulated amortization at December 31:

	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(in millions)	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization
Lloyd's capacity	$ 60.5	n/a	$ 60.5	n/a
Distribution network	45.5	33.2	44.8	27.9
Additional Lloyd's capacity	4.8	4.6	4.8	3.9
Other	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.2
	$ 112.4	$ 39.1	$ 111.6	$ 33.0

The weighted average useful life by category at December 31, 2015 was 9.3 years for the distribution network, 5.0 years for the additional Lloyd's capacity and 9.1 years for other. The weighted average useful life for all categories was 8.9 years at December 31, 2015.

During the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, amortization expense was $7.5 million, $5.6 million and $6.1 million, respectively, and is included in "Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses" in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

The estimated amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 is $5.6 million, $4.8 million, $2.2 million, $0.4 million and $0.0 million, respectively.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment used in operations, including certain costs incurred to develop or obtain computer software for internal use, are capitalized and carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and are reported in "Other assets" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Depreciation is calculated using a straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, generally three to thirty nine years. The accumulated depreciation for property and equipment was $85.1 million and $78.2 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The net book value of our property and equipment at December 31, 2015 and 2014 was $133.1 million and $96.4 million, respectively. The depreciation expense at December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was $17.5 million, $15.1 million and $15.5 million, respectively.

Derivative Instruments

We enter into short-term, currency spot and forward contracts to mitigate foreign exchange rate exposure in our non-U.S. Dollar denominated fixed maturity investments. The forward contracts used are typically less than sixty days and are renewed as long as the non-U.S. Dollar denominated fixed maturity investments are held in our portfolio. Forward contracts are designated as hedges for accounting purposes. We also enter into foreign currency exchange forward contracts to manage currency exposure on losses related to global catastrophe events. These foreign currency forward contracts are carried at fair value in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in "Other investments." The realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in "Net realized investment and other gains" in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

Through our subsidiary Argo Re, in December 2011, we entered into a reinsurance contract with a special purpose reinsurance company that provided us with protection against certain severe catastrophe events and the occurrence of multiple significant catastrophe events during the same year. The special purpose reinsurance company provided the reinsurance through a catastrophe bond transaction that was supported by a collateralized facility. The reinsurance contract was deemed to be a derivative. We recorded the contract at fair value, with any changes in the value reflected in "Other reinsurance-related expenses" in our Consolidated Statements of Income. See Note 4, "Derivative Instruments" for related disclosures.

Share-Based Payments

Compensation expense for share-based payments is recognized based on the measurement-date fair value for awards that will settle in shares. Awards that are expected to be settled in cash are accounted for as liability awards, resulting in the fair value of the award being measured at each reporting date until the award is exercised, forfeited or expires unexercised. Compensation expense for awards that are settled in equity are recognized on a straight line pro rata basis over the vesting period. Compensation expense for awards that are settled in cash are recognized on the accelerated recognition method over the award's vesting period. See Note 12, "Share-based Compensation" for related disclosures.

Foreign Currency Exchange Gain (Loss)

The U.S. Dollar is the functional currency of all but two of our foreign operations. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign operations that are denominated in foreign currencies are revalued at the exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date. The resulting gains and losses from changes in the foreign exchange rates are reflected in net income. Revenues and expenses denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the prevailing exchange rate during the period with the resulting foreign exchange gains and losses included in net income for the period. In the case of our foreign currency denominated available-for-sale investments, the change in exchange rates between the local currency and our functional currency at each balance sheet date represents an unrealized appreciation or depreciation in value of these securities and is included as a component of accumulated other comprehensive gain.

Translation gains and losses related to our operations in Brazil and Malta are recorded as a component of shareholders' equity in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the foreign currency translation adjustments were a loss of $21.6 million and $15.6 million, respectively.

Income Taxes

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the estimated future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in net income in the period in which the change is enacted.

We recognize potential accrued interest and penalties within our global operations in "Interest expense" and "Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses," respectively, in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

Supplemental Cash Flow Information

Income taxes paid. We paid income taxes of $10.9 million, $23.7 million and $14.2 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Income taxes recovered. We recovered income taxes of $11.7 million and $0.1 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively. We did not recover any income taxes in 2013.

Interest paid as follows:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Senior unsecured fixed rate notes	$ 9.3	$ 9.3	$ 9.3
Junior subordinated debentures	7.0	7.6	7.9
Other indebtedness	2.4	2.8	2.6
Total interest paid	$ 18.7	$ 19.7	$ 19.8

Non-cash operating activities transactions. Our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows contains a reconciliation of net income to “Net cash (used) provided by operating activities,” which includes, among other things, certain adjustments for non-cash items. For the year ended December 31, 2014, the adjustment for “Net realized and other gains” includes a $43.3 million non-cash item related to the pre-tax realized gain recognized on the sale of a real estate holding, as the proceeds from this sale were held in escrow and recorded as a receivable within “Other assets” in our Consolidated Balance Sheet at December 31, 2014 .

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2014-09, “Revenue from Contracts with Customers” (Topic 606). The ASU is a comprehensive new revenue recognition model that requires a company to recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to a customer at an amount that reflects the consideration it expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. The ASU provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized and requires additional disclosures sufficient to describe the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows for these transactions. The original effective date of this ASU was deferred by one year by the FASB’s August 2015 issuance of ASU 2015-14, “Deferral of the Effective Date” (Topic 606), with the new effective date being for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted as early as annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. We will adopt this ASU on January 1, 2018. Companies may use either a “full retrospective” adoption, meaning the update is applied to all periods presented, or a “modified retrospective” adoption, meaning the update is applied only to the most current period presented in the financial statements. While insurance contracts are excluded from this ASU, fee income related to our brokerage operations and management of the third-party capital for our underwriting Syndicate at Lloyd’s will be subject to this updated guidance. We continue to evaluate what impact this ASU will have on our financial results and disclosures and which adoption method to apply, but do not anticipate such impact being material based on the limited revenue streams subject to the ASU.

In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02, "Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis" (Topic 810). ASU 2015-02 changes the analysis that a reporting entity must perform to determine whether entities should be consolidated if they are deemed variable interest entities. It is effective for annual reporting periods, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2015. We have adopted this standard as of the effective date, and the adoption did not impact our financial statements.

In May 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-09, “Disclosures about Short-Duration Contracts” (Topic 944). ASU 2015-09 focuses on the requirement of additional disclosures for unpaid claim liabilities and claim adjustment expenses for short-duration insurance contracts (i.e., coverage provided for a fixed period of short duration, typically a year or less). The standard will require tables showing incurred and paid claims development information by accident year for the number of years claims typically remain outstanding, but not more than 10 years, including a reconciliation of this information to the statement of financial position. This ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and interim periods within annual periods after December 15, 2016. We are currently in the process of evaluating the impact of the adoption of ASU 2015-09 on our financial disclosures.

In January 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-01, “Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities” (Subtopic 825-10). The ASU will require equity investments that are not consolidated or accounted for under the equity method of accounting to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income. This ASU will also require us to assess the realizability of any deferred tax assets (“DTAs”) related to an available-for-sale debt security in combination with our other DTAs. The ASU will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those fiscal years. We are currently in the process of evaluating the impact of the adoption of ASU 2016-01 on our financial results and disclosures.

2. Investments

Composition of Invested Assets

The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses and fair value of investments as of December 31 were as follows:

December 31, 2015

(in millions)	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Fixed maturities				
USD denominated:				
U.S. Governments	$ 207.9	$ 0.7	$ 0.7	$ 207.9
Non-U.S. Governments	92.9	—	1.2	91.7
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	467.6	20.7	0.3	488.0
Credit-Financial	533.3	6.1	3.5	535.9
Credit-Industrial	524.2	5.4	11.7	517.9
Credit-Utility	168.7	0.9	13.4	156.2
Structured securities:				
CMO/MBS-agency (1)	126.5	5.0	0.5	131.0
CMO/MBS-non agency	11.0	0.6	0.1	11.5
CMBS (2)	182.2	0.5	1.5	181.2
ABS (3)	111.4	0.2	0.7	110.9
CLO (4)	137.1	0.2	1.7	135.6
Foreign denominated:				
Governments	170.0	0.8	19.6	151.2
Credit	129.1	1.2	20.2	110.1
ABS/CMBS	24.1	0.1	2.3	21.9
CLO	85.0	0.7	9.4	76.3
Total fixed maturities	2,971.0	43.1	86.8	2,927.3
Equity securities	349.7	131.5	17.3	463.9
Other investments	499.6	15.0	0.9	513.7
Short-term investments	211.2	—	0.4	210.8
Total investments	$ 4,031.5	$ 189.6	$ 105.4	$ 4,115.7

(1) Collateralized mortgage obligations/mortgage-backed securities (“CMO/MBS”).
(2) Commercial mortgage-backed securities (“CMBS”).
(3) Asset-backed securities (“ABS”).
(4) Collateralized loan obligations (“CLO”)

December 31, 2014

(in millions)	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Fixed maturities				
USD denominated:				
U.S. Governments	$ 184.0	$ 1.3	$ 0.3	$ 185.0
Non-U.S. Governments	79.9	0.6	0.6	79.9
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	468.1	22.9	0.3	490.7
Credit-Financial	508.1	12.3	2.3	518.1
Credit-Industrial	493.7	9.4	3.5	499.6
Credit-Utility	142.7	3.2	3.9	142.0
Structured securities:				
CMO/MBS-agency (1)	168.0	8.0	0.7	175.3
CMO/MBS-non agency	13.2	0.8	—	14.0
CMBS (2)	178.6	1.6	0.2	180.0
ABS (3)	142.7	0.4	0.5	142.6
CLO (4)	78.7	0.2	0.5	78.4
Foreign denominated:				
Governments	148.4	1.2	9.4	140.2
Credit	136.7	1.8	12.5	126.0
ABS/CMBS	29.5	0.2	2.5	27.2
CLO	44.9	0.7	3.9	41.7
Total fixed maturities	2,817.2	64.6	41.1	2,840.7
Equity securities	324.8	184.1	5.1	503.8
Other investments	488.9	7.5	1.3	495.1
Short-term investments	258.3	—	—	258.3
Total investments	$ 3,889.2	$ 256.2	$ 47.5	$ 4,097.9

(1) Collateralized mortgage obligations/mortgage-backed securities ("CMO/MBS").
(2) Commercial mortgage-backed securities ("CMBS").
(3) Asset-backed securities ("ABS").
(4) Collateralized loan obligations ("CLO")

Included in "Total investments" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2015 and 2014 is $95.3 million and $75.2 million, respectively, of assets managed on behalf of the trade capital providers, who are third-party participants that provide underwriting capital to our Syndicate 1200 segment.

Contractual Maturity

The amortized cost and fair values of fixed maturity investments as of December 31, 2015, by contractual maturity, were as follows:

(in millions)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	$ 239.5	$ 226.5
Due after one year through five years	1,394.6	1,373.5
Due after five years through ten years	481.2	475.7
Thereafter	178.4	183.2
Structured securities	677.3	668.4
Total	$ 2,971.0	$ 2,927.3

The expected maturities may differ from the contractual maturities because debtors may have the right to call or prepay obligations.

Other Invested Assets

Details regarding the carrying value, redemption characteristics and unfunded investment commitments of the other invested assets portfolio as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 were as follows:

December 31, 2015

(in millions)	Carrying Value	Unfunded Commitments
Investment Type		
Hedge funds	$ 146.9	$ —
Private equity	144.1	90.2
Long only funds	200.0	—
Other investments	22.7	—
Total other invested assets	$ 513.7	$ 90.2

December 31, 2014

(in millions)	Carrying Value	Unfunded Commitments
Investment Type		
Hedge funds	$ 153.2	$ —
Private equity	123.6	72.9
Long only funds	200.7	—
Other investments	17.6	—
Total other invested assets	$ 495.1	$ 72.9

The following describes each investment type:

- **Hedge funds:** Hedge funds include funds that primarily buy and sell stocks including short sales, multi-strategy credit, relative value credit and distressed credit.
- **Private equity:** Private equity includes buyout funds, real asset/infrastructure funds, credit special situations funds, mezzanine lending funds and direct investments and strategic non-controlling minority investments in private companies that are principally accounted for using the equity method of accounting.
- **Long only funds:** These funds include a fund that primarily owns international stocks, a fund that owns high yield fixed income securities and a fund that primarily owns investment-grade corporate and sovereign fixed income securities.
- **Other investments:** Other investments include participation in investment pools, foreign exchange currency forward contracts to manage our foreign currency exposure and a portfolio of foreign exchange currency forward contracts that are actively traded by an external currency manager for a total return strategy.

Unrealized Losses and Other-than-temporary Impairments

An aging of unrealized losses on our investments in fixed maturities, equity securities, other investments and short-term investments is presented below:

December 31, 2015	**Less Than One Year**		**One Year or Greater**		**Total**	
(in millions)	**Fair Value**	**Unrealized Losses**	**Fair Value**	**Unrealized Losses**	**Fair Value**	**Unrealized Losses**
Fixed maturities						
USD denominated:						
U.S. Governments (2)	$ 138.3	$ 0.7	$ 0.4	$ —	$ 138.7	$ 0.7
Non-U.S. Governments (2)	80.2	1.2	2.2	—	82.4	1.2
Obligations of states and political subdivisions (1)	9.3	—	8.8	0.3	18.1	0.3
Credit-Financial	308.7	3.0	32.2	0.5	340.9	3.5
Credit-Industrial	320.4	9.6	28.7	2.1	349.1	11.7
Credit-Utility	111.6	8.5	16.4	4.9	128.0	13.4
Structured securities:						
CMO/MBS-agency	26.9	0.2	8.4	0.3	35.3	0.5
CMO/MBS-non agency	7.0	0.1	—	—	7.0	0.1
CMBS (2)	126.3	1.5	3.0	—	129.3	1.5
ABS	91.8	0.4	6.8	0.3	98.6	0.7
CLO	103.5	1.4	12.5	0.3	116.0	1.7
Foreign denominated:						
Governments	137.1	19.5	0.3	0.1	137.4	19.6
Credit	104.3	20.0	0.5	0.2	104.8	20.2
ABS/CMBS (2)	20.8	2.3	0.1	—	20.9	2.3
CLO	75.5	9.2	0.5	0.2	76.0	9.4
Total fixed maturities	1,661.7	77.6	120.8	9.2	1,782.5	86.8
Equity securities	112.4	17.3	—	—	112.4	17.3
Other investments	(0.5)	0.9	—	—	(0.5)	0.9
Short-term investments	5.8	0.4	—	—	5.8	0.4
Total	$ 1,779.4	$ 96.2	$ 120.8	$ 9.2	$ 1,900.2	$ 105.4

December 31, 2014	Less Than One Year		One Year or Greater		Total	
(in millions)	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed maturities						
USD denominated:						
U.S. Governments	$ 55.0	$ 0.2	$ 15.7	$ 0.1	$ 70.7	$ 0.3
Non-U.S. Governments	36.5	0.4	5.2	0.2	41.7	0.6
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	10.4	0.1	16.6	0.2	27.0	0.3
Credit-Financial	195.7	2.2	11.1	0.1	206.8	2.3
Credit-Industrial	240.8	3.3	12.2	0.2	253.0	3.5
Credit-Utility	63.1	3.8	1.9	0.1	65.0	3.9
Structured securities:						
CMO/MBS-agency	10.1	0.1	19.2	0.6	29.3	0.7
CMBS	49.3	0.1	6.0	0.1	55.3	0.2
ABS	68.8	0.2	8.1	0.3	76.9	0.5
CLO	60.4	0.5	—	—	60.4	0.5
Foreign denominated:						
Governments	123.7	9.3	11.2	0.1	134.9	9.4
Credit	122.3	12.3	0.9	0.2	123.2	12.5
ABS/CMBS	26.8	2.5	—	—	26.8	2.5
CLO	41.7	3.9	—	—	41.7	3.9
Total fixed maturities	1,104.6	38.9	108.1	2.2	1,212.7	41.1
Equity securities	53.6	5.1	—	—	53.6	5.1
Other investments	(0.9)	1.3	—	—	(0.9)	1.3
Short-term investments	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	$ 1,157.3	$ 45.3	$ 108.1	$ 2.2	$ 1,265.4	$ 47.5

(1) Unrealized losses less than one year are less than $0.1 million.
(2) Unrealized losses one year or greater are less than $0.1 million.

We regularly evaluate our investments for other than temporary impairment. For fixed maturity securities, the evaluation for a credit loss is generally based on the present value of expected cash flows of the security as compared to the amortized book value. For structured securities, frequency and severity of loss inputs are used in projecting future cash flows of the securities. Loss frequency is measured as the credit default rate, which includes such factors as loan-to-value ratios and credit scores of borrowers. For equity securities and other investments, the length of time and the amount of decline in fair value are the principal factors in determining other-than-temporary impairment. We also recognize other-than-temporary losses on fixed maturity securities that we intend to sell.

We hold a total of 6,941 securities, of which 3,410 were in an unrealized loss position for less than one year and 205 were in an unrealized loss position for a period one year or greater as of December 31, 2015. Unrealized losses greater than twelve months on fixed maturities were the result of a number of factors, including increased credit spreads, foreign currency fluctuations and higher market yields relative to the date the securities were purchased, and for structured securities, by the performance of the underlying collateral as well. In considering whether an investment is other-then-temporarily impaired or not, we also considered that we do not intend to sell the investment and it is unlikely that we will be required to sell the investment before recovery of its amortized cost bases, which may be maturity. In situations where we did not recognize other-than-temporary losses on investments in our equity portfolio, we have evaluated the near-term prospects of the investment in relation to the severity and duration of the impairment and based on that evaluation, have the ability and intent to hold these investments until a recovery of the cost basis. We do not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2015.

We recognized other-than-temporary losses on our fixed maturities portfolio of $2.2 million, $1.2 million and $6.0 million for 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. We recognized other-than-temporary losses on our equity portfolio of $9.7 million, $1.1 million and $1.8 million for 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Net Investment Income and Realized Gains and Losses

Investment income and expenses were as follows:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Investment income:			
Interest and dividends on fixed maturities	$ 78.2	$ 76.3	$ 87.7
Dividends on equity securities	16.3	15.8	17.7
Interest on short-term and other investments	7.2	5.3	5.0
Other	—	4.2	3.7
Investment income	101.7	101.6	114.1
Investment expenses	(16.1)	(15.0)	(14.1)
Net investment income	$ 85.6	$ 86.6	$ 100.0

The following table presents our gross realized investment gains (losses) and other:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Realized gains			
Fixed maturities	$ 12.3	$ 17.0	$ 33.5
Equity securities	40.5	29.2	59.1
Other investments	59.3	44.8	38.9
Short-term investments	1.2	0.1	0.1
Other assets	—	2.0	—
Gain on sale of real estate holdings	0.3	43.3	—
Gross realized investment gains and other	113.6	136.4	131.6
Realized losses			
Fixed maturities	(23.5)	(12.2)	(19.6)
Equity securities	(6.6)	(0.6)	(1.4)
Other investments	(42.7)	(21.8)	(30.8)
Short-term investments	(1.8)	(0.9)	(0.7)
Other assets	—	(4.6)	—
Other-than-temporary impairment losses on fixed maturities	(2.2)	(1.2)	(6.0)
Other-than-temporary impairment losses on equity securities	(9.7)	(1.1)	(1.8)
Gross realized investment and other losses	(86.5)	(42.4)	(60.3)
Net realized investment gains and other	$ 27.1	$ 94.0	$ 71.3

Realized gains (losses) and changes in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) related to fixed maturity and equity security investments are summarized as follows:

(in millions)	Fixed Maturities	Equity Maturities	Other Investments	Other	Real Estate Holdings	Tax Effects	Total
Year Ended December 31, 2015							
Realized before impairments	$ (11.2)	$ 33.9	$ 16.6	$ (0.6)	$ 0.3	$ (15.3)	$ 23.7
Realized - impairments	(2.2)	(9.7)	—	—	—	4.2	(7.7)
Change in unrealized	(65.3)	(64.1)	1.5	(0.4)	—	37.6	(90.7)
Year Ended December 31, 2014							
Realized before impairments	$ 4.8	$ 28.6	$ 23.0	$ (3.4)	$ 43.3	$ (34.0)	$ 62.3
Realized - impairments	(1.2)	(1.1)	—	—	—	0.8	(1.5)
Change in unrealized	(30.5)	(8.4)	2.5	—	—	3.1	(33.3)
Year Ended December 31, 2013							
Realized before impairments	$ 13.9	$ 57.7	$ 8.1	$ (0.6)	$ —	$ (26.2)	$ 52.9
Realized - impairments	(6.0)	(1.8)	—	—	—	2.7	(5.1)
Change in unrealized	(102.6)	39.5	4.5	—	—	18.4	(40.2)

Foreign Currency Exchange Forward Contracts

We entered into foreign currency exchange forward contracts to manage currency exposure on losses related to certain global catastrophe events, manage currency exposure on our Canadian dollar ("CAD") investment portfolio, minimize negative impacts to our investment portfolio returns, manage currency exposure on certain Euro ("EUR") denominated investments and gain exposure to a total return strategy which invests in multiple currencies. The currency forward contracts are carried at fair value in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in "Other investments". The realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in "Net realized investment and other gains" in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

The fair value of our foreign currency exchange forward contracts as of December 31 was as follows:

(in millions)	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Global catastrophe (1)	$ —	$ (0.6)
Canadian dollar (CAD) currency exposure	5.2	(0.6)
Euro (EUR) investment exposure	2.9	2.3
Investment portfolio return strategy (2)	—	—
Total return strategy (3)	(0.8)	—
	$ 7.3	$ 1.1

(1) Program not renewed in 2015.
(2) Program inception in 2015 and fair value is less than $0.1 million at December 31, 2015.
(3) Program inception in 2015.

The following table presents our gross investment realized gains and losses on our foreign currency exchange forward contracts:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Realized gains			
Global catastrophe	$ 0.5	$ 4.6	$ 7.8
Canadian dollar (CAD) currency exposure	21.0	4.6	—
Euro (EUR) investment exposure	8.5	6.0	—
Investment portfolio return strategy	5.1	—	—
Total return strategy	1.4	—	—
Gross realized investment gains	36.5	15.2	7.8
Realized losses			
Global catastrophe	(2.3)	(4.9)	(10.4)
Canadian dollar (CAD) currency exposure	(7.3)	(2.2)	—
Euro (EUR) investment exposure	(2.3)	(2.4)	—
Investment portfolio return strategy	(7.2)	—	—
Total return strategy	(2.2)	—	—
Gross realized investment losses	(21.3)	(9.5)	(10.4)
Net realized investment gains (losses) on foreign currency exchange forward contracts	$ 15.2	$ 5.7	$ (2.6)

Regulatory Deposits, Pledged Securities and Letters of Credit

At December 31, 2015, the amortized cost and fair value of investments on deposit with U.S., Canadian and various agencies for regulatory purposes were $187.1 million and $192.8 million, respectively. At December 31, 2014, the amortized cost and fair value of investments on deposit with U.S. and various agencies for regulatory purposes were $186.6 million and $194.2 million, respectively.

At December 31, 2015, investments with an amortized cost of $34.9 million and fair value of $35.0 million were pledged as collateral in support of irrevocable letters of credit ("LOC's") in the amount of $29.3 million issued under the terms of certain reinsurance agreements in respect of reported loss and loss expense reserves. At December 31, 2014, investments with an amortized cost of $55.0 million and fair value of $55.3 million were pledged as collateral in support of irrevocable LOC's in the amount of $43.6 million issued under the terms of certain reinsurance agreements in respect of reported loss and loss expense reserves.

Our Corporate member's capital supporting our Lloyd's business was $202.5 million and $217.9 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is 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. Fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability, or in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Market participants are buyers and sellers in the principal (or most advantageous) market that are independent, knowledgeable, able to transact for the asset or liability and willing to transfer the asset or liability.

Valuation techniques consistent with the market and income approach are used to measure fair value. The inputs of these valuation techniques are categorized into three levels.

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that can be accessed at the reporting date. We define actively traded as a security that has traded in the past seven days. We receive one quote per instrument for Level 1 inputs.
- Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. We receive one quote per instrument for Level 2 inputs.
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs reflect our own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best information available in the circumstances.

We receive fair value prices from third-party pricing services and our outside investment managers. These prices are determined using observable market information such as dealer quotes, market spreads, cash flows, yield curves, live trading levels, trade execution data, market consensus prepayment speeds, credit information and the security's terms and conditions, among other things. We have reviewed the processes used by the third-party providers for pricing the securities, and have determined that these processes result in fair values consistent with GAAP requirements. In addition, we review these prices for reasonableness, and have not adjusted any prices received from the third-party providers as of December 31, 2015 or 2014. A description of the valuation techniques we use to measure assets at fair value is as follows:

Fixed Maturities (Available-for-Sale) Levels 1 and 2:

- United States Treasury securities are typically valued using Level 1 inputs. For these securities, we obtain fair value measurements from third-party pricing services using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets at the reporting date.
- United States Government agencies, non-U.S. Government securities, obligations of states and political subdivisions, credit securities and foreign denominated government and credit securities are reported at fair value using Level 2 inputs. For these securities, we obtain fair value measurements from third-party pricing services. Observable data may include dealer quotes, market spreads, yield curves, live trading levels, trade execution data, credit information and the security's terms and conditions, among other things.
- CMO/MBS agency, CMO/MBS non-agency, CMBS, ABS and CLO securities, both domestic and foreign, are reported at fair value using Level 2 inputs. For these securities, we obtain fair value measurements from third-party pricing services. Observable data may include dealer quotes, market spreads, cash flows, yield curves, live trading levels, trade execution data, market consensus prepayment speeds, credit information and the security's terms and conditions, among other things.

Equity Securities Level 1: Equity securities are principally reported at fair value using Level 1 inputs. For these securities, we obtain fair value measurements from a third-party pricing service using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets at the reporting date.

Equity Securities Level 2: We own interests in a mutual fund that is reported at fair value using Level 2 inputs. The valuation is based on the funds' net asset value per share, at the end of each month. The underlying assets in the funds are valued primarily on the basis of closing market quotations or official closing prices on each valuation day.

Equity Securities Level 3: We own certain equity securities that are reported at fair value using Level 3 inputs. The valuation techniques for these securities include the following:

- Fair value measurements are obtained from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Security Valuation Office at the reporting date.

- Fair value measurements for an investment in an equity fund obtained by applying final prices provided by the administrator of the fund, which is based upon certain estimates and assumptions.

Other Investments Level 2: Foreign regulatory deposits are assets held in trust in jurisdictions where there is a legal and regulatory requirement to maintain funds locally in order to protect policyholders. Lloyd's is the appointed investment manager for the funds. These assets are invested in short-term government securities, agency securities and corporate bonds and are valued using Level 2 inputs based upon values obtained from Lloyd's. Foreign currency future contracts are valued by our counterparty using market driven foreign currency exchange rates and are considered Level 2 investments.

Short-term Investments: Short-term investments are principally reported at fair value using Level 1 inputs, with the exception of short-term corporate and governmental bonds reported at fair value using Level 2 inputs as described in the fixed maturities section above. Values for the investments categorized as Level 1 are obtained from various financial institutions as of the reporting date.

Transfers Between Level 1 and Level 2 Securities: There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 securities during 2015 or 2014.

Based on an analysis of the inputs, our financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis have been categorized as follows:

		Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
(in millions)	December 31, 2015	Level 1 (a)	Level 2 (b)	Level 3 (c)
Fixed maturities				
USD denominated:				
U.S. Governments	$ 207.9	$ 150.4	$ 57.5	$ —
Non-U.S. Governments	91.7	—	91.7	—
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	488.0	—	488.0	—
Credit-Financial	535.9	—	535.9	—
Credit-Industrial	517.9	—	517.9	—
Credit-Utility	156.2	—	156.2	—
Structured securities:				
CMO/MBS-agency	131.0	—	131.0	—
CMO/MBS-non agency	11.5	—	11.5	—
CMBS	181.2	—	181.2	—
ABS	110.9	—	110.9	—
CLO	135.6	—	135.6	—
Foreign denominated:				
Governments	151.2	—	151.2	—
Credit	110.1	—	110.1	—
ABS/CMBS	21.9	—	21.9	—
CLO	76.3	—	76.3	—
Total fixed maturities	2,927.3	150.4	2,776.9	—
Equity securities	463.9	457.6	5.6	0.7
Other investments	97.2	—	97.2	—
Short-term investments	210.8	203.6	7.2	—
	$ 3,699.2	$ 811.6	$ 2,886.9	$ 0.7

(a) Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets
(b) Significant other observable inputs
(c) Significant unobservable inputs

(in millions)	December 31, 2014	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using Level 1 [(a)]	Level 2 [(b)]	Level 3 [(c)]
Fixed maturities				
USD denominated:				
U.S. Governments	$ 185.0	$ 99.2	$ 85.8	$ —
Non-U.S. Governments	79.9	—	79.9	—
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	490.7	—	490.7	—
Credit-Financial	518.1	—	518.1	—
Credit-Industrial	499.6	—	499.6	—
Credit-Utility	142.0	—	142.0	—
Structured securities:				
CMO/MBS-agency	175.3	—	175.3	—
CMO/MBS-non agency	14.0	—	14.0	—
CMBS	180.0	—	180.0	—
ABS	142.6	—	142.6	—
CLO	78.4	—	78.4	—
Foreign denominated:				
Governments	140.2	—	140.2	—
Credit	126.0	—	126.0	—
ABS/CMBS	27.2	—	27.2	—
CLO	41.7	—	41.7	—
Total fixed maturities	2,840.7	99.2	2,741.5	—
Equity securities	503.8	485.4	17.5	0.9
Other investments	97.3	—	97.3	—
Short-term investments	258.3	256.4	1.9	—
	$ 3,700.1	$ 841.0	$ 2,858.2	$ 0.9

(a) Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets
(b) Significant other observable inputs
(c) Significant unobservable inputs

The fair value measurements in the tables above do not equal "Total investments" on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as they exclude certain other investments that are accounted for under the equity-method of accounting.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for the investments categorized as Level 3 are as follows:

Fair Value Measurements Using Observable Inputs (Level 3)

(in millions)	Equity Securities	Total
Beginning balance, January 1, 2015	$ 0.9	$ 0.9
Transfers into Level 3	—	—
Transfers out of Level 3	—	—
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized):	—	
Included in net income (loss)	—	—
Included in other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—
Purchases, issuances, sales, and settlements	—	
Purchases	—	—
Issuances	—	—
Sales	(0.2)	(0.2)
Settlements	—	—
Ending balance, December 31, 2015	$ 0.7	$ 0.7
Amount of total gains or losses for the year included in net income (loss) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at December 31, 2015	$ —	$ —

(in millions)	Equity Securities	Other Assets	Total
Beginning balance, January 1, 2014	$ 1.3	$ 2.6	$ 3.9
Transfers into Level 3	—	—	—
Transfers out of Level 3	—	—	—
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized):			
Included in net income (loss)	—	—	—
Included in other comprehensive income (loss)	0.1	—	0.1
Purchases, issuances, sales, and settlements			
Purchases	—	—	—
Issuances	—	—	—
Sales	(0.5)	—	(0.5)
Settlements	—	(2.6)	(2.6)
Ending balance, December 31, 2014	$ 0.9	$ —	$ 0.9
Amount of total gains or losses for the year included in net income (loss) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at December 31, 2014	$ —	$ —	$ —

At December 31, 2015 and 2014, we did not have any financial assets or financial liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis or any financial liabilities on a recurring basis.

3 . Reinsurance

We reinsure certain risks with other insurance companies. Such arrangements serve to limit our maximum loss on certain individual risks as well as on catastrophes and large or unusually hazardous risks. We are liable for reinsurance ceded in the event our reinsurers do not meet their obligations. Thus, a credit exposure exists with respect to reinsurance ceded to the extent that any reinsurer is unable or unwilling to meet the obligations assumed under the reinsurance contracts. Our allowance for uncollectible reinsurance balances receivable on paid losses and incurred claims was $3.2 million and $3.4 million as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Under certain reinsurance agreements, collateral, including letters of credit, is held to secure performance of reinsurers in meeting their obligations. The amount of such collateral was $421.6 million and $359.4 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The collateral we hold does not apply to our entire outstanding reinsurance recoverable. Rather, collateral is provided on an individual contract basis as appropriate. For each individual reinsurer, the collateral held may exceed or fall below the total outstanding recoverable from that individual reinsurer.

The long-term nature of the reinsurance contracts creates a credit risk to us over time arising from potentially uncollectible reinsurance. To mitigate that counterparty risk, we evaluate our reinsurers to assess their financial condition. The factors that underlie these reviews include a financial risk assessment as well as an internal assessment of the capitalization and the operational risk of the reinsurer. As a result of these reviews, we may make changes to the approved markets that are used in both our treaty and facultative reinsurance programs.

Estimated losses recoverable from reinsurers and the ceded portion of unearned premiums are reported as assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Included in “Reinsurance recoverables” are paid loss recoverables of $130.8 million and $91.9 million as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. “Earned Premiums” and “Losses and loss adjustment expenses” are reported net of reinsurance in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

Losses and loss adjustment expenses of $766.1 million, $747.4 million and $742.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively, are net of amounts ceded to reinsurers of $284.6 million, $246.6 million and $292.8 million, respectively.

We are required to accept certain assigned risks and other legally mandated reinsurance obligations. Prior to the mid-1980s, we assumed various forms of casualty reinsurance for which we continue to maintain reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses (see Note 19, “Run-off Lines”). For such assumed reinsurance transactions, we engage in various monitoring steps that are common with assumed reinsurance such as ongoing claims reviews. We currently assume property related reinsurance primarily through our subsidiary, Argo Re and casualty related reinsurance primarily through Syndicate 1200 (see Note 18, “Segment Information”).

Premiums were as follows:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Direct written premiums	$ 1,651.4	$ 1,585.5	$ 1,576.1
Reinsurance ceded to other companies	(610.0)	(537.5)	(537.1)
Reinsurance assumed from other companies	360.7	319.9	312.3
Net written premiums	$ 1,402.1	$ 1,367.9	$ 1,351.3
Direct earned premiums	$ 1,602.2	$ 1,551.8	$ 1,541.0
Reinsurance ceded to other companies	(563.7)	(524.8)	(533.7)
Reinsurance assumed from other companies	333.4	311.1	296.5
Net earned premiums	$ 1,371.9	$ 1,338.1	$ 1,303.8
Percentage of reinsurance assumed to net earned premiums	24.3%	23.2%	22.7%

4. Derivative Instruments

Through our subsidiary Argo Re, in December 2011 we entered into a reinsurance contract with a special purpose reinsurance company that provided us with protection against certain severe catastrophe events and the occurrence of multiple significant catastrophe events during the same year. The contract was effective beginning on January 1, 2012 and provided coverage of $100 million for hurricanes and earthquakes (including fire) in the U.S. and covered losses for the first and subsequent events on a per-occurrence basis over a 24-month coverage period. The contract expired in December 2013. This transaction ignored the effects of inuring reinsurance, creating the remote possibility of a double recovery on covered events, and was therefore deemed to be a derivative.

“Other reinsurance-related expenses” for the year ended December 31, 2013 were $19.2 million, which were incurred due to the change in the fair value of the derivative, principally due to the passage of the transaction’s risk coverage term.

The special purpose reinsurance company that was the counterparty to this transaction was a variable interest entity under the provisions of ASC Topic 810-10, “Consolidation.” Argo Group was not the primary beneficiary of this entity and was therefore not required to consolidate it in our consolidated financial statements.

5. Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

The following table provides a reconciliation of reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE"):

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Net reserves beginning of the year	$ 2,137.1	$ 2,107.6	$ 2,110.9
Add:			
Losses and LAE incurred during current calendar year, net of reinsurance:			
Current accident year	798.5	785.1	775.6
Prior accident years	(32.4)	(37.7)	(33.6)
Losses and LAE incurred during calendar year, net of reinsurance	766.1	747.4	742.0
Deduct:			
Losses and LAE payments made during current calendar year, net of reinsurance:			
Current accident year	169.0	185.9	199.3
Prior accident years	564.5	550.8	554.2
Losses and LAE payments made during current calendar year, net of reinsurance:	733.5	736.7	753.5
Change in participation interest (1)	(1.2)	37.8	10.4
Foreign exchange adjustments	(35.2)	(19.0)	(2.2)
Net reserves - end of year	2,133.3	2,137.1	2,107.6
Add:			
Reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses and LAE, end of year	990.3	905.3	1,122.7
Gross reserves - end of year	$ 3,123.6	$ 3,042.4	$ 3,230.3

(1) Amount represents (decrease) increase in reserves due to change in our syndicate participation.

Reserves for losses and LAE represent the estimated indemnity cost and related adjustment expenses necessary to investigate and settle claims. Such estimates are based upon individual case estimates for reported claims, estimates from ceding companies for reinsurance assumed and actuarial estimates for losses that have been incurred but not yet reported to the insurer. Any change in probable ultimate liabilities is reflected in current operating results.

Impacting losses and LAE for the year ended December 31, 2015 was $32.4 million in favorable prior years' loss reserve development comprised of the following: $32.1 million of net favorable development in the Excess and Surplus Lines segment primarily the result of favorable development in the general and products liability lines and commercial automobile, partially offset by unfavorable development in property lines; $9.1 million of net unfavorable development in the Commercial Specialty segment, primarily driven by unfavorable development in general liability and workers compensation due to increases in claim severity, partially offset by favorable development in short-tail, directors and officers and auto liability lines; $7.7 million of net favorable development in the International Specialty segment primarily driven by favorable development in Argo Insurance Bermuda and Argo Re, partially offset by unfavorable development in the Brazil unit; $10.3 million of favorable development in the Syndicate 1200 segment primarily driven by favorable development in various property classes, as well as favorable development in general liability, partially offset by unfavorable development in accident & health lines; $8.6 million of unfavorable development in the Run-off Lines segment primarily caused by unfavorable development in workers compensation lines driven by increasing medical costs on older claims and discount unwind, as well as in asbestos and environmental liability driven by increasing defense costs in primary asbestos, offset in part by favorable development in run-off reinsurance claims.

Impacting losses and LAE for the year ended December 31, 2014 was $37.7 million in favorable prior years' loss reserve development comprised of the following: $47.4 million of net favorable development in the Excess and Surplus Lines segment primarily caused by favorable development in the general and products liability lines, partially offset by unfavorable development in commercial automobile; $6.8 million of net unfavorable development in the Commercial Specialty segment, primarily driven by unfavorable development in general liability due to increases in claim severity, as well as unfavorable development in auto liability lines, partially offset by favorable development in short-tail and workers compensation lines; $0.4 million of net favorable development in the International Specialty segment; $21.1 million of favorable development in the Syndicate 1200 segment primarily driven by favorable development in various property classes, as well as favorable development in professional indemnity, partially offset by unfavorable development in general liability; $24.4 million of unfavorable development in the Run-off Lines segment primarily caused by unfavorable development in workers compensation lines driven by increasing medical costs on older claims, a s well as in asbestos liability driven by increasing defense costs on primary business and activity on assumed business including the impact of arbitrations and commutations.

Net favorable loss development recognized in 2013 for prior accident years was a $33.6 million reduction to losses and LAE. The Excess and Surplus Lines segment had net favorable loss development of $43.9 million primarily due to favorable development in the general and products liability lines of business, partially offset by unfavorable development in commercial automobile losses. The Commercial Specialty segment had net unfavorable loss development of $1.1 million primarily attributable to unfavorable development in general liability due to increases in claim severity and unfavorable development in automobile liability, partially offset by favorable development in workers compensation and short-tail lines. The International Specialty segment had net negligible prior year loss development. The Syndicate 1200 segment had net favorable loss development of $6.2 million primarily attributable to favorable development in various property classes, partially offset by unfavorable development in general liability. The Run-off Lines segment had net unfavorable development of $15.5 million primarily due to unfavorable development in the asbestos liability driven by higher defense costs for claims from general liability policies written on a direct basis, as well as commutation and settlement activity, and unfavorable development in the medical malpractice liability line due to the loss of the New York Liquidation Bureau funding for structured settlement annuity payments.

In the opinion of management, our reserves represent the best estimate of our ultimate liabilities, based on currently known facts, current law, current technology and assumptions considered reasonable where facts are not known. Due to the significant uncertainties and related management judgments, there can be no assurance that future loss development, favorable or unfavorable, will not occur.

Pension-type reserves (tabular reserves) are indemnity reserves that are calculated using discounts determined with reference to actuarial tables, which incorporate interest and contingencies such as mortality, remarriage, inflation or recovery from disability applied to a reasonably determinable payment stream. We discounted certain workers compensation pension-type reserves using a maximum interest rate of 3.5% in 2015, 2014 and 2013. The amount of unamortized discount was $14.9 million, $17.6 million and $19.5 million at December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

6. Junior Subordinated Debentures

Through a series of trusts, that are wholly-owned subsidiaries (non-consolidated), we issued debt. The debentures are variable with the rate being reset quarterly and subject to certain interest rate ceilings. Interest payments are payable quarterly. The debentures are all unsecured and are subordinated to other indebtedness. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, all debentures were eligible for redemption subject to certain terms and conditions at a price equal to 100% of the principal plus accrued and unpaid interest.

On July 16, 2014, Argo Group US, Inc. purchased the outstanding PXRE Capital Trust V $20,000,000 Junior Subordinated Debt Securities ("Capital Trust V") at a discount equal to 90.0% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest through the date of purchase for a total price of $18.2 million, resulting in the recognition of a $2.0 million pre-tax realized gain.

A summary of our outstanding junior subordinated debentures is presented below:

(in millions)

Issue Date	Trust Preferred Pools	Maturity	Rate Structure	Interest Rate at December 31, 2015	Amount
Argo Group					
05/15/2003	PXRE Capital Statutory Trust II	05/15/2033	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.46%	$ 18.1
11/06/2003	PXRE Capital Trust VI	09/30/2033	3M LIBOR + 3.90%	4.51%	10.3
Argo Group US					
05/15/2003	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust I	05/15/2033	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.46%	15.5
12/16/2003	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust III	01/08/2034	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.42%	12.3
04/29/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IV	04/29/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.85%	4.21%	13.4
05/26/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust V	05/24/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.85%	4.23%	12.3
05/12/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VI	05/12/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.80%	4.33%	13.4
09/17/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VII	12/15/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.60%	4.11%	15.5
09/22/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VIII	09/22/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.55%	4.14%	15.5
10/22/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IX	12/15/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.60%	4.11%	15.5
09/15/2005	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust X	09/15/2035	3M LIBOR + 3.40%	3.91%	30.9
	Total Outstanding				$ 172.7

(in millions)

Issue Date	Trust Preferred Pools	Maturity	Rate Structure	Interest Rate at December 31, 2014	Amount
Argo Group					
05/15/2003	PXRE Capital Statutory Trust II	05/15/2033	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.33%	$ 18.1
11/06/2003	PXRE Capital Trust VI	09/30/2033	3M LIBOR + 3.90%	4.16%	10.3
Argo Group US					
05/15/2003	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust I	05/15/2033	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.33%	15.5
12/16/2003	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust III	01/08/2034	3M LIBOR + 4.10%	4.33%	12.3
04/29/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IV	04/29/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.85%	4.08%	13.4
05/26/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust V	05/24/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.85%	4.08%	12.3
05/12/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VI	05/12/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.80%	4.04%	13.4
09/17/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VII	12/15/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.60%	3.84%	15.5
09/22/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VIII	09/22/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.55%	3.80%	15.5
10/22/2004	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IX	12/15/2034	3M LIBOR + 3.60%	3.84%	15.5
09/15/2005	Argonaut Group Statutory Trust X	09/15/2035	3M LIBOR + 3.40%	3.64%	30.9
	Total Outstanding				$ 172.7

7. Other Indebtedness

Floating Rate Loan Stock

This debt was assumed through the acquisition of Syndicate 1200. These notes are unsecured. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, all notes were eligible for redemption subject to certain terms and conditions at a price equal to 100% of the principal plus accrued and unpaid interest. Interest on the U.S. Dollar and Euro notes is due semiannually and quarterly, respectively. A summary of the notes outstanding at December 31, 2015 and 2014 is presented below:

(in millions)

Issue Date	Currency	Maturity	Rate Structure	Interest Rate at December 31, 2015	Amount
12/08/2004	U.S. Dollar	11/15/2034	6 month LIBOR + 4.2%	4.66%	$ 6.5
09/06/2005	Euro	08/22/2035	3 month LIBOR + 4.0%	3.91%	12.7
10/31/2006	U.S. Dollar	01/15/2036	6 month LIBOR + 4.0%	4.46%	10.0
10/31/2006	Euro	11/22/2036	3 month LIBOR + 4.0%	3.91%	11.1
06/08/2007	Euro	09/15/2037	3 month LIBOR + 3.9%	3.86%	14.3
					$ 54.6

(in millions)

Issue Date	Currency	Maturity	Rate Structure	Interest Rate at December 31, 2014	Amount
12/08/2004	U.S. Dollar	11/15/2034	6 month LIBOR + 4.2%	4.53%	$ 6.5
09/06/2005	Euro	08/22/2035	3 month LIBOR + 4.0%	4.08%	14.9
10/31/2006	U.S. Dollar	01/15/2036	6 month LIBOR + 4.0%	4.33%	10.0
10/31/2006	Euro	11/22/2036	3 month LIBOR + 4.0%	4.08%	13.1
06/08/2007	Euro	09/15/2037	3 month LIBOR + 3.9%	3.98%	16.8
					$ 61.3

No principal payments have been made since the acquisition of Syndicate 1200. The floating rate loan stock denominated in Euros fluctuates due to foreign currency translation. The outstanding balance on these loans was $38.1 million and $44.8 million as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The foreign currency translation adjustment is recorded in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

Borrowing Under Revolving Credit Facility

On March 7, 2014, each of Argo Group, Argo Group US, Inc., Argo International Holdings Limited and Argo Underwriting Agency Limited (the “Borrowers”) entered into a $175.0 million Credit Agreement (“Credit Agreement”) with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent. The Credit Agreement replaced and terminated the previous $150.0 million Credit Agreement. The Credit Agreement provides for a $175.0 million revolving credit facility with a maturity date of March 7, 2018 unless extended in accordance with the terms of the Credit Agreement. Borrowings under the Credit Agreement may be used for general corporate purposes, including working capital and permitted acquisitions, and each of the Borrowers has agreed to be jointly and severally liable for the obligations of the other Borrowers under the Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement contains customary events of default. If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the Borrowers might be required immediately to repay all amounts outstanding under the Credit Agreement. Lenders holding at least a majority of the loans and commitments under the Credit Agreement may elect to accelerate the maturity of the loans and/or terminate the commitments under the Credit Agreement upon the occurrence and during the continuation of an event of default.

Included in the Credit Agreement is a provision that allows up to $17.5 million of the revolving credit facility to be used for LOCs, subject to availability. On March 7, 2014, the $0.2 million LOC outstanding under the previous $150.0 million Credit Agreement was transferred to the Credit Agreement. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, there were no borrowings outstanding and $0.2 million in LOCs against the Credit Facility.

Other Debt

As part of the ARIS Title Insurance Corporation (“ARIS”) acquisition, at December 31, 2015 and 2014, we had a note payable for $0.6 million and $0.7 million, respectively. The note had a variable interest rate of 2.00% above 30-day LIBOR, with the variable interest rate being reset quarterly and subject to certain interest rate ceilings. Interest payments are payable quarterly. The note payable matures on April 1, 2019.

8 . Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Cash. The carrying amount approximates fair value.

Investment securities and short-term investments . See Note 2, “Investments,” for additional information.

Premiums receivable and reinsurance recoverables on paid losses. The carrying value of current receivables approximates fair value. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the carrying values of premiums receivable over 90 days were $10.0 million and $12.4 million, respectively. Included in “Reinsurance recoverables” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2015 and 2014, are amounts that are due from trade capital providers associated with the operations of Syndicate 1200. Upon settlement, the receivable is offset against the liability also reflected in our accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the payable was in excess of the receivable. Of our reinsurance recoverables on paid losses, excluding amounts attributable to Syndicate 1200’s trade capital providers, at December 31, 2015 and 2014, the carrying values over 90 days were $7.1 million and $9.9 million, respectively. Our methodology for establishing our allowances for doubtful accounts includes specifically identifying all potential uncollectible balances regardless of aging. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the allowance for doubtful accounts for premiums receivable was $3.5 million and $5.2 million, respectively, and the allowance for doubtful accounts for reinsurance recoverables on paid losses was $2.2 million and $1.8 million, respectively. Premiums receivable over 90 days were secured by collateral in the amount of $0.2 million and $0.3 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Reinsurance recoverables on paid losses over 90 days were secured by collateral in the amount of $0.7 million and $0.4 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Debt. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the fair value of our Junior subordinated debentures, Senior unsecured fixed rate notes and Other indebtedness was estimated using appropriate market indices or quoted prices from external sources based on current market conditions.

A summary of our financial instruments whose carrying value did not equal fair value is shown below:

	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(in millions)	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
Junior subordinated debentures	$ 172.7	$ 166.5	$ 172.7	$ 155.5
Senior unsecured fixed rate notes	143.8	146.3	143.8	132.3
Other indebtedness:				
Floating rate loan stock	54.6	52.7	61.3	55.2
Note payable	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6
	$ 371.7	$ 366.1	$ 378.5	$ 343.6

9. Shareholders' Equity

On February 16, 2016, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend in the amount of $0.22 on each share of common stock outstanding. The cash dividend will be paid on March 15, 2016 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 1, 2016

On February 17, 2015, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend, payable on March 16, 2015, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 2, 2015. As a result of the stock dividend, 2,554,506 additional shares were issued. Cash was paid in lieu of fractional shares of our common shares. All references to share and per share amounts in this document and related disclosures have been adjusted to reflect the stock dividend for all periods presented.

On May 7, 2013, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend, payable on June 17, 2013, to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 3, 2013. As a result of the stock dividend, 2,447,839 additional shares were issued. Cash was paid in lieu of fractional shares of our common shares. All references to share and per share amounts in this document and related disclosures have been adjusted to reflect the stock dividend for all periods presented.

During 2015, our Board of Directors declared quarterly cash dividends totaling $0.80 on each share of common stock outstanding to our shareholders of record. For the year ended December 31, 2015, we paid cash dividends totaling $22.7 million to our shareholders.

On February 18, 2014, May 5, 2014, August 5, 2014 and November 4, 2014, our Board of Directors declared quarterly cash dividends totaling $0.69 on each share of common stock outstanding or $0.63 on each share outstanding adjusted for the 2015 stock dividend to our shareholders of record. For the year ended December 31, 2014, we paid cash dividends totaling $18.2 million to our shareholders.

On February 15, 2013, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend in the amount of $0.15 on each share of common stock outstanding or $0.13 on each share outstanding adjusted for the 2013 and 2015 stock dividends to our shareholders of record. On May 7, 2013, August 6, 2013 and November 4, 2013, our Board of Directors declared quarterly cash dividends totaling $0.45 on each share of common stock outstanding or $0.41 on each share outstanding adjusted for the 2015 stock dividend to our shareholders of record. For the year ended December 31, 2013, we paid cash dividends totaling $15.8 million to our shareholders.

We are authorized to issue 30 million shares of $1.00 par value preferred shares. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, no preferred shares were issued and outstanding.

On November 5, 2013, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to $150.0 million of our common shares ("2013 Repurchase Authorization"). The 2013 Repurchase Authorization supersedes all the previous Repurchase Authorizations. As of December 31, 2015, availability under the 2013 Repurchase Authorization for future repurchases of our common shares was $63.1 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, we repurchased 575,155 common shares and 1,048,144 common shares, respectively for $29.7 million and $50.8 million, respectively.

A summary of common shares repurchased in 2015 is shown below:

Repurchase Type	Date Trading Plan Initiated	2015 Purchase Period	Number of Shares Repurchased	Average Price of Shares Repurchased	Total Cost (in millions)	Repurchase Authorization Year
10b5-1 Trading Plan	12/15/2014	01/05/2015-02/12/2015	117,482	$ 53.50	$ 6.3	2013
10b5-1 Trading Plan	03/16/2015	03/18/2015-05/06/2015	150,050	$ 49.56	7.4	2013
10b5-1 Trading Plan	12/16/2015	12/18/2015-12/23/2015	100	$ 59.03	—	2013
Open Market	N/A	01/01/2015-09/30/2015	307,523	$ 51.83	16.0	2013
Total			575,155	$ 51.58	$ 29.7	

At December 31, 2015, we had the following authorized, unissued common shares reserved for future issuance:

Reserve Name	Shares Reserved
2014 Long-Term Incentive Plan	3,930,147
2007 Employee Share Purchase Plan	1,929,537
Historical stock compensation plans	860
Total	5,860,544

Shares reserved under the historical plans represent all grants issued and outstanding under terminated plans as of December 31, 2015. (See Note 12, "Share-based Compensation" for further discussion.)

10. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

In February 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-02 that amends ASC 220, "Comprehensive Income." See Note 1, "Business and Significant Accounting Policies" for additional information regarding the provisions of this update. Effective January 1, 2013, we adopted the update prospectively.

A summary of changes in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of taxes (where applicable) by component is presented below:

(in millions)	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Unrealized Holding Gains on Securities	Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Total
Balance, January 1, 2014	$ (11.5)	$ 163.9	$ (4.6)	$ 147.8
Other comprehensive (loss) income before reclassifications	(4.1)	(12.5)	(2.4)	(19.0)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	—	(20.7)	—	(20.7)
Net current-period other comprehensive (loss) income	(4.1)	(33.2)	(2.4)	(39.7)
Balance, December 31, 2014	(15.6)	130.7	(7.0)	108.1
Other comprehensive (loss) income before reclassifications	(6.0)	(89.8)	0.1	(95.7)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	—	(0.9)	—	(0.9)
Net current-period other comprehensive (loss) income	(6.0)	(90.7)	0.1	(96.6)
Balance, December 31, 2015	$ (21.6)	$ 40.0	$ (6.9)	$ 11.5

The amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) shown in the above table have been included in the following captions in our Consolidated Statements of Income:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Unrealized gains and losses on securities:			
Net realized investment gains	$ (7.2)	$ (30.6)	$ (59.8)
Provision for income taxes	6.3	9.9	19.4
Net of taxes	$ (0.9)	$ (20.7)	$ (40.4)

11. Net Income Per Common Share

The following table presents the calculation of net income per common share on a basic and diluted basis:

(in millions, except number of shares and per share amounts)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 183.2	$ 143.2
Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic	27,972,962	28,690,306	29,536,472
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Equity compensation awards	560,337	522,542	1,120,011
Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted	28,533,299	29,212,848	30,656,483
Net income per common share:			
Basic	$ 5.84	$ 6.39	$ 4.85
Diluted	$ 5.72	$ 6.27	$ 4.67

Excluded from the weighted average common shares outstanding calculation at December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 are 9,181,644 shares, 8,606,489 shares and 7,558,345 shares, respectively, which are held as treasury shares. The shares are excluded as of their repurchase date. In 2015, there were no anti-dilutive shares of common stock to be excluded from the computation of diluted net income per common share. In 2014, equity compensation awards to purchase 1,700 shares of common stock were excluded from the computation of diluted net income per common share as these instruments were anti-dilutive. These instruments expired or will expire at varying times from 2015 through 2021. In 2013, equity compensation awards to purchase 3,300 shares of common stock were excluded from the computation of diluted net income per common share as these instruments were anti-dilutive. These instruments expired or will expire at varying times from 2014 through 2020.

12 . Share-based Compensation

The fair value method of accounting is used for equity-based compensation plans. Under the fair value method, compensation cost is measured based on the fair value of the award at the measurement date and recognized over the requisite service period. We use the Black-Scholes model to estimate the fair values on the measurement date for share options and share appreciation rights (“SARs”). The Black-Scholes model uses several assumptions to value a share award. The volatility assumption is based on the historical change in our stock price over the previous five years preceding the measurement date. The risk-free rate of return assumption is based on the five-year U.S. Treasury constant maturity rate on the measurement date. The expected award life is based upon the average holding period over the history of the incentive plan. The expected dividend yield is based on our history and expected dividend payouts.

The following table summarizes the assumptions we used:

	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Risk-free rate of return	1.44% to 1.81%	1.53% to 1.77%	0.80% to 1.71%
Expected dividend yields	1.46% to 1.60%	1.49% to 1.55%	1.49% to 1.67%
Expected award life (years)	4.62 to 4.71	4.67 to 4.85	4.91 to 5.07
Expected volatility	20.04% to 22.09%	22.84% to 25.46%	26.30% to 32.07%

We estimate forfeitures based on historical forfeitures patterns, thereby recognizing expense only for those awards that are expected to vest. The estimate of forfeitures is adjusted as actual forfeitures differ from our estimate, resulting in recognition of compensation expense only for those awards that actually vest.

The compensation expense recognized under all our share-based payment plans was $29.1 million ($23.7 million, net of tax), $19.6 million ($16.2 million, net of tax) and $23.3 million ($18.6 million, net of tax) for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The compensation expense is included in “Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses” in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

We present all tax benefits resulting from the exercise of stock options and vesting of non-vested shares as cash flows from financing activities. Excess tax benefits are realized tax benefits from tax deductions for exercised options and vested shares in excess of the deferred tax asset attributable to stock compensation costs for such options. Such tax benefits and cash flows were immaterial for all reporting periods.

Argo Group's Long-Term Incentive Plan s

In November 2007, our shareholders approved the 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "2007 Plan"), which provided for an aggregate of 4.5 million shares of our common stock that may be issued to executives, non-employee directors, and other key employees. As of May 2014, 1,457,800 shares remained available for grant under the 2007 Plan. In May 2014, our shareholders approved the 2014 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "2014 Plan"), which provides for an additional 2.8 million shares of our common stock to be available for issuance to executives, non-employee directors and other key employees. The share awards may be in the form of share options, SARs, restricted shares, restricted share awards, restricted share units awards, performance awards, other share-based awards and other cash-based awards. Shares issued under this plan may be shares that are authorized and unissued or shares that we reacquired, including shares purchased on the open market. Share options and SARs will count as one share for the purposes of the limits under the incentive plans; restricted shares, restricted share units, performance units, performance shares or other share-based incentive awards which settle in common shares will count as 2.75 shares for purpose of the limits under the 2014 Plan.

Share options may be in the form of incentive share options, non-qualified share options and restorative options. Share options are required to have an exercise price that is not less than the market value on the date of grant. We are prohibited from repricing the options. The term of the share options cannot exceed seven years from the grant date.

During 2015, all options granted under this plan were either exercised or expired. Cash received for the exercise of options under this plan was $1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2015.

There were no options granted under this plan during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013.

A summary of restricted share activity as of December 31, 2015 and changes during the year then ended is as follows:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2015	313,716	$ 35.19
Granted	299,902	$ 41.94
Vested and issued	(123,028)	$ 30.04
Expired or forfeited	(15,283)	$ 45.20
Outstanding at December 31, 2015	475,307	$ 40.46

As of December 31, 2015, there was $13.3 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to restricted share compensation arrangements granted by Argo Group. The weighted-average period over which this unrecognized expense is expected to be recognized is 2.3 years. The total fair value of shares vested during the year ended December 31, 2015 was $4.1 million.

A summary of stock-settled SARs activity as of December 31, 2015 and changes during the year then ended is as follows:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at January 1, 2015	1,313,726	$ 28.43
Granted	243,305	$ 46.53
Exercised	(228,244)	$ 24.21
Expired or forfeited	(10,686)	$ 28.17
Outstanding at December 31, 2015	1,318,101	$ 32.50
Vested or expected to vest as of end of year	1,238,645	$ 32.01
Exercisable at end of year	803,807	$ 27.58

The stock-settled SARs vest over a one to four year period. Upon exercise of the stock-settled SARs, the employee is entitled to receive shares of our common stock equal to the appreciation of the stock as compared to the exercise price. For the year ended December 31, 2015, 228,244 stock-settled SARs were exercised resulting in 129,670 shares being issued. As of December 31, 2015, there was $2.9 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to stock-settled SARs outstanding. The weighted-average period over which this unrecognized expense is expected to be recognized is 2.7 years. Aggregate intrinsic value of the stock-settled SARs at December 31, 2015 was $36.0 million.

A summary of cash-settled SARs activity as of December 31, 201 5 and changes during the year then ended is as follows:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at January 1, 2015	2,001,451	$ 32.76
Granted	913,157	$ 47.48
Exercised	(492,511)	$ 29.47
Expired or forfeited	(287,976)	$ 37.11
Outstanding at December 31, 2015	2,134,121	$ 39.22
Vested or expected to vest as of end of year	1,876,079	$ 37.79
Exercisable at end of year	463,176	$ 30.38

The cash-settled SARs vest over a one to four year period. Upon exercise of the cash-settled SARs, the employee is entitled to receive cash payment for the appreciation in the value of our common stock over the exercise price. We account for the cash-settled SARs as liability awards, which require the awards to be revalued at each reporting period. For the year ended December 31, 2015, 492,511 cash-settled SARs were exercised resulting in $12.8 million in cash payments. As of December 31, 2015, there was $15.8 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to cash-settled SARs outstanding. The weighted-average period over which this unrecognized expense is expected to be recognized is 2.6 years. Aggregate intrinsic value of the cash-settled SARs at December 31, 2015 was $44.0 million. The liability for cash-settled SARs was $31.0 million and $24.4 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Included in the total shares outstanding at December 31, 2015 are 271,311 restricted shares, 803,506 cash-settled SARs and 181,319 stock-settled SARs whose vesting is contingent on the employee meeting defined performance conditions. Employees have a specified time period in which to meet the performance condition (typically one year) and forfeit the grant (on a pro rata basis) if the performance conditions are not met in the specified time frame. We evaluate the likelihood of the employee completing the performance condition and include this estimate in the determination of the forfeiture factor for the grants.

We have granted to certain key employees restricted share units, which provide the employee with the economic equivalent of stock ownership. Each restricted share unit is valued at the closing price of our common stock on the national exchange on which it is listed as of the date credited, and fluctuates daily thereafter. The restricted share units outstanding under this plan vest over a 24 to 48 month period, subject to continued employment. Upon vesting, the employee receives a cash payment equivalent to the number of restricted share units vested valued at the closing market price of our common shares. Total expense recognized for the restricted share units totaled $0.2 million, $0.5 million, and $0.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. Cash payments paid for vested awards under this plan totaled $0.3 million and $0.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Employees Share Purchase Plans

We have established an employee stock purchase plan for eligible employees (Argo Group's 2007 Employee Share Purchase Plan). Under this plan, newly issued shares of our common stock may be purchased over an offering period of three months at 85% of the lower of the market value on the first day of the offering period or on the designated purchase date at the end of the offering period. We have also established a Save As You Earn Plan for our United Kingdom employees (Argo Group's Save As You Earn Plan). Under this plan, newly issued shares of our common stock may be purchased over an offering period of three or five years at 85% of the market value of the common shares on the first day of the offering period. Expense recognized under these plans for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 was $0.4 million, $0.3 million and $0.3 million, respectively.

Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors

Until December 16, 2013, the non-employee members of our Board of Directors were entitled to participate in the Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors ("Directors Plan"), a non-funded and non-qualified deferred compensation plan. Under the Directors Plan, non-employee directors could elect each year to defer payment of 0%, 50% or 100% of their cash compensation payable during the next calendar year. While no further deferrals were permitted under the Directors Plan from and after December 16, 2013, and certain amounts thereunder were paid out prior to the end of 2013, additional deferred amounts remain subject to the terms of the Directors Plan and will be paid out in accordance with the terms of the Directors Plan. Deferred amounts are credited with interest earned at a rate two percent above the prime commercial lending rate, to be reset each May 1. In addition, the Directors Plan calls for us to grant a match equal to 75% of the cash compensation amounts deferred in the form of "Stock Units," which provide directors with the economic equivalent of stock ownership and were credited as a bookkeeping entry to each director's "Stock Unit Account." Each Stock Unit is valued at the closing price of our common stock on the national exchange on which it is listed as of the date credited for all purposes under the Directors Plan and fluctuates daily thereafter on that same basis. The Directors Plan provided for a Stock Unit Account to be established for each non- employee director upon their election to the Board and credits their account with an initial bookkeeping entry for 1,650 Stock Units. In conjunction with the termination of the Directors Plan, all cash balances and related interest for the years 2010 throu gh 2013 were settled resulting in $1.9 millio n in cash payments for the year ended December 31, 2013. Remaining distributions from the Directors Plan will occur six months after the non-employee director ceases to be a member of the Board, the date on whic h a change in control (as defined in the Directors Plan) occurs or December 1, 2017, whichever comes first, and will be made in cash. The non-employee directors are responsible for all tax requirements on the deferred compensation and any related earnings. Under the Directors Plan, we recorded compensation expense of $ 0.9 million, $ 0.7 million and $ 2.0 million for the years ended December 31, 201 5 , 201 4 , and 201 3 , respectively. The liability for remaining distributions under the Directors Plan was $ 4.5 mill ion and $ 4.2 million at December 31, 201 5 and 201 4 , respectively.

13. Underwriting, Acquisition and Insurance Expenses

Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses were as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Commissions	$ 232.2	$ 231.1	$ 229.6
General expenses	298.5	288.0	272.8
Premium taxes, boards and bureaus	9.8	25.5	24.2
	540.5	544.6	526.6
Net deferral of policy acquisition costs	(0.9)	(5.4)	(15.8)
Total underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	$ 539.6	$ 539.2	$ 510.8

Included in general expenses for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 is $29.1 million, $19.6 million and $23.3 million, respectively, of expense for our equity-related compensation. The decrease in premium taxes, boards and bureaus for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014 was primarily due to a decline in the accrual for premium taxes and other assessments due to a change in accounting estimate.

14 . Income Taxes

We are incorporated under the laws of Bermuda and, under current Bermuda law, are not obligated to pay any taxes in Bermuda based upon income or capital gains. We have received an undertaking from the Supervisor of Insurance in Bermuda pursuant to the provisions of the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act, 2011, which exempts us from any Bermuda taxes computed on profits, income or any capital asset, gain or appreciation or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, at least until the year 2035.

We do not consider ourselves to be engaged in a trade or business in the United States or the United Kingdom and, accordingly, do not expect to be subject to direct United States or United Kingdom income taxation.

We have subsidiaries based in the United Kingdom that are subject to the tax laws of that country. Under current law, these subsidiaries are taxed at the applicable corporate tax rates. Eight of the United Kingdom subsidiaries are deemed to be engaged in business in the United States, and therefore, are subject to United States corporate tax in respect of a proportion of their United States underwriting business only. Relief is available against the United Kingdom tax liabilities in respect of overseas taxes paid that arise from the underwriting business. Our United Kingdom subsidiaries file separate United Kingdom income tax returns.

We have subsidiaries based in the United States that are subject to United States tax laws. Under current law, these subsidiaries are taxed at the applicable corporate tax rates. Our United States subsidiaries file a consolidated United States federal income tax return.

We also have operations in Belgium, Switzerland, Brazil, France, Malta, Spain and Ireland, which also are subject to income taxes imposed by the jurisdiction in which they operate. We have operations in the United Arab Emirates, which are not subject to income tax under the laws of that country.

Our income tax provision includes the following components:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Current tax provision	$ 6.0	$ 5.2	$ 32.7
Deferred tax provision related to:			
Future tax deductions	10.9	58.4	0.1
Valuation allowance change	(2.6)	(30.8)	3.7
Income tax provision	$ 14.3	$ 32.8	$ 36.5

Our expected income tax provision computed on pre-tax income (loss) at the weighted average tax rate has been calculated as the sum of the pre-tax income (loss) in each jurisdiction multiplied by that jurisdiction's applicable statutory tax rate. For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, pre-tax income (loss) attributable to our operations and the operations' effective tax rates were as follows:

(in millions)	**2015**		**2014**		**2013**	
	Pre-Tax Income (Loss)	**Effective Tax Rate**	**Pre-Tax Income (Loss)**	**Effective Tax Rate**	**Pre-Tax Income (Loss)**	**Effective Tax Rate**
Bermuda	$ 94.3	0.0%	$ 102.8	0.0%	$ 50.5	0.0%
United States	64.8	19.9%	98.0	28.1%	120.9	28.2%
United Kingdom	21.3	(4.7%)	21.5	24.8%	18.5	12.0%
Belgium	— (1)	237.0%	— (1)	63.8%	0.2	103.0%
Brazil	(3.2)	0.0%	(2.2)	0.0%	(9.7)	0.0%
United Arab Emirates	0.2	0.0%	(0.9)	0.0%	1.1	0.0%
Ireland (2)	(0.1)	5.0%	(1.1)	0.0%	(0.1)	0.0%
Malta	0.1	0.0%	(2.2)	0.0%	(1.7)	0.0%
Switzerland	0.1	20.5%	0.1	17.6%	— (1)	5.6%
Pre-tax income	$ 177.5		$ 216.0		$ 179.7	

(1) Pre-tax income for the respective year was less than $0.1 million.

(2) Effective tax rate of 5 percent on intercompany dividends of $50.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. Dividends eliminated in consolidation.

A reconciliation of the difference between the provision for income taxes and the expected tax provision at the weighted average tax rate is as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Income tax provision at expected rate	$ 25.8	$ 37.2	$ 43.1
Tax effect of:			
Tax-exempt interest	(4.2)	(4.5)	(5.6)
Dividends received deduction	(2.3)	(2.3)	(2.3)
Valuation allowance change	(2.6)	(30.8)	3.7
Other permanent adjustments, net	0.3	(0.7)	0.3
Adjustment for prior year tax return	(0.6)	(0.9)	(1.6)
United States state tax expense	(2.5)	2.5	0.3
PXRE Reinsurance capital loss carryforward	—	29.8	—
Other foreign adjustments	(0.3)	0.7	(0.1)
Foreign tax credit utilization	(2.1)	0.1	1.1
Deferred tax rate reduction	—	(0.4)	(1.2)
Foreign exchange adjustments	(0.1)	1.7	(1.7)
Foreign withholding taxes	2.9	0.4	0.5
Income tax provision	$ 14.3	$ 32.8	$ 36.5
Income tax provision - Foreign	$ (1.1)	$ 5.2	$ 2.4
Income tax provision - United States, Federal	16.4	23.3	33.2
Income tax (benefit) provision - United States, State	(3.9)	3.9	0.4
Foreign withholding tax	2.9	0.4	0.5
Income tax provision	$ 14.3	$ 32.8	$ 36.5

The consolidated provision for income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2015 was affected by a $2.1 million decrease to taxes related to foreign tax credit utilization in the United Kingdom, a $2.5 million decrease in tax related to the reversal of an estimated state tax accrual, and an increase of $2.5 million in withholding taxes paid on an intercompany dividend payment.

The consolidated provision for income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2014 was affected by a $1.3 million decrease for additional taxes reported on the prior year tax return, a $0.4 million reduction for change in the United Kingdom deferred tax rate and a $1.0 million increase for the foreign exchange adjustment on the translation from Sterling to the U.S. Dollar within the Syndicate 1200 segment. Additionally, a $29.8 million increase is recognized due to the expiration of the PXRE Reinsurance Company capital loss carryforward benefit, which was offset by the related Valuation Allowance.

The consolidated provision for income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2013 was affected by a $1.6 million decrease for additional taxes reported on the prior year tax return, a $1.2 million reduction for change in the United Kingdom deferred tax rate and a $1.7 million decrease for the foreign exchange adjustment on the translation from Sterling to the U.S. Dollar within the Syndicate 1200 segment.

Deferred taxes arise from temporary differences in the recognition of revenues and expenses for tax and financial reporting purposes. The net deferred tax liability as of December 31, 201 5 and 201 4 resulted from the tax-effected temporary differences shown in the following table. Due primarily to changes in unrealized gains on available-for-sale investment s ecurities, the net deferred tax liability decreased by $ 2 9.4 million and increased $ 24.3 million for the years ended December 31, 201 5 and 2014 , respectively.

	December 31,	
(in millions)	2015	2014
Deferred tax assets:		
Losses and loss adjustment expense reserve discounting	$ 23.4	$ 25.1
Unearned premiums	26.6	24.8
Allowance for bad debt	1.6	2.0
Accrual for contingent commissions	0.3	0.3
Net operating loss carryforward	17.8	18.8
Impairment of investment values	9.6	8.2
United States amortization of intangible assets	4.9	4.3
Accrued bonus	7.0	6.7
Accrued vacation	1.6	1.7
Stock option expense	10.1	8.0
Brazil operating losses	5.9	7.4
Malta operating losses	1.8	2.1
Other	15.9	7.0
Deferred tax assets, gross	126.5	116.4
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Unrealized gains on equity securities	(40.1)	(62.3)
Unrealized gains on fixed maturities and other investment securities	(0.4)	(15.3)
Deferred acquisition costs	(20.4)	(20.3)
United States amortization of intangible assets	(3.6)	(3.5)
United Kingdom underwriting losses	(9.7)	(9.0)
United Kingdom amortization of intangible assets	(1.8)	(2.3)
Deferred gain on like-kind exchange	(13.3)	—
Depreciable fixed asset	(18.0)	(16.3)
Unrealized Gain on Limited Partnership Interests	(11.0)	(10.5)
Other	(9.0)	(4.5)
Deferred tax liabilities, gross	(127.3)	(144.0)
Deferred tax assets, net before valuation allowance	$ (0.8)	$ (27.6)
Valuation allowance	(22.8)	(25.4)
Deferred tax liabilities, net	$ (23.6)	$ (53.0)
Net deferred tax liabilities - Foreign	$ (11.7)	$ (11.8)
Net deferred tax liabilities - United States	(11.9)	(41.2)
Deferred tax liabilities, net	$ (23.6)	$ (53.0)

Our net deferred tax assets (liabilities) are supported by taxes paid in previous periods, reversal of taxable temporary differences and recognition of future income. Management regularly evaluates the recoverability of the deferred tax assets and makes any necessary adjustments to them based upon any changes in management's expectations of future taxable income. Realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon our generation of future taxable income sufficient to recover tax benefits that cannot be recovered from taxes paid in the carryback period, generally two years for net operating losses and three years for capital losses, for our United States operations. At December 31, 2015, we had a total net deferred tax liability of $0.8 million prior to any valuation allowance.

Management has determined that a valuation allowance is required for a portion of the tax-effected net operating loss carryforward included as part of the United States consolidated group of $16.8 million generated from PXRE Corporation and for the tax effected net operating loss carryforward of $1.0 million from ARIS. The valuation allowances have been established pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 382 limits regarding the application of net operating loss carryforwards following an ownership change. The loss carryforwards available per year are $2.8 million, as required by Internal Revenue Code Section 382.

Furthermore, due to cumulative losses incurred since inception, management has concluded that a valuation allowance is required for the full amount of the tax-effected net operating losses generated by our Brazil and Malta entities.

Accordingly, a valuation allowance of $22.8 million is required as of December 31, 2015 of which $14.9 million relates to the PXRE Corporation and ARIS loss carryforwards, $6.1 million relates to Brazil operations, and $1.8 million relates to Malta operations. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the valuation allowance was reduced by $1.0 million pertaining to PXRE Corporation and ARIS loss carryforwards, decreased by $1.3 million pertaining to our Brazil operations and decreased by $0.3 million pertaining to our Malta operations.

Of the PXRE Corporation net operating loss carryforwards, $15.3 million will expire if not used by December 31, 2025 and $1.5 million will expire if not used by December 31, 2027. Of the ARIS loss carryforward, $0.2 million will expire if not used by December 31, 2027, $0.4 million will expire if not used by December 31, 2028, and $0.4 million will expire if not used by December 31, 2029.

For any uncertain tax positions not meeting the "more-likely-than-not" recognition threshold, accounting standards require recognition, measurement and disclosure in a company's financial statements. We had no material unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013. Our United States subsidiaries are no longer subject to U.S. federal and state income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2012. Our United Kingdom subsidiaries are no longer subject to United Kingdom income tax examinations by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for years before 2012.

15. Pension Benefits and Savings Plans

Argo Group US sponsors a qualified defined benefit plan and non-qualified unfunded supplemental defined benefit plans, all of which were curtailed effective February 2004. The following tables set forth the change in plan assets and the change in projected benefit obligation, as of December 31 with respect to these plans. The assets and liabilities of the plans were measured as of December 31 of the respective years presented.

(in millions)	2015	2014
Change in plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	$ 19.2	$ 20.2
Actual return on plan assets	(0.1)	1.0
Employer contributions	0.2	0.2
Settlements and benefits paid	(1.8)	(2.2)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	$ 17.5	$ 19.2

(in millions)	2015	2014
Change in projected benefit obligation		
Projected benefit obligation at beginning of year	$ 25.8	$ 22.6
Interest cost	0.8	1.0
Actuarial loss (gain)	(1.6)	4.3
Settlements and benefits paid	(1.9)	(2.1)
Projected benefit obligation at end of year	$ 23.1	$ 25.8

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the qualified pension plan was underfunded by $3.4 million and $4.4 million, respectively. The non-qualified pension plans were unfunded by $2.3 million $2.2 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Underfunded and unfunded amounts are included in "Other liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at December 31 were as follows:

	2015	2014
Weighted average discount rate	3.48%	3.37%
Expected rate of increase in future compensation levels	n/a	n/a

Assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Weighted average discount rate	3.55%	4.39%	3.63%
Expected return on plan assets	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
Expected rate of increase in future compensation levels	n/a	n/a	n/a

In 2015, 2014, and 2013, the expected return on plan assets was ascertained using multiple factors that include market conditions, duration of the fixed maturity portion of the portfolio and long-term return forecasts provided by several asset management companies.

Net periodic benefit costs were $0.1 million, $0.5 million and $0.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. We estimate that $0.4 million of unrecognized actuarial loss will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive gain into net periodic benefit cost during 2016. Over the next five years, we expect our annual payments under the pensions plan not to exceed $2.5 million per year.

The projected benefit obligation for the non-qualified unfunded supplemental defined benefit plans, with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets, was $2.3 and $2.2 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The fair value of plan assets for these plans was zero for these same periods. The accumulated benefit obligation for all defined benefit plans is equal to the projected benefit obligation for each of the years presented.

Our investment policy for the qualified plan requires the investments be prudently selected and properly diversified so as to minimize the risk of large losses in accordance with applicable laws including the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The overall investment strategy is to achieve a balance of long-term growth of capital and current income, taking into account the need for liquidity to pay benefits as they come due. Periodic shifts in the asset allocation may be made based on the assessment of current and prospective market conditions.

The investment policy for the qualified plan contains asset allocation guidelines with target allocations that remain effective until such time as the investment policy is revised. At December 31, 2015, the target allocations were 65% fixed maturity investments, short-term investments, and cash; and 35% equity investments. The target asset allocation percentages were selected based on risk diversification needs, expected distribution patterns and asset manager recommendations. The actual asset allocation as of December 31, 2015 was 62% fixed maturity investments, short-term investments and cash; and 38% equity investments, of which 21.3% and 16.7% were allocated between U.S. and international equities, respectively. These allocations were in compliance with the investment policy that allows the investment manager based on its judgment and market conditions to deviate from the target allocations.

Following is a description of the valuation techniques used to measure the plan's assets at fair value.

Mutual funds : Fair value is determined using observable, market-based inputs on the valuation date (Level 1). For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, assets with a fair value of $17.4 million and $18.8 million, respectively, were valued using Level 1 fair value measurements.

Short-term investment fund : Fair value is determined based on the net asset values provided by the plan trustee (Level 2). For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, assets with a fair value of $0.1 million and $0.4 million, respectively, were valued using Level 2 fair value measurements.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while it is believed the valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Based on the current funding status of the pension plan, effects of the curtailment and expected changes in pension plan asset values and pension obligations, we do not believe any significant funding of the pension plan will be required during the year ending December 31, 2016.

Substantially all of our employees are either eligible or mandated by applicable laws to participate in employee savings plans. Under these plans, a percentage of the employee's pay may be or is mandated based on applicable laws to be contributed to various savings alternatives. The plans also call for our contributions under several formulae. Charges to income related to our contributions were $6.3 million, $7.1 million and $6.8 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

16. Commitments and Contingencies

Argo Group's subsidiaries are parties to legal actions incidental to their business. Based on the opinion of counsel, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially affect our financial condition or results of operations.

We have contractual commitments to invest up to $ 90.2 million related to our limited partnership investments at December 31, 201 5. These commitments will be funded as required by the partnership agreements which can be called to be fulfilled at any time, not to exceed thirteen years.

17. Leases

We lease office space and equipment under lease agreements that expire at various intervals and are subject to renewal options at market rates prevailing at the time of renewal. At December 31, 2015, the future minimum payments under non-cancelable operating leases are as follows:

(in millions)	Amount Due
2016	$ 10.3
2017	9.2
2018	7.1
2019	5.9
2020	3.3
Thereafter	4.4
Total	$ 40.2

We incurred lease expense of $14.2 million, $14.7 million and $14.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

18. Segment Information

We are primarily engaged in underwriting property and casualty insurance and reinsurance. We have four ongoing reporting segments: Excess and Surplus Lines, Commercial Specialty, International Specialty and Syndicate 1200. Additionally, we have a Run-off Lines segment for certain products that we no longer underwrite.

We consider many factors, including the nature of each segment's insurance and reinsurance products, production sources, distribution strategies and the regulatory environment, in determining how to aggregate reporting segments. Transactions between segments are reported in the segment that initiated the transaction.

In evaluating the operating performance of our segments, we focus on core underwriting and investing results before the consideration of realized gains or losses from the sales of investments. Realized investment gains are reported as a component of the Corporate and Other segment, as decisions regarding the acquisition and disposal of securities reside with the corporate investment function and are not under the control of the individual business segments. Identifiable assets by segment are those assets used in the operation of each segment.

Revenue and income (loss) before income taxes for each segment were as follows:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Revenue:			
Earned premiums			
Excess and Surplus Lines	$ 525.3	$ 485.2	$ 460.2
Commercial Specialty	290.1	291.9	299.0
International Specialty	148.7	148.3	142.4
Syndicate 1200	407.4	411.1	401.7
Run-off Lines	0.4	1.6	0.5
Total earned premiums	1,371.9	1,338.1	1,303.8
Net investment income			
Excess and Surplus Lines	35.2	36.7	42.2
Commercial Specialty	18.5	18.7	22.8
International Specialty	11.8	8.2	8.4
Syndicate 1200	9.2	10.2	11.0
Run-off Lines	8.3	9.7	10.8
Corporate and Other	2.6	3.1	4.8
Total net investment income	85.6	86.6	100.0
Net realized investment and other gains	27.1	94.0	71.3
Total revenue	$ 1,484.6	$ 1,518.7	$ 1,475.1

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Income (loss) before income taxes			
Excess and Surplus Lines	$ 96.0	$ 106.0	$ 89.4
Commercial Specialty	29.9	8.9	21.4
International Specialty	31.3	21.1	11.3
Syndicate 1200	33.8	44.1	37.3
Run-off Lines	(7.2)	(23.0)	(10.6)
Total segment income before taxes	183.8	157.1	148.8
Corporate and Other	(33.4)	(35.1)	(40.4)
Net realized investment and other gains	27.1	94.0	71.3
Total income (loss) before income taxes	$ 177.5	$ 216.0	$ 179.7

The table below presents earned premiums by geographic location. For this disclosure, we determine geographic location by the country of domicile of our subsidiaries that underwrite the business and not by the location of insureds or reinsureds from whom the business was generated.

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2015	2014	2013
Bermuda	$ 103.4	$ 101.5	$ 101.7
Brazil	43.1	44.3	38.7
Malta	1.9	2.1	1.8
United Kingdom	407.4	411.7	401.7
United States	816.1	778.5	759.9
Total earned premiums	$ 1,371.9	$ 1,338.1	$ 1,303.8

The following table represents identifiable assets:

(in millions)	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Excess and Surplus Lines	$ 2,439.9	$ 2,344.0
Commercial Specialty	1,360.7	1,307.0
International Specialty	793.6	776.8
Syndicate 1200	1,371.2	1,258.5
Run-off Lines	527.2	550.5
Corporate and Other	137.5	119.5
Total	$ 6,630.1	$ 6,356.3

Included in total assets at December 31, 2015 and 2014 are $377.1 million and $315.4 million, respectively, in assets associated with trade capital providers.

The following table represents goodwill and intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization as of December 31:

	Goodwill		Intangible Assets, Net of Accumulated Amortization	
(in millions)	2015	2014	2015	2014
Excess and Surplus Lines	$ 76.4	$ 76.4	$ 2.2	$ 2.8
Commercial Specialty	47.1	47.1	4.1	5.5
Syndicate 1200	28.7	28.7	67.0	70.3
Total	$ 152.2	$ 152.2	$ 73.3	$ 78.6

19 . Run-off Lines

We have discontinued active underwriting of certain lines of business, including those lines that were previously recorded in Argonaut Group’s Risk Management segment. All current activity within these lines is related to the management of claims and other administrative functions. Also included in Run-off Lines are other liability reserves, which include exposure to claims for asbestos and environmental liabilities written in past years. The other liability reserves are often characterized by long elapsed periods between the occurrence of a claim and ultimate payment to resolve the claim. We use a specialized staff dedicated to administer and settle these claims.

The following table presents our gross reserves for Run-off Lines as of December 31:

(in millions)	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Asbestos and Environmental:		
Reinsurance assumed	$ 34.6	$ 40.1
Other	11.8	13.8
Total Asbestos and Environmental	46.4	53.9
Risk management	252.2	257.1
Run-off reinsurance lines	3.0	4.1
Other run-off lines	4.7	3.4
Total Run-off Lines	$ 306.3	$ 318.5

We have received asbestos and environmental liability claims arising from other liability coverage primarily written in the 1960s, 1970s and into the mid-1980s. Asbestos and environmental claims originate from policies directly under written by us and from reinsurance assumed during this period, including a portion assumed from the London market. The following table represents the total gross reserves for our asbestos exposure:

	December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Direct written			
Case reserves	$ 2.0	$ 2.5	$ 1.7
Unallocated loss adjustment expense ("ULAE")	0.5	1.0	1.3
Incurred but not reported ("IBNR")	8.2	7.6	6.4
Total direct written reserves	10.7	11.1	9.4
Assumed domestic			
Case reserves	12.2	13.2	15.7
ULAE	0.8	1.6	2.2
IBNR	13.7	15.8	15.8
Total assumed domestic reserves	26.7	30.6	33.7
Assumed London			
Case reserves	4.0	4.7	5.8
ULAE	—	0.2	0.4
IBNR	1.4	1.2	1.4
Total assumed London reserves	5.4	6.1	7.6
Total asbestos reserves	$ 42.8	$ 47.8	$ 50.7

The following table presents our net underwriting results for Run-off Lines:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Asbestos and Environmental:			
Reinsurance assumed	$ (1.0)	$ (8.3)	$ (3.8)
Other	(3.4)	(5.0)	(7.2)
Total Asbestos and Environmental	(4.4)	(13.3)	(11.0)
Risk management	(8.2)	(15.5)	(5.9)
Run-off reinsurance lines	2.0	(1.5)	(1.9)
Other run-off lines	(3.5)	(0.7)	(0.8)
Total Run-off Lines	$ (14.1)	$ (31.0)	$ (19.6)

Reserves for asbestos and environmental claims cannot be estimated with traditional loss reserving techniques that rely on historical accident year loss development factors. The uncertainty in the asbestos and environmental reserves estimates arises from several factors including lack of historical data, inapplicability of standard actuarial projection techniques, uncertainty with regards to claim costs, coverage interpretations and judicial, statutory and regulatory provisions under which the claims may be ultimately resolved. It is impossible to predict how the courts will interpret coverage issues and these resolutions may have a material impact on the ultimate resolution of the asbestos and environmental liabilities. We use a variety of estimation methods to calculate reserves as a whole; however, reserves for asbestos and environmental claims were determined utilizing a variety of methods which rely on historical claim reporting and severity information for the industry as well as company specific information. We apply greatest weight to the methods that project future calendar period claims and severities because it best captures the unique claim reporting and severity characteristics of the underlying exposures. Although management has recorded its best estimate of loss reserves, due to the uncertainties of estimation of liability that may arise as discussed herein, further deterioration of claims could occur in the future.

Please see Note 5 , “Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses” for further discussion.

20. Statutory Accounting Principles

Financial Information

The statutory capital and surplus for our principal operating subsidiaries was as follows:

Statutory capital and surplus (1)	December 31,	
(in millions)	2015	2014
Bermuda	$ 1,260.1	$ 1,261.1
United Kingdom (2)	232.8	224.5
United States	854.5	790.4

(1) Such amounts include ownership interests in affiliate insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries.
(2) Capital on deposit with Lloyd's in U.S. Dollars

The statutory net income (loss) for our principal operating subsidiaries was as follows:

Statutory net income (loss) (1)	For the Years Ended December 31,		
(in millions)	2015	2014	2013
Bermuda	$ 182.2	$ 128.2	$ 124.2
United Kingdom (2)	34.8	28.7	42.3
United States	94.4	117.7	117.4

(1) Such amounts include ownership interests in affiliate insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries.
(2) In U.S. Dollars

Dividends

As an insurance and reinsurance holding company, we are largely dependent on dividends and other permitted payments from our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries to pay cash dividends to our shareholders, for debt service and for our operating expenses. The ability of our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries to pay dividends to us is subject to certain restrictions imposed by the jurisdictions of domicile that regulate our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries and each jurisdiction has calculations for the amount of dividends that an insurance and reinsurance company can pay without the approval of the insurance regulator.

The payment of dividends to our shareholders is governed by the Bermuda Companies Act of 1981, as amended, which permits the payment of dividends so long as (i) we are not, or would not be after the payment, unable to pay our liabilities as they become due or (ii) the realizable value of our assets is in excess of our liabilities after taking such payment into account. In light of these restrictions, we have no material restrictions on dividend payments that may be made to our shareholders at December 31, 2015.

Argo Re is the direct subsidiary of Argo Group, and therefore, has direct dividend paying capabilities to the parent. As of December 31, 2015, Argo Re's solvency and liquidity margins and statutory capital and surplus were in excess of the minimum levels required by the Insurance Act. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the minimum statutory capital and surplus required to be maintained by Argo Re was $345.9 million and $332.1 million, respectively.

Argo Re is generally prohibited from declaring or paying, in any financial year, dividends of more than 25% of its total statutory capital and surplus (as shown on its previous financial year's statutory balance sheet) unless it files (at least seven days before payment of such dividends) with the Bermuda Monetary Authority ("BMA") an affidavit signed by at least two directors (one of whom must be a Bermuda resident director if any of the insurer's directors are resident in Bermuda) and the principal representative stating that it will continue to meet its solvency margin and minimum liquidity ratio. Argo Re may not reduce its total statutory capital by 15% or more, as set out in its previous year's financial statements, unless it has received the prior approval of the BMA. Based on these regulatory restrictions, the maximum amount available for payment of dividends to Argo Group by Argo Re during 2016 without prior regulatory approval is $315.2 million.

In 2015, 2014 and 2013, Argo Re paid cash dividends to Argo Group of $41.0 million, $40.9 million and $84.5 million, respectively. The proceeds of the dividends were used to repay intercompany balances related primarily to dividend and interest payments and other corporate expenses.

Our U.S. insurance subsidiaries file financial statements prepared in accordance with statutory accounting principles prescribed or permitted by insurance regulatory authorities of the state in which they are domiciled. The differences between statutory-based financial statements and financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP vary between jurisdictions. The principal differences are that for statutory-based financial statements, deferred policy acquisition costs are not recognized, a portion of the deferred federal income tax asset is non-admitted, bonds are generally carried at amortized cost, certain assets are non-admitted and charged directly to surplus, a collectability allowance related to reins urance recoverables is charged directly to surplus and outstanding losses and unearned premium are presented net of reinsurance.

As an intermediate insurance holding company, Argo Group US is largely dependent on dividends and other permitted payments from its insurance subsidiaries to service its debt, fund operating expenses and pay dividends to Argo Ireland. Various state insurance laws restrict the amount that may be transferred to Argo Group US from its subsidiaries in the form of dividends without prior approval of regulatory authorities. In addition, that portion of the insurance subsidiaries' net equity that results from the difference between statutory insurance principles and GAAP would not be available for dividends.

Argo Group US did not receive dividends from its subsidiaries in 2015.

In December 2014, Argo Group US received an extraordinary dividend in the amount of $20.0 million in cash from Rockwood. In December 2014, Argo Group US received an ordinary dividend of $48.8 million, in the form of $0.1 million in cash and $48.7 million in securities, from Argonaut Insurance Company. In December 2014, Argo Group US received an extraordinary dividend of $55.2 million, in the form of $0.2 million in cash and $55.0 million in securities, from Colony.

In December 2013, Argo Group US received an ordinary dividend in the amount of $9.5 million in cash from Rockwood, an ordinary dividend in the amount of $24.8 million, in the form of $0.1 million in cash and $24.7 million in the form of securities, from Argonaut Insurance Company, and an extraordinary dividend of $76.2 million, in the form of $0.3 million in cash and $75.9 million in the form of securities, from Colony.

Argonaut Insurance Company is a direct subsidiary of Argo Group US and is regulated by the Illinois Division of Insurance. During 2016, Argonaut Insurance Company may be permitted to pay dividends of up to $41.6 million without approval from the Illinois Division of Insurance. Colony, a direct subsidiary of Argo Group US, is regulated by the Virginia Bureau of Insurance. Colony may be permitted to pay dividends of up to $35.0 million without approval from the Virginia Bureau of Insurance during 2016. Rockwood, a direct subsidiary of Argo Group US, is regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance. Rockwood may be permitted to pay dividends of up to $18.2 million without approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance during 2016. Each department of insurance may require prior approval for the payment of all dividends, based on business and regulatory conditions of the insurance companies.

Dividend payments from Syndicate 1200 to its immediate parent are not restricted by regulatory authority. Dividend payments will be subject to the earnings, operations, financial condition, capital and general business requirements of Syndicate 1200.

Certain assets of our subsidiaries are pledged to regulatory agencies, serve as collateral for letters of credit or are assigned as the assets of the trade capital providers of our Lloyd's syndicate, and therefore, are not available funds that may be paid up as dividends to Argo Group. See Note 2, "Investments" and Note 18, "Segment Information" for further discussion.

21. Insurance Assessments

We are required to participate in statutorily created insolvency guarantee and weather-related loss protection associations in all states in the U.S. where we are authorized to transact business. These associations were formed for the purpose of paying the claims of insolvent companies. We are assessed a pro-rata share of such claims based upon our premium writings, subject to a maximum annual assessment per line of insurance. Certain of these assessments can be recovered through premium tax offsets or policy surcharges. We do not believe that assessments on current insolvencies will have a material impact on our financial condition or results of operations. We have accrued assessments of $4.1 million and $17.0 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The decrease in the accrual from December 31, 2014 to December 31, 2015, was primarily attributable to a change in accounting estimates.

22 . Transactions with Related Parties

In 2013, our Surety unit received a submission through its established broker network to issue approximately $13 million of surety bonds on behalf of Kinetica Partners, LLC ("Kinetica") in connection with a Gulf of Mexico pipeline project. Mr. Gary Woods, Chairman of our Board of Directors, is the President of Kinetica, and beneficially owns 10% of Kinetica through a family trust. The submission was underwritten, priced and bound in the ordinary course of business by the Surety unit. The terms and conditions of the surety bonds that were issued and the premium charged to Kinetica for issuance of the bonds, were consistent with those routinely applied and charged for similarly situated risks bound for unrelated third-parties. Per the Surety unit's standard requirements in connection with the issuance of surety bonds, Kinetica and Mr. Woods, in his personal capacity, among others, executed our Surety unit's standard form of indemnity agreement holding our Surety unit harmless against any and all losses and expenses incurred resulting from the issuance of the surety bonds.

23. Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data

The following tables represent unaudited quarterly financial data for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary to present fairly the results of operations for such periods have been made. Total revenue, net income before income taxes and net income include realized gains or losses from the sale of investments and other. We cannot anticipate when or if similar gains or losses may occur in the future. Since financial results rely heavily on estimates, caution should be used in drawing specific conclusions from quarterly consolidated results.

(in millions, except per share amounts)	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
2015					
Total revenue	$ 371.4	$ 373.1	$ 371.0	$ 369.1	$ 1,484.6
Net income before income taxes	62.4	34.7	36.2	44.2	177.5
Net income	58.8	27.9	35.3	41.2	163.2
Net income per common share :					
Basic*	$ 2.09	$ 1.00	$ 1.27	$ 1.48	$ 5.84
Diluted*	$ 2.05	$ 0.98	$ 1.24	$ 1.44	$ 5.72
Comprehensive income (loss)	$ 36.8	$ 18.9	$ (18.3)	$ 29.2	$ 66.6

(in millions, except per share amounts)	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
2014					
Total revenue	$ 360.1	$ 375.2	$ 371.3	$ 412.1	$ 1,518.7
Net income before income taxes	42.7	44.7	48.3	80.3	216.0
Net income	40.2	38.6	44.7	59.7	183.2
Net income per common share :					
Basic*	$ 1.38	$ 1.34	$ 1.57	$ 2.11	$ 6.39
Diluted*	$ 1.36	$ 1.32	$ 1.54	$ 2.07	$ 6.27
Comprehensive income	$ 41.3	$ 64.1	$ 6.8	$ 31.3	$ 143.5

* Basic and diluted net income per common share are computed independently for each quarter and full year based on the respective average number of common shares outstanding; therefore, the sum of the quarterly net income per common share data may not equal the net income per common share for the year.

24. Information Provided in Connection with Outstanding Debt of Subsidiaries

In September 2012, Argo Group (the "Parent Guarantor"), through its subsidiary Argo Group US (the "Subsidiary Issuer"), issued $143,750,000 aggregate principal amount of the Subsidiary Issuer's 6.5% Senior Notes due September 15, 2042 (the "Notes"). The Notes are unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Subsidiary Issuer and rank equally in right of payment with all of the Subsidiary Issuer's other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The Notes are guaranteed on a full and unconditional senior unsecured basis by the Parent Guarantor. The Notes may be redeemed, for cash, in whole or in part, on or after September 15, 2017, at the Subsidiary Issuer's option, at any time and from time to time, prior to maturity at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued but unpaid interest on the principal amount being redeemed to, but not including, the redemption date.

The following tables present condensed consolidating financial information at December 31, 2015 and 2014 and for the three years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, for the Parent Guarantor and the Subsidiary Issuer. The Subsidiary Issuer is an indirect wholly-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.

Condensed consolidating financial information of the Subsidiary Issuer is presented on a consolidated basis and consists principally of the net assets, results of operations and cash flows of operating insurance company subsidiaries.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2015
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Assets					
Investments	$ 6.2	$ 2,761.0	$ 1,348.5	$ —	$ 4,115.7
Cash	—	88.8	32.9	—	121.7
Accrued investment income	—	16.4	5.2	—	21.6
Premiums receivable	—	166.4	238.1	—	404.5
Reinsurance recoverables	—	1,212.2	(91.1)	—	1,121.1
Goodwill and other intangible assets, net	—	129.8	95.7	—	225.5
Current income taxes receivable, net	—	4.7	6.9	—	11.6
Deferred acquisition costs, net	—	58.2	74.2	—	132.4
Ceded unearned premiums	—	125.8	125.0	—	250.8
Other assets	8.2	156.2	60.8	—	225.2
Due (to) from affiliates	(17.5)	(2.3)	2.3	17.5	—
Intercompany note receivable	—	49.8	(49.8)	—	—
Investments in subsidiaries	1,715.9	—	—	(1,715.9)	—
Total assets	$ 1,712.8	$ 4,767.0	$ 1,848.7	$ (1,698.4)	$ 6,630.1
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity					
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses	$ —	$ 2,194.1	$ 929.5	$ —	$ 3,123.6
Unearned premiums	—	501.5	385.2	—	886.7
Funds held and ceded reinsurance payable, net	—	702.6	(312.6)	—	390.0
Long-term debt	28.4	288.7	54.6	—	371.7
Deferred tax liabilities, net	—	11.9	11.7	—	23.6
Accrued underwriting expenses and other liabilities	16.3	95.4	54.7	—	166.4
Total liabilities	44.7	3,794.2	1,123.1	—	4,962.0
Total shareholders' equity	1,668.1	972.8	725.6	(1,698.4)	1,668.1
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	$ 1,712.8	$ 4,767.0	$ 1,848.7	$ (1,698.4)	$ 6,630.1

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2014
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Assets					
Investments	$ 0.7	$ 2,841.5	$ 1,255.7	$ —	$ 4,097.9
Cash	—	49.3	31.7	—	81.0
Accrued investment income	—	17.8	4.3	—	22.1
Premiums receivable	—	154.6	199.0	—	353.6
Reinsurance recoverables	—	1,173.6	(176.4)	—	997.2
Goodwill and other intangible assets, net	—	131.7	99.1	—	230.8
Current income taxes receivable, net	—	10.1	4.8	—	14.9
Deferred acquisition costs, net	—	58.0	66.6	—	124.6
Ceded unearned premiums	—	98.5	109.1	—	207.6
Other assets	9.6	174.1	67.9	(25.0)	226.6
Due (to) from affiliates	2.9	(19.8)	19.8	(2.9)	—
Intercompany note receivable	—	72.0	(72.0)	—	—
Investments in subsidiaries	1,698.0	—	—	(1,698.0)	—
Total assets	$ 1,711.2	$ 4,761.4	$ 1,609.6	$ (1,725.9)	$ 6,356.3
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity					
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses	$ —	$ 2,136.4	$ 906.0	$ —	$ 3,042.4
Unearned premiums	—	448.9	368.3	—	817.2
Funds held and ceded reinsurance payable, net	—	675.1	(441.3)	—	233.8
Long-term debt	49.0	288.7	61.4	(20.6)	378.5
Deferred tax liabilities, net	—	41.2	11.8	—	53.0
Accrued underwriting expenses and other liabilities	15.5	104.2	65.0	—	184.7
Total liabilities	64.5	3,694.5	971.2	(20.6)	4,709.6
Total shareholders' equity	1,646.7	1,066.9	638.4	(1,705.3)	1,646.7
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	$ 1,711.2	$ 4,761.4	$ 1,609.6	$ (1,725.9)	$ 6,356.3

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Premiums and other revenue:					
Earned premiums	$ —	$ 497.3	$ 874.6	$ —	$ 1,371.9
Net investment income	40.1	56.0	30.5	(41.0)	85.6
Net realized investment and other gains	—	34.8	(7.7)	—	27.1
Total revenue	40.1	588.1	897.4	(41.0)	1,484.6
Expenses:					
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	—	304.2	461.9	—	766.1
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	19.0	198.4	322.2	—	539.6
Interest expense	1.5	15.3	2.2	—	19.0
Fee and other expense, net	—	4.3	(3.6)	—	0.7
Foreign currency exchange loss (gains)	—	1.0	(19.3)	—	(18.3)
Total expenses	20.5	523.2	763.4	—	1,307.1
Income before income taxes	19.6	64.9	134.0	(41.0)	177.5
Provision for income taxes	—	12.9	1.4	—	14.3
Net income before equity in earnings of subsidiaries	19.6	52.0	132.6	(41.0)	163.2
Equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiaries	143.6	—	—	(143.6)	—
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 52.0	$ 132.6	$ (184.6)	$ 163.2

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Premiums and other revenue:					
Earned premiums	$ —	$ 461.0	$ 877.1	$ —	$ 1,338.1
Net investment income	40.5	56.7	(10.6)	—	86.6
Net realized investment and other gains	2.0	86.9	7.1	(2.0)	94.0
Total revenue	42.5	604.6	873.6	(2.0)	1,518.7
Expenses:					
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	—	285.6	461.8	—	747.4
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	17.3	199.9	322.0	—	539.2
Interest expense	2.3	15.2	2.7	(0.3)	19.9
Fee and other expense, net	—	2.4	(1.8)	—	0.6
Foreign currency exchange loss (gains)	—	0.4	(8.2)	—	(7.8)
Impairment of intangible assets	—	3.4	—	—	3.4
Total expenses	19.6	506.9	776.5	(0.3)	1,302.7
Income before income taxes	22.9	97.7	97.1	(1.7)	216.0
Provision for income taxes	—	27.5	5.3	—	32.8
Net income before equity in earnings of subsidiaries	22.9	70.2	91.8	(1.7)	183.2
Equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiaries	160.3	—	—	(160.3)	—
Net income	$ 183.2	$ 70.2	$ 91.8	$ (162.0)	$ 183.2

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Premiums and other revenue:					
Earned premiums	$ —	$ 439.9	$ 863.9	$ —	$ 1,303.8
Net investment income	84.5	73.4	(57.9)	—	100.0
Net realized investment and other gains	—	72.2	(0.9)	—	71.3
Total revenue	84.5	585.5	805.1	—	1,475.1
Expenses:					
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	—	268.6	473.4	—	742.0
Other reinsurance-related expenses	—	—	19.2	—	19.2
Underwriting, acquisition and insurance expenses	27.4	176.9	306.5	—	510.8
Interest expense	3.3	15.2	2.9	(1.2)	20.2
Fee and other expense, net	—	4.1	0.8	—	4.9
Foreign currency exchange gain	—	(0.3)	(1.4)	—	(1.7)
Total expenses	30.7	464.5	801.4	(1.2)	1,295.4
Income before income taxes	53.8	121.0	3.7	1.2	179.7
Provision for income taxes	—	34.1	2.4	—	36.5
Net income before equity in earnings of subsidiaries	53.8	86.9	1.3	1.2	143.2
Equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiaries	89.4	—	—	(89.4)	—
Net income	$ 143.2	$ 86.9	$ 1.3	$ (88.2)	$ 143.2

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Net cash flows from operating activities	$ 32.7	$ 116.4	$ 133.5	$ —	$ 282.6
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Proceeds from sales of investments	—	631.1	336.8	—	967.9
Maturities and mandatory calls of fixed maturity investments	—	681.8	162.1	—	843.9
Purchases of investments	—	(1,384.5)	(649.6)	—	(2,034.1)
Change in short-term investments and foreign regulatory deposits	0.9	14.9	33.8	—	49.6
Settlements of foreign currency exchange forward contracts	1.5	—	(11.6)	—	(10.1)
Issuance of intercompany note, net	—	7.5	(7.5)	—	—
Redemption of PXRE Capital Trust V	—	18.0	(18.0)	—	—
Purchases of fixed assets and other, net	3.8	(16.6)	2.0	—	(10.8)
Cash provided (used) by investing activities	6.2	(47.8)	(152.0)	—	(193.6)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Redemption of PXRE Capital Trust V	(18.0)	—	18.0	—	—
Activity under stock incentive plans	1.8	—	—	—	1.8
Repurchase of Company's common shares	—	(29.7)	—	—	(29.7)
Excess tax expense from share-based payment arrangements	—	0.6	—	—	0.6
Payment of cash dividend to common shareholders	(22.7)	—	—	—	(22.7)
Cash used (provided) by financing activities	(38.9)	(29.1)	18.0	—	(50.0)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	—	—	1.7	—	1.7
Change in cash	—	39.5	1.2	—	40.7
Cash, beginning of year	—	49.3	31.7	—	81.0
Cash, end of year	$ —	$ 88.8	$ 32.9	$ —	$ 121.7

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Net cash flows from operating activities	$ 25.7	$ 43.2	$ 37.2	$ 24.4	$ 130.5
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Proceeds from sales of investments	—	803.8	458.2	—	1,262.0
Maturities and mandatory calls of fixed maturity investments	—	192.1	130.9	—	323.0
Purchases of investments	—	(1,126.1)	(610.7)	—	(1,736.8)
Change in short-term investments and foreign regulatory deposits	0.5	76.0	20.0	—	96.5
Settlements of foreign currency exchange forward contracts	1.3	—	(2.4)	—	(1.1)
Issuance of intercompany note, net	—	14.5	(7.6)	(6.9)	—
Purchases of fixed assets and other, net	(7.0)	(35.5)	(16.0)	(6.4)	(64.9)
Cash (used) provided by investing activities	(5.2)	(75.2)	(27.6)	$ (13.3)	(121.3)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Borrowings under intercompany note, net	(6.9)	—	—	6.9	—
Activity under stock incentive plans	4.6	—	—	—	4.6
Redemption of trust preferred securities, net	—	—	—	(18.0)	(18.0)
Payment on note payable	—	(0.1)	—	—	(0.1)
Repurchase of Company's common shares	—	(50.8)	—	—	(50.8)
Excess tax expense from share-based payment arrangements	—	0.1	—	—	0.1
Payment of cash dividend to common shareholders	(18.2)	—	—	—	(18.2)
Cash provided (used) by financing activities	(20.5)	(50.8)	—	$ (11.1)	(82.4)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	—	—	(3.2)	—	(3.2)
Change in cash	—	(82.8)	6.4	—	(76.4)
Cash, beginning of year	—	132.1	25.3	—	157.4
Cash, end of year	$ —	$ 49.3	$ 31.7	$ —	$ 81.0

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013
(in millions)

	Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd (Parent Guarantor)	Argo Group US, Inc. and Subsidiaries (Subsidiary Issuer)	Other Subsidiaries and Eliminations (1)	Consolidating Adjustments (2)	Total
Net cash flows from operating activities	$ 63.2	$ 62.5	$ (125.9)	$ —	$ (0.2)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Proceeds from sales of investments	—	1,130.2	836.1	—	1,966.3
Maturities and mandatory calls of fixed maturity investments	—	168.9	112.9	—	281.8
Purchases of investments	—	(1,156.7)	(819.1)	—	(1,975.8)
Change in short-term investments and foreign regulatory deposits	(1.4)	(119.1)	(32.5)	—	(153.0)
Settlements of foreign currency exchange forward contracts	0.7	—	(4.6)	—	(3.9)
Issuance of intercompany note, net	—	35.0	14.3	(49.3)	—
Purchases of fixed assets and other, net	—	(16.3)	21.7	—	5.4
Cash provided (used) by investing activities	(0.7)	42.0	128.8	(49.3)	120.8
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Borrowings under intercompany note, net	(49.3)	—	—	49.3	—
Proceeds from issuance of senior unsecured fixed rate notes	—	—	—	—	—
Redemption of trust preferred securities, net	—	—	—	—	—
Activity under stock incentive plans	2.6	—	—	—	2.6
Repurchase of Company's common shares	—	(46.5)	—	—	(46.5)
Excess tax benefit from share-based payment arrangements	—	0.2	—	—	0.2
Payment of cash dividend to common shareholders	(15.8)	—	—	—	(15.8)
Cash provided (used) by financing activities	(62.5)	(46.3)	—	49.3	(59.5)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	—	—	0.5	—	0.5
Change in cash	—	58.2	3.4	—	61.6
Cash, beginning of year	—	73.9	21.9	—	95.8
Cash, end of year	$ —	$ 132.1	$ 25.3	$ —	$ 157.4

(1) Includes all other subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and all intercompany eliminations.
(2) Includes all Argo Group parent company eliminations.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
SCHEDULE II
CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF REGISTRANT
(in millions)

BALANCE SHEETS	**December 31, 2015**	**December 31, 2014**
Assets		
Other investments, unrealized gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange forward contracts	$ 5.2	$ (1.2)
Short-term investments	1.0	1.9
Investment in subsidiaries	1,715.9	1,698.0
Due (to) from subsidiaries	(17.5)	2.9
Other assets	8.2	9.6
Total assets	$ 1,712.8	$ 1,711.2
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Junior subordinated debentures	$ 28.4	$ 49.0
Accrued underwriting expenses	16.3	15.5
Total liabilities	44.7	64.5
Shareholders' equity	1,668.1	1,646.7
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	$ 1,712.8	$ 1,711.2

STATEMENTS OF INCOME	**For the Years Ended December 31, 2015**	**2014**	**2013**
Revenue:			
Net investment income (1)	$ 40.1	$ 40.5	$ 84.5
Net realized investment and other gains	—	2.0	—
Total revenue	40.1	42.5	84.5
Expenses:			
Interest expense	1.5	2.3	3.3
Other expenses	19.0	17.3	27.4
Total expenses	20.5	19.6	30.7
Net income before equity in earnings of subsidiaries (2)	19.6	22.9	53.8
Equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiaries	143.6	160.3	89.4
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 183.2	$ 143.2

(1) For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, net investment income includes intercompany dividends of $41.0 million and $40.9 million, respectively.
(2) Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. is not subject to taxation.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
SCHEDULE II
CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF REGISTRANT
(in millions)

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS	**For the Years Ended December 31,**		
	2015	**2014**	**2013**
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	$ 163.2	$ 183.2	$ 143.2
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:			
Amortization and depreciation	0.2	—	0.7
Share-based payments expense	8.2	5.7	8.7
Net realized investment and other gains	—	(2.0)	—
Undistributed earnings of subsidiaries	(143.6)	(160.3)	(89.4)
Change in:			
Prepaid assets	0.2	2.0	(0.1)
Accrued underwriting expenses	(2.4)	(2.2)	(0.9)
Due to subsidiaries	12.5	(0.6)	0.2
Interest on intercompany note payable	—	0.3	0.8
Other, net	(5.6)	(0.4)	—
Cash provided by operating activities	32.7	25.7	63.2
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Change in short-term investments	0.9	0.5	(1.4)
Settlements of foreign currency exchange forward contracts	1.5	1.3	0.7
Purchases of fixed assets and other, net	3.8	(7.0)	—
Cash provided (used) by investing activities	6.2	(5.2)	(0.7)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Borrowings under intercompany note payable, net	—	(6.9)	(49.3)
Activity under stock incentive plans	1.8	4.6	2.6
Redemption of PXRE Capital Trust V	(18.0)	—	—
Payment of cash dividend to common shareholders	(22.7)	(18.2)	(15.8)
Cash used by financing activities	(38.9)	(20.5)	(62.5)
Change in cash	—	—	—
Cash, beginning of year	—	—	—
Cash, end of year	$ —	$ —	$ —

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
SCHEDULE III
SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, 2014 AND 2013
(in millions)

Segment	DAC (a)	Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses (b)	UPR (c)	Premium Revenue (d)	Net Investment Income (1)	Loss & LAE (e)	Amortization (Deferral) DAC (f) (2)	Other Operating Expenses (3)	Net Premiums Written (g)
Year Ended December 31, 2015									
Excess and Surplus Lines	$ 38.3	$ 1,204.9	$ 307.1	$ 525.3	$ 35.2	$ 291.8	$ (1.4)	$ 168.1	$ 552.9
Commercial Specialty	20.1	683.7	194.1	290.1	18.5	179.3	2.4	90.3	285.6
International Specialty	2.1	324.7	123.3	148.7	11.8	72.8	(2.0)	55.4	159.9
Syndicate 1200	71.9	604.0	262.2	407.4	9.2	213.6	0.1	169.8	403.3
Run-off Lines	—	306.3	—	0.4	8.3	8.6	—	5.9	0.4
Corporate and Other	—	—	—	—	2.6	—	—	51.0	—
Total	$ 132.4	$ 3,123.6	$ 886.7	$ 1,371.9	$ 85.6	$ 766.1	$ (0.9)	$ 540.5	$ 1,402.1
Year Ended December 31, 2014									
Excess and Surplus Lines	$ 36.9	$ 1,165.4	$ 274.9	$ 485.2	$ 36.7	$ 248.0	$ 1.9	$ 159.7	$ 487.8
Commercial Specialty	22.5	652.2	172.9	291.9	18.7	189.1	(4.3)	107.8	301.1
International Specialty	0.8	306.3	123.9	148.3	8.2	77.8	1.7	52.8	156.6
Syndicate 1200	64.4	600.0	245.5	411.1	10.2	208.1	(4.7)	172.5	420.8
Run-off Lines	—	318.5	—	1.6	9.7	24.4	—	8.2	1.6
Corporate and Other	—	—	—	—	3.1	—	—	43.6	—
Total	$ 124.6	$ 3,042.4	$ 817.2	$ 1,338.1	$ 86.6	$ 747.4	$ (5.4)	$ 544.6	$ 1,367.9
Year Ended December 31, 2013									
Excess and Surplus Lines	$ 38.8	$ 1,171.8	$ 264.8	$ 460.2	$ 42.2	$ 244.0	$ (1.4)	$ 158.6	$ 478.7
Commercial Specialty	18.1	653.4	159.4	299.0	22.8	194.0	0.4	97.0	288.2
International Specialty	2.2	295.6	117.1	142.4	8.4	79.9	(1.0)	51.1	155.4
Syndicate 1200	54.8	777.0	237.8	401.7	11.0	208.6	(13.8)	170.0	428.5
Run-off Lines	—	332.5	—	0.5	10.8	15.5	—	4.6	0.5
Corporate and Other	—	—	—	—	4.8	—	—	45.3	—
Total	$ 113.9	$ 3,230.3	$ 779.1	$ 1,303.8	$ 100.0	$ 742.0	$ (15.8)	$ 526.6	$ 1,351.3

(a) Deferred Policy Acquisition Cost
(b) Future Policy Benefits, Losses, Claims and Loss Expenses
(c) Unearned Premiums
(d) Premium Revenue, net (premiums earned)
(e) Benefits, Claims, Losses and Settlement Expenses
(f) Amortization (Deferral) of Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs
(g) Premiums Written, net
(1) Net Investment Income allocated based upon each segment's share of investable funds.
(2) The amortization (deferral) of DAC will not equal the change in the balance sheet. See Note 1, "Business and Significant Accounting Policies" for further discussion.
(3) Other Insurance Expenses allocated based on specific identification, where possible, and related activities.

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
SCHEDULE V
VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS
(in millions)

	Balance at Beginning of Year	Charged to Cost and Expense	Capital Loss Carryforward	Net Operating Loss Carryforward	Charged to Other Accounts	Deductions	Balance at End of Year
Year Ended December 31, 2015							
Deducted from assets:							
Valuation allowance for deferred tax asset	$ 25.4	$ (1.0)	$ —	$ —	$ (1.6)	$ —	$ 22.8
Year Ended December 31, 2014							
Deducted from assets:							
Valuation allowance for deferred tax asset	$ 56.2	$ (30.7)	$ —	$ —	$ (0.1)	$ —	$ 25.4
Year Ended December 31, 2013							
Deducted from assets:							
Valuation allowance for deferred tax asset	$ 52.5	$ (1.0)	$ —	$ —	$ 4.7	$ —	$ 56.2

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
SCHEDULE VI
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PROPERTY-CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANIES
(in millions)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Deferred acquisition costs	$ 132.4	$ 124.6	$ 113.9
Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses	$ 3,123.6	$ 3,042.4	$ 3,230.3
Unamortized discount in reserves for losses	$ 14.9	$ 17.6	$ 19.5
Unearned premiums	$ 886.7	$ 817.2	$ 779.1
Premiums earned	$ 1,371.9	$ 1,338.1	$ 1,303.8
Net investment income	$ 85.6	$ 86.6	$ 100.0
Losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred:			
Current year	$ 798.5	$ 785.1	$ 775.6
Prior years	(32.4)	(37.7)	(33.6)
Losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred	$ 766.1	$ 747.4	$ 742.0
Deferral of policy acquisition costs (1)	$ (0.9)	$ (5.4)	$ (15.8)
Paid losses and loss adjustment expenses, net of reinsurance	$ 733.5	$ 736.7	$ 753.5
Gross premiums written	$ 2,012.1	$ 1,905.4	$ 1,888.4

(1) The amortization (deferral) of policy acquisition costs will not equal the change in the balance sheet. For further discussion, see Note 1, “Business and Significant Accounting Policies.”

Exhibit 12

ARGO GROUP INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LTD.
STATEMENTS OF COMPUTATION OF RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS

(in millions, except ratios)

	For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Earnings:					
Income (loss) before provision for income taxes	$ 177.5	$ 216.0	$ 179.7	$ 66.7	$ (61.9)
Add:					
Fixed charges	23.7	24.8	25.1	28.4	26.7
Total earnings	$ 201.2	$ 240.8	$ 204.8	$ 95.1	$ (35.2)
Fixed charges:					
Interest expense	$ 19.0	$ 19.9	$ 20.2	$ 23.7	$ 22.1
Rental interest factor	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.6
Total fixed charges	$ 23.7	$ 24.8	$ 25.1	$ 28.4	$ 26.7
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	8.5:1	9.7:1	8.2:1	3.3:1	(a)

(a) The coverage deficiency for the year ended December 31, 2011 was $69.1 million.

Subsidiaries of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.

Company Name	Country/State of Incorporation
The Argo Foundation	Bermuda
PXRE Capital Statutory Trust II	Connecticut
PXRE Capital Trust VI	Delaware
Argo International Holdings AG	Switzerland
Argonaut Services GmbH	Switzerland
Argo Re, Ltd.	Bermuda
Argo Irish Holdings I, Ltd.	Bermuda
Argo Irish Holdings II	Bermuda
Argo Brasil Participacões Ltd.	Brazil
Argo Re Escritório de Representação no Brasil Ltda.	Brazil
PXRE Reinsurance (Barbados), Ltd.	Barbados
ArgoGlobal Underwriting (Dubai) Limited	United Arab Emirates
Argo International Holdings, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo Underwriting Agency, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo Management Services, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo Management Holdings, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo Managing Agency, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo Direct, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (No. 604), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (No. 616), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (No. 607), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (No. 617), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (No. 703), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (No. 704), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (Alpha), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (Beta), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (Chi), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (Delta), Ltd.	United Kingdom
Argo (Epsilon), Ltd.	United Kingdom
ArgoGlobal Underwriting Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.	Singapore
ArgoGlobal Holdings (Malta) Ltd.	Malta
ArgoGlobal SE	Malta
Argo Financial Holding, Ltd. (Ireland)	Ireland
Argo Solutions, SA	Belgium
Argo Financial Holding (Brazil) Limited	Ireland
Argo Seguros Brasil, SA	Brazil
Argo Group US, Inc.	Delaware
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust	Connecticut
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust III	Delaware
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IV	Delaware
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust V	Delaware
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VI	Connecticut
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VII	Delaware
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust VIII	Delaware
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust IX	Delaware
Argonaut Group Statutory Trust X	Delaware
Argonaut Management Services, Inc.	Delaware
Affinibox, Inc.	Texas
Argo Group Fund to Secure the Future	Texas
Alteris, Inc.	Delaware
Sonoma Risk Management, LLC	Delaware
John Sutak Insurance Brokers, Inc.	California
Trident Insurance Services, LLC	Texas
Alteris Insurance Services, Inc.	Massachusetts
Commercial Deposit Insurance Agency, Inc.	Delaware
Canterbury Claims Services, Inc.	New Jersey
Colony Management Services, Inc.	Virginia

Company Name	Country/State of Incorporation
Colony Agency Services, Inc.	Virginia
Argonaut Claims Management, LLC	Texas
Argonaut Claims Services, Ltd.	Texas
Colony Insurance Company	Virginia
Colony Specialty Insurance Company	Ohio
Peleus Insurance Company	Virginia
Argonaut Insurance Company	Illinois
Argonaut-Midwest Insurance Company	Illinois
Argonaut-Southwest Insurance Company	Illinois
Argonaut Great Central Insurance Company	Illinois
Insight Insurance Services, Inc.	Illinois
Select Markets Insurance Company	Illinois
Argonaut Limited Risk Insurance Company	Illinois
Central Insurance Management, Inc.	Illinois
Grocers Insurance Agency, Inc.	Oregon
AGI Properties, Inc.	California
Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company	Pennsylvania
Somerset Casualty Insurance Company	Pennsylvania
Coal Operators Indemnity Company	Pennsylvania
ARIS Title Insurance Corporation	New York

Exhibit 23

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the following Registration Statements and in the related Prospectuses:

1. Registration Statement (Form S-8 File No. 333-147967) pertaining to Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan and Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2007 Employee Share Purchase Plan;
2. Registration Statement (Form S-8 File No. 333-147714) pertaining to the Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. – Argonaut Group, Inc. Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan, the Argonaut Group, Inc. Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan, and the Argonaut Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors;
3. Registration Statement (Form S-8 File No. 333-161299) pertaining to the Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2007 Employee Share Purchase Plan;
4. Registration Statement (Form S-8 File No. 333-195932) pertaining to the Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. 2014 Long-Term Incentive Plan;
5. Registration Statement (Form S-3 File No. 333-161445) pertaining to the Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. registration of senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities, common shares, preferred shares, warrants, units, depositary shares, purchase contracts, hybrid securities, trust preferred securities and guarantees of trust preferred securities; and
6. Registration Statement (Form S-3 File No. 333-183957) pertaining to the Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. registration of debt securities, common shares, preferred shares, warrants, units, depositary shares, purchase contracts, hybrid securities, trust preferred securities and guarantees of trust preferred securities and debt securities;
7. Registration Statement (Form S-3 File No. 333- 207073) pertaining to the Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. Registration of , common shares, preferred shares, debt securities, warrants, units, depositary shares, purchase contracts, hybrid securities combining elements of the foregoing, trust preferred securities and guarantees of trust preferred securities and debt securities;

of our reports dated February 26, 2016, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedules of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. included in this Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2015.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Antonio, Texas
February 26, 2016

Exhibit 31.1

Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
Certification of the Chief Executive Officer

I, Mark E. Watson III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd., certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

    a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

    b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, 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;

    c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

    d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

    a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

    b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 26, 2016

/s/ Mark E. Watson III
Mark E. Watson III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Exhibit 31.2

Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
Certification of the Chief Financial Officer

I, Jay S. Bullock, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd., certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

   a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

   b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, 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;

   c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

   d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

   a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

   b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 26, 2016

/s/ Jay S. Bullock
Jay S. Bullock
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Exhibit 32.1

Certification of CEO Pursuant to
18 U.S.C. Section 1350,
as Adopted Pursuant to
Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

In connection with the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. (the "Company") for the year ended December 31, 2015 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), Mark E. Watson III, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to the best of his knowledge:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and

2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

* * *

Certified this 26 th day of February 2016

/s/ Mark E. Watson III
Mark E. Watson III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Exhibit 32.2

Certification of CFO Pursuant to
18 U.S.C. Section 1350,
as Adopted Pursuant to
Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

In connection with the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Argo Group International Holdings, Ltd. (the “Company”) for the year ended December 31, 2015 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “Report”), Jay S. Bullock, as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 that, to the best of his knowledge:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and

2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

* * *

Certified this 26 th day of February 2016

/s/ Jay S. Bullock
Jay S. Bullock
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer