

XL GROUP PLC
Form 10-K
February 25, 2015

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

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

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 1-10804

XL GROUP
Public Limited Company
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ireland

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

XL House, 8 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2, Ireland

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

98-0665416

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

+353 (1) 400-5500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:

Title of each class

Ordinary Shares, Par Value \$0.01 per Share

XLIT Ltd. 2.30% Senior Notes due 2018

XLIT Ltd. 5.75% Senior Notes due 2021

XLIT Ltd. 5.25% Senior Notes due 2043

Name of each exchange on which registered

New York Stock Exchange

New York Stock Exchange

New York Stock Exchange

New York Stock Exchange

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes No

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer x 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 Exchange Act). Yes No x

The aggregate market value of the voting common equity of the registrant held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 30, 2014 was approximately \$8.8 billion computed upon the basis of the closing sales price of the ordinary shares on June 30, 2014. For purposes of this computation, ordinary shares held by directors and officers of the registrant have been excluded. Such exclusion is not intended, nor shall it be deemed, to be an admission that such persons are affiliates of the registrant.

As of February 19, 2015, there were 255,239,522 outstanding Ordinary Shares, \$0.01 par value per share, of the registrant.

Documents Incorporated By Reference

Portions of the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report relating to the annual meeting of ordinary shareholders to be held on May 8, 2015 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

XL GROUP PLC
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This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains “Forward-Looking Statements” as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such Forward-Looking Statements are set forth herein under Item 1A, “Risk Factors,” and Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” under the caption “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.”

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

History

XL Group plc, through its subsidiaries, is a global insurance and reinsurance company providing property, casualty and specialty products to industrial, commercial and professional firms, insurance companies and other enterprises on a worldwide basis. We were incorporated with limited liability under the Cayman Islands Companies Act on March 16, 1998, as EXEL Merger Company. On August 7, 1998, EXEL Limited and Mid Ocean Limited merged to create EXEL Limited. EXEL Limited and Mid Ocean Limited were incorporated in the Cayman Islands with principal operations in Bermuda in 1986 and 1992, respectively. At a special general meeting held on February 1, 1999, the shareholders of EXEL Limited approved a resolution changing the name of the company to XL Capital Ltd.

On June 18, 1999, XL Capital Ltd merged with NAC Re Corp. ("NAC"), a Delaware corporation organized in 1985, in a stock merger.

On July 25, 2001, we acquired certain Winterthur International insurance operations to extend globally our predominantly North American-based large corporate insurance business.

Effective January 1, 2002, we increased our shareholding in Le Mans Ré from 49% to 67% in order to expand our international reinsurance operations. On September 3, 2003, we exercised our option to buy the remaining 33% from Les Mutuelles du Mans Assurances ("MMA") and changed the name of Le Mans Ré to XL Re Europe S.A. On October 18, 2006, we received approval to form a new European company, XL Re Europe Limited, based in Dublin, Ireland, which is licensed to write all classes of reinsurance business; during 2013, that company re-registered as a European public limited liability company and changed its name to XL Re Europe SE. XL Re Europe SE is the headquarters of the Company's European reinsurance platform with branch offices in France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (the "U.K."). On April 17, 2014, we received approval to open a branch office in Dubai.

On August 4, 2006, we completed the sale of approximately 37% of our then financial guarantee reinsurance and insurance businesses through an initial public offering of 23.4 million common shares of Syncora Holdings Ltd. ("Syncora") (formerly Security Capital Assurance Ltd. or "SCA"). On June 6, 2007, we completed the sale of an additional portion of Syncora's common shares still owned by the Company through a secondary offering and thereby reduced our ownership of Syncora's outstanding common shares further from approximately 63% to approximately 46%. On August 5, 2008, we closed an agreement (the "Master Agreement") with Syncora and its subsidiaries, as well as certain counterparties to credit default swap agreements, in connection with the termination of certain reinsurance and other agreements. As part of the Master Agreement, we transferred all of the shares we owned in Syncora to a trust and, as a result, have no further ownership interest in the company.

On July 1, 2010, XL Group plc, a newly formed Irish public limited company ("XL-Ireland") and XL Capital Ltd (now known as XLIT Ltd.), an exempted company organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands ("XL-Cayman"), completed a redomestication transaction in which all of the ordinary shares of XL-Cayman were exchanged for all of the ordinary shares of XL-Ireland (the "Redomestication"). As a result, XL-Cayman became a wholly-owned subsidiary of XL-Ireland. On July 23, 2010, the Irish High Court approved XL-Ireland's creation of distributable reserves, subject to the completion of certain formalities under Irish company law. These formalities were completed in early August 2010. For further detailed information on this transaction and its impacts on shareholder rights, shareholders' equity, debt and notes then outstanding and employee stock plan awards, see the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on July 1, 2010.

On May 1, 2014, our wholly-owned subsidiary, XL Insurance (Bermuda) Ltd ("XLIB"), entered into a sale and purchase agreement with GreyCastle Holdings Ltd ("GreyCastle") providing for the sale of 100% of the common shares of XLIB's wholly-owned subsidiary, XL Life Reinsurance (SAC) Ltd ("XLLR"), to GreyCastle (subsequent to the transaction, XLLR changed its name to GreyCastle Life Reinsurance (SAC) Ltd ("GCLR")). This transaction closed on May 30, 2014. As a result of the transaction, we have ceded the majority of our life reinsurance business to GCLR via 100% quota share reinsurance (the "Life Retro Arrangements"). This transaction covers a substantial portion of our life reinsurance reserves. We ceased writing new life reinsurance contracts in 2009 and since that time have been managing the run-off of our life reinsurance operations ("Run-Off Life Operations"). The designated investments that support the Life Retro Arrangements on a funds withheld basis ("Life Funds Withheld Assets") are

managed pursuant to agreed investment guidelines that meet the contractual commitments of the Company's ceding subsidiaries and applicable laws and regulations. All of the investment results associated with the Life Funds Withheld Assets ultimately accrue to GCLR.

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On January 9, 2015, we entered into an implementation agreement (the “Implementation Agreement”) with Catlin Group Limited (“Catlin”) and Green Holdings Limited, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of XL-Ireland (“Green Holdings”), pursuant to which we will acquire the entire issued and to be issued share capital of Catlin (the “Acquisition”) for cash and newly-issued ordinary shares of XL-Ireland. Under the terms of the Acquisition, Catlin shareholders will be entitled to receive 388 pence in cash and 0.130 ordinary shares of XL-Ireland, in exchange for each Catlin common share, par value \$0.01 per share (“Catlin Shares”), subject to the proration and adjustment mechanisms set forth in the Implementation Agreement. On the basis of the closing price of an ordinary share of XL-Ireland on January 8, 2015 of \$35.42, the Acquisition values Catlin at 693 pence per Catlin Share, representing a transaction equity value of approximately \$4.1 billion. The Acquisition is intended to be effected by means of a two-step, integrated process comprising a scheme of arrangement (the “Scheme”) under Section 99 of the Companies Act 1981 Bermuda, as amended (the “Companies Act”), required to be sanctioned by the Supreme Court of Bermuda, followed immediately by a merger of Catlin with and into Green Holdings under Section 104H of the Companies Act. The Scheme will require that a meeting of Catlin’s shareholders be convened at the direction of the Supreme Court of Bermuda to approve the Scheme (the “Court Meeting”) as well as a special general meeting to be held immediately thereafter to approve certain related implementation matters in connection with the Acquisition (the “General Meeting”). To become effective, the Scheme requires the approval of Catlin shareholders of the resolutions to be proposed at the Court Meeting by a majority in number representing not less than three-fourths of the voting rights of the holders of the Catlin Shares (or the relevant class or classes thereof, if applicable) present and voting, either in person or by proxy, at the Court Meeting. The related resolutions to be proposed at the General Meeting require approval by not less than three-fourths of the votes cast by holders of Catlin Shares present and voting at the General Meeting (either in person or by proxy), at the General Meeting. For further information on the Acquisition, see the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 9, 2015 under Items 1.01, 2.03, 8.01 and 9.01.

On January 9, 2015, in connection with the Acquisition, XL-Cayman, as borrower, XL-Ireland, X.L. America, Inc., XLIB, XL Re Ltd, and XL Life Ltd, as guarantors, Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto entered into a senior unsecured 364-Day Bridge Loan Agreement (the “Bridge Loan Agreement”) providing for a £1.6 billion bridge loan facility (the “Bridge Facility”). The proceeds of the Bridge Facility may be used to finance the payment of the cash consideration in connection with the Acquisition and to pay fees and expenses related thereto. For further information on the Bridge Facility, see the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 9, 2015 under Items 1.01, 2.03, 8.01 and 9.01.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, references herein to the “Company”, “we”, “us” or “our” are to, and the Consolidated Financial Statements herein include, the accounts of, XL-Ireland and its consolidated subsidiaries.

See further information under Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

Segments

We are organized into two operating segments: Insurance and Reinsurance. Our general investment and financing operations, and our Run-Off Life Operations, are reflected in Corporate and Other.

As noted above, GCLR reinsures the majority of our life reinsurance business via the Life Retro Arrangements. This transaction covered a substantial portion of our life reinsurance reserves. Therefore, we determined that the Run-Off Life Operations no longer should be considered a separate operating segment. Prior period information has been re-presented to reflect the current presentation. See Item 8, Note 3, “Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary,” to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

We evaluate the performance of both the Insurance and Reinsurance segments based on underwriting profit. Other items of our revenue and expenditure are not evaluated at the segment level for reporting purposes. In addition, we do not allocate investment assets by segment for our property and casualty (“P&C”) operations. Investment assets related to our Run-Off Life Operations, and certain structured products included in our Insurance and Reinsurance segments, are held in separately identified portfolios. As such, net investment income from these assets is included in the contribution from the applicable segment or, with respect to our Run-Off Life Operations, included in Corporate and Other.

The following table sets forth an analysis of gross premiums written by segment for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. Additional financial information about our segments, including financial information about geographic areas, is included in Item 8, Note 5, "Segment Information," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

| (U.S. dollars in thousands) | Gross Premiums Written | | | Percentage Change | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2014 to 2013 | 2013 to 2012 | |
| Insurance | \$5,976,011 | \$5,523,181 | \$5,166,973 | 8.2 | % | 6.9 % |
| Reinsurance | 1,785,479 | 1,893,611 | 2,008,157 | (5.7 |)% | (5.7 %) |
| Corporate and Other | 333,436 | 324,343 | 355,753 | 2.8 | % | (8.8 %) |
| Total | \$8,094,926 | \$7,741,135 | \$7,530,883 | 4.6 | % | 2.8 % |

Insurance Segment

General

Our insurance operations are organized into four business groups: International Property and Casualty, North America Property and Casualty, Global Professional Lines and Global Specialty Lines.

Our insurance operations provide customized insurance policies for complex corporate risks that may require large limits and are marketed and distributed through a wide variety of local, national and international producers. Large deductibles and self-insured retentions are incorporated into these policies to further manage risk along with stringent underwriting guidelines. While our insurance operations are known for insuring large complex risk, certain of our products are targeted to small and midsize companies and organizations, such as our professional liability and program business. We focus on those lines of business that we believe will provide the best return on capital over time.

The Insurance segment's most significant operating legal entities in 2014 based on revenues were as follows: XL Insurance (Bermuda) Ltd, XL Insurance Company SE, XL Specialty Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, Greenwich Insurance Company and XL Insurance America, Inc., as well as our Lloyd's syndicate.

The excess nature of many of our insurance products, coupled with historically large policy limits, results in a book of business that can have losses characterized as low frequency and high severity. As a result, large losses, though infrequent, can have a significant impact on our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity. We attempt to mitigate this risk by, among other things, using strict underwriting guidelines, effective risk management practices (e.g., monitoring of aggregate exposures) and various reinsurance arrangements, as discussed below.

International Property and Casualty ("IPC")

IPC includes the following lines of business: property, primary and excess casualty, and environmental liability.

Property and casualty products are typically written as global insurance programs for large and medium sized multinational companies and institutions and include property and liability coverages. Property and casualty products generally provide large capacity on a primary, quota share or excess of loss basis. Global insurance programs are targeted to large multinational companies in major industry groups including aerospace, automotive, consumer products, pharmaceutical, pulp and paper, high technology, telecommunications, transportation and basic metals. The primary casualty programs generally require customers to take large deductibles or self-insured retentions. For the excess business, our liability attaches after large deductibles, including self insurance or insurance layers provided by other companies. Policies are written on an occurrence, claims-made and occurrence reported basis. Our property business, which also includes construction projects, is short-tail by nature and written on both a primary and excess of loss basis. Property business includes exposures to man-made and natural disasters.

Environmental liability products include pollution and remediation legal liability, general and project-specific pollution and professional liability, and commercial general property redevelopment and contractor's pollution liability. Business is written for both single and multiple years on a primary or excess of loss, claims-made or, less frequently, occurrence basis. Targeted industries include environmental service firms, contractors, healthcare facilities, manufacturing facilities, real estate development, transportation and construction.

North America Property and Casualty (“NAPC”)

NAPC includes the following lines of business: property, primary and excess casualty, environmental liability, excess and surplus lines, construction, surety, and program business.

In addition to the property, casualty and environmental products described under IPC, the NAPC business unit also includes 100% property products for the large account risk engineered markets and general liability, United States (“U.S.”) workers’ compensation and auto liability for the risk management accounts, which require customers to take large deductibles or self-insured retentions.

Excess and surplus lines products include general liability property, excess auto and excess liability coverages where most Insurance Services Office, Inc. (“ISO”) products are written. Targets include a variety of classes, with a focus on “one-off” risks generated by contracted wholesale brokers.

Construction products include property coverages (builders risk, contractors equipment, property and inland marine), general liability, U.S. workers' compensation and commercial auto, as well as professional liability for contractors and owners, excess umbrella, subcontractor default insurance, and primary casualty wrap ups.

Surety products include contract bonds, including bid, performance, payment and contractor qualification bonds, as well as commercial surety bonds, including appeal, court and qualification bonds. Products in general provide large capacity and are written on a sole surety, co-surety or shared surety basis.

Our program business specializes in insurance coverages for distinct market segments in North America, including program administrators and managing general agents who operate in a specialized market niche and have unique industry backgrounds or specialized underwriting capabilities. Products encompass mostly property and casualty coverages.

Global Professional Lines (“Professional”)

Professional includes directors’ and officers’ liability, errors and omissions liability, employment practices liability, and technology and cyber liability coverages. Policies are written on both a primary and excess of loss basis. Directors’ and officers’ coverage includes primary and excess directors’ and officers’ liability related to both public and private companies and employment practices liability. Products are targeted at a variety of different sized companies, with a heavy concentration on small to medium-sized firms when written on a primary basis. Employment practices liability is written primarily for very large corporations on an excess of loss basis and covers those firms for legal liability in regard to the treatment of employees. Errors and omissions coverage is written on a primary and excess basis.

Errors and omissions insurance written on a primary basis is targeted to small and medium-sized firms and coverage is provided for various professional exposures, including, but not limited to, architects and engineers, insurance brokers, consultants, lawyers, public entities and real estate agents.

Global Specialty Lines (“Specialty”)

Specialty includes the following lines of business: aviation and satellite, marine and offshore energy, fine art and specie, equine, product recall, political risk and trade credit, North America inland marine, political violence, and kidnap and ransom.

Aviation and satellite products include comprehensive airline hull and liability, airport liability, aviation manufacturers’ product liability, aviation ground handler liability, large aircraft hull and liability, corporate non-owned aircraft liability, space third party liability and satellite risk including damage or malfunction during ascent to orbit and continual operation, and aviation war. Aviation liability and physical damage coverage is offered for large aviation risks on a proportional basis, while smaller general aviation risks are offered on a primary basis. Satellite risks are generally written on a proportional basis. The target markets for aviation and satellite products include airlines, aviation product manufacturers, aircraft service firms, general aviation operators and telecommunications firms.

Marine and offshore energy coverage includes marine hull and machinery, marine war, marine excess liability, cargo and offshore energy insurance. Fine art and specie coverages include fine art and other collections, jewelers block, cash in transit and related coverages for financial institutions. Equine products specialize in providing bloodstock and livestock insurance. Product recall coverages include product contamination for the food and beverage sector and end-product consumer goods and product guarantee aimed at component part manufacturers.

Political risk and trade credit coverages include contract frustration, foreign direct investment, trade credit and trade receivable insurance for clients involved in international business. North America inland marine coverages include property, builders risk, transportation, warehouse liability and other marine coverages. Finally, our Crisis Management business - which includes the product recall coverages noted above - also includes insurance to protect assets that are exposed to war, terrorism and political violence attacks, as well as kidnap, ransom and extortion crisis protection.

XL Global Asset Protection Services (“XL GAPS”)

Also included as part of the Insurance segment is XL GAPS, a fee for service loss prevention consulting service that offers individually tailored risk management solutions to risk managers, insurance brokers and insurance company clients operating on a global basis. Services are offered on an “unbundled” (services not tied to an insurance contract) and “bundled” basis.

Underwriting

We underwrite and price most risks individually following a review of the exposure and in accordance with our underwriting guidelines. Most of our insurance operations have underwriting guidelines that are industry-specific. We seek to serve our clients while controlling our exposure on individual insurance contracts through terms and conditions, policy limits and sublimits, attachment points and facultative and treaty reinsurance arrangements on certain types of risks.

Our underwriters generally evaluate each industry category and subgroups within each category. Premiums are set and adjusted for an insured based, in large part, on the industry group in which the insured is placed and the perceived risk of the insured relative to the other risks in that group. Rates may vary significantly according to the industry group of the insured as well as the insured’s risk relative to the group. Our rating methodology for individual insureds seeks to set premiums in accordance with claims potential as measured by past experience and future expectations, the attachment point and amount of underlying insurance, the nature and scope of the insured’s operations, exposures to loss, including natural hazard exposures, risk management quality and other specific risk factors relevant in the judgment of our underwriters to the type of business being written.

Underwriting and loss experience is reviewed regularly for, among other things, loss trends, emerging exposures, changes in the regulatory or legal environment as well as the efficacy of policy terms and conditions.

As our insurance products are primarily specialized coverages, underwriting guidelines and policy forms differ by product offering as well as by legal jurisdiction. Liability insurance is written on both a primary and excess of loss basis, on occurrence, occurrence reported and claims-made policy forms. Occurrence reported policies typically cover occurrences causing unexpected and unintended personal injury or property damage to third parties arising from events or conditions that commence at or subsequent to an inception date, or retroactive date, if applicable, and prior to the expiration of the policy provided that proper notice is given during the term of the policy or the discovery period. Claims-made policies typically cover only claims made during the policy period or extended reporting period and are generally associated with professional liability and environmental coverages. Traditional occurrence coverage is also available for restricted classes of risk and is generally written on a follow-form basis for excess of loss coverage, where the policy adopts the terms, conditions and exclusions of the underlying policy. Property insurance risks are written on a lead or follow-form basis that usually provides coverage for all risks of physical damage and business interruption. Maximum limits are generally subject to sublimits for coverage in critical earthquake and flood zones, where we seek to limit liability in these areas.

Engineering

Property engineering for our insurance operations includes conducting on-site inspections and consulting services related to loss prevention, reviews of building plans for fire protection design, computer assisted drawings (diagrams) of facilities, recommendations on how to improve site protection, reviews of existing loss prevention reports/information for underwriters, summarizing multiple sources of information into an account summary, and providing underwriters an opinion on the risk to assist with risk selection, pricing and other underwriting decisions. The property engineering team consists of staff located in over 20 countries.

Other engineering resources support casualty, environmental, specialty and construction lines and serve as internal consultants to their respective underwriting teams, assisting them with making underwriting decisions, as well as helping their customers improve their local site or account protection.

Reinsurance Ceded

In certain cases, the risks insured by us in the Insurance segment are partially reinsured by third party reinsurers. Reinsurance ceded varies by location and line of business based on a number of factors, including market conditions. The benefits of ceding risks to third party reinsurers include reducing exposure on individual risks, protecting against catastrophic risks, maintaining acceptable capital ratios and enabling the writing of additional business. Reinsurance

ceded does not legally discharge us from our liabilities to the original policyholder in respect of the risk being reinsured.

We use reinsurance to support the underwriting and retention guidelines of each of our subsidiaries as well as to control our aggregate exposure to a particular risk or class of risks. Reinsurance is purchased at several levels ranging from reinsurance of risks assumed on individual contracts to reinsurance covering the aggregate exposure on a portfolio of policies issued by

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groups of companies. See Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” for further information.

Premiums

Premium rates and underwriting terms and conditions for all lines of business written vary by jurisdiction principally due to local market conditions, competitor product offerings and legal requirements.

The following table provides an analysis of gross premiums written, net premiums written and net premiums earned for the Insurance segment for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

| (U.S. dollars in thousands) | 2014 | | | 2013 (1) | | | 2012 (1) | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Gross Premiums Written | Net Premiums Written | Net Premiums Earned | Gross Premiums Written | Net Premiums Written | Net Premiums Earned | Gross Premiums Written | Net Premiums Written | Net Premiums Earned |
| Professional | \$ 1,550,929 | \$ 1,076,209 | \$ 1,075,420 | \$ 1,465,689 | \$ 1,161,045 | \$ 1,370,196 | \$ 1,460,018 | \$ 1,395,694 | \$ 1,350,319 |
| Casualty | 2,150,302 | 1,437,889 | 1,422,684 | 1,975,330 | 1,434,967 | 1,389,851 | 1,745,356 | 1,254,161 | 1,165,753 |
| Property | 874,198 | 538,027 | 544,856 | 875,773 | 568,575 | 544,278 | 782,339 | 483,682 | 489,739 |
| Specialty | 1,013,592 | 791,024 | 737,281 | 906,650 | 746,517 | 732,042 | 892,088 | 738,655 | 708,568 |
| Other (2) | 386,990 | 291,002 | 246,472 | 299,739 | 242,989 | 231,310 | 287,172 | 200,319 | 210,257 |
| Total | \$ 5,976,011 | \$ 4,134,151 | \$ 4,026,713 | \$ 5,523,181 | \$ 4,154,093 | \$ 4,267,677 | \$ 5,166,973 | \$ 4,072,511 | \$ 3,924,636 |

(1) Certain reclassifications have been made to conform to the current year presentation.

(2) Other includes excess and surplus, surety, structured indemnity and certain other discontinued lines.

Competition

We compete globally in the property and casualty insurance markets. Our competitors include the following companies and their affiliates: The ACE Group of Companies (“ACE”); Allianz SE (“Allianz”); American International Group, Inc. (“AIG”); Factory Mutual Global (“FMG”) for property only; The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (“Hartford”); Lloyd’s of London Syndicates (“Lloyd’s”); The Chubb Corporation (“Chubb”); The Travelers Companies (“Travelers”); and Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (“Zurich”).

The major geographical markets for our property and casualty insurance operations are North America, Europe and Bermuda. Our main competitors in each of these markets include the following:

North America – AIG, ACE, Chubb, FMG, Zurich, Travelers, CNA Financial Corporation, Hartford, Liberty Mutual Group, Arch Capital Group Ltd (“Arch”), W.R. Berkley Corporation, Markel Corporation (“Markel”) and Lloyd’s.

Europe – Allianz, AIG, FMG, Zurich, AXA Insurance Ltd. (“AXA”), ACE, Lloyd’s, Assicurazioni Generali, HDI-Gerling Industrie Versicherung AG and MAPFRE S.A.

Bermuda – ACE, Allied World Assurance Company, Axis Capital Group, Markel, Endurance Specialty Insurance Ltd and Arch.

Marketing and Distribution

The majority of business in our Insurance segment originates via a large number of international, national and regional producers, acting as the brokers and representatives of current and prospective policyholders. This channel is supported by our Global Distribution and Network Unit, which consists of sales and marketing representatives in key markets throughout the world, representing all of our products in collaboration with the four business groups. A portion of Insurance segment business is also marketed and underwritten by general agents and a portion by independent agents acting on our behalf. Typically, all such producers, general agents and independent agents receive commission payments for their services, which are calculated as a percentage of the gross premium paid by the policyholder on an account-by-account basis. A certain portion of business originating from producers is submitted on a fee basis under which the producer is compensated by a fee paid to it by its policyholder client. From time to time, we also consider requests for commissions from a producer, with disclosure by the producer to the policyholder-client in accordance with applicable law, where the producer receives a fee from the policyholder-client. We evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis.

We consider requests for contingent/additional commission arrangements where such contingent/additional commissions are based upon the volume of bound business originated from a specific producer during a calendar year,

or based upon growth of a particular segment of business, where legal and appropriate. Such arrangements are distinct from program business where additional commissions are generally based on profitability of business submitted to and bound by us.

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With regard to excess and surplus lines business, we receive submissions from licensed wholesale surplus lines brokers.

We have no implied or explicit commitments to accept business from any particular broker, and neither producers nor any other third party have the authority to bind us, except in the case where underwriting authority may be delegated contractually to selected general agents. Such general agents are subject to a financial and operational due diligence review prior to any such delegation of authority and we conduct ongoing reviews and audits as deemed necessary with the goal of assuring the continuing integrity of underwriting and related business operations. See Item 8, Note 19(a), "Commitments and Contingencies – Concentrations of Credit Risk," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for information on our major producers.

Apart from compensation arrangements established with producers in connection with insurance transactions, we also have engaged, and may in the future engage, certain producers or their affiliates in consulting roles pursuant to which such producers provide access to certain systems and information and/or additional services that may assist us with our marketing and distribution. In instances where we engage producers in such consulting roles, we may compensate the relevant producers on a fixed fee basis, a variable fee basis based upon our usage of the systems and information proffered, through a combination of fixed and variable fees or in some jurisdictions, where appropriate, on a commission basis.

Claims Administration

Claims management for our insurance operations includes the review of initial loss reports, administration of claims databases, generation of appropriate responses to claims reports, identification and handling of coverage issues, determination of whether further investigation is required and, where appropriate, retention of claims counsel, establishment of case reserves, payment of claims and notification to reinsurers. With respect to the establishment of case reserves, when we are notified of insured losses, our claims personnel record a case reserve as appropriate for the estimated amount of the exposure at that time. The estimate reflects the judgment of claims personnel based on general reserving practices, the experience and knowledge of such personnel regarding the nature of the specific claim and, where appropriate, advice of counsel. Reserves are also established to provide for the estimated expense of settling claims, including legal and other fees and the general expenses of administering the claims adjustment process.

Claims in respect of business written by our Lloyd's syndicate are handled by the lead syndicate, and on large or complex claims the second syndicate, participating on the risk who bind the following underwriters. The claims are processed by XChanging, the central market bureau. Where a syndicate is a "lead" syndicate on a Lloyd's policy, its underwriters and claims adjusters will work directly with the broker or insured on behalf of itself and the other participating or "following" underwriters for any particular claim. This may involve appointing attorneys or loss adjusters. The lead syndicate advises movement in loss reserves to all syndicates participating on the risk. Our claims department may adjust the case reserves it records from those advised by the lead syndicate as deemed necessary. Certain of our product lines have arrangements with third party administrators to provide claims handling services to us in respect of such product lines. These agreements set forth the duties of the third party administrators, limits of authority, protective indemnification language and various procedures that are required to meet statutory compliance. These arrangements are also subject to audit review by our relevant claim department.

Reinsurance Segment

General

Our reinsurance operations are structured geographically into business groups: Bermuda, North America and International (Europe, Asia Pacific, Latin America and Middle East North Africa ("MENA")). During the second quarter of 2013, the business groups were realigned to include Latin America within the International business group. This segment provides casualty, property risk, property catastrophe, marine, aviation, crop, and other specialty reinsurance on a global basis with business being written on both a proportional and non-proportional treaty basis, and also on a facultative basis. Our lines of business within the Reinsurance segment continue to focus on those that provide the best risk adjusted return on capital. For our Reinsurance segment, challenging market conditions and the changing economic environment experienced since 2008 resulted in a greater emphasis being placed on short-tail lines of business.

Business written on a non-proportional basis generally provides for an indemnification by us to the ceding company for a portion of losses, both individually and in the aggregate, on policies with limits in excess of a specified individual or aggregate loss deductible. For business written on a proportional basis, including on a “quota share” or “surplus” basis, we receive an agreed percentage of the premiums and are liable for the same percentage of each and all incurred losses. For proportional business, the ceding company normally receives a ceding commission for the premiums ceded and may also, under certain

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circumstances, receive a profit commission based on performance of the contract. Occasionally this commission could be on a sliding scale depending on the loss ratio performance of the contract.

Our casualty reinsurance includes general liability, professional liability, automobile and workers' compensation. Professional liability includes directors' and officers', employment practices, medical malpractice and environmental liability. Casualty lines are written as treaties or programs, and on both a proportional and a non-proportional basis. The treaty business includes clash programs, which cover losses under a number of underlying policies involved in one occurrence or a judgment above an underlying policy's limit.

Our property business, primarily short-tail in nature, is written on both a portfolio/treaty and individual/facultative basis, and includes property catastrophe, property risk excess of loss and property proportional. A significant portion of the underwritten property business consists of large aggregate exposures to man-made and natural disasters and, generally, loss experience is characterized as low frequency and high severity. This may result in volatility in our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity. See Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

We seek to manage our reinsurance exposures to catastrophic events by limiting the amount of exposure written in each geographic or peril zone worldwide, underwriting in excess of varying attachment points and typically ensuring that contracts exposed to catastrophe loss include aggregate limits. We also seek to protect our total aggregate exposures by peril and zone through the purchase of reinsurance programs. Our property catastrophe reinsurance account is generally "all risk" in nature. As a result, we are exposed to losses from sources as diverse as hurricanes and other windstorms, earthquakes, freezing, riots, floods, industrial explosions, fires and many other potential natural or man-made disasters. In accordance with market practice, our policies generally exclude certain risks such as war, nuclear contamination or radiation. Following the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001 (collectively, "the September 11 event"), terrorism coverage, including nuclear, biological, radiological and chemical, has been restricted or excluded in many territories and classes. Some U.S. states require some cover for "Fire Following" terrorism and some countries make terrorism coverage mandatory. Our predominant exposure under such coverage is to property damage.

Property catastrophe reinsurance provides coverage on an excess of loss basis when aggregate losses and loss adjustment expenses from a single occurrence of a covered event, or multiple occurrences in the case of aggregate covers, exceed the attachment point specified in the policy. Some of our property catastrophe contracts limit coverage to one occurrence in any single policy year, but most contracts generally enable at least one reinstatement to be purchased by the reinsured. We also write property risk excess of loss reinsurance. Property risk excess of loss reinsurance covers a loss to the reinsured on a single risk of the type reinsured rather than to aggregate losses for all covered risks on a specific peril, as is the case with catastrophe reinsurance. Our property proportional account business includes reinsurance of direct property insurance. We seek to limit the catastrophe exposure from our proportional and per risk excess business through extensive use of occurrence and cession limits.

Other specialty reinsurance products include energy, marine, aviation, space, engineering, fidelity, surety, trade credit, accident and health, mortgage and political risk. In addition, we write several whole account capital gearing quota share contracts on select syndicates at Lloyd's.

The segment's most significant operating legal entities in 2014 based on revenues were as follows: XL Re Ltd, XL Re Europe SE, XL Reinsurance America Inc. and XL Re Latin America Ltd.

Underwriting

Underwriting risks for the reinsurance property and casualty business are evaluated using a number of factors including, but not limited to, the type and layer of risk to be assumed, the actuarial evaluation of premium adequacy, the cedant's underwriting and claims experience, the cedant's financial condition and claims paying rating, the exposure and/or experience with the cedant, and the line of business to be reinsured.

Other factors we assess include the reputation of the proposed cedant, the geographic area in which the cedant does business and its market share, a detailed evaluation of catastrophe and risk exposures, and historical loss data for the cedant, where available, and for the industry as a whole in the relevant regions in order to compare the cedant's historical loss experience to industry averages. On-site underwriting and claim reviews are performed where it is deemed necessary to determine the quality of a current or prospective cedant's underwriting operations, with particular

emphasis on casualty proportional and working excess of loss placements.

For property catastrophe reinsurance business, our underwriting guidelines generally limit the amount of exposure we will directly underwrite for any one reinsured and the amount of the aggregate exposure to catastrophic losses in any one geographic zone. We believe that we have defined geographic and peril zones such that a single occurrence, for example, an earthquake or hurricane, should not affect more than one peril zone. While the exposure to multiple zones is considered remote for events

such as a hurricane, we do manage our aggregate exposures for such a scenario where we consider it appropriate to do so. The definition of our peril zones is subject to periodic review. We also generally seek an attachment point for our property catastrophe reinsurance at a level that is high enough to produce a low frequency of loss. We seek to limit our aggregate exposure in the proportional business through extensive use of occurrence and cession limits.

Reinsurance Retroceded

We use third party reinsurance to support the underwriting and retention guidelines of each reinsurance subsidiary as well as to seek to limit our aggregate exposure to a particular risk or class of risks. Reinsurance is purchased at several levels ranging from reinsurance of risks assumed on individual contracts to reinsurance covering aggregate exposures. The benefits of ceding risks to other reinsurers include reducing exposure on individual risks, protecting against catastrophic risks, maintaining acceptable capital ratios and enabling the writing of additional business. Reinsurance ceded does not legally discharge us from our liabilities in respect of the risk being reinsured. Reinsurance ceded varies by location and line of business based on factors including, among others, market conditions and the credit worthiness of the counterparty.

Our traditional catastrophe retrocession program was renewed in 2014 to cover certain of our exposures. These protections, in various layers and in excess of varying attachment points according to the territory exposed, assist in managing our net retention to an acceptable level. We have co-reinsurance retentions within this program. In addition, we cede catastrophe excess of loss business on a proportional basis to certain unrelated companies as well as one affiliated company that in turn distributes the risk to non-affiliated third party investors.

We continue to buy additional protection for our property facultative, crop, health, marine and aviation portfolios to manage our net exposures in these classes.

See Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and Item 8, Note 10, "Reinsurance," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for further information.

Premiums

The following table provides an analysis of gross premiums written, net premiums written and net premiums earned for the Reinsurance segment for the indicated years ended December 31:

| (U.S. dollars in thousands) | 2014 | | | 2013 (1) | | | 2012 (1) | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Gross Premiums Written | Net Premiums Written | Net Premiums Earned | Gross Premiums Written | Net Premiums Written | Net Premiums Earned | Gross Premiums Written | Net Premiums Written | Net Premiums Earned |
| Casualty - professional lines | \$126,876 | \$126,873 | \$181,223 | \$199,159 | \$199,153 | \$206,169 | \$221,354 | \$221,355 | \$213,324 |
| Casualty - other lines | 302,903 | 301,109 | 300,223 | 332,153 | 330,681 | 312,156 | 332,563 | 330,714 | 311,166 |
| Property catastrophe | 493,646 | 428,723 | 433,602 | 556,493 | 498,997 | 492,568 | 537,087 | 473,373 | 463,975 |
| Other property | 585,782 | 531,203 | 555,583 | 587,278 | 545,846 | 561,105 | 653,513 | 622,855 | 613,291 |
| Marine, energy, aviation & satellite | 112,039 | 104,718 | 95,745 | 91,997 | 76,241 | 94,797 | 169,885 | 153,948 | 147,362 |
| Other (2) | 164,233 | 140,432 | 124,349 | 126,531 | 98,971 | 79,627 | 93,755 | 82,263 | 92,224 |
| Total | \$1,785,479 | \$1,633,058 | \$1,690,725 | \$1,893,611 | \$1,749,889 | \$1,746,422 | \$2,008,157 | \$1,884,508 | \$1,841,342 |

(1) Certain reclassifications have been made to conform to the current year presentation.

(2) Other includes whole account contracts, surety and other lines.

Additional discussion and financial information about the Reinsurance segment are set forth in Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and Item 8, Note 5, "Segment Information," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

Competition

We compete globally in the property and casualty markets.

Our reinsurance operations are structured geographically into business groups: Bermuda, North America and International (Europe, Asia Pacific, Latin America and MENA). The main competitors in each of these markets include the following:

Bermuda – ACE Tempest Reinsurance Ltd, AXIS Specialty Limited ("AXIS"), Arch Reinsurance Limited ("Arch Re"), Montpelier Reinsurance Ltd, PartnerRe Ltd ("Partner"), Platinum Underwriters Bermuda Ltd, Renaissance Reinsurance Limited ("Ren Re"), Validus Reinsurance Ltd ("Validus") and alternative asset managers, such as Nephila Capital Limited.

North America – Alleghany Corporation, Arch Re, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. ("Berkshire"), Everest Re Group Ltd ("Everest"), Hannover Re Group ("Hannover Re"), Munich Re Group ("Munich Re"), Partner, and Swiss Reinsurance America Corporation ("Swiss Re").

Europe and the rest of world – Arch Re, Asia Capital Reinsurance Group, AXIS, Berkshire, Everest, Hannover Re, IRB-Brazil Re, Lloyd's, Mapfre Re, Munich Re, Partner, Ren Re, SCOR Reinsurance Company, Swiss Re and Validus.

Marketing and Distribution

See "Insurance Segment – Marketing and Distribution" and Item 8, Note 19(a), "Commitments and Contingencies – Concentrations of Credit Risk," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for information on our marketing and distribution procedures and information on our major brokers.

Claims Administration

Claims management for the reinsurance operations includes the receipt of loss notifications, review and approval of claims through a claims approval process, establishment of loss reserves for reported claims and approval of loss payments. Case reserves for reported claims are generally established based on reports received from ceding companies with additional case reserves being established when deemed appropriate. Additionally, claims audits are conducted for specific claims and claims procedures at the offices of selected ceding companies, particularly in the United States and the U.K.

Corporate and Other (Including Run-Off Life Operations)

Our general investment and financing operations are reflected in Corporate and Other. In addition, results of our Run-Off Life Operations are reported within "Corporate and Other." We ceased writing new life reinsurance contracts in 2009 and since that time have been managing the run-off of our life reinsurance operations.

As stated above, XLIB entered into a sale and purchase agreement with GreyCastle providing for the sale of 100% of the common shares of its life reinsurance subsidiary, XLLR. As a result, we have ceded the majority of our life reinsurance business to GCLR through the Life Retro Arrangements ("Run-Off Life Operations - Life Retro Arrangements"). This transaction covers a substantial portion of our life reinsurance reserves. At December 31, 2014, gross future policy benefit reserves relating to the Run-Off Life Operations were approximately \$4.7 billion, of which we retained approximately \$0.4 billion ("Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements"), after consideration of our future policy benefit reserves recoverable from GCLR of \$4.3 billion.

The Run-Off Life Operations - Life Retro Arrangements were, prior to June 30, 2014, reported within the Life operations segment. Subsequent to the transaction, we no longer consider the Run-Off Life Operations to be a separate operating segment, and the results of the Run-Off Life Operations are reported within "Corporate and Other." Prior period information has been recast to reflect the current presentation. For a further discussion, see Item 8, Note 3, "Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

The Run-Off Life Operations provided life reinsurance on business written by life insurance companies, principally to help them manage mortality, morbidity, survivorship, investment and lapse risks. The products offered included a broad range of underlying lines of life insurance business, including term assurances, group life, critical illness cover, immediate annuities, disability income, and short-term life, accident and health business. The Run-Off Life Operations covered a range of geographic markets, with an emphasis on the U.K., the United States, Ireland and Continental Europe.

Unpaid Losses and Loss Expenses

Loss reserves are established due to the significant periods of time that may lapse between the occurrence, reporting and payment of a loss. To recognize liabilities for unpaid losses and loss expenses, we estimate future amounts needed to pay claims and related expenses with respect to insured events. Our reserving practices and the establishment of any particular reserve reflect our judgment concerning sound financial practice and do not represent any admission of liability with respect to any claim. Unpaid losses and loss expense reserves are established for reported claims ("case reserves") and incurred but not reported ("IBNR") claims. The nature of our high excess of loss liability and catastrophe business can result in loss payments that are both irregular and significant. Similarly, adjustments to reserves for individual years can be irregular and significant. Such adjustments are part of the normal course of business for us. Certain aspects of our business have loss experience characterized as low frequency and high severity. This may result

in volatility in our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.

The tables below present the development of our unpaid losses and loss expense reserves on both a net and gross basis. The cumulative redundancy (deficiency) calculated on a net basis differs from that calculated on a gross basis. As different

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reinsurance programs cover different underwriting years, net and gross loss experience will not necessarily develop proportionately. The top line of the first table shows the estimated liability, net of reinsurance recoveries, as at the year end balance sheet date for each of the indicated years. This represents the estimated amounts of losses and loss expenses, including IBNR, arising in the current and all prior years that are unpaid at the year end balance sheet date of the indicated year. The first table then shows the re-estimated amount of the previously recorded reserve liability based on experience as of the year end balance sheet date of each succeeding year. The estimate changes as more information becomes known about the frequency and severity of claims for individual years. The cumulative redundancy (deficiency) represents the aggregate change with respect to that liability originally estimated. The lower portion of the first table also reflects the cumulative paid losses relating to these reserves. The second table is similar to the upper portion of the first table but is gross of reinsurance recoveries. Conditions and trends that have affected development of liabilities in the past may not necessarily occur in the future. Accordingly, it may not be appropriate to extrapolate redundancies or deficiencies into the future, based on the tables below. See Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

Analysis of P&C Losses and Loss Expenses Reserve Development Net of Reinsurance Recoverables

| (U.S. dollars in millions) | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ESTIMATED LIABILITY FOR UNPAID LOSSES AND LOSS EXPENSES, NET OF REINSURANCE RECOVERABLES LIABILITY RE-ESTIMATED AS OF: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| One year later | \$12,671 | \$17,200 | \$17,900 | \$18,191 | \$17,686 | \$17,266 | \$16,882 | \$16,984 | \$17,122 | \$17,066 | \$15,942 |
| Two years later | 13,785 | 17,090 | 17,475 | 17,580 | 17,401 | 16,893 | 16,597 | 16,668 | 16,833 | 16,811 | |
| Three years later | 13,675 | 16,828 | 16,631 | 17,286 | 17,027 | 16,503 | 16,274 | 16,440 | 16,518 | | |
| Four years later | 13,607 | 16,155 | 16,441 | 16,956 | 16,639 | 16,261 | 16,001 | 16,120 | | | |
| Five years later | 13,258 | 16,067 | 16,064 | 16,550 | 16,350 | 15,941 | 15,779 | | | | |
| Six years later | 13,236 | 15,796 | 15,667 | 16,287 | 15,982 | 15,735 | | | | | |
| Seven years later | 13,068 | 15,448 | 15,500 | 15,940 | 15,756 | | | | | | |
| Eight years later | 12,819 | 15,248 | 15,190 | 15,737 | | | | | | | |
| Nine years later | 12,702 | 15,039 | 14,988 | | | | | | | | |
| Ten years later | 12,592 | 14,935 | | | | | | | | | |
| CUMULATIVE REDUNDANCY (DEFICIENCY) | 174 | 2,265 | 2,912 | 2,454 | 1,930 | 1,531 | 1,103 | 864 | 604 | 255 | |
| CUMULATIVE PAID LOSSES, NET OF REINSURANCE RECOVERIES, AS OF: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| One year later | \$2,008 | \$3,437 | \$3,188 | \$3,207 | \$3,436 | \$3,028 | \$3,256 | \$3,366 | \$3,403 | \$3,440 | |
| Two years later | 3,884 | 5,759 | 5,620 | 5,673 | 5,848 | 5,530 | 5,581 | 5,870 | 5,890 | | |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Three years later | 5,181 | 7,590 | 7,528 | 7,471 | 7,860 | 7,283 | 7,451 | 7,676 |
| Four years later | 6,392 | 8,936 | 8,787 | 8,941 | 9,229 | 8,757 | 8,799 | |
| Five years later | 7,386 | 9,882 | 9,763 | 9,896 | 10,290 | 9,801 | | |
| Six years later | 8,098 | 10,636 | 10,463 | 10,689 | 11,098 | | | |
| Seven years later | 8,690 | 11,139 | 11,069 | 11,317 | | | | |
| Eight years later | 9,115 | 11,602 | 11,548 | | | | | |
| Nine years later | 9,457 | 11,997 | | | | | | |
| Ten years later | 9,777 | | | | | | | |

Analysis of P&C Losses and Loss Expenses Reserve Development Gross of Reinsurance Recoverables

| (U.S. dollars in millions) | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| ESTIMATED GROSS LIABILITY FOR UNPAID LOSSES AND LOSS EXPENSES LIABILITY RE-ESTIMATED AS OF: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| One year later | 19,987 | 23,209 | 22,458 | 21,803 | 21,348 | 20,509 | 20,258 | 20,200 | 20,166 | 19,956 | |
| Two years later | 19,533 | 22,937 | 21,337 | 21,445 | 21,094 | 19,982 | 19,870 | 19,894 | 19,629 | | |
| Three years later | 19,525 | 22,139 | 21,057 | 21,305 | 20,605 | 19,689 | 19,540 | 19,372 | | | |
| Four years later | 19,153 | 21,992 | 20,787 | 20,853 | 20,244 | 19,361 | 19,148 | | | | |
| Five years later | 19,099 | 21,835 | 20,350 | 20,509 | 19,880 | 19,008 | | | | | |
| Six years later | 19,050 | 21,426 | 20,117 | 20,170 | 19,497 | | | | | | |
| Seven years later | 18,766 | 21,186 | 19,823 | 19,851 | | | | | | | |
| Eight years later | 18,605 | 21,007 | 19,551 | | | | | | | | |
| Nine years later | 18,529 | 20,860 | | | | | | | | | |
| Ten years later | 18,392 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CUMULATIVE REDUNDANCY (DEFICIENCY) | 1,224 | 2,738 | 3,344 | 3,006 | 2,153 | 1,816 | 1,384 | 1,242 | 855 | 525 | |

The following table presents an analysis of our paid, unpaid and incurred losses and loss expenses and a reconciliation of beginning and ending unpaid losses and loss expenses for the years indicated.

| Year ended December 31, (U.S. dollars in thousands) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses at the beginning of the year | \$20,481,065 | \$20,484,121 | \$20,613,901 |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses recoverable | 3,414,735 | 3,361,703 | 3,629,940 |
| Net unpaid losses and loss expenses at the beginning of the year | \$17,066,330 | \$17,122,418 | \$16,983,961 |
| Increase (decrease) in net losses and loss expenses incurred in respect of losses occurring in: | | | |
| Current year | 3,513,469 | 4,021,353 | 4,081,376 |
| Prior years | (255,076 |) (289,889 |) (315,894 |
| Total net incurred losses and loss expenses | \$3,258,393 | \$3,731,464 | \$3,765,482 |
| Exchange rate effects | (561,673 |) 40,587 | 156,217 |
| Less net losses and loss expenses paid in respect of losses occurring in: | | | |
| Current year | 381,008 | 425,254 | 416,844 |
| Prior years | 3,440,327 | 3,402,885 | 3,366,398 |
| Total net paid losses | \$3,821,335 | \$3,828,139 | \$3,783,242 |
| Net unpaid losses and loss expenses at the end of the year | 15,941,715 | 17,066,330 | 17,122,418 |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses recoverable | 3,411,528 | 3,414,735 | 3,361,703 |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses at the end of the year | \$19,353,243 | \$20,481,065 | \$20,484,121 |
| Our net unpaid losses and loss expenses relating to our operating segments at December 31, 2014 and 2013 were as follows: | | | |
| (U.S. dollars in thousands) | | 2014 | 2013 |
| Insurance | | \$10,967,738 | \$11,512,569 |
| Reinsurance | | 4,973,977 | 5,553,761 |
| Net unpaid losses and loss expenses | | \$15,941,715 | \$17,066,330 |

Current year net losses incurred decreased by \$507.9 million in 2014 as compared to 2013. This was mainly due to lower losses from natural catastrophes as compared to 2013. The decrease was also driven by improvements in the current year loss ratio excluding natural catastrophes in both the Insurance and Reinsurance segments due to the impact of underwriting actions including improved business mix and lower earned premium volumes. Accordingly, the current year loss ratio excluding prior year development decreased by 5.4 loss percentage points as compared to the prior year.

Current year net losses incurred decreased by \$60.0 million in 2013 as compared to 2012. This was mainly due to lower losses from natural catastrophes as compared to 2012. Accordingly, the current year loss ratio excluding prior year development decreased by 3.9 loss percentage points as compared to 2012. In addition, the current year loss ratio excluding natural catastrophes improved in both the Insurance and Reinsurance segments due to the impact of underwriting actions including improved business mix, partially offset by a higher level of large non-natural catastrophe property losses in the Insurance segment in 2013 as compared to 2012.

See the Income Statement Analysis at Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," for further information regarding the current year loss ratios for each of the years indicated within each of our operating segments.

Prior year net losses incurred

The following tables present the development of our gross and net losses and loss expense reserves. The tables also show the estimated reserves at the beginning of each fiscal year and the favorable or adverse development (referred to as “prior year development”) of those reserves during such fiscal year.

| Gross (U.S. dollars in thousands) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses at January 1 | \$20,481,065 | \$20,484,121 | \$20,613,901 |
| Gross (favorable) adverse development of those reserves during the year | (524,715) | (317,753) | (413,764) |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses reserves re-estimated at December 31 | \$19,956,350 | \$20,166,368 | \$20,200,137 |
| Net (U.S. dollars in thousands) | | | |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses at January 1 | \$17,066,330 | \$17,122,418 | \$16,983,961 |
| Net (favorable) adverse development of those reserves during the year | (255,076) | (289,889) | (315,894) |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses reserves re-estimated at December 31 | \$16,811,254 | \$16,832,529 | \$16,668,067 |

As different reinsurance programs cover different underwriting years, contracts and lines of business, net and gross loss experience do not develop proportionately. In 2014, gross favorable prior year development exceeded net favorable prior year development in the Insurance segment due to the quota share reinsurance on excess casualty and a significant reduction in a single large event in the U.S. discontinued lines that was heavily ceded. In addition, lower than expected large loss development in the international primary casualty book resulted in a gross release that was largely offset by reductions in the recovery from our excess of loss reinsurance. Gross favorable prior year development was broadly in line with net favorable prior year development for the Reinsurance segment.

In 2013, gross favorable prior year development was broadly in line with net favorable prior year development in total.

In 2012, gross favorable prior year development exceeded net favorable prior development in the Insurance segment due primarily to a significant reduction in a single large event in the International energy book that was heavily ceded. The following table presents the gross and net (favorable) adverse prior year loss development of our loss and loss expense reserves by operating segment for each of the years indicated:

| Gross: (U.S. dollars in thousands) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Insurance | \$(369,245) | \$(132,825) | \$(247,232) |
| Reinsurance | (155,470) | (184,928) | (166,532) |
| Total | \$(524,715) | \$(317,753) | \$(413,764) |
| Net: | | | |
| Insurance | \$(99,762) | \$(102,039) | \$(140,066) |
| Reinsurance | (155,314) | (187,850) | (175,828) |
| Total | \$(255,076) | \$(289,889) | \$(315,894) |

We had net favorable prior year reserve development in property and casualty operations of \$255.1 million, \$289.9 million and \$315.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. See the Income Statement Analysis at Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” and Item 8, Note 11, “Losses and Loss Expenses,” to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for further information regarding the developments in prior year loss reserve estimates for each of the years indicated within each of our operating segments.

Net loss reserves (disposed) acquired

We did not dispose of or acquire net loss reserves in the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Exchange rate effects

Exchange rate effects on net loss reserves in each of the three years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 related to our global operations primarily where reporting units have a functional currency that is not the U.S. dollar.

Movements in the U.S. dollar gave rise to translation and revaluation exchange movements related to carried loss reserve balances of \$561.7 million, \$40.6 million and \$156.2 million in the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Net paid losses

Total net paid losses were \$3.8 billion in each of the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. See Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," for further information.

Other loss related information

Our net incurred losses and loss expenses include actual and estimates of potential non-recoveries from reinsurers. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the reserve for potential non-recoveries from reinsurers was \$64.4 million and \$85.5 million, respectively. For further information, see Item 8, Note 10, "Reinsurance," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

Except for certain workers' compensation (including long term disability) liabilities, and certain bodily injury liability claims emanating from U.K. exposures - predominantly from the U.K. motor liability portfolio, we do not discount our unpaid losses and loss expenses.

We utilize tabular reserving for workers' compensation (including long-term disability) unpaid losses that are considered fixed and determinable, and discount such losses using an interest rate of 5% in 2014 and 2013. The interest rate approximates the average yield to maturity on specific fixed income investments that support these liabilities. The tabular reserving methodology results in applying uniform and consistent criteria for establishing expected future indemnity and medical payments (including an explicit factor for medical inflation) and the use of mortality tables to determine expected payment periods. Tabular unpaid losses and loss expenses, net of reinsurance, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 on an undiscounted basis were \$515.4 million and \$551.6 million, respectively. The related discounted unpaid losses and loss expenses were \$266.4 million and \$274.6 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

We record a specific reserve allowance for Periodical Payment Orders ("PPO") related to bodily injury liability claims. This allowance includes the unpaid losses for claims already settled and notified as PPO as of December 31, 2014, as well as the unpaid losses for claims to be settled in the future. The future care element of the unpaid losses was discounted using an interest rate of 1.5% at both December 31, 2014 and 2013. Unpaid losses and loss expenses, net of reinsurance, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 on an undiscounted basis were \$249.8 million and \$262.0 million, respectively. After discounting the future care element, the unpaid losses and loss expenses were \$161.0 million and \$165.7 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The movement in net undiscounted unpaid losses and loss expenses between December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2014 was mainly due to foreign exchange rate movements.

Investments

Investment structure and strategy

Our investment operations are managed centrally by our Investment Group. The Risk and Finance Committee (the "RFC") of the Board of Directors of XL-Ireland (the "XL-Ireland Board") approves overall investment policy and guidelines, and reviews the implementation of the investment strategies on a regular basis.

We seek to generate growth in the book value and net investment income through our investment activities. Our investments strategy strives to balance investment returns against market and credit risk. Our overall investment portfolio is structured to take into account a number of variables including liability profile, local regulatory requirements, business needs, collateral management and risk tolerance.

As described in Item 8, Note 3, "Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary," and Note 6, "Investments," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, in connection with the Life Retro Arrangements, certain fixed maturities were reclassified from held to maturity to available for sale. All of the reclassified securities are included within the Life Funds Withheld Assets, along with certain other available for sale securities as defined in the sale and purchase agreement. For fixed maturities subsequently purchased within the Life Funds Withheld Assets portfolio, we have opted to apply an accounting election (the "fair value option") to record all changes in the fair value of these investments through earnings, as opposed to other comprehensive income. These investments for which we have elected the fair value option are recorded in our balance sheet as "Fixed Maturities, trading at fair value."

The Life Funds Withheld Assets are managed pursuant to agreed investment guidelines that meet the contractual commitments of our ceding companies and applicable laws and regulations. All of the investment results associated with the Life Funds Withheld Assets ultimately accrue to GCLR. Because we no longer share in the risks and rewards

of the underlying performance of the supporting invested assets, we separate the Life Funds Withheld Assets from the rest of our investments. The remaining discussion in this section excludes the Life Funds Withheld Assets.

Strategic Asset Allocation

The investment strategy for the investment portfolio is based on the strategic asset allocation (“SAA”) process, which establishes a benchmark (“SAA Benchmark”) that is constructed to maximize company value, subject to risk tolerance of management, approval by the RFC on behalf of the XL-Ireland Board and various constraints, e.g., liability profile, business needs, collateral management and regulatory requirements. This process involves an integrated and stochastic model that includes our financial condition, reserve volatility and loss payout patterns, premium expense and loss ratio projections and correlations among assets, liabilities and economic variables such as inflation.

As part of the implementation of our SAA Benchmark, we employ a comprehensive framework of investment decision authorities (“Authorities Framework”). The objective of the Authorities Framework is to ensure that the risk profile of our investment portfolio is consistent with management’s risk tolerance as reflected in the SAA Benchmark. The Authorities Framework controls active or tactical deviations from the SAA Benchmark. As the magnitude of these deviations increases or the resulting impact on the risk profile of the investment portfolio reaches certain predetermined thresholds, additional levels of authority and approval are required, up to and including the RFC. The RFC reviews and approves the SAA Benchmark and the Authorities Framework as part of the investment policy. Management approves further detailed investment authorities which integrate the Authorities Framework into our risk governance processes. We have an ongoing process that focuses on optimizing the composition of the investment portfolio relative to the SAA Benchmark. See “Investment Portfolio Structure” for more details.

Prior to the Life Retro Arrangements, separate SAA Benchmarks were established for P&C and Run-Off Life Operations. The assets supporting the Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements have now been combined with the P&C operations and we report the portfolio return together. During 2015, a transitional approach is being used for the assets supporting the Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements and in the next SAA study, these assets will be combined into the analysis for a single SAA benchmark.

Investment Portfolio Structure

Our investment portfolio consists of fixed income securities, equities, alternative investments, private investments, derivatives and other investments and cash and cash equivalents. These securities and investments are denominated in U.S. dollar, U.K. sterling, Euro, Swiss franc, Canadian dollar and other foreign currencies.

Our direct use of investment derivatives includes futures, forwards, swaps and options that derive their value from underlying assets, indices, reference rates or a combination of these factors. Our current investment policy allows derivatives to be used in the investment portfolio to reduce risk and enhance portfolio efficiency. Derivatives may not be used if they materially increase our investment risk.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, total investments, cash and cash equivalents, accrued investment income, and net receivable (payable) for investments sold (purchased) were approximately \$31.1 billion (excluding Life Funds Withheld Assets) and \$36.6 billion, respectively.

Functionally, our investment portfolio is divided into two principal components:

1) P&C investment portfolio: The principal objective of the P&C investment portfolio, which is the larger component of the portfolio, is to support our insurance and reinsurance operations, the liabilities of which have some uncertainty as to timing and/or amount. In addition, a smaller portion of the P&C investment portfolio supports corporate operations as well as run-off financial lines business, in which the liabilities have a greater level of certainty and much longer durations than typical P&C business.

The investment strategy for the P&C investment portfolio is based on the SAA process and the portfolio is actively managed relative to the SAA Benchmark within the context of various constraints and the Authority Framework discussed above. The primary performance objective is for the total return of the P&C portfolio to at least match the return of the SAA Benchmark, with expectations for excess returns above the SAA Benchmark within the parameters of our constraints. The second performance objective is capital preservation through managing the risk profile of the investment portfolio within management’s risk tolerance. The third performance objective is achieving the budget for net investment income.

2) Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements investment portfolio: The second component of the investment portfolio consists of the assets supporting the Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements. The principal objective of the portfolio is to support these run-off operations.

The investment strategy for these assets is based on asset-liability and credit risk management, consistent with the regulatory capital considerations of the Run-Off Life Operations. Key considerations are managing the assets relative to the duration of the liabilities and maintaining the current (AA-) average credit quality. The primary performance objective for the

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Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements investment portfolio is to achieve a steady credit adjusted book yield in order to maximize embedded value and optimize statutory capital needs.

Use of Alternative Investment Strategies

We have been an active investor in alternative asset classes - principally hedge fund strategies and to lesser extents, private equity, private credit and real asset strategies – for over fifteen years. We believe alternative strategies have an important role to play in both our strategic asset allocation and as tactical deployments when compelling market opportunities arise. Most of our investments in alternative funds are sourced directly by teams within the Investment Group, who perform the initial screening and due diligence as well as the ongoing monitoring of such fund investments. Occasionally, we may work with third-party allocators who have a particular expertise in a sub-sector of alternative strategies to gain exposure to that subsector – typically via a customized portfolio of fund allocations. Depending upon our level of ownership of each individual fund investment, we account for a portion of the portfolio in each alternative asset class as “investment fund affiliates” in accordance with the equity method and the remainder of the portfolio at estimated fair value, with changes in fair value recorded through accumulated other comprehensive income. We manage each allocation to an alternative asset class as a single portfolio of fund investments irrespective of how the individual fund investments are accounted for. All of our alternative fund investments reside in our P&C investment portfolio.

In conjunction with our investing activities in alternative asset classes, we have been making investments in the operating companies of alternative investment managers since the late 1990s. Typically, we combine investment allocations to alternative funds advised by our affiliates with working capital investments into the management companies to acquire minority equity interests in the managers. We recognize equity earnings in investment manager affiliates on our share of the current earnings of these companies (recorded on a three month lagged basis) and on our share of sales proceeds from partial or full sale transactions of such affiliate companies.

Implementation of investment strategy

Although our management within the Investment Group is responsible for implementation of the investment strategy, the day-to-day management of our investment portfolio is outsourced to investment management service providers in accordance with detailed investment guidelines provided and monitored by us. This approach gives us access to top investment talent with specialized skills across a broad range of investment products and provides flexibility to actively manage the structure of the portfolio as dictated by our business needs. Investment management service providers are selected directly on the basis of various criteria including investment style, track record, performance, risk management capabilities, internal controls, operational risk management and diversification implications. The vast majority of our investment portfolio is managed by large, well-established asset management institutions, while a small portion of the portfolio is managed by asset management specialist firms or boutiques. Each investment management service provider may manage one or more portfolios, each of which is generally governed by a detailed set of investment guidelines, including overall objectives, risk limits (where appropriate) and diversification requirements that fall within our overall investment policies and guidelines, including but not limited to exposures to eligible securities, prohibited investments/transactions, credit quality and general concentration limits and fund investments are governed by the terms and conditions applicable to those funds. The Investment Group has a surveillance program to manage the aggregation of individual manager portfolios relative to the SAA Benchmark and Authorities Framework.

Investment performance

See Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Investment Performance,” for discussion of our investment performance.

Investment portfolio credit ratings, duration and maturity profile

It is our policy to operate the combined P&C and Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements (“aggregate”) fixed income portfolio with a minimum weighted average credit rating of Aa3/AA-. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors,” for a discussion on ratings downgrades. The aggregate credit rating is determined based on the weighted average rating of securities, where the average credit rating, where available, from Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”), Moody’s Investors Service (“Moody’s”) and Fitch Ratings (“Fitch”) is allocated to each security. The weighted average credit rating of the aggregate fixed income portfolio was Aa3/AA- as of December 31, 2014 and 2013. U.S. agencies

and Agency RMBS paper, whether with implicit or explicit government support, reflect the credit quality rating of the U.S. government for the purpose of these calculations.

We did not have an aggregate direct investment in a single corporate issuer in excess of 5% of our shareholders' equity as of December 31, 2014 or 2013. Corporate issuers represent our direct exposure to fixed maturities and short-term investments

of the parent issuer and its subsidiaries. These exposures exclude asset and mortgage-backed securities that were issued, sponsored or serviced by the parent and government-guaranteed issues, but do include covered bonds. Covered bonds that are included are senior secured debt instruments issued by financial institutions and backed by over-collateralized pools of public sector or mortgage loans ("Covered Bonds").

The overall duration and currency denomination of the aggregate fixed income portfolio is managed relative to their respective benchmark for the investment portfolio, which incorporates matching currency, and duration within a range, relative to liabilities. Duration is an indicator of the sensitivity of the price of a bond (or a portfolio of bonds) to changes in interest rates, reflecting the percentage change in price for a 100 basis point change in all global yield curves. Management believes that the duration of the aggregate fixed income portfolio is the best single measure of interest rate risk for the aggregate fixed income portfolio.

The maturity profile of the aggregate fixed income portfolio is a function of the maturity profile of estimated loss payments from our liabilities, our capital and expected operating cash flows and, to a lesser extent, the maturity profile of common fixed income benchmarks. For further information on the maturity profile of the fixed income portfolio, see Item 8, Note 6, "Investments," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

Enterprise Risk Management

Risk Management Framework

We face strategic and operational risks related to, among others: underwriting activities, financial reporting, changing macroeconomic conditions, investment risks, reserving estimates, changes in laws or regulations, information systems, business interruption and fraud. Our global P&C business, Run-Off Life Operations and investment portfolios each have their own set of risks (see Item 1A, "Risk Factors," for a discussion of such risks). At times these risks may exhibit greater levels of correlation than might be expected over the longer term due to the presence of, to a greater or lesser degree, some common internal or external risk drivers embedded in our businesses that may manifest themselves simultaneously. An enterprise view of risk is required to identify and manage the consequences of these common risks and risk drivers on our profitability, capital strength and liquidity.

Our enterprise risk management ("ERM") initiatives are led by the Chief Enterprise Risk Officer ("CERO"), who is a member of our leadership team, and who reports to our Chief Executive Officer. The CERO also acts as a liaison between our Enterprise Risk Committee ("ERC," as discussed below) and the XL-Ireland Board (or its committees), with respect to risk matters. All of our employees are expected to assist in the appropriate and timely identification and management of risks and to enhance the quality and effectiveness of ERM.

Our ERM framework is designed to allow us to identify and understand material risk concentrations, including concentrations that have unattractive risk/reward dynamics so that prompt, appropriate, corrective or mitigating actions can be taken. To do this, we have risk management committees and processes to serve as points of managerial dialogue and convergence across our businesses and functional areas, to create risk aggregation methodologies, to develop specific risk appetites and to coordinate the identification, vetting and discussion of risk topics and metrics. As part of our ERM activities, we apply a suite of stress tests, tools, risk indicators, metrics and reporting processes that examine the consequences of low probability/high severity events (including those related to emerging risks) in order to take mitigating actions where required.

Risk Governance

Risk governance relates to the processes by which oversight and decision-making authorities with respect to risks are granted to individuals within the enterprise. Our governance framework establishes accountabilities for tasks and outcomes as well as escalation criteria. Governance processes are designed to ensure that transactions and activities, individually and in the aggregate, are carried out in accordance with our risk policies, philosophies, appetites, limits and risk concentrations, and in a manner consistent with expectations of excellence, of integrity, accountability and client service.

With respect to the responsibilities relating to ERM, the RFC:

Oversees ERM activities, including the risk management framework employed by management. With respect to the overall risk management framework, the RFC (i) reviews the methodology for establishing our overall risk capacity; (ii) reviews the policies for the establishment of risk limit frameworks, and adherence to such limits; and (iii) reviews and approves enterprise risk limits.

- Oversees our compliance with any significant enterprise risk limits, authorities and policies. The RFC evaluates what actions to take with respect to such enterprise limits, authorities and policies, and approves any exceptions thereto from time to time as necessary.

• Reviews our overall risk profile and monitors key risks across our organization as a whole, which may involve coordination with other committees of the Board from time to time as appropriate.

• Reviews our process controls over model use and development with respect to model risk and model effectiveness, accuracy, and propriety.

• Monitors our risk management performance and obtains reasonable assurance from management that our risk management policies are effective and are being adhered to.

The review of our overall risk appetites and the evaluation of the risk impact of any material strategic decision being contemplated, including consideration of whether such strategic decision is within the risk profile established by us, is conducted by the full Board. “Risk appetites,” as referred to above, are broad statements used to guide our risk and reward preferences over time, all consistent with, among other factors, business prudence, market opportunities, the underwriting pricing cycle and investment climate. Risk appetites are regularly monitored and can change over time in light of the above. See “Risk Appetite Management” below.

Management oversight of ERM is performed, in part, via a centralized management ERC, which is chaired by the CERO. The ERC is comprised of senior management from our businesses and functions and is charged with developing and monitoring enterprise risk policies, risk appetites, risk limits (and compliance with such limits) and risk aggregations, and identifying key emerging risks and ways to mitigate such risks.

In addition to the ERC, we have established a framework of separate yet complementary ERM subcommittees, each focusing on particular aspects of ERM. These subcommittees include:

• **Economic Capital Model Committee:** This subcommittee oversees the development of economic capital models that support ERM activities, and helps set priorities and manage resources related to such models. It reviews assumptions and related methodologies used within our economic capital models, including assessments of model validation, model control and model risk.

• **Liability Risk Committee:** This subcommittee supports and assists the ERC’s identification, measurement, management, monitoring and reporting of key underwriting liability and emerging risks.

• **Asset Risk Committee:** This subcommittee assists the ERC in its responsibilities in relation to governance and oversight of asset-related risks across the Company, including the investment portfolio. Among its activities are (a) involvement in policy decisions on modeling and quantification of risk measurements; and (b) providing an interpretation and assessment of asset-related risks, with a particular focus on market-related risks. Further, the subcommittee is responsible for coordinating on a regular basis with the Credit Risk Committee on asset-related credit risks.

• **Credit Risk Committee:** This subcommittee develops and implements the metrics and supporting framework for allocation of credit risk capacity across major business units and functions, including the amount and types of credit exposure.

• **Country Risk Committee:** This subcommittee supports and assists the ERC's identification, measurement, management, monitoring and reporting of country risk to our underwriting activities and functional areas.

• **Operational Risk Committee:** This subcommittee supports the ERC’s identification, measurement, management and oversight of key operational risks through its oversight of key operational risk management processes and through its review of related operational risk indicators, trends and metrics.

In addition to the above, risk management subcommittees within certain of our segments and businesses function to ensure that risk is managed in accordance with the risk limits, guidelines and tolerances that we have allocated to them.

Risk Appetite Management

Our risk appetite framework guides our strategies relating to, among other things, capital preservation, earnings volatility, capital at risk, operational loss, liquidity standards, claims paying rating and capital structure. This framework also addresses our tolerance to risks from material individual events (e.g., natural or man-made catastrophes such as terrorism), our investment portfolio and realistic disaster scenarios that cross multiple lines of business (and risks related to some or all of the above that may occur concurrently).

In relation to event risk management, we establish net underwriting limits for individual large events as follows:

We impose limits for each natural catastrophe peril region at a 1% tail value at risk (“TVaR”) probability. This

1. statistic indicates the average amount of net loss expected to be incurred if a loss above the 1% exceedance probability level has occurred.

For each event type other than natural catastrophes, we impose limits at a 1% exceedance probability. If we were to
2. deploy the full limit, for any given event type, there would be a 1% probability that an event would occur during the next year that would result in a net underwriting loss in excess of the limit.

We also impose limits for certain other event types at a 0.4% exceedance probability as described in further detail
3. below. If we were to deploy the full limit, for any such given event type, there would be a 0.4% probability that an event would occur during the next year that would result in a net underwriting loss in excess of the limit.

For planning purposes and to calibrate 2015 risk tolerances, we set our underwriting limits as a percent of September 30, 2014 Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity (“Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity”).

Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity is defined as Total Shareholders’ Equity less (i) Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets, less (ii) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (“AOCI”) adjusted for net movements relating to Life Retro

Arrangements. These limits may be recalibrated, from time to time, to reflect material changes in Total Shareholders’ Equity that may occur after September 30, 2014, at the discretion of management and as overseen by the Board.

Tiered risk tolerances are set for natural catastrophes, terrorism, other realistic disaster scenarios, country risk, longevity risk and pandemic risk. In setting our risk tolerances we consider such factors as:

• Anticipated risk adjusted returns;

• Strategic risk preferences;

• Relativity to peers;

• Shareholder expectations;

• Robustness of exposure assessment methodology; and

• Projected enterprise loss potential.

Per event 1% TVaR underwriting limits for North Atlantic Windstorm are set at a level not to exceed approximately 22% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity. Per event 1% TVaR underwriting limits for North American

Earthquake are set at a level not to exceed approximately 20% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity. Per event 1% TVaR underwriting limits for all other natural catastrophe peril regions are set below the per event 1% TVaR

limits described above.

The largest of the per event 1% exceedance probability underwriting limits for terrorism and other realistic disaster scenarios is set at a level not to exceed approximately 13.5% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity; limits at the per event 1% exceedance probability for the remaining terrorism and realistic disaster scenarios are set below this level.

The largest of the per event 1% exceedance probability underwriting limits for country risk is set at a level not to exceed approximately 6% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity.

The largest of the per event 1% exceedance probability underwriting limit for pandemic risk is set at a level not to exceed approximately 6.1% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity.

The largest per event 1% exceedance probability underwriting limit for longevity risk is set at a level not to exceed approximately 1.5% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity.

The largest of the per event 0.4% exceedance probability underwriting limits for certain terrorism events is set at a level not to exceed approximately 18% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity; limits at the per event 0.4% exceedance probability for the remaining terrorism event scenarios are set below this level.

The largest per event 0.4% exceedance probability underwriting limit for pandemic risk is set at a level not to exceed approximately 8.1% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity.

The largest per event 0.4% exceedance probability underwriting limit for longevity risk is set at a level not to exceed approximately 2.0% of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders’ Equity.

In all instances, the above referenced underwriting limits reflect pre-tax losses net of reinsurance and include inwards and outwards reinstatement premiums related to the specific events being measured. The limits do not contemplate underwriting profits expected to be generated in the absence of catastrophic loss activity.

In setting underwriting limits, we also consider such factors as:

• Correlation of underwriting risk with other risks (e.g., asset/investment risk, operational risk, etc.);

• Model risk and robustness of data;

• Geographical concentrations;

• Exposures at lower return periods;

• Expected payback period associated with losses;

• Projected share of industry loss; and

• Annual aggregate losses for natural catastrophes at various return periods including a 1% exceedance probability and a 1% TVaR level on both a peril region basis and a portfolio basis.

Loss exposure estimates for all event risks are derived from a combination of commercially available and internally developed models together with the judgment of management, as overseen by the XL-Ireland Board. Actual incurred losses may vary materially from our estimates. Factors that can cause a deviation between estimated and actual incurred losses may include:

• Inaccurate assumptions of event frequency and severity;

• Inaccurate or incomplete data;

• Changing climate conditions that may add to the unpredictability of frequency and severity of natural catastrophes in certain parts of the world and create additional uncertainty as to future trends and exposures;

• Future possible increases in property values and the effects of inflation that may increase the severity of catastrophic events to levels above the modeled levels;

• Natural catastrophe models that incorporate and are critically dependent on meteorological, seismological and other earth science assumptions and related statistical relationships that may not be representative of prevailing conditions and risks, and may therefore misstate how particular events actually materialize, causing a material deviation between forecasted and actual damages associated with such events; and

• A change in the judicial climate.

For the above and other reasons, the incidence, timing and severity of catastrophes and other event types are inherently unpredictable and it is difficult to estimate the amount of loss any given occurrence will generate. As a consequence, there is material uncertainty around our ability to measure exposures associated with individual events and combinations of events. This uncertainty can cause actual exposures and losses to deviate from those amounts estimated, which in turn can create a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations and may result in substantial liquidation of investments, possibly at a loss, and outflows of cash as losses are paid. For this reason, we carry capital in addition to that required by the specific limits described even if it is in excess of rating agency and regulatory required capital.

For a further discussion on risk appetite management see Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Other Key Focuses of Management.”

Impact of ERM Processes

We believe that our ERM processes improve the quality and timeliness of strategic decisions, enhance the integration of strategic initiatives with the risks related to such initiatives and act as catalysts to improve risk awareness and informed action by us. We believe that the integration of ERM with existing business processes and controls optimizes the risk/reward characteristics of business strategies, enhances our overall risk management culture, and is central to our capital allocation process.

In addition, our ERM processes complement our overall internal control framework by helping to manage an organization of our size and the variety of our businesses, investment activities and geographical reach. However, internal controls and ERM can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that control objectives will be met. As a result, the possibility of material

financial loss remains in spite of our ERM activities. An investor should carefully consider the risks and all information set forth in this report including the discussion included in Item 1A, "Risk Factors," Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk," and Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

Regulation

Our operating subsidiaries are subject to regulation and supervision in each of the jurisdictions in which they are domiciled and licensed to conduct business. Generally, regulatory authorities can have broad supervisory and administrative powers over such matters as licenses, fitness of management, standards of solvency, governance, risk management, material transactions between affiliates, premium rates, policy forms, investments, security deposits, methods of accounting, form and content of financial statements, reserves for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses, claims handling, reinsurance, minimum capital and surplus requirements and/or risk based capital standards, dividends and other distributions to shareholders, periodic examinations and annual and other report filings or notifications. See Item 8, Note 25, "Statutory Financial Data," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein. In general, such regulation is for the protection of policyholders rather than shareholders. We cannot predict the potential effect that any new regulations would have on our operating subsidiaries or on our business, results of operations, cash flows or financial condition. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – The regulatory regimes under which we operate, and potential changes thereto, could have a material adverse effect on our business."

In addition, XL-Ireland, our ultimate holding company, is domiciled in Ireland. Although XL-Ireland is not an Irish regulated operating entity, the Central Bank of Ireland ("CBI") has previously informed us that it would be our group regulator under Solvency II. Adopted by the European Parliament in April 2009, Solvency II is a European Union ("E.U.") directive covering the capital adequacy and risk management of, and regulatory reporting for, European-based (re)insurers. The Omnibus II directive, which was agreed to by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, sets a Solvency II implementation date of January 1, 2016. The CBI has issued interim guidelines on applying the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority ("EIOPA") guidelines for authorized firms to ensure their eventual readiness for Solvency II, while the Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA") has issued proposed rules transposing Solvency II requirements into U.K. legislation.

We are also monitoring other regulatory developments such as the International Association of Insurance Supervisors ("IAIS") proposed risk-based global insurance capital standard and group-wide supervisory and regulatory framework for internationally active insurance groups ("IAIGs"). See Item 1A, "Risk Factors - Government and regulatory actions may impact the marketplace generally or us in particular."

As an Irish public company, XL-Ireland is subject to reporting requirements and certain restrictions under Irish company law. See "Management's Discussion & Analysis of Financial Condition—Holding Company Liquidity" and Item 8, Note 25, "Statutory Financial Data," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

A summary of certain regulatory requirements in key jurisdictions in which we operate follows.

Ireland

Our Irish regulated operating subsidiary, XL Re Europe SE, is subject to the regulatory framework established by the CBI. It is required to, among other matters:

- maintain an adequate solvency margin and guarantee fund;
- submit quarterly and annual regulatory returns as well as ad hoc reporting of certain material transactions; and
- obtain regulatory pre-approval of certain transactions, such as payment of dividends or acquisitions and disposals of the ownership/voting rights of (re)insurance companies.

The CBI has minimum competency and fitness and probity requirements that seek to ensure that regulated entities are run, in its view, by those with appropriate professional qualifications or experience, with regulatory pre-approval required for certain key roles. The CBI's code of corporate governance includes prescriptive rules regarding board role and composition, the establishment and operation of board sub-committees and the approval of risk appetites and the monitoring and reporting of risks. In addition, the CBI has broad supervisory and administrative powers over capital and surplus requirements and the declaration, and payment, of dividends or other distributions. Our Irish operating subsidiary is required to seek prior approval from the CBI to reduce its share capital or to pay dividends.

United Kingdom

Our U.K. regulated operating subsidiaries are regulated by the PRA and the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”). The PRA has primary objectives to promote the safety and soundness of the firms it regulates and to ensure that policyholders are appropriately protected, and a secondary objective to promote effective competition in the financial service markets. The FCA aims to ensure that the financial services markets function well with three operational objectives, namely, to secure an appropriate degree of protection for consumers, to protect and enhance the integrity of the U.K. financial system and to promote effective competition in the interests of consumers. The PRA’s Handbook of Rules and Guidance covers all aspects of regulation including capital adequacy, financial and non-financial reporting, payment of dividends and certain other activities of U.K. regulated firms. The PRA and FCA’s Approved Persons regime also subjects certain of our employees and directors to PRA and FCA regulation regarding their “fitness”. Our Lloyd’s managing agency, its managed syndicate and its associated corporate capital vehicle are also subject to Lloyd’s requirements applicable to operating in the Lloyd’s market.

Other European Union

Our network of offices in the European Union consists mainly of branches of Irish, U.K. and Bermuda companies and these offices are principally regulated under applicable legislation or directives from their home jurisdictions.

Bermuda

The Insurance Act 1978 of Bermuda and related rules and regulations, as amended (the “Bermuda Act”), regulates our Bermuda (re)insurance operating subsidiaries, which must be registered as (re)insurers by the Bermuda Monetary Authority (the “BMA”). The Bermuda Act imposes on Bermuda (re)insurance companies, solvency and liquidity standards, certain restrictions on the declaration and payment of dividends and distributions, certain restrictions on the reduction of statutory capital, and auditing and reporting requirements, and grants the BMA powers to supervise and, in certain circumstances, to investigate and intervene in the affairs of (re)insurance companies.

Certain of our Bermuda regulated (re)insurance companies are required to file annual audited financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting policies generally accepted in the U.S. (“GAAP”) or International Financial Reporting Standards, as well as annual statutory financial returns, annual capital and solvency returns and quarterly financial returns.

Bermuda regulated general business (re)insurers are required to maintain available statutory capital and surplus at a level equal to or in excess of their enhanced capital requirement (“ECR”). The applicable ECR is established by reference to either the Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement (“BSCR”), which employs a standard mathematical model that can relate more accurately the risks taken on by (re)insurers to the capital that is dedicated to their business, or a BMA-approved internal capital model. The BMA has also established a target capital level (“TCL”) for each (re)insurer equal to 120% of its ECR. While (re)insurers are not required to maintain their statutory capital and surplus at this level, the TCL acts as an early warning tool for the BMA and failure to maintain statutory capital at least equal to TCL will likely result in increased BMA regulatory oversight. Our Bermuda regulated (re)insurers use the BSCR model to calculate their solvency requirements. The implementation of the ECR for Bermuda regulated long-term (re)insurers sets the applicable ECR for XL Re Ltd for the financial year ending 2014 at 75% of the amount determined by the BSCR or an approved internal capital model.

Under the Bermuda Companies Act 1981, as amended, a Bermuda company may not declare or pay a dividend or make a distribution out of contributed surplus if there are reasonable grounds for believing that: (a) the company is, or would after the payment be, unable to pay its liabilities as they become due; or (b) the realizable value of the company’s assets would thereby be less than its liabilities. Under the Bermuda Act, a Class 4 (re)insurer is prohibited from declaring or paying any dividends of more than 25% of its total statutory capital and surplus unless it certifies to the BMA that it will continue to meet its minimum solvency margin and minimum liquidity ratio. In addition, neither Class 4 (re)insurers (which includes XLIB and XL Re Ltd) nor certain long-term (re)insurers may reduce their total statutory capital by 15% or more unless they have received the prior approval from the BMA. See Item 8, Note 25, “Statutory Financial Data,” to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for further information.

The BMA introduced amendments to the Bermuda Act to create a new class of special purpose insurer (“SPI”) specifically to write sophisticated, fully-funded insurance and reinsurance transactions. SPI’s are required to file with the BMA annual statutory financial statements but are not required to file an annual loss reserve specialist opinion.

The BMA has the discretion to modify such SPI's accounting requirements under the Bermuda Act. Bermuda (re)insurers are required to comply with the BMA's Insurance Code of Conduct which establishes duties, requirements and standards to be complied with to ensure each (re)insurer implements sound corporate governance, risk management and internal controls. Non-compliance with the BMA's Insurance Code of Conduct could result in intervention by the BMA.

Two of our Bermuda entities are approved for reduced collateral within New York and Florida, respectively. XLIB is qualified for reduced collateral in the state of New York. XL Re Ltd is qualified for reduced collateral in the state of New York as well as the state of Florida. This annual certification permits these two Bermuda subsidiaries to post reduced collateral allowing U.S. ceding companies to take credit for reinsurance on their financial statements. See also "Solvency II Equivalence" regarding the equivalence assessment of the Bermuda supervisory regime under Solvency II.

United States

In the United States, we are subject to extensive regulation in the jurisdictions in which we conduct our business. The state legislatures and/or state (re)insurance regulators consider or enact laws or regulations that may alter or increase the regulation of (re)insurance companies and (re)insurance holding companies. State laws and regulations that are adopted or amended may be more restrictive than current laws and regulations and may affect our operations and financial condition and could adversely affect our results of operations through lower revenue and/or higher costs of compliance and limit our growth. For example, regulators may choose to restrict the ability of subsidiaries to make payments to their parent companies, reject rate increases or increase the statutory capital requirements of our operating subsidiaries.

There are a number of proposals to amend state insurance laws and regulations in ways that could affect our insurance operating subsidiaries. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC") has recently adopted or amended model laws on holding company regulation that would provide for supervision of insurers at the corporate group level. Although such changes are only beginning to be considered or adopted by individual state regulators, it can be expected that most state regulators will ultimately adopt them in some form. The various proposals to implement group supervision include uniform standards for insurer corporate governance, group-wide supervision of insurance holding companies, adjustments to risk-based capital calculations to account for group-wide risks and additional regulatory and disclosure requirements for insurance holding companies.

Additionally, the NAIC has undertaken the Solvency Modernization Initiative ("SMI"), which focuses on a review of insurance solvency regulations throughout the U.S. financial regulatory system and will lead to a set of long-term solvency modernization goals. SMI is broad in scope, but the NAIC has stated that its focus will include the U.S. solvency framework, group solvency issues, capital requirements, international accounting and regulatory standards, reinsurance and group regulatory issues.

Currently, our U.S. regulated operating subsidiaries are required to file detailed annual and, in most states, quarterly reports with state insurance regulators in each of the states in which they are licensed or accredited. In addition, these subsidiaries' operations and accounts are subject to financial condition and market conduct examination at regular intervals by state regulators. The most recent financial condition examination for our seven U.S. property/casualty insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries was completed in June of 2012 and covered the five-year period ended December 31, 2010. The reports issued by the three states of domicile at the time of the examination (New York, Delaware and North Dakota) concluded that all findings from the prior examination had been effectively addressed, and no new findings were reported. Effective July 1, 2013, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, an eligible surplus lines insurer, was re-domiciled from North Dakota to Delaware. XL Life Insurance and Annuity Company, an Illinois-domiciled life insurer, recently underwent a financial conduct examination for the five-year period ended December 31, 2012. No issues were identified in the report issued by the Illinois Department of Insurance in August of 2014.

Our U.S. regulated operating subsidiaries are subject to various state statutory and regulatory restrictions that limit the amount of dividends that may be paid from earned surplus without prior approval from regulatory authorities. These restrictions differ by state, but are generally based on a calculation of the lesser of 10% of statutory surplus or 100% of "adjusted net investment income" to the extent that it has not previously been distributed.

While the U.S. federal government currently does not directly regulate the insurance business in the U.S. (other than for flood and nuclear insurance and reinsurance of losses from terrorism), federal legislation and administrative policies can affect the insurance industry. For example, the future availability of any federal backstop program for qualifying terrorism losses, currently the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015, or modifications of the terms and conditions of such program may affect the insurance industry's ability and capacity to

offer terrorism coverage in the United States. Additionally, in July 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank”) was passed into law. Dodd-Frank requires the creation of a Federal Insurance Office (“FIO”) within the Treasury Department that is focused on national coordination of the insurance sector, systemic risk mitigation and international regulatory cooperation. Although the FIO currently does not directly regulate the insurance industry, under Dodd-Frank it has the power to preempt state insurance regulations that are inconsistent with international agreements regarding insurance regulation, subject to certain exceptions. On December 14, 2013, the FIO submitted a report to Congress as required under Dodd-Frank on improving U.S. insurance regulation. The report raises concerns about states' regulation of multi-state insurers and proposes that insurers need to be

supervised on a consolidated basis at the federal level, which would improve uniformity, efficiency and consistency, and would result in uniform supervision of insurance firms with national and global activities. As the FIO does not have regulatory authority, the recommendations in its report could be viewed as advisory in nature. Most suggestions for U.S. federal standards and involvement in insurance regulation would require U.S. Congressional action. Whether the recommendations will be implemented, altered considerably, or delayed for an extended period is uncertain. In December 2014, the FIO issued a report entitled *The Breadth And Scope Of The Global Reinsurance Market And The Critical Role Such Market Plays In Supporting Insurance In The United States* pursuant to a requirement under Dodd-Frank for FIO to issue a report describing the breadth and scope of the global reinsurance market and the role such market plays in supporting insurance in the United States. This report describes the role global reinsurance provides in supporting the insurance industry in the U.S. and states that the global reinsurance market provides access to the financial strength of reinsurers and to alternative risk transfer capital, thereby assisting insurers in preparing for and responding to catastrophes and natural disasters. In addition, reinsurers are found to assist insurers in stabilizing underwriting experience, increasing underwriting capacity, and facilitating entrance to and exit from markets, thereby helping insurers maintain product pricing that is more available and affordable, which benefits the U.S. economy as a whole. The report states that many global reinsurers and other capital market industry participants operate in the reinsurance market, demonstrating a high degree of substitutability and mobility of risk transfer capital. The report notes that, in light of the importance of the global reinsurance market to U.S. insurers, the Treasury Department and the United States Trade Representative are considering a covered agreement with respect to collateral requirements for reinsurers. A covered agreement would also require U.S. Congressional action. Whether a covered agreement will be implemented or delayed for an extended period of time is uncertain.

Other International Operations

We have a number of regulated operating subsidiaries outside of the European Union, Bermuda and the United States. The degree of regulation in foreign jurisdictions can vary and licenses issued by foreign authorities are subject to modification or revocation for cause by such authorities. Our subsidiaries could be prevented, for cause, from conducting business in certain of the jurisdictions where they currently operate or from writing business emanating from certain jurisdictions. While many countries impose licensing, solvency, auditing and financial reporting requirements, the type and extent of the requirements differ substantially. Key areas where country regulations may differ include: (i) the type of financial reports to be filed; (ii) a requirement to use local intermediaries; (iii) the amount of reinsurance permissible; (iv) the scope of any regulation of policy forms and rates; and (v) the type and frequency of regulatory examinations.

In addition to these requirements, our foreign operations are also regulated in various jurisdictions with respect to currency, amount and type of security deposits, amount and type of reserves, amount and type of local investment and limitations on the share of profits to be returned to policyholders on participating policies. A summary of certain regulatory requirements in Switzerland, Latin America and China follows.

Switzerland

Supervision of our Swiss regulated operating subsidiaries and branches is carried out by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority ("FINMA"). The supervisory regime currently comprises both Solvency I requirements and Solvency II type requirements ("Swiss Solvency Test"), the latter of which impose higher capital requirements. Furthermore, direct insurers and insurance branches of foreign legal entities operating in Switzerland have to comply with "tied assets" requirements. Reinsurance branches of foreign pure reinsurance companies are exempt from supervision by FINMA and are supervised by the country in which they are domiciled.

In September 2012, FINMA and EIOPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") regarding cooperation in supervision, in particular for insurance groups with international activities in the European Economic Area (the "EEA") and Switzerland. The MoU creates a formal basis for cooperation in the following areas: group supervision, assistance in the work of EEA and FINMA colleges of supervisors, action required in emergency situations, safeguarding financial stability by monitoring and assessing risks, interconnectedness and conducting stress tests. This MoU will not modify or supersede any laws or regulatory requirements in force and will not affect any arrangements under the MoU that have previously been signed between FINMA and other national supervisory authorities of the EEA.

See also "Solvency II Equivalence" regarding the equivalence assessment of the Swiss supervisory regime under Solvency II.

Latin America

We have both insurance and reinsurance operations in the Latin American region, with local companies writing business in Brazil and Mexico and representative offices in Argentina and Colombia. Other than the Colombia representative office and a services branch in Mexico, all the legal entities in the region are subsidiaries. In regions other than Brazil and Mexico, we act as a foreign reinsurer. Nearly all regulators in the Latin America region require foreign reinsurers to be registered or licensed for local cedants to place business with them.

The extent of regulation in the region varies significantly in the countries in which we conduct business. Typically, each country has regulations relating to solvency, auditing, internal controls and financial reporting, but the type and extent of the requirements differs substantially. Other regulations in the region that impact our operations but are not specific to insurance or reinsurance include those relating to foreign currency exchange control, data protection legislation, anti-money laundering and other financial crimes and sanctions.

China

Our Chinese regulated operating subsidiary is regulated by the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (the "CIRC") under the People's Republic of China Insurance Law. CIRC's regulatory regime includes requirements relating to licensing, capital, solvency, reserves, reinsurance, transactions between affiliates, approval and filing of policy wordings and rates, corporate governance, disclosure and periodic reporting. To carry on (re)insurance business in a foreign currency, the subsidiary is also subject to licensing and foreign currency exchange control by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

Solvency II Equivalence

The supervisory regimes governing our operating subsidiaries domiciled in each of Bermuda and Switzerland were considered in EIOPA's December 2014 third country equivalence assessments under Solvency II. EIOPA has provisionally advised that both Switzerland and Bermuda meet the criteria set out in EIOPA's methodology, with certain caveats, for equivalence assessments for the following three categories: (i) reinsurance supervision, (ii) third country group supervision, and (iii) calculating group solvency.

The European Commission ("Commission"), having considered the advice of EIOPA, is required to submit to the European Parliament and Council a recommendation whether each of Bermuda and Switzerland meets or does not meet the criteria for equivalence assessment in each of the above three categories. With regard to each category, the Commission may recommend that Switzerland and Bermuda should be assessed to have achieved full equivalence or temporary equivalence. The Commission recommendations on full and temporary equivalence (and another category for "provisional equivalence" for countries such as the United States-see below) are expected to be presented in Spring and Autumn on a category by category basis. The European Parliament and Council each have six months from receipt of the European Commission's recommendation to confirm or reject such findings.

In the event that Bermuda or Switzerland do not obtain full equivalence with respect to all three categories above, we would expect the following to apply but there can be no assurance that this will be the outcome:

- a temporary equivalence finding with respect to reinsurance supervision would allow for the same benefits as full equivalence until December 2020, with a possibility of one additional year;
- a temporary equivalence finding with respect to group supervision would allow for the same benefits as full equivalence until December 2020, with a possibility of one additional year; and
- a provisional equivalence finding with respect to calculating group solvency (a finding of temporary equivalence is not available for this category) would allow the same benefits as full equivalence for ten years, potentially renewable for an additional ten year period.

See Item 1A, "Risk Factors - The regulatory regimes under which we operate, and potential change thereto, could have a material adverse effect on our business", for risks to our business, including in the event that either Bermuda's or Switzerland's supervisory regime is not considered equivalent to the Solvency II regime.

The United States is currently expected to receive a provisional equivalence recommendation from the Commission although there is no assurance of this outcome. This finding would allow some companies, not including us currently, to benefit from U.S. local solvency calculations in their group calculations for a ten year period as provided above. This designation is for group solvency calculations only and excludes reinsurance and group supervision.

Employees

At December 31, 2014, we had 4,663 employees. At that date, 314 of our employees were represented by workers' councils and 403 of our employees were subject to industry-wide collective bargaining agreements in several countries outside the United States.

Available Information

The public can read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The public can obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC's website is <http://www.sec.gov>.

Our website address is <http://www.xlgroup.com>. The information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K or any other of our documents filed with or furnished to the SEC. We make available free of charge, including through our website, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. Upon written or oral request, we will promptly deliver, without charge, to any shareholder a copy of the Annual Report on Form 10-K. Requests for copies should be submitted to the Company Secretary at XL Group, 100 Washington Blvd., 6th Floor, Stamford, CT 06902, United States of America or (203) 964-5500.

We have adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines, written charters for each of the Audit Committee, the Management Development and Compensation Committee, the Nominating, Governance and External Affairs Committee and the Risk and Finance Committee, as well as a Code of Conduct and a related Compliance Program. Each of these documents is posted on our website at <http://www.xlgroup.com>, and each is available in print to any shareholder who requests it by writing to us at Investor Relations Department, XL Group plc, 100 Washington Blvd., 6th Floor, Stamford, CT 06902, United States of America.

We intend to post on our website any amendment to, or waiver of, a provision of our Code of Conduct that applies to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Controller or persons performing similar functions and that relates to any element of the code of ethics definition set forth in Item 406 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

We intend to use our website as a means of disclosing material non-public information and for complying with our disclosure obligations under Regulation FD. Such disclosures will be included on the website in the "Investor Relations" section. Accordingly, investors should monitor such portions of our website, in addition to following our press releases, SEC filings and public conference calls and webcasts.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Any of the following risk factors could have a significant or material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and/or liquidity, in addition to the other information contained in this report. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The occurrence of disasters could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, cashflows and prospects.

We have substantial exposure to losses resulting from natural and man-made disasters and other catastrophic events.

Both our underwriting limits for (re)insurance policies covering such losses and our exposure to such losses are expected to significantly increase following the Acquisition. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, hailstorms, explosions, severe weather, tsunamis, fires, war and acts of terrorism.

Changing climate conditions may add to the unpredictability and frequency of natural disasters in certain parts of the world and create additional uncertainty as to future trends and exposures. The incidence and severity of catastrophes are inherently unpredictable, and it is difficult to predict the timing of such events with statistical certainty or to estimate the amount of loss any given occurrence will generate.

The occurrence of claims from catastrophic events is likely to result in substantial volatility in our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows for the fiscal quarter or year in which a catastrophic event occurs, as well as subsequent fiscal periods, and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations and our ability to write new business. This risk is exacerbated due to accounting principles and rules that do not permit (re)insurers to reserve for such catastrophic events until they occur. We expect that future possible increases in the values and concentrations of insured property, the effects of inflation and changes in cyclical weather patterns may increase the severity of catastrophic events in the future. Although we attempt to manage our exposure to catastrophic events, a single catastrophic event could affect multiple geographic zones and lines of business and the frequency or severity of catastrophic events could exceed our estimates, in each case potentially having a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. In addition, while we may, depending on market conditions, purchase catastrophe reinsurance and retrocessional protection, the occurrence of one or more major catastrophes in any given period could result in losses that exceed such reinsurance and retrocessional protection. This could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations and may result in substantial liquidation of investments, possibly at a loss, and outflows of cash as losses are paid.

The failure of any of the underwriting risk management strategies that we employ could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and/or liquidity.

We seek to limit our loss exposure by, among other things, writing a number of our reinsurance or retrocession contracts on an excess of loss basis, adhering to maximum limitations on reinsurance written in defined geographical zones, limiting program size for each client and prudently underwriting each program written. In addition, in the case of proportional treaties, we generally seek to use per occurrence limitations or loss ratio caps to limit the impact of losses from any one event. We cannot be sure that all of these loss limitation methods will have the precise risk management impact intended. For instance, although we also seek to limit our loss exposure by geographic diversification, geographic zone limitations involve significant underwriting judgments, including the determination of the area of the zones and the inclusion of a particular policy within a particular zone's limits. Underwriting involves the exercise of considerable judgment and the making of important assumptions about matters that are inherently unpredictable and beyond our control, and for which historical experience and probability analysis may not provide sufficient guidance. The failure of any of the underwriting risk management strategies that we employ could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Also, we cannot provide assurance that various provisions of our policies, such as limitations or exclusions from coverage or choice of forum, will be enforceable in the manner that we intend and disputes relating to coverage and choice of legal forum may arise, which could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The insurance and reinsurance industries are historically cyclical and we may experience periods with excess underwriting capacity and unfavorable premium rates.

The insurance and reinsurance industries have historically been cyclical, characterized by periods of intense price competition due to excess underwriting capacity as well as periods when shortages of capacity permitted favorable premium levels. An increase in premium levels is often followed by an increasing supply of insurance and reinsurance capacity, either by capital provided by new entrants or by the commitment of additional capital by existing insurers or reinsurers, which may cause prices to decrease. Either of these factors could lead to a significant reduction in premium rates, less favorable policy terms and conditions and fewer submissions for our underwriting services. In addition to these considerations, changes in the frequency and severity of losses suffered by insureds and insurers may affect the cycles of the insurance and reinsurance industries significantly.

A downgrade or potential downgrade in our financial strength and credit ratings by one or more rating agencies could materially and negatively impact our business, financial condition, results of operations and/or cash flows.

As our ability to underwrite business is dependent upon the quality of our claims paying and financial strength ratings as evaluated by independent rating agencies, a downgrade by any of these institutions could cause our competitive position in the insurance and reinsurance industry to suffer and make it more difficult for us to market our products.

A downgrade below “A-” of our principal insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries by either S&P or A.M. Best Company (“A.M. Best”), which is three notches below the current S&P financial strength rating of “A+” (Stable) and two notches below the A.M. Best financial strength rating of “A” (Stable), may trigger termination provisions in a significant amount of our assumed reinsurance and retrocessional agreements and may potentially require us to return unearned premium to cedants or post additional collateral. In addition, a material reduction in our shareholders’ equity may trigger termination provisions or require us to post additional collateral in a majority of our assumed reinsurance agreements. While the amount of reduction necessary to trigger such termination provisions varies from agreement to agreement, such provisions are generally triggered by a reduction in the range of 20 to 50 percent. Whether a client would exercise its termination rights after such a downgrade or decline in shareholders' equity would likely depend on, among other things, the reasons for the downgrade or decline, the extent of the downgrade or decline, prevailing market conditions, the degree of unexpired coverage, and the pricing and availability of replacement reinsurance coverage. Based on premium value, approximately 67% of our in force reinsurance contracts at January 1, 2015 contained provisions allowing clients to terminate those contracts upon a decline in our ratings to below “A-.”

In the event of such a downgrade, we cannot predict whether or how many of our clients would actually exercise such termination rights or the extent to which any such terminations would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, cash flows or future prospects or the market price for our securities. A downgrade could also result in both a substantial loss of business for us, as ceding companies and brokers that place such business may move to other insurers and reinsurers with higher ratings, and the loss of key employees. In addition, due to collateral posting requirements under our letter of credit and revolving credit facility agreements, such a downgrade may require the posting of cash collateral in support of certain “in use” portions of these facilities (see Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Liquidity and Capital Resources,” included herein). Specifically, a downgrade below “A-” by A.M. Best would constitute an event of default under the Company’s two largest credit facilities and may trigger such collateral requirements. In certain limited instances, such downgrades may require us to return cash or assets to counterparties or to settle derivative and/or other transactions with the respective counterparties.

In addition to the financial strength ratings of our principal insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries, various rating agencies also publish credit ratings for XL-Cayman. Credit ratings are indicators of a debt issuer’s ability to meet the terms of debt obligations in a timely manner, are part of our overall funding profile and affect our ability to access certain types of liquidity. Downgrades in our credit ratings could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations and cash flows in a number of ways, including adversely limiting our access to capital markets, potentially increasing the cost of debt or requiring us to post collateral.

The sovereign debt crisis in Europe and concerns regarding the instability of Euro-zone countries could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Global markets and economic conditions have in the past been negatively impacted by the uncertainty relating to the level of sovereign debt of various E.U. member states, the ability of those countries to service their sovereign debt obligations and the stability of financial institutions operating within those E.U. member states. This uncertainty has resulted and could in the future result in volatile bond yields on the sovereign debt of E.U. member states and on other European-related corporate debt held within our investment portfolio and could have material adverse impacts on financial markets and economic conditions in the E.U. and throughout the world. In addition, downgrades of sovereign debt could bring down the average credit rating quality of our investment portfolio.

The interdependencies among European economies and financial institutions and between such European economies and financial institutions and those of the rest of the world have also exacerbated concern regarding the stability of European financial markets generally and certain institutions in particular. One or more Euro-zone countries could come under increasing pressure to leave the European Monetary Union or the European Union, or the Euro as the

single currency of the Euro-zone could cease to exist if the European Monetary Union were dissolved. These or other actions could ultimately result in the European Union ceasing to exist. Any of these developments, or the perception that any of these developments are likely to occur, could lead to severe economic recession or depression. If one or more significant countries abandon the Euro or the European Monetary Union dissolves, it may result in uncertainty with respect to the terms, value or enforceability of certain bonds, instruments or contracts, which could result in a material loss to us. Similarly, if a country leaving the Euro-zone imposes currency controls, such controls may have a material adverse impact on the value of and our ability to withdraw funds from that country.

Given the extent of our European operations, including that XL-Ireland has its registered office in Ireland, and our European investment holdings, clients and counterparties, persistent volatility in the European financial markets, or the failure of any significant European financial institution arising from the wider implications of a crisis, even if not an immediate counterparty to us, could have a material adverse impact on our business, investment portfolio, liquidity or financial performance. A future Euro-zone sovereign debt crisis could lead to political uncertainty, material changes to tax policies of Euro-zone countries, financial turmoil and social unrest, which could affect the successful implementation of stability measures. Sovereigns, financial institutions and companies may become subject to liquidity shortages and be unable to obtain refinancings or new fundings, leading to an increased risk of a default on their existing debt, and measures to reduce debt levels and fiscal deficits could result in a further slowdown of or negative economic growth.

For a discussion of the risks to our business during or following a financial market disruption and risks to our investment portfolio, see the risk factor entitled “We are exposed to significant capital markets risk related to changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices and foreign exchange rates as well as other investment risks, which may adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.” For a discussion of risks associated with the United States’ credit rating, see the risk factor entitled “Downgrading of the United States’ credit rating could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.”

Our efforts to develop new products or expand in targeted markets may not be successful and may create enhanced risks.

Our business initiatives involve developing new products or expanding existing products in targeted markets. This includes the following efforts, from time to time, to protect or profitably grow market share:

We may develop products that insure risks we have not previously insured or contain new coverage or coverage terms.

We may refine our underwriting processes.

We may seek to expand distribution channels.

We may focus on geographic markets within or outside of the United States where we have had relatively little or no market share or operating history.

We may engage in insurance-linked securities and other reinsurance capital markets transactions, either alone or with third party investors.

We may not be successful in introducing new products or expanding in targeted markets and, even if we are successful, these efforts may create enhanced risks. Among other risks:

Demand for new products or in new markets may not meet our expectations.

To the extent we are able to market new products or expand into new markets, our risk exposures may change, and the data and models we use to manage such exposures may not be as sophisticated as those we use in existing markets or with existing products. This, in turn, could lead to losses in excess of our expectations.

Efforts to develop new products or markets have the potential to create or increase distribution channel conflict.

In connection with the addition of new products to existing coverages or the conversion of existing policyholders to a new product, some policyholders’ pricing may increase, while the pricing for other policyholders may decrease, the net impact of which could negatively impact retention and margins.

To develop new products or markets, we may encounter unanticipated operational issues or unanticipated coverage risks, or we may need to make substantial capital and operating expenditures, which may also negatively impact results.

If our efforts to develop new products or expand in targeted markets are not successful, our results could be materially and adversely affected.

We are exposed to significant capital markets risk related to changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices and foreign exchange rates as well as other investment risks, which may adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

Our operating results are affected by the performance of our investment portfolio. Our assets are invested by a number of investment management service providers under the direction of the Company’s management within the Investment Group in accordance, in general, with detailed investment guidelines set by us under the oversight of the RFC, and

established in accordance with our SAA framework for our investment portfolio. Although our investment policies stress diversification of

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risks and conservation of principal and liquidity, our investments are subject to market-wide risks, as noted below, and fluctuations, as well as to risks inherent in particular securities. We are exposed to significant capital markets risks related to changes in interest rates, credit spreads and defaults, market liquidity, equity prices and foreign currency exchange rates. Our consolidated results of operations, financial condition or cash flows could be adversely affected by realized losses, impairments and changes in unrealized positions as a result of significant continued market volatility, changes in interest rates, changes in credit spreads and defaults, a lack of pricing transparency, a reduction in market liquidity, declines in equity prices, and the strengthening or weakening of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar. Levels of write-down or impairment are impacted by our assessment of the intent to sell securities that have declined in value as well as actual losses as a result of defaults or deterioration in estimates of cash flows. We periodically review our investment portfolio structure and strategy. If, as a result of such review, we determine to reposition or realign portions of the investment portfolio and sell securities in an unrealized loss position, we will incur an other than temporary impairment charge. Any such charge may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and business.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, we incurred net realized and unrealized investment gains and losses, as described in Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," included herein. We continue to closely monitor current market conditions and evaluate the long term impact of the market on all of our investment holdings. Depending on market conditions, we could incur additional realized and unrealized losses in future periods, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial condition and business.

Our exposure to interest rate risk relates primarily to the market price and cash flow variability of fixed income instruments that are associated with changes in interest rates. Our investment portfolio contains interest rate sensitive instruments, such as fixed income securities, which have been and may continue to be adversely affected by changes in interest rates from central bank monetary policies, domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. A rise in interest rates would increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, which would be offset by our ability to earn higher rates of return on funds reinvested over time. Conversely, a decline in interest rates would decrease the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, which would be offset by lower rates of return on funds reinvested. We maintain an investment portfolio with diversified maturities that has a weighted average duration that is determined in accordance with its SAA Benchmark based on a dynamic financial analysis of investment assets and liabilities, and that is intended to maximize the Company's enterprise value subject to accounting, regulatory, capital and risk tolerances. The portion of the portfolio supporting our Run-Off Life Operations - not subject to Life Retro Arrangements is rebalanced regularly to reflect an explicit asset-liability management process. However, our estimates of the time and size of our estimated loss payment profile may be inaccurate and despite stochastic investment portfolio modeling, we may be forced to liquidate investments prior to maturity at a loss in order to cover liabilities. In sum, we are economically exposed to interest rate risk on our capital and to the extent that our investment portfolio maturities are a poor hedge of actual liability loss payments.

Our exposure to credit spread risk relates primarily to the market price associated with changes in prevailing market credit spreads and the impact on our holdings of spread products such as corporate and structured and credit-sensitive government-related securities. Approximately 3.0% of our aggregate fixed income portfolio consists of below investment-grade high yield fixed income securities. These securities have a higher degree of credit or default risk and a greater exposure to credit spread risk. Certain sectors within the investment and below investment grade fixed income market, such as structured and corporate credit, may be less liquid in times of economic weakness or market disruptions. Our procedures to monitor the credit risk and liquidity of our invested assets in general and those impacted by recent credit market issues specifically may not protect us during periods of economic weakness or periods of turmoil in capital markets from default losses in both our investment grade and below investment grade corporate and structured holdings. This may result in a material reduction of net income, capital and cash flows. We invest a portion of our investment portfolio in common stock or equity-related securities, including alternative funds, private equity funds and other funds. The value of these assets fluctuates, due to changes in the equity and credit markets along with other factors. In times of economic weakness, the market value and liquidity of these assets

may decline, and may negatively impact net income, capital and cash flows. In addition, certain of the products provided by our Run-Off Life Operations offer fixed guaranteed returns while debt and equity yields may continue to decline. In addition, the amount of earnings from alternative funds, private investment funds and other funds are not earned evenly across the year, or even from year to year. As a result, the amount of earnings that we record from these investments may vary substantially from quarter to quarter. The timing of distributions from such private investment funds depends on particular events relating to the underlying investments. The ability of an alternative fund to satisfy any redemption request from its investors depends on the underlying liquidity of the alternative fund's investments. As a result, earnings, distributions and redemptions from these two asset classes may be more difficult to predict, and, if such funds are unable to satisfy our redemption requests, our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows may be adversely impacted. As alternative funds, private investment funds and other funds are collective investment vehicles managed by third parties, we do not control the proceeds once we make our investments, thus subjecting us to a higher level of fraud risk than is the case with our fixed income and equity holdings.

A portion of our investment portfolio is comprised of securities of foreign companies. Investing in foreign companies may expose us to additional risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies. These risks include changes in exchange control regulations, political and social instability, expropriation, imposition of foreign taxes, less liquid markets and less available information than is generally the case in the United States, higher transaction costs, less government supervision of exchanges, brokers and issuers, less developed corporate, contract and bankruptcy laws, difficulty in enforcing contractual obligations, lack of uniform accounting and auditing standards and greater price volatility. These risks are likely to be more pronounced for investments in companies located in emerging markets.

Although the majority of our investments are U.S. dollar denominated, a portion of our investments are denominated in other currencies. In addition, many of our non-U.S. subsidiaries maintain both assets and liabilities in currencies different than their functional currency, which exposes us to changes in currency exchange rates.

The functional currencies of our principal insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries include the U.S. dollar, U.K. sterling, the Euro, the Swiss franc and the Canadian dollar. Exchange rate fluctuations of one currency relative to one or more other currencies may materially impact our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

In addition, locally-required capital levels are invested in local currencies in order to satisfy regulatory requirements and to support local insurance operations regardless of currency fluctuations. Foreign exchange rate risk is reviewed as part of our risk management process and we utilize derivative instruments such as futures, options and foreign currency forward contracts to, among other things, manage our foreign currency exposure. It is possible that these instruments will not effectively mitigate all or a substantial portion of our foreign exchange rate risk, which could adversely impact the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

The determination of the amount of other than temporary impairments taken on our investments is based on subjective valuation judgments and could materially impact our financial position and results of operations.

Our management periodically reviews and assesses our portfolio to determine if other-than-temporary impairments should be recognized on our investments. This review includes methodologies, estimations and assumptions that are subjective and open to different interpretations. The determination of the amount of other-than-temporary impairments recognized varies by investment type and is based on an evaluation of inherent risks associated with each asset class as well as an analysis on a security by security basis. Our evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available.

There are risks and uncertainties associated with determining whether declines in the fair value of investments are other-than-temporary. These include, among others, subsequent changes in general economic conditions as well as specific business conditions affecting particular issuers, our liability profile, subjective assessment of issue-specific factors (seniority of claims, collateral value, etc.), future financial market effects, stability of foreign governments and economies, future rating agency actions and significant disclosure of accounting, fraud or corporate governance issues that may adversely affect certain investments. During periods of market disruption, it may also be more difficult to value certain securities if trading becomes less frequent or market data less observable. There may also be certain asset classes that become illiquid due to the financial environment. In addition, significant assumptions and management judgment are involved in determining if the decline is other-than-temporary. If management determines that a decline in fair value is temporary, then a security's value is not written down at that time. However, there are potential effects upon our future earnings and financial position should management later conclude that some of the current declines in the fair value of the investments are other-than-temporary declines.

Our management may not have assessed the correct amount of impairments to be taken in our financial statements and additional impairments may need to be recognized in the future, which could materially impact our financial position or results of operations. Historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments.

Certain of our investments may be illiquid or are in asset classes that have in times of market stress experienced significant market valuation fluctuations.

We hold certain investments that may lack liquidity or for which the availability of prices or inputs may be reduced in periods of market dislocation, such as non-agency residential mortgage-backed and collateralized debt obligations securities. Even some of our high quality assets have been more illiquid during periods of challenging market conditions. Generally, securities classified as Level 3 pursuant to the fair value hierarchy set forth in authoritative

accounting guidance over fair value measurements may be less liquid, may be more difficult to value, requiring significant judgment, and may be more likely to result in sales at materially different amounts than the fair values determined by management.

If we require significant amounts of cash on short notice in excess of normal cash requirements or are required to post or return collateral in connection with certain of our reinsurance contracts, credit agreements, derivative transactions or our invested portfolio, we may have difficulty selling these investments in a timely manner, be forced to sell them for less than we otherwise would have been able to realize, or both.

The reported values of our relatively illiquid types of investments and, in certain circumstances, our high quality, generally liquid asset classes, do not necessarily reflect the lowest current market bid price for the asset. If we were forced to sell certain of our assets in the market, we may not be able to sell them for the prices at which we have recorded them and we may be forced to sell them at significantly lower prices, particularly at times of extreme market illiquidity. Any such sales could adversely impact the Company's financial position.

If actual claims exceed our loss reserves, or if changes in the estimated levels of loss reserves are necessary, our financial results and cash flows could be adversely affected.

Our results of operations and financial condition depend upon our ability to assess accurately the potential losses associated with the risks that we insure and reinsure. We establish reserves for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expense ("LAE") liabilities, which are estimates of future payments of reported and unreported claims for losses and related expenses with respect to insured events that have occurred. The process of establishing reserves for property and casualty claims can be complex and is subject to considerable variability, as it requires the use of informed estimates and judgments. Actuarial estimates of unpaid loss and LAE liabilities are subject to potential errors of estimation, which could be significant, due to the fact that the ultimate disposition of claims incurred prior to the date of such estimation, whether reported or not, is subject to the outcome of events that have not yet occurred. Examples of these events include the accuracy of the factual information on which the estimates were based, especially as estimates develop, jury decisions, court interpretations, legislative changes, changes in the medical condition of claimants, public attitudes, and economic conditions such as inflation.

Inflation in relation to medical costs, construction costs and tort issues in particular impact the property and casualty industry. However, broader market inflation also poses a risk of increasing overall loss costs. The impact of inflation on loss costs could be more pronounced for those lines of business that are considered "long tail" such as general liability, worker's compensation and professional liability, as they require a relatively long period of time to finalize and settle claims for a given accident year. Changes in the level of inflation could also result in an increased level of uncertainty in our estimation of loss reserves, particularly for long tail lines of business. The estimation of loss reserves may also be more difficult during times of adverse economic conditions due to unexpected changes in behavior of claimants and policyholders, including an increase in fraudulent reporting of exposures and/or losses, reduced maintenance of insured properties or increased frequency of small claims.

Similarly, the actual emergence of claims for life business may vary from the assumptions underlying the policy benefit reserves.

We have an actuarial staff in each of our operating segments and a Chief Actuary who regularly evaluates the levels of loss reserves, taking into consideration factors that may impact the ultimate losses incurred. Any such evaluation could result in future changes in estimates of losses or reinsurance recoverable and would be reflected in our results of operations in the period in which the estimates are changed. Losses and LAE, to the extent that they exceed the applicable reserves, are charged to income as incurred. The reserve for unpaid losses and LAE represents the estimated ultimate losses and LAE less paid losses and LAE, and comprises case reserves and IBNR. During the loss settlement period, which can span many years in duration for casualty business, additional facts regarding individual claims and trends often will become known and case reserves may be adjusted by allocation from IBNR without any change in the overall reserve. In addition, application of statistical and actuarial methods may require the adjustment of the overall reserves upward or downward from time to time. Accordingly, the ultimate settlement of losses may be significantly greater than or less than reported loss and loss expense reserves.

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

Changes to industry practices of legal, judicial, social, political, legislative or other environmental conditions or disruptions that affect businesses' continuity and interdependencies (including supply chain dependencies) could cause unexpected issues related to claim and coverage as well as additional forms of loss experience to emerge. These issues may adversely affect our business by either expanding coverage beyond our underwriting intent or by increasing the number or size of claims, such as the effects that disruptions in the credit markets could have on the number and size of reported claims under directors and officers liability insurance ("D&O") and professional liability insurance lines of business. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until sometime after we have issued the insurance or reinsurance contracts that are affected by the changes. Historically such claims and coverage issues have

occurred at heightened levels during periods of very soft market conditions, which often reflect an inflection point in the typical cycle of insurance industry market conditions. In addition, our actual losses may vary materially from our current loss estimates based on a number of factors, including receipt of additional information from insureds or brokers, the attribution of losses to coverages that had not previously been considered as exposed and inflation in repair costs due to additional demand for labor and materials. As a result, the full extent of liability under an insurance or reinsurance contract may not be known for many years after such contract is issued and a loss occurs.

Governmental and regulatory actions may impact the marketplace generally or us in particular.

In response to the financial crises that affected the banking system and financial markets and going concern threats to financial institutions, there were numerous regulatory and governmental actions in the United States, the U.K. and the Euro-zone, among other countries. The purpose of these legislative and regulatory actions was to stabilize the U.S. and international financial markets, improve the flow of credit, increase employment levels and foster an economic recovery.

Under Dodd-Frank, the Financial Stability Oversight Council (“FSOC”) has issued rules establishing the process and criteria by which companies may be designated as nonbank systemically important financial institutions (“SIFIs”) subject to the examination, enforcement and supervisory authority of the FSOC. Similarly, the Financial Stability Board (“FSB”), consisting of representatives of national financial authorities of the G20 nations, has issued a series of frameworks and recommendations intended to produce significant changes in how financial companies, particularly global systemically important financial institutions (“G-SIFIs”), should be regulated. These frameworks and recommendations address issues such as financial group supervision, basic capital requirements and solvency standards, systemic economic risk, corporate governance including compensation, and a host of related issues associated with responses to the financial crisis. In addition, the FSB has directed the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (“IAIS”) to create standards relative to these areas for global systemically important insurers (“G-SIIs”) and incorporate them within that body’s Insurance Core Principles. IAIS is also in the process of developing a comprehensive, group-wide supervisory and regulatory framework for internationally active insurance groups (“IAIGs”), whether or not they are identified as G-SIIs, which will include a quantitative capital standard. The IAIS itself will not be responsible for identifying IAIGs under this framework. Rather, it will set out the criteria and process that will be used by the supervisory colleges to identify IAIGs. While we do not expect that we will be designated as a SIFI, G-SIFI, or G-SII, certain of our competitors may be so designated, which may impact market behavior and/or access to capital. Following the completion of the proposed acquisition of Catlin, we believe that we would meet the criteria to be designated as an IAIG. If designated as an IAIG by the IAIS supervisory college, we may become subject to a proposed international capital standard and enhanced regulatory supervision.

In connection with the Life Retro Arrangements, we hold a number of Tier 1 and Upper Tier 2 hybrid securities issued by financial institutions including those based in the U.S., Europe and the U.K as part of the Life Funds Withheld Assets (See Item 8, Note 3, "Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary," and Note 6, "Investments," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein). The terms of the Life Retro Arrangements identify certain events that would entitle the ceding companies to exercise their recapture remedy and the terms upon which such a recapture would occur, in which event such hybrid securities could become part of our investment portfolio assets. There is a risk that, if the capital positions of financial institutions deteriorate further government intervention, particularly nationalization of such institutions, could occur. There is also a risk of regulatory imposed deferral of coupons or decisions by bank management not to call the capital or defer the coupon payments. This may result in losses on those securities. There is also the risk of further downgrades of these or other securities as rating agencies re-evaluate their rating methodologies, which would negatively impact the regulatory capital of the Run-Off Life Operations or the valuation of our investment portfolio assets generally.

In particular, an extended period of stagnant growth combined with low or negative inflation, a continuation of significant deficits and an ongoing period of stimulative monetary policy could lead to a re-emergence of the sovereign debt crisis concerning European countries, including Greece, Italy, Ireland, Portugal and Spain (the "European Periphery Nations"), and related European financial restructuring efforts, may cause the value of the European currencies, including the Euro, to further deteriorate, which in turn could adversely impact Euro-denominated assets held in our investment portfolio or our European book of business. In addition, a European crisis could contribute to instability in global credit markets, as well as the widening of bond yield spreads. Rating agency downgrades on European sovereign debt and concern about the potential default of government issuers or a possible break-up of the European Union could further contribute to this uncertainty. Should governments default on their obligations, there would be a negative impact on both our direct holdings, as well as on non-government issues and financials held within the country of default. See Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Balance Sheet Analysis—European Sovereign Debt Crisis” for an analysis of our

fixed maturity portfolio's exposure to European Periphery Nations.

Any such governmental actions or future regulatory initiatives may impact certain investment instruments in our investment portfolio, or our competitive position, business or financial position. If global economic and market conditions become uncertain, volatile, or deteriorate, we may experience material adverse impacts on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

We may be unable to purchase reinsurance and, even if we are able to successfully purchase reinsurance, we are subject to the possibility of being unable to collect reinsurance when due.

We purchase reinsurance for our own account in order to mitigate the volatility that losses impose on our financial condition. Our clients purchase reinsurance from us to cover part of the risk originally written by them. Retrocessional reinsurance involves a reinsurer ceding to another reinsurer, the retrocessionaire, all or part of the reinsurance that the first

reinsurer has assumed. Reinsurance, including retrocessional reinsurance, does not legally discharge the ceding company from its liability with respect to its obligations to its insureds or reinsureds. A reinsurer's or retrocessionaire's insolvency, inability or refusal to make timely payments under the terms of its agreements with us, therefore, could have a material adverse effect on us because we remain liable to our insureds and reinsureds. For further information regarding our reinsurance exposure, see Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

From time to time, market conditions may limit or prevent us from obtaining the types and amounts of reinsurance that we consider adequate for our business needs such that we may not be able to obtain reinsurance or retrocessional reinsurance from entities with satisfactory creditworthiness in amounts that we deem desirable or on terms that we deem appropriate or acceptable.

The impairment of other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

We have exposure to counterparties in various industries, including banks, hedge funds and other investment vehicles, and in reinsurance and other transactions, including derivative transactions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event our counterparty fails to perform its obligations. Even if we are entitled to collateral when a counterparty defaults, such collateral may be illiquid or proceeds from such collateral when liquidated may not be sufficient to recover the full amount of the obligation. We also have exposure to financial institutions in the form of secured and unsecured debt instruments and equity securities. See Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

Since we depend on a few brokers for a large portion of our revenues, loss of business provided by any one of them could adversely affect us.

We market our insurance and reinsurance products worldwide primarily through insurance and reinsurance brokers. AON Corporation, Marsh & McLennan Companies and the Willis Group and their respective subsidiaries each provided significant portions of our gross written premiums for property and casualty operations. Loss of all or a substantial portion of the business provided by one or more of these brokers could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our reliance on brokers subjects us to credit risk.

In certain jurisdictions, when an insured or ceding insurer pays premiums for policies of insurance or contracts of reinsurance to brokers for further payment to us, such premiums might be considered to have been paid and the insured or ceding insurer will no longer be liable to us for such amounts, whether or not we have actually received the premiums from the broker. In addition, in accordance with industry practice and contract terms, we generally pay amounts owed on claims under our reinsurance contracts to brokers, and these brokers, in turn, pay these amounts over to the clients that have purchased reinsurance from us. Although in some jurisdictions the law is unsettled and depends upon the facts and circumstances of the particular case, if a broker fails to make such a claims payment to the insured or ceding insurer, we generally remain liable to the insured or ceding insurer for that non-payment.

Consequently, we assume a degree of credit risk associated with the brokers with whom we transact business. Due to the unsettled and fact-specific nature of the law governing these types of scenarios and our lack of historical experience with such risks, we are unable to quantify our exposure to this risk.

We are subject to a number of risks associated with the global nature of our business.

A material portion of our revenues is derived from our clients in Europe, North America and Bermuda. Weak demand or market disruption in these regions could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations. We have also continued to pursue opportunities in other countries, including in developing markets such as Asia, Africa and Latin America. Differing economic conditions and patterns of economic growth and contraction in the regions in which we operate could make it more difficult to forecast accurately product demand and effectively develop business, which could adversely affect our results of operations.

In conducting business in developing markets we are subject to a number of significant risks. These risks include restrictions such as price controls, capital controls, exchange controls, ownership limits and other restrictive governmental actions, which could have an adverse effect on our business and our reputation. The occurrence of one or more of these or other risks in one country may affect our operations in another country or countries. In addition, some countries, particularly developing economies, have laws and regulations that lack clarity and, even with local

expertise and effective controls, it can be difficult to determine the exact requirements of the local laws. Other risks are less developed forms of government supervision, regulation and legal process including less developed corporate, contract and bankruptcy laws, difficulty in enforcing contractual obligations, and the lack of uniform accounting and auditing standards. Failure to comply with local laws in a particular market could have a significant and negative effect not only on our business in that market but also on our reputation generally.

Other risks involved with conducting business in developing markets include political and social instability, political violence, strikes, riots, kidnap and ransom, civil unrest, expropriation and terrorism as well as greater price volatility of

investment positions, less liquid markets and less available information than is generally the case in developed markets. In addition, competition for skilled employees in developing markets may be intense. These risks may lead to higher than anticipated transaction costs and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Downgrading of the United States' credit rating could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

S&P lowered its long-term sovereign credit rating on the United States from "AAA" to "AA+" in August 2011. In addition, both Fitch and Moody's have warned that they may downgrade the U.S. government's sovereign credit rating if future budget negotiations to raise the debt ceiling fail, or if steps are not taken to decrease the U.S.'s debt load. Because of the unprecedented nature of negative credit rating actions with respect to U.S. government obligations, the impact of a further downgrade to the U.S. government's sovereign credit rating or any other further rating actions by any rating agency is inherently unpredictable. Such actions could have material adverse impacts on financial markets and economic conditions in the United States and throughout the world. In turn, this could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations, including with respect to assets in our investment portfolio, as well as assets in trusts or other collateral arrangements posted by or to us. In addition, further downgrades of the United States' credit rating could create broader financial turmoil and uncertainty, and could negatively impact the average credit rating quality of our investment portfolio, which could require us to change our minimum average credit quality target.

Our holding company structure and certain regulatory and other constraints affect our ability to pay dividends, make payments on our debt securities and make other payments.

Our ability to pay dividends or return capital from shareholders' equity is limited by applicable laws and regulations of the various jurisdictions in which our principal operating subsidiaries operate, certain additional required regulatory approvals and financial covenants contained in our letters of credit and revolving credit facilities.

As holding companies, XL-Ireland and XL-Cayman have no operations of their own and their assets consist primarily of investments in subsidiaries. Accordingly, XL-Ireland and XL-Cayman rely on the availability of dividends and other permissible payments from subsidiaries to make principal and interest payments on debt, to pay operating expenses and XL-Ireland ordinary and XL-Cayman preferred shareholder dividends, to make capital investments in subsidiaries and to pay other obligations that may arise from time to time. The payment of dividends by our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries is regulated under the laws of various countries, including Bermuda, the U.K., Ireland, Switzerland and in the other countries where we have regulated subsidiaries, by certain insurance statutes of various states in the United States in which our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are licensed to transact business and by the Society of Lloyd's. For further information regarding regulatory restrictions governing the payment of dividends by the Company's significant property and casualty subsidiaries in Ireland, the U.K., Bermuda and the U.S., see Item 8, Note 25, "Statutory Financial Data," to the Consolidated Financial Statements, and Item 1, "Business – Regulation." XL-Ireland is subject to certain legal constraints that affect its ability to pay dividends on or redeem or buyback our ordinary shares. While XL-Ireland's Articles of Association authorize the XL-Ireland Board to declare and pay dividends as justified from the profits, under Irish law, XL-Ireland may only pay dividends or buyback or redeem shares using distributable reserves. On July 23, 2010, the Irish High Court approved XL-Ireland's conversion of share premium to \$5.0 billion of distributable reserves, subject to the completion of certain formalities under Irish company law. These formalities were completed in early August 2010. As of December 31, 2014, XL-Ireland had \$2.9 billion in distributable reserves. In addition, no dividend or distribution may be made unless the net assets of XL-Ireland are not less than the aggregate of its share capital plus undistributable reserves and the distribution does not reduce XL-Ireland's net assets below such aggregate amount.

In addition, XL-Cayman is subject to certain constraints that affect its ability to pay dividends to XL-Ireland or to holders of its preferred shares. Under Cayman Islands law, XL-Cayman may not declare or pay a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that XL-Cayman is, or would after the payment be, unable to pay its liabilities as they become due in the ordinary course of business. Also, the terms of XL-Cayman's preferred shares prohibit it from declaring or paying dividends on the ordinary shares that XL-Ireland holds unless full dividends have been declared and paid on the outstanding preferred shares.

The ability to declare and pay dividends may also be restricted by financial covenants in our letters of credit and revolving credit facilities. We were in compliance with all covenants by significant margins at December 31, 2014, and currently remain in compliance.

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We may require additional capital in the future, which may not be available to us on satisfactory terms, on a timely basis or at all.

Our future capital requirements depend on many factors, including our ability to write new business successfully and to establish premium rates and reserves at levels sufficient to cover our losses. To the extent that the funds generated by our ongoing operations are insufficient to fund future operating requirements and cover claim payments, or that our capital position is adversely impacted by mark-to-market changes on the investment portfolio, catastrophe events or otherwise, we may need to raise additional funds through financings or curtail our growth and reduce our assets. Any future financing may not be available on terms that are favorable to us, if at all. Our letter of credit facilities are needed to a significant extent for U.S. cedants, and are effective for such cedants only if the banks issuing letters of credit are on the list of NAIC approved banks. If some or all of the issuing banks under our credit facilities cease to be NAIC approved, whether arising from macroeconomic or bank specific events, and we are unable to replace non-approved banks with NAIC approved banks, our letter of credit facility capacity could be significantly diminished. In addition, in the case of a macroeconomic event, such as dissolution of the European Monetary Union, the availability of alternative lending sources may be significantly reduced or non-existent, and the cost of replacement facilities may be significantly increased or prohibitive. Any future equity financings could be dilutive to our existing shareholders or could result in the issuance of securities that have rights, preferences and privileges that are senior to those of our other securities. Our inability to obtain adequate capital could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Competition in the insurance and reinsurance industries could reduce our operating margins.

The insurance and reinsurance industries are highly competitive. We compete on an international and regional basis with major U.S., Bermudian, European and other international insurers and reinsurers and with underwriting syndicates, some of which have greater financial and management resources and higher ratings than we have. We also compete with new companies that continue to be formed to enter the insurance and reinsurance markets and with alternative products that are intended to compete with reinsurance products, such as insurance/risk-linked securities, catastrophe bonds and derivatives. In recent years capital market participants have been increasingly active in the reinsurance market and markets for related risks. Increased competition could result in fewer submissions, lower premium rates and less favorable policy terms and conditions, which could reduce our margins.

Operational risks, including human or systems failures, are inherent in our business.

Losses can result from operational risk such as, among other things, fraud, errors, failure to document transactions properly or to obtain proper internal authorization, failure to comply with regulatory requirements, information technology failures, failure to appropriately transition new hires or external events. Areas of operational risk can be heightened in discontinued or exited businesses as a result of reduced overall resource allocation and the loss of relevant knowledge and expertise by departing management or employees.

We operate globally, and have two office locations in India that currently provide large portions of our back office support. Our global operations present significant operational risk due to the possibility of political instability, disruptions in communication or information processes, whether due to technical difficulties, power failures or destruction or damage to our offices for any reason. If any disruption occurs, our business continuity and disaster recovery plans may not be effective, particularly if natural or man-made catastrophic events occur, and such disruption could harm our results of operations or our reputation in the marketplace.

We believe that our modeling, underwriting and information technology and application systems are critical to our business, as our operations rely on the secure processing, storage and transmission of confidential and other information in our computer systems and networks. Moreover, our information technology and application systems have been important to our underwriting process and our ability to compete successfully. Our business depends on effective information systems and the integrity and timeliness of the data we use to run our business. Our ability to adequately price products and services, to establish reserves, to provide effective and efficient service to our clients, and to timely and accurately report our financial results also depends significantly on the integrity of the data in our information systems and processes supporting them. Failure of any of these systems or inaccuracies in the data stored therein may jeopardize our ability to service and interact with clients and report to regulators, which could result in significant losses, reputational damage or regulatory non-compliance. In addition, we have licensed certain systems

and data from third parties. We cannot be certain that we will have access to these, or comparable, service providers, or that our information technology or application systems will continue to operate as intended.

We have outsourced the day-to-day management, custody and record-keeping of our investment portfolio to third-party managers, custodians and investment accounting service providers that we believe to be reputable. A major defect in those investment managers' investment management strategy or decision-making could result in management distraction and/or significant financial loss. We also have outsourced claims handling for certain of our business, including portions of our Run-

Off Life Operations, to third parties and we rely on a few brokers for a large portion of our revenues. A major defect in our brokers', claims managers', investment managers' custodians' or investment accounting services providers' internal controls or information and technology systems could result in management distraction or significant financial loss or other negative impact on our business.

Any ineffectiveness in our internal controls, information technology, application systems, investment management (including, without limitation, in setting our investment strategy or in our investment managers' execution of such strategy) or custody and record keeping could have a material adverse effect on our business. Similarly, any ineffectiveness in the internal controls, information technology, application systems, investment management strategy or execution or custody or record keeping of any of our aforementioned vendors could also have a material adverse effect on our business.

System security risks, data protection breaches and cyber attacks could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our internal control and information technology and application systems may be vulnerable to threats from computer viruses, natural disasters, unauthorized access, cyber attacks and other similar disruptions. Experienced computer programmers and hackers may be able to penetrate our network's system security measures and misappropriate or compromise confidential information, create system disruptions or cause shutdowns. In addition to our own confidential information, as a (re)insurer, we receive and are required to protect confidential information from clients and other third parties. To the extent any disruption or security breach results in a loss or damage to our data, or inappropriate disclosure of our confidential information or that of others, it could impact our operations, cause significant damage to our reputation, affect our relationships with our customers and clients, lead to claims against us, result in regulatory action and ultimately have a material adverse effect on our business or operations. In addition, we may be required to incur significant costs to mitigate the damage caused by any security breach, or to protect against future damage.

Unanticipated losses from terrorism and uncertainty surrounding the future of the TRIPRA could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The U.S. Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 ("TRIA"), as amended, established the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program ("TRIP"), which became effective on November 26, 2002 and was a three-year federal program effective through 2005. On December 22, 2005, President George W. Bush signed a bill extending TRIA ("TRIAE") for two more years, continuing TRIP through 2007. On December 26, 2007, President George W. Bush signed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 ("TRIPRA") which further extended TRIP for seven years until December 31, 2014 and also eliminated the distinction between foreign and domestic acts of terrorism. On January 12, 2015, President Barack H. Obama signed TRIPRA 2015, which is effective retroactively to December 31, 2014 and extends authorization of the TRIP for six years through December 31, 2020. TRIPRA 2015 makes modifications to TRIP by, among other things, establishing a National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers and exempting certain swap participants from capital requirements established under the Dodd-Frank Act.

In response to the lack of availability in certain insurance and reinsurance markets resulting from, among other things, the September 11 event, the TRIP was created upon the enactment of the TRIA of 2002 to ensure the availability of commercial insurance coverage for certain terrorist acts in the U.S. This law established a federal program, that has now been extended to December 31, 2020, to help the commercial property and casualty insurance industry cover claims related to future terrorism-related losses and to require insurers to offer coverage for terrorist acts.

TRIA voided in force terrorism exclusions as of November 26, 2002 for certified terrorism on all TRIA specified property and casualty business. TRIA required covered insurers to make coverage available for certified acts of terrorism on all new and renewal policies issued after TRIA was enacted. TRIA along with further extensions to TRIP, as noted above, allows us to assess a premium charge for terrorism coverage and, if the policyholder declines the coverage or fails to pay the buy-back premium, certified acts of terrorism may then be excluded from the policy, subject, however, to state specific requirements. Terrorism coverage cannot be excluded from workers' compensation policies. Subject to a premium-based deductible and provided that we have otherwise complied with all the requirements as specified under TRIPRA, we are eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Government for up to 85% (which decreases to 80% in 2020) of our covered terrorism-related losses arising from a certified terrorist attack.

Such payment by the government will, in effect, provide reinsurance protection on a quota share basis. The maximum liability during a program year, including both the Federal Government's and insurers' shares, is capped on an aggregated basis at \$100 billion. While regulations have been promulgated by the Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") requiring that Treasury advise participating insurers, such as the Company, in advance of reaching the \$100 billion aggregate limit that such aggregate limit could be reached during the program year, there is a risk that the Company will not be given adequate notice of the potential exhaustion of that aggregate limit. Accordingly, the Company could overpay with regard to such losses, and it is unlikely Treasury would reimburse the Company for such losses; moreover, it is unclear whether the Company, in the event of an overpayment, would be able to recover the amount of any such overpayment.

In addition, there is a risk that the occurrence of an event that results in an industry loss that exceeds the \$100 billion cap will result in the Company not being reimbursed and reduced coverage for policyholders with terrorism coverage. We believe that TRIP and the related legislation have been an effective mechanism to assist policyholders and industry participants with the extreme contingent losses that might be caused by acts of terrorism. Nevertheless, we cannot provide assurance that TRIPRA 2015 will be extended beyond 2020, and its expiration or a significant change in terms could have an adverse effect on us, our clients or the insurance industry.

The regulatory regimes under which we operate, and potential changes thereto, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries operate in more than 20 countries around the world as well as in all 50 U.S. states. Our operations in each of these jurisdictions are subject to varying degrees of regulation and supervision. The laws and regulations of the jurisdictions in which our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are domiciled require, among other things, that these subsidiaries maintain minimum levels of statutory capital, surplus and liquidity, meet solvency standards, submit to periodic examinations of their financial condition and restrict payments of dividends, distributions and reductions of capital in certain circumstances. Statutes, regulations and policies that our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to may also restrict the ability of these subsidiaries to write insurance and reinsurance policies, make certain investments and distribute funds.

In recent years, the U.S. insurance regulatory framework has come under increased federal scrutiny. In July 2010, Dodd-Frank was signed into law. Dodd-Frank requires many federal agencies to adopt new rules and regulations that will apply to the financial services industry and also calls for many studies regarding various industry practices. In particular, Dodd-Frank created a FIO within the Treasury that is focused on national coordination of the insurance sector, systemic risk mitigation and international regulatory cooperation. Although the FIO currently does not directly regulate the insurance industry, under Dodd-Frank it has the power to preempt state insurance regulations that are inconsistent with international agreements regarding insurance regulation, subject to certain exceptions. In December 2013 the FIO submitted a report to the U.S. Congress as required under Dodd-Frank on improving U.S. insurance regulation. The report states that state regulation is often duplicative or inconsistent, that the multiplicity of jurisdictions makes state regulators more prone to capture, and that differences in standards between the states provide opportunities for regulatory arbitrage. The report also notes arguments about states' constitutional limits in regulating multi-state insurers and asserts that insurers may engage in practices that can cause systemic risk, and thus systemically important insurers need to be supervised on a consolidated basis at the federal level. Whether these recommendations will be implemented, altered or delayed for an extended period is uncertain. While we have not yet been required to make material changes to our business or operations as a result of Dodd-Frank, due to the complexity and broad scope of Dodd-Frank and the time required for regulatory implementation, it is not certain what the scope of future rulemaking or interpretive guidance from the SEC, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission or other regulatory agencies may be, and what impact this will have on our compliance costs, business, operations and profitability.

In addition, some U.S. state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that may alter or increase state regulation of insurance and reinsurance companies and holding companies. Moreover, the NAIC, which is the organization of insurance regulators from the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the four U.S. territories, as well as state insurance regulators, regularly reexamine existing laws and regulations. In one particular example, the NAIC's SMI has created roadmaps (and continual updates thereto) outlining activities, issues and projects underway focused on five specific areas: Capital Requirements, Governance and Risk Management, Group Supervision, Statutory Accounting and Financial Reporting, and Reinsurance. It is expected that the NAIC will ultimately provide guidelines on all of these areas that will in turn trigger activity among insurers to implement compliant processes and platforms. Given the extensive agenda the SMI covers, there remains uncertainty as to this initiative's costs and the impact it will have on us.

In addition to these proposals and initiatives in the United States, new capital adequacy and risk management regulations, called Solvency II, will be implemented throughout the EEA by January 1, 2016. The CBI has informed us that it will be our group regulator under Solvency II. See Item 1, "Business – Regulation". Regulations and legislation relating to capital adequacy and risk management are also in the process of being developed or implemented in other

jurisdictions. There remains significant uncertainty as to the impact that these various regulations and legislation will have on us; however, such impact could include constraints on our ability to move capital between subsidiaries or require that additional capital be provided to subsidiaries in certain jurisdictions, which may impact our profitability. Whether as a result of Solvency II or similar risk-based capital regimes, various (re)insurance companies are seeking approval of internal models by January 1, 2016 from their relevant regulators for determining their required regulatory capital. We have been engaging with our group supervisor on our group internal capital model and are seeking internal model approvals for certain of our operating subsidiaries. The Acquisition could delay the approval of our internal capital model and other internal models to beyond January 1, 2016. If these internal models are not approved, either due to the Acquisition or other considerations raised by the CBI or any other regulator as part of the model review process, there is a risk that we will be

required to hold more regulatory capital (e.g., on a standard formula basis) than our internal models might otherwise indicate, which could have a material adverse effect on our capital and surplus.

In addition, under Solvency II, E.U. cedants placing reinsurance with (re)insurers that are domiciled in either the E.U. (or in countries that are deemed equivalent to the Solvency II regime for these purposes) will receive full credit for such reinsurance after January 1, 2016. Our operating subsidiaries that are not domiciled in the E.U. (and that are not otherwise domiciled in Solvency II equivalent jurisdictions) that provide reinsurance to E.U. cedants may be required to post collateral to receive full credit for the reinsurance ceded. This could increase the cost of doing business and which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. Similarly, there is a risk that our operating subsidiaries purchasing reinsurance protection from (re)insurers not domiciled in the E.U. (and that are not domiciled in jurisdictions that are deemed SII equivalent) will not receive full credit for such reinsurance which could have a material impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. See Item 1, “Business - Regulation - Solvency II Equivalence” for more information regarding the Solvency II equivalence process.

Our Bermuda-based operating subsidiaries are subject to the BMA’s risk-based capital standards for (re)insurance companies, which impose required levels of statutory capital and surplus on our Bermuda-based operating standards. While our Bermuda-based operating subsidiaries currently have excess capital and surplus under these requirements, such requirements or similar regulations, in their current form or as may be amended in the future, may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

In addition to insurance and financial industry regulations, our activities are also subject to relevant economic and trade sanctions, money laundering regulations, and anti-corruption laws including the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the U.K. Bribery Act 2010, which may increase the costs of compliance, limit or restrict our ability to do business or engage in certain activities, or subject us to the possibility of civil or criminal actions or proceedings.

Although we have in place systems and controls designed to comply with applicable laws and regulations, there can be no assurance that we, our employees, or our agents acting on our behalf are in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations or their interpretation by the relevant authorities and, given the complex nature of the risks, it may not always be possible for us to ascertain compliance with such laws and regulations. Failure to comply with or to obtain appropriate authorizations and/or exemptions under such laws or regulations could subject us to investigations, criminal sanctions or civil remedies, including fines, injunctions, loss of an operating license, reputational consequences, and other sanctions, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We may not be able to comply fully with, or obtain desired exemptions from, revised statutes, regulations and policies that govern the conduct of our business. Failure to comply with, or to obtain desired authorizations and/or exemptions under, any applicable laws could result in restrictions on our ability to do business or undertake activities that are regulated in one or more of the jurisdictions in which we operate and could subject us to fines and other sanctions. In addition, changes in the laws or regulations to which we are, or may become subject, or in the interpretations thereof by enforcement or regulatory agencies, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Potential government intervention in our industry and instability in the marketplace for insurance products could hinder our flexibility and negatively affect the business opportunities that may be available to us in the market. Government intervention and the possibility of future government intervention have created uncertainty in the insurance and reinsurance markets. Government regulators are generally concerned with the protection of policyholders to the exclusion of other constituencies, including shareholders of insurers and reinsurers. While we cannot predict the exact nature, timing or scope of possible governmental initiatives, such proposals could adversely affect our business by, among other things:

- providing insurance and reinsurance capacity in markets and to consumers that we target, e.g., the creation or expansion of state or federal catastrophe funds such as those in the state of Florida;

- requiring our participation in industry pools and guarantee associations;

- expanding the scope of coverage or altering the enforceability of deductibles under existing policies;

- regulating the terms of insurance and reinsurance policies;

 - ordering the suspension of or otherwise altering the application of insurance laws or regulations; or

disproportionately benefiting the companies of one country over those of another.

The insurance industry is also affected by legislative, political, judicial and legal developments that may create new and expanded theories of liability, which may result in unexpected claims frequency and severity and delays or cancelations of products and services by insureds, insurers and reinsurers which could adversely affect our business.

For further information regarding government regulation and/or intervention in response to the financial and credit crises, see risk factor entitled "Governmental and regulatory actions may impact the marketplace generally or us in particular" above.

Consolidation in the insurance industry could adversely impact us.

Insurance industry participants may seek to consolidate through mergers and acquisitions. Continued consolidation within the insurance industry will further enhance the already competitive underwriting environment as we would likely experience more robust competition from larger, better capitalized competitors. These consolidated entities may use their enhanced market power and broader capital base to negotiate price reductions for our products and services, and reduce their use of reinsurance, and, as such, we may experience rate declines and possibly write less business. The loss of one or more key executives or the inability to attract, motivate and retain qualified personnel could adversely affect our ability to conduct business.

Our success depends on our ability to attract new, highly skilled individuals and to motivate and retain our existing key executives and qualified personnel. The loss of the services of any of our key executives or the inability to attract, motivate and retain other highly skilled individuals in the future could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business. In addition, we do not necessarily maintain key man life insurance policies with respect to our senior employees.

A decrease in the fair values of our reporting units may result in future goodwill impairments.

When we acquire an entity, the excess of the purchase price over the net identifiable assets acquired is allocated to goodwill. The goodwill is then assigned to a level of reporting referred to as a "reporting unit" for purposes of impairment testing. We conduct impairment tests on our goodwill at least annually, or more frequently if impairment indicators exist. In performing a goodwill impairment test, we use various methods and make various assumptions to determine the fair value of our reporting units, including the determination of expected future cash flows and/or profitability of such reporting units, and we take into account market value multiples and/or cash flows of entities that we deem to be comparable in nature, scope or size to our reporting units. However, expected future cash flows and/or profitability may be materially and negatively impacted as a result of, among other things, a decrease in pricing or renewal activity and new business opportunities, a decrease in retention of our underwriting teams, lower-than-expected yields and/or cash flows from our investment portfolio or higher-than-expected claims activity and incurred losses and general economic factors that impact the reporting unit. In addition, previously determined market value multiples and/or cash flows may no longer be relevant as a result of these potential factors. As a result of these potential changes, the estimated fair value of one or more of our reporting units may decrease, causing the carrying value of the net assets assigned to the reporting unit - which includes the value of the assigned goodwill - to exceed the fair value of such net assets, thus creating a goodwill impairment. If we determine such an impairment exists, we adjust the carrying value of goodwill to its implied fair value. The impairment charge is recorded in our income statement in the period in which the impairment is determined. If we are required in the future to record additional goodwill impairments, our financial condition and results of operations would be negatively affected. In connection with fair value measurements and the accounting for goodwill, the use of generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions. Significant judgment is required in making these estimates and assumptions, and actual results may ultimately be materially different from such estimates and assumptions.

We are exposed to risks in connection with our management of third party capital.

Our asset manager affiliate (New Ocean Capital Management Limited ("New Ocean")) or other affiliated investment vehicles in which we may be involved may owe certain legal duties and obligations to third party investors (including reporting obligations), and will be subject to complex laws and regulations relating to the management of third party capital. Compliance with some of these laws and regulations, all of which are subject to change, requires significant management time and attention. Although New Ocean will seek to continually monitor its policies and procedures to attempt to ensure compliance, faulty or mistaken judgments or representations, errors or the failure of its personnel to adhere to its policies and procedures could result in its failure to comply with applicable laws or regulations which could result in significant liabilities, penalties or other losses and harm our business and results of operations.

The investment vehicles that are managed by New Ocean will have commercial and contractual arrangements and certain conflicts of interest may arise from those arrangements. For example, one or more of our operating subsidiaries may provide underwriting, modeling and claims management services to the asset manager or certain reinsurance risk may be retroceded in respect of the investment vehicles managed by the asset manager. In addition, such entities may underwrite business or invest in asset classes similar to those underwritten or targeted by us, which could result in conflicts in allocating opportunities between us and such other entities.

In addition to the foregoing, our investments in New Ocean and its affiliated investment funds may be adversely affected by unexpected redemptions of third party capital providers' interests in such funds. Moreover, New Ocean and its affiliated

investment funds may not be able to attract and raise additional third party capital for existing funds or for potential new investment vehicles, and therefore we may forego existing and/or potential attractive fee income and other income generating opportunities, which could materially impact our investments in those entities.

Provisions in our Articles of Association may reduce the voting rights of our ordinary shares.

Our Articles of Association generally provide that shareholders have one vote for each ordinary share held by them and are entitled to vote, on a non-cumulative basis, at all meetings of shareholders. However, the voting power that may be exercised by certain persons or groups may not equal or exceed 10% of the voting power conferred by our shares.

In particular, our Articles of Association provide that if, and for so long as, the votes conferred by the Controlled Shares (as defined below) of any person constitute 10% or more of the votes conferred by all our issued shares, the voting rights with respect to the Controlled Shares of such person shall be limited, in the aggregate, to a voting power equal to approximately (but slightly less than) 10%, pursuant to a formula set forth in the our Articles of Association. “Controlled Shares” of a person (as defined in our Articles of Association) include (1) all of our shares owned directly, indirectly or constructively by that person (within the meaning of Section 958 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “IRS Code”) and (2) all of our shares owned directly, indirectly or constructively by that person or any “group” of which that person is a part, within the meaning of Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act.

Provisions in our Articles of Association may restrict the ownership and transfer of our ordinary shares.

Our Articles of Association provide that the XL-Ireland Board shall decline to register a transfer of shares if it appears to the XL-Ireland Board, whether before or after such transfer, that the effect of such transfer would be to increase the number of Controlled Shares of any person to 10% or more of any class of our voting shares, of our total issued shares, or of the total voting power of our total issued shares.

Certain provisions in our charter documents could, among other things, impede an attempt to replace our directors or impose restrictions with respect to a change of control, which could diminish the value of our ordinary shares.

Our Articles of Association contain provisions that may make it more difficult for shareholders to replace directors and could delay or prevent a change of control that a shareholder may consider favorable. These provisions currently include limitations on the ability of shareholders to remove directors, limitations on voting rights, certain transfer restrictions on our ordinary shares and a partially classified board of directors (which will be fully declassified following our 2016 Annual General Meeting).

As an Irish company, we are subject to the Irish Takeover Rules, under which the XL-Ireland Board is not permitted to take any action that might “frustrate” an offer for our shares once the XL-Ireland Board has received an offer or has reason to believe an offer is or may be imminent without the approval of more than 50% of shareholders entitled to vote at a general meeting of shareholders and/or the consent of the Irish Takeover Panel. This could limit the ability of the Board of Directors to take defensive actions even if the XL-Ireland Board believes that such defensive actions would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

The Irish Takeover Rules also could discourage an investor from acquiring 30% or more of our outstanding ordinary shares unless such investor was prepared to make a bid to acquire all outstanding ordinary shares. Further, it could be more difficult for us to obtain shareholder approval for a merger or negotiated transaction because of heightened shareholder approval requirements for certain types of transactions under Irish law.

In addition, insurance regulations in certain jurisdictions may also delay or prevent a change of control or limit the ability of a shareholder to acquire in excess of specified amounts of our ordinary shares.

Irish shareholder voting requirements may limit flexibility with respect to certain aspects of capital management.

Irish law allows shareholders to authorize a board of directors to issue shares subsequent to receipt of authorization without further shareholder approval, but this authorization must be renewed after five years. Additionally, subject to specified exceptions, Irish law grants statutory preemption rights to existing ordinary shareholders to subscribe for new issuances of shares for cash, but allows such shareholders to authorize the waiver of such statutory preemption rights for five years. Our Articles of Association currently provide authority to the Board of Directors to issue shares without further shareholder approval and to waive ordinary shareholders’ statutory preemption rights. However, the share issuance authorization may expire upon the effectiveness of new Irish company legislation and the preemption opt-out provision will expire in 2015, in each case, unless renewed by XL-Ireland’s shareholders, and these

authorizations and waivers may not always be renewed, which could limit our ability to issue equity in the future.

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It may be difficult to enforce judgments against XL-Ireland, XL-Cayman or their directors and executive officers. XL-Ireland is incorporated pursuant to the laws of Ireland. In addition, from time to time, certain of our directors and officers reside outside the United States and a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of any such directors and officers are located outside the United States. As such, it may be difficult or impossible to effect service of process within the United States upon those persons or to recover on judgments of U.S. courts against us or such directors and officers, including judgments predicated upon civil liability provisions of U.S. federal securities laws. There is no treaty between Ireland and the United States providing for the reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgments. The following requirements must be met before the foreign judgment will be deemed to be enforceable in Ireland:

- the judgment must be for a definite sum;
- the judgment must be final and conclusive; and
- the judgment must be provided by a court of competent jurisdiction.

An Irish court will also exercise its right to refuse judgment if the foreign judgment was obtained by fraud, if the judgment violated Irish public policy, if the judgment is in breach of natural justice or if it is irreconcilable with an earlier foreign judgment.

In addition, XL-Cayman is incorporated pursuant to the laws of the Cayman Islands and is an Irish tax resident. Requirements for enforceability of foreign judgments in Ireland are summarized above. We have been advised that there is doubt as to whether the courts of the Cayman Islands would enforce: judgments of U.S. courts based upon the civil liability provisions of U.S. federal securities laws obtained in actions against XL-Cayman or its directors and officers who reside outside the United States; or original actions brought in the Cayman Islands against these persons or XL-Cayman predicated solely upon U.S. federal securities laws.

There is also no treaty in effect between the United States and the Cayman Islands providing for such enforcement and there are grounds upon which Cayman Islands courts may not enforce judgments of U.S. courts. Some remedies available under the laws of U.S. jurisdictions, including some remedies available under U.S. federal securities laws, may not be allowed in Cayman Islands courts as contrary to public policy.

Current, pending or future lawsuits against us, including putative class action lawsuits, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in a particular fiscal quarter or year.

We are subject to lawsuits and arbitrations in the regular course of our business. An adverse resolution of one or more lawsuits or arbitrations could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in a particular fiscal quarter or year.

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

Developments in accounting practices may require us to incur considerable additional expenses to comply with such developments, particularly if we are required to prepare information relating to prior periods for comparative purposes or to apply the new requirements retroactively. The impact of changes in current accounting practices and future pronouncements cannot be predicted but may affect the calculation of net income, net equity and other relevant financial statement line items and the timing of when impairments and other charges are tested or taken.

We and our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries may become subject to U.S. tax, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and your investment.

We take the position that neither we nor any of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries are engaged in a U.S. trade or business through a U.S. permanent establishment. Accordingly, we take the position that neither we or our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries should be subject to U.S. tax (other than U.S. excise tax on insurance and reinsurance premium income attributable to insuring or reinsuring U.S. risks and U.S. withholding tax on some types of U.S. source investment income). However, because there is considerable uncertainty as to the activities that constitute being engaged in a trade or business within the United States, we cannot be certain that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") will not contend successfully that we or any of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries are engaged in a trade or business in the United States. If we or any of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries were considered to be engaged in a trade or business in the United States, any such entity could be subject to U.S. corporate income and additional branch profits taxes on the portion of its earnings effectively connected to such U.S. business, in which case our financial

condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

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Changes in U.S. tax law might adversely affect an investment in our shares.

Legislation may be 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. For example, one legislative proposal could impose additional limits on the deductibility of interest by foreign-owned U.S. corporations. Another legislative proposal could modify the standards that indicate when a non-U.S. corporation might be treated as a U.S. corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if it were considered to be primarily managed and controlled in the U.S. In addition, legislation has been proposed in the U.S. that would severely restrict the ability of a company to utilize affiliate reinsurance to manage its U.S. risks and its capital position. Various proposals have been made that would effectively disallow (in some cases permanently and in others temporarily) part or all of the deduction for premiums ceded to affiliates. If any of these proposals, or a similar proposal using the same underlying principles, is enacted, it could have an adverse impact on us or our shareholders. It is possible that other legislative proposals could emerge in the future that could also have an adverse impact on us or our shareholders. Additionally, the U.S. federal income tax laws and interpretations, including those regarding whether a company is engaged in a trade or business (or has a permanent establishment) within the United States or is a Passive Foreign Investment Company ("PFIC"), or whether U.S. holders would be required to include in their gross income "subpart F income" or the related person insurance income, which we refer to as "RPII" of a Controlled Foreign Corporation ("CFC"), are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. There are currently no regulations regarding the application of the PFIC rules to insurance companies and the regulations regarding RPII are still in proposed form. New regulations or pronouncements interpreting or clarifying such rules may be forthcoming. We cannot be certain if, when or in what form such regulations or pronouncements may be provided and whether such guidance will have a retroactive effect. We cannot assure you that future legislative action will not increase the amount of U.S. tax payable by us. If an increase occurs, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. There is U.S. income tax risk associated with reinsurance between U.S. insurance companies and their Bermuda affiliates.

As discussed above, the U.S. Congress has periodically considered legislation intended to eliminate certain perceived tax advantages of non-U.S. insurance companies and U.S. insurance companies with non-U.S. affiliates, including perceived tax benefits resulting principally from reinsurance between or among U.S. insurance companies and their non-U.S. affiliates. In this regard, section 845 of the IRS Code was amended in 2004 to permit the IRS to reallocate, recharacterize or adjust items of income, deduction or certain other items related to a reinsurance agreement between related parties to reflect the proper "amount, source or character" for each item (in contrast to prior law, which only covered "source and character"). If the IRS were to successfully challenge our reinsurance arrangements under section 845, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected and the price of our ordinary shares could be adversely affected.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has launched an Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting that if implemented might change the manner in which we are taxed.

In July 2013, The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ("the OECD") launched an Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting ("BEPS Action Plan"). The BEPS Action Plan identifies 15 specific actions to address tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity, resulting in little or no overall corporate tax being paid. In addition, the BEPS Action Plan sets deadlines to implement the actions and identifies the resources needed and the methodology to implement these actions. The OECD reports and recommendations for the 15 actions outlined in the plan are expected to be finalized and delivered by December 31, 2015. For the first time in tax matters, non-OECD/G20 countries are involved on an equal footing in delivering these actions. The implementation of these actions could have a material impact on how we and other multinational organizations are taxed.

If an investor acquires 10% or more of our ordinary shares, it may be subject to taxation under the U.S. "controlled foreign corporation" ("CFC") rules.

Under certain circumstances, a U.S. person who owns 10% or more of the voting power of a foreign corporation that is a CFC (a foreign corporation in which 10% U.S. shareholders own more than 50% of the voting power of the foreign corporation or more than 25% of a foreign insurance company) for an uninterrupted period of 30 days or more

during a taxable year must include in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes such “10% U.S. Shareholder’s” pro rata share of the CFC’s “subpart F income,” even if the subpart F income is not distributed to such 10% U.S. Shareholder, if such 10% U.S. Shareholder owns (directly or indirectly through foreign entities) any shares of the foreign corporation on the last day of the corporation’s taxable year. “Subpart F income” of a foreign insurance corporation typically includes foreign personal holding company income (such as interest, dividends and other types of passive income), as well as insurance and reinsurance income

(including underwriting and investment income) attributable to the insurance of risks situated outside the CFC's country of incorporation.

While provisions in our organizational documents serve to limit voting power on our ordinary shares, it is possible, that the IRS could challenge the effectiveness of these provisions and that a court could sustain such a challenge, in which case an investor's investment could be materially adversely affected, if the investor is considered to own 10% or more of our shares.

U.S. Persons who hold shares will be subject to adverse tax consequences if we are considered to be a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If we are considered a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. person who owns any of our shares will be subject to adverse tax consequences, including a greater tax liability than might otherwise apply and tax on amounts in advance of when tax would otherwise be imposed, in which case an investor's investment could be materially adversely affected. In addition, if we were considered a PFIC, upon the death of any U.S. individual owning shares, such individual's heirs or estate would not be entitled to a "step-up" in the basis of the shares that might otherwise be available under U.S. federal income tax laws. We believe that we are not, have not been, and currently do not expect to become, a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, we may be deemed a PFIC by the IRS in the future. If we were considered a PFIC, it could have material adverse tax consequences for an investor that is subject to U.S. federal income taxation. 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 an investor that is subject to U.S. federal income taxation.

There are U.S. income tax risks associated with the related person insurance income of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries.

If (i) the related person insurance income, which we refer to as "RPII," of any one of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries were to equal or exceed 20% of that subsidiary's gross insurance income in any taxable year and (ii) U.S. persons were treated as owning 25% or more of the subsidiary's stock (by vote or value), a U.S. person who owns any ordinary shares, directly or indirectly, on the last day of such taxable year on which the 25% threshold is met would be required to include in its income for U.S. federal income tax purposes that person's ratable share of that subsidiary's RPII for the taxable year, determined as if that RPII were distributed proportionately only to U.S. holders at that date, regardless of whether that income is distributed. The amount of RPII earned by a subsidiary (generally premium and related investment income from the direct or indirect insurance or reinsurance of any direct or indirect U.S. holder of shares of that subsidiary or any person related to that holder) would depend on a number of factors, including the identity of persons directly or indirectly insured or reinsured by that subsidiary. Although we do not believe that the 20% threshold will be met in respect of any of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries, some of the factors that may affect the result in any period may be beyond our control. Consequently, we cannot provide absolute assurance that we will not exceed the RPII threshold in any taxable year.

The RPII rules provide that if a holder who is a U.S. person disposes of shares in a non-U.S. insurance corporation that had RPII (even if the 20% gross income threshold was not met) and met the 25% ownership threshold at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition, and the holder owned any stock at such time, any gain from the disposition will generally be treated as a dividend to the extent of the holder's share (taking into account certain rules for determining a U.S. holder's share of RPII) of the corporation's undistributed earnings and profits that were accumulated during the period that the holder owned the shares (possibly whether or not those earnings and profits are attributable to RPII). In addition, such a shareholder will be required to comply with specified reporting requirements, regardless of the amount of shares owned. We believe that these rules should not apply to dispositions of our ordinary shares because XL-Ireland is not itself directly engaged in the insurance business. We cannot provide absolute assurance, however, that the IRS will not successfully assert that these rules apply to dispositions of our ordinary shares.

We and our Bermuda (re)insurance subsidiaries may become subject to taxes in Bermuda in the future, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and your investment.

Our Bermuda (re)insurance subsidiaries have received from the Ministry of Finance in Bermuda exemptions from any Bermuda taxes that might be imposed on profits, income or any capital asset, gain or appreciation until March 31, 2035. The exemptions are subject to the proviso that they are not construed so as to prevent the application of any tax or duty to persons who are ordinarily residents in Bermuda (the Company and our Bermuda (re)insurance subsidiaries are not so currently designated) and to prevent the application of any tax payable in accordance with the provisions of The Land Tax Act 1967 or otherwise payable in relation to the land leased to us and our Bermuda (re)insurance subsidiaries. XL-Ireland and other Bermuda-based subsidiaries not incorporated in Bermuda have also received similar exemptions as permit companies under the Companies Act of 1981 of Bermuda. These exemptions have also been extended to 2035. Our Bermuda (re)insurance subsidiaries are required to pay certain annual Bermuda government fees and certain business fees as a (re)insurer under The

Insurance Act 1978 of Bermuda. Currently there is no Bermuda withholding tax on dividends paid by our Bermuda (re)-insurance subsidiaries to us. The tax rules as presently applied may change in the future, however.

XL-Cayman may become subject to taxes in the Cayman Islands after June 2, 2018, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and your investment.

For tax purposes, XL-Cayman is resident in Ireland by virtue of central management and control. In the event the Cayman Islands introduces a corporate income tax based on place of incorporation, XL-Cayman would be a dual resident company and potentially subject to tax in both Ireland and the Cayman Islands. As there is no double tax treaty between the Cayman Islands and Ireland, XL-Cayman could become subject to taxation in both Ireland and the Cayman Islands. Under current Cayman Islands law, we are not obligated to pay any taxes in the Cayman Islands on our income or gains. We have received an undertaking from the Governor-in-Council of the Cayman Islands pursuant to the provisions of the Tax Concessions Law, as amended, that until June 2, 2018, (i) no subsequently enacted law imposing any tax on profits, income, gains or appreciation shall apply to XL-Cayman and (ii) no such tax and no tax in the nature of an estate duty or an inheritance tax shall be payable on any of XL-Cayman's ordinary shares, debentures or other obligations. Given the limited duration of the undertaking from the Governor-in-Council of the Cayman Islands, we cannot be certain that we will not be subject to any Cayman Islands tax after June 2, 2018. Such taxation could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations and on your investment.

Our tax position could be adversely impacted by changes in tax laws, tax treaties or tax regulations or the interpretation or enforcement thereof.

Our tax position could be adversely impacted by changes in tax laws, tax treaties or tax regulations or the interpretation or enforcement thereof by the tax authorities in Ireland, the United States and other jurisdictions. Such tax law changes could cause a material and adverse change in our worldwide effective tax rate and we may have to take further action, at potentially significant expense, to seek to mitigate the effect of such changes. Any future amendments to the current income tax treaties between Ireland and other jurisdictions, including the United States, could subject us to increased taxation and/or potentially significant expense.

Dividends you receive may be subject to Irish dividend withholding tax and Irish income tax.

Dividend withholding tax (currently at a rate of 20%) may arise in respect of dividends paid on the Company's ordinary shares. However, a number of exemptions from dividend withholding tax exist such that ordinary shareholders resident in the United States and ordinary shareholders resident in other specified countries (listed in Annex F attached to the Redomestication Proxy Statement filed with the SEC on March 10, 2010) may be entitled to exemptions from dividend withholding tax if they complete and file certain dividend withholding tax forms. Ordinary shareholders resident in the U.S. that hold their ordinary shares through the Depository Trust Company ("DTC") will not be subject to dividend withholding tax provided the addresses of the beneficial owners of such ordinary shares in the records of the brokers holding such ordinary shares are in the United States (so that such brokers can further transmit the relevant information to a qualifying intermediary appointed by the Company). Similarly, ordinary shareholders resident in the U.S. that hold their ordinary shares directly instead of beneficially through DTC are not subject to dividend withholding tax if such ordinary shareholders held ordinary shares in the Company on January 12, 2010 and they provided a valid Form W-9 showing a U.S. address to the Company's transfer agent. In addition, XL shareholders resident in the U.S. that acquire their XL Shares after January 12, 2010 and that hold their XL Shares directly instead of beneficially through DTC are not subject to Irish dividend withholding tax if such XL shareholders satisfy the conditions of any of one of several exemptions from Irish dividend withholding tax (exemptions include where such an XL shareholder is an individual neither resident nor ordinarily resident in Ireland, or such an XL shareholder is a company not under the control of a person or persons that is or are resident in Ireland), including the requirements to furnish completed Irish Revenue Commissioners' prescribed dividend withholding tax forms and that such forms remain valid. However, other ordinary shareholders may be subject to dividend withholding tax, which could adversely affect the price of our ordinary shares.

In addition, ordinary shareholders entitled to an exemption from Irish dividend withholding tax on dividends received from the Company should not be subject to Irish income tax in respect of those dividends, unless they have some connection with Ireland other than their ordinary shareholdings in the Company. Ordinary shareholders who receive

dividends subject to Irish dividend withholding tax will generally have no further liability to Irish income tax on those dividends unless they have some connection with Ireland other than their ordinary shareholding in the Company. A future transfer of your ordinary shares, other than one effected by means of the transfer of book entry interests in DTC, may be subject to Irish stamp duty.

Transfers of our ordinary shares effected by means of the transfer of book entry interests in DTC will not be subject to Irish stamp duty. The majority of our ordinary shares will be traded through DTC, either directly or through brokers who hold such ordinary shares on behalf of customers through DTC. However, if you hold your ordinary shares directly rather than

beneficially through DTC (or through a broker that holds your ordinary shares through DTC), any transfer of your ordinary shares could be subject to Irish stamp duty (currently at the rate of 1% of the higher of the price paid or the market value of the ordinary shares acquired). Payment of Irish stamp duty is generally a legal obligation of the transferee. The potential for stamp duty could adversely affect the price of our ordinary shares.

The consummation of the Acquisition of Catlin is subject to a number of conditions.

The Acquisition is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of a number of conditions, on or before October 9, 2015 or such later date as the Company and Catlin may (with the consent of the Bermuda Supreme Court, if required) agree. These (and any other) conditions may not be satisfied (or waived, if applicable). Failure to satisfy any of these conditions may result in the Acquisition not being completed, which would mean that costs relating to the negotiation, preparation and implementation of the Acquisition will have been incurred by the Company with none of the potential benefits of the Acquisition having been achieved. It would also mean that management's time spent in connection with the Acquisition, which could have otherwise been spent in connection with other aspects of the Company's business, will not have been spent productively.

Costs related to the Acquisition and synergies that could result from the Acquisition may differ from those anticipated. While the Company believes that the costs related to the Acquisition and synergies expected to arise from the Acquisition have been reasonably estimated, unanticipated events or liabilities may arise which could result in a potential delay or potential reduction in the benefits anticipated to be derived from the Acquisition, or in costs significantly in excess of those estimated.

The Company following the Acquisition (the "Enlarged XL Group") may also face challenges with the following: redeploying resources in different areas of operations to improve efficiency; minimizing the diversion of management attention from ongoing business concerns; and addressing possible differences between the Company's business culture, processes, controls, procedures and systems and those of Catlin. Additionally, the Acquisition might affect the relationship that the Company and/or Catlin have with customers, brokers and other business partners, and affect the performance and/or potential growth opportunities.

Under any of these circumstances, the business growth opportunities, overhead functions consolidation benefits and other synergies anticipated by the Company and Catlin to result from the Acquisition may not be achieved as expected, or at all, or may be delayed materially. To the extent that the Enlarged XL Group incurs higher integration costs or achieves lower synergy benefits than expected, its results of operations, financial condition and/or prospects, and the price of the Company's shares, may be adversely affected.

The Enlarged XL Group's future prospects will, in part, be dependent on effective integration of the Company and Catlin, including with respect to key employees and IT and operational systems.

The Enlarged XL Group's future prospects will, in part, be dependent upon the Enlarged XL Group's ability to integrate Catlin into the Company successfully and any other businesses that the Company may acquire in the future without material disruption to the existing business, including as a result of the integration of information technology ("IT") and operational systems. The performance of the Enlarged XL Group in the future will, among other things, also depend on the successful integration and motivation of key employees from both the Company and Catlin. It is possible that failure to retain certain individuals during the integration period will affect the ability to integrate Catlin into the Company successfully and could have a material adverse effect on the Enlarged XL Group's business, financial condition and results of operations or losses on assets.

The Acquisition may expose the Company to significant unanticipated liabilities that could adversely affect the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

The Company's purchase of Catlin may expose it to significant unanticipated liabilities relating to the operation of the Enlarged XL Group following the Acquisition. These liabilities could include employment, retirement or severance-related obligations under applicable law or other benefits arrangements, legal claims, warranty or similar liabilities to customers, and claims by or amounts owed to vendors. The Company may also incur liabilities or claims associated with its acquisition of Catlin's technology and intellectual property including claims of infringement. Particularly in international jurisdictions, the Company's acquisition of Catlin, or the Company's decision to independently enter new international markets where Catlin previously conducted business, could also expose the Company to tax liabilities and other amounts owed by Catlin. The incurrence of such unforeseen or unanticipated

liabilities, should they be significant, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

Depending on the legal method for implementing the Acquisition, the Company may experience a delay in acquiring or may not be able to acquire the entire issued share capital of Catlin, which would mean that there would be minority shareholders in Catlin.

If the Company elects to implement the Acquisition by way of a takeover offer, rather than the Scheme, it will be able to determine the level, at a percentage of Catlin Shares carrying in aggregate between 75% and 90% of voting rights normally exercisable at a general meeting of Catlin, at which the acceptance condition for the offer will be set. If the Company sets the acceptance level at (or reduces the level of the acceptance condition during the takeover process to) Catlin Shares carrying less than 90% of voting rights normally exercisable at a general meeting of Catlin subject to the offer, it is possible that the acceptance condition will be satisfied (so that the Company cannot invoke the condition related thereto and withdraw its offer), but that an insufficient number of Catlin shareholders will accept the offer to allow the Company to compulsorily acquire the shares of those Catlin shareholders who have not accepted the offer. In such circumstances, minority shareholders would retain a stake in Catlin and would benefit from certain legal protections afforded to them under Bermuda law unless and until the Company was able to acquire the remaining outstanding Catlin Shares. The Company may be unable to realize all of the benefits that it might otherwise obtain from a successful completion of the Acquisition if there are minority shareholders in Catlin after completion of the Acquisition.

Even if a material adverse change to Catlin's business were to occur, it is highly unlikely that the Company would be able to invoke the conditions to the Acquisition and terminate the Acquisition, which could reduce the value of the Company's shares.

The Acquisition is subject to certain conditions, including the condition that there have not been material adverse changes in the business, assets, liabilities, financial or trading position, profits or operational performance or prospects of any member of Catlin's consolidated group. The Company may invoke this "material adverse change" condition to the Acquisition to cause it not to proceed only if a committee of an equal number of representatives of the Company and Catlin, as designated under the implementation agreement governing the Acquisition (the "Code Committee"), or an independent expert on the U.K. City Code on Mergers and Acquisitions designated by the Company and Catlin pursuant to the Implementation Agreement (the "Code Expert") (as the case may be) is satisfied that the circumstances giving rise to that condition not being satisfied are of material significance to the Company in the context of the Acquisition. In making this determination, the Code Committee or the Code Expert (as the case may be) will require there to be an adverse change of very considerable significance striking at the heart of the purpose of the transaction. In practice, it is highly unlikely that the Company would be able to invoke the material adverse change condition. As a result, the conditions may provide the Company less protection than the customary conditions in an offer for a U.S. domestic company. If a material adverse change affecting Catlin were to occur and the Code Committee or the Code Expert (as the case may be) did not allow the Company to invoke a condition that would cause the Acquisition not to proceed, the market price of the Company's shares could decline or the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

The value of the XL-Ireland ordinary shares to be issued to Catlin's shareholders in the Acquisition will vary as a result of the fixed exchange ratio and possible fluctuations in the price of Company shares.

Upon consummation of the Acquisition, each Catlin Share (other than Catlin Shares already legally or beneficially held by the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings, any treasury shares and any Catlin Shares legally or beneficially held by any of Catlin's subsidiary undertakings) will be exchanged for 388 pence in cash and 0.130 new XL-Ireland ordinary shares. Because the exchange ratio is fixed at 0.130 new XL-Ireland ordinary shares for each Catlin Share, the market value of the new Company shares issued in exchange for Catlin Shares will depend upon the market price of a XL-Ireland ordinary share at the date the Acquisition is consummated. If the price of XL-Ireland ordinary shares declines, Catlin shareholders could receive less value for their shares upon the consummation of the Acquisition than the value calculated pursuant to the exchange ratio on the date the Acquisition was announced or as of the date of publication of the Acquisition Prospectus. Share price changes may result from a variety of factors that are beyond the companies' control, including general market conditions, changes in business prospects, catastrophic events, both natural and man-made, and regulatory considerations.

The increase in the number of outstanding XL-Ireland ordinary shares resulting from the issuance of new XL-Ireland ordinary shares to Catlin shareholders in connection with the Acquisition may lead to sales of such shares or the perception that such sales may occur, either of which may adversely affect the market for, and the market price of, XL-Ireland shares.

Catlin shareholders may receive a form of consideration different from what they elect under the Mix and Match Facility.

Although each Catlin shareholder (other than certain Catlin overseas shareholders) may elect to receive, in respect of some or all of their holdings of Catlin Shares and subject to offsetting elections, (i) all cash, or (ii) all new XL-Ireland ordinary shares, instead of receiving 388 pence and 0.130 new XL-Ireland ordinary shares for each Catlin Share (the “Mix and Match

Facility”), the total number of new XL-Ireland ordinary shares to be issued and the maximum aggregate amount of cash to be paid under the Acquisition will not be varied as a result of elections under the Mix and Match Facility.

Accordingly, elections made by Catlin shareholders under the Mix and Match Facility will be satisfied only to the extent that other Catlin shareholders make off-setting elections. To the extent that elections cannot be satisfied in full, they will be scaled down on a pro rata basis. As a result, Catlin shareholders who make an election under the Mix and Match Facility will not know the exact number of new Company shares or the amount of cash they will receive until settlement of the consideration due to them in respect of the Acquisition. This could result in, among other things, tax consequences that differ from those that would have resulted if such Catlin shareholder had exclusively received the form of consideration that the shareholder elected (including the potential recognition of a gain for income tax purposes if the shareholder receives cash).

The proration and adjustment procedures applicable to the Mix and Match Facility do not include any mechanism to ensure that the value of the consideration received for each Catlin Share is equivalent, and the value of the consideration received by a Catlin shareholder may be different depending on such shareholder’s election. In the event that a Catlin shareholder does not make an election under the Mix and Match Facility it will receive 388 pence in cash and 0.130 new XL-Ireland ordinary shares for each Catlin Share.

Catlin’s counterparties may acquire certain rights in connection with the Acquisition which could negatively affect the Company following the Acquisition.

Catlin is party to numerous contracts, treaties, agreements, licenses, permits, authorizations and other arrangements that contain provisions giving counterparties certain rights (including, in some cases, termination or acceleration rights) in the event of a “change in control” of Catlin or its subsidiaries. The definition of “change in control” varies from contract to contract, ranging from a narrow to a broad definition, and, in some cases, the “change in control” provisions may be implicated by the Acquisition. Such agreements include Catlin's letter of credit and revolving credit facilities (a termination of which may require cash collateralization of the outstanding letters of credit, prepayment of outstanding loans (including all accrued interest and fees thereon) and an inability to request new loans or letters of credit).

Specifically with regards to Catlin’s reinsurance arrangements, many in-force reinsurance contracts contain such “change in control” provisions. In addition, many of these reinsurance contracts are annually renewable and whether or not they may be terminated in a change in control, reinsurance cedants may choose not to renew these contracts with the Enlarged XL Group. Termination and failure to renew reinsurance agreements by contractual counterparties could result in a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and operating results.

Additionally, reinsurance cedants may be permitted to cancel contracts on a cut-off or run-off basis, and Catlin may be required to provide collateral to secure premium and reserve balances or may be required to cancel and commute a contract, subject to an agreement between the parties that may be settled in arbitration. If a contract is canceled on a cut-off basis, Catlin may be required to return unearned premiums, net of commissions. In addition, contracts may provide cedants with multiple options, such as collateralization or commutation, that would be triggered by a change in control. Collateral requirements may take the form of trust agreements or be funded by securities held or letters of credit. Upon commutation, the amount to be paid to settle the liability for gross loss reserves typically would be considered a discount to the financial statement loss reserve value, reflecting the time value of money resident in the ultimate settlement of such loss reserves. In certain instances, contracts contain dual triggers, such as a change in control and a ratings downgrade, both of which must be satisfied for the contractual right to be exercisable.

Whether a cedant would have cancellation rights in connection with the Acquisition depends upon the language of its agreement with Catlin. Whether a cedant exercises any cancellation rights it has would depend on, among other factors, such ceding company’s views with respect to the financial strength and business reputation of the Enlarged XL Group, the extent to which such cedant currently has reinsurance coverage with the Company’s affiliates, the prevailing market conditions, the pricing and availability of replacement reinsurance coverage and the Company’s ratings following the Acquisition. Neither the Company nor Catlin can presently predict the effects, if any, if the Acquisition is deemed to constitute a change in control under certain of Catlin's contracts and other arrangements, including the extent to which cancellation rights would be exercised, if at all, or the effect on the Company’s financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows following the Acquisition, but such effect could be material.

Each of the Company and Catlin will be exposed to underwriting and other business risks during the period that each party's business continues to be operated independently from the other.

Until the completion of the Acquisition, each of the Company and Catlin will operate independently from the other in accordance with such party's distinct underwriting guidelines, investment policies, referral processes, authority levels and risk management policies and practices. As a result, during this period, Catlin may assume risks that the Company would not have assumed for itself, accept premiums that, in the Company's judgment, do not adequately compensate it for the risks assumed,

make investment decisions that would not adhere to the Company's investment policies or otherwise make business decisions or take on exposure that, while consistent with Catlin's general business approach and practices, are not the same as those of the Company. Significant delays in completing the Acquisition will materially increase the risk that Catlin will operate its business in a manner that differs from how the business would have been conducted by the Company.

The Enlarged XL Group faces risks related to operating at Lloyd's.

Catlin is currently the largest underwriting syndicate in Lloyd's and, accordingly, it is expected that the Enlarged XL Group will be the largest underwriting syndicate in Lloyd's on completion of the Acquisition. As a result, the Enlarged XL Group will face increased exposure to the risks facing syndicates operating at Lloyd's (as compared with the XL Group's current exposure to such risks) which include, but are not limited to, the following factors which, alone or in combination, could have an adverse effect on the Enlarged XL Group's business, financial condition and results of operations:

- having greater exposure to the Council of Lloyd's (the "Council") wide discretionary powers to regulate members of Lloyd's, including the Council's power to vary the method by which the capital solvency ratio is calculated;
 - being subject to increased capital requirements due to changes in regulation;
 - facing reputational issues arising from the actions of other Lloyd's syndicates;
 - being subject to potential changes in business strategy due to requirements of the Lloyd's Franchise Board (which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Lloyd's market);
 - reduced underwriting capacity for the Enlarged XL Group due to a reduction in the funds held in trust at Lloyd's (as a result of changes in the market value of investments or otherwise) to support underwriting activities;
 - being required to cease or reduce underwriting if Lloyd's fails to satisfy the FCA's and the PRA's annual solvency test in any given year;
 - having a reduced ability to trade in certain classes of business at current levels as a consequence of a downgrading of the Lloyd's market;
 - being subject to additional or special levies imposed by the Council; and
- as a Lloyd's syndicate transacting certain types of business in the United States, being required by U.S. regulators to increase the level of funding required as minimum deposits for the protection of U.S. policyholders and, as a consequence, being required to make cash calls to meet claims payments and deposit funding obligations.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We operate in Bermuda, the United States, Europe and various other locations around the world. In 1997, we acquired commercial real estate in Hamilton, Bermuda for the purpose of securing long-term office space for our worldwide headquarters. The development was completed in April 2001. The total cost of this development, including land, was approximately \$126.6 million. We have subsequently sub-leased portions of this property as a part of our broader expense reduction initiatives.

In July 2003, we acquired new offices at 70 Gracechurch Street, London, which have become our London headquarters. The acquisition was made through a purchase, sale and leaseback transaction. The move to the new offices was completed in 2004 and consolidated our London businesses in one location. The capital lease asset and liability associated with this transaction totaled \$82.8 million at December 31, 2014.

In June 2012, we acquired new offices at 8 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ireland as our new global headquarters. The final acquisition purchase price was \$11.4 million and further improvement costs totaled \$9.6 million. Completion of the new office and consolidation of our then existing Dublin locations occurred in mid-2013.

Each of our reporting segments uses the properties described above. All other office facilities throughout the world that are occupied by us and our subsidiaries are leased.

Total rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$36.6 million, \$38.7 million and \$35.6 million, respectively. See Item 8, Note 19(d), “Commitments and Contingencies – Properties,” to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for discussion of our lease commitments for real property.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are subject to litigation and arbitration in the normal course of our business. These lawsuits and arbitrations principally involve claims on policies of insurance and contracts of reinsurance and are typical for us and for the property and casualty insurance and reinsurance industry in general. Such claims proceedings are considered in connection with our loss and loss expense reserves. Reserves in varying amounts may or may not be established in respect of particular claims proceedings based on many factors, including the legal merits thereof. In addition to litigation relating to insurance and reinsurance claims, we are subject to lawsuits and regulatory actions in the normal course of business that do not arise from or directly relate to claims on insurance or reinsurance policies. These types of actions typically involve, among other things, allegations of underwriting errors or misconduct, employment disputes, actions brought by or on behalf of shareholders or disputes arising from business ventures. The status of these legal actions is actively monitored by management.

Legal actions are subject to inherent uncertainties, and future events could change management's assessment of the probability or estimated amount of potential losses from pending or threatened legal actions. If management believes that, based on available information, it is at least reasonably possible that a material loss (or additional material loss in excess of any accrual) will be incurred in connection with any legal actions, we disclose an estimate of the possible loss or range of loss, either individually or in the aggregate, as appropriate, if such an estimate can be made, or disclose that an estimate cannot be made. Based on our assessment at December 31, 2014, no such disclosures are considered necessary.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The table below sets forth the names, ages and titles of the persons who were the executive officers of the Company at February 19, 2015:

| Name | Age | Position |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| Michael S. McGavick | 57 | Chief Executive Officer and Director |
| Susan L. Cross | 54 | Executive Vice President and Global Chief Actuary |
| Kirstin Gould | 48 | Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary |
| Gregory S. Hendrick | 49 | Executive Vice President and Chief Executive of Insurance Operations |
| W. Myron Hendry | 66 | Executive Vice President and Chief Platform Officer |
| Peter R. Porrino | 58 | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Jacob D. Rosengarten | 59 | Executive Vice President and Chief Enterprise Risk Officer |
| Sarah E. Street | 53 | Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer |
| Eileen Whelley | 61 | Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer |

Michael S. McGavick, was appointed as Director of the Company in April 2008, shortly prior to his commencement as the Company's Chief Executive Officer on May 1, 2008. Previously, Mr. McGavick was President & CEO of the Seattle-based Safeco Corporation from January 2001 to December 2005. Prior to joining Safeco, Mr. McGavick spent six years with the Chicago-based CNA Financial Corporation, where he held various senior executive positions before becoming President and Chief Operating Officer of the company's largest commercial insurance operating unit. Mr. McGavick's insurance industry experience also includes two years as Director of the American Insurance Association's Superfund Improvement Project in Washington D.C., where he became the Association's lead strategist in working to transform U.S. Superfund environmental laws.

Susan L. Cross was appointed to the Company's leadership team in August 2008, serving as Executive Vice President and Global Chief Actuary. Ms. Cross has served as Global Chief Actuary since 2006 and previously was Chief Actuary of the Company's reinsurance operations from 2004 to 2006 and Chief Actuary of XL Re Bermuda from 2002 to 2004. She also held various actuarial positions in the insurance and reinsurance operations of the Company from

1999 to 2002. Prior to joining the Company, Ms. Cross was Principal and Consulting Actuary at Tillinghast Towers Perrin.

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Kirstin Gould was appointed Executive Vice President, General Counsel in September 2007, which position includes her prior responsibilities as General Counsel, Corporate Affairs and Corporate Secretary. In 2008, Ms. Gould also assumed leadership of the Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs department. Ms. Gould was previously Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Affairs from July 2006 to September 2007 and also served as Chief Corporate Legal Officer from November 2004 to July 2006, and Associate General Counsel from July 2001 to November 2004. Prior to joining the Company in 2000, Ms. Gould was associated with the law firms of Clifford Chance and Dewey Ballantine in London and New York.

Gregory S. Hendrick was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Executive of Insurance Operations in January 2012. From October 2010 to January 2012, Mr. Hendrick served as Executive Vice President, Strategic Growth. From 2004 to October 2010, Mr. Hendrick served as President and Chief Underwriting Officer of XL Re Ltd. Previously, he served as head of U.S. Property Treaty underwriting at XL Re Ltd and Vice President responsible for U.S. Property Underwriting for XL Mid Ocean Reinsurance Ltd. Prior to joining XL, Mr. Hendrick was Assistant Vice President of Treaty Underwriting for the Winterthur Reinsurance Corporation of America.

W. Myron Hendry joined the Company's leadership team upon his appointment as Executive Vice President, Chief Platform Officer in December 2009. Prior to joining the Company, from 2006 to December 2009, Mr. Hendry served as Business Operations Executive of Bank of America's Insurance Group, joining there from a merger with Countrywide Insurance Services Group. Prior to the merger, Mr. Hendry served as Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer for Countrywide and prior to this, from 2004 to 2006, Mr. Hendry served as Senior Vice President, Property and Casualty Services at Safeco. From 1971 to 2004, Mr. Hendry held various leadership roles with CNA Insurance, with his last assignment being the Senior Vice President of Worldwide Operations.

Peter R. Porrino was appointed Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer in August 2011. Previously, Mr. Porrino served as Ernst & Young's Global Director of Insurance Industry Services from 1999 to August 2011. Mr. Porrino first joined Ernst & Young in 1978 and served in the firm's New York and National insurance practices for 15 years before leaving to serve in senior management positions with several insurance companies. This experience includes Zurich Financial Services, where Mr. Porrino served as CFO of Zurich's NYSE-listed subsidiary, Zurich Reinsurance Centre, Inc. He rejoined Ernst & Young in 1999.

Jacob D. Rosengarten joined the Company's leadership team and was appointed Executive Vice President, Chief Enterprise Risk Officer in September 2008. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Rosengarten served as Managing Director of Risk Management and Analytics for Goldman Sachs Asset Management from 1998 to 2008. From 1993 to 1997, Mr. Rosengarten served as Director of Risk and Quantitative Analysis at Commodities Corporation and prior to this, from 1983 to 1992 held progressively senior finance positions at Commodities Corporation.

Sarah E. Street was appointed to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer in October 2006. Ms. Street has also served as the Chief Executive Officer of XL Group Investments LLC (formerly XL Capital Investment Partners Inc.) since April 2001. Prior to joining XL in 2001, Ms. Street held numerous leadership positions at JPMorganChase and its predecessor organizations, working in a number of corporate finance units as well as in the capital markets business of the bank.

Eileen Whelley was appointed to the Company's leadership team in June 2012, serving as Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, where she is responsible for global talent acquisition, leadership and professional development, succession planning, compensation and benefit program design and administration, employee relations, organizational effectiveness, performance management, HR information systems and payroll. Prior to joining the Company, from 2006 to 2012, Ms. Whelley served as Executive Vice President, Human Resources, for The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. Prior to that, Ms. Whelley spent 17 years at General Electric, where she held a number of human resources leadership roles, including Executive Vice President of Human Resources for NBC Universal and Vice President of Human Resources Excellence for GE Capital. She also served in various HR roles at Citicorp and Standard Oil of Ohio.

Non-Employee Directors of the Registrant

Robert R. Glauber has been the non-executive Chairman of the Board since April 2009 and a director since September 2006, having originally served on our Board from 1998 to May 2005. Mr. Glauber is presently a Lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Ramani Ayer has been a director since February 2011. Previously, Mr. Ayer served as the Chairman of the board and Chief Executive Officer of The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., a leading provider of insurance and wealth management services.

Dale Comey has been a director since November 2001. Previously, Mr. Comey was Executive Vice President of ITT Corporation, where he was responsible for directing the operations of several business units, including ITT Hartford and ITT Financial Corporation.

Edward J. "Ned" Kelly, III has been a director since August 2014. Previously Mr. Kelly was Chairman of the board of Citigroup Inc. Institutional Clients Group, Citi's Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Secretary of JP Morgan & Co. Incorporated and Managing Director of the Carlyle Group.

Suzanne B. Labarge has been a director since October 2011. Previously, Ms. Labarge served as the Vice Chairman and Chief Risk Officer of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC Financial Group), a diversified financial services company.

Joseph Mauriello has been a director since January 2006. Previously, Mr. Mauriello was the Deputy Chairman, Chief Operating Officer and a director of KPMG LLP (United States) and KPMG Americas Region, a leading provider of audit, tax and advisory services.

Eugene M. McQuade has been a director since July 2004. Mr. McQuade currently serves as the CEO and a director of Citibank, N.A., the commercial banking arm of Citigroup, and is a member of Citigroup's Operating Committee.

Clayton S. Rose has been a director since December 2009. Dr. Rose is presently a Professor of Management Practice at the Harvard Business School.

Anne Stevens has been a director since April 2014. Ms. Stevens currently serves as Chairman of the board, Chief Executive Officer and Principal of SA IT Services. Previously, Ms. Stevens was Chief Operations Officer for the Americas at the Ford Motor Company, and more recently was Chairman of the board, Chief Executive Officer and President of Carpenter Technology Corp.

Sir John M. Vereker has been a director since November 2007. Previously, Sir John Vereker was the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT’S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our ordinary shares, \$0.01 par value per share, are listed on the NYSE under the symbol “XL.”

The following table sets forth the high, low and closing sales prices per share of our ordinary shares per fiscal quarter, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape, and cash dividends on the ordinary shares for the periods indicated:

| | High | Low | Close | Dividends |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 2014 | | | | |
| 1st Quarter | \$31.85 | \$27.79 | \$31.25 | \$0.16 |
| 2nd Quarter | \$33.41 | \$30.54 | \$32.73 | \$0.16 |
| 3rd Quarter | \$35.52 | \$31.83 | \$33.17 | \$0.16 |
| 4th Quarter | \$36.35 | \$30.83 | \$34.37 | \$0.16 |
| 2013 | | | | |
| 1st Quarter | \$30.61 | \$25.20 | \$30.30 | \$0.14 |
| 2nd Quarter | \$32.96 | \$28.88 | \$30.32 | \$0.14 |
| 3rd Quarter | \$33.12 | \$29.48 | \$30.82 | \$0.14 |
| 4th Quarter | \$32.29 | \$29.62 | \$31.84 | \$0.14 |

The number of record holders of ordinary shares at February 19, 2015 was 150. This figure does not represent the actual number of beneficial owners of our ordinary shares because such shares are frequently held in “street name” by securities dealers and others for the benefit of individual owners who may vote the shares.

In 2014, four quarterly dividends of \$0.16 per share were paid to all ordinary shareholders of record as of March 14, June 13, September 15 and December 15. In 2013, four quarterly dividends of \$0.14 per share were paid to all ordinary shareholders of record as of March 15, June 14, September 13 and December 13. On February 20, 2015, we announced that the Board of Directors of XL-Ireland declared a quarterly dividend on February 19, 2015 of \$0.16 per share, payable on March 31, 2015 to all ordinary shareholders of record as of March 13, 2015.

The declaration and payment of future dividends will be at the discretion of the XL-Ireland Board and will depend upon many factors, including our earnings, financial condition, business needs, consideration of other methods of returning capital to shareholders, capital and surplus requirements of our operating subsidiaries and regulatory and contractual restrictions.

As a holding company, our assets consist primarily of investments in subsidiaries. Accordingly, we rely on the availability of dividends and other permissible payments from our subsidiaries to pay ordinary and preferred dividends. Our subsidiaries' payment of dividends to us are regulated under the laws of various jurisdictions including Bermuda, the U.K., Ireland, Switzerland and the other jurisdictions where we have regulated subsidiaries, by certain insurance statutes of various states in the United States in which our principal operating subsidiaries are licensed to transact business and by the Society of Lloyd's. In addition, under Irish law, XL-Ireland may only pay dividends or buyback or redeem shares using distributable reserves and may not pay any dividend or make any distribution unless the net assets of XL-Ireland are not less than the aggregate of its share capital plus undistributable reserves and the distribution does not reduce XL-Ireland's net assets below such aggregate. See Item 1, “Business – Regulation,” Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” and Item 8, Note 25, “Statutory Financial Data,” to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for further discussion.

The following table summarizes our equity compensation plan information at December 31, 2014:

| Plan Category | Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights | Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Share-Based Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities in column (a)) |
|---|---|---|--|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) |
| Share-based compensation plans approved by security holders (1) | 10,524,539 | \$32.42 | 10,316,461 |
| Share-based compensation plans not approved by security holders | — | — | — |
| Total | 10,524,539 | \$32.42 | 10,316,461 |

(1) Pertains to our 1991 Performance Incentive Program and the Directors Stock & Option Plan. Includes for the 1991 Performance Incentive Program, 10,371,634 ordinary shares to be issued upon the exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights, a \$32.53 weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights, and 10,259,422 ordinary shares remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column a). Includes for the Directors Stock & Option Plan, 152,905 ordinary shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights, a \$24.47 weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights, and 57,039 ordinary shares remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column a).

Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliate Purchasers

The following table provides information about purchases by us during the quarter ended December 31, 2014 of equity securities that are registered by us pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act:

| | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Approximate Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1) (2) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| October 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014 | 2,292,148 | \$32.77 | 2,291,210 | \$367.6 million |
| November 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014 | 2,884,685 | \$34.65 | 2,884,685 | \$267.6 million |
| December 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 | — | \$— | — | \$267.6 million |
| Total | 5,176,833 | \$33.82 | 5,175,895 | \$267.6 million |

(1) Shares purchased in connection with the vesting of restricted shares granted under our equity compensation programs do not represent shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs. All such purchases were made in connection with satisfying tax withholding obligations of those employees. These shares were not purchased as part of our share buyback program noted below.

(2) For information regarding our share buyback activity, see Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Other Key Focuses of Management - Buybacks of Ordinary Shares" included herein.

Ordinary Share Performance Graph

Set forth below is a line graph comparing the yearly dollar change in the cumulative total shareholder return over a five-year period on our ordinary shares from December 31, 2009 through December 31, 2014 to the cumulative total

return of the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index and the cumulative total return of the Standard & Poor's Property & Casualty Insurance Index. The companies included in these indices or noted as competitors under Item 1, "Business," may not be included in our compensation peer group.

The graph shows the value on December 31, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, of a \$100 investment made on December 31, 2009, with all dividends reinvested.

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ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected consolidated financial data below is based upon our fiscal year end of December 31. The selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and the Notes thereto presented under Item 8.

| (U.S. dollars in thousands, except per share amounts) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Income Statement Data: | | | | | |
| Net premiums earned | \$5,895,070 | \$6,309,521 | \$6,090,437 | \$5,690,130 | \$5,414,061 |
| Net investment income | \$918,625 | \$957,716 | \$1,012,348 | \$1,137,769 | \$1,198,038 |
| Net realized gains (losses) on investments | \$122,991 | \$87,777 | \$14,098 | \$(188,359) | \$(270,803) |
| Net realized gains (losses) on investments - Life Funds Withheld Assets | \$(15,520) | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments, trading securities ("Trading") - Life Funds Withheld Assets | \$(9) | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on derivative instruments | \$29,886 | \$7,798 | \$5,221 | \$(10,738) | \$(33,843) |
| Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on life retrocession embedded derivative and derivative instruments - Life Funds Withheld Assets | \$(488,222) | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| Net income (loss) from investment fund affiliates (1) | \$95,816 | \$138,391 | \$58,504 | \$26,253 | \$51,102 |
| Fee income and other | \$43,630 | \$40,031 | \$51,789 | \$41,748 | \$40,027 |
| Net losses and loss expenses incurred | \$3,258,393 | \$3,731,464 | \$3,765,482 | \$4,078,391 | \$3,211,800 |
| Claims and policy benefits – life operations | \$242,963 | \$465,702 | \$486,195 | \$535,074 | \$513,833 |
| Acquisition costs, operating expenses and foreign exchange gains and losses | \$2,041,865 | \$2,094,258 | \$2,097,992 | \$1,869,688 | \$1,751,060 |
| Interest expense | \$134,106 | \$155,462 | \$172,204 | \$205,592 | \$213,643 |
| Loss on sale of life reinsurance subsidiary | \$666,423 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| Loss on settlement of guarantee | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$23,500 |
| Impairment of goodwill | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$429,020 | \$— |
| Income (loss) before non-controlling interests, net income from operating affiliates and income tax expense | \$258,517 | \$1,094,348 | \$710,524 | \$(420,962) | \$684,746 |
| Income (loss) from operating affiliates (1)(2) | \$107,218 | \$119,804 | \$53,887 | \$76,786 | \$121,372 |
| Preference share dividends (3) | \$76,743 | \$77,187 | \$79,087 | \$72,278 | \$74,521 |
| Net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders | \$188,340 | \$1,059,916 | \$651,128 | \$(474,760) | \$585,472 |

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| (U.S. dollars in thousands, except per share amounts) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| Per Share Data: | | | | | | |
| Earnings (loss) per ordinary share and ordinary share equivalent – basic | \$0.71 | \$3.68 | \$2.12 | \$(1.52) | \$1.74 | |
| Earnings (loss) per ordinary share and ordinary share equivalent – diluted | \$0.69 | \$3.63 | \$2.10 | \$(1.52) | \$1.73 | |
| Weighted average ordinary shares and ordinary share equivalents outstanding – diluted | 271,527 | 292,069 | 310,282 | 312,896 | 337,709 | |
| Cash dividends per ordinary share | \$0.64 | \$0.56 | \$0.44 | \$0.44 | \$0.40 | |
| Balance Sheet Data: | | | | | | |
| Total investments – available for sale (“AFS”) | \$30,484,053 | \$28,996,661 | \$28,818,982 | \$27,017,285 | \$27,677,553 | |
| Total investments – held to maturity (“HTM”) | \$— | \$2,858,695 | \$2,814,447 | \$2,668,978 | \$2,728,335 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$2,521,814 | \$1,800,832 | \$2,618,378 | \$3,825,125 | \$3,022,868 | |
| Investments in affiliates | \$1,637,620 | \$1,370,943 | \$1,126,875 | \$1,052,729 | \$1,127,181 | |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses recoverable | \$3,429,368 | \$3,435,230 | \$3,382,102 | \$3,654,948 | \$3,671,887 | |
| Premiums receivable | \$2,473,736 | \$2,612,602 | \$2,568,862 | \$2,411,611 | \$2,414,912 | |
| Total assets | \$45,046,819 | \$45,652,887 | \$45,386,895 | \$44,665,265 | \$44,995,040 | |
| Unpaid losses and loss expenses | \$19,353,243 | \$20,481,065 | \$20,484,121 | \$20,613,901 | \$20,531,607 | |
| Future policy benefit reserves | \$4,707,199 | \$4,803,816 | \$4,812,046 | \$4,845,394 | \$5,075,127 | |
| Funds withheld on life retrocession arrangements (net of future policy benefit reserves recoverable) | \$1,155,016 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | |
| Unearned premiums | \$3,973,132 | \$3,846,526 | \$3,755,086 | \$3,555,310 | \$3,484,830 | |
| Notes payable and debt | \$1,662,580 | \$2,263,203 | \$1,672,778 | \$2,275,327 | \$2,457,003 | |
| Shareholders’ equity | \$11,435,767 | \$11,349,298 | \$11,856,403 | \$10,756,130 | \$10,599,769 | |
| Fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share | \$36.79 | \$33.86 | \$33.35 | \$28.31 | \$27.14 | |
| Operating Ratios: | | | | | | |
| Loss and loss expense ratio (4) | 57.0 | % 62.0 | % 65.3 | % 76.6 | % 63.8 | % |
| Underwriting expense ratio (5) | 31.2 | % 30.5 | % 31.0 | % 30.9 | % 31.0 | % |
| Combined ratio (6) | 88.2 | % 92.5 | % 96.3 | % 107.5 | % 94.8 | % |

We generally record the income related to alternative fund affiliates on a one-month lag and the private investment (1) fund affiliates on a three-month lag in order for us to meet the filing deadlines for our periodic reports. We generally record the income related to operating affiliates on a three-month lag.

(2) In 2010, net income from operating affiliates included \$50.2 million relating to the sale of a majority of our shareholdings in Primus Guaranty Ltd.

(3)

Preference dividends represent dividends on the Redeemable Series C preference ordinary shares and the Series D and E preference ordinary shares. Following our Redomestication, subsequent to July 1, 2010, the Redeemable Series C preference ordinary shares and the Series D and E preference ordinary shares represent non-controlling interests in our consolidated financial statements. For additional information see Item 8, Note 20, "Share Capital," to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

(4) The loss and loss expense ratio related to the property and casualty operations is calculated by dividing the losses and loss expenses incurred by the net premiums earned for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments.

The underwriting expense ratio related to the property and casualty operations is the sum of acquisition expenses and operating expenses for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments divided by net premiums earned for the (5) Insurance and Reinsurance segments. See Item 8, Note 5, "Segment Information," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for further information.

The combined ratio related to the property and casualty operations is the sum of the loss and loss expense ratio and (6) the underwriting expense ratio. A combined ratio under 100% represents an underwriting profit and over 100% represents an underwriting loss.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

This "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" contains forward-looking statements which involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about our beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements. These statements are based upon current plans, estimates and expectations. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in such forward-looking statements, and therefore undue reliance should not be placed on them. See "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements," for a list of additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto presented under Item 8.

Certain aspects of our business have loss experience characterized as low frequency and high severity. This may result in volatility in both our results of operations and financial condition.

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Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (“PSLRA”) provides a “safe harbor” for forward-looking statements. Any prospectus, prospectus supplement, Annual Report to ordinary shareholders, proxy statement, Form 10-K, Form 10-Q or Form 8-K or any other written or oral statements made by us or on our behalf may include forward-looking statements that reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. Such statements include forward-looking statements both with respect to us in general, and to the insurance and reinsurance sectors in particular (both as to underwriting and investment matters). Statements that include the words “expect,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” “project,” “anticipate,” “may,” “could” or “would” and similar statements of a future or forward-looking nature identify forward-looking statements for purposes of the PSLRA or otherwise.

All forward-looking statements address matters that involve risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in such statements. We believe that these factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- changes in the size of our claims relating to natural or man-made catastrophe losses due to the preliminary nature of some reports and estimates of loss and damage to date;
- trends in rates for property and casualty insurance and reinsurance;
- the timely and full recoverability of reinsurance placed by us or Catlin, if the Acquisition of Catlin is completed, with third parties, or other amounts due to us or Catlin;
- changes in the projected amount of ceded reinsurance recoverables and the credit ratings and creditworthiness of reinsurers;
- actual loss experience from insured or reinsured events and the timing of claims payments being faster or the receipt of reinsurance recoverables being slower than we anticipated;
- increased competition on the basis of pricing, capacity, coverage terms or other factors, such as the increased inflow of third-party capital into reinsurance markets, which could harm our ability, including Catlin, if the Acquisition is completed, to maintain or increase our business volumes or profitability;
- greater frequency or severity of claims and loss activity than anticipated, based on historical experience or industry data, by the underwriting, reserving or investment practices that we use or that Catlin uses, if the Acquisition is completed;
- changes in the global financial markets, including the effects of inflation on our business, including Catlin's business if the Acquisition is completed, including on pricing and reserving, increased government involvement or intervention in the financial services industry, and changes in interest rates, credit spreads, foreign currency exchange rates and future volatility in the world's credit, financial and capital markets that adversely affect the performance and valuation of either our or Catlin's investments, financing plans and access to such markets or general financial condition;
- our and Catlin's ability to successfully implement our respective business strategies, and if the Acquisition is completed, our ability to implement Catlin's business strategies;
- our ability to successfully attract and raise additional third party capital for existing or new investment vehicles;
- the potential impact on us, including Catlin if the Acquisition is completed, from government-mandated insurance coverage for acts of terrorism;
- changes in credit ratings or rating agency policies or practices;
- the potential for changes to methodologies, estimations and assumptions that underlie the valuation of our financial instruments, including those of Catlin if the Acquisition is completed, that could result in changes to investment valuations;
- changes to our assessment as to whether it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell, or have the intent to sell, available for sale fixed maturity securities before their anticipated recovery, including fixed maturity securities of Catlin;
- the availability of borrowings and letters of credit under our, or, if the Acquisition is completed, Catlin's, credit facilities;
- the ability of our, or, if the Acquisition is completed, Catlin's, respective subsidiaries to pay dividends to XL Group and XL-Cayman or Catlin, respectively;

the potential effect of legislative or regulatory developments in the jurisdictions in which we operate, including, if the Acquisition is completed, the jurisdictions in which Catlin operates, such as those that could impact the financial markets or increase our business costs and required capital levels, including but not limited to changes in regulatory capital balances that must be maintained by our operating subsidiaries and governmental actions for the purpose of stabilizing the financial markets;

the effects of business disruption, economic contraction or economic sanctions due to global political and social conditions such as war, terrorism or other hostilities, or pandemics;

changes in regulations or laws applicable to us and our subsidiaries and, if the Acquisition is completed, Catlin and its subsidiaries, brokers or customers;

the actual amount of new and renewal business and acceptance of our, and, if the Acquisition is completed, Catlin's, products and services, including new products and services and the materialization of risks related to such products and services;

changes in the availability, cost or quality of ceded reinsurance;

changes in the distribution or placement of risks due to increased consolidation of insurance and reinsurance brokers;

loss of key personnel;

changes in accounting standards, policies or practices or the application thereof;

the effects of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, including our ability to modify our internal control over financial reporting as a result of any of such transactions and our ability to realize the value or benefits expected as a result of the life retrocession arrangements and the Acquisition;

changes in general economic conditions, including new or continued sovereign debt concerns in Euro-Zone countries or downgrades of U.S. securities by credit rating agencies, which could affect our financial condition, results of operations, liquidity or cash flows;

developments related to bankruptcies or other financial concerns of companies insofar as they affect property and casualty insurance and reinsurance coverages or claims that we may have as a counterparty;

changes in applicable tax laws, tax treaties or tax regulations or the interpretation or enforcement thereof;

judicial decisions and rulings, new theories of liability or emerging claims coverage issues, legal tactics and settlement terms; and

the other factors set forth in Item 1A, "Risk Factors," and our other documents on file with the SEC.

Additionally, the Acquisition is subject to risks and uncertainties, including:

we and Catlin may be unable to complete the Acquisition because, among other reasons, conditions to the completion of the Acquisition may not be satisfied or waived, including the failure to obtain required regulatory approvals, or the other party may be entitled to terminate the Acquisition;

receipt of regulatory approvals required by the Acquisition may be subject to conditions, limitations and restrictions that could negatively impact the business and operations of the combined company;

uncertainty as to the timing of completion of the Acquisition;

the ability to obtain approval of the Acquisition by Catlin shareholders;

uncertainty as to the actual premium (if any) that will be realized by Catlin shareholders in connection with the Acquisition;

inability to retain key personnel of the Company or Catlin during the pendency of the Acquisition or after completion of the Acquisition;

failure to realize the potential synergies from the Acquisition, including as a result of the failure, difficulty or delay in integrating Catlin's businesses into the Company; and

the ability of Catlin's board of directors to withdraw its recommendation of the Acquisition.

The foregoing review of important factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included herein or elsewhere. We undertake no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise, except as required by the federal securities laws.

Executive Overview

Background

We are, through our subsidiaries, a global insurance and reinsurance company providing property, casualty and specialty products to industrial, commercial and professional firms, insurance companies and other enterprises on a worldwide basis. We operate in markets where we believe our underwriting expertise and financial strength represent a relative advantage. We earn revenue primarily from net premiums written and earned. For further information regarding our operations, see Item 1, “Business.”

Underwriting Environment and Outlook for 2015

The P&C insurance and reinsurance markets have historically been cyclical, meaning that based on market conditions, there have been periods where premium rates are high and policy terms and conditions are more favorable to us (a “hard market”) and there have been periods where premium rates decline and policy terms and conditions are less favorable (a “soft market”). Market conditions are driven primarily by competition in the marketplace, the supply of capital in the industry, investment yields and the frequency and severity of loss events. Our goal is to build long-term shareholder value by capitalizing on current opportunities and managing through any cyclical downturns by reducing our property and casualty book of business and exposures if and when rates deteriorate during soft market periods.

The current soft market conditions and low interest rate environment continue to impact the P&C insurance and reinsurance markets with (re)insurance companies looking for ways to lower their cost of capital and improve the returns on their assets. As a result, they are being forced to re-evaluate their current approach to capital management and are looking toward alternative and secondary markets for enhanced returns, lower expenses and a lower cost of capital. Specifically, insurers find themselves in a market in which they need to have greater scale and diversification as a means to stay relevant in meeting the evolving demands of insureds and at the same time maintain profitability.

The reinsurance market continues to see a meaningful influx of third party capital from new and existing market participants in the property catastrophe space, which is expected to continue and potentially expand into other lines of business. With this additional capital, the traditional catastrophe market saw many changes including sizable increases in the overall global limits being provided, multi-year terms, and new aggregate structures as well as a meaningful increase in the number of alternative types of structures being provided such as catastrophe bonds. The market saw excess capacity as supply from both traditional markets and third party capital continued to outpace reinsurance demand. The combination of increased capacity and lower catastrophe losses resulted in pricing reductions, enhanced commissions and expanded coverage at attractive terms for insurers across most lines of business. The market also saw insurers combining separate regional programs or specialty and casualty sub lines into single global multi-line programs to get even further pricing improvements and expansion of terms and conditions. In addition, with the strengthened balance sheets of insurers and their push for expense savings to improve their bottom line, the reinsurance market saw increased retentions by insurers and a focus on maximizing their spend on reinsurance with a highly selective panel of reinsurers, particularly in the case of some larger insureds.

In 2014, we continued to focus on strategic growth initiatives, building on the significant investments we made in recent years to achieve greater efficiency from improved systems, to create a platform from which we can continue to grow as markets allow and to expand our margins. The following outlines some of these growth initiatives as well as recent renewal activity and January 2015 rate indications for each of our Insurance and Reinsurance segments together with any potential trends or uncertainties relevant to our P&C operations.

There can be no assurance, however, that the following (re)insurance rate conditions or growth opportunities will be sustained or further materialize, or lead to improvements in our books of business. See “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.”

Insurance

During the year ended December 31, 2014, overall rate changes were positive but momentum slowed as pricing has slipped below loss trend in several lines and as markets, particularly the shorter-tail lines, continue to deteriorate. In the fourth quarter of 2014, NAPC premiums were marginally down overall, as rate reductions of 6% in property were offset by rate increases of 2% in environmental and 1% in excess casualty. IPC experienced rate increases of 1% with nearly all lines positive. Professional businesses experienced rate decreases of approximately 1%, adversely impacted by high excess D&O business. Our Specialty businesses were most severely impacted with an overall rate decrease of

just over 2%, reflecting ongoing competitive aviation markets.

Growth was strong in our NAPC and Specialty business groups and concentrated in attractive lines of business. Our construction and primary casualty businesses contributed to growth in North America. New teams in both our marine and crisis management businesses contributed to the strong new business growth in Specialty. Global Professional was up mid-single

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digits for the quarter with growth in our cyber and international books. Our International P&C book was also up slightly for the quarter.

The trading environment for our core lines of insurance business remains competitive and we continue to focus on those lines of business that we believe provide the best return on capital, including the writing of selective new business, and remain committed to taking the underwriting actions necessary to improve our margins.

Reinsurance

Given another light year for catastrophe loss activity and continued growth in reinsurance capacity for these risks, we experienced another very competitive renewal season at January 1, 2015. Rates adjusted down for both the U.S. and International catastrophe books, and we saw terms and conditions loosen to some degree in the U.S. Specifically, there was pressure on hourly clauses and reinstatement provisions, which resulted in some minor, incremental increases in coverage, which were captured in the risk adjusted rate decreases. There was also increased interest in multi-year contracts, expanded geographic scope and placements with aggregate features. We also experienced an extremely competitive environment with respect to long tail and specialty markets, with pressure on both pricing and terms and conditions, specifically commission structures on proportional placements.

We continue to navigate our way cautiously through this phase of the market and are trading with long standing clients with proven track records, which allowed us to write a January 1 portfolio that was largely in line with our expectations from both a mix and profitability perspective.

Investment Environment

We seek to generate book value growth and investment income from investment activities through the total return on our investment portfolio. Market volatility increased during 2014 due to regional geopolitical events, a fall in commodity prices, particularly oil, and slowing global growth outside of the United States. Major market interest rates declined and curves flattened year over year as economic instability (excluding in the United States) and the lack of inflationary pressures are sustaining accommodative monetary policies by most Central Banks. In particular, a large portion of German and Swiss government bonds are currently reflecting negative yields.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the positive mark to market change of \$1.0 billion on our AFS investments was driven by the benefit of a \$424.9 million unrealized gain when our HTM assets were reclassified to available for sale investments in conjunction with the sale of our life reinsurance subsidiary, as noted below, as well as government rate decreases in all of our major investment markets. This represents an approximately 2.4% appreciation in average assets for the year ended December 31, 2014. Net realized gains resulted primarily from sales of equities and fixed maturities. For further information, see "Investment Activities" below.

Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary

On May 1, 2014, our wholly-owned subsidiary, XLIB, entered into a sale and purchase agreement with GreyCastle providing for the sale of 100% of the common shares of XLIB's wholly-owned subsidiary, XLLR to GreyCastle. This transaction closed on May 30, 2014. As a result of the transaction, we have ceded the majority of our life reinsurance business under the Life Retro Arrangements. This transaction covers a substantial portion of our life reinsurance reserves. We announced the run-off of our life reinsurance business in 2009.

Our net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders and other financial measures as shown below for the year ended December 31, 2014 has been affected by the sale of our life reinsurance subsidiary that was completed during the second quarter of 2014 and resulted in an overall after-tax GAAP net loss of \$621.3 million. For further information on this transaction and its impact on our net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders and other financial measures for the year ended December 31, 2014 see "Significant Items Affecting the Results of Operations" below and Item 8, Note 3, "Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

See "Significant Items Affecting Results of Operations—1) Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary" below for further information.

Subsequent Events

Catlin Acquisition

On January 9, 2015, we entered into the Implementation Agreement with Catlin and Green Holdings, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of XL-Ireland, pursuant to the Acquisition for cash and newly-issued ordinary shares of

XL-Ireland. Under the terms of the Acquisition, Catlin shareholders will be entitled to receive 388 pence in cash and 0.130 ordinary shares of XL-

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Ireland, in exchange for each Catlin Share, subject to the proration and adjustment mechanisms set forth in the Implementation Agreement. On the basis of the closing price of an ordinary share of XL-Ireland on January 8, 2015 of \$35.42, the Acquisition values Catlin at 693 pence per Catlin Share, representing a transaction equity value of approximately \$4.1 billion. For further information on the Acquisition, see the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 9, 2015 under Items 1.01, 2.03, 8.01 and 9.01.

On January 9, in connection with the Acquisition, XL-Cayman, as borrower, XL-Ireland, X.L. America, Inc., XLIB, XL Re Ltd, and XL Life Ltd, as guarantors, Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto entered into a senior unsecured 364-Day Bridge Loan Agreement providing for a £1.6 billion Bridge Facility. The proceeds of the Bridge Facility may be used to finance the payment of the cash consideration in connection with the Acquisition and to pay fees and expenses related thereto. For further information on the Bridge Facility, see the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 9, 2015 under Items 1.01, 2.03, 8.01 and 9.01.

Sale of Strategic Operating Affiliate

On December 15, 2014, XL Re Ltd ("XL Re"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, and other shareholders of our affiliate, ARX Holding Corporation ("ARX"), entered into a Stock Purchase Agreement with The Progressive Corporation ("Progressive") to sell all of its shares in ARX to Progressive. XL Re's shares in ARX represented approximately 40% of ARX's outstanding capital stock on a fully diluted basis at the time of the announcement. At December 31, 2014, the recorded value of XL Re's shares in ARX of \$204.4 million was included within Investments in Affiliates.

The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2015 and is subject to regulatory approvals and satisfaction of other closing conditions. XL Re anticipates proceeds of approximately \$500 million related to the sale, which will be based upon the consolidated tangible net book value of ARX and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014, and certain other factors.

Results of Operations and Key Financial Measures

Results of Operations

The following table presents an analysis of our net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders and other financial measures (described below) for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

| (U.S. dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|------------|--------------|------------|
| Net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders | \$ 188,340 | \$ 1,059,916 | \$ 651,128 |
| Earnings (loss) per ordinary share – basic | \$0.71 | \$3.68 | \$2.12 |
| Earnings (loss) per ordinary share – diluted | \$0.69 | \$3.63 | \$2.10 |
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares and ordinary share equivalents outstanding, in thousands – basic | 267,103 | 287,801 | 307,372 |
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares and ordinary share equivalents outstanding, in thousands – diluted | 271,527 | 292,069 | 310,282 |

Key Financial Measures

The following are some of the financial measures management considers important in evaluating our operating performance:

| (U.S. dollars in thousands, except ratios and per share amounts) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | Change 2014 to 2013 | Change 2013 to 2012 | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|----|
| Underwriting profit (loss) - P&C operations | \$676,046 | \$451,062 | \$216,132 | 49.9 | % N/M | |
| Combined ratio - P&C operations | 88.2 | % 92.5 | % 96.3 | % (4.3)pts | (3.8)pts | |
| Net investment income - P&C operations (1) | \$642,492 | \$671,071 | \$712,905 | (4.3 |)% (5.9 |)% |
| Operating net income (2) | \$999,241 | \$942,968 | \$614,096 | 6.0 | % 53.6 | % |
| Operating net income per share (2) | \$3.68 | \$3.23 | \$1.98 | \$0.45 | \$1.25 | |
| Return on average ordinary shareholders' equity (2) | 1.9 | % 10.3 | % 6.5 | % (8.4)pts | 3.8pts | |
| Operating return on average ordinary shareholders' equity (2) | 10.0 | % 9.2 | % 6.2 | % 0.8pts | 3.0pts | |
| Operating return on average ordinary shareholders' equity excluding unrealized gains and losses on investments (2) | 11.2 | % 10.3 | % 6.9 | % 0.9pts | 3.4pts | |
| Book value per ordinary share (2) | \$39.31 | \$35.92 | \$35.18 | \$3.39 | \$0.74 | |
| Fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share (2) | \$36.79 | \$33.86 | \$33.35 | \$2.93 | \$0.51 | |

(1) Net investment income - P&C operations includes: Net investment income - excluding Life Funds Withheld Assets and net investment income related to the net results from structured products.

(2) Represents a non-GAAP financial measure as discussed further below.

*N/M - Not Meaningful

The following are descriptions of these key financial measures and a brief discussion of the factors influencing them:

Underwriting profit – property and casualty (“P&C”) operations

One way that we evaluate the performance of our insurance and reinsurance operations is by underwriting profit or loss. We do not measure performance based on the amount of gross premiums written. Underwriting profit or loss is calculated from premiums earned less net losses incurred and expenses related to underwriting activities.

In the following discussion as well as in the “Income Statement Analysis” section, the following ratios are used to explain the underwriting profit (loss) from our P&C operations:

The combined ratio related to the P&C operations is the sum of the loss and loss expense ratio and the underwriting expense ratio. A combined ratio under 100% represents an underwriting profit and over 100% represents an underwriting loss. In the P&C industry, the combined ratio is a widely used measure of underwriting profitability.

The loss and loss expense ratio related to the P&C operations is calculated by dividing the losses and loss expenses incurred by the net premiums earned for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments.

The underwriting expense ratio related to the P&C operations is the sum of acquisition costs and operating expenses for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments divided by net premiums earned for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments.

The acquisition expense ratio related to the P&C operations is calculated by dividing the acquisition costs incurred by the net premiums earned for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments.

The operating expense ratio related to the P&C operations is calculated by dividing the operating expenses incurred by the net premiums earned for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments.

Our underwriting profit (loss) in the year ended December 31, 2014 was consistent with the combined ratio, discussed below.

Combined ratio – P&C operations

The following table presents the ratios for our P&C operations for the indicated years ended December 31:

| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | Percentage Point Change | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | 2014 to 2013 | 2013 to 2012 |
| Loss and loss expense ratio | 57.0 | % 62.0 | % 65.3 | % (5.0) | (3.3) |
| Acquisition expense ratio | 12.7 | % 14.7 | % 15.1 | % (2.0) | (0.4) |
| Operating expense ratio | 18.5 | % 15.8 | % 15.9 | % 2.7 | (0.1) |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 31.2 | % 30.5 | % 31.0 | % 0.7 | (0.5) |
| Combined ratio | 88.2 | % 92.5 | % 96.3 | % (4.3) | (3.8) |

2014 vs 2013: The 4.3 percentage point reduction in our combined ratio was the result of a decrease in the loss and loss expense ratio of 5.0 percentage points, mainly due to lower levels of natural catastrophe losses and improved underwriting experience across several lines of business, partially offset by lower favorable prior year reserve development in 2014 compared to the same period of 2013. Losses net of reinsurance recoveries and reinstatement premiums related to natural catastrophe events for 2014 were \$204.0 million lower than in 2013. The underwriting expense ratio increase of 0.7 percentage points was driven by an increase in operating expenses as a result of higher compensation costs from increased headcount as a result of business expansion, partially offset by a decrease in acquisition expenses due to a change in the reinsurance structure in the Professional business group in our Insurance segment.

2013 vs. 2012: The loss and loss expense ratio decrease was primarily as a result of lower levels of natural catastrophe losses in 2013, the impact of underwriting actions taken in the prior years on the current year loss ratio and favorable business mix, offset by a higher level of large non-natural catastrophe property losses in the Insurance segment in 2013 as compared to 2012. The underwriting expense ratio decrease was mainly due to both acquisition and operating expenses remaining relatively flat while net premiums earned increased 4.3% during 2013 as compared to the same period of 2012. For further information on our combined ratio, see “Income Statement Analysis” below.

Net investment income - P&C Operations

Net investment income - P&C operations, which includes interest and dividend income together with the amortization of premium and discount on fixed maturities and short-term investments, net of related investment expenses, is an important measure that affects our overall profitability. Our largest liability relates to our unpaid loss reserves, and our investment portfolio provides liquidity for claims settlements of these reserves as they become due. As a result, a significant part of the investment portfolio is invested in fixed income securities. Net investment income is influenced by a number of factors, including the amounts and timing of inward and outward cash flows, the level of interest rates and credit spreads, foreign exchange rates and changes in overall asset allocation. See the segment results at “Investment Activities” below for a discussion of our net investment income for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Operating net income and Operating net income per share

Operating net income is a non-GAAP financial measure defined as net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders excluding: (1) our net investment income - Life Funds Withheld Assets, net of tax (2) our net realized gains (losses) on investments - excluding Life Funds Withheld Assets, net of tax, (3) our net realized gains (losses) on investments and net unrealized gains (losses) on investments, Trading - Life Funds Withheld Assets, net of tax, (4) our net realized and unrealized gains and losses on derivatives, net of tax, (5) our net realized and unrealized gains and losses on life retrocession embedded derivative and derivative instruments - Life Funds Withheld Assets, net of tax, (6) our share of items (2) and (4) for our insurance company affiliates for the periods presented, (7) our loss on the sale of the life reinsurance subsidiary, XLLR, to GreyCastle, net of tax, and (8) our foreign exchange gains and losses, net of tax.

Operating net income per share is calculated by dividing the non-GAAP operating net income measure by the weighted average number of ordinary shares and ordinary share equivalents outstanding for each period combined with the impact from dilution of share-based compensation and certain conversion features where dilutive.

We evaluate the performance of and manage our business to produce an underwriting profit. Since we no longer share in the risks and rewards of the underlying performance of the investment results of the Life Funds Withheld Assets, we believe that showing operating net income (loss), in addition to GAAP net income (loss), enables investors and other users of our financial information to analyze our performance in a manner similar to how we analyze our performance. In this regard, we believe that providing only a GAAP presentation of net income (loss) would make it more difficult for users of our financial

information to evaluate our underlying business. We also believe that equity analysts and certain rating agencies that follow us (and the insurance industry as a whole) exclude these items from their analyses for the same reasons, and they request that we provide this non-GAAP financial information on a regular basis. A reconciliation of our net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders to operating net income (loss) is provided at “Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Measures” below.

Return on average ordinary shareholders’ equity (“ROE”)

ROE is another non-GAAP financial measure that we consider important in evaluating our operating performance and view as a key measure of return generated for ordinary shareholders. ROE is calculated by dividing the net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders for any period by the average of the opening and closing Shareholders’ equity attributable to XL-Ireland. We establish minimum target ROEs for our total operations, segments and lines of business. If our minimum ROE targets over the longer term are not met with respect to any line of business, we seek to modify and/or exit this line. In addition, among other factors, compensation of our senior officers is dependent on the achievement of our performance goals to enhance ordinary shareholder value as measured by ROE (adjusted for certain items considered to be “non-operating” in nature).

The following table presents our ROE for the indicated years ended December 31:

| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | Change 2014 to 2013 | Change 2013 to 2012 |
|-----|------|--------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
| ROE | 1.9 | % 10.3 | % 6.5 | % (8.4)pts | 3.8pts |

2014 vs. 2013: The decrease in our ROE was due to the decrease in our net income attributable to ordinary shareholders as a result of the after-tax net loss on the sale of our life reinsurance subsidiary, XLLR, to GreyCastle, of \$621.3 million and Net realized and unrealized losses on life retrocession embedded derivative and derivative instruments - Life Funds Withheld Assets of \$488.2 million. These items were partially offset by an improvement in our P&C operations’ combined ratio, as described above.

For more information on the after-tax net loss on sale of XLLR to GreyCastle, and the Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on life retrocession embedded derivative and derivative instruments - Life Funds Withheld Assets see Item 8, Note 3, "Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary" and Note 16, "Derivative Instruments - (d)(iii) Other Non-Investment Derivatives," respectively, to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

2013 vs. 2012: The increase in our ROE was primarily due to improved underwriting results in the year, combined with higher affiliate earnings and higher net realized gains on investments and derivatives than in the prior year period.

Operating return on average ordinary shareholders’ equity (“Operating ROE”)

Operating ROE is another non-GAAP financial measure that we consider important in evaluating our operating performance. Operating ROE is derived by dividing non-GAAP operating net income for any period by the average of the opening and closing ordinary shareholders’ equity.

The following table presents our Operating ROE for the indicated years ended December 31:

| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | Change 2014 to 2013 | Change 2013 to 2012 |
|---------------|------|-------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Operating ROE | 10.0 | % 9.2 | % 6.2 | % 0.8pts | 3.0pts |

2014 vs. 2013: The increase in our Operating ROE was the result of higher operating net income in 2014 due to the improvement in our P&C combined ratio in 2014. A detailed discussion of our individual segment operating results is included below under "Income Statement Analysis".

2013 vs. 2012: The increase in our Operating ROE was the result of the higher operating net income in 2013 due to the factors discussed above as part of ROE and as further discussed below under “Significant Items Affecting the Results of Operations.”

A reconciliation of Net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders to operating net income (loss) is provided at “Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Measures” included below.

Operating return on average ordinary shareholders’ equity excluding unrealized gains and losses on investments (“Operating ROE ex-UGL”)

Operating ROE ex-UGL is an additional measure of our profitability that eliminates the impacts of mark to market fluctuations on our investment portfolio that have not been realized through sales, which we believe provides a consistent measure of our performance. Operating ROE ex-UGL is derived from the non-GAAP operating net income measure by

dividing non-GAAP operating net income for any period by the average of the opening and closing ordinary shareholders' equity excluding unrealized gains and losses on investments. A reconciliation of the opening and closing ordinary shareholders' equity to the opening and closing ordinary shareholders' equity excluding unrealized gains and losses on investments is provided under "Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Measures" below.

The following table presents our Operating ROE ex-UGL for the indicated years ended December 31:

| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | Change 2014 to 2013 | Change 2013 to 2012 |
|----------------------|------|--------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Operating ROE ex-UGL | 11.2 | % 10.3 | % 6.9 | % 0.9pts | 3.4pts |

2014 vs. 2013: The increase in our Operating ROE ex-UGL was the result of the higher operating net income in 2014 due to the factors discussed above as part of Operating ROE.

2013 vs. 2012: The increase in our Operating ROE ex-UGL was the result of the higher operating net income in 2013 due to the factors discussed above as part of ROE.

Book value per ordinary share

We view the change in our book value per ordinary share as an additional measure of our performance, representing the value generated for our ordinary shareholders each period, and we believe that this measure (along with the diluted measures described below) is a key driver of our share price over time. Book value per ordinary share, a non-GAAP financial measure, is calculated by dividing ordinary shareholders' equity (total shareholders' equity less non-controlling interest in equity of consolidated subsidiaries) by the number of outstanding ordinary shares at the applicable period end. Book value per ordinary share is affected primarily by net income (loss), by any changes in the net unrealized gains and losses on our investment portfolio, by currency translation adjustments and by the impact of any share buyback or issuance activity. Ordinary shareholders' equity was \$10.0 billion and \$10.0 billion and the number of ordinary shares outstanding was 255.2 million and 278.3 million at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. Ordinary shares outstanding include all ordinary shares legally issued and outstanding (as disclosed on the face of the balance sheets) as well as all director share units outstanding.

The following table presents our book value per ordinary share for the indicated years ended December 31:

| (U.S. dollars) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | Change 2014 to 2013 | Change 2013 to 2012 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Book value per ordinary share | \$39.31 | \$35.92 | \$35.18 | \$3.39 | \$0.74 |

2014 vs. 2013: The increase in our book value per ordinary share was primarily due to increases in net unrealized gains on investments and underwriting income generated by our P&C operations, combined with the benefit of share buyback activity, partially offset by the after-tax net loss on the sale of our life reinsurance subsidiary and payment of dividends. Further detail regarding the impact of the life reinsurance transaction is included at "Significant Items Affecting Results of Operations" below, and at Item 8, Note 3, "Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

2013 vs. 2012: The increase in our book value per ordinary share was primarily due to the increase in net income attributable to ordinary shareholders and the benefit of share buyback activity partially offset by a decrease in net unrealized gains on investments.

Fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share

Fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share is a non-GAAP financial measure and is calculated by dividing ordinary shareholders' equity excluding intangible assets (as disclosed on the face of the balance sheets) by the number of outstanding ordinary shares at the applicable period end combined with the impact from dilution of share-based compensation and certain conversion features where dilutive.

The following table presents our fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share for the indicated years ended December 31:

| (U.S. dollars) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | Change 2014 to 2013 | Change 2013 to 2012 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share | \$36.79 | \$33.86 | \$33.35 | \$2.93 | \$0.51 |

2014 vs. 2013: The increase in our fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share was a result of the factors noted above as part of book value per ordinary share.

2013 vs. 2012: The increase in our fully diluted tangible book value per ordinary share was a result of the factors noted above as part of book value per ordinary share.

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Measures

The following is a reconciliation of net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders to operating net income (loss) and also includes the calculation of Operating ROE and Operating ROE ex-UGL for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

| (U.S. dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| Net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders | \$188,340 | \$1,059,916 | \$651,128 | |
| Net realized and unrealized (gains) losses on life retrocession embedded derivative and derivative instruments - Life Funds Withheld Assets | 488,222 | — | — | |
| Net realized (gains) losses on investments and net unrealized (gains) losses on investments, Trading - Life Funds Withheld Assets | 15,529 | — | — | |
| Net investment income - Life Funds Withheld Assets, net of tax | (129,575) | — | — | |
| Foreign exchange revaluation (gains) losses on and other income and expense items related to Life Funds Withheld Assets | (8,489) | — | — | |
| Loss on sale of life reinsurance subsidiary, net of tax | 621,323 | — | — | |
| Net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders excluding Contribution from Life Retrocession Arrangements (1) | \$1,175,350 | \$1,059,916 | \$651,128 | |
| Net realized (gains) losses on investments sold - excluding Life Funds Withheld Assets, net of tax | (124,759) | (82,605) | (38,234) | |
| Net realized and unrealized (gains) losses on derivatives, net of tax | (29,884) | (7,798) | (5,216) | |
| Net realized and unrealized (gains) losses on investments and derivatives related to the Company's insurance company affiliates, net of tax | (985) | 6,556 | (301) | |
| Exchange (gains) losses, net of tax | (20,481) | (33,101) | 6,719 | |
| Operating net income (loss) | \$999,241 | \$942,968 | \$614,096 | |
| Per ordinary share results: | | | | |
| Net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders | \$0.69 | \$3.63 | \$2.10 | |
| Operating net income (loss) | \$3.68 | \$3.23 | \$1.98 | |
| Weighted average ordinary shares outstanding, in thousands: | | | | |
| Basic | 267,103 | 287,801 | 307,372 | |
| Diluted - Net income | 271,527 | 292,069 | 310,282 | |
| Diluted - Operating net income | 271,527 | 292,069 | 310,282 | |
| Return on ordinary shareholders' equity: | | | | |
| Closing ordinary shareholders' equity (at period end) | \$10,033,752 | \$9,997,633 | \$10,510,078 | |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on investments, net of tax | \$(1,514,067) | \$(733,242) | \$(1,469,839) | |
| Average ordinary shareholders' equity for the period excluding unrealized gains and losses on investments | \$8,892,038 | \$9,152,315 | \$8,965,049 | |
| Average ordinary shareholders' equity for the period | \$10,015,693 | \$10,253,856 | \$9,960,867 | |
| Operating net income (loss) | \$999,241 | \$942,968 | \$614,096 | |
| Operating ROE | 10.0 | % 9.2 | % 6.2 | % |
| Operating ROE ex-UGL | 11.2 | % 10.3 | % 6.8 | % |

(1)

Investment results for the Life Funds Withheld Assets - including interest income, unrealized gains and losses, and gains and losses from sales - are passed directly to the reinsurer pursuant to a contractual arrangement which is accounted for as a derivative. Changes in the fair value of the embedded derivative associated with these Life Retrocession Arrangements are grouped within "Net realized and unrealized (gains) losses on life retrocession embedded derivative and derivative instruments - Life Funds Withheld Assets" in the reconciliation above.

Significant Items Affecting the Results of Operations

Our net income and other financial measures as shown above for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been affected by, among other things, the following significant items:

- 1) Sale of life reinsurance subsidiary;
- 2) The impact of significant large loss events;
- 3) Continuing competitive factors impacting the underwriting environment;
- 4) Net favorable prior year loss development; and
- 5) Market movement impacts on our investment portfolio.

1) Sale of Life Reinsurance Subsidiary

On May 1, 2014, our wholly-owned subsidiary, XLIB, entered into a sale and purchase agreement with GreyCastle providing for the sale of 100% of the common shares of XLIB's wholly-owned subsidiary, XLLR, to GreyCastle for \$570 million in cash. This transaction closed on May 30, 2014. As a result of the transaction, we have ceded the majority of our life reinsurance business under the Life Retro Arrangements. This transaction covers a substantial portion of our life reinsurance reserves. We announced the run-off of our life reinsurance business in 2009.

The Run-Off Life Operations were previously reported within the Company's Life operations segment. Subsequent to the transaction, we no longer consider the Life operations to be a separate operating segment and the results of the Run-Off Life Operations are reported within "Corporate and Other." See Note 5, "Segment Information," for further information. In addition, the Life Funds Withheld Assets within fixed maturities were reclassified from held to maturity to available for sale in conjunction with this transaction. See Item 8, Note 6, "Investments," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for further information.

All of the reclassified securities are included within Life Funds Withheld Assets, along with certain other available for sale securities as defined in the sale and purchase agreement. The Life Funds Withheld Assets are managed pursuant to agreed investment guidelines that meet the contractual commitments of the XL ceding companies and applicable laws and regulations. All of the investment results associated with the Life Funds Withheld Assets ultimately accrue to GCLR. Because we no longer share in the risks and rewards of the underlying performance of the supporting invested assets, disclosures within the financial statement notes included herein separately report the Life Funds Withheld Assets from the rest of the Company's investments.

At May 30, 2014, gross future policy benefit reserves relating to the Run-Off Life Operations were approximately \$5.2 billion. Subsequent to the completion of this transaction, we retained approximately \$0.4 billion of these reserves, and recorded a reinsurance recoverable from GCLR of \$4.8 billion. Under the terms of the transaction, we continue to own, on a funds withheld basis, assets supporting the Life Retro Arrangements consisting of cash, fixed maturity securities and accrued interest. Based upon the right of offset, the funds withheld liability owing to GCLR is recorded net of future policy benefit reserves recoverable, and is included within "Funds withheld on life retrocession arrangements, net of future policy benefit reserves recoverable" on the consolidated balance sheets. The transaction resulted in an overall after-tax U.S. GAAP net loss of \$621.3 million.

At December 31, 2014, gross future policy benefit reserves relating to the Run-Off Life Operations were approximately \$4.7 billion, of which the Company retained approximately \$0.4 billion, after consideration of its future policy benefit reserves recoverable from GCLR of \$4.3 billion. The net funds withheld liability included within "Funds withheld on life retrocession arrangements, net of future policy benefit reserves recoverable" was \$1.2 billion. The Company continued to own \$5.4 billion of assets supporting the Life Retro Arrangements.

For further information on the Life Retro Arrangements, see "Income Statement Analysis - Impact of Life Retro Arrangements" below and Item 8 Note 14, "Funds Withheld on Life Retrocession Arrangements," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for information about the net funds withheld liability.

2) The impact of significant large loss events

Natural Catastrophe Losses

The following table outlines the underwriting losses and loss ratio impact for the Insurance and Reinsurance segments from natural catastrophes for the years ended December 31:

| (U.S. dollars in thousands, except ratios) | Natural Catastrophe Underwriting Losses | | | Natural Catastrophe Loss Ratio Impact | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|---|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | |
| Insurance | \$68,251 | \$119,161 | \$223,147 | 1.7 | % 2.8 | % 5.5 | % |
| Reinsurance | 45,098 | 198,202 | 241,171 | 2.8 | % 11.9 | % 13.8 | % |
| Total P&C | \$113,349 | \$317,363 | \$464,318 | 2.1 | % 5.4 | % 8.2 | % |

Notable natural catastrophes for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 and the underwriting loss incurred (in parenthetical) for the most significant natural catastrophes, in terms of our losses net of reinsurance recoveries and reinstatement premiums, were as follows:

2014 - included hailstorms in Europe (\$28.3 million), Hurricane Odile in Mexico (\$14.5 million), India Floods (\$9.8 million), Australia Brisbane Superstorm Cells and several United States wind and thunderstorms.

2013 - included flooding in Europe (\$55.9 million), Argentina and Canada (Calgary), a cyclone in Australia, tornadoes and hailstorms in the United States, the series of hailstorms in Germany and France in late July 2013 (\$75.3 million), Hurricane Ingrid, flooding events in the United States (Colorado) and Canada (Toronto) and Typhoons Fitow and Haiyan.

2012 - included Storm Sandy (\$355.3 million) ("Sandy"), U.S. tornadoes and the large earthquake in Italy.

Our loss estimates are based on combinations of our review of individual treaties and policies expected to be impacted, commercial model outputs, client data received to the date the estimates are made, and consideration of expectations of total insured market loss estimates if available, both from published sources and our internal analysis. Our loss estimates involve the exercise of considerable judgment due to the complexity and scale of the insured events, and are, accordingly, subject to revision as additional information becomes available. Actual losses may differ materially from these preliminary estimates.

Other Large Loss Events

In the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, our results from operations were impacted by significant losses from large non-natural catastrophe loss events. In 2014 and 2013, these individually significant losses were largely in the property lines of our Insurance segment. In 2012, large losses related primarily to a single large marine loss during the first quarter of 2012 and losses recorded in relation to the severe drought conditions and crop losses in the U.S. in 2012.

See "Income Statement Analysis" herein for further information regarding these large loss events within each of the Company's operating segments.

3) Continuing competitive factors impacting the underwriting environment

Soft market conditions were experienced across most lines of business throughout 2014, 2013 and 2012. For further information in relation to the underwriting environment, including details relating to rates and retention, see "Executive Overview – Underwriting Environment and Outlook for 2015," above.

4) Net favorable prior year loss development

Net favorable prior year loss development occurs when there is a decrease to loss reserves recorded at the beginning of the year, resulting from actual or reported loss development for prior years that is less than expected. Net prior year adverse loss development occurs when there is an increase to loss reserves recorded at the beginning of the year, resulting from actual or reported loss development for prior years exceeding expected loss development.

The following table presents the net (favorable) adverse prior year loss development of our loss and loss expense reserves for our property and casualty operations, which include the Insurance and Reinsurance segments for each of the years indicated:

| (U.S. dollars in thousands) | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Insurance | \$ (99,762) | \$ (102,039) | \$ (140,066) |
| Reinsurance | (155,314) | (187,850) | (175,828) |
| Total | \$ (255,076) | \$ (289,889) | \$ (315,894) |

See Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and Item 8, Note 11, "Losses and Loss Expenses," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, for further information regarding the developments in prior year loss reserve estimates for each of the years indicated within each of our operating segments.

5) Market movement impacts on the Company's investment portfolio (Excluding Life Funds Withheld Assets)

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the positive mark to market change of \$1.0 billion on our AFS investments was driven by the benefit of a \$424.9 million unrealized gain when our held to maturity assets were reclassified to available for sale investments, as well as government rate decreases in the U.K. and Europe. This represents an approximately 2.4% appreciation in average assets for the year ended December 31, 2014.

The following table provides further detail regarding the movements in relevant credit markets, as well as in government interest rates using selected market indices:

| | Interest Rate Movement for the year ended December 31, 2014 (1) ('+' / '-' represents increases / decreases in interest rates) | Credit Spread Movement for the year ended December 31, 2014 (2) ('+' / '-' represents widening / tightening of credit spreads) |
|----------------|--|--|
| United States | -9 basis points (5 year Treasury) | +8 basis points (US Corporate A rated) -16 basis points (US Mortgage Master Index) -3 basis points (US CMBS, AAA rated) |
| United Kingdom | -127 basis points (10 year Gilt) | +28 basis points (UK Corporate, AA rated) |
| Euro-zone | -90 basis points (5 year Bund) | -21 basis points (Europe Corporate, A rated) |

(1) Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P.

(2) Source: Merrill Lynch Global Indices.

Net realized gains on investments in the year ended December 31, 2014 totaled \$123.0 million, including net realized losses of approximately \$35.7 million related to other-than-temporary impairment ("OTTI") charges on certain of our fixed income investments. For further analysis of this, see "Income Statement Analysis" below.

Other Key Focuses of Management

Details of our significant other key focuses of management are outlined below.

Catlin Acquisition

As discussed above, on January 9, 2015, we announced that XL-Ireland had entered into the Implementation Agreement with Catlin and Green Holdings, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of XL-Ireland pursuant to which we will acquire the entire issued and to be issued share capital of Catlin for cash and newly-issued ordinary shares of XL-Ireland.

The strategic rationale for the Acquisition is as follows:

Enhances scale and product offering within core competencies

Establishes a premier specialty insurance platform

Captures a scale advantage in a consolidating reinsurance market

Creates a more capable and efficient global network

Creates an attractive opportunity to realize expense synergies

Management is highly focused on achieving the successful integration of Catlin.

Capital Management

Fundamental to supporting our business model is our ability to underwrite business, which is largely dependent upon the quality of our claims paying and financial strength ratings as evaluated by independent rating agencies. As a result, in the event that we are downgraded, our ability to write business, as well as our financial condition and/or results of operations, could be adversely affected.

Buybacks of Ordinary Shares

On February 27, 2012, we announced that the XL-Ireland Board approved a share buyback program, authorizing the purchase of up to \$750 million of our ordinary shares (the "February 2012 Program"). During 2012, we purchased and canceled 18.3 million ordinary shares under the February 2012 Program for \$401.6 million. Between January 1 and February 22, 2013, we purchased and canceled 3.8 million ordinary shares under the February 2012 Program for \$98.3 million.

On February 22, 2013, we announced that the XL-Ireland Board approved a new share buyback program, authorizing the purchase of up to \$850 million of our ordinary shares (the "Share Buyback Program"). At December 31, 2013, \$275.0 million remained available for purchase under the Share Buyback Program.

On February 21, 2014, we announced that the XL-Ireland Board of Directors approved an increase to the Share Buyback Program, authorizing the purchase of up to \$1.0 billion of our ordinary shares. This authorization includes the approximately \$200.0 million that remained under the Share Buyback Program prior to the increase.

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Company purchased and canceled 24.7 million shares for \$800.0 million at an average price of \$32.40 per share. At December 31, 2014, \$267.6 million remained available for purchase under the Share Buyback Program.

While we continue to see share buybacks as a valuable capital management tool, we recently announced a pause to our active purchases pending the conclusion of our recently announced Catlin acquisition. Near term additional capital management activities will be focused on supporting the proposed acquisition and have been disclosed as a part of the offer announcement.

All share buybacks were carried out by way of redemption in accordance with Irish law and the Company's constitutional documents. All shares so redeemed were canceled upon redemption.

Repayment of the 5.25% Senior Notes due September 2014

On September 15, 2014, the \$600 million principal amount outstanding on the 5.25% Senior Notes issued by XLIT Ltd. was repaid at maturity. For further detail, see Item 8, Note 15, "Notes Payable and Debt and Financing Arrangements," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

Sale of 2.30% Senior Notes due 2018 and Sale of 5.25% Senior Notes due 2043

On November 21, 2013, XL-Cayman completed the public sale of \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 2.30% Senior Notes due 2018 (the "2.30% Senior Notes") and the sale of \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 5.25% Senior Notes due 2043 (the "5.25% Senior Notes," and, together with the 2.30% Senior Notes, the "Senior Notes") at the issue price of 99.69% and 99.770% of the principal amount, respectively. The Senior Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by XL-Ireland. The 2.30% Senior Notes bear interest at a rate of 2.30%, payable semi-annually, beginning on June 15, 2014, and mature on December 15, 2018. The 5.25% Senior Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.25%, per annum, payable semi-annually, beginning on June 15, 2014, and mature on December 15, 2043. XL-Cayman may redeem the Senior Notes, in whole or part, from time to time in accordance with the terms of the indenture pursuant to which the Senior Notes were issued. XL-Cayman received aggregate net proceeds of approximately \$592.6 million from the offering, which was used for the repayment at maturity of the outstanding \$600 million principal amount of our 5.25% Senior Notes due September 2014.

Repayment of the 6.5% Guaranteed Senior Notes due January 2012 (the "XLCFE Notes")

On January 15, 2012, the \$600 million principal amount outstanding on the XLCFE Notes, which were issued by XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc, was repaid at maturity. For further detail, see Item 8, Note 15, "Notes Payable and Debt Financing Arrangements," to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

Capital Management - Catlin Acquisition

In connection with the proposed acquisition of Catlin, we have proposed capital management activity in support of the transaction. XL-Cayman, as borrower, XL-Ireland, X.L. America, Inc., XLIB, XL Re Ltd, and XL Life Ltd, as guarantors, Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto entered into a senior unsecured 364-Day Bridge Loan Agreement providing for a £1.6 billion Bridge Facility. The proceeds of the Bridge Facility may be used to finance the payment of the cash consideration in connection with the Acquisition and to pay fees and expenses related thereto. For further information on this activity, see the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 9, 2015 under Items 1.01, 2.03, 8.01 and 9.01.

Risk Management

Our risk management and risk appetite framework is detailed in Item 1, "Business – Enterprise Risk Management," included herein. The table below shows our estimated per event net 1% and 0.4% exceedance probability exposures for certain peak natural catastrophe peril regions. These estimates assume that amounts due from reinsurance and retrocession purchases are 100% collectible. There may be credit or other disputes associated with these potential receivables.

| Geographical Zone (U.S. dollars in millions) | Peril | Measurement Date of In-Force Exposures (1) | 1% Exceedance Probability | | 0.4% Exceedance Probability | | |
|---|------------|--|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| | | | Probable Maximum Loss (2) | Percentage of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders' Equity at December 31, 2014 | Probable Maximum Loss (2) | Percentage of Adjusted Tangible Shareholders' Equity at December 31, 2014 | |
| North Atlantic | Windstorm | October 1, 2014 | \$1,242 | 12.5 | % \$1,664 | 16.7 | % |
| North America | Earthquake | October 1, 2014 | \$705 | 7.1 | % \$1,285 | 12.9 | % |
| Europe | Windstorm | October 1, 2014 | \$523 | 5.3 | % \$736 | 7.4 | % |
| Japan | Earthquake | October 1, 2014 | \$220 | 2.2 | % \$286 | 2.9 | % |
| Japan | Windstorm | October 1, 2014 | \$140 | | | | |